

1 June 18, 2016

2

3 Dear Editor,

4

5 We appreciate the reviewers' suggestions which have considerably improved the manuscript  
6 (**acp-2015-939**). Enclosed are point-by-point responses to the reviewers. We hope that with  
7 these changes the manuscript will be suitable for publication in "**Atmospheric Chemistry**  
8 **and Physics**"

9

10 Thank you very much.

11 Sincerely,

12 Seung-Muk Yi

13

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18 **Response to Anonymous Referees' Comments**

19

20 ● Journal: ACP

21 ● Title: Characteristics of total gaseous mercury (TGM) concentrations in an industrial  
22 complex in southern Korea: Impacts from local sources

23 ● Author(s): Yong-Seok Seo, Seung-Pyo Jeong, Thomas M. Holsen, Young-Ji Han, Eunhwa Choi,  
24 Eun Ha Park, Tae Young Kim, Hee-Sang Eum, Dae Gun Park, Eunhye Kim, Soontae Kim, Jeong-  
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30

31 **Response to Anonymous Referee #1:**

32

33 **General comments**

34 This study analyzed seasonal and diurnal variations of TGM at a sampling site in southern  
35 Korea. Sources of TGM affecting the sampling site were investigated by correlating TGM with  
36 other pollutants and meteorological data and applying several source-receptor methods  
37 utilizing wind direction and back trajectory data. A newer method called the conditional  
38 bivariate probability function (CBPF) was used in this study to identify sources of TGM.  
39 However, I did not find this method very effective at differentiating between ground and stack  
40 emission sources. I find that there are many uncertainties in the CBPF results as well as in the  
41 back trajectory results that haven't been addressed in this paper. I have concerns about the  
42 methodology (insufficient TGM data, selection of trajectory duration) and interpretation of  
43 correlation analysis results. A discussion of how the results vary in the different seasons was  
44 also lacking in many places of the paper, even though the results are shown in the figures.  
45 Overall, I find that a major revision of this paper is necessary.

46 **Response**

47 Thank you for your comments. We believe we have addressed your concerns in the detailed  
48 responses below.

49

50

51 **Specific comments**

52 **Comment 1**

53 Line 57 – the correlation coefficient of  $r = -0.08$  is very small. It's more accurate to state there  
54 is little correlation between TGM and air temperature

55 **Response 1**

56 As suggested, we have rephrased the sentence as follows on **Line 56-57**.

57

58 *“There was a **weak but** statistically significant negative correlation between the TGM  
59 concentration and ambient air temperature ( $r = -0.08$ ) ( $p < 0.05$ )”.*

60

61

62

63 **Comment 2**

64 Line 84 – “Atmospheric Hg released from natural and anthropogenic sources leading to  
65 enhanced deposition” Please clarify this statement.

66 **Response 2**

67 As suggested, we have rephrased the sentence as follows on **Line 85-92**.

68

69 *“Atmospheric Hg released from natural and anthropogenic sources when introduced into  
70 terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem through wet and dry deposition (Mason and Sheu, 2002) can  
71 undergo various physical and chemical transformations before being deposited. Its lifetime in  
72 the atmosphere depends on its reactivity and solubility so that depending on its form it can  
73 have impacts on local, regional and global scales (Lin and Pehkonen, 1999; Lindberg et al.,  
74 2007). A portion of the Hg deposited in terrestrial environments through direct industrial  
75 discharge or atmospheric deposition is transported to aquatic system through groundwater and  
76 surface water runoff (Miller et al., 2013).”*

77

78

79 **Comment 3**

80 Lines 87-89 – Is this sentence about Hg emissions to the atmosphere and the biogeochemical  
81 cycling of Hg or the direct release of Hg from industrial effluent?

82 **Response 3**

83 We mean “the direct release of Hg from industrial effluent. In order to more clarify, we  
84 corrected “processes” to “**effluent**” on **Line 93-95**.

85

86 *“A previous study also reported that Hg directly released into terrestrial and aquatic  
87 ecosystems from industrial effluent has influenced surface water, sediment and biological  
88 tissue (Flanders et al., 2010).”*

89

90

91 **Comment 4**

92 Lines 94 – “coal combustion and waste incinerators” was already mentioned in this sentence.

93 **Response 4**

94 As suggested, we have rephrased the sentence as follows on **Line 97-100**.

95 *“...including municipal waste incinerators, medical waste incinerators, electric power*

96 *generating facilities and cement kilns (Dvonch et al., 1998), ferrous and non-ferrous metal*  
97 *processing, iron and steel manufacturing facilities, and oil and coal combustion (Hoyer et al.,*  
98 *1995).”*

99

100

101 **Comment 5**

102 Line 108 – use “data” instead of “information”

103 **Response 5**

104 As suggested, we corrected “information” to “data” as follows on **Line 114**.

105 “...combined with concentration **data** were used to identify...”

106

107 **Comment 6**

108 Line 138 – What temperature was the heated sampling line maintained at? Why is a heated sampling  
109 line necessary for sampling TGM?

110 **Response 6**

111 In this study, the sampling line was heated at about **50 °C** using heat tape to prevent  
112 condensation in gold traps because moisture on gold surface interferes with the amalgamation  
113 of Hg.

114 In order to more clarify, we have rephrased the sentence as follows on **Line 142-147**.

115

116 *“Ambient air at a flow rate of 1.5 L min<sup>-1</sup> was transported through a 3 m-long heated sampling*  
117 *line (1/4” OD Teflon) in to the analyzer. The sampling line was heated at about 50 °C using*  
118 *heat tape to prevent water condensation in the gold traps because moisture on gold surfaces*  
119 *interferes with the amalgamation of Hg (Keeler and Barres, 1999). Particulate matter was*  
120 *removed from the sampling line by a 47 mm Teflon filter.”*

121

122 **Comment 7**

123 2.3 QA/QC – the measurements were made for a one week period in each season. How often  
124 were the manual injections performed? Was there any maintenance activities performed prior  
125 to re-deployment of the instrument each time? These are important QA/QC procedures to  
126 mention because the instruments were offline for a long period of time.

127 **Response 7**

128 The reviewer is correct. In this study, manual injections were performed prior to every field

129 sampling campaign and we continuously operated Tekran 2537B to measure GEM  
130 concentrations in the ambient air.

131 In order to avoid any confusion, we have rephrased the sentence as follows on **Line 159-160**.

132

133 *“Manual injections were performed prior to every field sampling campaign to evaluate these  
134 automated calibrations using a saturated mercury vapor standard.”*

135

136

137 **Comment 8**

138 Line 168 – This definition of CPF doesn’t seem right because it is not exactly the source  
139 contribution. You can replace this sentence with the one in line 177.

140 **Response 8**

141 The reviewer is correct. We have rephrased the sentence as follows on **Line 171-173**.

142

143 *“CPF estimates the probability that the measured concentration will exceed the threshold  
144 criterion for a given wind direction.”*

145

146

147 **Comment 9**

148 Lines 173-175 – were the wind data measured every 5 min similar to TGM or was it averaged  
149 to the nearest hour?

150 **Response 9**

151 In this study, **hourly** meteorological data (air temperature, relative humidity, and wind speed  
152 and direction) were obtained from the Automatic Weather Station (AWS) operated by the Korea  
153 Meteorological Administration (KMA) (<http://www.kma.go.kr>).

154 In order to clarify, we added “**hourly**” in the sentence as follows on **Line 150-152**.

155

156 *“**Hourly** meteorological data (air temperature, relative humidity, and wind speed and direction)  
157 were obtained from the Automatic Weather Station (AWS) operated by the Korea  
158 Meteorological Administration (KMA) (<http://www.kma.go.kr>) (6 km from the site).”*

159

160 This information was also described in Table 2 as follows on **Line 539-540**.

161

162 *“Table 2. Summary of atmospheric concentrations of TGM and co-pollutants, and*  
163 *meteorological data. Note that TGM was measured every 5-min, and other pollutants and*  
164 *meteorological data were measured every 1-hour.”*

165

166

167 **Comment 10**

168 Lines 183-185 –How does this method account for the full distribution of concentrations rather  
169 than concentrations exceeding a threshold? Based on Eq. 2, CBPF analyzes the subset of  
170 concentrations above a threshold as well. Another thing is how does this method account for  
171 sources with different dispersion characteristics? The equation is based on horizontal wind  
172 speeds, which is advection rather than dispersion.

173 **Response 10**

174 The statement in question is incorrect since we used a criteria to determine which  
175 concentrations to include so we have deleted the sentence.

176

177 **Comment 11**

178 Lines 193-195 – This explanation is not clear. Can you give some examples of mercury sources  
179 with different wind speed dependencies?

180 **Response 11**

181

182 In order to more clarify, we rephrased the sentence as follows on **Line 195-198.**

183

184 *“The extension to the bivariate case can provide more information on the nature of the sources*  
185 *because different source types such as stack emission sources and ground-level sources can*  
186 *have different wind speed dependencies (prominent at low and high wind speed).”*

187

188 **Comment 12**

189 Lines 201-215 – this part needs to be rewritten by improving on the wording

190 **Response 12**

191 As suggested, we rephrased the sentence as follows on **Line 204-218.**

192

193 *“The PSCF is a simple method that links residence time in upwind areas with high*  
194 *concentrations through a conditional probability field and was originally developed by*

195 *Ashbaugh et al. (1985).*

196 *PSCF<sub>ij</sub> is the conditional probability that an air parcel that passed through the ijth cell had a*  
197 *high concentration upon arrival at the monitoring site and is defined as the following Eq. (3).*

198

$$199 \quad PSCF_{ij} = \frac{m_{ij}}{n_{ij}} \quad (3)$$

200

201 *where, n<sub>ij</sub> is the number of trajectory segment endpoints that fall into the ij-th cell, and m<sub>ij</sub> is the*  
202 *number of segment endpoints in the same grid cell (ij-th cell) when the concentrations are higher*  
203 *than a criterion value as measured at the sampling site.*

204 *High PSCF values in those grid cells are regarded as possible source locations. Cells including*  
205 *emission sources can be identified with conditional probabilities close to one if trajectories that*  
206 *have crossed the cells efficiently transport the released pollutant to the receptor site. Therefore, the*  
207 *PSCF model provides a tool to map the source potentials of geographical areas.”*

208

209

### 210 **Comment 13**

211 Line 220 –Please justify the use of 24 hr trajectories. TGM is mainly GEM which has a longer  
212 residence time and capable of long range transport. This means a longer trajectory duration would be  
213 more suitable.

### 214 **Response 13**

215 In this study, 24h backward trajectories starting at every hour at a height of 10, 50 and 100 m  
216 above ground level were computed using the vertical velocity model because we identified the  
217 diurnal variations in TGM concentrations are due to a combination of 1) reactions with an  
218 oxidizing atmosphere, 2) changes in ambient temperature and 3) local emissions related to  
219 industrial activities. This information was described in **Line 428-430**.

220

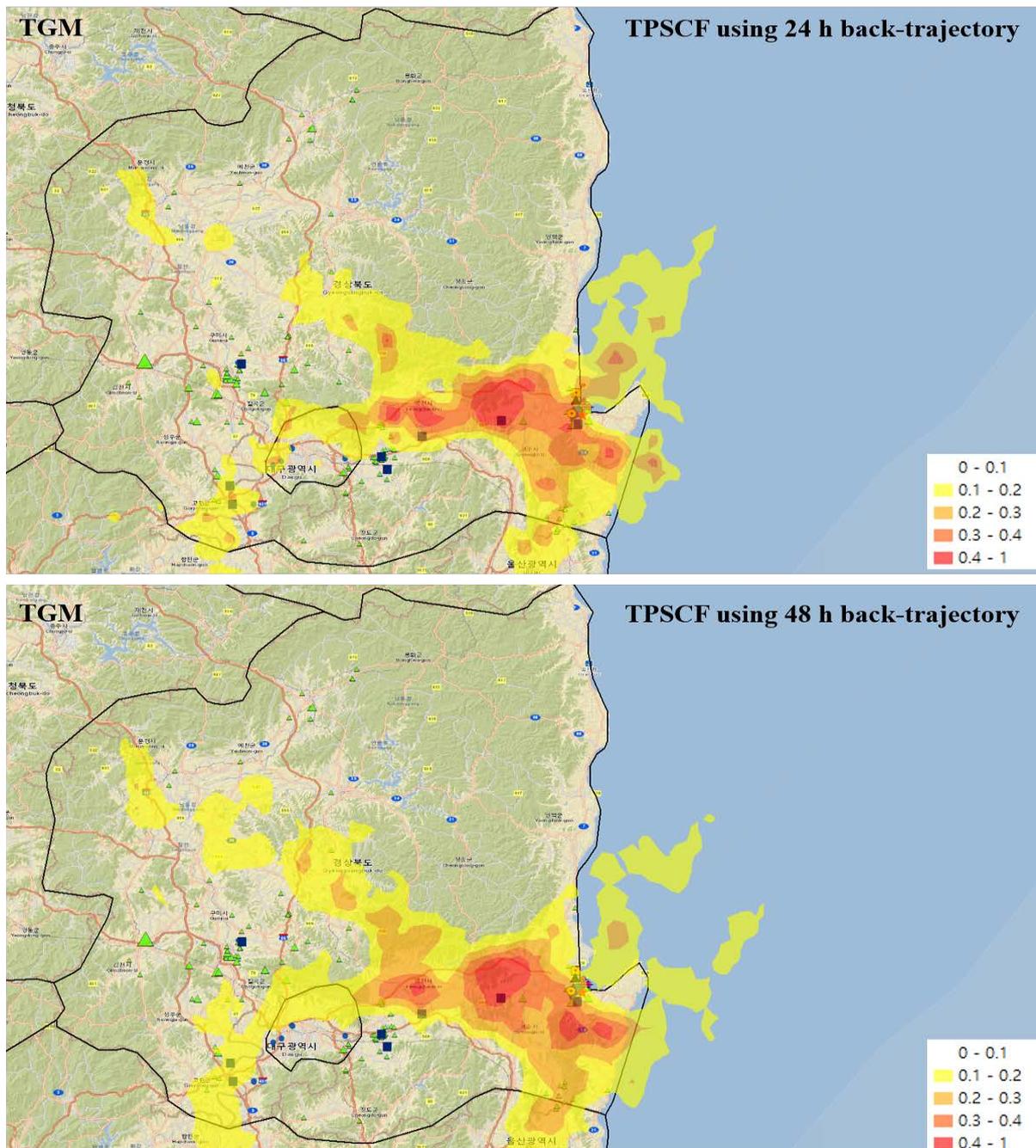
221 Previous studies reported that identified the long-range transport of mercury using the  
222  $\Delta TGM/\Delta CO$  enhancement ratio (Choi et al., 2009; Jaffe et al., 2005; Kim et al., 2009; Weiss-  
223 Penzias et al., 2003; Weiss-Penzias et al., 2006). The observed  $\Delta TGM/\Delta CO$  was significantly  
224 lower than that of Asian long-range transport, but similar to that of local sources in Korea and  
225 in US industrial events suggesting that local sources are more important than that of long-range

226 transport in this study. This information was also described in [Line 336-352](#).

227

228 Based on the above results, PSCF was performed to identify the local sources over grid cells  
229 corresponding to Gyeongsangbuk-do in eastern South Korea.

230 In addition, we did not find significant differences between TPSCF using 24 h and 48 h  
231 backward trajectories (Fig R1).



232

233 Fig. R1. Comparisons of TPSCF results using 24 h (top) and 48 h (bottom) backward trajectory.

234

235 In order to clarify, we have rephrased the sentence as follows on **Line 223-227**.

236

237 *“As will be discussed in Section 5.4, 24 h backward trajectories starting at every hour at a*  
238 *height of 10, 50, and 100 m above ground level were computed using the vertical velocity model*  
239 *because local sources are more important than that of long-range transport in this study (It*  
240 *should be noted that PSCF results using 48 h backward trajectories had similar results as the*  
241 *24 h backward trajectories).”*

242

243

244 **Comment 14**

245 Line 229 – should be “meteorological data”

246 **Response 14**

247 As suggested, we corrected “meteorology data” to “**meteorological data**” as follows on **Line**  
248 **235**.

249

250 *“PSCF was calculated with 9 km **meteorological data**”*

251

252

253 **Comment 15**

254 Lines 293-294 – This point was not discussed in later sections

255 **Response 15**

256 We have deleted the phrase “*As will be discussed later*” and rephrased as follows on **Line 312-**  
257 **314**.

258

259 *“The high TGM concentrations in fall was due to different wind direction (see Fig. S2), sources,*  
260 *relationships with other pollutants and meteorological conditions. More detailed information*  
261 *can be found in Section 5.5.”*

262

263 **Comment 16**

264 Lines 299-302 – It should be stated more clearly that combustion was not a source of TGM  
265 because of a lack of correlation between TGM and the other combustion pollutant markers.

266 **Response 16**

267 As suggested, we have rephrased the sentence as follows on [Line 319-321](#).

268

269 *“However, the TGM concentration was not significantly correlated with NO<sub>2</sub>, CO or SO<sub>2</sub>*  
270 *concentrations, suggesting that combustion associated with space heating was not a significant*  
271 *source of TGM (Choi et al., 2009)”*

272

273 **Comment 17**

274 Lines 315 – Fig. S4 shows the CPF and CBPF plots in each season. Should this be discussed  
275 in section 5.5? It’s not clear how these plots relate to the correlation results.

276 **Response 17**

277 In Section 5.3, we investigated the correlation between TGM and CO and found that local  
278 sources are more important than that of long-range transport by the observed  $\Delta\text{TGM}/\Delta\text{CO}$ . In  
279 order to avoid confusion, we have deleted Fig. S4 and rephrased the sentence as follows on  
280 [Line 332](#) to [Line 335](#).

281

282 *“On the other hand, there were no statistically significant correlations between TGM and CO*  
283 *in spring ( $r = 0.02$ ) ( $p = 0.78$ ), in summer ( $r = 0.13$ ) ( $p = 0.08$ ), or in fall ( $r = -0.03$ ) ( $p = 0.69$ ),*  
284 *indicating that TGM and CO were affected by different anthropogenic emission sources in these*  
285 *seasons.”*

286

287 **Comment 18**

288 Lines 326-333 – It’s surprising that long-range transport from China did not impact this site  
289 considering that it affected elevated Hg events in Seoul, Japan, and North America in previous  
290 studies. I would think long-range transport impacts a larger region including this sampling  
291 location. The TGM/CO slopes during elevated Hg events in Seoul were attributed to both long-  
292 range transport and local source impacts (Choi et al., 2009). Is it possible that the one-week  
293 sampling period in each season did not capture the long-range transport events? More data is  
294 needed to confirm these results. There are also uncertainties from the potential mixing between  
295 long-range transported airflows and local air making it difficult to distinguish between distant and  
296 local source impacts.

297 **Response 18**

298 We agree with the reviewer’s comment. We also think it is possible that the one-week sampling  
299 period in each season did not capture the long-range transport events, and more data are needed

300 to confirm these results. Based on the previous studies (Kim et al., 2009; Choi et al., 2009), we  
301 analyzed the TGM data in an attempt to identify both long-range transport and local sources of  
302 TGM. Unfortunately, we did not find high concentration events which were defined as at least  
303 a 10 h period with hourly average TGM and CO concentrations higher than the average  
304 monthly TGM and CO concentrations and high values of TGM/CO ratio ( $\Delta\text{TGM}/\Delta\text{CO}$ )  
305 ( $0.0052\text{-}0.0158 \text{ ng m}^{-3} \text{ ppb}^{-1}$ ) and high correlations ( $r^2 > 0.5$ ) in this study. Therefore, the  
306 observed  $\Delta\text{TGM}/\Delta\text{CO}$  suggested that local sources are more important than that of long-range  
307 transport in this study. However, we believe more can be learned using the larger dataset than  
308 just using the one-week sampling period.

309 In order to any confusion, we added a following sentence on **Line 353 to Line 357**.

310

311 *“There are also uncertainties from the potential mixing between Hg associated with long-range*  
312 *transported airflows and local air making it difficult to distinguish between distant and local*  
313 *source impacts. However, it is possible that the one-week sampling period in each season did*  
314 *not capture the long-range transport events, and more can be learned using a larger dataset*  
315 *than just using the one-week sampling period to confirm these results.”*

316

317

#### 318 **Comment 19**

319 Lines 345-346 – what are the time periods for daytime and nighttime concentrations? This  
320 sentence states daytime TGM were higher during daytime than nighttime. But in the previous  
321 sentence, the minimum TGM concentration occurs in the afternoon.

#### 322 **Response 19**

323 As suggested, we added the time periods for daytime and nighttime as follows on **Line 361-**  
324 **363**.

325

326 *“TGM, O<sub>3</sub>, CO, SO<sub>2</sub>, and temperature in the daytime (06:00-18:00) were statistically*  
327 *significantly higher than those in the nighttime (18:00-06:00) ( $p < 0.05$ ) except PM<sub>10</sub> ( $p =$*   
328 *0.09)... ”*

329

330 In this study, the daytime TGM concentration ( $5.3 \pm 4.7 \text{ ng m}^{-3}$ ) was statistically significantly  
331 higher than that in nighttime ( $4.7 \pm 4.7 \text{ ng m}^{-3}$ ) ( $p < 0.01$ ). In order to avoid any confusion, we

332 corrected “maximum” to “**increase**” and “minimum” to “**decrease**” as follows on **Line 365 to**  
333 **Line 366.**

334  
335 “TGM generally showed a consistent diurnal variation with an **increase** in the early morning  
336 (06:00-09:00) and a **decrease** in the afternoon (14:00-17:00), similar to...”

337  
338  
339 **Comment 20**

340 Lines 353-355 – You discussed about the land-sea/lake breeze effect on TGM diel patterns  
341 from another study in the previous sentence. Does this atmospheric process affect this particular  
342 site since it is near the ocean and lower TGM were also observed during daytime?

343 **Response 20**

344 It is possible that the land-sea breeze might affect diurnal variations in TGM concentrations  
345 since the sampling site was near the ocean and lower TGM concentrations were observed  
346 during the daytime in this study. However, there are several known Hg sources such as iron  
347 and steel manufacturing facilities including electric and sintering furnaces using coking around  
348 the sampling site.

349 Although the daytime temperature ( $14.7 \pm 10.0$  °C) was statistically significantly higher than  
350 that in the nighttime ( $13.0 \pm 9.8$  °C) ( $p < 0.05$ ), the daytime TGM concentration ( $5.3 \pm 4.7$  ng  
351  $m^{-3}$ ) was statistically significantly higher than those in the nighttime ( $4.7 \pm 4.7$  ng  $m^{-3}$ ) ( $p <$   
352  $0.01$ ). This is possibly due to a combination of 1) reactions with an oxidizing atmosphere, 2)  
353 changes in ambient temperature and 3) local emissions related to industrial activities. To  
354 supplement these conclusions CPF and CBPF were used to identify source directions and  
355 TPSCF was used to identify potential source locations in “Section 5.6 CPF, CBPF and TPSCF  
356 results of TGM”.

357  
358 In order to clarify, we rephrased the sentence as follows on **Line 382 to Line 390.**

359

360 *“Although it is possible that the land-sea breeze may affect diurnal variations in TGM*  
361 *concentrations since the sampling site was near the ocean and lower TGM were also observed*  
362 *during the daytime, the higher concentrations in the daytime than those in nighttime were due*  
363 *to local emission sources because the daytime temperature ( $14.7 \pm 10.0$  °C) was statistically*  
364 *significantly higher than that in the nighttime ( $13.0 \pm 9.8$  °C) (t-test,  $p < 0.05$ ) and there was a*  
365 *weak but statistically significant negative correlation between TGM concentration and ambient*  
366 *air temperature ( $r = -0.08$ ) ( $p < 0.05$ ). In addition, there are several known Hg sources such*  
367 *as iron and steel manufacturing facilities including electric and sintering furnaces using coking*  
368 *between the sampling site and the ocean.”*

369

370

371 **Comment 21**

372 Lines 355-356 – The negative correlation between TGM and temperature is very small (as  
373 mentioned in the abstract,  $r = -0.08$ ) despite a significant p-value. It’s more accurate to state  
374 there is little relationship between TGM and air temperature.

375 **Response 21**

376 As suggested, we have rephrased the sentence as follows on **Line 386-388**.

377

378 *“... and there was a weak but statistically significant negative correlation between the TGM*  
379 *concentration and ambient air temperature ( $r = -0.08$ ) ( $p < 0.05$ )”.*

380

381

382 **Comment 22**

383 Lines 357-360 – Similar to the above comment, the correlation between TGM and O3 is too  
384 small ( $r = -0.18$ ) to suggest that it is indicative of GEM oxidation. It’s more correct to state  
385 there is little relationship between TGM and O3. If GEM oxidation occurred, GOM  
386 concentrations would increase. There are some uncertainties on the net effect on TGM  
387 (GEM+GOM).

388 **Response 22**

389 As suggested, we have rephrased the sentence as follows on **Line 391-399**.

390

391 *“...there was a weak but negative relationship between the TGM concentrations and O3*

392 concentrations ( $r = -0.18$ ) ( $p < 0.01$ ), suggesting that oxidation of GEM in the oxidizing  
393 atmosphere during periods of strong atmospheric mixing was partially responsible for the  
394 diurnal variations of TGM concentrations. In addition, oxidation of GEM by bromine species  
395 in the coastal area (Obrist et al., 2011) or by chloride radicals in marine boundary layer  
396 (Laurier et al., 2003) might play a significant role. If oxidation of GEM occurred, GOM  
397 concentrations would increase. However there are uncertainties on the net effects on TGM (the  
398 sum of the GEM and the GOM) since we did not measure GOM concentrations.”

399

400

401 **Comment 23**

402 Lines 369-378 – The results here are inconsistent. If the small negative correlation between  
403 TGM and temperature indicates an increase in mixing height which leads to a decrease in TGM,  
404 how can it explain surface emissions in the morning which should increase with temperature?  
405 Is there a positive correlation between TGM and temperature in the morning?

406 **Response 23**

407 As suggested, we analyzed a relationship between TGM and temperature in the morning  
408 (06:00-09:00) and found that there is a positive correlation between TGM and ambient air  
409 temperature. In order to clarify, we added a following sentence on **Line 414-418**.

410

411 “Nonparametric correlations revealed that there is a positive correlation between TGM and  
412 ambient air temperature ( $r_s = 0.11$ ,  $p=0.27$ ) between 06:00-09:00. The TGM concentration  
413 was negatively correlated with  $O_3$  ( $r_s = -0.33$ ,  $p<0.01$ ) but positively correlated with  $NO_2$  ( $r_s$   
414  $= 0.21$ ,  $p<0.05$ ), suggesting that the increased traffic is the main source of TGM during these  
415 time periods.”

416

417

418 **Comment 24**

419 Section 5.4 – This section is lacking discussion on seasonal differences in the diurnal variation.  
420 The fall diurnal pattern appears very different from those in other seasons in Fig. 3. Can you  
421 discuss why the TGM were much higher overnight in the fall but daytime concentrations were  
422 similar to those in other seasons? Why was there a large drop in TGM from 4:00 to 5:00 in the  
423 fall?

424 **Response 24**

425 As suggested, we described more detailed information on [Line 419-427](#) as follows.

426

427 *“Compared to other seasons, significantly different diurnal variations of TGM were observed*  
428 *in fall. The daytime TGM concentrations in fall were similar to those in other seasons, however,*  
429 *the nighttime TGM concentrations in fall were much higher than other seasons. As described*  
430 *earlier in Section 5.3, the high TGM concentrations in fall was possibly due to the relationship*  
431 *between other pollutants and meteorological conditions as well as different wind direction and*  
432 *sources. The nighttime TGM concentrations in fall were simultaneously positively correlated*  
433 *with PM<sub>10</sub> (r=0.26) (p<0.05) and CO (r=0.21) (p<0.05) concentrations and wind speed*  
434 *(r=0.35) (p<0.01), suggesting that the combustion process is an important source during this*  
435 *period.”*

436

437 We could not identify the reason why there was a large drop in TGM from 4:00 to 5:00 in the  
438 fall because there were a limited amount of data. However, we believe more can be learned  
439 using a larger dataset.

440

441

442 **Comment 25**

443 Lines 381-383 – These conclusions are not well-supported by the correlation analyses because  
444 the correlation coefficients were very small.

445 **Response 25**

446 As suggested, we rephrased the “Section 5.5 *Diurnal variations*” on [Line 359-432](#).

447

448

449 **Comment 26**

450 Line 390 – What are the potential Hg sources from the northeast direction?

451 **Response 26**

452 The potential Hg sources from the northeast direction is due to lots of domestic passenger ships  
453 routes. In response to this comment, we have rephrased the sentence as follows on [Line 475-](#)  
454 [477](#).

455

456 *“The northeast direction including the East Sea was also identified as potential source areas*  
457 *likely because this is an area with lots of domestic passenger ships routes.”*

458

459

460 **Comment 27**

461 Lines 391-393 – Please clarify this sentence. Are the higher wind speeds associated with stack  
462 emissions and lower wind speeds associated with surface emissions? There are several issues  
463 or uncertainties with this point. (1) Wind speeds were only measured at one height. How can  
464 you tell that the lower wind speeds are from lower elevation and vice-versa? What is the height  
465 of the wind measurements? (2) As mentioned in the diurnal variation section, boundary layer  
466 mixing occurs during the day. Is it possible to distinguish between ground emissions and stack  
467 emissions? (3) It seems only the west directions had both high and low wind speeds, while the  
468 east directions had only lower wind speeds (Fig. S1). Thus, CBPF doesn't seem useful when  
469 there is a lack of wind speed variation. It appears that it is by coincidence that both ground  
470 level and stack emissions were identified in the west direction because there happened to be a  
471 wind speed variation from this direction. Based on these points, the CBPF results don't seem  
472 to reveal more about TGM sources than CPF. More discussion is needed on the relationship  
473 between specific sources and wind speeds. Instead of wind speed, what other variables would  
474 be useful for source identification using CBPF?

475 **Response 27**

476 In this study, hourly meteorological data (air temperature, relative humidity, and wind speed  
477 and direction) were obtained from the Automatic Weather Station (AWS) operated by the Korea  
478 Meteorological Administration (KMA) (<http://www.kma.go.kr>). This information was  
479 described on **Line 150-152**. We used the wind data measured at a reference height of 10 m.

480 Although there is a lack of wind speed variation, we found that the CBPF revealed more about  
481 TGM sources than CPF (Fig. S6).

482 The third variable plotted on the radial axis does not need to be wind speed. A previous study  
483 reported that temperature can be a useful radial variable (Carslaw, D.C., Beevers, S.D., 2013.  
484 Characterising and understanding emission sources using bivariate polar plots and k-means  
485 clustering. Environ. Model. Softw. 40 (0), 325-329).

486 In order to response to this comment, we rephrased the sentence on **Line 195-198** and **Line**  
487 **433-450** as follows.

488

489 < **Line 195-198** >

490 *“The extension to the bivariate case can provide more information on the nature of the sources*

491 *because different source types such as stack emission sources and ground-level sources can*  
492 *have different wind speed dependencies (prominent at low and high wind speed).”*

493

494 < **Line 439-456** >

495 *“CBPF shows that the high probabilities from the west occurred under high wind speed ( $>$*   
496  *$3\text{ m s}^{-1}$ ) indicative of emissions from stacks as well as low wind speed ( $\leq 3\text{ m s}^{-1}$ ) indicative of*  
497 *non-buoyant ground level sources.*

498 *As described in Section 5.4, correlations between TGM and CO revealed that TGM and CO*  
499 *were affected by similar anthropogenic emission sources in winter but affected by different*  
500 *sources in spring, summer and fall, which is supported by Fig. S6 which shows significantly*  
501 *different seasonal patterns of CPF and CBPF for TGM concentrations.*

502 *It is difficult to discuss about the different seasonal patterns for CPF and CBPF for TGM*  
503 *concentrations since there were no correlations between TGM and other pollutants in spring,*  
504 *summer and fall except  $O_3$ . However, compared to Fig. 4, the CPF and CBPF patterns in fall*  
505 *were similar to those during the whole sampling periods. Especially, the nighttime TGM*  
506 *concentration in fall was simultaneously positively correlated with  $PM_{10}$  ( $r=0.26$ ) ( $p<0.05$ )*  
507 *and CO ( $r=0.21$ ) ( $p<0.05$ ) concentrations and wind speed ( $r=0.35$ ) ( $p<0.01$ ), indicating that*  
508 *the combustion process from the west is an important source during this period.*

509 *Since TGM showed a significant correlation with CO ( $r=0.25$ ) ( $p<0.05$ ) and showed a weak*  
510 *positive correlation with  $PM_{10}$  ( $r=0.08$ ) ( $p=0.33$ ) in winter with high wind speed, combustion*  
511 *sources from the west are likely partially responsible for this result.”*

512

513

514 **Comment 28**

515 *Lines 394-395 – Are there industrial sources south of the sampling site? High probability areas*  
516 *are also identified in this direction in the TPSCF plot in Fig. 4.*

517 **Response 28**

518 *There is Ulsan Metropolitan City located to the south from the sampling site. Ulsan is South*

519 Korea's seventh largest metropolis with a population of over 1.1 million and it has more than  
520 700 small and large industrial facilities including petrochemical plants, oil refineries, vehicle  
521 and ship factories, and other chemical plants.

522 In response to this comment, we have added a following sentence on **Line 477 to Line 480**.

523

524 *“The south from the sampling was also identified as a likely source area of TGM where Ulsan*  
525 *Metropolitan City, South Korea's seventh largest metropolis with a population of over 1.1*  
526 *million is located. It includes a large petrochemical complex known as a TGM source (Jen et*  
527 *al., 2013).”*

528

529

530 **Comment 29**

531 Fig. 4 – the source areas seem confined to the industrial complex near the sampling site because  
532 of the short trajectory duration (24 hrs). Use of longer trajectories would help expand the source  
533 region and identify potential regional transport to the site. In addition to this uncertainty, other  
534 PSCF uncertainties should be discussed.

535 **Response 29**

536 As mentioned earlier in **Response 13**, local sources are more important than that of long-range  
537 transport in this study. Therefore PSCF was performed to identify the local sources over grid  
538 cells corresponding to Gyeongsangbuk-do in eastern South Korea.

539 In addition, we did not find significant differences between PSCF using 24 h and 48 h backward  
540 trajectories (Fig. R1 in **Response 13**).

541 In response to this comment, we added a following sentence on **Line 240-245**.

542

543 *“Previous studies suggest that there are increasing uncertainties as backward trajectory*  
544 *distances increase (Stohl, et al., 2002) and that PSCF modeling is prone to the trailing effect*  
545 *is which locations upwind of sources are also identified as potential sources (Han, et al., 2004).*  
546 *An alternative to back trajectory calculations in the interpretation of atmospheric trace*  
547 *substance measurements (Stohl, et al., 2002) although this technique does not provide much*  
548 *information on source locations”*

549

550

551 **Comment 30**

552 Section 5.5 – This section is lacking discussion on the CPF and CBPF results in different  
553 seasons. The seasonal plots are shown in Fig. S4, but they are not discussed in this section.

554 **Response 30**

555 In order to respond to this comment, we added the sentence as follows on **Line 443-456**.

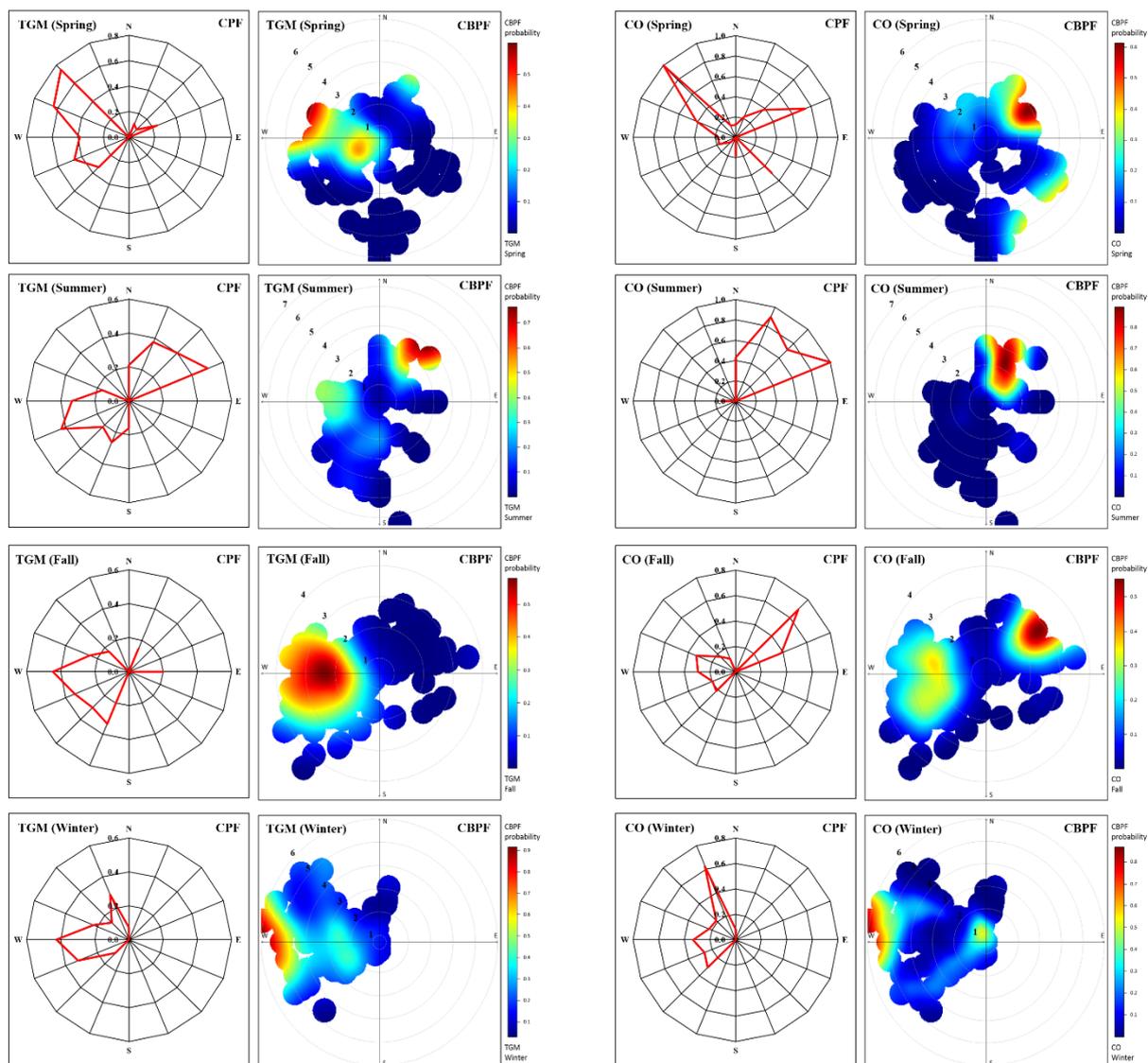
556

557 *“As described in Section 5.4, correlations between TGM and CO revealed that TGM and CO*  
558 *were affected by similar anthropogenic emission sources in winter but affected by different*  
559 *sources in spring, summer and fall, which is supported by Fig. S6 which shows significantly*  
560 *different seasonal patterns for CPF and CBPF for TGM concentrations. It is difficult to*  
561 *interpret differences in the seasonal patterns of CPF and CBPF results for TGM concentrations*  
562 *since there were no correlations between TGM and other pollutants in spring, summer and fall*  
563 *except O<sub>3</sub>. However, compared to Fig. 4, the CPF and CBPF patterns in fall were similar to*  
564 *those during the complete sampling period. The nighttime TGM concentration in fall was*  
565 *simultaneously positively correlated with PM<sub>10</sub> (r=0.26) (p<0.05) and CO (r=0.21) (p<0.05)*  
566 *concentrations and wind speed (r=0.35) (p<0.01), indicating that the combustion process from*  
567 *the west is an important source during this period. Since TGM showed a significant correlation*  
568 *with CO (r=0.25) (p<0.05) and showed a weak positive correlation with PM<sub>10</sub> (r=0.08)*  
569 *(p=0.33) in winter with high wind speed, combustion sources from the west are likely partially*  
570 *responsible for this result.”*

571

572

573



574

575 **Fig. S6. Comparisons of CPF and CBPF plots for TGM and CO higher than average**  
 576 **concentration. The radial axes of CPF and CBPF are the probability and the wind**  
 577 **speed ( $\text{m s}^{-1}$ ), respectively.**  
 578

579

580 **Comment 31**

581 Lines 421-423 – This conclusion was not discussed in the results section. The wind direction  
 582 frequency plots in different seasons are shown in Fig. S1 but the results were not discussed in  
 583 the paper.

584 **Response 31**

585 As suggested, we rephrased the sentence on [Line 419-427](#) as follows.

586

587

588 **Comment 32**

589 Lines 427-430 – p-value was significant but the correlation coefficient (magnitude of the  
590 relationship) is too small. I also don't understand the logic in these results. There should be a  
591 positive TGM and temperature correlation if daytime TGM concentrations were related to  
592 surface emissions.

593 **Response 32**

594 In response to this comment, we have rephrased the sentence on **Line 369-377** and **Line 382-**  
595 **390** as follows.

596

597 < **Line 369-377** >

598 *“The daytime TGM concentration ( $5.3 \pm 4.7 \text{ ng m}^{-3}$ ) was higher than that in nighttime ( $4.7 \pm$   
599  $4.7 \text{ ng m}^{-3}$ ) ( $p < 0.01$ ), which was similar to several previous studies (Cheng et al., 2014;  
600 Gabriel et al., 2005; Nakagawa, 1995; Stamenkovic et al., 2007) but different than other study  
601 (Lee et al., 1998). Previous studies reported that this is due to local sources which is close to  
602 the sampling site (Cheng et al., 2014; Gabriel et al., 2005), positive correlation between TGM  
603 concentration and ambient air temperature (Nakagawa, 1995) and increased traffic  
604 (Stamenkovic et al., 2007). However, other study suggested that the higher TGM concentration  
605 than that in daytime was due to the shallow boundary layer in nighttime, resulting in  
606 concentrating the TGM near the surface (Lee et al., 1998).”*

607 < **Line 382-390** >

608 *“Although it is possible that the land-sea breeze may affect diurnal variations in TGM  
609 concentrations since the sampling site was near the ocean and lower TGM were also observed  
610 during the daytime, the higher concentrations in the daytime than those in nighttime were due  
611 to local emission sources because the daytime temperature ( $14.7 \pm 10.0 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ) was statistically  
612 significantly higher than that in the nighttime ( $13.0 \pm 9.8 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ) ( $t$ -test,  $p < 0.05$ ) and there was a  
613 weak but statistically significant negative correlation between TGM concentration and ambient  
614 air temperature ( $r = -0.08$ ) ( $p < 0.05$ ). In addition, there are several known Hg sources such  
615 as iron and steel manufacturing facilities including electric and sintering furnaces using coking  
616 around the sampling site.”*

617

618

619 **Comment 33**

620 Line 434 – JP-PSCF was not used anywhere else in the paper. Did you mean TPSCF?

621 **Response 33**

622 The reviewer is correct. As suggested, we corrected “JP-PSCF” to “TPSCF” as follows on **Line**

623 **503**.

624 *“However, CBPF and TPSCF indicated that...”*

625

626 **Response to Anonymous Referee #2:**

627

628 **General comments**

629 This study measured TGM concentrations in South Korea and analyzed seasonal and diurnal  
630 variations of TGM. They also used the statistics analysis to correlate TGM with other pollutants  
631 and meteorological data. They tried to identify the possible TGM sources using CPF, CBPF,  
632 and TPSCF models. They found that the nearby local sources are more significant than others.  
633 Over all, this paper meets the original contributions and contains unique TGM data nearby  
634 industrial areas. The authors performed the appropriate modeling approaches to identify  
635 possible mercury sources. However, the presentation quality doesn't meet the ACP's  
636 requirement. I suggest that the paper should be carefully revised and edited prior to publication  
637 on ACP.

638 Comment

639 **Response**

640 Thank you for your comments. We carefully revised and edited that paper as suggested as is  
641 detailed in our responses to the specific comments.

642

643 **Specific comments**

644 Introduction section contains too basic and out of dated information. I suggest adding some  
645 recent mercury inventory/modeling studies in East Asia. Result and discussion contains  
646 unnecessarily much literature review. More discussions are needed. The author used statistics  
647 analysis in many places. Please provide the type of analysis in this paper.

648

649 **Comment 1**

650 Line 118 – 133: it should be combined into one paragraph.

651 **Response 1**

652 As suggested, the sentence was combined into one paragraph as follows on **Line 125-138**.

653

654

655 **Comment 2**

656 Line 133: So what are their results in Kim et al. 2010? What did they find?

657 **Response 2**

658 This meant that we got and used the Hg emissions data from the authors (Kim et al., 2010)  
659 about iron and steel manufacturing, and a hazardous waste incinerator.

660 In order to clarify, we have revised the sentence as follows on **Line 137 to Line 138**.

661

662 “Hg emissions **data** from iron and steel manufacturing, and a hazardous waste incinerator  
663 were estimated **based on** a previous study (Kim et al., 2010)”

664

665 Their results in Kim et al. (2010) were described in **Line 104-109**.

666

667

668 **Comment 3**

669 Line 146-151: it doesn’t fit in material & method section. Please move to results & discussion  
670 section.

671 **Response 3**

672 As suggested, we moved that sentence to “5. Results and Discussions” on **Line 281-286** as  
673 follows.

674

675 “5.1. Meteorological data analysis

676 *Fig. S2 shows the frequency of counts of measured wind direction occurrence by season*  
677 *during the sampling period. The predominant wind direction at the sampling site was W (20.9%)*  
678 *and WS (19.2%), and calm conditions of wind speed less than 1 m s<sup>-1</sup> occurred 7.6% of the*  
679 *time. Compared to other seasons, however, the prevailing winds in summer were N (17.0%),*  
680 *NE (16.4%), S (16.4%), and SW (15.8%).”*

681

682

683 **Comment 4**

684 Line 156-157: need to explain how often manual injections were conducted.

685 **Response 4**

686 Manual injections were performed prior to every field sampling campaign and we continuously  
687 operated Tekran 2537B to measure GEM concentrations in the ambient air.

688 In order to avoid any confusion, we have rephrased the sentence as follows on **Line 159 to Line**

689 160.

690

691 “Manual injections were performed prior to every field sampling campaign to evaluate these  
692 automated calibrations using a saturated mercury vapor standard.”

693

694 **Comment 5**

695 Line 164: already used CPF in Line 163. Replace “Conditional Probability Function  
696 (CPF)” with “CPF”

697 **Response 5**

698 As suggested, “Conditional Probability Function (CPF)” was replaced with CPF on **Line 168**.

699

700

701 **Comment 6**

702 Line 220 – 222 and line 230 – 233 are same.

703 **Response 6**

704 The sentence on Line 220-222 means that we computed 24hr backward trajectories starting at  
705 every hour at a height of 10, 50, and 100 m above ground level.

706 The sentence on Line 230-233 means that TPSCF which incorporates probability from above  
707 different starting heights (10, 50, and 100 m above ground level) was calculated.

708

709 In order to more clarify, we rephrased the sentence as follows on **Line 236-237**.

710

711 “*In this study, TPSCF which incorporates probability from above different starting heights was*  
712 *calculated...*”

713

714 **Comment 7**

715 Line 237: what is  $n_{ij}$  values here?

716 **Response 7**

717  $n_{ij}$  is the number of trajectory segment endpoints that fall into the  $ij$ -th cell. This information  
718 was described in the sentence on **Line 212**.

719 In order to clarify, we added “the number of trajectory segment endpoints that fall into the  $ij$ -  
720 th cell” to the sentence on **Line 249** as follows.

721

722 “To minimize the effect of small  $n_{ij}$  (the number of trajectory segment endpoints that fall into  
723 the  $ij$ -th cell) values, resulting in high TPSCF values ....”

724

725

726 **Comment 8**

727 Line 272-275: Can the author provide recent TGM data from China and other country?

728 **Response 8**

729 As suggested, we added recent TGM data from China and other countries in Table 1 on **Line**  
730 **537** and rephrased the sentence on **Line 293-294**.

731

732 “...and those measured in China, in Japan and other locations in Korea, however considerably  
733 lower than those measured near large Hg sources in Guangzhou, China (Table 1).”

734

735

736 **Comment 9**

737 Line 285 and later: if the author mentioned p-value ( $p < 0.01$  or  $p < 0.05$ ), “statistically  
738 significantly” does not have to be addressed every time. Readers already know that the author  
739 performed statistical analysis.

740 **Response 9**

741 After Line 285, we deleted the phrase “statistically significantly” as suggested (after **Line 304**).

742

743

744 **Comment 10**

745 Line 293: “as will be discussed later: : :.” Can you indicate where and which section it was  
746 discussed?

747 **Response 10**

748 We have deleted the phrase “As will be discussed later” as follows on **Line 312**.

749

750 “The high TGM concentrations in fall was due to ...”

751

752

753 **Comment 11**

754 This 5.4 section is for result and discussion. It includes too much literature review rather than

755 discussion.

756 **Response 11**

757 As suggested, we rephrased the 5.4 section as following Section “5.5. *Diurnal variations*” on

758 **Line 359-432.**

759

760

761 **Comment 12**

762 Line 346 – 348: can you explain what previous studies concluded about these diurnal variations?

763 Needs more discussion.

764 **Response 12**

765 As suggested, we rephrased the sentence on **Line 369-377** as follows.

766

767 *“The daytime TGM concentration ( $5.3 \pm 4.7 \text{ ng m}^{-3}$ ) was higher than that in the nighttime ( $4.7$*   
768  *$\pm 4.7 \text{ ng m}^{-3}$ ) ( $p < 0.01$ ), which was similar to several previous studies (Cheng et al., 2014;*  
769 *Gabriel et al., 2005; Nakagawa, 1995; Stamenkovic et al., 2007) but different than another*  
770 *studies (Lee et al., 1998). Previous studies reported that this different is due to local sources*  
771 *close to the sampling site (Cheng et al., 2014; Gabriel et al., 2005), a positive correlation*  
772 *between TGM concentration and ambient air temperature (Nakagawa, 1995) and increased*  
773 *traffic (Stamenkovic et al., 2007). However, another study suggested that the higher TGM*  
774 *concentration during the night was due to the shallowing of the boundary layer, which*  
775 *concentrated the TGM near the surface (Lee et al., 1998)”*

776

777 **Comment 13**

778 Line 353: “as will be discussed later...” Indicate where and which section it was discussed?

779 What is “this” mean here? Does “this” mean lower TGM in daytime?

780 **Response 13**

781 In order to clarify, we have rephrased the sentence on **Line 382-390** as follows.

782

783 *“Although it is possible that the land-sea breeze may affect diurnal variations in TGM*  
784 *concentrations since the sampling site was near the ocean and lower TGM were also observed*  
785 *during the daytime, the higher concentrations in the daytime than those in nighttime were due*  
786 *to local emission sources because the daytime temperature ( $14.7 \pm 10.0 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ) was statistically*  
787 *significantly higher than that in the nighttime ( $13.0 \pm 9.8 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ) ( $t$ -test,  $p < 0.05$ ) and there was a*

788 *weak but statistically significant negative correlation between TGM concentration and ambient*  
789 *air temperature ( $r = -0.08$ ) ( $p < 0.05$ ). In addition, there are several known Hg sources such*  
790 *as iron and steel manufacturing facilities including electric and sintering furnaces using coking*  
791 *between the sampling site and the ocean.”*

792

793 **Comment 14**

794 Line 355 – 356 and line 369 – 370 are same. Please rephrase or rewrite.

795 **Response 14**

796 As suggest, we rephrased the sentence as follows on **Line 406-407**.

797

798 *“TGM concentration was negatively correlated with ambient air temperature ( $r = -0.08$ ) ( $p <$*   
799 *0.05) because high ambient air temperature...”*

800

801

802 **Comment 15**

803 Line 369 – 378: this paragraph is vague. Please clarify.

804 **Response 15**

805 In response to this comment, we added a following sentence as follows on **Line 414-418**.

806

807 *“Nonparametric correlations revealed that there is a positive correlation between TGM and*  
808 *ambient air temperature ( $r_s = 0.11$ ,  $p=0.27$ ) between 06:00-09:00. The TGM concentration*  
809 *was negatively correlated with  $O_3$  ( $r_s = -0.33$ ,  $p<0.01$ ) but positively correlated with  $NO_2$  ( $r_s$*   
810 *= 0.21,  $p<0.05$ ), suggesting that the increased traffic is the main source of TGM during these*  
811 *time periods.”*

812

813 **Comment 16**

814 This 5.5 section also has too much literature review rather than discussion.

815 **Response 16**

816 As suggested, we rephrased the Section 5.5 as follows on **Line 434-480** (see the Section 5.6.  
817 *CPF, CBPF and TPSCF results of TGM)*

818

819 **Comment 17**

820 Line 381 – 385: this paragraph is the result from the Section 5.4. Please move it to Section 5.4.

821 **Response 17**

822 As suggested, we moved the paragraph to **Line 428 to Line 432**.

823

824 **Comment 18**

825 Line 388 – 389: is this the only result from CPF model? Please explain the reason to adopt this  
826 model?

827 **Response 18**

828 We showed the CBPF result as well as CPF result. This information was described in the  
829 sentence on **Line 439 to Line 442** as follows.

830

831 “...*CBPF shows that the high probabilities from the west occurred under high wind speed ( $> 3$*   
832  *$m s^{-1}$ ) indicative of emissions from stacks as well as low wind speed ( $\leq 3 m s^{-1}$ ) indicative of*  
833 *non-buoyant ground level sources (Uria-Tellaetxe and Carslaw, 2014).”*

834

835 **Comment 19**

836 Line 391-393: Needs more detail explanations to clarify.

837 **Response 19**

838 In order to clarify, we rephrased the sentence on **Line 439 to Line 442** as follows.

839

840 “*CBPF shows that the high probabilities from the west occurred under high wind speed ( $> 3$*   
841  *$m s^{-1}$ ) indicative of emissions from stacks as well as low wind speed ( $\leq 3 m s^{-1}$ ) indicative of*  
842 *non-buoyant ground level sources (Uria-Tellaetxe and Carslaw, 2014).”*

843

844

845 **Comment 20**

846 Line 434: is it “TPSCF”?

847 **Response 20**

848 The reviewer is correct. As suggested, we corrected “JP-PSCF” to “TPSCF”.

849

850

851 **Comment 21**

852 Line 434 – 436: the author mentioned that CPF only can provide high probabilities from the  
853 west of the site. Please delete the CPF in this sentence.

854 **Response 21**

855 In order to response to this comment, we rephrased the sentence as follows on **Line 501-506**.

856

857 *“CPF only shows high probabilities to the west from the sampling site where there are large*  
858 *steel manufacturing facilities and waste incinerators. However, CBPF and TPSCF indicated*  
859 *that the dominant sources of TGM were the hazardous waste incinerators and the coastal areas*  
860 *in the northeast as well as the iron and manufacturing facilities in the west.”*

861

862

863 **Comment 22**

864 Line 436 – 437: same sentence as Line 412 – 413. Please rephrase or rewrite.

865 **Response 22**

866 As suggested, we rephrased the sentence on **Line 436-437** as a following sentence on **Line 505**  
867 **to 506**.

868

869 *“The domestic passenger ships routes in the East Sea were also identified as possible source*  
870 *areas.”*

1 **Characteristics of total gaseous mercury (TGM) concentrations in an**  
2 **industrial complex in southern Korea: Impacts from local sources**

3  
4 Yong-Seok Seo<sup>1,2</sup>, Seung-Pyo Jeong<sup>1</sup>, Thomas M. Holsen<sup>3</sup>, Young-Ji Han<sup>4</sup>, Eunhwa Choi<sup>5</sup>, Eun  
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45 **Abstract**

46 Total gaseous mercury (TGM) concentrations were measured every 5 min in Pohang,  
47 Gyeongsangbuk-do, Korea during summer (17 August~23 August 2012), fall (9 October~17  
48 October 2012), winter (22 January ~29 January 2013), and spring (26 March~3 April 2013)  
49 to: 1) characterize the hourly and seasonal variations of atmospheric TGM concentrations, 2)  
50 identify the relationships between TGM and co-pollutants, and 3) identify likely source  
51 directions and locations of TGM using conditional probability function (CPF), conditional  
52 bivariate probability function (CBPF) and total potential source contribution function  
53 (TPSCF).

54 The TGM concentration was statistically significantly highest in fall ( $6.7 \pm 6.4 \text{ ng m}^{-3}$ ),  
55 followed by spring ( $4.8 \pm 4.0 \text{ ng m}^{-3}$ ), winter ( $4.5 \pm 3.2 \text{ ng m}^{-3}$ ) and summer ( $3.8 \pm 3.9 \text{ ng m}^{-3}$ ).  
56 [There was a weak but statistically significant negative correlation between the TGM  
57 concentration and ambient air temperature \( \$r = -0.08\$ \) \( \$p < 0.05\$ \).](#) Although the daytime  
58 temperature ( $14.7 \pm 10.0 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ) was statistically significantly higher than that in the nighttime  
59 ( $13.0 \pm 9.8 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ) ( $p < 0.05$ ), the daytime TGM concentration ( $5.3 \pm 4.7 \text{ ng m}^{-3}$ ) was statistically  
60 significantly higher than those in the nighttime ( $4.7 \pm 4.7 \text{ ng m}^{-3}$ ) ( $p < 0.01$ ), possibly due to  
61 local emissions related to industrial activities and activation of local surface emission  
62 sources. The observed  $\Delta\text{TGM}/\Delta\text{CO}$  was significantly lower than that of Asian long-range  
63 transport, but similar to that of local sources in Korea and in US industrial events suggesting  
64 that local sources are more important than that of long-range transport. CPF, CBPF and  
65 TPSCF indicated that the main sources of TGM were iron and manufacturing facilities, the  
66 hazardous waste incinerators and the coastal areas.

67 **Keywords:** Total gaseous mercury (TGM); co-pollutant; conditional probability function  
68 (CPF); conditional bivariate probability function (CBPF); total potential source contribution  
69 function (TPSCF)

## 70 1. Introduction

71 Mercury (Hg) in the atmosphere exists in three major inorganic forms including gaseous  
72 elemental mercury (GEM, Hg<sup>0</sup>), gaseous oxidized mercury (GOM, Hg<sup>2+</sup>) and particulate  
73 bound mercury (PBM, Hg(p)). GEM which is the dominant form of Hg in ambient air,  
74 (>95%) has a relatively long residence time (0.5~2 years) due to its low reactivity and  
75 solubility Schroeder and Munthe (1998). However, GOM has high water solubility and  
76 relatively strong surface adhesion properties (Han et al., 2005), so it has a short atmospheric  
77 residence time (~days). PBM is associated with airborne particles such as dust, soot, sea-salt  
78 aerosols, and ice crystals (Lu and Schroeder, 2004) and is likely produced, in part, by  
79 adsorption of GOM species such as HgCl<sub>2</sub> onto atmospheric particles (Gauchard et al., 2005;  
80 Lu and Schroeder, 2004; Sakata and Marumoto, 2005; Seo et al., 2015).

81 Atmospheric Hg is emitted from both natural sources (volcanoes, volatilization from  
82 aquatic and terrestrial environments) and anthropogenic sources (coal combustion, ferrous  
83 and non-ferrous metals manufacturing facilities, waste incineration and industrial boilers)  
84 (Lindberg et al., 2007; Pirrone et al., 2010; Schmeltz et al., 2011).

85 Atmospheric Hg released from natural and anthropogenic sources when introduced into  
86 terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem through wet and dry deposition (Mason and Sheu, 2002) can  
87 undergo various physical and chemical transformations before being deposited. Its lifetime in  
88 the atmosphere depends on its reactivity and solubility so that depending on its form it can  
89 have impacts on local, regional and global scales (Lin and Pehkonen, 1999; Lindberg et al.,  
90 2007). A portion of the Hg deposited in terrestrial environments through direct industrial  
91 discharge or atmospheric deposition is transported to aquatic system through groundwater  
92 and surface water runoff (Miller et al., 2013).

93 A previous study also reported that Hg directly released into terrestrial and aquatic  
94 ecosystems from industrial effluent has influenced surface water, sediment and biological  
95 tissue (Flanders et al., 2010).

96 Significant spatial variations in atmospheric Hg deposition near urban and industrial areas  
97 were due to local anthropogenic sources including municipal waste incinerators, medical  
98 waste incinerators, electric power generating facilities and cement kilns (Dvonch et al.,  
99 1998), ferrous and non-ferrous metal processing, iron and steel manufacturing facilities, and  
100 oil and coal combustion (Hoyer et al., 1995). Miller et al. (2013) also reported that local  
101 sources of elemental Hg are typically industrial processes including retort facilities used in  
102 the mercury mining industry to convert Hg containing minerals to elemental Hg and chlor-  
103 alkali facilities.

104 Annual anthropogenic Hg emissions in South Korea have been estimated to be 12.8 tons;  
105 the major anthropogenic mercury emission sources are coal combustion in thermal power  
106 plants (25.8%), oil refineries (25.5%), cement kilns (21%), incinerators (19.3%) including  
107 sludge incinerators (4.7%), municipal waste incinerators (MWIs) (3%), industrial waste  
108 incinerators (IWIs) (2.7%), hospital/medical/infectious waste incinerators (HMIWIs) (8.8%),  
109 and iron manufacturing (7%) (Kim et al., 2010).

110 Receptor models are often used to identify sources of air pollutants and are focused on the  
111 pollutants behavior in the ambient environment at the point of impact (Hopke, 2003). In  
112 previous studies, conditional probability function (CPF), which utilizes the local wind  
113 direction, and potential source contribution function (PSCF), which utilizes longer backward  
114 trajectories (typically 3-5 days), combined with concentration data were used to identify  
115 possible transport pathways and source locations (Hopke, 2003). While PSCF has been used

116 primarily to identify regional sources, it has also been used to identify local sources (Hsu et  
117 al., 2003). The objectives of this study were to characterize the hourly and seasonal variations  
118 of atmospheric TGM (the sum of the GEM and the GOM) concentrations, to identify the  
119 relationships between TGM and co-pollutant concentrations, and to identify likely source  
120 directions and locations of TGM using CPF, conditional bivariate probability function  
121 (CBPF) and total PSCF (TPSCF).

122

## 123 **2. Materials and methods**

### 124 *2.1. Sampling and analysis*

125 TGM concentrations were measured on the roof of the Korean Federation of  
126 Community Credit Cooperatives (KFCCC) building (latitude: 35.992°, longitude: 129.404°,  
127 ~10 m above ground) in Pohang city, in Gyeongsangbuk-do, a province in eastern South  
128 Korea. Gyeongsangbuk-do has a population of 2.7 million (5% of the total population and the  
129 third most populated province in South Korea) and an area of 19,030 km<sup>2</sup> (19% of the total  
130 area of South Korea and the largest province geographically in South Korea). Pohang city has  
131 a population of 500,000 (1% of the total population in South Korea) and an area of 605.4 km<sup>2</sup>  
132 (1.1% of the total area in South Korea). It is heavily industrialized with the third largest steel  
133 manufacturing facility in Asia and the fifth largest in the world. There are several iron and  
134 steel manufacturing facilities including electric and sintering furnaces using coking in  
135 Gyeongsangbuk-do including Pohang. In addition, there are several coke plants around the  
136 sampling site. The Hyungsan River divides the city into a residential area and the steel  
137 complex. [Hg emissions data from iron and steel manufacturing, and a hazardous waste](#)  
138 [incinerator were estimated based on a previous study](#) (Kim et al., 2010) (**Fig. 1**).

139 TGM concentrations were measured every 5 min during summer (17 August~23 August  
140 2012), fall (9 October~17 October 2012), winter (22 January ~29 January 2013), and spring  
141 (26 March~3 April 2013) using a mercury vapor analyzer (Tekran 2537B) which has two  
142 gold cartridges that alternately collect and thermally desorb mercury. Ambient air at a flow  
143 rate of  $1.5 \text{ L min}^{-1}$  was transported through a 3 m-long heated sampling line (1/4" OD Teflon)  
144 in to the analyzer. The sampling line was heated at about  $50 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  using heat tape to prevent  
145 water condensation in the gold traps because moisture on gold surfaces interferes with the  
146 amalgamation of Hg (Keeler and Barres, 1999). Particulate matter was removed from the  
147 sampling line by a 47 mm Teflon filter.

148

## 149 2.2. Meteorological data

150 Hourly meteorological data (air temperature, relative humidity, and wind speed and  
151 direction) were obtained from the Automatic Weather Station (AWS) operated by the Korea  
152 Meteorological Administration (KMA) (<http://www.kma.go.kr>) (6 km from the site). Hourly  
153 concentrations of  $\text{NO}_2$ ,  $\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{CO}$ ,  $\text{PM}_{10}$  and  $\text{SO}_2$  were obtained from the National Air Quality  
154 Monitoring Network (NAQMN) (3 km from the site) (Fig. 1).

155

## 156 2.3. QA/QC

157 Automated daily calibrations were carried out for the Tekran 2537B using an internal  
158 permeation source. Two-point calibrations (zero and span) were separately performed for  
159 each gold cartridge. Manual injections were performed prior to every field sampling  
160 campaign to evaluate these automated calibrations using a saturated mercury vapor standard.  
161 The relative percent difference (RPD) between automated calibrations and manual injections  
162 was less than 2%. The recovery measured by directly injecting known amounts of four

163 mercury vapor standards when the sample line was connected to zero air ranged from 92 to  
 164 110% ( $99.4 \pm 5.2\%$  in average).

165

### 166 3. Model descriptions

#### 167 3.1. Conditional Probability Function (CPF)

168 CPF was originally performed to determine which wind directions dominate during high  
 169 concentration events to evaluate local source impacts (Ashbaugh et al., 1985). It has been  
 170 successfully used in many previous studies (Begum et al., 2004; Kim et al., 2003a; Kim et al.,  
 171 2003b; Xie and Berkowitz, 2006; Zhao et al., 2004; Zhou et al., 2004). CPF estimates the  
 172 probability that the measured concentration will exceed the threshold criterion for a given  
 173 wind direction. The CPF is defined as follows Eq. (1).

174

$$175 \quad CPF_{\Delta\theta} = \frac{m_{\Delta\theta|C \geq x}}{n_{\Delta\theta}} \quad (1)$$

176

177 where,  $m_{\Delta\theta}$  is the number of samples from the wind sector  $\theta$  having concentration  $C$  greater  
 178 than or equal to a threshold value  $x$ , and  $n_{\Delta\theta}$  is the total number of samples from wind sector  
 179  $\Delta\theta$ . In this study, 16 sectors ( $\Delta\theta = 22.5^\circ$ ) were used and calm winds ( $\leq 1 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ ) were excluded  
 180 from the analysis. The threshold criterion was set at above the overall average TGM  
 181 concentration ( $5.0 \text{ ng m}^{-3}$ ). Thus, CPF indicates the potential for winds from a specific  
 182 direction to contribute to high air pollution concentrations.

183

#### 184 3.2. Conditional Bivariate Probability Function (CBPF)

185      CBPF couples ordinary CPF with wind speed as a third variable, allocating the measured  
 186 concentration of pollutant to cells defined by ranges of wind direction and wind speed rather  
 187 than to only wind direction sectors.

188      The CBPF is defined as follows Eq. (2).

189

$$190 \qquad CBPF_{\Delta\theta,\Delta u} = \frac{m_{\Delta\theta,\Delta u|C \geq x}}{n_{\Delta\theta,\Delta u}} \qquad (2)$$

191

192      where,  $m_{\Delta\theta,\Delta u}$  is the number of samples in the wind sector  $\Delta\theta$  with wind speed interval  $\Delta u$   
 193 having concentration  $C$  greater than a threshold value  $x$ , and  $n_{\Delta\theta,\Delta u}$  is the total number of  
 194 samples in that wind direction-speed interval. The threshold criterion was set at above the  
 195 overall average TGM concentration ( $5.0 \text{ ng m}^{-3}$ ). [The extension to the bivariate case can](#)  
 196 [provide more information on the nature of the sources because different source types such as](#)  
 197 [stack emission sources and ground-level sources can have different wind speed dependencies](#)  
 198 [\(prominent at low and high wind speed\)](#). More detailed information is described in a previous  
 199 study (Uria-Tellaetxe and Carslaw, 2014).

200

### 201      3.3. Potential Source Contribution Function (PSCF)

202      The PSCF model has been extensively and successfully used in the previous studies to  
 203 identify the likely source areas (Cheng et al., 1993; Han et al., 2004; Hopke et al., 2005; Lai  
 204 et al., 2007; Lim et al., 2001; Poissant, 1999; Zeng and Hopke, 1989). [The PSCF is a simple](#)  
 205 [method that links residence time in upwind areas with high concentrations through a](#)  
 206 [conditional probability field and was originally developed by Ashbaugh et al. \(1985\)](#).  $PSCF_{ij}$   
 207 [is the conditional probability that an air parcel that passed through the  \$ij\$ th cell had a high](#)  
 208 [concentration upon arrival at the monitoring site and is defined as the following Eq. \(3\)](#).

209

$$PSCF_{ij} = \frac{m_{ij}}{n_{ij}} \quad (3)$$

211

212 where,  $n_{ij}$  is the number of trajectory segment endpoints that fall into the  $ij$ -th cell, and  $m_{ij}$  is the  
213 number of segment endpoints in the same grid cell ( $ij$ -th cell) when the concentrations are higher  
214 than a criterion value as measured at the sampling site.

215 High PSCF values in those grid cells are regarded as possible source locations. Cells including  
216 emission sources can be identified with conditional probabilities close to one if trajectories that  
217 have crossed the cells efficiently transport the released pollutant to the receptor site. Therefore,  
218 the PSCF model provides a tool to map the source potentials of geographical areas.

219 The criterion value of PSCF for TGM concentration was set at above the overall average  
220 concentration ( $5.0 \text{ ng m}^{-3}$ ) to identify the emission sources associated with high TGM  
221 concentrations and provide a better estimation and resolution of source locations during the  
222 sampling periods. The geographic area covered by the computed trajectories was divided into  
223 an array of  $0.05^\circ$  latitude by  $0.05^\circ$  longitude grid cells. As will be discussed in Section 5.4, 24  
224 h backward trajectories starting at every hour at a height of 10, 50, and 100 m above ground  
225 level were computed using the vertical velocity model because local sources are more  
226 important than that of long-range transport in this study (It should be noted that PSCF results  
227 using 48 h backward trajectories had similar results as the 24 h backward trajectories). Each  
228 trajectory was terminated if they exit the model top (5,000m), but advection continues along  
229 the surface if trajectories intersect the ground. To generate horizontally highly resolved  
230 meteorological inputs for trajectory calculations, the Weather Research and Forecast (WRF)  
231 model was used to generate a coarse domain at a resolution of 27 km and a nested domain at  
232 a horizontal resolution of 9 km, which geographically covers northeast Asia and the southern

233 part of the Korean Peninsula, respectively. The nested domain has 174 columns in the east-  
234 west direction and 114 rows in the north-south direction. PSCF was calculated with 9 km  
235 meteorological data.

236 In this study, TPSCF which incorporates probability from above different starting  
237 heights was calculated since backward trajectories starting at different heights traverse  
238 different distances and pathways, thus providing information that cannot be obtained from a  
239 single starting height (Cheng et al., 1993).

240 Previous studies suggest that there are increasing uncertainties as backward trajectory  
241 distances increase (Stohl et al., 2002) and that PSCF modeling is prone to the trailing effect is  
242 which locations upwind of sources are also identified as potential sources (Han et al., 2004).  
243 An alternative to back trajectory calculations in the interpretation of atmospheric trace  
244 substance measurements (Stohl et al., 2002) although this technique does not provide much  
245 information on source locations.

246 Generally, PSCF results show that the potential sources covered wide areas instead of  
247 indicating individual sources due to the trailing effect. The trailing effect appears since PSCF  
248 distributes a constant weight along the path of the trajectories. To minimize the effect of  
249 small  $n_{ij}$  (the number of trajectory segment endpoints that fall into the  $ij$ -th cell) values,  
250 resulting in high TPSCF values with high uncertainties, an arbitrary weight function  $W(n_{ij})$   
251 was applied to down-weight the PSCF values for the cell in which the total number of end  
252 points was less than three times the average value of the end points (Choi et al., 2011; Heo et  
253 al., 2009; Hopke et al., 1995; Polissar et al., 2001). The TPSCF value for a grid cell was  
254 defined with following Eq. (4).

255

$$P(TPSCF_{ij}) = \frac{P(m_{ij})_{10m} + P(m_{ij})_{50m} + P(m_{ij})_{100m}}{P(n_{ij})_{10m} + P(n_{ij})_{50m} + P(n_{ij})_{100m}} \times W \quad (4)$$

257

258 where,

$$W(n_{ij}) = \begin{cases} 1.0, & 3n_{ave} < n_{ij} \\ 0.8, & 2n_{ave} < n_{ij} \leq 3n_{ave} \\ 0.6, & n_{ave} < n_{ij} \leq 2n_{ave} \\ 0.4, & 0.5n_{ave} < n_{ij} \leq n_{ave} \\ 0.2, & n_{ij} \leq 0.5n_{ave} \end{cases}$$

259

260

#### 261 4. Clean Air Policy Support System (CAPSS) data

262 In this study, the Korean National Emission Inventory estimated using Clean Air Policy  
 263 Support System (CAPSS) data developed by the National Institute of Environmental  
 264 Research (NIER) were used (<http://airemiss.nier.go.kr/main.jsp> (accessed December 09,  
 265 2015)). The CAPSS is the national emission inventory system for the air pollutants (CO,  
 266 NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub>, TSP, PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, VOCs and NH<sub>3</sub>) which utilizes various national, regional and  
 267 local statistical data collected from about 150 organizations in Korea. In CAPSS, the Source  
 268 Classification Category (SCC) excluding fugitive dust and biomass burning based on the  
 269 European Environment Agency's (EEA) CORE Inventory of AIR emissions was classified  
 270 into the following four levels (EMEP/CORINAIR) (NIER, 2011).

271 (1) The upper level (SCC1): 11 source categories ,

272 (2) The intermediate level (SCC2): 42 source categories and

273 (3) The lower level (SCC3): 173 source categories

274

275 The sectoral contributions of emissions of South Korea, Gyeongsangbuk-do and Pohang  
276 for CO, NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub>, TSP, PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, VOC and NH<sub>3</sub> are shown in Fig. S1 (See SI for  
277 details).

278 More detailed information about SCCs in CAPSS is described in Table S1.

279

## 280 5. Results and Discussions

### 281 5.1. Meteorological data analysis

282 Fig. S2 shows the frequency of counts of measured wind direction occurrence by season  
283 during the sampling period. The predominant wind direction at the sampling site was W  
284 (20.9%) and WS (19.2%), and calm conditions of wind speed less than 1 m s<sup>-1</sup> occurred 7.6%  
285 of the time. Compared to other seasons, however, the prevailing winds in summer were N  
286 (17.0%), NE (16.4%), S (16.4%), and SW (15.8%).

287

### 288 5.2. General characteristics of TGM

289 The seasonal distributions of TGM were characterized by large variability during each  
290 sampling period (Fig. 2). The average concentration of TGM during the complete sampling  
291 period was  $5.0 \pm 4.7$  ng m<sup>-3</sup> (range: 1.0-79.6 ng m<sup>-3</sup>). This is significantly higher than the  
292 Northern Hemisphere background concentration (~1.5 ng m<sup>-3</sup>) (Sprovieri et al., 2010) and  
293 those measured in China, in Japan and other locations in Korea, however considerably lower  
294 than those measured near large Hg sources in Guangzhou, China (Table 1). The median TGM  
295 concentration was 3.6 ng m<sup>-3</sup> which was much lower than that of the average, suggesting that  
296 there were some extreme pollution episodes with very high TGM concentrations.

297 The TGM concentration follows a typical log-normal distribution (Fig. S3). The range of 2  
298 to 5 ng m<sup>-3</sup> dominated the distribution, accounting for more than half of the total number of

299 samples (60.8%). The maximum frequency of 28.1% occurred between 2 and 3 ng m<sup>-3</sup>.  
300 Extremely high TGM concentration events (>20 ng m<sup>-3</sup>) were also observed (1.7% of the  
301 time).

302

### 303 5.3. Seasonal variations

304 The TGM concentration was statistically significantly higher in fall ( $6.7 \pm 6.4$  ng m<sup>-3</sup>) ( $p <$   
305  $0.01$ ), followed by spring ( $4.8 \pm 4.0$  ng m<sup>-3</sup>), winter ( $4.5 \pm 3.2$  ng m<sup>-3</sup>) and summer ( $3.8 \pm 3.9$   
306 ng m<sup>-3</sup>) (Table 2). The highest concentrations (TGM > 10 ng m<sup>-3</sup>) were measured more  
307 frequently in fall (24.7%), and the lowest concentrations (TGM < 3 ng m<sup>-3</sup>) mainly occurred  
308 in summer (49.7%). The low TGM concentration in summer is likely because increased  
309 mixing height (Friedli et al., 2011), and gas phase oxidation (Choi et al., 2013; Huang et al.,  
310 2010; Lynam and Keeler, 2006) at higher temperatures particularly at this sampling site  
311 which is close to the ocean (2 km) where oxidation involving halogens may be enhanced  
312 (Holmes et al., 2009; Lin et al., 2006). [The high TGM concentrations in fall was due to](#)  
313 [different wind direction \(see Fig. S2\), sources, relationships with other pollutants and](#)  
314 [meteorological conditions. More detailed information can be found in Section 5.5.](#)

315 The average concentrations of NO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>, CO, PM<sub>10</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub> during the complete sampling  
316 period were  $23.1 \pm 10.8$  ppbv,  $24.6 \pm 12.5$  ppbv,  $673.7 \pm 487.3$  ppbv,  $55.5 \pm 26.4$  μg m<sup>-3</sup> and  
317  $6.7 \pm 4.3$  ppbv, respectively. NO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>, CO, PM<sub>10</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub> concentrations were highest in  
318 spring (Table 2). There was a statistically significant positive correlation between the TGM  
319 and PM<sub>10</sub> ( $r = 0.10$ ) ( $p < 0.01$ ). [However, the TGM concentration was not significantly](#)  
320 [correlated with NO<sub>2</sub>, CO or SO<sub>2</sub> concentrations, suggesting that combustion associated with](#)  
321 [space heating was not a significant source of TGM \(Choi et al., 2009\).](#)

322

323 *5.4. Relationship between TGM and CO*

324 CO has a significant anthropogenic source and is considered to be an indicator of  
325 anthropogenic emissions (Mao et al., 2008). Previous studies reported that TGM and CO  
326 have a strong correlation because they have similar emission sources (combustion processes)  
327 and similar long atmospheric residence times (Weiss-Penzias et al., 2003).

328 There was a weak positive correlation between TGM and CO in this study ( $r = 0.04$ ) ( $p =$   
329  $0.27$ ). However there was a statistically significant correlation between TGM and CO in  
330 winter ( $r = 0.25$ ) ( $p < 0.05$ ), suggesting that TGM and CO were affected by similar, possibly  
331 distant, anthropogenic emission sources in winter.

332 On the other hand, there were no statistically significant correlations between TGM and  
333 CO in spring ( $r = 0.02$ ) ( $p = 0.78$ ), in summer ( $r = 0.13$ ) ( $p = 0.08$ ), or in fall ( $r = -0.03$ ) ( $p =$   
334  $0.69$ ), indicating that TGM and CO were affected by different anthropogenic emission  
335 sources in these seasons.

336 Previous studies identified the long-range transport of mercury using the  $\Delta\text{TGM}/\Delta\text{CO}$   
337 enhancement ratio (Choi et al., 2009; Jaffe et al., 2005; Kim et al., 2009; Weiss-Penzias et al.,  
338 2003; Weiss-Penzias et al., 2006). Kim et al. (2009) and Choi et al. (2009) investigated high  
339 concentration events which were defined as at least a 10 h period with hourly average TGM  
340 and CO concentrations higher than the average monthly TGM and CO concentrations. They  
341 reported that long-range transport events were characterized by high values of TGM/CO ratio  
342 ( $\Delta\text{TGM}/\Delta\text{CO}$ ) ( $0.0052$ - $0.0158 \text{ ng m}^{-3} \text{ ppb}^{-1}$ ) and high correlations ( $r^2 > 0.5$ ), whereas local  
343 events showed low  $\Delta\text{TGM}/\Delta\text{CO}$  ( $0.0005 \text{ ng m}^{-3} \text{ ppb}^{-1}$  in average) and weak correlations ( $r^2 <$   
344  $0.5$ ).

345 The observed  $\Delta\text{TGM}/\Delta\text{CO}$  was  $0.0001 \text{ ng m}^{-3} \text{ ppb}^{-1}$  in spring,  $0.0005 \text{ ng m}^{-3} \text{ ppb}^{-1}$  in  
346 summer,  $-0.0007 \text{ ng m}^{-3} \text{ ppb}^{-1}$  in fall,  $0.0011 \text{ ng m}^{-3} \text{ ppb}^{-1}$  in winter, which are significantly  
347 lower than that indicative of Asian long-range transport ( $0.0046\text{-}0.0056 \text{ ng m}^{-3} \text{ ppb}^{-1}$ ) (Friedli  
348 et al., 2004; Jaffe et al., 2005; Weiss-Penzias et al., 2006), suggesting that local sources are  
349 more important than that of long-range transport in this study. The  $\Delta\text{TGM}/\Delta\text{CO}$  in winter  
350 ( $0.0011 \text{ ng m}^{-3} \text{ ppb}^{-1}$ ) was similar to that of a site impacted by local sources in Korea (Kim et  
351 al., 2009) and in US industrially related events ( $0.0011 \text{ ng m}^{-3} \text{ ppb}^{-1}$ ) (Weiss-Penzias et al.,  
352 2007).

353 There are also uncertainties from the potential mixing between Hg associated with long-  
354 range transported airflows and local air making it difficult to distinguish between distant and  
355 local source impacts. However, it is possible that the one-week sampling period in each  
356 season did not capture the long-range transport events, and more can be learned using a larger  
357 dataset than just using the one-week sampling period to confirm these results.

358

### 359 5.5. Diurnal variations

360 Diurnal variations of TGM (Fig. 3), co-pollutants concentrations, and meteorological  
361 data were observed (Fig. S4). TGM,  $\text{O}_3$ , CO,  $\text{SO}_2$ , and temperature in the daytime (06:00-  
362 18:00) were higher than those in the nighttime (18:00-06:00) ( $p < 0.05$ ) except  $\text{PM}_{10}$  ( $p =$   
363  $0.09$ ) (Fig. S5). However,  $\text{NO}_2$  during the nighttime because of relatively lower  
364 photochemical reactivity with  $\text{O}_3$  was higher than that in daytime ( $p < 0.05$ ) (Adame et al.,  
365 2012). TGM generally showed a consistent diurnal variation with an increase in the early  
366 morning (06:00-09:00) and a decrease in the afternoon (14:00-17:00), similar to previous

367 studies (Dommergue et al., 2002; Friedli et al., 2011; Li et al., 2011; Liu et al., 2011; Mao et  
368 al., 2008; Shon et al., 2005; Song et al., 2009; Stamenkovic et al., 2007).

369 The daytime TGM concentration ( $5.3 \pm 4.7 \text{ ng m}^{-3}$ ) was higher than that in the nighttime  
370 ( $4.7 \pm 4.7 \text{ ng m}^{-3}$ ) ( $p < 0.01$ ), which was similar to several previous studies (Cheng et al.,  
371 2014; Gabriel et al., 2005; Nakagawa, 1995; Stamenkovic et al., 2007) but different than  
372 another studies (Lee et al., 1998). Previous studies reported that this different is due to local  
373 sources close to the sampling site (Cheng et al., 2014; Gabriel et al., 2005), a positive  
374 correlation between TGM concentration and ambient air temperature (Nakagawa, 1995) and  
375 increased traffic (Stamenkovic et al., 2007). However, another study suggested that the higher  
376 TGM concentration during the night was due to the shallowing of the boundary layer, which  
377 concentrated the TGM near the surface (Lee et al., 1998).

378 In a previous study the daytime TGM concentration was relatively lower than that in the  
379 nighttime because the sea breeze transported air containing low amounts of TGM from the  
380 ocean during the daytime whereas the land breeze transported air containing relatively high  
381 concentrations of TGM from an urban area during the nighttime (Kellerhals et al., 2003).

382 Although it is possible that the land-sea breeze may affect diurnal variations in TGM  
383 concentrations since the sampling site was near the ocean and lower TGM were also observed  
384 during the daytime, the higher concentrations in the daytime than those in nighttime were due  
385 to local emission sources because the daytime temperature ( $14.7 \pm 10.0 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ) was statistically  
386 significantly higher than that in the nighttime ( $13.0 \pm 9.8 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ) (t-test,  $p < 0.05$ ) and there was a  
387 weak but statistically significant negative correlation between TGM concentration and  
388 ambient air temperature ( $r = -0.08$ ) ( $p < 0.05$ ). In addition, there are several known Hg  
389 sources such as iron and steel manufacturing facilities including electric and sintering  
390 furnaces using coking between the sampling site and the ocean.

391 As shown in Fig. 3 and Fig. S4, there was a weak but negative relationship between the  
392 TGM concentrations and O<sub>3</sub> concentrations ( $r = -0.18$ ) ( $p < 0.01$ ), suggesting that oxidation  
393 of GEM in the oxidizing atmosphere during periods of strong atmospheric mixing was  
394 partially responsible for the diurnal variations of TGM concentrations. In addition, oxidation  
395 of GEM by bromine species in the coastal area (Obrist et al., 2011) or by chloride radicals in  
396 marine boundary layer (Laurier et al., 2003) might play a significant role. If oxidation of  
397 GEM occurred, GOM concentrations would increase. However there are uncertainties on the  
398 net effects on TGM (the sum of the GEM and the GOM) since we did not measure GOM  
399 concentrations.

400 Significantly different diurnal patterns have been observed at many suburban sites with  
401 the daily maximum occurring in the afternoon (12:00-15:00), possibly due to local emission  
402 sources and transport (Fu et al., 2010; Fu et al., 2008; Kuo et al., 2006; Wan et al., 2009).  
403 Other studies in Europe reported that TGM concentrations were relatively higher early in the  
404 morning or at night possibly due to mercury emissions from surface sources that accumulated  
405 in the nocturnal inversion layer (Lee et al., 1998; Schmolke et al., 1999).

406 TGM concentration was negatively correlated with ambient air temperature ( $r = -0.08$ )  
407 ( $p < 0.05$ ) because high ambient air temperature in the daytime will increase the height of the  
408 boundary layer and dilute the TGM, and the relatively lower boundary layer at nighttime  
409 could concentrate the TGM in the atmosphere (Li et al., 2011). Although there was a  
410 statistically significant negative correlation between the TGM concentration and ambient air  
411 temperature, there was a rapid increase in TGM concentration between 06:00-09:00 when  
412 ambient temperatures also increased possibly due to local emissions related to industrial  
413 activities, increased traffic, and activation of local surface emission sources. Similar patterns  
414 were found in previous studies (Li et al., 2011; Stamenkovic et al., 2007). Nonparametric

415 correlations revealed that there is a positive correlation between TGM and ambient air  
416 temperature ( $r_s = 0.11$ ,  $p=0.27$ ) between 06:00-09:00. The TGM concentration was  
417 negatively correlated with  $O_3$  ( $r_s = -0.33$ ,  $p<0.01$ ) but positively correlated with  $NO_2$  ( $r_s =$   
418  $0.21$ ,  $p<0.05$ ), suggesting that the increased traffic is the main source of TGM during these  
419 time periods.

420 Compared to other seasons, significantly different diurnal variations of TGM were  
421 observed in fall. The daytime TGM concentrations in fall were similar to those in other  
422 seasons, however, the nighttime TGM concentrations in fall were much higher than other  
423 seasons. As described earlier in Section 5.3, the high TGM concentrations in fall was  
424 possibly due to the relationship between other pollutants and meteorological conditions as  
425 well as different wind direction and sources. The nighttime TGM concentrations in fall were  
426 simultaneously positively correlated with  $PM_{10}$  ( $r=0.26$ ) ( $p<0.05$ ) and CO ( $r=0.21$ ) ( $p<0.05$ )  
427 concentrations and wind speed ( $r=0.35$ ) ( $p<0.01$ ), suggesting that the combustion process is  
428 an important source during this period.

429 Based on the above results, the diurnal variations in TGM concentration are due to a  
430 combination of: 1) reactions with an oxidizing atmosphere, 2) changes in ambient  
431 temperature and 3) local emissions related to industrial activities. To supplement these  
432 conclusions CPF and CBPF were used to identify source directions and TPSCF was used to  
433 identify potential source locations.

434

#### 435 5.6. CPF, CBPF and TPSCF results of TGM

436 Conventional CPF, CBPF and TPSCF plots for TGM concentrations higher than the  
437 average concentration show high source probabilities to the west in the direction of large steel  
438 manufacturing facilities and waste incinerators (Fig. 4). The CPF only shows high

439 probabilities from the west and provides no further information, however, the CBPF shows  
440 groups of sources with the high probabilities from the west and the northeast. CBPF shows  
441 that the high probabilities from the west occurred under high wind speed ( $> 3 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ )  
442 indicative of emissions from stacks as well as low wind speed ( $\leq 3 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ ) indicative of non-  
443 buoyant ground level sources (Uria-Tellaetxe and Carslaw, 2014).

444 As described in Section 5.4, correlations between TGM and CO revealed that TGM and  
445 CO were affected by similar anthropogenic emission sources in winter but affected by  
446 different sources in spring, summer and fall, which is supported by Fig. S6 which shows  
447 significantly different seasonal patterns of CPF and CBPF for TGM concentrations.

448 It is difficult to discuss about the different seasonal patterns for CPF and CBPF for TGM  
449 concentrations since there were no correlations between TGM and other pollutants in spring,  
450 summer and fall except  $\text{O}_3$ . However, compared to Fig. 4, the CPF and CBPF patterns in fall  
451 were similar to those during the whole sampling periods. Especially, the nighttime TGM  
452 concentration in fall was simultaneously positively correlated with  $\text{PM}_{10}$  ( $r=0.26$ ) ( $p<0.05$ )  
453 and CO ( $r=0.21$ ) ( $p<0.05$ ) concentrations and wind speed ( $r=0.35$ ) ( $p<0.01$ ), indicating that  
454 the combustion process from the west is an important source during this period.

455 Since TGM showed a significant correlation with CO ( $r=0.25$ ) ( $p<0.05$ ) and showed a  
456 weak positive correlation with  $\text{PM}_{10}$  ( $r=0.08$ ) ( $p=0.33$ ) in winter with high wind speed,  
457 combustion sources from the west are likely partially responsible for this result.

458 TPSCF identified the likely sources of TGM as the iron and manufacturing facilities and  
459 the hazardous waste incinerators which are located to the west from the sampling site. A  
460 previous study reported that the waste incinerators (9%) and iron and steel manufacturing  
461 (7%) were relatively high Hg emissions sources in Korea (Kim et al., 2010). Waste  
462 incinerators emissions were due to the high Hg content in the waste (Lee et al., 2004).

463 Emissions from iron and steel manufacturing are due to the numerous electric and sintering  
464 furnaces using coking which emits relatively high mercury concentrations (Lee et al., 2004)  
465 in Gyeongsangbuk-do including Pohang. There are several coke plants around the sampling  
466 site ([http://www.poscoenc.com/upload/W/BUSINESS/PDF/ENG\\_PLANT\\_2\\_1\\_3\\_5.pdf](http://www.poscoenc.com/upload/W/BUSINESS/PDF/ENG_PLANT_2_1_3_5.pdf)  
467 (accessed December 09, 2015)). They are essential parts of the iron and steel manufacturing,  
468 and the major source of atmospheric mercury related to the iron and steel manufacturing is  
469 from coke production (Pacyna et al., 2006).

470 The coastal areas east of the sampling site where there are large ports were also identified  
471 as the likely source areas of TGM. A previous study reported that the emissions of gaseous  
472 and particulate pollutants were high during vehicular operations in port areas and from  
473 marine vessel and launches (Gupta et al., 2002). Another possibility is that significant amount  
474 of GEM are emitted from the ocean surface because of photo-chemically and  
475 microbiologically mediated photo-reduction of dissolved GOM (Amyot et al., 1994; Zhang  
476 and Lindberg, 2001). [The northeast direction including the East Sea was also identified as  
477 potential source areas likely because this is an area with lots of domestic passenger ships  
478 routes. The south from the sampling was also identified as a likely source area of TGM where  
479 Ulsan Metropolitan City, South Korea's seventh largest metropolis with a population of over  
480 1.1 million is located. It includes a large petrochemical complex known as a TGM source  
481 \(Jen et al., 2013\).](#)

482

## 483 Conclusions

484 During the sampling periods, the average TGM concentration was higher than the Northern  
485 Hemisphere background concentration, however, considerably lower than those near  
486 industrial areas in China and higher than those in Japan and other locations in Korea. The  
487 median concentration of TGM was much lower than that of the average, suggesting that there  
488 were some extreme pollution episodes with very high TGM concentrations. The TGM  
489 concentration was highest in fall, followed by spring, winter and summer. The high TGM  
490 concentration in fall is due to transport from different wind directions than during the other  
491 periods. The low TGM concentration in summer is likely due to increased mixing height and  
492 gas phase oxidation at higher temperatures particularly at this sampling site which is close to  
493 the ocean (2 km) where oxidation involving halogens may be enhanced.

494 TGM consistently showed a diurnal variation with a maximum in the early morning  
495 (06:00-09:00) and minimum in the afternoon (14:00-17:00). Although there was a statistically  
496 significant negative correlation between the TGM concentration and ambient air temperature,  
497 the daytime TGM concentration was higher than those in the nighttime, suggesting that local  
498 emission sources are important. There was a negative relationship between the TGM  
499 concentrations and O<sub>3</sub> concentrations, indicating that the oxidation was partially responsible  
500 for the diurnal variations of TGM concentrations. The observed  $\Delta\text{TGM}/\Delta\text{CO}$  was  
501 significantly lower than that indicative of Asian long-range transport, suggesting that local  
502 sources are more important than that of long-range transport. CPF only shows high  
503 probabilities to the west from the sampling site where there are large steel manufacturing  
504 facilities and waste incinerators. However, CBPF and TPSCF indicated that the dominant  
505 sources of TGM were the hazardous waste incinerators and the coastal areas in the northeast

506 as well as the iron and manufacturing facilities in the west. The domestic passenger ships  
507 routes in the East Sea were also identified as possible source areas.

508

#### 509 **Author contribution**

510 Yong-Seok Seo conducted a design of the study, the experiments and analysis of data, wrote  
511 the initial manuscript, and finally approved the final manuscript. Seung-Pyo Jeong, Eun Ha  
512 Park, Tae Young Kim, Hee-Sang Eum, Dae Gun Park, Eunhye Kim, Jaewon Choi and Jeong-  
513 Hun Kim conducted the experiments, analysis of data, and finally approved the final  
514 manuscript. Thomas M. Holsen, Young-Ji Han and Eunhwa Choi and Soontae Kim  
515 conducted interpretation of the results, revision of the initial manuscript, and finally approved  
516 the final manuscript. Seung-Muk Yi conducted a design of the study, acquisition of data of the  
517 study, interpretation of data, and revision of the initial manuscript, and finally approved the final  
518 manuscript.

519

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525 Program”.

526

527 **Table List**

528 Table 1. Comparison with previous studies for TGM concentrations.

529 Table 2. Summary of atmospheric concentrations of TGM and co-pollutants, and  
530 meteorological data.

531

532 **Figure List**533 Fig. 1. The location of sampling site in this study ((a) South Korea, (b) Gyeongsangbuk-do  
534 and (c) Pohang).

535 Fig. 2. Time-series of TGM concentrations in this study.

536 Fig. 3. The diurnal variations of TGM concentrations during the sampling periods.

537 Fig. 4. CPF, CBPF and TPSCF plots for TGM higher than average concentration.

538 **Table 1.** Comparison with previous studies for TGM concentrations.

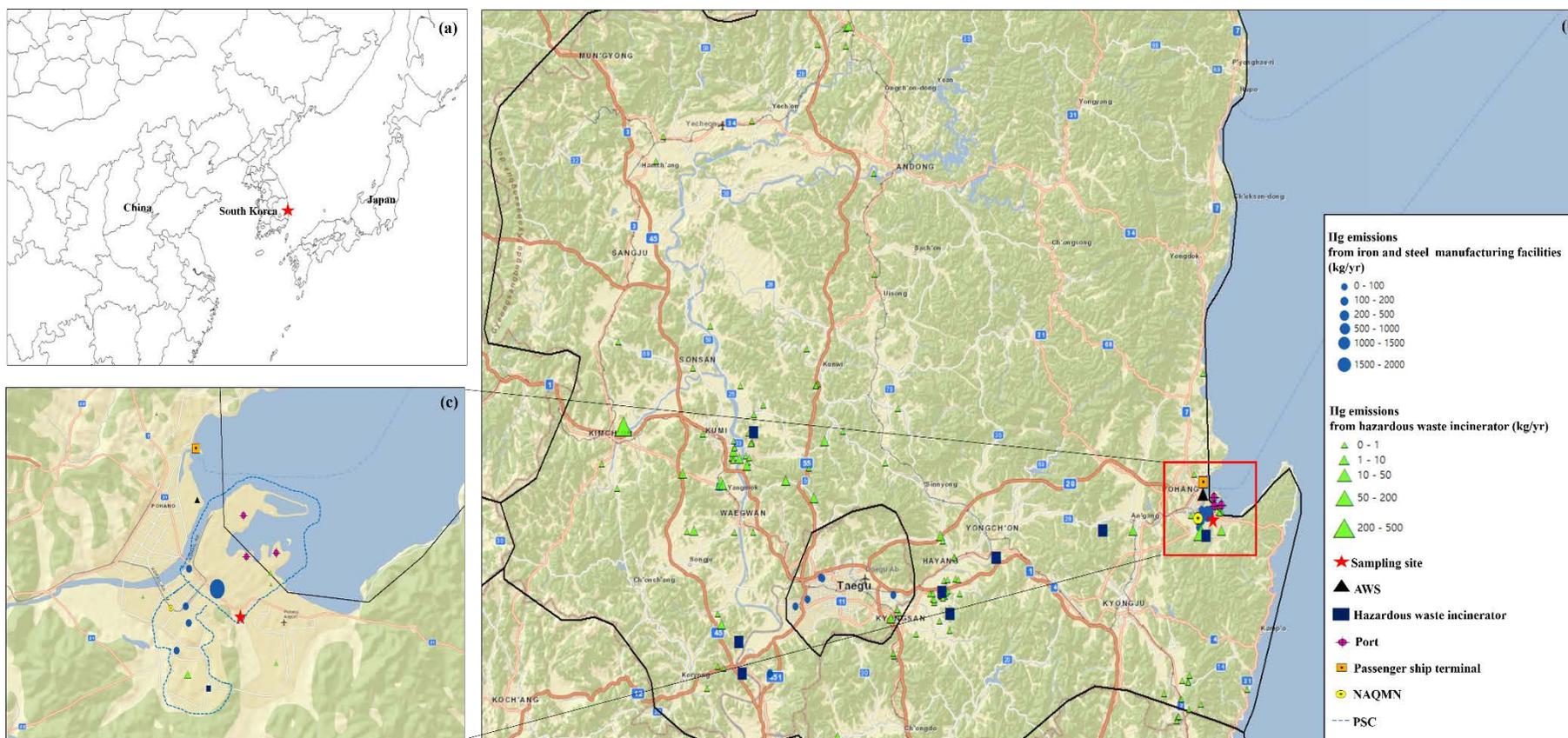
Country	Location	Sampling period	TGM conc. (ng m <sup>-3</sup> )	Classifications	Reference
China	Mt. Waliguan, Qinghai–Tibet Plateau	Oct. 2007 ~ Sep. 2009	2.1	Remote	Fu et al. (2015)
China	Mt. Hengduan, Qinghai–Tibet Plateau	Jul. 2010 ~ Oct. 2010	2.5	Remote	Fu et al. (2015)
China	Nanjing, Jiangsu	Jan. 2011 ~ Oct. 2011	7.9	Urban	Hall et al. (2014)
China	Mt. Dinghu, Guangdong	Oct. 2009 ~ Apr. 2010	5.1	Rural	Chen et al. (2013)
China	Guangzhou, Guangdong	Nov. 2010 ~ Nov. 2011	4.6	Urban	Chen et al. (2013)
China	Nanjing, Jiangsu	Jan. 2011 ~ Dec. 2011	7.9	Urban	Zhu et al. (2012)
China	Guangzhou, Guangdong	Jul. 1999 ~ Jul. 2000	13.5 - 25.4	Urban	Fang et al. (2004)
China	Gui Yang, Guizhou	Jan. 2010 ~ Feb. 2010	8.4	Urban	Feng et al. (2004)
China	Changchun, Jilin	Sep. 1999 ~ Aug. 2000	9.1-15.4	Suburban	Fang et al. (2004)
Japan	Fukuoka	Jun. 2012 ~ May 2013	2.33	Urban	Marumoto et al. (2015)
Japan	Tokai-mura	Oct. 2005 ~ Aug. 2006	3.8	Suburban	Osawa et al. (2007)
Japan	Tokyo	Apr. 2000 ~ Mar. 2001	2.7	Urban	Sakata and Marumoto (2002)
Korea	Seoul	1987 ~ 2013	3.7	Urban	Kim et al. (2016)
Korea	Gangwon-do, Chuncheon	2006 ~ 2009	2.1	Rural	Han et al. (2014)
Korea	Seoul	Feb. 2005 ~ Feb. 2006	3.2	Urban	Kim et al. (2009)
Korea	Seoul	Feb. 2005 ~ Dec. 2006	3.4	Urban	Choi et al. (2009)
Korea	Seoul	19 Sep. 1997 ~ 29 Sep. 1997 27 May. 1998 ~ 18 Jun. 1998	3.6	Urban	Kim and Kim (2001)
Korea	Gyeongsangbuk-do, Pohang	17 Aug. 2012 ~ 23 Aug. 2012 9 Oct. 2012 ~ 17 Oct. 2012 22 Jan. 2013 ~ 29 Jan. 2013 26 Mar. 2013 ~ 3 Apr. 2013	5.0	Urban	This study

539

540 **Table 2.** Summary of atmospheric concentrations of TGM and co-pollutants, and meteorological data. Note that TGM was measured every 5-  
541 min, and other pollutants and meteorological data were measured every 1-hour.

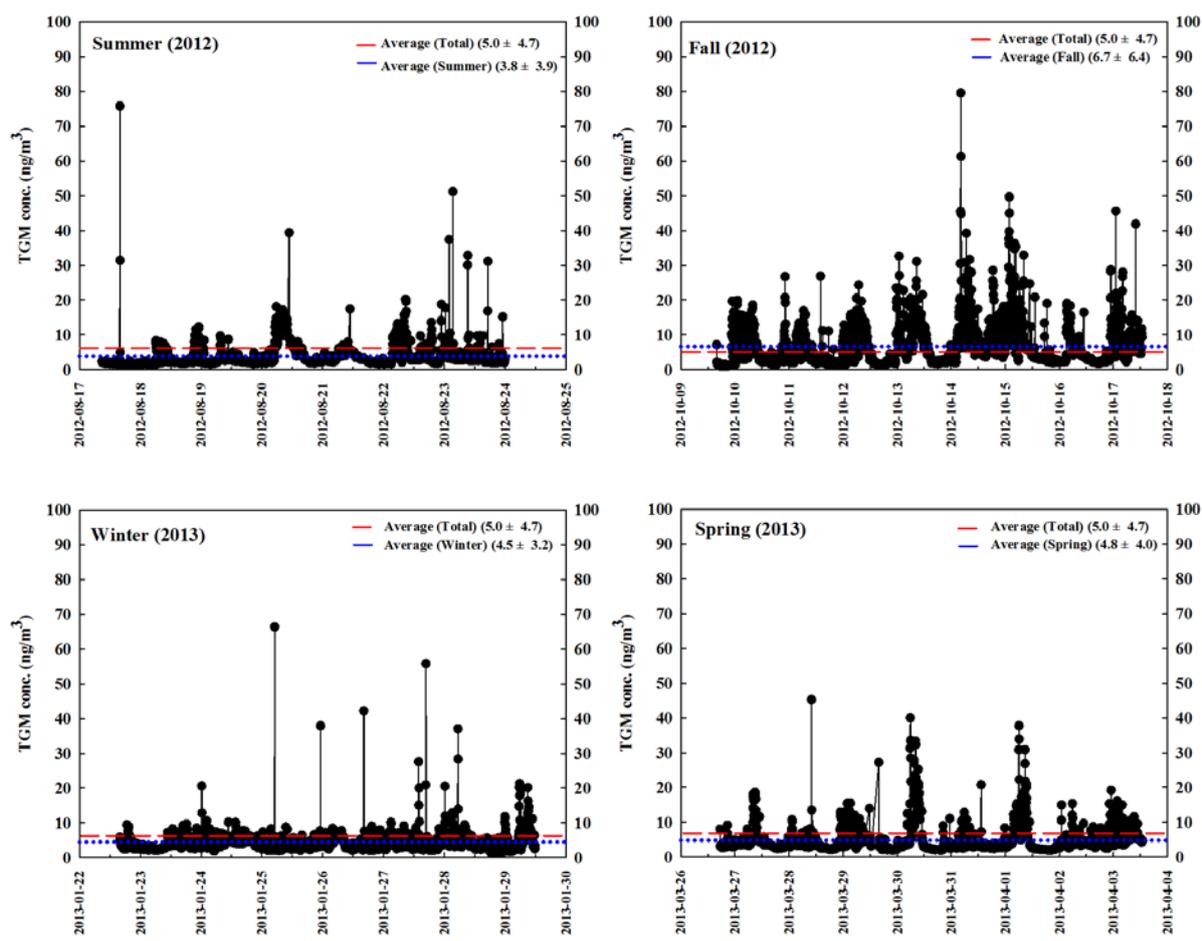
		TGM (ng m <sup>-3</sup> )	NO <sub>2</sub> (ppb)	O <sub>3</sub> (ppb)	CO (ppb)	PM <sub>10</sub> (µg m <sup>-3</sup> )	SO <sub>2</sub> (ppb)	Temperature (°C)	Wind speed (m s <sup>-1</sup> )	Humidity (%)	Solar radiation (MJ m <sup>-2</sup> )
Spring	N	2139	189	215	215	215	215	216	216	216	216
	Average	4.8 ± 4.0	25.3 ± 9.0	29.4 ± 14.2	766.5 ± 505.2	70.1 ± 26.0	7.6 ± 3.8	10.5 ± 4.2	2.2 ± 1.2	56.2 ± 16.8	0.82 ± 1.09
	Range	1.9 – 45.3	8 – 55	2 – 58	300 – 3100	28 - 204	5 - 35	1.1 – 21.6	0.4 – 6.2	19.0 – 94.0	0 – 3.44
Summer	N	1863	187	188	187	188	188	186	180	186	141
	Average	3.8 ± 3.9	18.3 ± 9.2	18.9 ± 10.1	697.3 ± 689.7	35.1 ± 15.8	6.5 ± 6.2	26.6 ± 4.2	2.2 ± 1.1	82.5 ± 13.9	0.40 ± 0.69
	Range	1.2 – 75.9	4 – 44	5 – 48	200 – 3300	12 – 87	2 - 27	19.7 – 34.1	0.1 – 6.4	43 - 98	0 – 2.92
Fall	N	2226	212	212	212	212	211	216	216	216	216
	Average	6.7 ± 6.4	25.0 ± 7.8	23.7 ± 13.1	662.7 ± 350.2	58.1 ± 17.8	5.3 ± 3.5	17.4 ± 3.2	2.1 ± 0.8	54.5 ± 14.7	0.62 ± 0.90
	Range	1.0 – 79.6	9 – 53	6 – 69	300 – 2900	20 - 145	3 - 39	11.7 – 25.2	0.5 – 4.5	12 - 79	0 – 2.90
Winter	N	1917	188	187	188	188	186	192	192	192	192
	Average	4.5 ± 3.2	23.5 ± 14.7	26.1 ± 8.7	556.4 ± 298.9	56.3 ± 30.5	7.4 ± 2.5	1.1 ± 4.3	2.8 ± 1.1	46.3 ± 24.5	0.43 ± 0.71
	Range	1.3 – 66.4	5 – 74	1 – 41	200 – 2400	18 – 161	5 – 24	-0.65 – 10.1	0.5 – 6.0	11 - 90	0 – 2.34
Total	N	8145	776	802	802	803	800	810	804	810	765
	Average	5.0 ± 4.7	23.1 ± 10.8	24.6 ± 12.5	673.7 ± 487.3	55.5 ± 26.4	6.7 ± 4.3	13.8 ± 9.9	2.3 ± 1.1	59.4 ± 22.1	0.59 ± 0.90
	Range	1.0 – 79.6	4 – 74	1 – 69	200 – 3300	12 – 204	2 – 39	-6.5 – 34.1	0.1 – 6.4	11 - 98	0 – 3.44

542



543

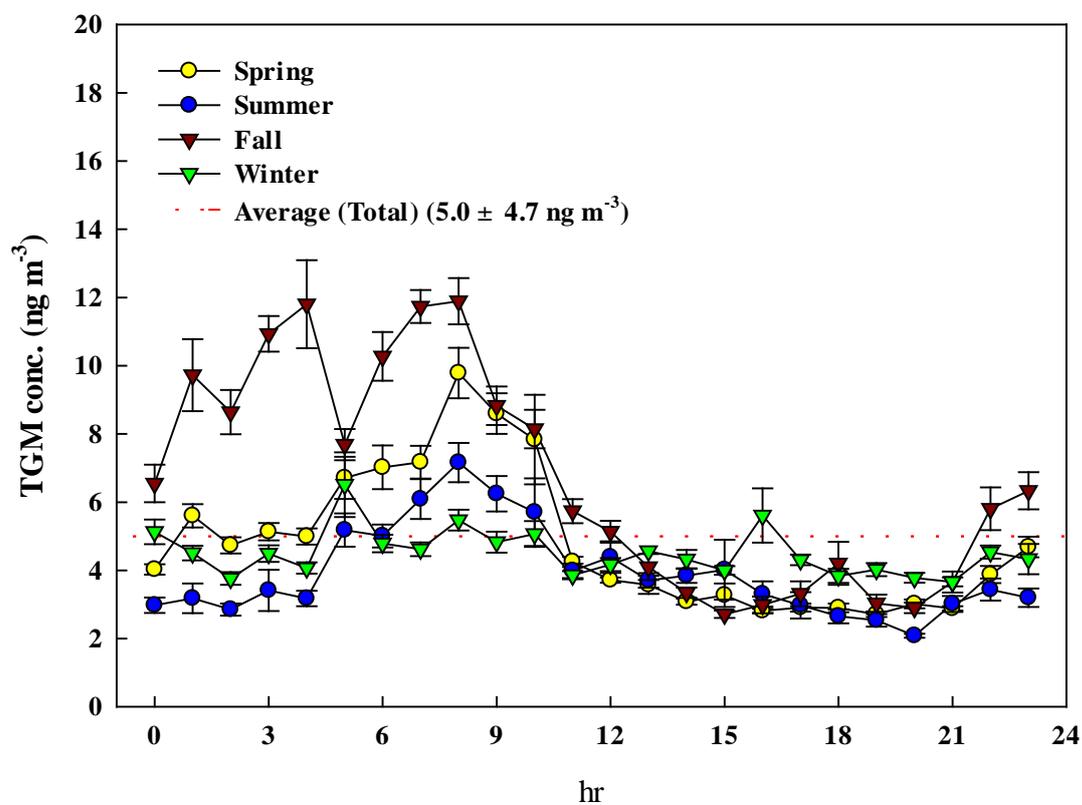
**Fig. 1.** The location of sampling site in this study ((a) South Korea, (b) Gyeongsangbuk-do and (c) Pohang). AWS, NAQMN and PSC represent Automatic Weather Station, National Air Quality Monitoring Network and Pohang Steel Complex, respectively.



544

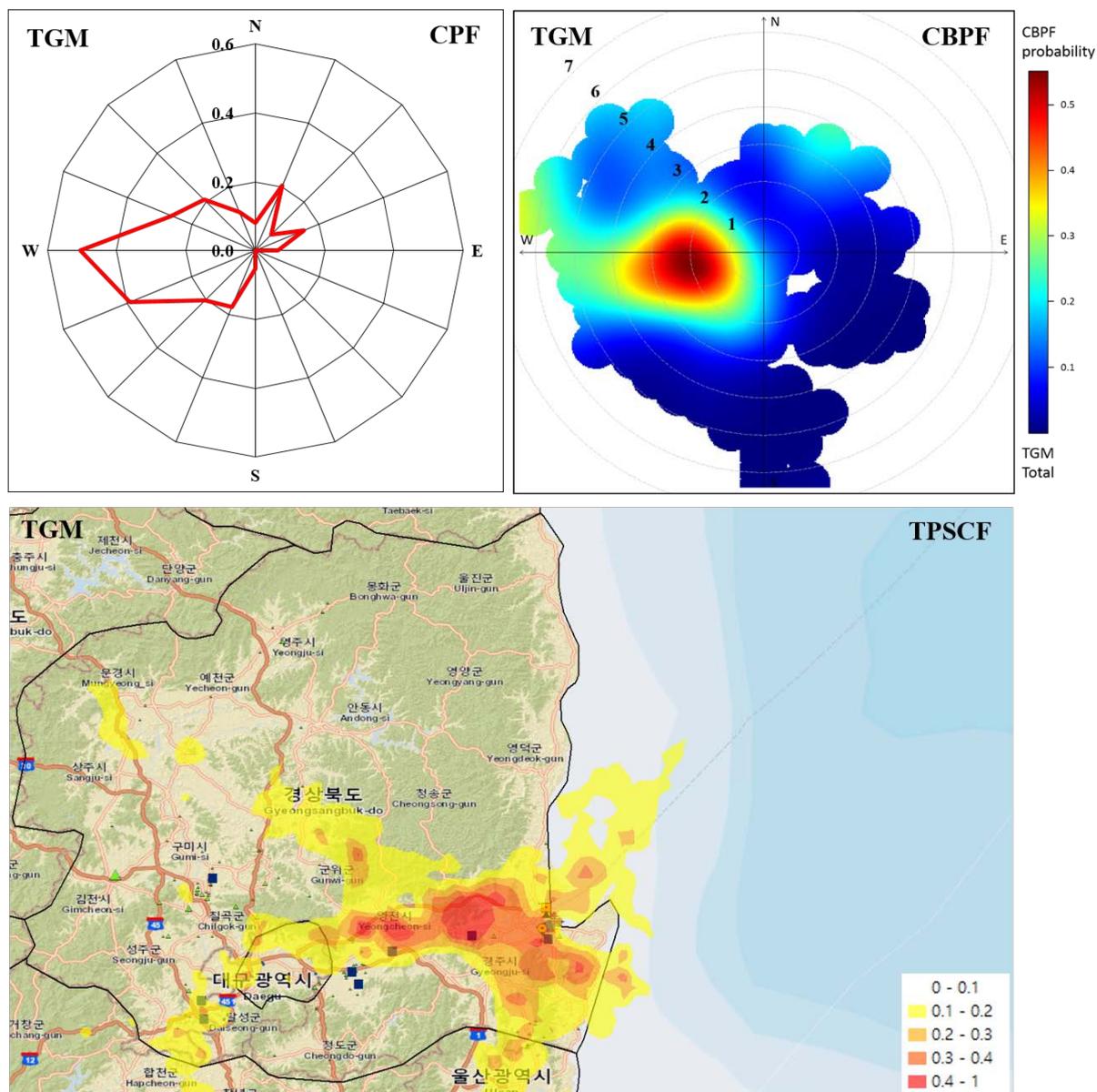
545

Fig. 2. Time-series of TGM concentrations in this study.



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**Fig. 3.** The diurnal variations of TGM concentrations during the sampling periods. The error bars represent standard error.



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**Fig. 4.** CPF, CBPF and TPSCF plots for TGM higher than average concentration. The radial axes of CPF and CBPF are the probability and the wind speed ( $m s^{-1}$ ), respectively.

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