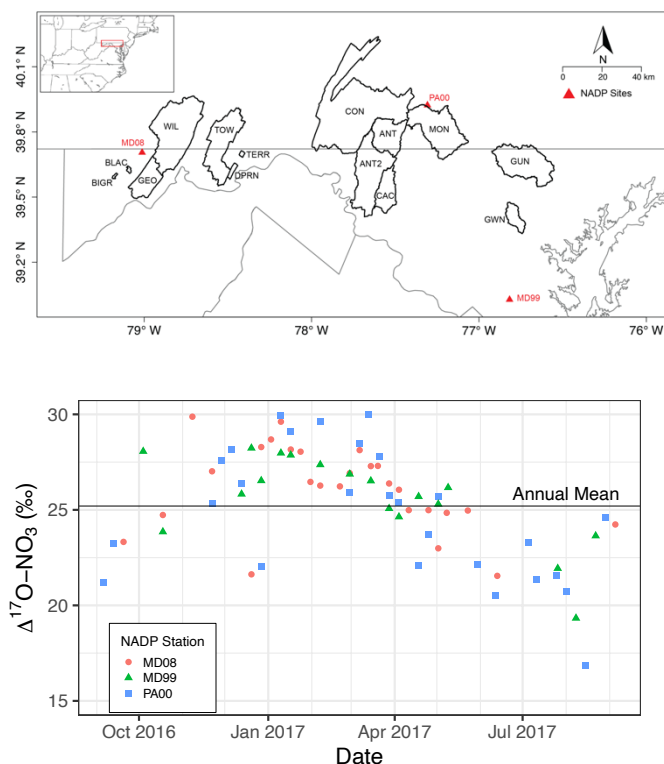


By estimating the concentration of stream nitrate (NO_3^-), isotopic compositions of NO_3^- ($\delta^{15}\text{N}$, $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, and $\Delta^{17}\text{O}$), and water flux during base flow and storm events, this manuscript investigated the exportation of $\text{NO}_3^-_{\text{terr}}$ and $\text{NO}_3^-_{\text{atm}}$ in two different watersheds, where two watersheds have different land-use. Compared to the mixed agricultural/forested watershed, the developed urban watershed exported more $\text{NO}_3^-_{\text{atm}}$ during storm events, which was explained by impervious surfaces that hydrologically connect runoff to channels to facilitate the export of $\text{NO}_3^-_{\text{atm}}$ during storm events. In addition, the disproportionality factor was proposed to quantify the disproportionate effect of $\text{NO}_3^-_{\text{terr}}$ and $\text{NO}_3^-_{\text{atm}}$ compared to the runoff during storm events.

While the paper is nicely written, I have one major concern about the $\Delta^{17}\text{O}$ of atmospheric NO_3^- in rainfall. In the author's past study, they reported the mean value of $\Delta^{17}\text{O}$ of atmospheric NO_3^- in three nearby stations was +25.1 ‰ (Bostic et al., 2021; figures of following), which the value was in accordance with other past studies (e.g., $+26.3 \pm 3$ ‰; Tsunogai et al., 2016, $+26.1 \pm 3.5$ ‰; Hale et al., 2014, and $+20 \sim +30$ ‰; Michalski et al., 2003) in the similar latitudes. On the other hand, the mean value of $\Delta^{17}\text{O}$ of atmospheric NO_3^- in this study was $+20.2 \pm 2.8$ ‰ (Table S1), which the value seems significantly smaller than the past studies. The concern should be resolved before publication.



Specific comments:

Line 140-147: The calculated $\text{NO}_3^-_{\text{atm}}$ Deposition should compare with similar past studies to verify the accuracy of the data.

Line 240: Is DF=1 here?

L370-373: The interpretation of low $\delta^{15}\text{N}_{\text{Terr}}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{Terr}}$ during storm events was reasonable; the same phenomenon has also been reported by a recent study (Ding et al., 2022). However, there is another possibility, the shorter residence time of stream NO_3^- during storm events could cause smaller biologically-mediated fractionation (having not enough time for bioreactions of fractionation) than normal time; thus, the exported NO_3^- showed low values of $\delta^{15}\text{N}_{\text{Terr}}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{Terr}}$, rather than the addition of new NO_3^- . In addition, the reason why the $\delta^{15}\text{N}_{\text{Terr}}$ in GUN watershed didn't show low values (and the weaker significance of $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{Terr}}$) also should be discussed in the manuscript. Because GUN watershed showed higher land-use of forest and agriculture (Table 1), the flushing effect should be stronger in GUN watershed.

Figure 4: While other figures had 8 points, there were only 7 points in Figure 4, Figure S4 also.

Figure 5: The calculation of the fraction of rainfall NO_3^- exported (y-axis) should be expressed in section 2 of the manuscript.

How about using the intensity of rainfall (unit: cm/h) as the x-axis?

Figure S2: It seems many stream water samples were sampled during baseflow and storm periods. Did the authors analyze the isotopic compositions ($\delta^{15}\text{N}$, $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, and $\Delta^{17}\text{O}$ of NO_3^-) of all these samples? If the authors did, they can list these data in supplementary and the number of analyzed in the manuscript, not only the mean value (Figure 3; Table S3).

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