

# 1 Synthetic ozone deposition and stomatal uptake at flux tower sites

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17

## 18 Abstract

19

20 We develop and evaluate a method to estimate O<sub>3</sub> deposition and stomatal O<sub>3</sub> uptake across  
21 networks of eddy covariance flux tower sites where O<sub>3</sub> concentrations and O<sub>3</sub> fluxes have not  
22 been measured. The method combines standard micrometeorological flux measurements, which  
23 constrain O<sub>3</sub> deposition velocity and stomatal conductance, with a gridded dataset of observed  
24 surface O<sub>3</sub> concentrations. Measurement errors are propagated through all calculations to  
25 quantify O<sub>3</sub> flux uncertainties. We evaluate the method at three sites with O<sub>3</sub> flux measurements:  
26 Harvard Forest, Blodgett Forest, and Hyytiälä Forest. The method reproduces 83% or more of  
27 the variability in daily stomatal uptake at these sites with modest mean bias (21% or less). At  
28 least 95% of daily average values agree with measurements within a factor of two and, according  
29 to the error analysis, the residual differences from measured O<sub>3</sub> fluxes are consistent with the  
30 uncertainty in the underlying measurements.

31

32 The product, called synthetic O<sub>3</sub> flux or SynFlux, includes 43 FLUXNET sites in the United  
33 States and 60 sites in Europe, totaling 926 site-years of data. This dataset, which is now public,  
34 dramatically expands the number and types of sites where O<sub>3</sub> fluxes can be used for ecosystem  
35 impact studies and evaluation of air quality and climate models. Across these sites, the mean  
36 stomatal conductance and O<sub>3</sub> deposition velocity is 0.03-1.0 cm s<sup>-1</sup>. The stomatal O<sub>3</sub> flux during  
37 the growing season (typically April-September) is 0.5-11.0 nmol O<sub>3</sub> m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> with a mean of 4.5  
38 nmol O<sub>3</sub> m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> and the largest fluxes generally occur where stomatal conductance is high, rather  
39 than where O<sub>3</sub> concentrations are high. The conductance differences across sites can be  
40 explained by atmospheric humidity, soil moisture, vegetation type, irrigation, and land

41 management. These stomatal fluxes suggest that ambient O<sub>3</sub> degrades biomass production and  
42 CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration by 20-24% at crop sites, 6-29% at deciduous broadleaf forests, and 4-20% at  
43 evergreen needleleaf forests in the United States and Europe.

44

## 45 **1 Introduction**

46

47 Surface ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) is toxic to both people and plants. Present-day and recent historical O<sub>3</sub> levels  
48 reduce carbon sequestration in the biosphere (Reich and Lassoie, 1984; Guidi et al., 2001; Sitch  
49 et al., 2007; Ainsworth et al., 2012), perturb the terrestrial water cycle (Lombardozzi et al., 2012,  
50 2015), and cause around \$25 billion in annual crop losses (Reich and Amundson, 1985; Van  
51 Dingenen et al., 2009; Avnery et al., 2011; Tai et al., 2014). The basic plant responses to O<sub>3</sub>  
52 injury are well established from controlled exposure experiments (e.g. Wittig et al., 2009;  
53 Ainsworth et al., 2005, 2012; Hoshika et al., 2015) but few datasets are available to quantify O<sub>3</sub>  
54 fluxes and responses for whole ecosystems or plant functional types that are represented within  
55 regional and global biosphere and climate models. The eddy covariance method has been widely  
56 used to measure land-atmosphere fluxes of carbon, water, and energy and evaluate their  
57 representation in models (Baldocchi et al., 2001; Bonan et al., 2011), but few towers measure O<sub>3</sub>  
58 fluxes (Munger et al., 1996; Fowler et al., 2001; Keronen et al., 2003; Gerosa et al., 2004;  
59 Lamaud et al., 2009; Fares et al., 2010; Stella et al., 2014; Zona et al., 2014). A recent review  
60 identified just 78 field measurements of O<sub>3</sub> fluxes over vegetation during the last 4 decades,  
61 many lasting just a few weeks (Silva and Heald, 2017). This paper demonstrates a reliable  
62 method to estimate O<sub>3</sub> fluxes at 103 eddy covariance flux towers spanning over two decades to  
63 enable O<sub>3</sub> impact studies on ecosystem scales.

64

65 The land surface is a terminal sink for atmospheric O<sub>3</sub> due to the reactivity of O<sub>3</sub> with  
66 unsaturated organic molecules and the modest solubility of O<sub>3</sub> in water. Surface deposition is  
67 20% of the total loss in tropospheric O<sub>3</sub>, making it an important control on air pollution (Wu et  
68 al., 2007; Young et al., 2013, Kavassalis and Murphy, 2017). This O<sub>3</sub> deposition flux includes  
69 stomatal uptake into leaves, where O<sub>3</sub> can cause internal oxidative damage, and less harmful  
70 non-stomatal deposition to plant cuticles, stems, bark, soil, and standing water (Fuhrer, 2000;  
71 Zhang et al., 2002; Ainsworth et al., 2012). O<sub>3</sub> can also react with biogenic volatile organic  
72 compounds, particularly terpenoid compounds, in the plant canopy air and this process is  
73 commonly included in non-stomatal deposition (Kurpius and Goldstein, 2003). The deposition  
74 flux (mol O<sub>3</sub> m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>) can be described as:

$$75 \quad F_{O_3} = v_d n (\chi - \chi_0) = v_d n \chi \quad (1)$$

76 where  $\chi$  and  $\chi_0$  are the O<sub>3</sub> mole fractions (mol mol<sup>-1</sup>) in the atmosphere and at the surface,  
77 respectively,  $n$  is the molar density of air (mol m<sup>-3</sup>), and  $v_d$  is a deposition velocity (m s<sup>-1</sup>) that  
78 expresses the net vertical O<sub>3</sub> transport between the height where  $\chi$  is measured and the surface.  
79  $F_{O_3}$  is defined positive for flux towards the ground. Eq. 1 reasonably assumes that  $\chi_0 = 0$  because  
80 terrestrial surfaces have abundant organic compounds that react with and destroy O<sub>3</sub>. The

81 deposition velocity can be decomposed into resistances ( $\text{s m}^{-1}$ ) for aerodynamic transport ( $r_a$ ),  
82 diffusion in the quasi-laminar layer ( $r_b$ ), stomatal uptake ( $r_s$ ), and non-stomatal deposition ( $r_{ns}$ )  
83 (Wesely, 1989):

$$84 \quad v_d^{-1} = r_a + r_b + (r_s^{-1} + r_{ns}^{-1})^{-1}. \quad (2)$$

85 For stomatal and non-stomatal processes, the rates are often expressed as conductances ( $\text{m s}^{-1}$ ),  
86 which are the inverse of the resistances:  $g_s = r_s^{-1}$  and  $g_{ns} = r_{ns}^{-1}$ . The sum of stomatal and non-  
87 stomatal conductances is the vegetation canopy conductance,  $g_c = g_s + g_{ns}$ . The stomatal  $\text{O}_3$   
88 flux is the portion of  $F_{\text{O}_3}$  that enters the stomata, and can be described as:

$$89 \quad F_{s,\text{O}_3} = F_{\text{O}_3} g_s (g_s + g_{ns})^{-1} = v_d n \chi g_s (g_s + g_{ns})^{-1}. \quad (3)$$

90  
91 To construct the synthetic  $\text{O}_3$  flux, or SynFlux, we use measurements of  $\text{O}_3$  concentration and  
92 standard eddy covariance flux measurements to derive nearly all of the terms in Eqs. 1-3 from  
93 surface observations, using some additional information from remote sensing and models. This  
94 enables the estimation of  $F_{\text{O}_3}$  and  $F_{s,\text{O}_3}$ , as described in Sect. 2. Sect. 3 evaluates the method  
95 against observations at three sites that measure  $F_{\text{O}_3}$  and examines the importance of stomatal and  
96 non-stomatal deposition. Sect. 4 uses SynFlux to assess the spatial patterns of  $\text{O}_3$  uptake to  
97 vegetation and to compare flux-based metrics of  $\text{O}_3$  damage with concentration-based metrics.  
98 Finally, we discuss the strengths, limitations, and implications of our approach in Sect. 5.

99

## 100 **2 Data sources and methods**

101

### 102 **2.1 SynFlux: synthetic $\text{O}_3$ flux**

103

104 The FLUXNET2015 dataset (Pastorello et al., 2017) aggregates measurements of land-  
105 atmosphere fluxes of  $\text{CO}_2$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , momentum, and heat at sites around the world  
106 (<http://fluxnet.fluxdata.org/data/fluxnet2015-dataset>, accessed 24 February 2017). Measurements  
107 are made with the eddy covariance method on towers above vegetation canopies (Baldocchi et  
108 al., 2001; Anderson et al., 1984; Goldstein et al., 2000) with consistent gap-filling (Reichstein et  
109 al., 2005; Vuichard and Papale, 2015) and quality control across sites (Pastorello et al., 2014).  
110 Flux and meteorological quantities are reported in half hour intervals. We analyze data from all  
111 sites in the United States and Europe in the FLUXNET2015 Tier 1 dataset. This analysis is  
112 restricted to the US and Europe because these regions have dense  $\text{O}_3$  monitoring networks,  
113 described below. There are 103 sites meeting these criteria, all listed in Table S1 with references  
114 to full site descriptions. Three of these sites—Blodgett Forest, Harvard Forest, and Hyytiälä  
115 Forest—measure  $\text{O}_3$  flux with the eddy covariance method, which we will use in Sect. 3 to  
116 evaluate our methods.

117

118 SynFlux aims to constrain  $\text{O}_3$  deposition and stomatal uptake as much as possible from measured  
119 water, heat and momentum fluxes, in contrast to other methods (Finkelstein et al., 2000; Mills et  
120 al. 2011; Schwede et al., 2011; Yue et al., 2014) that rely more heavily on atmospheric models or

121 parameterizations of stomatal conductance. From the eddy covariance measurements, we derive  
122 the resistance components of Eq. 2 using methods similar to past studies (Kurpius and Goldstein,  
123 2003; Gerosa et al., 2005; Fares et al., 2010). The aerodynamic and quasi-laminar layer  
124 resistances ( $r_a$  and  $r_b$ , respectively) are derived from measured wind speed, friction velocity, and  
125 fluxes of sensible and latent heat every half hour using Monin-Obukhov similarity theory  
126 (Foken, 2017). The stomatal conductance for  $O_3$  ( $g_s$ ) is derived from the measured water vapor  
127 flux and meteorological data every half hour with the inverted Penman-Monteith equation  
128 (Monteith, 1981; Gerosa et al., 2007). Supplement S1 provides further details of the resistance  
129 and conductance calculations. Some studies instead calculate  $g_s$  from gross primary productivity  
130 (Lamaud et al., 2009; El-Madany et al., 2017), but that method is less widely used than the  
131 Penman-Monteith approach adopted here. The Penman-Monteith method of calculating stomatal  
132 conductance has been successfully applied across FLUXNET sites previously (Novick et al.,  
133 2016; Knauer et al., 2017; Medlyn et al., 2017; Lin et al., 2018). Those studies and others caution  
134 that, since evapotranspiration measurements include evaporation from ground, the stomatal  
135 conductance could be overestimated. While there are methods for quantifying and removing the  
136 evaporative fraction of evapotranspiration from eddy covariance data (Wang et al., 2014; Zhou et  
137 al., 2016; Scott and Biederman, 2017), a more common approach is to restrict analysis to  
138 conditions when transpiration dominates. We follow this second approach, analyzing only  
139 daytime data during the growing season, and use filtering criteria similar to Knauer et al. (2017).  
140 We define daytime as sun elevation angle above  $4^\circ$  and the growing season as days when gross  
141 primary productivity (GPP) exceeds 20% of the annual maxima in GPP. To avoid complications  
142 to the Penman-Monteith equation from wet canopies, we exclude times when dew may be  
143 present ( $RH > 80\%$ ), and days with precipitation ( $> 5\text{mm}$ ). We also exclude the top and bottom  
144 1% of  $g_s$  values, which include many unrealistic outliers (e.g.  $|g_s| > 0.5 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ ). Figure 1 shows  
145 the mean stomatal conductance during the growing season at all sites.

146  
147 The terms in Eqs. 1-3 that cannot be derived from FLUXNET2015 measurements are  $O_3$  mole  
148 fraction and non-stomatal conductance. The  $O_3$  mole fraction is taken from a gridded dataset of  
149 hourly  $O_3$  measurements that spans the contiguous United States and Europe (Schnell et al.,  
150 2014). This dataset has  $1^\circ$  spatial resolution, so some differences from measured  $O_3$  abundances  
151 at individual sites are inevitable. Schnell et al. (2014) estimated these errors to be 6-9 ppb (rms)  
152 or about 15% of summer mean  $O_3$  in the US and similar in Europe. Figure 2 shows that the  
153 daytime gridded  $O_3$  concentrations correlate well with observations at three flux tower sites  
154 where  $O_3$  was measured ( $R^2 = 0.63-0.87$ ) and have modest negative bias (5-10 ppb, -12 to -  
155 28%), consistent with the accuracy reported by Schnell et al. (2014). We use the Zhang et al.  
156 (2003) parameterization of non-stomatal conductance, which accounts for  $O_3$  deposition to leaf  
157 cuticles and ground and was developed from measurements in the eastern United States. The  
158 parameterization requires leaf-area index, which we take from satellite remote sensing (Claverie  
159 et al., 2014; 2016), snow depth, which we take from MERRA2 reanalysis (GMAO, 2015; Gelaro  
160 et al., 2017), and standard meteorological data provided by FLUXNET2015. Uncertainties in

161 these variables are described in Sect. 2.4. Performance of the non-stomatal parameterization is  
162 examined in Sect. 3.2.

163  
164 Figure 3 shows the stomatal O<sub>3</sub> flux at each site calculated with Eq. 3, then averaged over the  
165 growing season. Figure S1 shows the corresponding total O<sub>3</sub> flux (Eq. 1). We refer to these  
166 products as the “synthetic” total O<sub>3</sub> flux ( $F_{O_3}^{syn}$ ) and synthetic stomatal O<sub>3</sub> flux ( $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$ ). Superscript  
167 “syn” distinguishes these synthetic quantities from the observed total O<sub>3</sub> flux ( $F_{O_3}^{obs}$ ) and  
168 observation-derived stomatal O<sub>3</sub> flux ( $F_{s,O_3}^{obs}$ ), which are only available at a few sites. Together,  
169 we refer to  $F_{O_3}^{syn}$  and  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$  as SynFlux. In total, the measurements required to calculate  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$  are  
170 O<sub>3</sub> mole fraction, sensible and latent heat fluxes, friction velocity, temperature, pressure,  
171 humidity, canopy height, and leaf area index. There are 43 sites in the US and 60 sites in Europe  
172 within the FLUXNET Tier 1 database with sufficient measurements to calculate  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$ .

173  
174

## 175 **2.2 Observed O<sub>3</sub> flux**

176  
177 We evaluate SynFlux and its inputs at three sites where O<sub>3</sub> flux measurements are available:  
178 Harvard Forest, Massachusetts, United States (Munger et al., 1996); Blodgett Forest, California,  
179 United States (Fares et al., 2010); and Hyytiälä Forest, Finland (Keronen et al., 2003;  
180 Mammarella et al., 2007; Rannik et al., 2009). These forest sites sample a range of  
181 environmental and ecosystem conditions summarized in Table 1. All three sites have at least 6  
182 years of half-hourly or hourly flux measurements. Two sites are evergreen needleleaf forests  
183 (Blodgett and Hyytiälä), while one is a deciduous broadleaf forest containing some scattered  
184 stands of evergreen needleleaf trees (Harvard). Climate also differs across these sites. Blodgett  
185 Forest has a Mediterranean climate with cool, wet winters and hot, dry summers. Hyytiälä and  
186 Harvard Forests have cold winters and wetter summers, with Harvard Forest being the warmer of  
187 the two.

188  
189 Harvard Forest water vapor flux measurements were recalibrated for this work based on  
190 matching water vapor mixing ratio measured by the flux sensor to levels calculated from ambient  
191 relative humidity and air temperature, resulting in a 30% increase in evapotranspiration during  
192 the 1990s and no change since 2006. In addition, we remove sub-canopy evaporation from the  
193 measured water vapor flux before the Penman-Monteith calculation. Based on past  
194 measurements at these sites, the sub-canopy fraction of evapotranspiration is 20% at Hyytiälä  
195 Forest, 10% at Harvard Forest in summer (Moore et al., 1996; Launiainen et al., 2005). We are  
196 unable to make this correction at all FLUXNET sites since water vapor flux is typically  
197 measured only above canopy.

198

199 At these three sites, observation-derived  $v_d$ ,  $g_{ns}$ , and  $F_{s,O_3}$  can be derived from the  $F_{O_3}$   
200 measurements with methods that differ slightly from Sect. 2.1.  $O_3$  deposition velocity is inferred  
201 from measurements of  $O_3$  concentration and flux via  $v_d = F_{O_3}(n\chi)^{-1}$ . Resistance or  
202 conductance terms  $r_a$ ,  $r_b$ , and  $g_s$  are calculated as described in Sect. 2.1, then both canopy and  
203 non-stomatal conductance are derived from observations via  $g_c = (v_d^{-1} - r_a - r_b)^{-1}$  and  $g_{ns} =$   
204  $g_c - g_s$ , respectively. With those values, Eq. 3 gives the observation-derived stomatal  $O_3$  flux.  
205 Synthetic and observation-derived stomatal  $O_3$  fluxes are both calculated with Eq. 3 and use the  
206 same observation-derived  $g_s$ ,  $r_a$ , and  $r_b$ , but different values of  $g_{ns}$ ,  $v_d$ , and  $O_3$  mole fraction.

207  
208

### 209 **2.3 Gap filling for friction velocity**

210

211 The FLUXNET2015 dataset uses gap filling for most flux and meteorological measurements  
212 (Vuichard and Papale, 2015), but not for friction velocity ( $u_*$ ), which is required to calculate  $v_d$   
213 and  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$ . Filling this one variable would significantly reduce the fraction of missing data in our  
214 analysis. Monin-Obukhov similarity theory predicts that friction velocity is proportional to wind  
215 speed in the surface layer, for a given roughness length and stability regime (Foken, 2017). On  
216 this basis, we regress the available friction velocity measurements against wind speed and net  
217 radiation (a proxy for stability) separately for each site and month (a proxy for vegetation  
218 roughness). This gap filling was possible at 91 sites that report net radiation measurements.

219

220 The predicted friction velocities from the regression model are correlated with available  
221 observations ( $R^2 > 0.5$ ) and have minimal mean bias ( $\pm 10\%$ ) at 85 out of 91 eligible sites (Fig.  
222 S3), with most sites (63 out of 91) showing strong correlations ( $R^2 > 0.7$ ). At the remaining 6  
223 sites with lower regression model performance ( $R^2 < 0.5$ ) we do not use  $u_*$  gap-filling. The  
224  $u_*$  gap filling increases the number of  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$  estimates by 1-20%. Time periods with  $u_*$  gaps have  
225 no significant bias in meteorological conditions (e.g. mean wind speed, radiation, energy fluxes)  
226 compared to periods with  $u_*$  measurements. As a result, the differences in monthly mean  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$   
227 with and without gap filling are small (10% rms). So, although the  $u_*$  gap filling is a potential  
228 source of uncertainty, the  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$  estimates are robust. The following analysis will use the gap-  
229 filled data, but our results do not change in any meaningful way if we use the unfilled data.

230

### 231 **2.4 Error analysis, averaging, and numerical methods**

232

233 We quantify the errors in  $F_{O_3}^{syn}$ ,  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$ , and all other calculated variables from the measurement  
234 uncertainties using standard techniques for propagation of errors through all equations (see  
235 Supplement S2). This method provides the uncertainty, quantified as standard deviation, of each  
236 variable in each half hour interval. The error analysis reveals that  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$  and other derived  
237 quantities have uncertainties that change from hour to hour by two orders of magnitude (Fig. S2).

238 In addition, many extreme values of  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$ ,  $g_s$ , and other variables have very large uncertainties.  
239 We retain these outliers in our analysis and use the error analysis to appropriately reduce their  
240 influence on averages and other statistics, as described below, without discarding data.

241  
242 The FLUXNET2015 dataset contains error estimates for sensible and latent heat measurements.  
243 We use these reported values in the error analysis. Where uncertainties in these fluxes are  
244 missing, we fill the gaps using a linear regression of available flux errors against flux values for  
245 that site. For friction velocity, the uncertainty is the prediction error in the linear model used for  
246 gap filling (Sect. 2.3). Based on expert judgment, the standard deviation of  $O_3$  mole fraction is  
247 set to 20%, pressure to 0.5 hPa, temperature to 0.5 K, relative humidity to 5%, and canopy height  
248 to the lesser of 15% or 2 m. For remotely sensed leaf area index, the uncertainty is  $1.1 \text{ m}^2 \text{ m}^{-2}$  for  
249 all vegetation types (Claverie et al., 2013; 2016). Snow depth uncertainty in MERRA2 is 0.08 m  
250 (Reichle et al., 2017). The Zhang et al. (2003)  $g_{ns}$  parameterization has 5 vegetation-specific  
251 parameters and all are assigned 50% standard deviation. Zero error is assumed for the flux tower  
252 height. Based on these inputs, the median relative uncertainty in  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$  is 44%, but it rises to  
253 several hundred percent for some half-hour intervals. The error analysis shows that most of the  
254 uncertainty in  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$  derives from uncertainty in the latent heat flux measurement.

255  
256 Daily and monthly averages of  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$  and other quantities are constructed in stages. We first  
257 calculate a mean diurnal cycle for the day or month by pooling measurements during each hour  
258 in a maximum likelihood estimate, a weighted average that accounts for the uncertainty in each  
259 measurement. The maximum likelihood estimate is appropriate when combining values from the  
260 same distribution, which is expected to apply for measurements within a particular hour, but not  
261 across hours of the day. We then average across hours with an unweighted mean to calculate the  
262 daily or monthly value. For the daily averages, there are 1-2 observations within each hour. For  
263 the monthly averages, there are typically 30-60 in each hour of the day. We calculate seasonal  
264 averages with an unweighted mean of monthly values. Uncertainties are propagated through each  
265 stage of these averages, as detailed in Supplement S2. We compared averages with and without  
266 uncertainty weighting. The uncertainty-weighted averages tend to be smaller and less variable  
267 than unweighted averages because the error propagation identifies when outliers and large values  
268 have greater uncertainty. For example, the monthly values of  $g_c$  derived from observations at  
269 Harvard Forest are  $0.57 \pm 0.11 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$  with uncertainty weighting and  $0.68 \pm 0.17 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$  without.  
270 Our discussion focuses on uncertainty-weighted daily averages of daytime data.

271 Analyses are performed in Python 3.5 with NumPy, Pandas, PySolar, and Statsmodels (Reda and  
272 Andreas, 2005; Van Der Walt et al., 2006; McKinney, 2010; Seabold et al., 2010). We quantify  
273 linear relationships between variables using the coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ), a parametric  
274 slope estimator (standard major axis or SMA, Warton et al. 2006) and a non-parametric slope  
275 estimator (Thiel-Sen slope, Sen, 1968), which is more robust against outliers.

276

## 277 **2.5 Data availability**

278

279 The SynFlux dataset produced in this work is available in the supplementary information for  
280 download and use. The dataset includes synthetic stomatal and total O<sub>3</sub> fluxes, O<sub>3</sub> concentrations,  
281 O<sub>3</sub> deposition velocity, canopy conductance, stomatal conductance, and all of their propagated  
282 uncertainties. Monthly mean values are provided with and without  $u_*$  gap filling, for 103 sites  
283 totaling 926 site-years.

284

285

## 286 **3 SynFlux evaluation**

287

### 288 **3.1 Evaluation of synthetic fluxes**

289

290 Figure 4 compares daily daytime averages of synthetic  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$  to observation-derived  $F_{s,O_3}^{obs}$ .  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$   
291 and  $F_{s,O_3}^{obs}$  are calculated from the same observation-derived stomatal conductance ( $g_s$ ) and  
292 aerodynamic resistances ( $r_a$  and  $r_b$ ) but differ in the O<sub>3</sub> mole fraction and non-stomatal  
293 conductance ( $g_{ns}$ ) that they use (see Sect. 2.1 and 2.2). At all three sites,  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$  is strongly  
294 correlated with measured values ( $R^2 = 0.83-0.93$ ). The mean and median biases are  $-16$  to  $-21\%$   
295 and at least 95% of  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$  values agree with measurements within a factor of 2. The majority of  
296  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$  values lie near the 1:1 line with  $F_{s,O_3}^{obs}$  and the slopes (0.71 to 0.85) reflect this. The half-  
297 hourly or hourly measured and synthetic flux still have some outliers (Fig. S2), but the error  
298 analysis reveals that many of the outlying points have large uncertainties. For 98% of points, the  
299 differences between  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$  and  $F_{s,O_3}^{obs}$  are less than the 95% confidence interval derived from the  
300 error analysis (two-sided t test). Thus, the errors in  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$  are consistent with the propagated  
301 uncertainty in the observations. The half hourly  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$  values perform similarly well against  
302 observations (Fig. S4), but our analysis focuses on averages. The performance of daily  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$  is  
303 partially due to resolving the seasonal cycle. If we subtract the mean seasonal cycle from both  
304 synthetic and observation-derived daily  $F_{s,O_3}$ , the residual correlation is  $R^2 = 0.5-0.7$  (versus 0.9  
305 with seasonal cycle included). This represents the skill of SynFlux at reproducing within-month  
306 and interannual variability. Overall, these results suggest that synthetic  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$  is a reliable estimate  
307 of stomatal O<sub>3</sub> uptake into plants that can be used at flux tower sites without O<sub>3</sub> measurements.

308

309 The measurements also enable us to evaluate synthetic total deposition,  $F_{O_3}^{syn}$ , and synthetic O<sub>3</sub>  
310 deposition velocity,  $v_d^{syn}$ , although these are less relevant to ecosystem impacts than stomatal  
311 uptake,  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$ . For daily averages, Figure S5 shows that  $F_{O_3}^{syn}$  bias ( $-13$  to  $+65\%$ ), slope (0.3-1.4),  
312 and  $R^2$  (0.05-0.43) are all worse than for  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$ . The daily  $v_d^{syn}$  performance is similar (Fig. S6,



313 bias:  $-26$  to  $+41\%$ , slope:  $0.3$ - $1.1$ ,  $R^2$ :  $0.16$ - $0.37$ ). Monthly averages of  $v_d^{\text{syn}}$  and  $F_{\text{O}_3}^{\text{syn}}$  both  
314 improve the correlation to observations ( $R^2 \sim 0.12$ - $0.54$ ). The reasons for the better performance  
315 of  $F_{s,\text{O}_3}^{\text{syn}}$  compared to  $F_{\text{O}_3}^{\text{syn}}$  can be derived from Eq. 3. The canopy resistance for  $\text{O}_3$  is normally  
316 much greater than the quasi-laminar layer and aerodynamic resistances, meaning  $r_c \gg$   
317  $r_a$  and  $r_c \gg r_b$ , often by a factor of  $3$ - $10$ . Therefore, the  $\text{O}_3$  deposition velocity is approximately  
318  $v_d \approx r_c^{-1} = g_c$ . Under these conditions, Eq. 1 simplifies to  $F_{\text{O}_3} \approx n\chi(g_s + g_{ns})$  and Eq. 3  
319 simplifies to  $F_{s,\text{O}_3} \approx n\chi g_s$ . While  $g_s$  is calculated from measured  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  fluxes,  $g_{ns}$  comes from a  
320 parameterization, which inevitably introduces error into  $g_{ns}$  and  $F_{\text{O}_3}^{\text{syn}}$ . However,  $F_{s,\text{O}_3}^{\text{syn}}$  has little  
321 sensitivity to  $g_{ns}$  regardless of whether stomatal or non-stomatal conductance is larger. We  
322 confirm this insensitivity in tests where the parameterized  $g_{ns}$  value is doubled at ten sites. The  
323 hourly  $F_{s,\text{O}_3}^{\text{syn}}$  values change only  $3$ - $8\%$ . Since  $F_{s,\text{O}_3}^{\text{syn}}$  has little sensitivity to  $g_{ns}$  or its errors, it can  
324 be calculated more accurately than  $F_{\text{O}_3}^{\text{syn}}$ , as seen when comparing Figures 4 and S4. Despite its  
325 larger errors, the means of  $F_{\text{O}_3}^{\text{syn}}$  and  $v_d^{\text{syn}}$  are within  $50\%$  of the observed value at two sites and  
326 within a factor of  $2$  at all, which may be useful for some applications, given the scarcity of prior  
327  $F_{\text{O}_3}$  measurements and observation-derived estimates of  $v_d$ .

328  
329

### 330 **3.2 Stomatal and non-stomatal deposition**

331

332 Figure 5 shows the seasonal cycles of observation-derived  $\text{O}_3$  deposition velocity and its  
333 important components at the three study sites with  $\text{O}_3$  flux measurements. For low or moderately  
334 reactive gases like  $\text{O}_3$ , canopy resistance is typically greater than aerodynamic or quasi-laminar  
335 layer resistance, so it controls the overall deposition velocity. At these three sites, deposition  
336 velocity is lowest in winter ( $0.1$ - $0.2 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$ ) and highest in summer ( $0.5$ - $0.6 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$ ). Stomatal  
337 conductance peaks during warm and wet months, which explains most of this seasonal variation,  
338 except at Blodgett Forest as discussed below. Traditionally, stomatal conductance was thought to  
339 exceed non-stomatal conductance during the growing season at most vegetated sites (Wesely,  
340 1989; Zhang et al., 2003), although this has been challenged more recently (Altimir et al., 2006;  
341 Stella et al., 2011; Wolfe et al., 2011; Plake et al., 2015). At both Harvard and Hyytiälä Forests,  
342 the mean stomatal conductance ( $0.2$ - $0.6 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$ ) is  $1.5$ - $6$  times larger than non-stomatal  
343 conductance ( $0.08$ - $0.2 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$ ) during the growing season, so about  $60$ - $90\%$  of  $\text{O}_3$  deposition  
344 occurs through stomatal uptake. At Blodgett, non-stomatal conductance slightly exceeds stomatal  
345 conductance in summer ( $0.4$  vs.  $0.3 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$ ). The fast non-stomatal deposition is explained by  $\text{O}_3$   
346 reacting with biogenic terpenoid emissions below the flux measurement height (Kurpius and  
347 Goldstein, 2003; Fares et al., 2010). As documented in past work, these biogenic emissions  
348 depend strongly on temperature and light and have a large seasonal cycle with maxima in  
349 summer and minima in winter, so stomatal uptake is generally  $< 50\%$  of  $\text{O}_3$  deposition at

350 Blodgett in the summer but > 70% in winter (Kurpuis and Goldstein, 2003; Fares et al., 2010;  
351 Wolfe et al. 2011).

352

353 A recent analysis of O<sub>3</sub> flux measurements at Harvard Forest suggests that non-stomatal  
354 deposition averages 40% of daytime O<sub>3</sub> deposition during summer months, with a range of 20-  
355 60% across years (Clifton et al., 2017). Our analysis of the same site does not support such a  
356 large role for non-stomatal deposition at this site in summer. For each year, we calculate summer  
357 daytime means of  $g_s$  and  $g_c$  by averaging the June-September values, then calculate the non-  
358 stomatal fraction of deposition ( $1 - g_s/g_c$ ). Averaged across years 1993-2000, we find that 8%  
359 of daytime O<sub>3</sub> deposition is non-stomatal during the summer, with a range of -33% to 34%  
360 across years. Negative fractions mean that stomatal conductance is large enough to explain all O<sub>3</sub>  
361 deposition. A large negative non-stomatal fraction (-33%) occurs in only one year (1996) and no  
362 other year is less than -11%, which is within uncertainty of 0% ( $2\sigma$ ) according to the error  
363 propagation. Despite the small or zero non-stomatal fraction found here, our results continue to  
364 support the large year-to-year variability of this fraction reported by Clifton et al. (2017). The re-  
365 calibrated latent heat flux measurements are the main reason that our results differ from prior  
366 work and Supplement S3 provides further details. At Hyytiälä Forest, our results are consistent  
367 with prior work that found that the non-stomatal deposition is 26% to 44% of daytime O<sub>3</sub>  
368 deposition during the growing season (Rannik et al., 2012). Nevertheless, non-stomatal  
369 deposition equals or exceeds stomatal uptake where there are large terpene emissions (e.g.  
370 Blodgett) and at some other temperate sites that probably lack large biogenic emissions (Fowler  
371 et al., 2001; Cieslik, 2004; Lamaud et al., 2009; Stella et al., 2011; El-Madany et al., 2017). We  
372 also examined interannual variation in O<sub>3</sub> deposition velocity. We find that the mean summer  
373 daytime  $v_d$  is 0.40-0.68 cm s<sup>-1</sup> at Harvard Forest, 0.42-0.65 cm s<sup>-1</sup> at Blodgett Forest, and 0.43-  
374 0.51 cm s<sup>-1</sup> at Hyytiälä. This range for Harvard Forest is somewhat smaller than other recent  
375 work (0.5-1.2 cm s<sup>-1</sup>; Clifton et al., 2017) because of the uncertainty-weighted averages used here  
376 (Sect. 2.4).

377

378 The data here also provide an opportunity to evaluate the parameterization of non-stomatal  
379 conductance (Zhang et al., 2003). The parameterized  $g_{ns}$  has similar mean to observation-  
380 derived values in summer at Harvard Forest (0.16 vs. 0.12 cm s<sup>-1</sup>) and Hyytiälä (0.15 vs. 0.25 cm  
381 s<sup>-1</sup>). At Blodgett Forest, the parameterized  $g_{ns}$  is about half of observation-derived  $g_{ns}$  in  
382 summer, but this is not surprising since the parameterization does not account for O<sub>3</sub> reactions  
383 with biogenic volatile organic compounds (BVOC), which are known to be important at this site  
384 (Fares et al., 2010). In winter, however, the parameterized  $g_{ns}$  values at Blodgett Forest are  
385 similar to observations (0.10 vs. 0.08 cm s<sup>-1</sup>). The parameterization is therefore able to roughly  
386 predict mean non-stomatal conductance in the absence of major BVOC emissions. Nevertheless,  
387 the parameterization reproduces almost none of the daily variability of  $g_{ns}$  at any site ( $R^2 < 0.1$ ,  
388 Fig. S7). This corroborates the recent field assessment that non-stomatal conductance is a weak  
389 point of most current dry deposition algorithms (Wu et al., 2018). We attempted, unsuccessfully,

390 to use BVOC emissions from the MEGAN biogenic emission model (Guenther et al., 2012) to  
391 improve the  $g_{ns}$  parameterization, but the correlations between compounds that react fastest with  
392  $O_3$  (monoterpenes and sesquiterpenes) and the observation-derived daily mean  $g_{ns}$  were poor ( $R^2$   
393  $\leq 0.15$ ). On that basis,  $F_{O_3}^{syn}$  may also underestimate total  $O_3$  deposition at other sites with high  
394 monoterpene and sesquiterpene emissions, such as warm-weather pine forests, but  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$  should  
395 retain its quality everywhere.

396

## 397 4 SynFlux applications

398

### 399 4.1 Spatial patterns of synthetic fluxes

400

401 Across the 43 sites in the US shown in Fig. 3, mean  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$  during the growing season ranges from  
402 0.5 to 11.0  $nmol O_3 m^{-2} s^{-1}$  with an average of 4.4  $nmol O_3 m^{-2} s^{-1}$ . The highest  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$  generally  
403 occurs in the Midwest (5-9  $nmol O_3 m^{-2} s^{-1}$  in Wisconsin, Michigan, Nebraska, Ohio) due to its  
404 moderate  $O_3$  concentrations (Fig. S6) and moisture levels, which promotes stomatal conductance  
405 (Fig. 1). The Western US has higher average  $O_3$  concentrations, but generally lower moisture  
406 and stomatal conductance, especially the Southwest US, so  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$  (0-4  $nmol O_3 m^{-2} s^{-1}$ ) is mostly  
407 lower than the Midwest. Land cover, land management, and plant types can drive large  
408 differences in  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$  between nearby sites, even when  $O_3$  concentrations and meteorology are  
409 similar. For example, three Nebraska sites are all crop fields and  $O_3$  concentrations are nearly  
410 identical, but two irrigated fields have higher stomatal conductance and higher  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$  than the  
411 nearby rainfed field (6.2 vs. 4.8  $nmol O_3 m^{-2} s^{-1}$ ). Two sites in central California have high  $g_s$  and  
412  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$  compared to surrounding sites due to irrigation and naturally wet soil in the California  
413 Delta. A combination of topography and climate is also an important factor in California: forest  
414 sites in the Sierra Nevada mountains have lower  $g_s$  and  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$  than the lowland crops and wetland  
415 grasses. In Oregon, an evergreen needleleaf site regrowing after a fire has higher  $g_s$  and  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$   
416 than two older forest stands nearby. The differences between 9 Wisconsin forest sites, however,  
417 are mostly due to different years of data at each site combined with interannual variability in  
418  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$ ; fluxes at these sites are similar in overlapping years.

419

420 Variability across the 60 sites in Europe is controlled by similar factors. Stomatal uptake ranges  
421 from 1.4 to 9.6  $nmol O_3 m^{-2} s^{-1}$ , with an average of 4.7  $nmol O_3 m^{-2} s^{-1}$  (Fig. 3). The  
422 Mediterranean region has high  $O_3$  concentrations (Fig. S8), but generally low stomatal  
423 conductance due to the dry climate (Fig. 1). Within this region, vegetation type explains broad  
424 patterns. Shrub sites in Spain, France, and Sardinia have very low  $g_s$  ( $\sim 0.15 cm s^{-1}$ ) so  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$  is  
425 low (1-3  $nmol O_3 m^{-2} s^{-1}$ ), while most of the sites in mainland Italy are broadleaf and evergreen  
426 forests that have slightly greater  $g_s$  ( $\sim 0.2-0.4 cm s^{-1}$ ) and  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$  (3-6  $nmol O_3 m^{-2} s^{-1}$ ), despite

427 similar climate and O<sub>3</sub>. In central and northern Europe, temperate climate promotes higher  
 428 stomatal conductance while O<sub>3</sub> concentrations remain modest throughout the growing season.  
 429 The largest  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$  is 9.8 nmol O<sub>3</sub> m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> at a deciduous broadleaf forest in Switzerland, while  
 430 nearby evergreen forests, cereal crops, and grasslands all have lower fluxes (6-8 nmol O<sub>3</sub> m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>).  
 431 While Finland has generally low  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$  of 2-5 nmol O<sub>3</sub> m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>, the high end of this range is similar  
 432 to rural sites in Germany, illustrating that O<sub>3</sub> can impact remote ecosystems with high stomatal  
 433 conductance, even where O<sub>3</sub> concentrations are low.

434  
 435 Table 2 quantifies SynFlux, O<sub>3</sub> deposition velocity, and conductance for each plant functional  
 436 type. Wetlands, crops, and forests have the highest average  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$ , which is about two times  
 437 higher than woody savanna or shrublands, the vegetation types with the lowest  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$ . At wetland  
 438 sites,  $g_s$  and  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$  could be overestimated due to evaporation of surface water (Sect. 2.1), but any  
 439 error is likely modest because our estimates of stomatal conductance at these sites ( $0.48 \pm 0.16$   
 440 cm s<sup>-1</sup>; Table 2) are reasonable for wetland vegetation (up to 1 cm s<sup>-1</sup>; Drake et al., 2013). The  
 441 vegetation types rank in the same order for stomatal conductance, again showing stomata as the  
 442 main control on O<sub>3</sub> uptake into vegetation. Stomatal uptake exceeds non-stomatal uptake for all  
 443 plant functional types except woody savanna and shrubland. O<sub>3</sub> deposition velocities reported in  
 444 Table 2 fall within the ranges of past literature, as reviewed by Silva and Heald (2017).  
 445 However, while Silva and Heald found that the mean deposition velocity was greater over  
 446 deciduous forests than coniferous forests, crops, or grass, we do not. Rather, we find that  
 447 variability between sites within each of these categories is large, having a standard deviation  
 448 about 30% of the multi-site mean.

449

## 450 **4.2 Metrics for O<sub>3</sub> damage to plants**

451

452 Since O<sub>3</sub> injures plants mainly by internal oxidative damage after entering the leaves through  
 453 stomata, the most physiological predictor of plant injuries is the cumulative uptake of O<sub>3</sub> (CUO,  
 454 Reich, 1987; Fuhrer, 2000; Karlsson et al., 2004; Cieslik, 2004; Matyssek et al., 2007). CUO is  
 455 defined as the cumulative stomatal O<sub>3</sub> flux exceeding a threshold flux Y that can be detoxified by  
 456 the plant, integrated over a period of time:

$$457 \quad CUOY = \sum_i H(F_{s,O_3,i} - Y)(F_{s,O_3,i} - Y) \Delta t_i.$$

458 Here,  $H(x)$  is the Heaviside step function and  $\Delta t_i$  is the time elapsed during measurement of  
 459  $F_{s,O_3,i}$ . The sum is carried out over time  $i$  in the growing season, which we define based on GPP  
 460 (Sect 2.1), The detoxification threshold varies across vegetation types, even among related  
 461 species (Karlsson et al., 2004, Büker et al., 2015), and thresholds for specific FLUXNET sites  
 462 are generally unknown. As a compromise, we calculate CUO, with Y=0, and also CUO3, with Y  
 463 = 3 nmol O<sub>3</sub> m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>, which has been suggested as a reasonable generic threshold (Mills et al.,

464 2011). CUO is always greater than CUO3, but the sites with high CUO tend to also have high  
465 CUO3, so their spatial patterns are similar (Fig. S8).

466

467 While CUO is a physiological dose, concentration-based metrics remain common for assessing  
468 ozone impacts because they are easier to measure. Concentration-based metrics quantify O<sub>3</sub> in  
469 ambient air irrespective of whether that O<sub>3</sub> enters leaves. These metrics follow the general form

470

$$M = \sum_i w(\chi_i) (\chi_i - \chi_c) \Delta t_i$$

471 where  $w(\chi)$  is a weighting function applied to the O<sub>3</sub> mole fraction  $\chi$ , and  $\chi_c$  is a constant. Like  
472 CUO, the sum is usually over time  $i$  during the growing season. Three of the most common  
473 concentration-based O<sub>3</sub> metrics are the mean O<sub>3</sub> concentration, the accumulated concentration  
474 over a threshold of 40 ppb (AOT40; UNECE, 2004), and the sigmoidal-weighted index (W126;  
475 Lefohn and Runeckles, 1987). For mean,  $w(\chi) = (\sum \Delta t_i)^{-1}$  and  $\chi_c = 0$ . For AOT40,  $w(\chi) =$   
476  $H(\chi - \chi_c)$  and  $\chi_c = 40$  ppb. For W126,  $w(\chi) = (1 + 4403 \exp(-(126 \text{ ppb}^{-1})\chi))^{-1}$  and  $\chi_c =$   
477 0. Both AOT40 and W126 use only daytime (8am-8pm) measurements and W126 also takes the  
478 maximum value over all 3-month periods during the growing season. The weighting functions  
479 for AOT40 and W126 give little or no weight to O<sub>3</sub> concentrations below 40 ppb. In addition,  
480 W126 gives increasing weight to concentrations up to about 110 ppb and full weight for higher  
481 concentrations based on the understanding that exposure to high O<sub>3</sub> concentrations is more  
482 injurious than moderate or low concentrations. Other concentration-based metrics (e.g. SUM60)  
483 use other thresholds or weighting functions, but many are strongly correlated with AOT40 or  
484 W126 or otherwise qualitatively similar (Paoletti et al., 2007).

485

486 The spatial patterns of AOT40 and W126 closely resemble that of mean O<sub>3</sub> concentration in the  
487 US and Europe despite their different weighting functions (Fig. S9). AOT40 and W126 are well  
488 correlated with each other across sites ( $R^2 = 0.87$ ) and with mean O<sub>3</sub> mole fraction ( $R^2 = 0.76$  and  
489  $R^2 = 0.52$  for mean O<sub>3</sub> vs. AOT40 and W126, respectively) despite their different weighting  
490 functions. As a result, all of these concentrations-based metrics have similar spatial patterns in  
491 the US and Europe. The CUO and CUO3 spatial patterns, however, are similar to  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$  and  
492 distinct from the concentration-based metrics. This illustrates that locations with high AOT40 or  
493 W126, like the Southwest US or Mediterranean Europe, can have low CUO.

494

495 Even though concentration-based metrics do not measure the physiological O<sub>3</sub> dose to plants,  
496 they can be useful if the metric is proportional to the flux-based dose and injuries. Indeed, many  
497 controlled experiments and observational studies have documented correlations between both  
498 AOT40 and W126 and either uptake or plant injuries (e.g. Fuhrer et al., 1997; Cieslik, 2004;  
499 Musselman et al., 2006; Matyssek et al., 2010). However, many of these studies were carried out  
500 at a single site or under conditions where stomatal conductance was relatively steady while O<sub>3</sub>  
501 concentrations varied, for example by maintaining well-watered soil. When stomatal

502 conductance varies widely, such as between arid and humid climates or seasons, concentration-  
503 based metrics may not correlate with stomatal O<sub>3</sub> flux (Mills et al., 2011).

504

505 Figure 6 shows that all of the concentration-based metrics are poorly correlated with CUO across  
506 the sites (AOT40:  $R^2 = 0.05$ , W126:  $R^2 = 0.03$ , mean O<sub>3</sub>:  $R^2 = 0.04$ ). Humidity helps explain some  
507 of the scatter in Figure 6. The sites with high concentration-based metrics and low CUO have  
508 high vapor pressure deficit (VPD), low stomatal conductance, and are mostly in the western US  
509 and Mediterranean Europe. Restricting the analysis to humid sites (VPD < 1.5 kPa) does not  
510 improve the correlation ( $R^2 \approx 0.05$ ) and at the arid sites (VPD > 1.6 kPa) the concentration-based  
511 metrics are modestly anti-correlated with CUO (AOT40:  $R^2 = 0.19$ , W126:  $R^2 = 0.05$ , mean O<sub>3</sub>:  
512  $R^2 = 0.37$ ). This result reinforces that concentration-based metrics can misrepresent CUO and  
513 plant injuries (Mills et al., 2011).

514

515 From the CUO values in Table 2, we can estimate the range of O<sub>3</sub> impacts on biomass  
516 production at the FLUXNET sites. Although species vary in their sensitivity to O<sub>3</sub> (Lombardozzi  
517 et al., 2013), several studies suggest that the biomass production of broadleaf and needleleaf  
518 trees decreases 0.2 to 1% per mmol O<sub>3</sub> m<sup>-2</sup> of CUO (Karlsson et al., 2004; Wittig et al., 2007;  
519 Hoshika et al., 2015). Combining the mean CUO for each plant functional type (Table 2) with  
520 these sensitivities, our work implies that O<sub>3</sub> reduces the biomass production at these FLUXNET  
521 sites by 6-29% for deciduous broadleaf forests and 4-20% for needleleaf forests. The range  
522 represents the spread of reported dose-response sensitivities within each plant type, meaning the  
523 least and most O<sub>3</sub>-sensitive species. Several broadleaf crops are more sensitive to O<sub>3</sub>, with  
524 biomass reductions of 1.3-1.6% per mmol O<sub>3</sub> m<sup>-2</sup> of CUO<sub>3</sub> (Mills et al., 2011). That sensitivity  
525 implies 20-24% drop in biomass production at FLUXNET crop sites. Some studies have  
526 quantified O<sub>3</sub> dose-response relationships with other thresholds  $Y = 1.6$  to  $6 \text{ nmol O}_3 \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  (e.g.  
527 Karlsson et al., 2007; Pleijel et al., 2004, 2014), but the sensitivities have similar magnitude.  
528 Fares et al. (2013) also demonstrated 12-19% reduction in gross primary production due to O<sub>3</sub> at  
529 some of the same crop and forest FLUXNET sites. Using prognostic models of O<sub>3</sub>  
530 concentrations and stomatal uptake, several past studies have also suggested that O<sub>3</sub> reduces  
531 biomass production and CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration by 4-20% in the US and Europe (Sitch et al., 2007;  
532 Wittig et al., 2007; Mills et al., 2011; Yue et al., 2014, 2016; Lombardozzi et al., 2015). Our  
533 results support this range of impacts, although some FLUXNET sites and species likely  
534 experience greater O<sub>3</sub> injury, but here the CUO is highly constrained from observations and  
535 therefore avoids the additional uncertainties of atmosphere-biosphere models.

536

537

## 538 **5 Conclusions**

539

540 We have demonstrated a method to estimate O<sub>3</sub> fluxes and stomatal O<sub>3</sub> uptake at eddy  
541 covariance flux towers wherever regional O<sub>3</sub> monitors exist. The method, called SynFlux,

542 derives stomatal conductance and O<sub>3</sub> deposition velocity from standard eddy covariance  
543 measurements and combines them with gridded O<sub>3</sub> concentrations from air quality monitoring  
544 networks. We apply this method to the FLUXNET2015 dataset and derive synthetic flux  
545 estimates at 43 sites in the United States and 60 sites in Europe, totaling 926 site-years of  
546 observations. O<sub>3</sub> deposition measurements have previously only been sporadically available for a  
547 few sites around the world, so this work dramatically increases the flux data available for  
548 understanding O<sub>3</sub> impacts on vegetation and for evaluating air quality and climate models.

549  
550 Three sites with long-term O<sub>3</sub> flux measurements provide an independent test of SynFlux. These  
551 comparisons show that daily averages of synthetic stomatal  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$  correlate well with observation-  
552 derived  $F_{s,O_3}^{obs}$  ( $R^2 = 0.83-0.93$ ) and have a mean bias under 22% at all sites. At all three sites 95%  
553 of the synthetic  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$  values differ from measurements by a factor of 2 or less. The differences  
554 between  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$  and  $F_{s,O_3}^{obs}$  are also consistent with propagated uncertainty in the underlying  
555 measurements. Synthetic total deposition,  $F_{O_3}^{syn}$ , is sensitive to errors in the parameterized non-  
556 stomatal conductance, but mean values are still within a factor of 2 of observations. The errors in  
557 this dataset are modest compared with differences between observations and regional and global  
558 atmospheric chemistry models that are frequently a factor of 2 or more (Zhang et al., 2003;  
559 Hardacre et al., 2015; Clifton et al., 2017; Silva and Heald, 2017), illustrating the utility of this  
560 dataset for evaluating models and O<sub>3</sub> impacts.

561  
562 Across flux tower sites in the US and Europe,  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$  ranges from 0.5 to 11.0 nmol O<sub>3</sub> m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>  
563 during the summer growing season. The spatial pattern of  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$  is mainly controlled by stomatal  
564 conductance rather than O<sub>3</sub> concentration. Patterns of stomatal conductance and  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$  in turn are  
565 explained by climate, especially atmospheric and soil moisture, vegetation types, and land  
566 management, such as irrigation. O<sub>3</sub> concentration-based metrics (AOT40, W126, mean O<sub>3</sub>) have  
567 been widely used to evaluate O<sub>3</sub> damages to plants because they are easier and cheaper to  
568 measure than the cumulative uptake of O<sub>3</sub> (CUO) into leaves. However, these metrics have very  
569 little correlation with CUO ( $R^2 \leq 0.05$ ) across FLUXNET sites. Using dose-response  
570 relationships between CUO and biomass reduction, we estimate that O<sub>3</sub> reduces biomass  
571 production and carbon uptake by 4-29%, depending on the site and plant type. Unlike most past  
572 estimates, which have used prognostic models of O<sub>3</sub> uptake, our assessment of biomass reduction  
573 is based on O<sub>3</sub> fluxes that are tightly constrained by observations. To promote further  
574 applications in ecosystem monitoring and modeling, the SynFlux dataset is publicly available in  
575 the supplement as monthly averages of  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$ ,  $F_{O_3}^{syn}$ , O<sub>3</sub> deposition velocity, stomatal conductance,  
576 and related variables.

577  
578  
579

580 **Acknowledgments**

581 This work was supported by the Winchester Fund and by the Council on Research Creativity at  
582 Florida State University. Eddy covariance data used here were acquired and shared by the  
583 FLUXNET community, including the AmeriFlux and CarboEuropeIP networks. The FLUXNET  
584 eddy covariance data processing and harmonization was carried out by the European Fluxes  
585 Database Cluster, AmeriFlux Management Project, and Fluxdata project of FLUXNET, with the  
586 support of CDIAC and ICOS Ecosystem Thematic Center, and the OzFlux, ChinaFlux and  
587 AsiaFlux offices. TFK was supported by the Director, Office of Science, Office of Biological  
588 and Environmental Research of the US Department of Energy under Contract DE-AC02-  
589 05CH11231 as part of the RUBISCO SFA. The O<sub>3</sub> concentration and flux measurements from  
590 Harvard Forest used in this analysis were supported by the National Science Foundation through  
591 the LTER program and various programs under the U. S. Department of Energy Office of  
592 Science (BER). At Hyytiälä Forest, O<sub>3</sub> concentrations and flux measurements were supported by  
593 ICOS-Finland (281255) and Academy of Finland Center of Excellence programme (307331). At  
594 Blodgett Forest, O<sub>3</sub> concentrations and flux measurements were supported by ICOS-Finland  
595 (281255) and Academy of Finland Center of Excellence programme (307331). The long term O<sub>3</sub>  
596 concentration and flux measurements from Blodgett Forest used in this analysis were supported  
597 by a combination of grants from the Kearney Foundation of Soil Science, the University of  
598 California Agricultural Experiment Station, and the U.S. Department of Energy Office of  
599 Science (BER), the National Science Foundation Atmospheric Chemistry Program, and the  
600 California Air Resources Board.

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1368 Table 1. Description of sites that measure O<sub>3</sub> flux and their daytime growing season conditions <sup>a</sup>  
 1369

	Blodgett Forest, California, USA	Hyytiälä Forest, Finland	Harvard Forest, Massachusetts, USA
Latitude, Longitude	38.8953, -120.6328	61.8475, 24.2950	42.5378, -72.1715
Plant functional type	Evergreen needleleaf	Evergreen needleleaf	Deciduous broadleaf
Years of data	2001-2007	2007-2012	1993-1999
Days of observations	1281	1098	1281
Canopy height, m	8	15	24
GPP, $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$	9.22 $\pm$ 3.55	11.1 $\pm$ 5.02	12.4 $\pm$ 7.62
ET, $\text{mmol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$	3.25 $\pm$ 1.23	1.71 $\pm$ 0.82	2.95 $\pm$ 1.70
PAR, $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$	875 $\pm$ 149	690 $\pm$ 203	876 $\pm$ 222
Air Temperature, $^{\circ}\text{C}$	19.1 $\pm$ 5.36	13.3 $\pm$ 5.99	17.65 $\pm$ 5.75
VPD, kPa	1.51 $\pm$ 0.61	0.73 $\pm$ 0.32	0.90 $\pm$ 0.34
O <sub>3</sub> , ppb	55.4 $\pm$ 13.4	32.2 $\pm$ 8.68	48.8 $\pm$ 15.8
$F_{s,\text{O}_3}$ , $\text{nmol O}_3 \text{m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$	5.18 $\pm$ 2.11	4.35 $\pm$ 1.66	7.23 $\pm$ 4.87
Precipitation, $\text{mm day}^{-1}$	0.09 $\pm$ 0.49	0.42 $\pm$ 0.89	0.28 $\pm$ 0.82

1370  
 1371 <sup>a</sup> Values are mean  $\pm$  standard deviation of daily averages, using daytime observations only. GPP is gross  
 1372 primary productivity. ET is evapotranspiration. PAR is photosynthetically active radiation. VPD is vapor  
 1373 pressure deficit.  $F_{s,\text{O}_3}$  is observation-derived stomatal O<sub>3</sub> flux.

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 1377 Table 2. Mean O<sub>3</sub> SynFlux, deposition velocity and its conductance components during daytime  
 1378 in the growing season, grouped by plant functional type (PFT).<sup>a</sup>  
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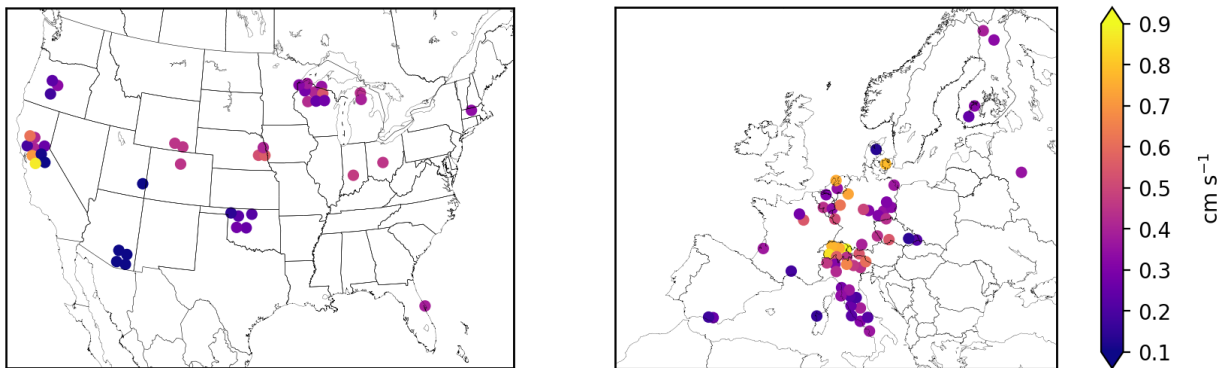
PFT <sup>b</sup>	Sites	Site- Years	$g_s$	$g_{ns}$	$g_c$	$v_d$	$F_{\text{O}_3}^{\text{syn}}$	$F_{s,\text{O}_3}^{\text{syn}}$	CUO	CUO3
CRO	18	148	0.42 $\pm$ 0.17	0.28 $\pm$ 0.09	0.68 $\pm$ 0.18	0.53 $\pm$ 0.12	7.66 $\pm$ 1.96	4.77 $\pm$ 1.52	24.8 $\pm$ 12.4	14.9 $\pm$ 9.3
ENF	25	254	0.37 $\pm$ 0.10	0.25 $\pm$ 0.06	0.60 $\pm$ 0.11	0.54 $\pm$ 0.10	7.37 $\pm$ 1.33	4.61 $\pm$ 1.16	20.0 $\pm$ 5.69	11.9 $\pm$ 6.30
EBF	3	31	0.21 $\pm$ 0.02	0.15 $\pm$ 0.02	0.36 $\pm$ 0.03	0.33 $\pm$ 0.03	5.02 $\pm$ 0.65	2.90 $\pm$ 0.28	12.1 $\pm$ 0.81	5.12 $\pm$ 0.45
DBF	16	158	0.41 $\pm$ 0.14	0.20 $\pm$ 0.09	0.60 $\pm$ 0.18	0.53 $\pm$ 0.15	7.87 $\pm$ 2.28	5.37 $\pm$ 1.69	28.6 $\pm$ 13.8	15.7 $\pm$ 6.66
MF	5	83	0.44 $\pm$ 0.17	0.19 $\pm$ 0.01	0.62 $\pm$ 0.15	0.56 $\pm$ 0.14	7.82 $\pm$ 1.91	5.53 $\pm$ 2.15	24.9 $\pm$ 10.5	15.9 $\pm$ 8.90
WSA	2	25	0.10 $\pm$ 0.02	0.31 $\pm$ 0.06	0.39 $\pm$ 0.04	0.36 $\pm$ 0.04	6.14 $\pm$ 0.20	1.47 $\pm$ 0.31	6.46 $\pm$ 1.43	2.54 $\pm$ 1.72
OSH	4	14	0.19 $\pm$ 0.07	0.29 $\pm$ 0.10	0.47 $\pm$ 0.10	0.41 $\pm$ 0.09	5.69 $\pm$ 1.33	2.23 $\pm$ 0.87	8.60 $\pm$ 3.27	2.27 $\pm$ 1.54
CSH	2	15	0.27 $\pm$ 0.11	0.29 $\pm$ 0.01	0.57 $\pm$ 0.09	0.49 $\pm$ 0.05	6.78 $\pm$ 0.95	3.34 $\pm$ 1.24	14.3 $\pm$ 5.30	7.62 $\pm$ 5.49
GRA	18	136	0.40 $\pm$ 0.30	0.24 $\pm$ 0.11	0.64 $\pm$ 0.26	0.47 $\pm$ 0.15	7.04 $\pm$ 7.04	4.12 $\pm$ 2.45	18.3 $\pm$ 10.7	9.90 $\pm$ 6.98
WET <sup>c</sup>	10	53	0.48 $\pm$ 0.16	0.27 $\pm$ 0.09	0.74 $\pm$ 0.21	0.58 $\pm$ 0.14	8.80 $\pm$ 2.74	5.77 $\pm$ 2.08	25.1 $\pm$ 9.65	19.4 $\pm$ 15.6

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 1381 <sup>a</sup> Values are the mean  $\pm$  standard deviation across sites within each PFT. Units are  $\text{cm s}^{-1}$  for  $g_s, g_{ns}, g_c$ ,  
 1382 and  $v_d$ ;  $\text{nmol O}_3 \text{m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$  for  $F_{\text{O}_3}^{\text{syn}}$  and  $F_{s,\text{O}_3}^{\text{syn}}$ ; and  $\text{mmol O}_3 \text{m}^{-2}$  for CUO and CUO3.

1383 <sup>b</sup> CRO = crop, ENF = evergreen needleleaf forest, EBF = evergreen broadleaf forest, DBF = deciduous  
 1384 broadleaf forest, MF = mixed forest, WSA = woody savanna, OSH = open shrubland, CSH = closed  
 1385 shrubland, GRA = grassland, WET = wetland

1386 <sup>c</sup> Fluxes may be overestimated at wetland sites due to evaporation of surface water affecting the  
 1387 calculation of  $g_s$ , but any errors are likely modest because the  $g_s$  values here are reasonable (Drake et al.,  
 1388 2013).

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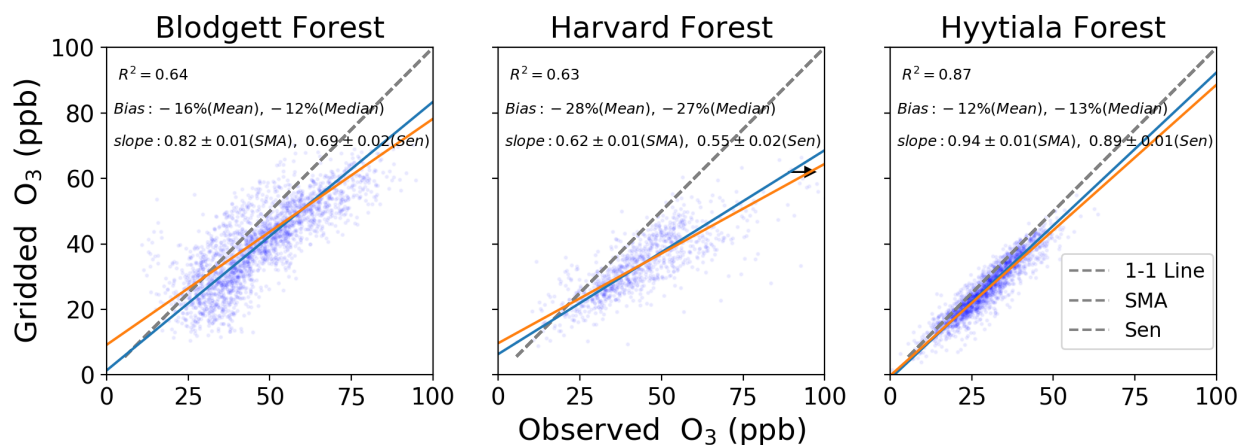
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1392 Figure 1. Mean stomatal conductance for  $O_3$  ( $g_s$ ) during daytime in the growing season at  
 1393 FLUXNET2015 sites in the United States and Europe. Symbols of some sites have been moved  
 1394 slightly to reduce overlap and improve legibility.

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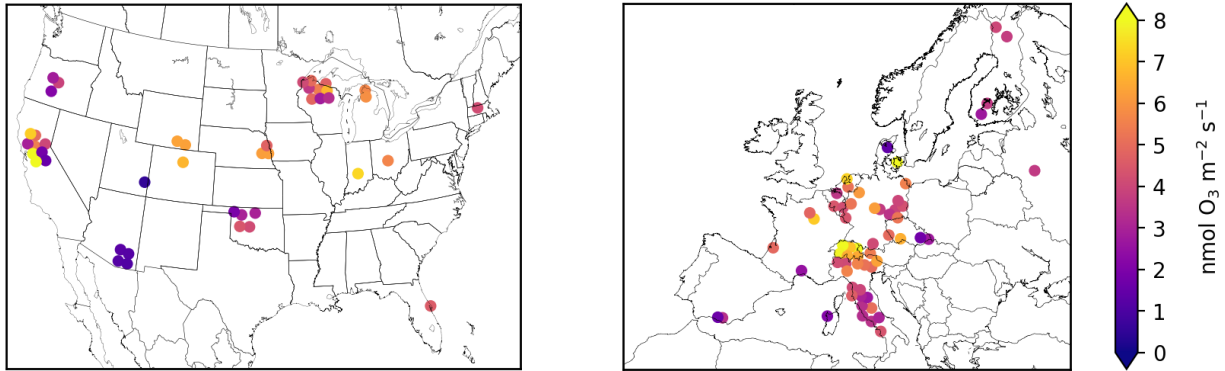
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1399 Figure 2. Gridded and observed daily daytime  $O_3$  concentrations at Blodgett, Harvard, and  
 1400 Hyytiälä Forests. Inset numbers provide the coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ), mean and median  
 1401 bias, the standard major axis (SMA) slope, the Thiel-Sen (Sen) slope, and the 68% confidence  
 1402 interval of the slopes. Black arrow points towards outliers that are not shown.

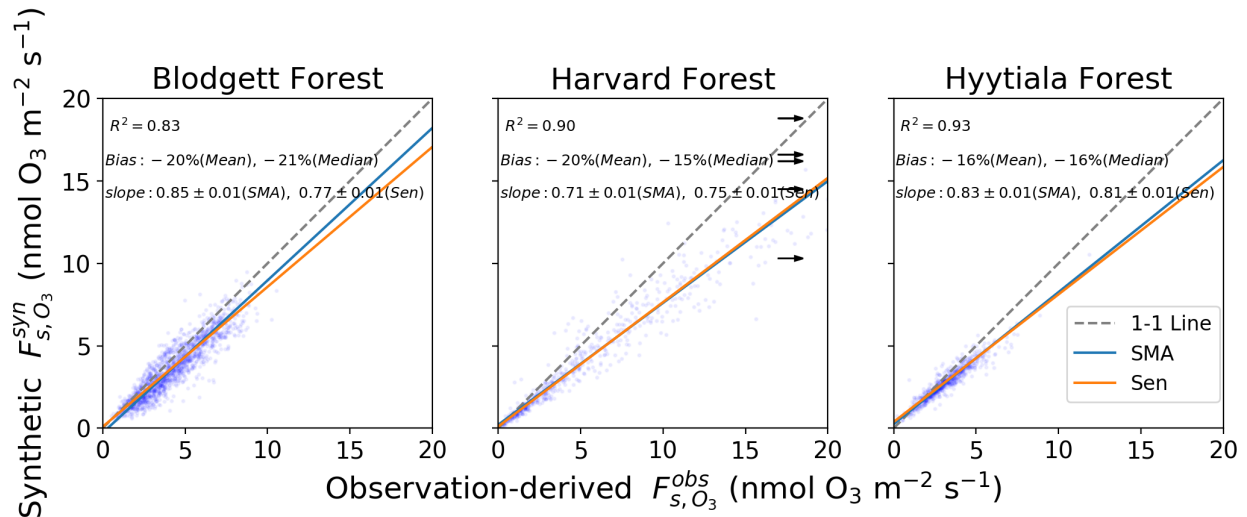
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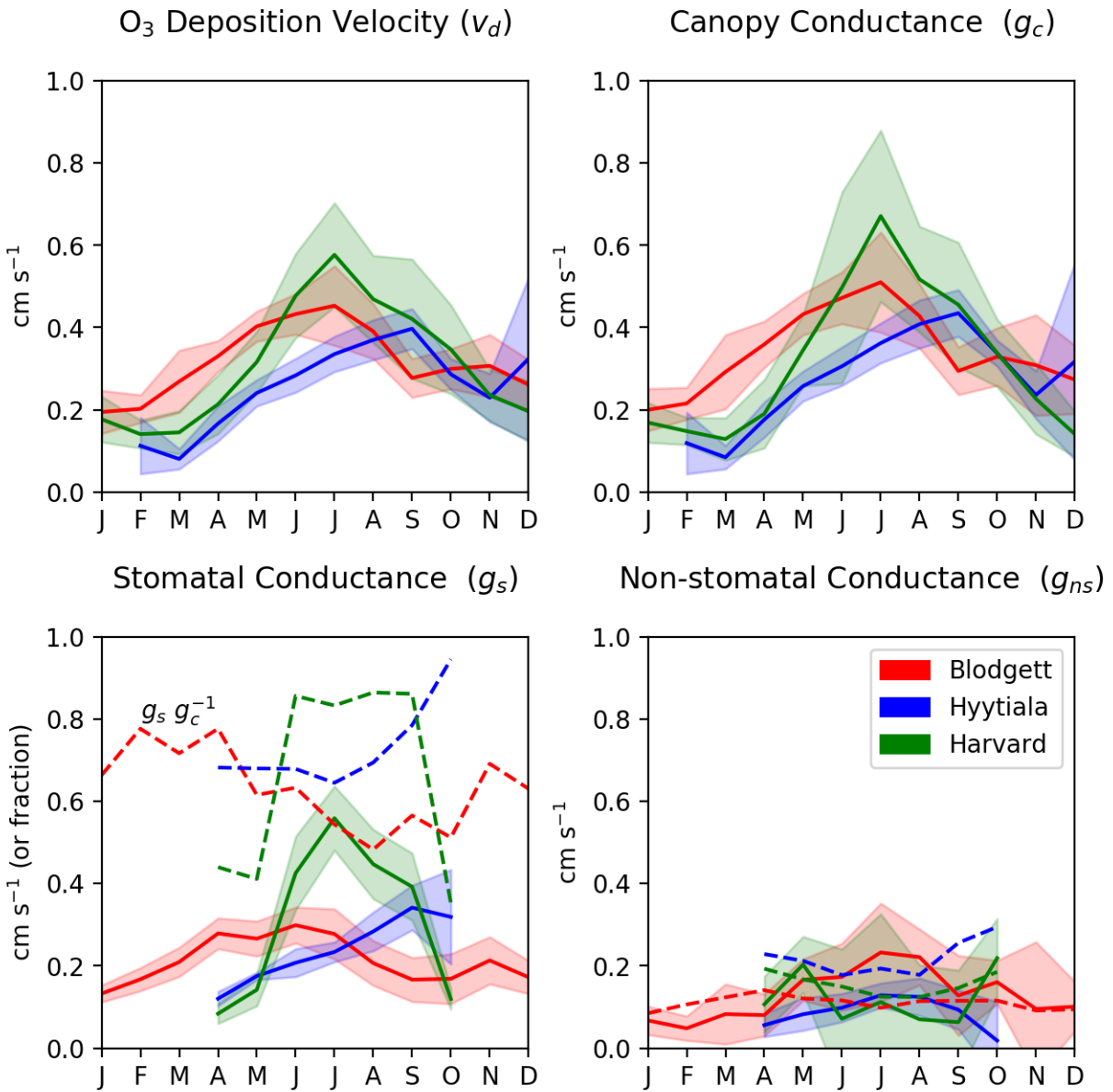
1405

1406 Figure 3. Mean synthetic stomatal O<sub>3</sub> flux ( $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$ , Sect. 2.1) during the daytime growing season at  
1407 FLUXNET2015 sites in the United States and Europe. Symbols of some sites have been moved  
1408 slightly to reduce overlap and improve legibility.  
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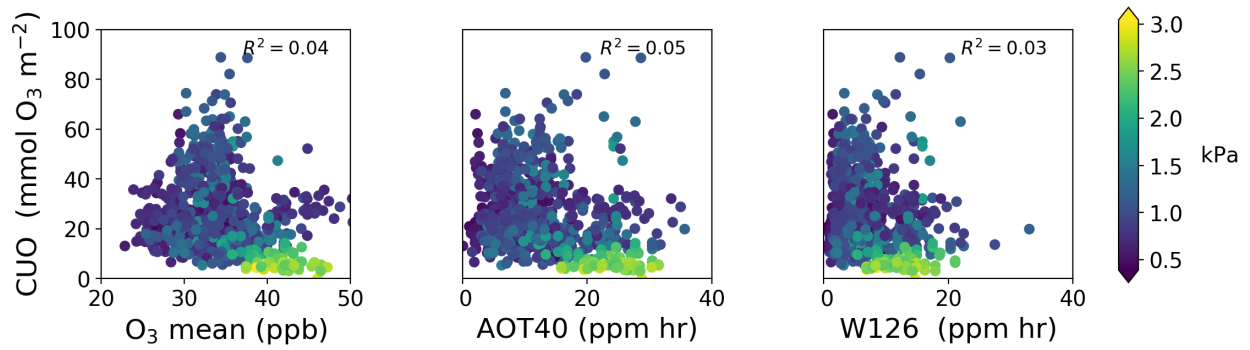
1411 Figure 4. Synthetic and observation-derived daily daytime stomatal O<sub>3</sub> flux. See Sect. 2.1 for  
1412 definition of  $F_{s,O_3}^{syn}$  and Fig. 2 for explanation of lines and inset text.



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Figure 5. Observed O<sub>3</sub> deposition velocity and its in-canopy components at sites with O<sub>3</sub> flux measurements. Lines show the multi-year mean and multi-year standard deviation calculated from the monthly averages described in Sect. 2.4. Dashed lines on the stomatal conductance panel show the stomatal fraction of total canopy conductance ( $g_s g_c^{-1}$ ) and dashed lines on the non-stomatal conductance panel show the parameterized  $g_{ns}$  value.

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Figure 6. Comparison of cumulative uptake of O<sub>3</sub> (CUO) to concentration-based metrics of O<sub>3</sub> exposure during the daytime growing season at 103 sites: mean O<sub>3</sub> concentration (left), AOT40 (center), and W126 (right). There is one value (dot) per site per year. Colors show mean vapor pressure deficit during the growing season.