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Interactive comment on “Assessment of China’s virtual air pollution transport embodied in trade by a consumption-based emission inventory” by H. Y. Zhao et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

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This manuscript presents a new methodology to look at the emissions base from the consumer perspective. This will help ascertain the footprint of various pollutants in the cities and the regions, similar to the carbon footprint.

When the topic of air pollution is at the center, is it important to look at the emission rates from the production perspective or the consumption perspective? At the end of the day, while the products are manufactured and exported to various provinces or internationally, the emissions are not. Their impact is still local and that is not transported.

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This work, while presents a new perspective, the problem of air pollution is still where the emissions are and not where the consumers are. While the message is not to stop manufacturing for trade, this is still at the center of the discussion - how much of these emissions are resulting from producing products not for use locally? One could extend the current analysis, from the production perspective to show the footprint of emissions from local consumption and from trade.

Interactive comment on Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., 14, 25617, 2014.

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