

Re: MS No.: acp-2015-247

Title: Size distributions of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in urban atmosphere: sorption mechanism and source contributions to respiratory deposition

Dear Dr. Yafang Chen,

We have carefully considered and addressed the comments of the two referees again. The manuscript has undergone the revision in response to the reviewers' suggestions.

Attached below include two files, e.g., point-by-point response to the reviews, and list of all relevant changes made in the manuscript. We have also made some small changes to the syntax in places which we consider improves the overall clarity.

We are grateful for your careful evaluation of our manuscript. We hope the revised manuscript is acceptable for publication in the ACP journal. Your time and further consideration of our ACPD paper is greatly appreciated.

Please contact me if you need any additional information.

Yours Sincerely,

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Reviewer comments/suggestions are in *italics* font and our responses are in **bold**:

Comments of Reviewer #2:

This study shows the dependency of PAH fraction on particle size. The authors try to explain the sorption mechanism and the aging in the atmosphere and evaluate the cancer risk through inhaling. Furthermore they study the source of PAHs related to particle size.

Overall message: the topic is very interesting, but the article should be edited. The issues need to be explained in a more understandable way.

They show clearly that PAHs mainly adsorb on smaller particles, which will penetrate deeper into the respiratory system and might cause cancer.

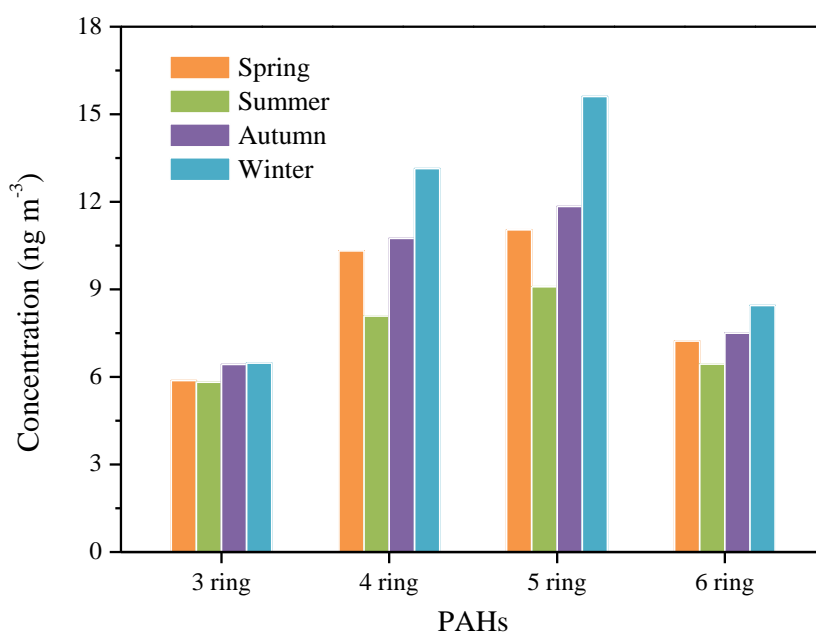
R: The authors appreciate the reviewer's comments and the paper has been revised accordingly.

The updated content is presented in "Manuscript".

The seasonal variations, they describe and show in fig. 2, seem not to be crucial. If they are significant, maybe they can plot it in a different, more clear way.

R: In response to reviewer #2' comments, new Fig. 2 was plotted. In the new figure, we tried to give and compare the seasonal variations of the given PAHs molecules based on the different ring number. We also added a comparison with analogous studies in other places. In response to comments of Reviewer #3, we presented a discussion of possible reasons for variations in concentrations of 3-, 4-, 5- and 6-ring PAHs in different seasonal period. Compared with the old Fig. 2, the new one can explain clearly the seasonality. We can find from new Fig. 2 that the mean concentration of particle-bound PAHs undergo a distinct seasonal variation, i.e., the highest levels in cooler seasons, while lowest or below detection limit during warmer seasons. The most abundant PAH species in winter are 5- and 4-ring PAHs (16 and 13 ng m⁻³), followed by 6- and 3-PAHs (7.5 and 6.5 ng m⁻³). Given these data, it can be pointed out that the season variation influence the concentration of PAHs.

The updated content is presented in "Manuscript" (Page 9 line 20—Page 10 line 20).



(New) **Fig. 2.** Seasonal variation of 3 to 6 ring PAHs.

What do you want to show/tell with fig. 4? Is it just PAH/PM decrease with bigger particles? Because this message is already shown in fig. 3.

R: This issue is no longer relevant in new revision. We have removed the original “Fig. 4”.

I don't understand the link between decreasing PAH/PM and BaA/CHR with size and aging process. (page 20823, line 13-15 “This indicates that: : :”) You don't know (or at least you don't write it) the initial ratios at the source so you don't know the changes. In general, like you write, the aging process results in decreasing ratios, but that would mean that the ratio for smaller particles decrease faster than for bigger, as smaller particles have a longer lifetime and are transported longer, so there is more time to be aged.

R: We are not quite sure how to respond to this statement because we think that the “time scale” are related. If we have “time scale” data, it will be easy to explain the particle aging. However, the “time scale” data are difficult to be obtained from the normal field observation. When no time scale data are available, most researchers describe particle aging through other indirect methods. PAH/PM and BaA/CHR employed to evaluate aging process are based on published papers on the particulate PAHs of field experiment (*Atmos. Res.*, 2005, 78, 190-203; *Atmos. Environ.*, 2007, 41, 2061-2072.). In our paper, the values of PAH/PM and BaA/CHR exhibited a similar variation, indicating PAH species are indeed involved in the particle distributing and aging process at a certain extent.

The updated content is presented in “Manuscript” (Page 11 line 15—Page 13 line 14).

Fig 6 shows clearly that many mechanisms are involved at the sorption process.

R: Thank you.

The analysis done within the statistics is unclear. Which parameters are used to predict PAHs? Physical and chemical properties? The measured and the predicted values match each other well, but what is the conclusion?

R: The authors appreciate the reviewer's concern on the statistics analysis. We offer the following explanation, PLS model can show the predicted particle size distribution of PAHs based on the observed (measured) ones. These predictions are not de novo predictions, since all the data are part of the observed set. Nevertheless, these predicted results do validate the model effectiveness and the measured data reliability based on the values of R² and Q².

The updated content is presented in "Manuscript" (Page 13 line 15—Page 14 line 17).

What is the benefit of section 3.4? Why is it important to know the sources of PAH in different particle sizes (fig 10)?

R: Section 3.4 aimed at source apportionment of PAHs in different particle sizes. Through the description of section 3.4, we can obtain the source factor contributions to size-resolved particles, and further understand which source has considerable influence on respiratory deposition.

The updated content is presented in "Manuscript" (Page 14 line 19—Page 16 line 9).

You should explain the meaning of the value of LCR. (6.3 people out of 10000000 people get cancer or how to read it???)

R: Certainly. If the LCR value is 2×10^{-6} , it means 2 people out of 1000000 people get cancer.

Language/spelling/grammar

What do you mean with less- and more-ring PAHs? Better describe it with the ring number, or molecular weight – less ring e.g. 2-4(?) -ring, : : :

R: Revised as suggested.

Page 20816, line 11: Aitken (not aitken) Fig. 4: Aitken mode (not Akiten)

R: Revised as suggested.

Comments of Reviewer #3:

This is an interesting study focusing on the fate and impact of atmospheric particle phase polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). It particularly focuses on the size

distribution of a series of PAHs, for which the sorption mechanisms is only partially understood but which is central for their transport in human respiratory system. This study evaluates a series of measurement performed over one year period (2012–2013) in Shanghai. Most PAHs were observed to be adsorbed on the small particles, with some seasonality.

R: Thank you.

I do find this paper very interesting, with all measurements performed according to the best available standards. I'm however also convinced that it would gain in strength if carefully reedited to improve the use of the English language but also to provide more discussions and input on a few key points which are listed below.

R: We have revised the manuscript to improve its readability and clarity.

The updated content is presented in “Manuscript”.

The lifetime cancer risk is used as a metric for quantifying the health impacts of the measured PAH. However, this metric is not really defined. This would clearly help the reader to assess the importance of the current findings.

R: Revised as suggested. We have given a definition of metric in the revised version.

The updated content is presented in below and in “Manuscript” (Page 8 line 17 – Page 9 line 3).

Lifetime cancer risk (LCR) were applied to assess the cancer risk associated with exposure to the size-resolved PAHs through inhalation of ambient particles (Kawanaka et al., 2009; K. Zhang et al., 2012). The LCR were calculated by the formula (US EPA, 1989):

$$\underline{LCR = EI \times ED \times CSF / (AT \times BW)} \quad (\text{Eq. 3})$$

where EI was the estimated inhalation rate (mg d⁻¹) which was calculated by deposition fluxes (mg h⁻¹) and daily exposure time (12 h d⁻¹), ED was the exposure duration for an adult (30 years), CSF was the inhalation cancer slope factor ((mg kg⁻¹ d⁻¹)⁻¹), BW was the body weight (~60 kg) and AT was the average lifetime for carcinogens (assuming 70 years for adults). LCR for exposure to PAHs in this paper was based on the sum of BaP equivalent concentration (BaP_{eq}) which calculated by multiplying each concentration by its individual toxic equivalency factor (TEF) (Nisbet and Lagoy, 1992). As suggested by the OEHHA, a value of 3.9 of BaP was usually applied as a recommended value for the calculation of CSF in LCR formula (Liu et al., 2007).

The terminology “less-ring” to more-ring” PAH is used at various places. I do find this too vague without few lines defining what is meant in the contexts of the present study. I would encourage the authors being more precise here. For instance Figure 3 depicts some bimodal distribution of 3 to 6 rings PAHs, while some other figures carries

information about total PAHs, without clearly explaining why this is done this way.

R: Revised as suggested. We changed the terminology “less-ring” to more-ring” PAH to the corresponding 3 to 6 rings PAHs in all the manuscript.

The seasonality reported in Figure 2 appears finally to be quite weak and made on “standard” seasons, but is this in agreement with the local weather (e.g., dry versus wet seasons, and so on)? Also why plotting total PAHs for highlighting the seasonality as the later might be more pronounced for given molecules? Also I did found that the discussion about the seasonality can be revised to clarify and strengthen the message the authors want to convey.

R: Again we greatly appreciate the reviewer’s suggestions and insight. In response to two reviewers’ comments, we have plotted the new Fig. 2 by the given different ring PAHs molecules. Compared with the old Fig. 2, the new one can explain clearly to the seasonality. In association with the local weather (e.g., warm versus cold seasons, and so on), we also presented the more discussion of possible reasons for seasonal variations in concentrations of 3-, 4-, 5- and 6-ring PAHs. The updated texts below are presented in “Manuscript”.

The updated content is presented in below and in “Manuscript” (Page 13 line 15 – Page 14 line 17).

For the investigation of seasonal trends, the PAHs data is divided into four seasonal groups, i.e. spring (March to May), summer (June to August), autumn (September to November) and winter (December to February). Fig. 2 shows seasonal variation of PAHs average concentration in aerosol particles. Results indicate that the mean concentration of particle-bound PAHs undergo distinct seasonal variation, i.e., the highest levels in cooler seasons, while lowest or below detection limit during warmer seasons. The most abundant PAH species in winter are 5- and 4-ring PAHs (16 and 13 ng m⁻³), followed by 6- and 3-PAHs (7.5 and 6.5 ng m⁻³). Given these data, it can be pointed out that the season variation and particle size influence the concentration of PAHs. Shanghai is situated in the subtropics along the east coast of China continent. The seasonal variation of weather in Shanghai is closely related to and controlled by the northern subtropical monsoon system. In winter, the popular northwest wind can drive the air pollutants from the north China mainland to Shanghai, while in summer, the popular southeast wind can bring clean oceanic air mass from the Pacific Ocean to Shanghai. In cold seasons (winter and autumn), elevated winter- and fall-time PAHs concentrations, particularly at urban sites, are most likely due to the higher level of fresh emissions from primary sources (such as wood smoke and vehicular emissions). Moreover, cold-ignition of gasoline-powered vehicles during cold seasons may lead to an increase in the level of high molecular weight PAHs such as 4- to 6-PAHs (Arhami et al., 2010). The atmospheric conditions in winter such as low temperatures, low intensity of solar radiation and decreased PAHs photo-degradation also favor the condensation/adsorption of PAHs on suspended particles that presented in urban air. On the other hand, in warm seasons (summer and spring), the concentrations of PAHs are

reduced, possibly due to the high temperatures, higher mixed layer height, and heavy rainfall that may effectively remove particle-bound PAHs from the atmosphere. Additionally, high temperature and solar radiation favor the photo-chemical oxidation of PAHs. This seasonal pattern has been reported in many urban atmospheres (Teixeira et al. 2012; van Drooge and Ballesta, 2009; Ma et al., 2010). More details will be included in the following mode discussion and source attribution of PAHs.

In section 3.2, maybe the authors could clarify the link they are making between size of the particles and ageing time.

R: Since we don't have the "time scale" data, we are not quite sure how to respond to this statement. The "time scale" data are difficult to be obtained from the normal field observation. When no time scale data are available, most researchers describe particle aging through other indirect methods. PAH/PM and BaA/CHR employed to evaluate aging process are based on published papers on the particulate PAHs of field experiment (*Atmos. Res.*, 2005, 78, 190-203; *Atmos. Environ.*, 2007, 41, 2061-2072.). In our paper, the values of PAH/PM and BaA/CHR exhibited a similar variation, indicating PAH species are indeed involved in the particle distributing and aging process at a certain extent.

The updated content is presented in "Manuscript" (Page 11 line 15—Page 13 line 14).

The content of section 3.3 is unclear to me. What is the benefit of that statistical analysis? It can indeed reproduce the observed size distribution of the PAHs but can this be related to some fundamental properties of the PAHs (such as volatility)?

R: The PLS in section 3.3 can validate the reliability of measured data, but it can not predict some fundamental properties of the PAHs (such as volatility). These predictions are not de novo predictions, since all the data are part of the observed set. Coefficient of divergence (CD) analysis in section 3.3 can reveal the similarities of particle size of PAHs, and give the preliminary results for the followed PMF source apportionment of section 3.4.

The updated content is presented in "Manuscript" (Page 13 line 15—Page 14 line 17).

Minor points

Abstract (in general the abstract could be improved and shortened) Line 5: check the syntax of that sentence. Line 9: exists Line 24: (1.5×10^{-6}) ... what is the meaning of that number?

R: We have changed the abstract and defined the LCR in experiment section. The number is the LCR value for people who exercised outside during haze period.

The updated content is presented in "Manuscript" (Page 2 line 2—18).

Page 20813 Line 9: phases Line 11: what is meant with PAH composition? Speciation?

R: It meant PAH species.

The updated content is presented in “Manuscript” (Page 2 line 28).

Page 20814 Line 16: distribution

R: Revised as suggested.

The updated content is presented in “Manuscript” (Page 4 line 1).

Page 20815 Line 22: This is a Fudan... Line 27: the site is also in close proximity to two major streets i.e., ...

R: Revised as suggested.

The updated content is presented in “Manuscript” (Page 5 line 7–9).

Size distributions of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in urban atmosphere: sorption mechanism and source contributions to respiratory deposition

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ABSTRACT

In order to better understand the particle size distribution of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and their sources contribution in human respiratory system, size-resolved PAHs had been studied in ambient aerosols at a megacity Shanghai site during a one-year period 2012-2013.

~~Current knowledge on atmospheric particle-phase polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) size distribution remains incomplete. Information is missing on sorption mechanisms and the influence of the PAHs' sources on their transport in human respiratory system. Here we present the studies systematically investigating the modal distribution characteristics of the size-fractioned PAHs and calculating the source contribution to adverse health effects through inhalation. Aerosol samples with nine size fractions were collected from Shanghai urban air over one year period 2012-2013. A high correlation coefficient existed between measured and predicted values ($R^2=0.87$), indicated that the data worked very well in current study. Most PAHs were observed on the small particles followed with seasonality differences. When normalized by PAHs across particle diameters, size distribution of PAHs exhibited bimodal patterns, with a peak (0.4-2.1 μm) in fine mode and another peak (3.3-9.0 μm) in coarse mode, respectively. The results showed the PAHs exhibited a bimodal distribution with one mode peak in the fine particle size range (0.4-2.1 μm) and another mode peak in the coarse particle size range (3.3-9.0 μm).~~

Along with the ~~increasing~~ increase of ring number of PAHs, the intensity of the fine mode peak increased, while coarse mode peak decreased. Plotting of $\log(\text{PAH}/\text{PM})$ against $\log(D_p)$ showed that all slope values were above -1 ~~with the increase towards~~ less ring PAHs, suggesting that multiple mechanisms, ~~i.e.~~ (adsorption and absorption) controlled the particle size distribution of PAHs. ~~PAHs on particles, but adsorption played a much stronger role for 5- and 6 ring than 3- and 4 ring PAHs. The mode distribution behavior of PAHs showed that fine particles were major carriers for the more ring PAHs. Further calculations using inhaling PAHs data showed~~ The total deposition fluxes of PAHs in respiratory tract were calculated at $8.8 \pm 2.0 \text{ ng h}^{-1}$. Specifically, fine particles contributed 10-40% of PAHs deposition fluxes to the

批注 [D1]: Comments of Reviewer #3:
Abstract (in general the abstract could be improved and shortened)

Reply:

We rewrote the abstract and improved its readability and clarity.

Highlight Revision with Marked Change

alveolar region, while coarse particles contributed 80–95% of ones to the head region. ~~Estimated~~ The highest lifetime cancer risk (LCR) was estimated at 1.5×10^{-6} , ~~(1.5×10^{-6})~~ which exceeded the unit risk of 10^{-6} . The LCR values presented in here were mainly influenced by accumulation mode PAHs ~~for people exercised in haze days (1.5×10^{-6})~~ was bigger than the cancer risk guideline value (10^{-6}). The largest PAHs contribution for LCR mainly came from the accumulation particles. Based on source apportionment results generated by positive matrix factorization (PMF), it was found that the cancer risk caused in accumulated mode mainly resulted from which came from biomass burning (24%), coal combustion (25%) and vehicular emission (27%). The present study provides us a mechanistic understanding of the particle size distribution of PAHs and their transport in human respiratory system, which can help develop better source control strategies. ~~results contribute to a mechanistic understanding of PAHs size distribution causing adverse health effects and will help develop some source control strategies or policies by relying on respiratory assessment data.~~

Keywords: PAHs, size distribution, sorption mechanism, source contributions, respiratory deposition

1 Introduction

Atmospheric PAHs are important contaminants in urban air because of their carcinogenic and mutagenic properties (Li et al., 2006; Garrido et al., 2014). They mainly result from incomplete combustion of carbon-containing materials, and can partition between the gas and the particulate phase (Fernández et al., 2002; Hytönen et al., 2009; Shen et al., 2011). This partitioning process strongly depends on particle sizes distribution, PAH compositions species and temperature, and affects the PAHs transport, deposition, degradation processes as well as health impacts. During the partitioning processes Among them, particle size distributions of PAHs play a critical yet poorly understood role. Of particular importance is the role played by high molecular mass PAHs because most of them are carcinogenic and associated with fine aerosol particles (Akyuz and Cabuk, 2009; Wu et al., 2014). Since inhalation deposition depends on

批注 [D2]: Reply to the comments of two Reviewers about English:

We have revised the manuscript to improve its readability and clarity.

批注 [D3]: Comments of Reviewer # 3:
Page 20813 Line 9: phases Line 11: what is meant with PAH composition? Speciation?

Reply:

It meant PAH species.

Highlight Revision with Marked Change

particle sizes, these ~~F~~ fine particles loaded with PAHs can travel deep into the human respiratory system, and cause direct health impact, ~~as inhalation exposure depends on particle sizes~~ (Kawanaka et al., 2009; ~~K.~~ Zhang et al., 2012b). Current knowledge on PAHs size distribution remains incomplete. ~~Information is missing on partitioning~~

5 ~~mechanisms and health affect of PAHs. Information is missing on sorption mechanisms and the influence of the PAHs' sources on their transport in human respiratory system.~~

To address these concerns, further studies are necessary and significant.

Over the past decade, numerous measurements on PAHs size distribution have been repeatedly carried out in various areas around the world such as Seoul (Korea) (Lee et al., 2008), Saitama, Okinawa (Japan) (Kawanaka et al., 2004; Wang et al., 2009), 10 Mumbai, Delhi (India) (Venkataraman et al., 1999; Gupta et al., 2011), Barcelona (Spain) (Mesquita et al., 2014), Dresden (Germany) (Gnauk et al., 2011), Birmingham (England) (Delgado-Saborit et al., 2013), Lisbon (Portugal) (Oliveira et al., 2011), Algiers (Algeria) (Ladji et al., 2014), Beauharnois (Canada) (Sanderson and Farant, 15 2005), Los Angeles, Massachusetts, Chicago, Claremont (USA) (Venkataraman and Friedlander, 1994; Allen et al., 1996; Offenbergs and Baker, 1999; Miguel et al., 2004), Tianjing, Beijing, Guangzhou (China) (Wu et al., 2006; Zhou et al., 2008; Yu and Yu, 2012). These studies, conducted in various countries and cities, showed that most PAHs existed on small particles and had a similar modal distribution for isomers. PAHs size

20 distribution can vary with their releasing sources and ~~change through~~ particle aging processes ~~in the atmosphere~~ (Venkataraman et al., 1994). In order to illustrate the partitioning mechanism of PAHs ~~among-between~~ particles, Venkataraman et al. (1999)

developed the equilibrium adsorption and absorption theory, which explained the predominance of PAHs in nuclei and accumulation mode particles, respectively, but

25 failed to explain ~~the preferential accumulation of less ring PAHs compared to more ring PAHs~~ in coarse mode. Allen et al. (1996) proposed that mass transfer by vaporization and condensation ~~helps~~ ~~helped~~ estimate the ~~particle~~ size distribution of PAHs. However, this theory ~~does~~ ~~did~~ not account for particle deposition and ~~its~~ ~~their~~ ~~impact~~ ~~influence~~ on residence time. Therefore, the mechanisms that govern PAHs

批注 [D4]: Reply to the comments of two Reviewers about English:

We have revised the manuscript to improve its readability and clarity.

批注 [D5]: Reply to the comments of two Reviewers about English:

We have revised this section to improve its readability and clarity.

Highlight Revision with Marked Change

distribution in different size particles ~~distributing in a range of particle sizes~~ are not still disputable and require further clarification. The fine particles discussed here can travel deep into the human respiratory system and, for the smallest particles, potentially enter the bloodstream, thus exposing the ~~person~~ people to both particles and the particle-bound compounds (Geiser et al., 2005). To solve these problems, the first thing we should figure out the releasing source of size-specific PAHs as well as clarify their transport characteristics in human respiratory system (Chen and Liao, 2006; Sheesley et al., 2009), ~~on size-specific particles. However, current studies associated with source apportionment of atmospheric PAHs often do not account for size distribution and their impact on mechanism, deposition and transport in human respiratory system (Chen and Liao, 2006; Sheesley et al., 2009). Understanding PAHs sources attribution on size-specific particles is thus crucial to better describe their atmospheric fate and understand and reduce human exposure.~~

The present ~~paper~~ study aims to ~~contribute to the knowledge base by conducting~~ conduct an ambient measurements on ~~aerosol~~ particle size distributions of PAHs associated with inhalation exposure at ~~in~~ a megacity Shanghai site during a one-year period 2012-2013, ~~over a one year period. We specifically aim to determine whether there are relationships in the PAHs releasing sources and the involved mechanism associated with adsorption, absorption and inhalation exposure—the main~~ The specific objectives ~~of our research~~ are as follows: (i) to investigate particle size distributions of ~~atmospheric~~ PAHs; (ii) to elaborate the ~~atmospheric~~ mechanisms and process controlling PAHs distribution among the different size particles ~~among size-resolved particles~~; and (iii) ~~to identify local sources for PAHs on size-specific particles, and (iv) to estimate the inhalation exposure and PAHs' source contribution, to human respiratory tract through~~ inhalation exposure.

2 Experimental and methods

2.1 Chemicals

All solvents were HPLC grade and bought from Tedia Company Inc, USA. Standard mixtures of PAHs were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, Shanghai, China. The 16 EPA

批注 [D6]: Comments of Reviewer # 3:

Page 20814 Line 16: distribution

Reply:

Revised as suggested.

批注 [D7]: Reply to the comments of two Reviewers about English:

We have revised this section to improve its readability and clarity.

Highlight Revision with Marked Change

priority PAHs were investigated, i.e. naphthalene (NAP, 2-ring), acenaphthylene (ANY, 3-ring), acenaphthene (ANA, 3-ring), fluorene (FLU, 3-ring), phenanthrene (PHE, 3-ring), anthracene (ANT, 3-ring), fluoranthene (FLT, 4-ring), pyrene (PYR, 4-ring), benz[a]anthracene (BaA, 4-ring), chrysene (CHR, 4-ring), benzo[b]fluoranthene (BbF, 5-ring), benzo[k]fluoranthene (BkF, 5-ring), benzo[a]pyrene (BaP, 5-ring), dibenz[a,h]anthracene (DBahA, 5-ring), indeno[1,2,3-cd]pyrene (IPY, 6-ring), and benzo[ghi]perylene (BghiP, 6-ring). For the purpose of ease of discussion, we divided these PAHs into four groups, i.e. 3- to 6- ring PAHs based on their volatility and aromatic ring numbers (Allen et al., 1996; Duan et al., 2005, 2007).

批注 [D8]: Reply to the comments of two Reviewers about English:

We have revised this section to improve its readability and clarity.

10 2.2 Sampling site

The measurements took place on the rooftop (20 m above the ground) of No.4 teaching building at Fudan University campus (121.50E, 31.30N), approximately 5 km northeast of downtown Shanghai city (elevation about 4 m a.s.l.). ~~This~~There is a Fudan super monitoring station for atmospheric chemistry running all year round. More information on this site can be found in previous studies (X. Li, 2011; P. F. Li et al., 2011), and hence only a brief introduction is given. The site is located in a mixed-used neighborhood including many schools, supermarkets and residences. The site is also in close proximity to two major streets, i.e., Handan Road (about 200 m south) and Guoding Road (about 300 m east); ~~which is the main corridor leading to Xiangyin Tunnel (Huangpu river) and Yangpu bridge.~~ There is always heavy traffic in this area due to the local and cross-border traffics. The main releasing ~~sources of local air pollution~~ at this site include industries emission, household heating, road transport and biomass burning.

批注 [D9]: Comments of Reviewer # 3:

Page 20815 Line 22: This is a Fudan...
Line 27: the site is also in close proximity to two major streets i.e., ...

Reply:

Revised as suggested.

20 2.3 Sample collection and pretreatment

25 An Anderson 8-stage air sampler (Tisch Environmental Inc.~~Thermo-Electron Corporation~~, USA) was used to collect aerosol samples with different size ranges, i.e. 10.0 (inlet)-9.0, 9.0-5.8, 5.8-4.7, 4.7-3.3, 3.3-2.1, 2.1-1.1, 1.1-0.7, 0.7-0.4 and <0.4 μm (backup filter). ~~Based on the need of this research, the fractions were divided into~~

批注 [D10]: Reply to the comments of two Reviewers about English:

We have revised this section to improve its readability and clarity.

three modes: ~~aitken ($dp < 0.4 \mu\text{m}$), accumulation ($0.4 < dp < 2.1 \mu\text{m}$) and coarse ($dp > 2.1 \mu\text{m}$) mode~~. The flow rate of the sampler was controlled at 28.3 L min^{-1} . The average collecting time for each batch of samples was 120 h, and the air volume that passed through the sampler was of 203.8 m^3 . The sampling campaign was conducted during the period 12, 2012 - 12, 2013. A total of 189 size-segregated particle samples ~~were~~ was obtained including their corresponding sampling information and meteorological conditions.

Quartz fiber membranes (Whatman QMA, $\varnothing 81 \text{ mm}$) were used to collect aerosol particle samples. Before using, the membranes were baked at $450 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for 4 h, equilibrated at $20 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ and 40% relative humidity for 24 h, and then weighed. After sampling, the membranes were equilibrated at $20 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ in a desiccator for 24 h and weighed again using the same procedure. Then, the membranes were stored in freezers at $-20 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ until they were extracted. Extraction was performed as soon as possible to ~~before some~~ ensure minimal loss of volatile ~~less ring-PAH congeners species~~ volatilized. The procedure applying for PAHs pretreatment was Soxhlet extraction. Briefly, the filter samples were put in a Soxhlet apparatus and extracted in a refluxing dichloromethane/hexane (1:1, v/v) for 36 h. The temperature was controlled at $69 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$. After the extraction was completed, the contents were filtered by a $0.45 \mu\text{m}$ PTFE membrane to remove insoluble particles, and then concentrated to exactly 2 mL by rotary evaporator and under gentle nitrogen stream. The final extracts were stored in the refrigerator for further quantitative and qualitative analysis. The detailed pretreatment procedure could be found elsewhere (Mai et al., 2003).

2.4 Analytical procedure

All samples were quantified for 16 PAHs by an Agilent 7890A Series GC coupled to an Agilent 7000B Triple Quadrupole MS (GC/MS/MS, Agilent Technologies Inc., USA) operated in EI mode. The analysis was performed using the Multiple Reaction Monitoring (MRM) procedure. The separation was achieved with a HP-5MS capillary column ($30 \text{ m} \times 0.25 \text{ mm i.d.} \times 0.25 \mu\text{m}$). The GC oven temperature was programmed from $70 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ (hold for 2 min) to $280 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ at $15 \text{ }^\circ\text{C min}^{-1}$, and finally $310 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ at $5 \text{ }^\circ\text{C min}^{-1}$

批注 [D11]: Reply to the comments of two Reviewers about English:

We have revised this sentence to improve its readability and clarity.

Highlight Revision with Marked Change

with a hold of 1 min. The total program time was 23 min. The temperatures of the injector, ion source and transfer line were controlled at 310, 300 and 310 °C, respectively. Analyses were carried out ~~in the~~ at a constant flow mode. Ultra high purity Helium (99.999%) was applied as carrier gas with the flow rate of 1.2 mL min⁻¹.

5 Nitrogen was used as collision gas.

Matrix-matched calibration curves (5 to 1000 ng mL⁻¹) were obtained for all compounds on the GC/MS/MS instrument, by plotting the compound concentration vs. the peak area and determining the R² using weighted linear regression (1/x) with the quantitative analysis software for GC/MS/MS. Limits of detection (LODs) and limits of quantification (LOQs) were measured based on signal to noise ratio at about 3 and 10, respectively. The average blank value ~~is~~ was subtracted from each signal being above the LOD. Recovery tests were used to estimate possible losses of PAHs during the extraction process. The blank filters were spiked with the standard mixture and gone through the same procedures for analysis. The results (n=3) showed that the mean recoveries ranged 70% to 100% for all PAHs. All concentrations reported were corrected by their respective recovery percentage.

2.5 Statistical analysis

Statistical analysis was carried out using partial least-squares regression (PLS) procedure in the SIMCA-P software (Version 11.5, Umetrics Inc., Umeå Sweden). The size-segregated particles and corresponding PAHs contents ~~are~~ were respectively used as Y-variables and X-variables in PLS model. All variables were centred and scaled to unit variance before the analysis. Thereby all variables contributed with equal weight to the model. An important parameter in PLS analysis is the cross-validation correlation coefficient (Q^2), which is calculated from predicted residual sum of squares and can give an evaluation of the model's predictive ability in SIMCA (Lindgren et al., 1995). A large Q^2 value (>0.5) means that the PLS model has a predictivity better than chance. In addition, the observed ~~vs. versus~~ predicted plot ~~to~~ can give a more direct displays for the values of the selected response. The correlation coefficient (R²) between observed and predicted can be utilized for the evaluation of the goodness of model fit. Generally,

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R² value ~~greater~~ higher than 0.8 indicates PLS model ~~constructed in software~~ fits well with the data.

2.6 PMF source apportionment

Source apportionment of the size-~~segregated~~ resolved PAHs was performed using Positive Matrices Factorization (PMF). In the following, PMF will be shortly outlined (Larsen and Baker, 2003; Ma et al., 2010b). By analyzing measured concentrations at receptor sites, the method can identify a set of factors which can be taken to represent major emission sources (Paatero and Tapper, 1994). PMF models are expressed as follows:

$$x_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^p g_{ik} f_{kj} + e_{ij} \quad (\text{Eq. 1})$$

Where X is a data matrix of i by j dimension, in which i is the number of the size-segregated particle samples and j is the number of the measured PAH species. f_{kj} is the concentration of the j th PAH species in the emissions from the k th source; g_{ik} is the contribution of the k th source to i th particle sample. e_{ij} is the portion of the measured concentration that cannot be explained by the model.

By incorporating an uncertainty for each observation u_{ij} , the PMF solution can minimize the objective function Q (Eq. 2),

$$Q = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m \left[\frac{x_{ij} - \sum_{k=1}^p g_{ik} f_{kj}}{u_{ij}} \right]^2 \quad (\text{Eq. 2})$$

The PMF model requires data on measured PAH concentrations for all samples, together with information on the associated uncertainties. The confidence of results can be maintained by adjusting the data uncertainties. This allows us to lower ~~down~~ the importance of these data through the least squares fit. The work presented here is the US EPA PMF version 3.0. Please find more information about these on US EPA website (<http://www2.epa.gov/air-research/positive-matrix-factorization-model-environmental-data-analyses>). (~~http://www.epa.gov/health/research/pmf.html~~)

2.7. Human respiratory risk assessment

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We have revised the sentence to improve its readability and clarity.

批注 [D17]: Reply to the comments of two Reviewers about English:

We have revised the sentence to improve its readability and clarity.

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In order to evaluate the influence of the size-resolved PAHs on human respiratory potential~~the human respiratory potential of the size-segregated PAHs~~, we adopted an International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) model (ICRP, 1994) for these. Based on inhaled particles sizes, the respiratory tract ~~is~~was divided into three main deposition regions: head airway (HA), tracheobronchial (TB) and alveolar region (AR)~~regions: head, tracheobronchial, and alveolar region~~. The PAH concentrations were loaded into the ICRP model to calculate the deposition efficiency and flux of inhaled PAHs.

Lifetime cancer risk (LCR) were applied to assess the cancer risk associated with exposure to the size-~~segregated~~resolved PAHs through inhalation of ambient particles (Kawanaka et al., 2009; K. Zhang et al., 2012b). The LCR ~~can then be~~were calculated by the formula (US EPA, 1989):

$$LCR = EI \times ED \times CSF / (AT \times BW) \quad (\text{Eq. 3})$$

where EI ~~is~~was the estimated inhalation rate (mg d^{-1}) which ~~is~~was calculated by deposition fluxes (mg h^{-1}) and daily exposure time (12 h d^{-1}), ED ~~is~~was the exposure duration for an adult (30 years), CSF ~~is~~was the inhalation cancer slope factor ($(\text{mg kg}^{-1} \text{ d}^{-1})^{-1}$), BW ~~is~~was the body weight ($\sim 60 \text{ kg}$); and AT ~~is~~was the average lifetime for carcinogens (assuming 70 years for adults). LCR for exposure to PAHs in this paper was based on the sum of BaP equivalent concentration (BaP_{eq}) which calculated by multiplying each concentration by its individual toxic equivalency factor (TEF) (Nisbet and Lagoy, 1992). As suggested by the OEHHA, a value of 3.9 of BaP was usually applied as a recommended value for the calculation of CSF in LCR formula (Liu et al., 2007).

3. Results and discussion

3.1 Occurrence and Size Distribution of PAHs

Figure Fig. 1 presents the time variation trend of the total PAHs, size-segregated particles, visibility and relative humidity (RH) during the sampling period. Results show high PAHs episodes coincide with high PM levels, along with the low RH and low visibility.

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Average total PAH concentrations adsorbed on particles range from 41.6 to 66.6 ng m⁻³ (average: 48.7 ng m⁻³). The concentration of total particles during the observation period varies from 54.8 to 209.6 μg m⁻³ (average: 122.8 μg m⁻³). Among them, the daily PM_{2.5} concentration is 61.8 μg m⁻³, which is obviously higher than the annual (daily) national air quality standard of 10 (25) μg m⁻³ set by the World Health Organization (WHO 2005). Most particles masses is found in the accumulation mode size ranges (0.4-2.1 μm). Fine particles are typically higher than coarse particles in Shanghai air. This finding is consistent with previous research on particle size distribution in Shanghai (Wang et al., 2014). The PM_{2.5}/PM₁₀ ratio of 50(±8)% (~~50±8%~~) suggests that the anthropogenic component of particle matter as represented by the PM₁ fraction is significant in the studied area (Theodosi et al., 2011).

For the investigation of seasonal trends, the PAHs data is divided into ~~4~~four seasonal groups, i.e. spring (March to May), summer (June to August), autumn (September to November) and winter (December to ~~February~~). ~~There is a distinct seasonal cycle for total PAHs with higher values in winter than in summer (Fig. 2) corresponding to temperature differences first of all. The amplitude of the cycles depends on particle size, for example, PAHs concentrations are generally higher in the fine particles (d_p < 2.1 μm) than in the coarse particles (d_p > 2.1 μm). This fact indicates that total PAHs are mainly adsorbed onto small particles due to their extremely large available surface.~~ Fig. 2 shows seasonal variation of PAHs average concentration in aerosol particles. Results indicate that the mean concentration of particle-bound PAHs undergo distinct seasonal variation, i.e., the highest levels in cooler seasons, while lowest or below detection limit during warmer seasons. The most abundant PAH species in winter are 5- and 4-ring PAHs (16 and 13 ng m⁻³), followed by 6- and 3-PAHs (7.5 and 6.5 ng m⁻³). Given these data, it can be pointed out that the season variation and particle size influence the concentration of PAHs. Shanghai is situated in the subtropics along the east coast of China continent. The seasonal variation of weather in Shanghai is closely related to and controlled by the northern subtropical monsoon system. In winter, the popular northwest wind can drive the air pollutants from the north China

批注 [D21]: Comments of Reviewer #2:

The seasonal variations, they describe and show in fig. 2, seem not to be crucial. If they are significant, maybe they can plot it in a different, more clear way.

Comments of Reviewer #3:

The seasonality reported in Figure 2 appears finally to be quite weak and made on "standard" seasons, but is this in agreement with the local weather (e.g., dry versus wet seasons, and so on)? Also why plotting total PAHs for highlighting the seasonality as the later might be more pronounced for given molecules? Also I did found that the discussion about the seasonality can be revised to clarify and strengthen the message the authors want to convey.

Reply:

In response to two reviewers' comments, we have plotted the new Fig. 2 by the given different ring PAHs molecules. Compared with the old Fig. 2, the new one can explain clearly to the seasonality. In association with the local weather (e.g., warm versus cold seasons, and so on), we also presented the more discussion of possible reasons for seasonal variations in concentrations of 3-, 4-, 5- and 6-ring PAHs. The updated texts below are presented in here.

mainland to Shanghai, while in summer, the popular southeast wind can bring clean oceanic air mass from the Pacific Ocean to Shanghai. In cold seasons (winter and autumn), elevated winter- and fall-time PAHs concentrations, particularly at urban sites, are most likely due to the higher level of fresh emissions from primary sources (such as wood smoke and vehicular emissions). Moreover, cold-ignition of gasoline-powered vehicles during cold seasons may lead to an increase in the level of high molecular weight PAHs such as 4- to 6-PAHs (Arhami et al., 2010). The atmospheric conditions in winter such as low temperatures, low intensity of solar radiation and decreased PAHs photo-degradation also favor the condensation/adsorption of PAHs on suspended particles that presented in urban air. On the other hand, in warm seasons (summer and spring), the concentrations of PAHs are reduced, possibly due to the high temperatures, higher mixed layer height, and heavy rainfall that may effectively remove particle-bound PAHs from the atmosphere. Additionally, high temperature and solar radiation favor the photo-chemical oxidation of PAHs. This seasonal pattern has been reported in many urban atmospheres. Seasonal differences may be related to ambient temperature and the different volatilities of PAH compounds. This seasonal variation is similar to the findings in other places for atmospheric PAHs (Teixeira et al. 2012; van Drooge and Ballesta, 2009; Ma et al., 2010a). The different distribution patterns of PAHs in fine and coarse particles may be attributed to different emission mechanisms of PAHs in urban areas. More details will be included in the following detailed mode discussion and source attribution of PAHs. discussion about mode analysis and source attribution associated with size distribution.

Some empirical evidence suggests that PAHs with similar molecular weights or ring numbers may have similar aerosol particle size distributions (Allen et al., 1996; Duan et al., 2005, 2007). Based on their volatility and aromatic ring numbers, 16 PAHs are divided into four groups, i.e. 3- to 6- ring PAHs. To better describe PAHs distributions, the particle fractions are divided into three modes: Aitken ($dp < 0.4 \mu\text{m}$), accumulation ($0.4 < dp < 2.1 \mu\text{m}$) and coarse ($dp > 2.1 \mu\text{m}$) mode. The Aitken and accumulation modes together constitute “fine” particles. We ~~the commonly used way is to~~ plot a log-

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log chart, i.e., $dC/d\log D_p$ is plotted against D_p (Particle diameter) on the log scale, in which dC is the PAHs concentrations in each particle size bin and $d\log D_p$ is the size width of each impactor channel (Kawanaka et al., 2004; Venkataraman and Friedlander, 1994; Venkataraman et al., 1999). Figure 3 clearly demonstrates that the size distribution of PAHs have a bimodal particle-size distribution which contains one mode peak in accumulation size range (0.4-2.1 μm) and another mode peak in coarse size range (3.3-9.0 μm). As the numbers of PAHs' aromatic ring increases, the intensities of two peaks vary a lot towards larger PAHs, i.e., the accumulation mode peak increases, while coarse mode peak decreases the peak in accumulation mode becomes more predominant, while another one in coarse mode becomes weaker and even disappears for at 5- and 6-ring PAHs. This is due to the fact that because less volatile PAH species compounds preferentially condense on fine particles and more volatile ones PAH species are inhibited on smaller particles because of the Kelvin effect (Hien et al., 2007; Keshtkar and Ashbaugh, 2007). This kind of mode distribution that appears in Shanghai is similar to those found in Mumbai, India (Venkataraman et al., 1999), but different with those not same in Boston, MA (Allen et al., 1996). From the results of PAHs distribution, one we can also obtain an important implication for of health hazards via inhalation exposure. Since the majority of larger high molecular weigh PAHs has mutagenic and/or carcinogenic properties and almost exclusively exists on fine particles, they which can travel deep into the human respiratory system and hence can cause a serious health risk through exposing a person to both particles and the loaded carcinogenic PAHs (Kameda et al., 2005).

3.2 Atmospheric Processing and Partitioning Mechanisms

Previous studies on atmospheric process of PAHs mainly focus on gas/particle partitioning (R. Zhang et al., 2012; McWhinney et al., 2013), but few studies focus on are associated with the aerosol particle size distribution of PAHs. For these, we use the size-resolved PAHs data to To further understand the significance of size

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dependency during the PAHs atmospheric processing, size fractionated PAHs data acquired in the present study are used to assess the PAHs partitioning process between among different size particles sizes.

Empirical evidences suggest mass ratios of PAH to particulate matter (PAH/PM) can provide some valuable implications for PAHs atmospheric process. When PAH compounds that and particles that produced from incomplete combustion of organic material are released into the air, from incomplete combustion of organic material are mainly associated with size segregated aerosol particles through adsorption and absorption. The size-resolved PAHs would they should be involved in the particle aging process of aerosol. During this process, atmospheric because some PAHs could could be photo-oxidized to form SOA secondary organic aerosol (Secondary organic aerosol SOA), and others might adsorb or absorb on preexisting particles via either self-nucleation or gas/particle partitioning. This would lead to the increase of atmospheric fine particulate matter increasing organic fine particulate matter through either self-nucleation or gas particle partitioning (Kavouras et al., 1999; Kamens et al., 1999; Yu et al., 1999; Kamens and Jaoui, 2001; Chan et al., 2009). That is to say that the aging process can decrease the value of total-PAH/PM That means that the aging process will reduce the value of PAH/PM (Duan et al., 2005; Bi et al., 2005). Figure Fig. 4 shows the variation of total PAHs/PM values by size across particle sizes all the samples demonstrating that values for the ratio PAH/PM range between 0.01 and 0.1 depending on PAH species characteristics. In general, PAH/PM ratios decrease gradually towards particles with the increase of particle bigger size. This indicates that the different values of PAH/PM across particle size can be the result of different aging process. However, it should be noted that 5 and 6 ring PAH/PM ratios showed a little increasing fluctuation during the size range 2.1-5.8 μm . The reasons for this phenomenon are unclear but may be related to long repartitioning process of low volatile 5 and 6 ring PAHs in coarse particles due to the lower vapour pressures (Bi et al., 2005), or mass of PM in this size range decreased by dry and wet deposition or forming larger particles through coagulation. The isomer ratio of a more reactive PAH to a stable PAH, such as

批注 [D24]: Comments of Reviewer#2:

I don't understand the link between decreasing PAH/PM and BaA/CHR with size and aging process. (page 20823, line 13-15 "This indicates that: :") You don't know (or at least you don't write it) the initial ratios at the source so you don't know the changes. In general, like you write, the aging process results in decreasing ratios, but that would mean that the ratio for smaller particles decrease faster than for bigger, as smaller particles have a longer lifetime and are transported longer, so there is more time to be aged.

Comments of Reviewer#3:

In section 3.2, maybe the authors could clarify the link they are making between size of the particles and ageing time.

Reply:

Since we don't have the "time scale" data, we are not quite sure how to respond to this statement. The "time scale" data are difficult to be obtained from the normal field observation. When no time scale data are available, most researchers describe particle aging through other indirect methods. PAH/PM and BaA/CHR employed to evaluate aging process are based on published papers on the particulate PAHs of field experiment (Atmos. Res., 2005, 78, 190-203; Atmos. Environ., 2007, 41, 2061-2072.). In our paper, the values of PAH/PM and BaA/CHR exhibited a similar variation, indicating PAH species are indeed involved in the particle distributing and aging process at a certain extent.
We rewrote this section text, please see it.

BaA/Chr and BaP/BeP, can be employed to illustrate the PAHs atmospheric fate (Ding et al., 2007). In order to further verify the particle aging process, we use BaA/CHR as another indicator of particle aging. BaA is expected to be degraded more easier than their isomers during transportation period because of their higher reactivity. Using the ratios of a more reactive PAH compound to a less reactive one, such as BaA/CHR, An/Phe and BaP/BeP, a higher ratio indicates relatively little photochemical processing of the air mass. On the other hand, a lower ratio is reflective of more aged PAHs. Therefore, it can be used to illustrate whether the air masses collected are fresh or aged (Ding et al., 2007). Fig. 4 shows the decrease of BaA/CHR with the increase of particle sizes, which is the same trend with PAH/PM. Generally, relatively higher ratios occur in small particle size ranges, and lower ratios exist in large particle size ranges, suggesting smaller particles sampled at urban sites are relatively fresh, while bigger particles are relatively aged. Because particulate phase PAHs are susceptible to photo-degradation, the decrease of BaA/CHR with the increase of particle sizes shows that photo-degradation play an important role in particle aging process, especially for the relatively larger urban aerosol particles. During this transport process, BaA and BaP are expected to degrade more easily than their isomers, so the ratios will be modified by their strong reactivity. Naturally, the values would degrade over transport time (Duan et al., 2005). Figure 5 reveals the variations of BaA/Chr CHR by size across all the samples. Apart from a few particular values during the size range 5.8-10.0 μm , the majority declines with the increase of particle size. This trend is approximately in accord with the changes of total PAH/PM across all samples. This indicates that PAH species are indeed involved in the processes of changing particle size distribution or aerosol aging, and can provide some information about the aging degree to a certain extent. Nevertheless, aerosol aging estimated by size fractionated PAHs in the present study It should be noted that the explanation of particle aging in the present study still meets remain some uncertainties because of the scarcity of “aging time scale” data, some correlative variabilities such as particle increase velocities and meteorological conditions. Again, only size distribution of PAHs during the atmospheric process are estimated in the present study, therefore further studies (e.g.,

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particle and PAH formation theoretical models and chamber simulation experiment (~~corresponding influencing mechanisms~~) are needed ~~to provide more insights into the particle aging associated with PAHs~~. Although the present study ~~does~~ results do not look directly at the partitioning process, it has taken advantage of the size-fractionated resolved PAHs data to examine the governing mechanisms for ~~aerosol~~ particle size distribution.

Currently, the reliable mechanisms for controlling PAHs distribution ~~in-between size-resolved~~ different size particles include adsorption to nucleus particles, adsorption and absorption to accumulation particles, and multilayer adsorption on coarse particles (Venkataraman et al., 1999). Adsorption and absorption depend respectively on available particle surface area and organic mass. If PAHs are firstly associated with the particle surface, the PAH/PM mass ratio will show a $1/D_p$ dependence (assuming particles are spherical), and then will generate a straight line of slope -1 on a log vs. log axis (Venkataraman et al., 2002). Fig. 5 shows that all slope values from the plots ~~Plotting~~ of $\log(\text{PAH/PM})$ against $\log(D_p)$ ~~showed that all slope values were~~ are above -1 ~~with the decrease towards to the more ring PAHs (Fig.6)~~, suggesting that multiple mechanisms, i.e. adsorption and absorption controlled the PAHs' distribution among ~~on~~ different size particles. Moreover, the slope values decrease with the increase of ring number of PAHs, which means ~~but~~ adsorption played a much stronger role ~~for~~ in the distribution process of 5- and 6-ring than 3- and 4-ring PAHs. The reason is due to ~~This might be caused by~~ the relatively lower volatility of 5- and 6-ring PAHs which make ~~compared to smaller ones letting~~ the these compounds adjust to multiple adsorptive equilibrium more slowly. Moreover, chemical affinities maybe also play an important role in adsorption process. Most 5- and 6 ~~more~~-ring PAHs have strong hydrophobicity and tend to affiliate with small particles because they can provide large surface areas (Venkataraman et al., 1999). Such an explanation, however, can not adequately account for ~~the~~ PAHs' equilibrium mechanisms observed in the present study. Perhaps in fact 5- and 6 ~~more~~-ring PAHs do not attain equilibrium due to the slow mass transfer, but they reach a steady state between the gaseous and particulate phases (Yu and Yu, 2012).

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We have revised this section to improve its readability and clarity.

3.3 Statistical analysis

In an attempt to understand how ~~the alterations in~~ particle size ~~may lead to variations~~ ~~in~~ affect PAH species, we built a statistical model using PLS regression based on PAHs concentration and particle size data ~~all PAHs data~~. After calculating, five components are adopted because they can give the most stable results and easily interpretable factors. The number of components in PLS is also consistent with the results of the followed PMF results, as discussed in the next section. By plotting the observed (measured) ~~values~~ particle sizes versus the predicted ~~values~~ particle sizes, ~~for the particle sizes included in the models~~, we ~~got~~ obtain a goodness of fit with $R^2 = 0.87$, a goodness of prediction with $Q^2 = 0.80$, and a goodness of root mean square error (RMSE) with a value of 0.87. ~~the root mean square error of the fit for observations in~~ with a RMSEE value of 0.87. ~~Figure 7~~ Fig. 6 shows the observed vs. predicted plot ~~for~~ from the model. The plot performs well in predicting the size-resolved PAHs over the size range between 0.4 ~~µm~~ and 10 µm. There is no systematic underestimation (or overestimation) and most points fall close to 45 degree line. The results achieve the desired separation without overlap among nine ~~eight~~ particle size ranges. ~~Most variations of size resolved PAHs, i.e., up to 80% can be predicted by the parameterization.~~ The model can explain 91% of X, 87% of Y and predict 80% of Y. These predictions are not de novo predictions, since all the data are part of the observed set. Nevertheless, these predicted results do validate the model effectiveness and the measured data reliability.

Similarities between PAHs profiles at the two adjacent sizes can be further identified by coefficient of divergence (CD), which is a self-normalizing parameter used to evaluate the divergence degree of two sets of data (Kong et al., 2012). CD is determined as follows:

$$CD_{jk} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{p} \sum_{i=1}^p \left(\frac{x_{ij} - x_{ik}}{x_{ij} + x_{ik}} \right)^2} \quad (\text{Eq. 4})$$

Where j and k stand for the two adjacent particles fractions, p ~~was~~ is the number of investigated PAHs, and x_{ij} and x_{ik} represented the concentrations of PAHs species i for

批注 [D26]: Comments of Reviewer#2:

The analysis done within the statistics is unclear. Which parameters are used to predict PAHs? Physical and chemical properties? The measured and the predicted values match each other well, but what is the conclusion?

Reply:

The authors appreciate the reviewer's concern on the statistics analysis. We offer the following explanation. PLS model can show the predicted particle size distribution of PAHs based on the observed (measured) ones. These predictions are not de novo predictions, since all the data are part of the observed set. Nevertheless, these predicted results do validate the model effectiveness and the measured data reliability based on the values of R^2 and Q^2 .

Comments of Reviewer#3:

The content of section 3.3 is unclear to me. What is the benefit of that statistical analysis? It can indeed reproduce the observed size distribution of the PAHs but can this be related to some fundamental properties of the PAHs (such as volatility)?

Reply:

The PLS in section 3.3 can validate the reliability of measured data, but it can not predict some fundamental properties of the PAHs (such as volatility). These predictions are not de novo predictions, since all the data are part of the observed set. Coefficient of divergence (CD) analysis in section 3.3 can reveal the similarities of particle size of PAHs, and give the preliminary results for the followed PMF source apportionment of section 3.4.

size j and k (Kong et al., 2011). CD is ranging from 0 to 1. A low CD value (<0.2) indicates a high level of homogeneity in PAHs distribution between ~~two~~ adjacent sizes, while CD values larger than 0.2 indicate heterogeneous PAHs spatial distribution (Wilson et al., 2005). ~~Figure 8~~ **Fig. 7** shows the PAHs' CD diagrams that are characterized by color block. For the comparison between the adjacent sizes, ~~the most~~ **CD_{jk}** values ~~were are all~~ less than 0.2 except CD_{0.4, 0.4~0.7} (0.26) and CD_{1.1~2.1, 2.1~3.3} (0.31), indicating that PAHs **among PM_{0.4}, PM_{0.4-2.1} and PM_{2.1-10} show a high spatial heterogeneity in the two adjacent sizes fractions show a high spatial homogeneity of the in** source factor contributions.

批注 [D27]: Reply to the comments of two Reviewers about English:
We have revised this section to improve its readability and clarity.

10 3.4 Emission Source of Size-Fractionated ~~resolved~~ PAHs

The different ~~distribution patterns of~~ PAHs **distribution in-between** fine and coarse particles may be attributed to different emission ~~sources mechanisms of~~ PAHs. By applying the PMF model, **The optimal** five main ~~source~~ factors have been chosen ~~in this study~~ after comparing three or four main factors. Five identified sources ~~for the PAHs~~ are respectively associated with vehicular emission, biomass burning, coal combustion, petroleum residue and air-surface exchange. ~~Figure 9~~ **Fig. 8** shows the profiles for all factors. Factor 1 presents a profile with high factor loadings for 5- and 6-ring PAHs, i.e. B(b+k)F, BaP, IPY, DBahA and BghiP. These high molecular weight PAHs are reported as dominant in vehicle emissions (Bostrom et al., 2002; Ravindra et al., 2008). BbF and BkF are attributed to diesel motor vehicle emissions, while BaP and BaA are attributed to gasoline and diesel markers (Harrison et al., 1996; Sofowote et al., 2008). Thus, this factor is named as vehicular emissions without distinguishing between diesel and gasoline releasing. Factor 2 is dominated by high loadings of PHE, Flu and BbF and moderate loadings of ~~Chr~~ **CHR**, BkF, BaA, IP and BghiP. This factor profile mainly ~~came come~~ from biomass burning that has been described in the previous study (Poulain et al., 2011). As the occurrence of biomass burning in Shanghai city is normally low, this source is most likely from ~~long~~ **long-range** transport, rather than from local ~~releasing~~ **emission**. Factor 3 is characterized by B(b+k)F, CHR, BaA and BghiP. These compounds have been reported by different authors as coal combustion source

批注 [D28]: Comments of Reviewer#2:
What is the benefit of section 3.4? Why is it important to know the sources of PAH in different particle sizes (fig 10)?

Reply:

Section 3.4 aimed at source apportionment of PAHs in different particle sizes. Through the description of section 3.4, we can obtain the source factor contributions to size-resolved particles, and further understand which source has considerable influence on respiratory deposition.

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markers (Yang et al., 2002; Lin et al., 2011). Although in Shanghai, natural gas is one of the main fuels used for domestic heating, there are still central heating systems using coal and petrol-derived fuels. Moreover, the influence of power plant, ~~soaking~~-steel and iron industries using coal as fuel ~~could~~may be also reflected on this factor. Factor 4 is
5 mainly defined by 4- and 5-ring PAHs. High levels of these compounds, especially for PHE are associated with crude oil or refined petroleum emission and their degradation products (Zakaria et al., 2002). So this factor is likely to represent petroleum residue, or the derivatives from oil spill, the leakage from vehicles, and the discharge from municipal and industrial wastewater, etc. Factor 5 is more influenced by 2- and 3-ring
10 PAHs. These ~~less ring~~ PAHs are favored in air-surface exchange (Gigliotti et al., 2002). The “exchange” here means that the aged PAHs are probably released into the atmosphere again from contaminated soil or wastewater, and then adsorbed later by the particles. Moreover, they are also ~~arrived at~~transported to here through ~~long long~~-ranges transport and finally deposit on particle surfaces. Thus, factor 5 is ascribed to air-surface
15 exchange.

Fig. 9 summarizes the results of PAHs’ source apportionment associated with factor contributions. ~~Based on the source apportionment results, the contributions of each factor are summarized in Fig. 10.~~ As expected, the results are quite different for the different~~between~~ particle sizes. Coal combustion and biomass burning respectively accounted for 29% and 29% of ~~total PAHs in~~ accumulation mode PAHs aerosols, ~~whereas they are~~ as well as 12% and 13% in coarse mode PAHs aerosols. Their contribution for particulate PAHs significantly decreases with the increasing of particle size ~~due to~~because large particles have large deposition velocities from the air of large particles. Air-surface exchange and petroleum residue account respectively for
20 9% and 10% of ~~total PAHs in~~ accumulation mode PAHs mode aerosols ~~whereas they are~~ plus 30% and 27% in coarse mode aerosols PAHs. Note that the ~~concentrations~~ contribution of vehicle-derived PAHs (vehicular emission) are almost constant through all over the year, i.e. ~~it is~~contribute 22% of ~~total PAHs in~~ accumulation mode PAHs aerosols ~~whereas~~ and ~~it is~~ 18% of ~~total PAHs in~~ coarse mode aerosols PAHs. In

批注 [D30]: Reply to the comments of two Reviewers about English:
We have revised this section to improve its readability and clarity.

combination with PAHs mode distribution, we know high level of PAHs occurring in accumulation mode particles. Together with Aitken mode particles, we can obtain 80% of PAHs from the contribution of fine particles (Aitken and accumulation mode particles). When taking the size distribution of the PAH into consideration, it can conclude easily interpretable main emission sources for PAHs. As discussed above, most PAHs are characterized by a main peak in accumulation mode, suggesting that high concentration of PAHs occurred in fine particles. Additionally, concentrations of total PAHs in fine particles contribute to 80% of total concentrations in PM. Apparently, these PAHs mainly came from. Apparently, the presence of sources at or close to fine particulate level should be collectively responsible for this observation. Consequently, vehicle exhaust, coal combustion and biomass burning, are deemed three appreciable source of PAHs. Moreover, multiple emission mechanisms, i.e. vehicle exhaust, coal combustion and biomass burning tend to contribute fine particles, which largely adsorb PAHs that generated at the same time due to the large specific surface area, and results in significantly higher concentrations of PAHs in fine particles than in coarse particles.

3.5 Respiratory exposure to PAHs

In order to assess deposition efficiency and flux of size-resolved PAHs in the human respiratory tract, we applied a so-called International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) model (1994). More details on calculating from the model are included elsewhere (K. Zhang et al., 2012; Kawanaka et al., 2009). Commonly, the respiratory tract is divided into three deposition regions: head airway (HA), tracheobronchial (TB), and alveolar region (AR). The breath rate of normal people was considered at $0.45 \text{ m}^3 \text{ h}^{-1}$. Figure 11 Fig. 10 shows the deposition fluxes of size-resolved PAHs and their relative contributions in the head, tracheobronchial and alveolar regions. Apparently, we can find a flux peak value in accumulation mode particles ($1.1\text{-}2.1 \mu\text{m}$), similar to particle size distribution of PAHs as described previously (see section 3.1). The total PAHs deposition fluxes are $8.8 \pm 2.0 \text{ ng h}^{-1}$. The mean value (8.8 ng h^{-1}) is which is 2.4 times higher than that in indoor air of an urban community of Guangzhou, China (3.7 ng h^{-1}) (K. Zhang et al., 2012), but it is. Conversely, the intake rate of total

批注 [D31]: Reply to the comments of two Reviewers about English:

We have revised this section to improve its readability and clarity.

PAHs is much lower than that for in a common traffic police in Beijing (280 ng h⁻¹ calculated by at the respiratory rate of 0.83 m³ h⁻¹) (Liu et al., 2007). Moreover, we find the relative PAHs abundance vary a lot with the particle size. In addition, through calculating the relative abundance of PAHs in each region, we can find that they change significantly over particle sizes. As When particle size increases, the relative PAHs abundance of PAHs increases in the head region increases, unchanges in tracheobronchial region, but decreases while in alveolar region, decreases. Note that the relative abundance of PAHs in tracheobronchial region is almost constant across all particle sizes, i.e. it is 6% from accumulation mode particles whereas it is 4% from coarse mode particles. These results indicate that coarse particles only contribute lots of PAHs in head region, while small-fine particles contribute most PAHs in alveolar region are major contributors to PAHs deposition in alveolar region. Furthermore, These fine or ultrafine particles can also pass human lung rapidly into the systematic circulation, which may cause systematic exposure to PAHs (Nemmar et al., 2002).

Evaluating respiratory exposure need to incorporates considering the deposition efficiency of size-resolved PAHs. Deposition efficiency represents the deposition effectiveness of atmospheric PAHs in human respiratory tract. The efficiency can then be calculated by the formula of ICRP model. Figure 12 Fig. 11 shows the regional deposition efficiency of total PAHs across particle sizes. Generally, the total deposition efficiency of PAHs is found to increases with the particles size increases except for However, in the alveolar region, in which the PAHs deposition efficiency increases with particle size decreases. This suggests that smaller particles can easily pass respiratory tract and deposit in alveolar region. the deposition efficiencies of total PAHs monotonously increased towards the smaller particles. This result suggests that the smaller particle can penetrate the respiratory tract and travel into the deeper alveolar region. This, combined with the fact that most 5- and 6 more-ring PAHs tend to adsorb on smaller particles, makes it them more important for potential health damage.

One We can utilize the LCR to estimate the exposure of PAHs through inhalation of ambient particles. From Fig. 13 12, shows that the LCR variations of the LCR from

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~~of~~ normal (breath rate: $0.45 \text{ m}^3 \text{ h}^{-1}$) and exercising people (breath rate: $0.83 \text{ m}^3 \text{ h}^{-1}$) ~~across particle sizes~~ during haze and non-haze periods ~~can be identified~~. The curve of LCR displays a unimodal distribution with only one distinct peak located at 1.1–2.1 μm . The size distribution of LCR is also unimodal with the maximum in the 1.1–2.1 μm particle fraction. LCR from the PAHs in a Accumulation mode PAHs particles contributes mainly about 54% of LCR, suggesting that total PAHs. These data show ~~that~~ accumulation particles are major carcinogenic PAHs carriers ~~for carcinogenic PAHs~~. Through the LCR After calculation ~~from the exposure to particulate PAHs~~, we can obtain that the LCR value is $6.3(\pm 0.8) \times 10^{-7}$ of at normal respiratory condition ($0.45 \text{ m}^3 \text{ h}^{-1}$) a normal people is $6.3(\pm 0.8) \times 10^{-7}$ during the Shanghai haze period, which approaches to ~~is lower than~~ the cancer risk guideline value (10^{-6}) (US EPA, 2005~~1989~~). Here, it should be emphasized that LCR depended As we known, the value of LCR depends strongly on the respiratory rate. ~~($0.45 \text{ m}^3 \text{ h}^{-1}$ was utilized for normal condition).~~ If we apply another an average respiratory rate of $0.83 \text{ m}^3 \text{ h}^{-1}$ (for ~~exercise~~ people who exercise outside) applied by Liu et al. (Liu et al., 2007) ~~was also used here~~, total the LCR value will arrive at ~~would be~~ $1.2(\pm 0.2) \times 10^{-6}$, which ~~approached or exceeded~~ exceeds the cancer risk guideline value, especially in severe haze days the value can reach up to ~~peaked at almost~~ 1.5×10^{-6} . Note that this value is only from the size-resolved particulate PAHs, and responsible to part of respiratory risk to atmospheric PAHs. If the gaseous PAHs ~~were~~ are also taken into account, the cancer risk ~~would~~ will probably be even much ~~bigger~~ higher. ~~Furthermore, in~~ combination with previous PMF source analysis ~~on size fractionated PAHs~~, we find that the ~~higher cancer risk caused in accumulation modes~~ sources of these PAHs mainly ~~resulted~~ come from biomass burning (24%), coal combustion (25%) and vehicular emission (27%). This is consistent ~~Consistently with our results, the previous~~ epidemiological studies ~~reported~~ that smaller particles ~~could~~ can arouse ~~give rise to~~ larger risk of cardiovascular toxicity through breathing (Pope et al., 2009). Thus, it appears to be important to perform more restrict control on smaller particles emission, particularly aiming at the reducing their releasing sources.

批注 [D32]: Comments of Reviewer#2:
You should explain the meaning of the value of LCR. (6.3 people out of 10000000 people get cancer or how to read it???)
Reply:
Certainly. If the LCR value is 6.3×10^{-6} , it means 63 people out of 10000000 people get cancer.

4 Summary and conclusions

~~The overall conclusion of the present study is that it~~ We systematically investigated the modal particle size distribution characteristics of PAHs ~~in at the~~ Shanghai urban atmosphere site and ~~identified~~ determined their emission source, ~~contribution to adverse~~ health effects through inhalation. It was We found that ~~the size-resolved~~ PAHs size distribution ~~have~~ exhibited a bimodal distribution pattern, with one mode peak (~~0.4-2.1~~ 0.4-2.1 μm) in the fine ~~mode~~ size range (0.4-2.1 μm) and another ~~peak~~ ones (~~3.3-9~~ 3.3-9 μm) in the coarse ~~mode~~ size range (3.3-9 μm). ~~This present study proposes the m~~ Multiple adsorption and absorption mechanisms ~~controlling~~ controlled the behavior and fate of PAHs distribution among different sizes particles ~~considered as a function of size~~. Further calculations using ~~inhaling particle bound PAHs data showed t~~ The estimated LCR value for people who exercise outside was $1.2(\pm 0.2) \times 10^{-6}$, which exceeded ~~were bigger than~~ the cancer risk guideline value (10^{-6}), ~~especially for people exercising during haze days (1.5×10^{-6}).~~ Accumulation mode PAHs contributed about 54% of LCR. ~~Based on PMF results, their sources~~ The largest contribution for LCR mainly came from PAHs on accumulation particles, and mainly resulted ~~came~~ from biomass burning (24%), coal combustion (25%) and vehicular emission (27%). ~~The~~ This findings ~~presented here~~ study could provide a preliminary data for developing effective strategies for source control.

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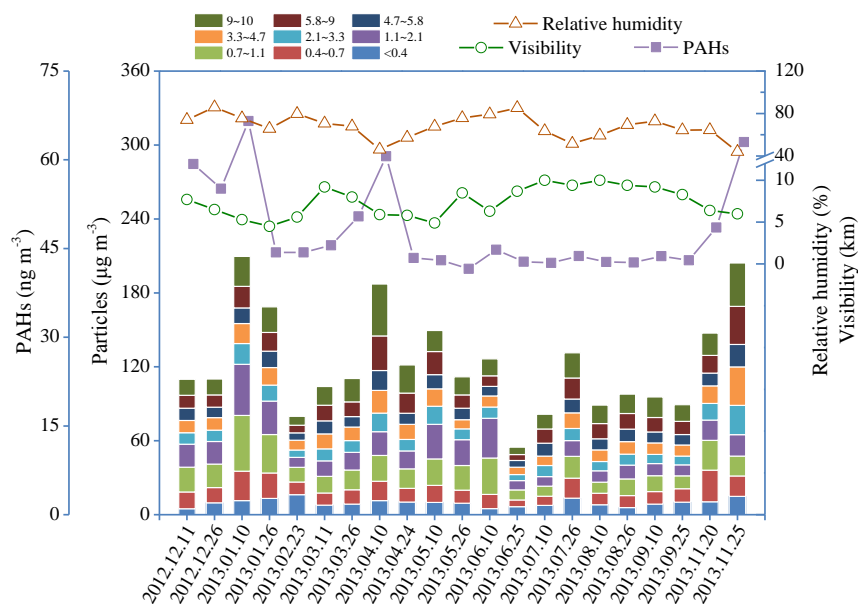
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5 **Figure Fig. 1.** The sampling time series of PAH concentration (ng m^{-3}), size-segregated particles ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$), temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$), visibility (km) and relative humidity (%).

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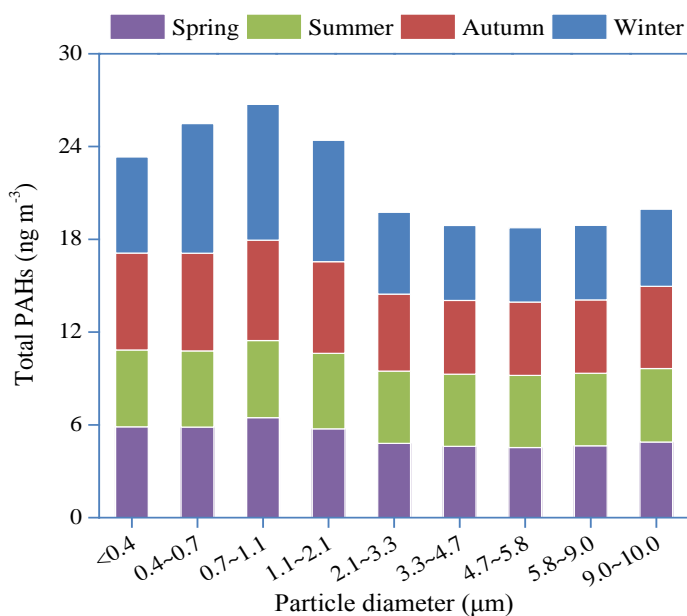


Figure 2. Seasonal variation of size-segregated total PAHs.

批注 [D34]: Reply to the comments of two Reviewers about Fig. 2: Remove old Fig. 2.

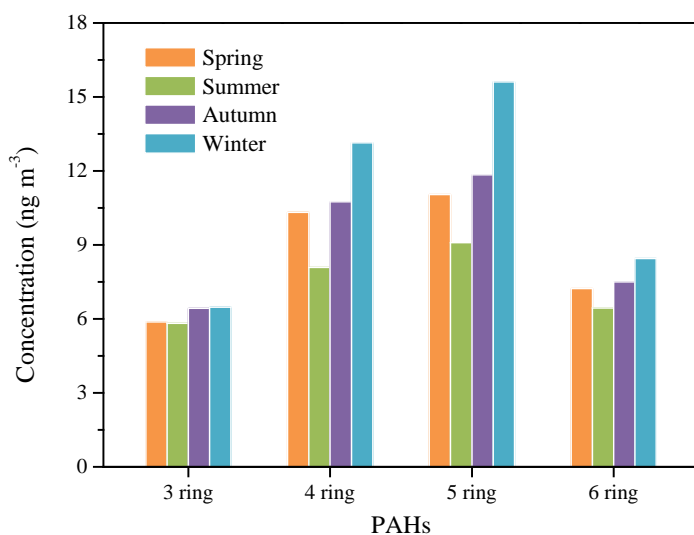
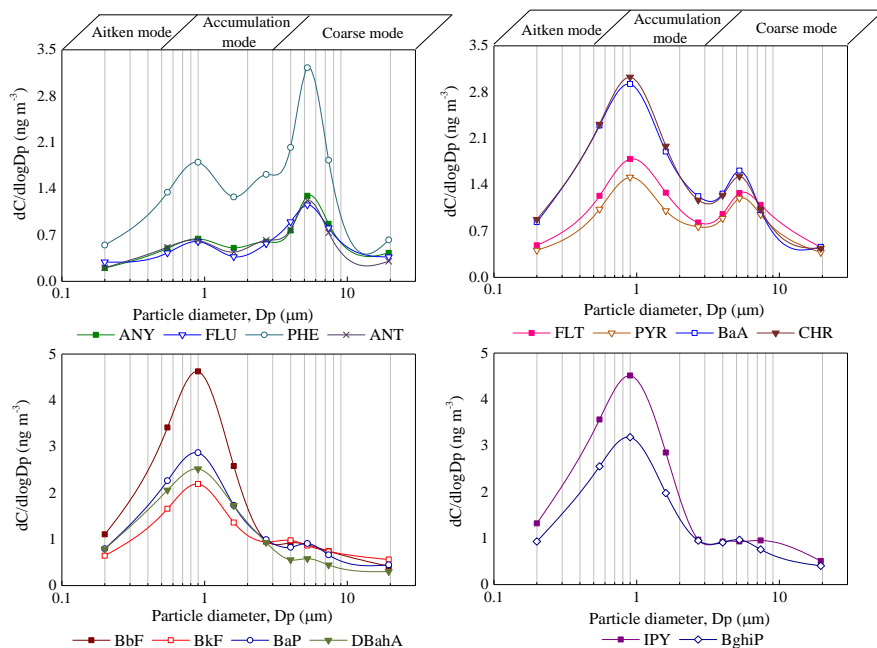


Fig. 2. Seasonal variation of 3 to 6 ring PAHs.

批注 [D35]: Reply to the comments of two Reviewers about Fig. 2: Replace new Fig. 2.

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Fig. 3. Particle size size distributions of particle bound-PAHs (3 to 6 rings) in the atmosphere across one year for all samples. dC is the concentration on each filter, C is the sum concentration on all filters, and $d\log D_p$ is the logarithmic size interval for each impactor stage in aerodynamic diameter (D_p).

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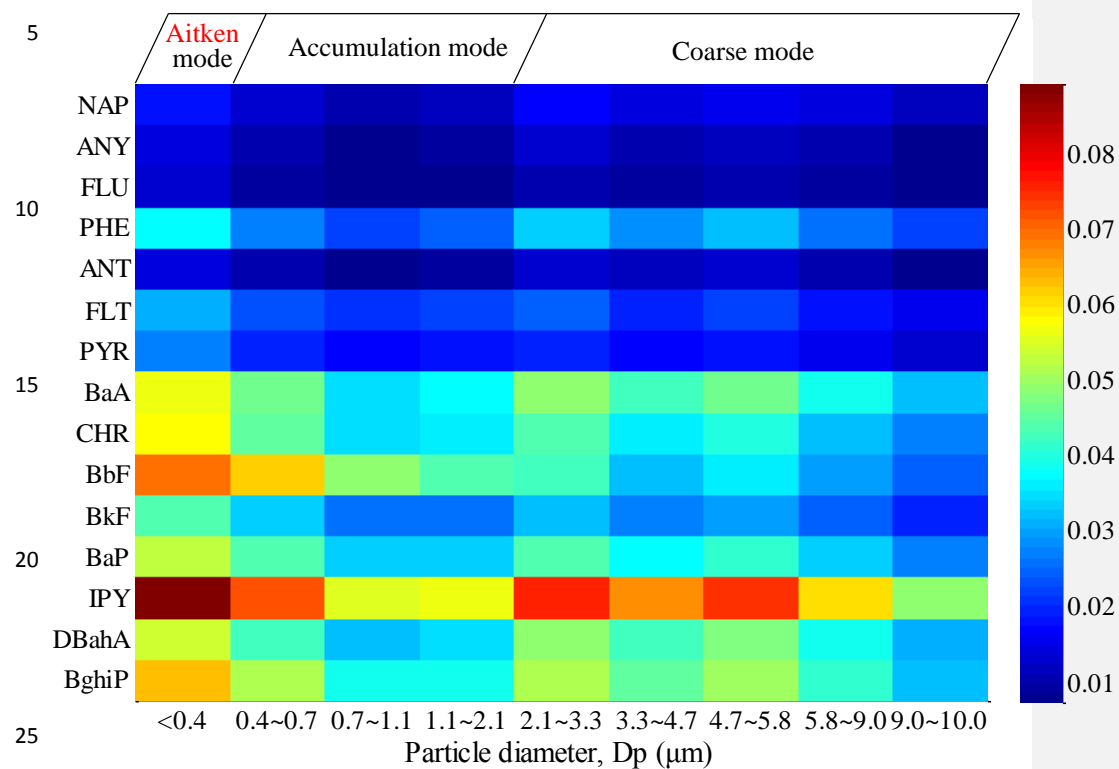


Figure 4. Mass Ratios of PAH species to size-segregated particles ($\text{ng } \mu\text{g}^{-1}$) across all samples.

批注 [D36]: Comments of Reviewer#2:
 What do you want to show/tell with fig. 4?
 Is it just PAH/PM decrease with bigger particles? Because this message is already shown in fig. 3.

Reply:
 This issue is no longer relevant in new revision. We have removed the original "Fig. 4".

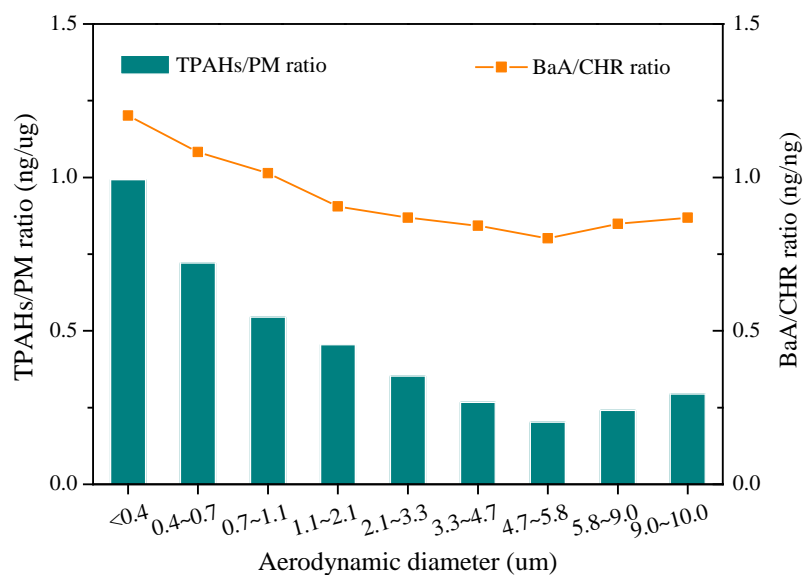


Figure 5 Fig. 4. Ratios of total PAHs/PM size-segregated particles (ng μg^{-1}) and BaA/CHR across particle sizes.

批注 [D37]: Reply to the comments of two Reviewers about English:
We have revised the manuscript to improve its readability and clarity.

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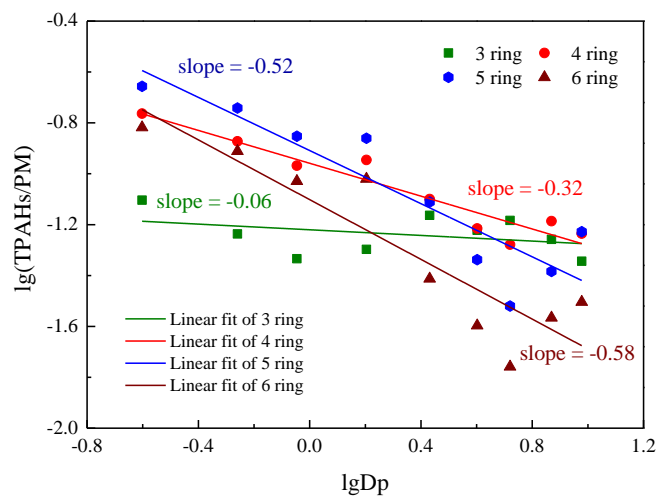


Figure 6 Fig. 5. Plots of $\lg(\text{TPAHs}/\text{PM}) - \lg(D_p)$ for PAHs with different ring number.

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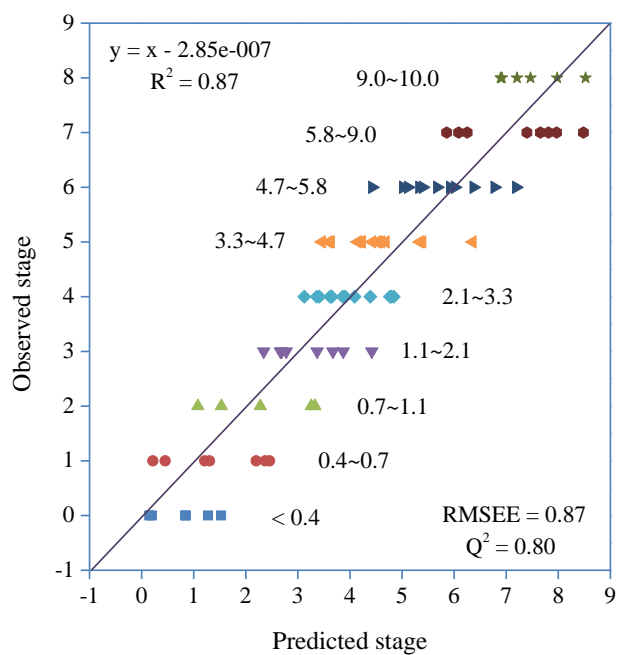
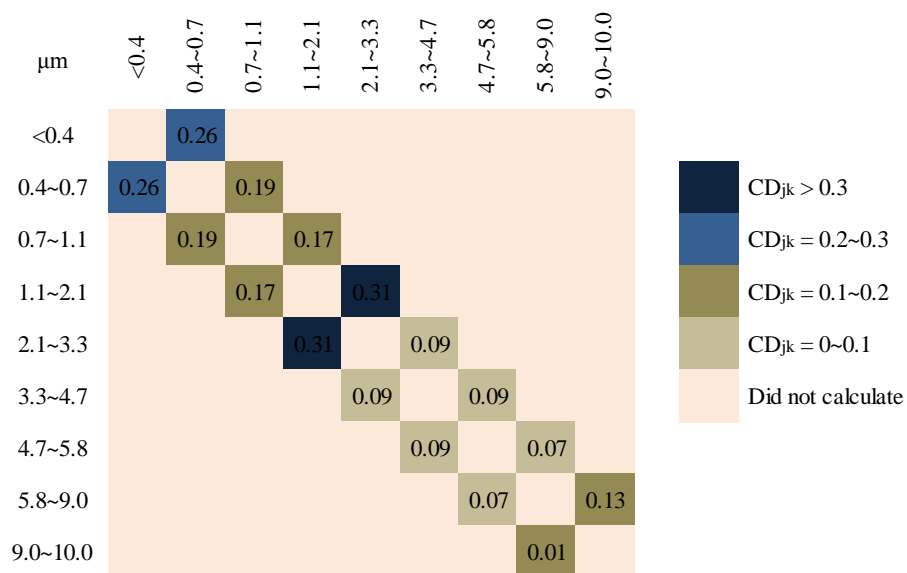


Figure 7 Fig. 6. Measured and predicted total PAHs in all particles with sizes ranges from <0.4 μm to 10 μm . The dashed line represents the 45 $^\circ$ line.

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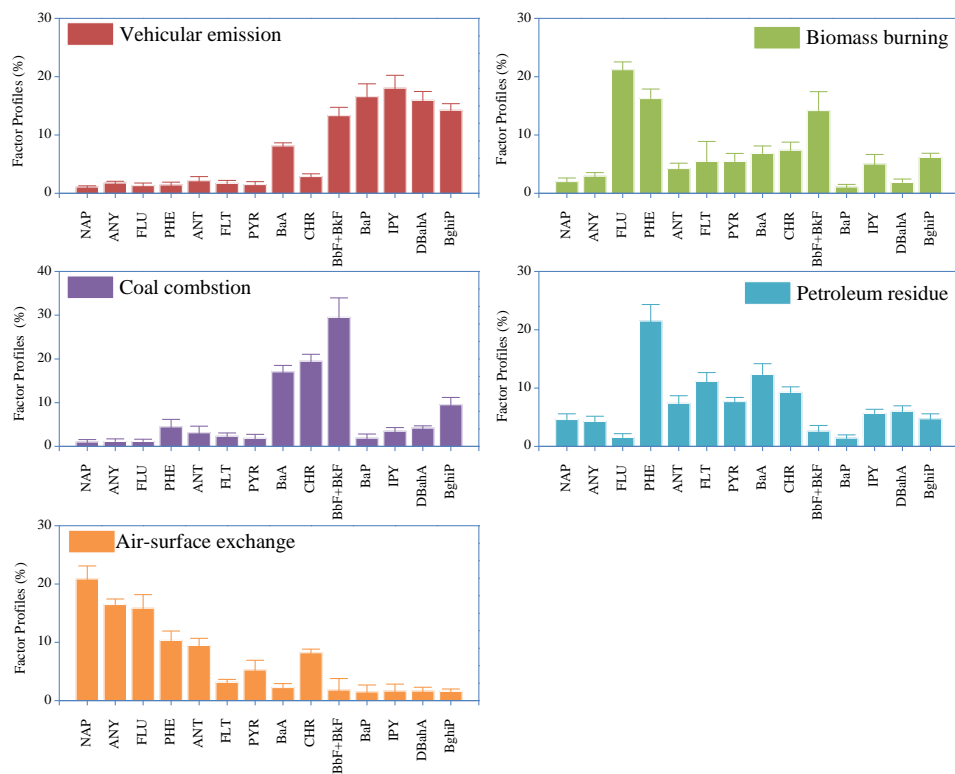
Figure 8 Fig. 7. Similar comparison of PAHs profiles for the adjacent particles fractions.

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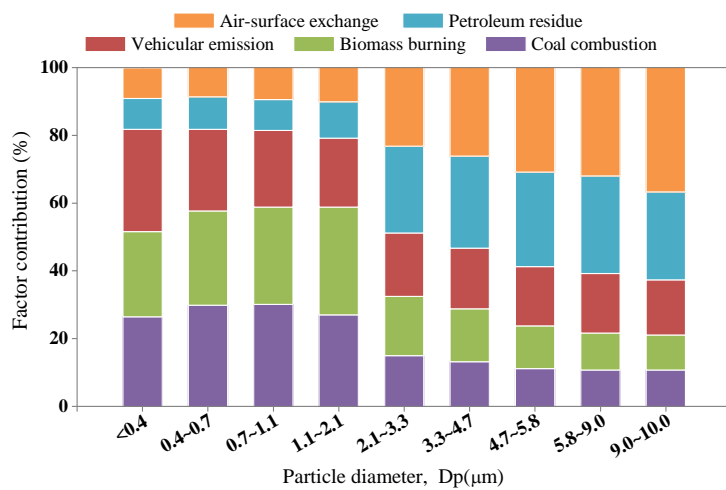


5 **Figure 9 Fig. 8.** Profiles of the five factors resolved by the PMF model from ~~full~~all PAHs data set.

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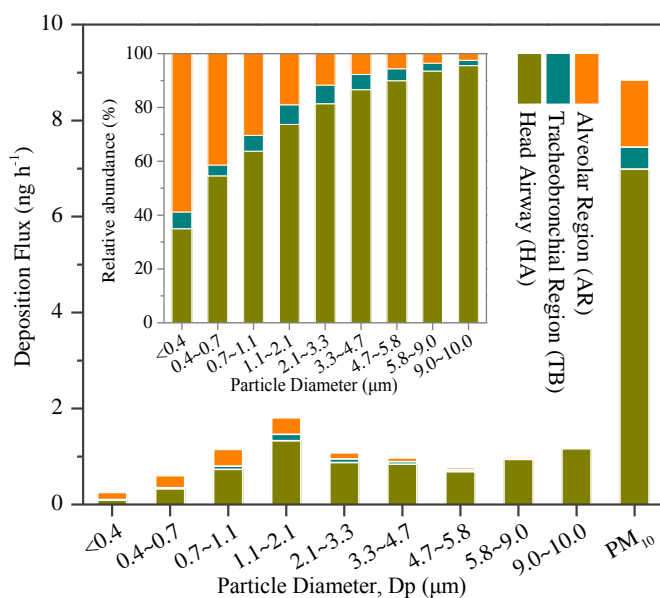
Figure 10 Fig. 9. Factor contributions to size-segregated particles by the PMF model from full PAHs data set.

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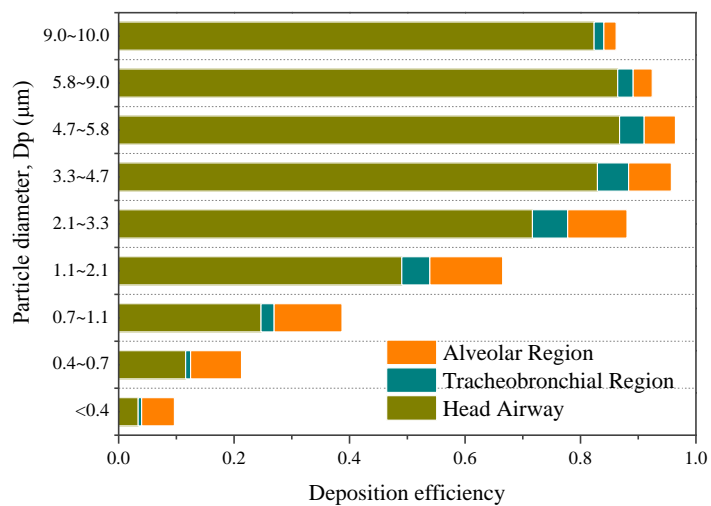
5 **Figure 10** Fig. 10. Deposition fluxes (estimated by ICRP model) and relative abundance of the size-segregated PAHs in the head airway, tracheobronchial, and alveolar region of in the human respiratory tract.

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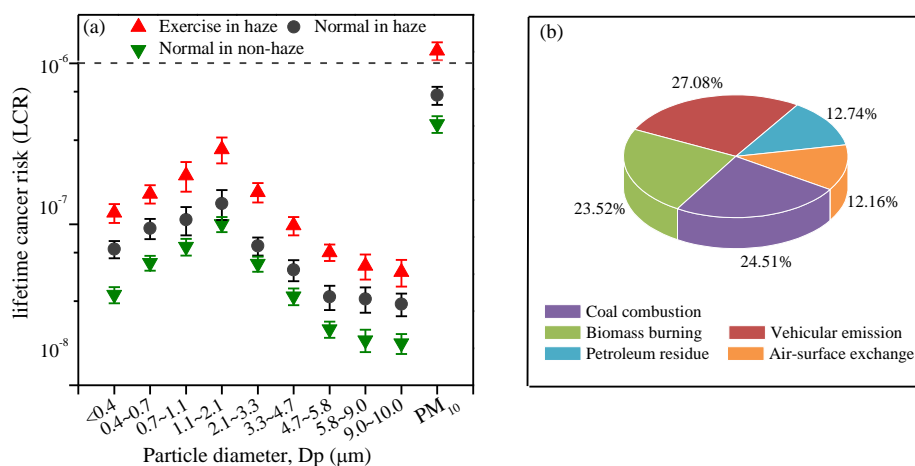
5 **Fig. 11.** Deposition efficiencies (estimated by ICRP model) of the size-segregated PAHs in the head airway, tracheobronchial, and alveolar region.

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5 **Figure 13 Fig. 12.** (a) Lifetime cancer risk (LCR) due to exposure to the size-segregated PAHs through inhalation for normal and exercise people during haze and non-haze period. (b) Source contribution to accumulation mode PAHs during haze period by PMF analysis.