# 1 The importance of vehicle emissions as a source of

## 2 atmospheric ammonia in the megacity of Shanghai

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#### Abstract

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Agricultural activities are a major source contributing to NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations in Shanghai and most other regions of China; however, there is a long-standing and ongoing controversy regarding the contributions of vehicle-emitted NH<sub>3</sub> to the urban atmosphere. From April 2014 to April 2015, we conducted measurements of a wide range of gases (including NH<sub>3</sub>) and the chemical properties of PM<sub>2.5</sub> at hourly resolution at a Shanghai urban supersite. This large dataset shows NH<sub>3</sub> pollution events, lasting several hours with concentrations four times the annual average of 5.3 µg m<sup>-3</sup>, caused by the burning of crop residues in spring. There are also generally higher NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations (mean  $\pm 1\sigma$ ) in summer (7.3  $\pm 4.9 \mu g m^{-3}$ ; n=2181) because of intensive emissions from temperature-dependent agricultural sources. However, the NH<sub>3</sub> concentration in summer was only an average of 2.4 µg m<sup>-3</sup> or 41% higher than the average NH<sub>3</sub> concentration of other seasons. Furthermore, the NH<sub>3</sub> concentration in winter (5.0±3.7  $\mu$ g m<sup>-3</sup>; n=2113) was similar to that in spring (5.1±3.8  $\mu$ g m<sup>-3</sup>; n=2198) but slightly higher, on average, than that in autumn (4.5±2.3 µg m<sup>-3</sup>; n=1949). Moreover, other meteorological parameters like planetary boundary layer height and relative humidity were not major factors affecting seasonal NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations. These findings suggest that there may be some climate-independent NH<sub>3</sub> sources present in the Shanghai urban area. Independent of season, the concentrations of both NH<sub>3</sub> and CO present a marked bimodal diurnal profile, with maxima in the morning and the evening. A spatial analysis suggests that elevated concentrations of NH<sub>3</sub> are often associated with transport from regions west-northwest and east-southeast of the city, areas with dense road systems. The spatial origin of NH<sub>3</sub> and the diurnal concentration profile together suggest the importance of vehicle-derived NH<sub>3</sub> associated with daily commuting in the urban environment. To further examine vehicular NH<sub>3</sub> emissions and transport, sampling of the NH<sub>3</sub> concentration was performed in (from the entrance to the exit of the tunnel) and out (along a roadside transect spanning 310 m perpendicular to the tunnel) of a heavily trafficked urban tunnel during the spring 2014. NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations in the tunnel exit were over 5 and 11 times higher than those in the tunnel entrance and in the ambient air, respectively. Based on the derived mileage-based NH<sub>3</sub> emission factor of 28 mg km<sup>-1</sup>, a population of 3.04 million vehicles in Shanghai produced around 1300 t NH<sub>3</sub> in 2014, which accounts for 12% of total NH<sub>3</sub> emissions in the urban area. Collectively, our results clearly show that vehicle emissions associated with combustion are an important NH<sub>3</sub> source in Shanghai urban areas and may have potential implications for PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollution in the urban atmosphere.

## 1 Introduction

- 62 Ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) is one of the most abundant nitrogen-containing substances and the principal reduced nitrogen component in the atmosphere. It plays a strong role in local and regional 63 64 scale tropospheric chemistry and air quality by serving as a precursor to particulate ammonium (pNH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>) (Seinfeld and Pandis, 2012). Although major efforts have been made 65 66 towards regulating NO<sub>x</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub> emissions to improve air quality in China (Wang et al., 2014; Zhao et al., 2013), a major portion of the nation's population presently lives in environments 67 68 of non-compliance with national standards for fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>, representing particles with aerodynamic diameters smaller than 2.5 microns) (Huang et al., 2014; Lin et al., 69 70 2010; Ma et al., 2014; Ma et al., 2015). NH<sub>3</sub> emission reduction has been proposed as a cost-71 effective strategy to lower ambient PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels (Heald et al., 2012; Pinder et al., 2007; Wang 72 et al., 2011; Wang et al., 2013; Ye et al., 2011). However, the emission sources of NH<sub>3</sub> and 73 their relative contributions to ambient concentrations, especially in urban atmospheres, remain 74 uncertain (Chang, 2014; Felix et al., 2014; Yao et al., 2013).
- 75 Emission sources of NH<sub>3</sub> have been previously reviewed (e.g., Asman et al., 1998; Reis et al., 2009; Sutton et al., 2008). Major sources include volatilization of N-containing fertilizers and 76 77 excreta from animal husbandry, which together contribute over 80% of total global NH<sub>3</sub> emissions (Bouwman et al., 1997; Clarisse et al., 2009; Olivier et al., 1998; Schlesinger and 78 79 Hartley, 1992). Thus it is not surprising that previous investigations of NH<sub>3</sub> emissions were mainly performed adjacent to dairy operations (Mount et al., 2002), animal housing (Gay et 80 81 al., 2003), livestock facilities (Kawashima and Yonemura, 2001), slurry lagoons (Aneja et al., 2000), pit latrines (Rodhe et al., 2004), and croplands (Yan et al., 2003), where elevated levels 82 83 of NH<sub>3</sub> are often observed. Varying significantly in time and space, biomass burning (including agricultural waste, savanna and forest fires) may contribute up to 12% of the global 84 85 NH<sub>3</sub> emissions flux (Behera et al., 2013; Lamarque et al., 2010). Despite the focus on ammonia sources mainly from agricultural and rural environments, a number of studies reveal 86 87 that ambient NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations in urban areas can be comparable to (Cao et al., 2009; 88 Stanier et al., 2012) or even higher than (Bettez et al., 2013; Meng et al., 2011; Singh and 89 Kulshrestha, 2014) those in rural areas. These observations strongly suggest that there must 90 be other non-agricultural NH<sub>3</sub> sources present in urban areas.
- Starting in the 1980s, the introduction of three-way catalytic converters (TWCs) on automobiles dramatically mitigated pollutant emissions from vehicle tailpipes (Shelef and

McCabe, 2000). An unwanted side effect of the use of TWCs for gasoline powered vehicles and selective catalytic reduction (SCR) for control of nitrogen oxides emissions from diesel powered vehicles, has been an increase in NH<sub>3</sub> emissions from motor vehicles, a significant source of non-agricultural NH<sub>3</sub> that has been documented directly through laboratory dynamometer studies (Durbin et al., 2002; Heeb et al., 2008; Heeb et al., 2006; Huai et al., 2005; Livingston et al., 2009; Suarez-Bertoa et al., 2014; Suarez-Bertoa et al., 2015) and onroad measurements (including mobile chase systems and tunnel tests) (Brito et al., 2013; Fraser and Cass, 1998; Kean et al., 2009; Liu et al., 2014; Moeckli et al., 1996; Pierson and Brachaczek, 1983; Pierson et al., 1996; Sun et al., 2014), or indirectly through correlation analysis between ambient NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations and other recognized traffic tracers (e.g., CO, NO<sub>x</sub>) (Bishop and Stedman, 2015; Gong et al., 2011; Gong et al., 2013; Ianniello et al., 2010; Nowak et al., 2010; Pandolfi et al., 2012; Phan et al., 2013; Reche et al., 2012). In the U.S., it is estimated that 5% of the national NH<sub>3</sub> emissions are due to motor vehicles (Kean et al., 2009), while this figure is estimated at 12% for the UK (Sutton et al., 2000), with almost all the remaining NH<sub>3</sub> coming from agricultural processes. At a regional level, motor vehicle emissions make a small contribution to the total. Nevertheless, they are locally concentrated in urban areas where agricultural sources of NH<sub>3</sub> are mostly absent. Therefore, a disproportionately greater impact of motor vehicles on the urban NH<sub>3</sub> budget and subsequent secondary PM<sub>2.5</sub> formation can be expected (Chang, 2014). On the other hand, we notice that several important studies did not detect evidence of an influence of on-road traffic on ambient NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations (Pryor et al., 2004; Saylor et al., 2010; Yao et al., 2013). Therefore, more efforts needed to be made to elucidate the contribution of vehicle-emitted NH3 to the urban atmosphere.

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Shanghai, like many other cities in eastern China, is suffering severe air pollution problems, such as high PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations and resulting poor visibility (Huang et al., 2013b; Huang et al., 2012). Although there are many studies aimed at understanding PM pollution, little is known about the characteristics of NH<sub>3</sub> in the largest city of China. In an effort to curb its severe air pollution, China recently launched an air pollution monitoring research program (known as the supersite program) in several major cities. In 2014, a new in situ atmospheric station equipped with state-of-the-art instruments was installed in the Shanghai region, allowing comprehensive characterization of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and associated precursor gases. Here seasonal trends, diurnal variations and pollution episodes retrieved from one year of real-time

measurement of NH<sub>3</sub> are presented and interpreted in order to explore the sources and parameters controlling the NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations across Shanghai. Meanwhile, an additional source-specific campaign was performed to examine the emission and transport of vehicleemitted NH<sub>3</sub> from an urban heavily trafficked tunnel in Shanghai.

#### 2 Methods

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## 2.1 Long-term monitoring at Pudong supersite

131 In situ continuous observations of the chemical and optical properties of atmospheric aerosols 132 and associated precursor gases were made on the rooftop (18 m above ground level) of the 133 Pudong Environmental Monitoring Center (PEMC; 121.5446 E, 31.2331 N), 5 km east of the 134 Shanghai urban center (the People's Square) (Figure 1). The site is located in a mixed-use 135 urban area (office, commercial, residential and traffic) east of downtown Shanghai, with no obvious NH<sub>3</sub> point source within 5 km (Zou et al., 2015). As one of the state-controlled sites, 136 137 Pudong (PD) supersite was designed by the Ministry of Environemtal Protection of China and 138 operated by the Shanghai Environmental Monitoring Center, being responsible for the release 139 of hourly air quality data for PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and other criteria pollutants (CO, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> and O<sub>3</sub>). 140 From 3 April 2014 to 2 April 2015, using a MARGA instrument (Measurement of Aerosols 141 and Reactive Gases Analyzer, Metrohm Applikon B.V., NL), water-soluble gases (NH<sub>3</sub>, HNO<sub>3</sub>, HONO, HCl and SO<sub>2</sub>) and PM<sub>2.5</sub> components (NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, Cl<sup>-</sup>, SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>, Na<sup>+</sup>, NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, Mg<sup>2+</sup> 142 and Ca2+) were measured with hourly temporal resolution. The MARGA removes soluble 143 144 gases in a rotating, wet-walled denuder, while a steam-jet aerosol collector is used for fine particle collection. Meanwhile, aerosol light absorption coefficients ( $b_{abs}$ ) were retrieved 145 146 every 5 min from an AE31 Aethalometer using seven wavelengths (370, 470, 520, 590, 660, 880 and 950 nm) with a PM<sub>2.5</sub> cut-off inlet. Black carbon (BC) concentrations for the whole 147 148 data set were calculated from the absorption coefficient at 880 nm. The measurement process 149 was subjected to rigorous quality assurance and quality control procedures according to the 150 Technical Guideline of Automatic Stations of Ambient Air Quality in Shanghai based on the 151 national specification HJ/T193-2005. Meteorological parameters including temperature, 152 relative humidity, and rainfall were monitored by an automatic meteorological station (Met 153 One Instruments, US), which was co-located at the rooftop of the PD supersite.

To explore the comparability between on-line and off-line methods for NH<sub>3</sub> measurement, an Ogawa passive sampling device (PSD) was co-located with MARGA at PD to passively measure weekly ambient NH<sub>3</sub> concentration from May 2014 to June 2015. The Ogawa PSD is a double-sided passive sampler equipped with two 14 mm quartz filters (serving as duplicates) impregnated with phosphoric acid provided by the manufacturer. Following the manufacturer's protocols (http://www.ogawausa.com), exposed filter samples were soaked with 8 ml ultra-pure water (18.2 M $\Omega$ .cm) and analyzed by an ion chromatography system (883 Basic IC plus, Metrohm Co., Switzerland). The detection limit for NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> in the passive sampler extracts was 2.8  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup>; this corresponds to an ambient NH<sub>3</sub> concentration detection limit of approximately 0.1 ppb for a 7-day sample. The NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations measured by the MARGA (ppb) were averaged over the same time period as the Ogawa PSDs (ppb). SI Figure S1 shows a good correlation (y=0.82x+0.56, n=53, R<sup>2</sup>=0.84, p<0.001) between the two NH<sub>3</sub> measurement methods, validating the reliability of NH<sub>3</sub> data from the MARGA platform.

## 2.2 On-road measurement of NH<sub>3</sub> concentration in and out of a tunnel

To complement the information obtained from the main monitoring campaign described above, additional measurements of NH<sub>3</sub> concentration were performed at eight sites in and out the Handan tunnel from April 9 to May 21, 2014. The Handan tunnel is a 720 m long urban freeway in the northeast of Shanghai, separating the campus of Fudan University into two parts (Figure 9a). It contains an array of ventilation orifices in the middle section of the tunnel, 200 m in total. The tunnel has two traffic bores; each bore has a cross section of 70 m<sup>2</sup> and four lanes with typically 120000 vehicles (of which 85% of are light-duty vehicles) passing per day (Li, 2007). Driven by a group of high power fans, the average wind speed measured at the exit of the tunnel was approximately  $5\pm 1$  m s<sup>-1</sup>. The maximum vehicle speed limit in the tunnel is 80 km h<sup>-1</sup>, with typical driving speeds of 50-60 km h<sup>-1</sup>. Inside the northern bore of the tunnel, four sampling points were located at both ends of the tunnel (10 m from the exit and entrance of the tunnel, or T-d and T-a, for short) and the two ends of an array of ventilation orifices located in the middle section of the tunnel (Figure 9a; the site near the entrance and the exit named as T-b, and T-c for short, respectively). Outside the tunnel, a roadside transect involving four sites perpendicular to the tunnel was established, spanning the distance from 0 m ( $O_{0m}$ , for short), 20 m ( $O_{20m}$ ), 150 m ( $O_{150m}$ ), to 310 m ( $O_{310m}$ ). Figure 9a shows the layout of the tunnel and the sampling points.

Using US EPA Method 207.1 (Determination of Ammonia Emissions from Stationary Sources), the NH<sub>3</sub> concentration at each site was measured. Briefly, for each sample, ambient air was pumped through two fritted glass bubblers (containing 10 ml 0.005 mol L<sup>-1</sup> H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> absorbing solution in each bubbler) for two hours at a flow rate of 1 L min<sup>-1</sup>. These two bubblers were connected in series, and the NH<sub>3</sub> collection efficiency of the sampling trains was 95% or better (checked by using four bubblers in series in our pilot study, the collection efficiency=100\*(the sum of the values of the first two bubblers)/the sum of the values of the four bubblers). Measurements were made during the morning (between 08:00 and 11:00 local time) and afternoon (between 14:00 and 19:00). Due to the proximity of the monitoring sites to the laboratory, all samples could be collected and analyzed by IC swiftly to avoid potential contamination, and field blanks were below the detection limit. Due to the dangers to personnel of sampling at the T-a, T-b and T-c sites, six samples were collected synchronously at these three sites. 19 paired samples were successfully collected and determined at the site of T-d, O<sub>0m</sub>, O<sub>20m</sub>, O<sub>150m</sub> and O<sub>310m</sub>.

## 2.3 Planetary boundary layer height simulation

The Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) model v3.5.1 (Skamarock et al., 2008) is used for simulating the height of planetary boundary layer. The WRF simulation was performed from a mother domain with a 45 × 45 km horizontal resolution over Asia, and nested down to a second domain of 15 × 15 km covering Eastern China, Korea and Japan, and further nested down to a third domain of 5 × 5 km covering the Yangtze Delta River region. Lambert conformal conic projection was used with true latitude limits of 4° and 44° and standing longitude of 115°. The coverage of three domains is shown in Supplement Fig. S4. We chose the RRTM longwave radiation scheme and the Dudhia shortwave radiation scheme. The Yonsei University scheme was used for the planetary boundary layer option. The WRF model configurations can be found elsewhere (Huang et al., 2013a). The National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) Final (FNL) Operational Global Analysis dataset (http://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds083.2/) with a horizontal resolution of a resolution of 1.0  $\times$  1.0  $^{\circ}$ are incorporated as initial and boundary conditions for the model. An one-way nested approach with four-dimensional data assimilation (FDDA) in WRF is applied. We have performed model evaluations of major meteorological parameters against the NCDC surface meteorological network (National Climate Data Center, http://www7.ncdc.noaa.gov/CDO/cdo) within the YRD region (red dots marked in Supplement Fig. S4). The evaluation results of

surface wind speed, temperature, and humidity are show in Supplement Table S2. It could be seen that these meteorological parameters are within the benchmarks during most of the months, suggesting our WRF modeling results are reliable. A Meteorology/Chemistry Interface Processor (MCIP) (Otte and Pleim, 2010) v4.1 is used to post-process the WRF results by outputting the atmospheric height of the planetary boundary layer field, one of the standard MCIP outputs. The simulation period is consistent with the observation, i.e. from April, 2014 to April, 2015. In this study, PBLH derived from the third domain is used. Additionally, the planetary boundary layer depths at 3-hour resolution were obtained from the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) READY archived Global Data Assimilation System (GDAS) meteorological data (1° × 1°) based on Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). All UTC values are converted to local time (UTC + 8).

#### 2.4 Potential source contribution analysis

24 h back trajectories arriving at the PD supersite at a height of 500 m were calculated at 1 h time intervals for each of the four seasons using NOAA Hybrid Single-Particle Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory (HYSPLIT) model with GDAS one degree archive meteorological data (Draxler and Rolph, 2015). An in-depth back trajectory analysis, the potential source contribution function (PSCF), is useful for identifying the possible geographic origin of emission sources; this method calculates the ratio of the number of points with concentration higher than a threshold value ( $m_{ij}$ ) to the total number of points ( $n_{ij}$ ) in the ijth grid cell. Higher PSCF values indicate higher potential source contributions to the receptor site. In this study, the domain for the PSCF was set within the range of (26-42  $\Re$ , 112.5-125.5  $\Re$ ) in 0.1 °×0.1 ° grid cells. The 75th percentile for CO and NH<sub>3</sub> during the four seasons was used as the threshold value  $m_{ij}$ . To reduce the uncertainties of  $m_{ij}/n_{ij}$  for those grid cells with a limited number of points, a weighting function recommended by (Polissar et al., 2001) was applied to the PSCF in each season. Visualizations of the PSCF were mapped using ArcMap 10.2.

## 3 Results and discussion

## 3.1 Temporal evolution of NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations

The temporal patterns of hourly gaseous NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations determined by the MARGA at the Pudong supersite are reported in Figure 2. Summary statistics for NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations (μg m<sup>-3</sup>) during April 3, 2014-April 2, 2015 are shown in Table 1. Using a variety of chemical, physical and optical techniques, numerous studies have examined ambient NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations over the last three decades; however, few of them were conducted in urban areas. As a comparison, we compiled previous work related to the measurement of urban NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations in Table 2.

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The one year dataset (n=8441; data availability 96.4%) in the current study represents one of the longest on-line continuous measurement series of atmospheric NH<sub>3</sub> in China. During the study period, the NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations varied between 0.1 and 39.2 µg m<sup>-3</sup>, with an average  $(\pm 1\sigma)$  of 5.5  $\pm 3.9$  µg m<sup>-3</sup>. Domestically, the annual average NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations in Beijing and Xi'an were much higher than in Shanghai (see Table 2). This might be expected since Beijing and Xi'an are located in the North China Plain (NCP) and the Guanzhong Plain (GZP), respectively. The NCP and GZP are two of the most intensive agricultural production regions in China. Moreover, the NH<sub>3</sub> loss from soil increases with an increase in soil pH value (Ju et al., 2009). Shanghai and its surrounding regions are dominated by the acid soils of paddy fields (Figure 1) (Zhao et al., 2009), while Beijing and Xi'an are dominated by the alkaline soils of dry land (Wei et al., 2013). Internationally, the NH<sub>3</sub> concencentration level in Shanghai was similar to observations from cities in developed and middle-income countries, but much lower than those cities in emerging countries. This is particularly true when comparing with cities in South Asia (e.g., Delhi in India and Lahore in Pakistan), where there is a lack of basic sanitation facilities (e.g., public flush toilets) and significant animal populations (such as cow) coexist with people in urban areas. The higher NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations measured at surface sites in South Asia are consistent with spatial patterns from recent satellite remote sensing observations (Clarisse et al., 2009; Van Damme et al., 2014).

The variations of NH<sub>3</sub> in spring and summer were generally consistent with fluctuations of temperature (Figure 2a). In winter, their correlations turned to be much weaker (Fig. 4a). While in autumn, no significant correlation between temperature and NH<sub>3</sub> was observed (Fig. 4a). Monthly, from March to September, the NH<sub>3</sub> concentration first increased steadily, with the highest value in July, then decreased gradually, along with falling temperature (Figure 2c). In summer (June to August), high temperatures favor NH<sub>3</sub> volatilization from urea and other N fertilizers applied to croplands (Fu et al., 2013; Huang et al., 2011; Ianniello et al., 2010; Meng et al., 2011). High temperatures in summer also favor NH<sub>3</sub> emission from other sources, such as animal housing, landfills, laystalls and pit latrines, animal manure, natural and fertilized soils, vegetation, and municipal solid waste (Fu et al., 2013; Huang et al., 2011).

Moreover, given that the equilibrium between ammonium nitrate particles and gaseous ammonia and nitric acid favors the gas phase compounds at higher temperature, warmer summer conditions promote dissociation of ammonium nitrate particles, shifting the ammonium/ammonia partitioning toward the gas phase (Behera et al., 2013). In this study, the average NH<sub>3</sub> concentration in summer (7.3±4.9 μg m<sup>-3</sup>; n=2181) was 2.4 μg m<sup>-3</sup> or 41% higher than the average of other seasons. The gap between summer and winter in Shanghai was similar to New York, but generally much lower than many other cities. Taking Beijing for example, according to Ianniello et al. (2010), the NH<sub>3</sub> concentration in summer was 460% higher than in winter; this figure was 320% in Xi'an between 2006 and 2007 (Cao et al., 2009). Smaller seasonal temperature differences and less agricultural activity in Shanghai could be the contributing factors.

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Based on the "bottom-up" methodologies, previous emission inventories indicate that livestock feeding and N-fertilizer application contribute around 50% (48%-54.9%) and 35% (33.4%-40%) of the total NH<sub>3</sub> emissions in the Yangtze River delta region (YRD for short, including Shanghai as well as 24 cities in the provinces of Jiangsu and Zhejiang), respectively (Fu et al., 2013; Huang et al., 2011; Huang et al., 2012). Agricultural production is also the dominant source of NH<sub>3</sub> emissions in most other regions worldwide (Bouwman et al., 1997; Olivier et al., 1998; Reis et al., 2009). However, performed at an urban level, many studies in Table 2 concluded that the concentrations and evolution of ambient NH<sub>3</sub> in urban areas were influenced by traffic emissions. As one of the world's largest megacities, Shanghai might expect contributions of vehicle-emitted NH<sub>3</sub> as well. NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations in the atmosphere, however, are also sensitive to other important factors such as changes in temperature, wind speed or direction, and boundary layer depth; other influential factors might include local or regional NH<sub>3</sub> emissions, dry and wet deposition, and gas-to-particle partitioning. The relative importance of such factors in controlling ambient NH<sub>3</sub> concentration may vary seasonally. For example, the highest and lowest daily NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations in Shanghai were observed on 10-11 July 2014 (23.4 $\pm$ 6.7 µg m<sup>-3</sup>) and 10-11 March 2015 (0.5 $\pm$ 0.4 µg m<sup>-3</sup>), respectively. For the two periods, there was no significant difference between them in terms of wind speed and planetary boundary layer height (the relative humidity data in March period was missed). Although 19.6 mm of rainfall in the July period would be expected to lower NH<sub>3</sub> levels, the temperature on this high concentration date (28.4 °C) was much higher than on the low concentration March date (4.7°C). Over a longer time frame, even though rainfall in summer was around twice the amount of rainfall in other seasons, other factors such as greater NH<sub>3</sub> emissions at higher temperature outweigh the wet scavenging effects of rainfall yielding higher summertime NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations. High NH<sub>3</sub> concentration episodes during burning of agricultural wheat residues, indicated by a strong and synchronous rise of trace aerosols from biomass burning (e.g., K<sup>+</sup> and BC), were also evident in late spring (Figure 2b). The evolution of this pollution episode induced by biomass burning and its influence of on the air quality of Shanghai has been examined in our recent paper (Zou et al., 2015).

## 3.2 Effects of meteorological parameters

- In the following, we will examine the (synergistic) effects of various meteorological parameters on measured NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations in Shanghai, because these factors may mask the effect of vehicular emissions on the measured NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations. Summary statistics for meteorological parameters during April 3, 2014-April 2, 2015 are shown in Table 3.
- Planetary boundary layer (PBL) height plays a vital role in determining the vertical dispersion of air pollutants that are emitted from the Earth surface. Decreasing height of PBL can normally hold the pollutants within the shallow surface layer so as to suppress the vertical atmospheric dilution. In many previous studies, as described above, the NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations in winter were much lower than those in summer. However, the NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations observed here in Shanghai during winter are relatively high. One may argue that weaker vertical mixing and shallow PBL layers in winter could trap NH<sub>3</sub> and contribute to elevated concentrations. In Figure 3a, although the simulated average PBL height in winter is the lowest during our study period, there is no significant difference among different seasons. In Figure 3b, the average PBL height in winter is even higher than that in spring and summer. Therefore, a relatively high NH<sub>3</sub> concentration in winter at PD cannot be fully explained by the strength of vertical mixing or PBL height in this study.
- Figure 4a suggests that temperature (T) is an important driver of the increase of NH<sub>3</sub> concentration in spring. No clear relationship is seen for other seasons. As the transitional period between winter and summer, springtime in Shanghai has the highest standard deviation of temperature during our study period (Table 3). Additionally, spring is known as the sowing season in South China, with the greatest application of N-containing fertilizers (mainly in the form of urea) of the year. Warming temperature tends to increase the rate of urea hydrolysis and ammonium conversion to NH<sub>3</sub>, and therefore volatilization. For example, an increase in

temperature from 7.2  $^{\circ}$ C to 15.6  $^{\circ}$ C can double volatilization loss when moisture content is kept the same (Ernst and Massey, 1960). For relative humidity (RH), there is no clear evidence to suggest RH as an important factor controlling the dynamics of NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations in any of the seasons (Figure 4b). Figure S2 shows the RH and T dependent distributions of NH<sub>3</sub> concentration for each season. Given the generally poor relationship between the NH<sub>3</sub> concentration and T and RH as discussed above, NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations have no clear dependence on T and RH seasonally.

In Figures 5a and b the distribution of hourly average wind speeds was calculated for values between 0 m s<sup>-1</sup> and 4.0 m s<sup>-1</sup> (99.5% of occurrence). Figure 5a shows that there is a highly significant relationship between WS and NH<sub>3</sub> concentration ( $R^2$ =0.91, p<0.001). The highest average NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations were measured under the lowest wind speeds and the lowest concentrations were measured at the highest wind speeds. There is no clear relationship between wind frequency (the number of wind occurrence) and average NH<sub>3</sub> concentration or WS during the study period (Figure 5c). Figure S3 shows WS/WD dependence of NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations in different seasons. The distribution of NH<sub>3</sub> concentration showed an obvious concentration gradient as a function of WS. Seasonally, there are different preferential wind directions for the highest NH<sub>3</sub> concentration values. Generally, an overwhelming higher T in summer tends to greatly enhance the contribution of temperature-dependent emissions to the urban NH<sub>3</sub> budget from agricultural areas. And the nearby rural areas around Pudong supersite are in the direction of Southeast (Nanhui) and Northeast (Chongming) (Figure 6d). However, it is unexpected that in Shanghai, almost all high NH<sub>3</sub> concentration values in summer are concentrated in the direction of South-Southwest-West (SI Figure S3b), which strongly indicates that the urban area is one of the most important NH<sub>3</sub> emission regions in Shanghai.

Figures 6a and 6b show the RH and T dependent distributions of NH<sub>3</sub> and WS for the entire study period, respectively. Although the distribution of higher NH<sub>3</sub> favors the condition of high T (>25 °C), low RH (<60%) and low WS (<1.2 m s<sup>-1</sup>), Figure 6a shows that there is no obvious concentration gradient as a function of RH and T (Note that in SI Figure S2d, higher NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations in winter tend to occur at higher T for a given RH range of 60% to 80%). This can be explained by the dominance of low WS (often lower than 1.2 m s<sup>-1</sup>) during east-southeast and west-northwest wind directions associated with intense local sources for NH<sub>3</sub>

within the city (Figure 6c). In brief, our results suggest that there are some temperatureindependent and important NH<sub>3</sub> sources in the urban area of Shanghai.

## 3.3 NH<sub>3</sub> diurnal profiles and insight into sources

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Hourly observations over long-term periods offer a unique opportunity to provide robust diurnal profiles for each season. Figure 7 shows the average diurnal profiles of NH<sub>3</sub> and CO concentrations across seasons. Historically, CO emissions in Shanghai and its surrounding YRD region mainly came from iron and steel manufacturing and on-road vehicles, which contributed 34% and 30% of the total, respectively in 2007 (Huang et al., 2011). Due to changing economic activity, emission sources of air pollutants in China are changing rapidly. For example, over the past several years, China has implemented a portfolio of plans to phase out its old-fashioned and small steel mills, and raise standards for industrial pollutant emissions (Chang et al., 2012). In contrast, China continuously experienced double digit growth in terms of auto sales during the same period, and became the world's largest automobile market since 2009 (Chang, 2014). Consequently, on-road traffic has overtaken industrial sources as the dominant source of CO emissions in Eastern China (Zhao et al., 2012). In Figure 7, CO shows a well-marked bimodal diurnal profile, with maxima in the morning (starting at 05:00 local time) and the evening (starting at 16:00), consistent with the variation of traffic flow in Shanghai (Liu et al., 2012). Therefore, CO variation can be utilized as a robust indicator of vehicle emissions. NH3 also displays a clear bimodal profile during all four seasons, similar to the CO diurnal profile, suggesting a significant influence of on-road traffic (with daily commuting) on ambient NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations in the urban environment of Shanghai. We also notice that pools of surface water (i.e. dew or fog), which form on nights that have a high RH, can act as NH<sub>x</sub> reservoirs that release NH<sub>3</sub> upon evaporation in the midmorning, particularly in spring seasons.

Interestingly however, NH<sub>3</sub> shows different degrees of positive relationship with CO as a function of season (Figure 8b). Specifically, during summertime, NH<sub>3</sub> displays a significant relationship with CO ( $R^2$ =0.48, p<0.001), while this positive relationship is not observed during the winter season, when heavy traffic volume also occurs. As discussed above, the seasonal variation of NH<sub>3</sub> concentration in Shanghai during our study period was quite flat. The seasonal average CO concentrations at PD were 0.71, 0.61, 0.58, and 1.1 ppmv in spring, summer, autumn, and winter, respectively. And the CO level in wintertime was higher than

other seasons. Moreover, Figure 8c suggests that for all seasons, the source region of NH<sub>3</sub> in Shanghai is local-dominated. However, the atmospheric lifetime of CO is much longer than that of NH<sub>3</sub> (typically several hours depending on meteorology) (Asman et al., 1998). PSCF analysis for CO in winter suggests important contributions from north of Shanghai (Figure 8a), a region that does not appear as important as a NH<sub>3</sub> source (Figure 8c). Consequently, elevated regional background levels of CO from long-range transport appear to yield a poorer relationship between NH<sub>3</sub> and CO in wintertime (Figure 8b).

## 3.4 The emission and transport of vehicle-sourced NH<sub>3</sub>

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SI Table S1 summarizes statistics of the NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations (µg m<sup>-3</sup>) measured at each sampling point in and out of the Handan tunnel, which have been also been visualized in Figure 9b. As expected, the highest average NH<sub>3</sub> concentration occurred at the exit of the tunnel (T-d). Although NH<sub>3</sub> concentration varied temporally, throughout the two months of observations, a large spatial gradient in NH<sub>3</sub> concentration at near-road sites was present in every sampling event, suggesting that an intensive NH<sub>3</sub> source from on-road traffic (not meteorological parameters) is the leading factor in governing the variation of ambient NH<sub>3</sub> concentration in a road-side environment. The NH3 concentrations in the tunnel were increased with distance from the entrance of the tunnel (T-a). The NH<sub>3</sub> concentration at T-d  $(64.9\pm11.5 \mu g \text{ m}^{-3})$  was over 5 times that at T-a  $(12.6\pm3.3 \mu g \text{ m}^{-3})$ . Moreover, the lowest NH<sub>3</sub> concentration value obtained at T-d (47.0 µg m<sup>-3</sup>) was still nearly 10 µg m<sup>-3</sup> or 20% higher than the highest value of other sites (SI Table S1). These observations provide compelling evidence that on-road traffic is an important emission source of NH<sub>3</sub> in the urban atmosphere. Given that there is a significant loss of vehicle exhaust from the tunnel through an array of ventilation orifices in the middle section of the tunnel, the NH<sub>3</sub> concentration at T-b (29.2±6.6 ug m<sup>-3</sup>) was close to that at T-c (31.5±5.9 µg m<sup>-3</sup>). If we taking into account of the **P**hysical Distance (PD; 300 m) and the NH<sub>3</sub> Concentration Gap (CG; 33.4±11.5 µg m<sup>-3</sup>) between T-c and T-d, the Cross Section of tunnel bore (CS; 70 m<sup>3</sup>), the average Wind Speed (WS; 5 m s<sup>-1</sup>) and Traffic Flow (TF; 120000 vehicles day<sup>-1</sup>), we can obtain an approximate mileage-based NH<sub>3</sub> Emission Factor (EF) of 28±5 mg km<sup>-1</sup> for a single vehicle using the following equation:

$$EF = \frac{CG \times CS \times WS \times 86400}{TF \times PD} \qquad (1)$$

where 86400 is the number of seconds in a day. This NH<sub>3</sub> emission factor was similar to that observed for the Gurbrist tunnel in Switzerland (31 ±4 mg km<sup>-1</sup>) (Emmenegger et al., 2004) and the Caldecott tunnel in California (49±3 mg km<sup>-1</sup>) (Kean et al., 2000), while much lower than that recently measured in Guangzhou, China (230±14 mg km<sup>-1</sup>) (Liu et al., 2014). Based on the emission factor we developed, a population of 3.04 million vehicles (average mileage of 15000 km yr<sup>-1</sup>) in Shanghai would produce around 1300 t NH<sub>3</sub> in 2014. This is very close to the "bottom-up" emission inventory in Shanghai for 2010 (1581.1 t) (Chang, 2014). Previous emission inventories in Shanghai (e.g., Huang et al. (2011) and Fu et al. (2012)) made a significant underestimation of the NH<sub>3</sub> emissions from city areas. When compared with the NH<sub>3</sub> emissions from city area, the contribution of on-road traffic can reach 12% of the total NH<sub>3</sub> emissions in Shanghai city areas (10742 t) (Chang, 2014). Moreover, model results have shown that over half of agricultural NH3 emissions would be deposited downwind of its source within 10 km depending on local meteorological conditions (Asman et al., 1998). Therefore, the relative contribution of NH<sub>3</sub> emissions from on-road traffic to urban PM pollution could be higher than the share of its mass contribution. Given that precisely estimating the EF of NH<sub>3</sub> from on-road traffic is beyond the scope of this paper, more research is needed to pinpoint this parameter in order to accurately quantify the amount of NH<sub>3</sub> emissions from vehicles.

From the tunnel exit to the open environment, the average NH<sub>3</sub> concentration at T-d  $(64.9\pm11.5~\mu g~m^{-3})$  was 11 times more than that at  $O_{310m}$   $(5.6\pm2.5~\mu g~m^{-3})$ , and a general negative relationship was found between distance and ambient NH<sub>3</sub> concentration. Over the total measured distance, the maximum percent decrease was observed between the sites of T-d and  $O_{0m}$  (50 m apart), indicating a rapid dispersion of vehicle-emitted NH<sub>3</sub> from the road tunnel. Still, Figure 9c clearly shows that 64% (48%) of the NH<sub>3</sub> concentration we observed at the site of  $O_{0m}$  ( $O_{20m}$ ) can be explained by the simultaneous measurements of NH<sub>3</sub> concentration at T-d. No significant decrease in the gradients of NH<sub>3</sub> concentration was observed between the sites of  $O_{150m}$  ( $5.9\pm2.5~\mu g~m^{-3}$ ; n=6) and  $O_{310m}$  ( $5.6\pm2.5~\mu g~m^{-3}$ ; n=6), suggesting that the strongest impact of NH<sub>3</sub> emission and transport from local traffic flow on ambient NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations in the Shanghai urban area lies within 150 m distance.

### 4 Conclusions and outlook

- 463 This study linked a long-term and near real-time measurement of NH<sub>3</sub> at one of China's
- 464 flagship supersites with a vehicle source-specific campaign performed in and out of a major
- freeway tunnel in Shanghai. The conclusions are shown as below:
- The average NH<sub>3</sub> concentration (mean±1σ) between April, 2014 and April, 2015 was
- 467 5.5±3.9 μg m<sup>-3</sup>. Seasonal NH<sub>3</sub> concentration levels varied in the following sequence:
- 468 summer  $(7.3\pm4.9 \ \mu g \ m^{-3}) > \text{spring } (5.1\pm3.8 \ \mu g \ m^{-3}) \approx \text{winter } (5.0\pm3.4 \ \mu g \ m^{-3}) > \text{fall}$
- 469  $(4.5 \pm 2.3 \,\mu\text{g m}^{-3}).$

- 470 During spring, ambient NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations appeared to be influenced to some extent by
- 471 temperature-dependent emissions, likely from agricultural activities including crop
- fertilization. No such relationship was apparent during other seasons. Measured NH<sub>3</sub>
- 473 concentrations were highly dependent on wind speed, while mixing height of planetary
- boundary layer and relative humidity were not the main factors influencing seasonal NH<sub>3</sub>
- 475 concentrations.
- The diurnal profile of NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations showed a typical bimodal cycle during four
- seasons, with maxima in the morning and the evening rush hours, suggesting a persistent
- influence of on-road traffic (with daily commuting) on ambient NH<sub>3</sub> levels in Shanghai.
- The NH<sub>3</sub> concentration in the exit of the Handan tunnel (64.9 ±11.5  $\mu$ g m<sup>-3</sup>) was over 5 and
- 480 11 times higher than that in the tunnel entrance  $(12.6\pm3.3 \text{ µg m}^{-3})$  and the ambient air
- 481 (5.6 $\pm$ 2.5 µg m<sup>-3</sup>), respectively, providing further compelling evidence that on-road traffic
- is an important NH<sub>3</sub> source. 1300 t vehicle-emitted NH<sub>3</sub> in 2014 was calculated based on a
- mileage-based NH<sub>3</sub> emission factor of 28±5 mg km<sup>-1</sup> we developed.
- A negative relationship was found between the distance and ambient NH<sub>3</sub> concentration in
- our near-road gradient experiment. Up to 64% of ambient NH<sub>3</sub> concentration out of the
- tunnel can be explained by the vehicle-emitted NH<sub>3</sub> from the tunnel.
- 487 Unlike NH<sub>3</sub> emissions in agricultural areas, the NH<sub>3</sub> emissions in urban areas originate from a
- variety of stationary sources (industrial coal/oil/gas combustion, wastewater, landfill, compost
- and incineration), mobile sources and area sources (e.g., humans, green land, domestic fuel
- 490 combustion). As a start, our study is far from fully elucidating the complex origins of urban

- NH<sub>3</sub> in Shanghai. Vehicle-emitted NH<sub>3</sub>, while important, is likely not the only major source of NH<sub>3</sub>. Additional useful investigative steps could include:
- Using isotopes as a source apportionment tool. Isotopic techniques have been proven to be useful tools for sources apportionment of gases and PM. Although the δ<sup>15</sup>N values of NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> in rainwater and aerosols have been examined (Xiao et al., 2015; Xiao and Liu, 2002; Xiao et al., 2012), atmospheric NH<sub>3</sub> has received much less attention. According to Felix et al., (2013), NH<sub>3</sub> emitted from volatilized sources has relatively low δ<sup>15</sup>N values, allowing them to be distinctly differentiated from NH<sub>3</sub> emitted from fuel-related sources (e.g., on-road traffic) that are characterized by relatively high δ<sup>15</sup>N values.
- 500 Using chemical transport modeling (CTM) as a cost-effective analysis tool. CTM has the 501 potential to capture the complex atmospheric behavior of NH<sub>3</sub>. Moreover, NH<sub>3</sub> emission 502 reduction targets are represented as constraints in the optimization problem, and have a 503 major influence on overall costs of a cost-effective solution and their distribution across 504 different sources and economic sectors. Through sensitivity analyses of specific emission 505 source or assuming possible emission control scenarios, CTM can contribute to the setting 506 of effective emission reduction strategies to achieve cost-effective improvements in air 507 quality.

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**Table 1.** Summary statistics of the  $NH_3$  concentrations (µg m<sup>-3</sup>) measured in Shanghai during April 3, 2014-April 2, 2015. P10 and P90 represent the  $10^{th}$  and  $90^{th}$  concentration percentile, respectively.

	N	Mean	SD	Minimum	P10	Medium	P90	Maximum
All	8441	5.5	3.9	0.10	2.0	4.6	10.2	39.2
Spring	2198	5.1	3.8	0.10	1.7	4.1	9.6	25.1
Summer	2181	7.3	4.9	0.65	2.6	6.3	12.7	39.2
Autumn	1949	4.5	2.3	0.57	2.3	3.9	7.2	19.7
Winter	2113	5.0	3.4	0.43	1.8	4.3	9.3	30.7

**Table 2**. Ambient NH<sub>3</sub> concentration measurements in the urban atmosphere of China and other countries/regions.

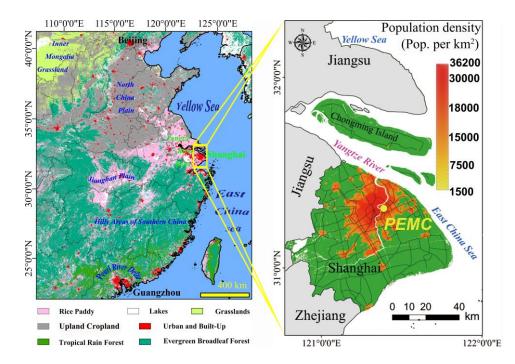
Location	Period	Methodology	Time resolution	Concentration (μg m <sup>-3</sup> )	Reference
East Asia					
Shanghai, CN	2014.4-2015.4	MARGA online monitor	hourly	5.5±3.9	This study
Beijing, CN	2008.2-2010.7	Ogawa passive sampler	weekly	14.2±10.6 (2008), 18.1±13.8 (2009)	Meng et al., 2011
Beijing, CN	2007.1-2, 8	Annular diffusion denuder	daily	5.5 ±3.8 (winter), 25.4 ±6.9 (summer)	Ianniello et al., 2010
Xi'an, CN	2006.4-2007.4	Ogawa passive sampler	weekly	12.9/6.4/20.3 (annual/winter/summer)	Cao et al., 2009
Nanjing, CN	2012.8-9	HRToF-CIMS (a)	1 Hz	1.3±1.8 (industrial area)	Zheng et al., 2015
Nanjing, CN	2013.7-8	Portable NH <sub>3</sub> online detector	hourly	6.7 (near road)	Wang et al., 2015
Guangzhou, CN	2010.11	OP-DOAS (b)	2.5 min	1.6	Wang et al., 2012
Urumqi, CN	2009.9-2010.8	Radiello passive sampler	biweekly	6.5	Li et al., 2013
Hong Kong, CN	2003.10-2006.5	Ogawa passive sampler	weekly	0.7 (rooftop) -7.1 (near road)	Tanner, 2009
Taichung, TW	2002.1-12	Annular diffusion denuder	12 h	8.5±3.0	Lin et al., 2006
Yokohama, JP	1987.1-1991.12	Glass flask sampling	3 h	2.5 ±1.4 (winter), 8.7 ±3.1 (summer)	Yamamoto et al., 1995
Nara, JP	1994.6-1995.5	Annular diffusion denuder	12 h	1.7 (winter), 1.6 (summer)	Matsumoto and Okita, 1998
Seoul, KP	1996.10-1997.9	Annular diffusion denuder	daily;	4.3/0.7/38.6 (annual/winter/summer)	Lee et al., 1999
Seoul, KP	2010.1-12	MARGA online monitor	hourly	6.8 ±3.3 (spring), 11.2 ±3.9 (summer)	Shon et al., 2013
Seoul, KP	2010.9-2011.8	MARGA online monitor	hourly	8.4±3.3	Phan et al., 2013
,	2010.9-2011.8	WAKOA omine monitor	nourry	0.4±3.3	1 Hall et al., 2013
North America					
New York, US	1999.1-2000.6	Annular diffusion denuder	daily	5.0/4.1/6.1 (annual/winter/summer)	Bari et al., 2003
New York, US	2004.1-2	TDLAS (c)	<1 min	0.6 (winter)	Li et al., 2006
Chicago, US	1990.4-1991.3	Annular diffusion denuder	12 h	1.6±1.7	Lee et al., 1993
Pittsburgh, US	1993.7-9	Annular diffusion denuder	daily	3.9 ±4.4 (summer)	McCurdy et al., 1999
Los Angeles, US	1988.5-1994.9	Annular diffusion denuder	12 h	8.3	Blanchard et al., 2000
Sacramento, US	1988.10-1994.9	Annular diffusion denuder	12 h	9.5	Blanchard et al., 2000
Santa Barbara, US	1988.5-1994.9	Annular diffusion denuder	12 h	2.7	Blanchard et al., 2000
Farmington, US	2006.12-2007.12	Ogawa passive sampler	3 week	1.2±0.4	Sather et al., 2008
Clinton, US	2000.1-12	Annular diffusion denuder	12 h	2.6 (winter), 6.2 (summer)	Walker et al., 2004
Kinston, US	2000.1-12	Annular diffusion denuder	12 h	0.5 (winter), 2.7 (summer)	Walker et al., 2004
Morehead, US	2000.1-12	Annular diffusion denuder	12 h	0.3 (winter), 0.7 (summer)	Walker et al., 2004
Houston, US	2010.8	Quantum laser spectrometer	10 min	2.3 ±1.9 (summer)	Gong et al., 2011
Commerce, US	1978.11-12	Custumed passive sampler	two days	2.6 (winter)	Cadle et al., 1982
Vinton, US	1995.5-9	Ogawa passive sampler	biweekly	1.3 ±0.4 (summer)	Leaderer et al., 1999
Mexico city, MX	2006.3	Quantum laser spectrometer	6 min	17.7 ±11.0 (spring)	Fountoukis et al., 2009
Hamilton,CA	1992-1994	Annular diffusion denuder	daily	4.3	Brook et al., 1997
Europe					
Edinburgh, UK	2002.4-5	ALDUA possivo somplor	bimonthly	4.9 (apring)	Cape et al., 2004
Münster, DE		ALPHA passive sampler	•	4.8 (spring)	•
Toulouse, FR	2004.3-7	AMANDA (d)  Nylon filter pack method	10 min	3.9 (spring-summer)	Vogt et al., 2005
,	1985.3-1986, 3	, ,	daily	3.8 (near road) – 19.8 (residential)	Giroux et al., 1997
Rome, IT	2001.5-2002.3	Annular diffusion denuder	30 min	17.2±2.7 (near road)	Perrino et al., 2002
Al-Ain, AE	2005.4-2006.4	Ogawa passive sampler	biweekly	9.7±4.8	Salem et al., 2009
Barcelona, ES	2011.5-9	AiRRmonia online analyzer	1 min	2.2±1.0 (near road), 5.6±2.1 (mixed)	Pandolfi et al., 2012
Barcelona, ES	2010.7, 2011.1	ALPHA passive sampler	biweekly	4.4 (winter), 9.5 (summer)	Reche et al., 2012
Barcelona, ES	2010.7, 2011.1	ALPHA passive sampler	biweekly	4.5 ±2.1 (winter), 9.2 ±6.6 (winter)	Reche et al., 2015
Madrid, ES	2011.3, 2011.7	ALPHA passive sampler	biweekly	2.3 ±1.3 (winter), 2.6 ±1.8 (summer)	Reche et al., 2015
Valencia, ES	2010.6, 2011.2-3	ALPHA passive sampler	biweekly	1.5 ±0.9 (winter), 0.5 ±0.4 (summer)	Reche et al., 2015
Huelva, ES	2010.11, 2011.5-6	ALPHA passive sampler	biweekly	2.8 ±3.8 (winter), 1.2 ±0.9 (summer)	Reche et al., 2015
Aveiro, PT	1988.8-1989.5	Nylon filter pack method	daily	3.5 ±1.9	Pio et al., 1991
South America					
Santiago, CL	2008.4-6	Ogawa passive sampler	monthly	15.0±3.8 (spring)	Toro et al., 2014
South Asia					
Lahore, PK	2005 12-2006 2	Annular diffusion denuder	12 h	50.1+16.9	Riewas et al. 2009
,	2005.12-2006.2	Annular diffusion denuder		50.1±16.9	Biswas et al., 2008
Dayalbagh, IN	1997.7, 1998.2	Annular diffusion denuder	3 h	12.5±2.2	Parmar et al., 2001
Delhi, IN	2008.9-10, 2009.9-10	Chemiluminescence analyzer	1 h	13.5±2.5 (2008), 14.4±3.7 (2009)	Sharma et al., 2011
Delhi, IN	2010.4-2011.11	Glass flask sampling	5 h	35.0±16.8	Singh and Kulshrestha, 201
Delhi, IN	2012.10-2013.9	Glass flask sampling	8 h	40.7 ±16.8	Singh and Kulshrestha, 201

Note: (a): High resolution time-of-flight chemical ionization mass spectrometry. (b): Open-path differential optical absorption spectroscopy. (c): Tunable diode laser absorption spectrometer. (d): Horizontal continuous-flow wet denuder.

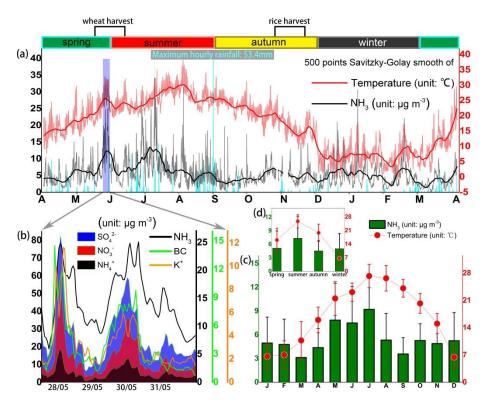
**Table 3**. The average of temperature ( $^{\circ}$ C), relative humidity (%), accumulated rainfall (mm) and simulated planetary boundary layer (PBL) height (m) in Shanghai (mean±1 $\sigma$ ) during April 3, 2014-April 2, 2015.

	Temperature	Relative humidity	Accumulated rainfall	Simulated PBL height
All	17.1 ±8.2	72.4±16.1	1271.5	454.0±309.2
Spring	16.1 ±6.1	63.7±19.5	298.3	448.8±311.9
Summer	$25.7 \pm 3.4$	$78.4 \pm 12.5$	550.7	460.6±293.2
Autumn	19.8 ±4.4	$76.5 \pm 13.0$	221.4	482.6±321.6
Winter	$6.7 \pm 3.3$	67.0±15.6	192.1	428.0±307.4

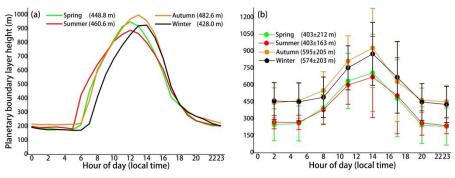




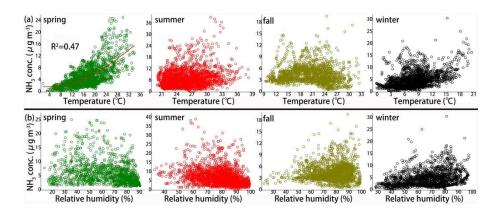
**Figure 1**. Location of the Pudong Environmental Monitoring Center (PEMC) supersite in Shanghai. The left panel shows various types of land use in eastern and southern China (adopted from (Broxton et al., 2014)). The red areas and black lines in the right panel represent the urban areas and main roads in Shanghai, respectively.



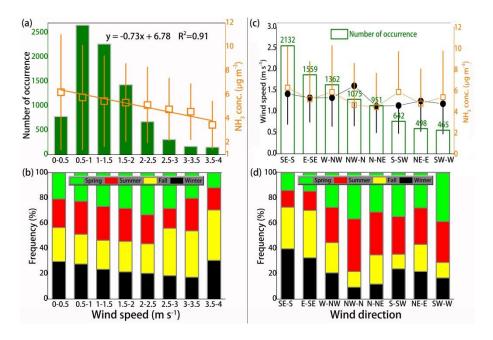
**Figure 2.** (a) Temporal variations of hourly NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations (gray) and temperature (red), along with 500-point Savitzky-Golay smoothed records in Shanghai from 3 April, 2014 to 2 April, 2015. Rainfall is shown in cyan. The vertical blue rectangle highlights NH<sub>3</sub> pollution episodes that occurred during the wheat harvest season. (b) Time series of NH<sub>3</sub>, BC, SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>, NO<sub>3</sub>-, NH<sub>4</sub>+, and K+ concentrations during periods of pollution associated with biomass burning. Monthly (c) and seasonal (d) variations of NH<sub>3</sub> average concentrations and temperature.



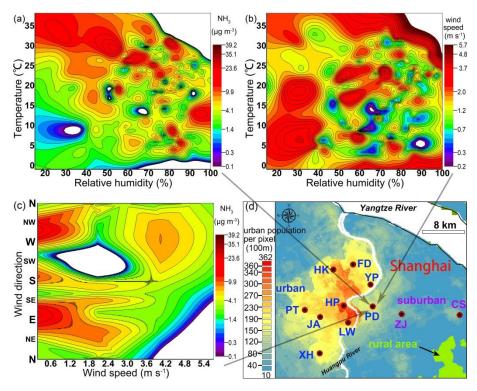
**Figure 3**. (a) Simulated diurnal profiles of the planetary boundary layer height in Shanghai during April 3, 2014-April 2, 2015. (b) Daily evolution of the planetary boundary layer height (NOAA READY achieved GDAS data) in Shanghai from 12 April, 2014 to 11 April, 2015. The number in the legend represents the average planetary boundary layer height, by time of day, in different seasons.



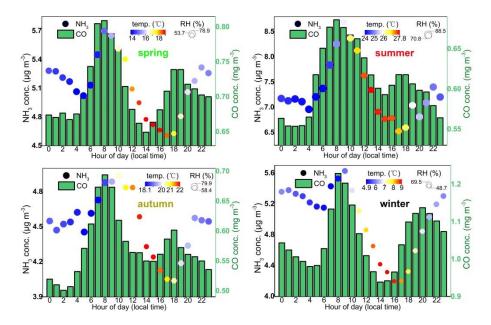
**Figure 4**. The relationship between hourly  $NH_3$  concentration and hourly temperature (**a**) and hourly relative humidity (**b**) in four seasons at Pudong supersite between during April 3, 2014-April 2, 2015.



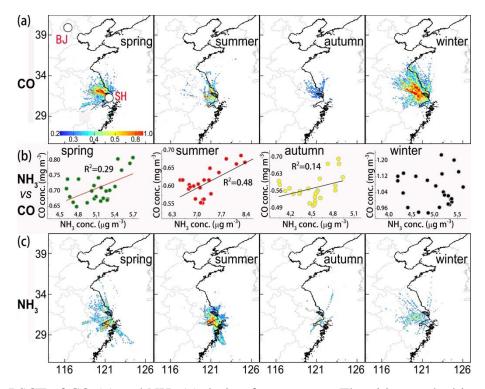
**Figure 5**. (a) Linear fitting of average NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations at different ranges of wind speed. The number of occurrences of wind (NOW) within each specific range of wind speed is shown as green columns. (b) Seasonal frequency distribution (%) of NOW at each specific range of wind speed. (c) The green boxes showing a descending order of the number of occurrences of wind at different wind directions. The points in black and the squares in orange represent the average wind speed and NH<sub>3</sub> concentration for each specific wind direction, respectively. (d) Seasonal frequency distribution (%) of NOW at each specific wind direction.



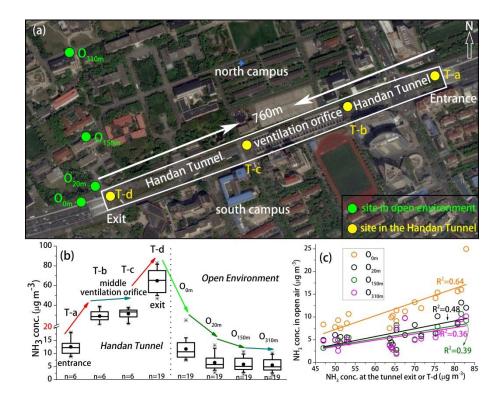
**Figure 6.** RH/*T* dependence of (**a**) NH<sub>3</sub> mass concentration and (**b**) WS, and (**c**) WS/WD dependence of NH<sub>3</sub> mass concentration at Pudong (PD) supersite for the year sampled. (**d**) The spatial distribution of environmental monitoring network in Shanghai. FD represents Fudan university. The base map is the 2010 urban population density, derived from a newly released high-resolution (100 m×100 m per pixel) population map of China (http://www.worldpop.org.uk/).



**Figure 7.** Seasonal diurnal profiles of NH<sub>3</sub> and CO concentrations in Shanghai. Color coded by hourly temperature and circle radius coded by hourly relative humidity.



**Figure 8.** PSCF of CO (**a**) and NH<sub>3</sub> (**c**) during four seasons. The cities marked in each panel are Beijing (BJ) and Shanghai (SH). The color scales indicate the values of PSCF. (**b**) Relationship between hourly NH<sub>3</sub> and CO during four seasons.



**Figure 9**. (a) Location of the eight sampling points in (labeled in yellow; inside the tunnel from the entrance to the exit) and out (labeled in green; varying in distance from the tunnel) of the Handan tunnel where atmospheric concentrations of NH<sub>3</sub> were measured using fritted glass bubblers. The campus of Fudan University was separated into north and south parts by the tunnel. (b) Box-whisker plots of the NH<sub>3</sub> concentration sampled at each site, setting 20 as the breaking point of y axis. The box boundaries represent the 25<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> percentile, the horizontal line is the median, and the whiskers mark the 10th and 90th percentiles. (c) Relationship between the NH<sub>3</sub> concentration at T-d (the exit of the Handan tunnel) and the other four sites varying in distance from the Handan road in the open environment.