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High-resolution Mapping of Direct CO₂ Emissions and Uncertainties at the Urban Scale

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ABSTRACT

Mapping direct carbon emissions at high-resolution in urban environments could help in the development of measures to mitigate carbon emissions through optimizing the layout of inner structures. It requires the use of a mapping method combining the bottom-up and top-bottom calculations with uncertainty evaluations. This study developed a method for urban scale analyses of carbon emissions, including a theoretical framework of uncertainty distribution and transmission. Using Jinjiang City, China, as a case study, we applied this method to calculate the amount of carbon emissions in grids distributed across a city. This information was used to analyze emission uncertainties and its sources. The calculated emissions were allocated through the accurate spatial identification of three emission sectors and proxy data. Two different population spatialization methods were constructed in order to create 30 m and 500 m resolution grid maps. We designed four different Monte-Carlo simulation scenarios to analyze the uncertainties of the two maps. The results showed that the method developed here was suitable for delineating carbon emissions at the urban-scale. The 30 m resolution map showed that residential emissions were widely distributed, whereas industrial emissions were more concentrated, with the opposite trend being detected in the 500 m resolution map. Calculations of carbon inventory and spatial proxy had more impacts on the 30 m resolution map than on the 500 m resolution map. During the process of spatial superposition, the uncertainties from different sectors showed a nonlinear relationship, which was represented by smaller total uncertainties compared with the sum of uncertainties from the three emission sectors. In conclusion, this study provides important baseline data that could be used to optimize urban form by promoting low-carbon city construction.

KEYWORDS: Monte-Carlo simulation; spatial proxy; carbon tabular inventory; uncertainty propagation; bottom-up and top-bottom

I. TABLES AND FIGURES

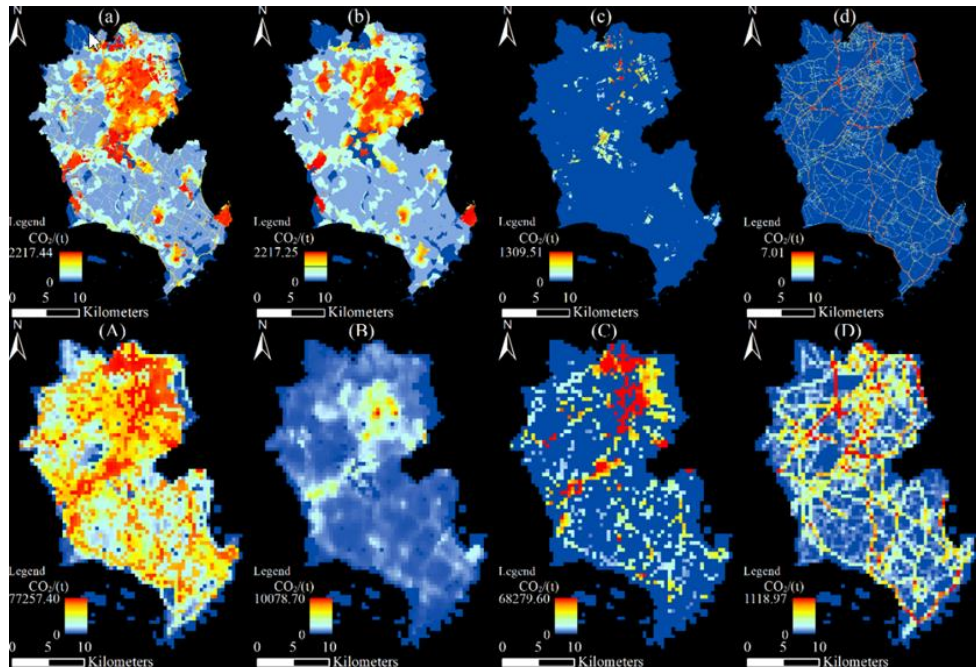


Figure 1: Map showing CO2 emissions at 30 m and 500 m resolution. The upper figures are at 30 m resolution, the lower figures are at 500 m resolution. (a) and (A) are the total direct CO2 emissions maps, (b) and (B) are the residential CO2 emissions maps, (c) and (C) are the industrial CO2 emissions maps, and (d) and (D) are the traffic CO2 emissions maps.

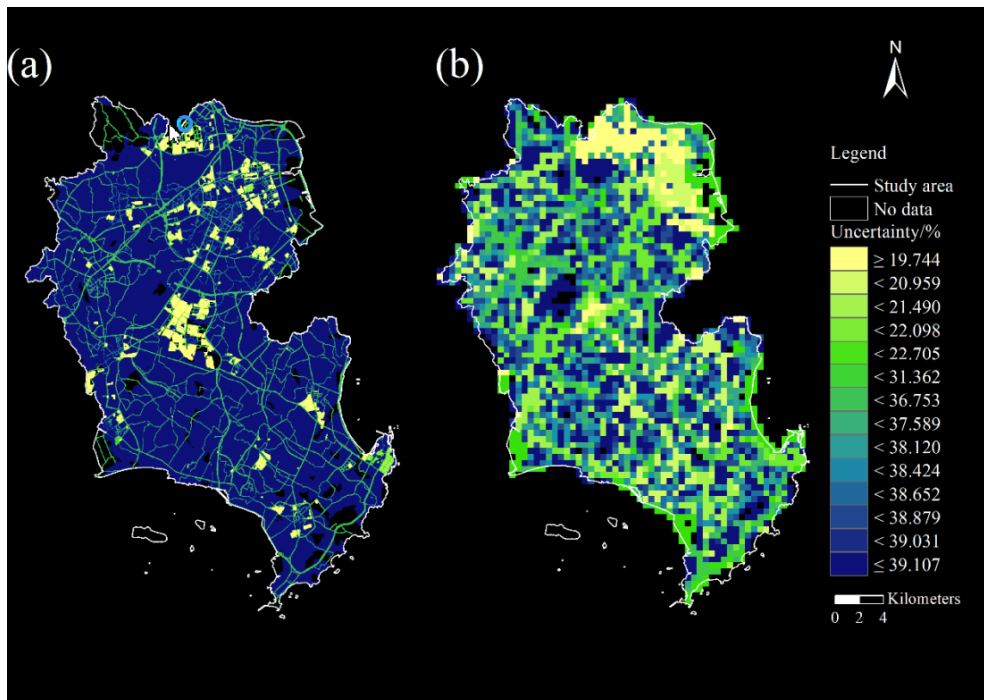


Figure 2: Map showing the uncertainty in activity levels. (a) and (b) represent the uncertainty maps of total CO2 emissions at 30 m and 500 m resolution, respectively.

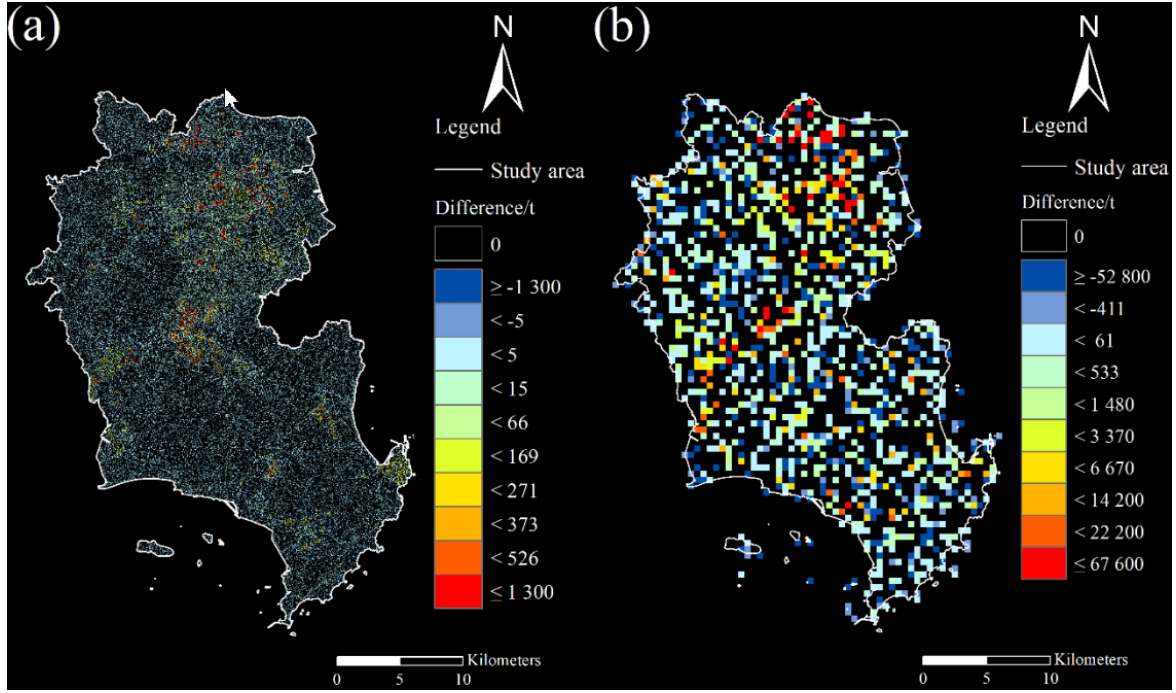


Figure 3: Map of uncertainty of spatial proxy, (a), (b) represent the uncertainty map of total CO₂ emission at 30 m and 500 m

II. FORMULA

In terms of the IPCC accounting methodology, we calculated direct carbon emissions (Scope 1), from which we created two high-resolution CO₂ emission maps of different scales (30 m and 500 m) by combining spatial models with top-bottom and bottom-up approaches. Based on Monte Carlo simulations, four different schemes were designed to study the uncertainty, including the overall uncertainty of carbon emissions from different sectors (scheme 1 and 2) and how uncertainties influence different procedures of grid mapping and the superimposed delivery process (scheme 3 and 4).

$$Grid_{i,CO_2} = f(c_l, weight_{i,l}) \quad (1)$$

Where $Grid_{i, CO_2}$ is the CO₂ emission value on the i th grid ($i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n$), C_l represent the total amount of CO₂ emissions from the different CO₂ emission sources ($l = r, es, ind, trans$), $Weight_{i,l}$ is the weight of the l type of emissions on grid i .

$$Uncertainty = \frac{CI_{95}}{CO_{2,N}}, CI_{95} = \frac{CO_{2,97.5} - CO_{2,2.5}}{2} \quad (2)$$

where $CO_{2,97.5}$ is the 97.5% quantile of CO₂ emissions in the Monte-Carlo simulation, $CO_{2,2.5}$ is the 2.5% quantile of CO₂ emissions in the Monte-Carlo simulation, and $CO_{2,N}$ is the mean value of direct CO₂ emissions from the Monte Carlo Simulation.

$$error = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n Difference_{i,1}}{c_l} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n |realvalue_{i,l} - simulation_{i,l}|}{c_l} \times 100\% \quad (3)$$

where $Difference_{i,1}$ is the absolute value of the difference between the real pixel and simulation value emission from l th sector on the i th grid ($l = 1, 2, 3, 4$, which represents the residential, industrial, transport and total emissions). CI is total CO₂ emissions from l th sector.