Effectiveness evaluation of temporary emission control action in 2016 winter in Shijiazhuang, China

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Abstract.

To evaluate the environmental effectiveness of the control measures for atmospheric pollution in Shijiazhuang of China, a large-scale controlling experiment for emission sources of atmospheric pollutants (i.e., a temporary emission control action, TECA) was designed and implemented during November 1, 2016 to January 9, 2017. Under the unfavorably meteorological conditions, compared to the no control action and heating period (NCAHP), the mean concentrations of $PM_{2.5}$, PM_{10}, SO_2, NO_2, and chemical species (Si, Al, Ca^{2+}, Mg^{2+}) in $PM_{2.5}$ during the control action and heating period (CAHP) still decreased by 15 %, 26 %, 5 %, 19 %, 30.3 %, 4.5 %, 47.0 % and 45.2 %, respectively, indicating that the control measures for atmospheric pollution were effective and was in a right direction. The effects of control measures in suburbs were better than those in urban area, especially for the control effects of particulate matter sources. The control effects for emission sources of carbon monoxide (CO) were not apparent during the TECA period, especially in suburbs, likely due to the increasing usage of domestic coal in suburbs along with the temperature decreasing.

The results of PMF analysis showed that crustal dust, secondary sources, vehicle emissions, coal combustion and industrial emissions were main $PM_{2.5}$ sources. Compared to the whole year (WY) and the no control action and no heating period (NCANHP), the contribution concentrations and proportions of coal combustion to $PM_{2.5}$ increased significantly during other stages of TECA period. The contribution concentrations and proportions of crustal dust and vehicle emissions to $PM_{2.5}$ decreased apparently during the CAHP compared to other stages of TECA period. The contribution concentrations and proportions of industrial emissions to $PM_{2.5}$ during the CAHP decreased apparently compared to the NCAHP. The pollutants' emission sources during the CAHP were in effective control, especially for crustal dust and vehicles. While the necessary coal heating for cold winter and the unfavorably meteorological conditions had an offset effect on the control measures for emission sources to some degree. The results also illustrated that the discharge of pollutants might be still enormous even under such strict control measures.

The backward trajectory and potential source contribution function (PSCF) analysis in the light of atmospheric pollutants suggested that the potential sources-areas mainly involved in the surrounding regions of Shijiazhuang, i.e., south of Hebei, north of Henan and Shanxi. The regional nature of the atmospheric pollution in Northern China Plain revealed that there is an urgent need for making cross-boundary control policy except for local control-measures given the high background

52   level of pollutants.

53   The TECA is an important practical exercise but it can't be advocated as the normalized control

54   measures for atmospheric pollution in China. The direct cause of atmospheric pollution in China is

55   the emission of pollutants exceeds the air environment's self-purification capacity, and the essential

56   reason is unreasonable and unhealthy pattern for economic development of China.

57

58   **Keywords:** Atmospheric pollutants; Effectiveness evaluation; Control action; PMF; PSCF

59

1 Introduction

As a consequence of rapid industrialization and urbanization, China has been suffering from air quality degradation in recent years (Fu et al., 2014; Gao et al., 2015; Han et al., 2014; Hao et al., 2017; Zhao et al., 2011). Frequently occurred severe haze is featured by long duration, extensive coverage and sharply-increasing particulate concentration (Jiang and Xia, 2017; Tao et al., 2014; Wang et al., 2016a; Zhang et al., 2015a). It has been suggested that severe haze pollution increases the risk of respiratory and cardiovascular diseases (Chen et al., 2013; Gao et al., 2015; Pan et al., 2014; Zhang et al., 2014a; Zhou et al., 2015). On the basis of previous statistics, there are four haze-prone city clusters in China, including Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, Yangtze River Delta, Pearl River Delta and Sichuan Basin (Bi et al., 2014; Chen et al., 2016a; Fu et al., 2014; Fu and Chen, 2017; Li et al., 2016b; Tao et al, 2013a; Wang et al., 2015b; Wu et al., 2008; Zhang et al., 2015b). In recent years, the role of particulates in hazy events has been becoming more and more prominent. The particulates can be discharged from varieties of sources or formed by physicochemical/aqueous-oxidation reactions between gaseous precursors, which have significant negative effects on climate, atmospheric visibility and public health (Chen et al., 2015; Fu and Chen, 2017; Lee et al., 2015; Quinn and Bates, 2003; Shen et al., 2015; Tai et al., 2010; Zhang et al., 2010). The high observed concentrations of fine particles and prolonged haze events have occurred frequently during autumn and winter, and covered large regions in China. In some cases, the instantaneous mass concentration of $PM_{2.5}$ had reached up to 1000 μg/m³ (Qin et al., 2016; Zhang et al., 2014b), which caused the extensive concern from citizens and government agencies.

Confronted with severe air pollution and degradation of air quality, the government has taken a variety of control measures in recent years, including the odd-and-even license plate rule (http://www.sjz.gov.cn/col/1274081553614/2016/11/17/1479391129628.html), the mandatory installation of desulfurization, denitration and other pollution-controlling facilities in factories (Liu et al., 2017a; Ma et al., 2015; Peng et al., 2017) and the on-line monitoring system structure plan in construction sites, etc. The atmospheric quality in China has been notably improved so far. From 2013 to 2016, the concentrations of atmospheric pollutants in China showed a decreased trend, and the annual mean concentrations of $PM_{2.5}$, PM_{10}, SO_2 and NO_2, in 2016 reached up to 50 μg/m³, 85 μg/m³, 21 μg/m³ and 39 μg/m³, respectively, and significantly lower than those in 2013 (http://www.zhb.gov.cn/hjzl/zghjzkgb/lnzghjzkgb/). However, the annual mean concentrations of

90    $PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10} in 2016 were still 1.4 and 1.2 times higher than the national ambient air quality

91   standard (NAAQS) (GB3095-2012 Grade II, $PM_{2.5}$: 35 μg/m^3, PM_{10}:70 μg/m^3). Note that the

92   concentrations of $PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10} during Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region were up to 71 μg/m^3 and 119

93   μg/m^3 in 2016, and 2.0 and 1.7 times higher than the NAAQS, respectively. Therefore, China still

94   has a lot of work to do to improve the national air quality.

95   Over the last decade, Chinese government has implemented stricter control-measures for

96   emission sources during multiple international events held in China than normal times (Chen et al.,

97   2016b; Guo et al., 2013; Liu et al., 2013; Sun et al., 2016; Wang et al., 2010; Wang et al., 2017). For

98   instance, the first attempt took place during the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games (Guo et al., 2013).

99   Drastic control actions were executed to cut down the emissions of atmospheric pollutants from

100   motor vehicles, industries and building construction activity (UNEP, 2009; Wang et al, 2009a; Wang

101   et al., 2010). UNEP (2009) suggested that the concentration of PM_{10} in Beijing was reduced by 20 %

102   due to the emission reduction measures. Liu et al. (2013) reported that the concentrations of SO_2,

103   NO_2, PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ were reduced by 66.8 %, 51.3 %, 21.5 % and 17.1 %, respectively, during the

104   2010 Asian Games in Guangzhou of China, and during which stricter control measures for emission

105   sources were implemented. Furthermore, further stricter controls for emission sources were

106   implemented in both Beijing and its surrounding regions during the 2014 Asia-Pacifc Economic

107   Cooperation (APEC) summit and Parade. Compared to no-control during APEC and Parade, a

108   decreasing trend with 51.6~65.1 % and 34.2~64.7 % of $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations during the control

109   period was reported (Wang et al., 2017). Eventually, all the efforts led to a blue-sky days during the

110   APEC, which was acknowledged as "APEC Blue" (Wang et al., 2016b). As we can see that the air

111   quality can be improved in response to stricter emission controls in international events held in

112   China. However, once these stricter control-measures of emission sources were repealed, and the

113   air   quality   would   be   deteriorated   subsequently

114   (http://www.mep.gov.cn/gkml/hbb/qt/201412/t20141218_293152.htm),   indicating   that   the

115   prevention and control of air pollution in China still had a long way to go.

116   Shijiazhuang (38.03^o N, 114.26^o E), a hinterland city of Northern China Plain with a high

117   population density, is an important city in Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region (Sun et al., 2013). The rapid

118   industry development has a great contribution to this city's economic growth and degradation of air

119   quality at the same time (Du et al., 2010; Li et al., 2015; Yang et al., 2015, 2016a). Shijiazhuang has

120 been one of the cities with the most serious air pollution in the world

121 (https://www.statista.com/chart/4887/the-20-worst-cities-worldwide-for-air-pollution/), and

122 deteriorating air quality poses a great risk to public health (http://www.who.int/ceh/risks/cehair/en/),

123 as well as drags on the expansion of economy. The government of Shijiazhuang has adopted a

124 variety of control measures (http://www.sjzhb.gov.cn/), however, it seems that the improvement in

125 air quality of Shijiazhuang is not go into effect so far, and the atmospheric pollution is still heavy.

126 In 2016, the annual concentrations of $PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10} in Shijiazhuang reached up to 70 $\mu g/m^3$ and

127 123 $\mu g/m^3$, respectively, which were 2.0 and 1.8 times higher than the NAAQS (GB3095-2012

128 Grade II) (http://www.zhb.gov.cn/hjzl/tj/201706/_t20170606_415527.shtml). Especially in the

129 heating period in winter, the degree of atmospheric pollution in Shijiazhuang was even more serious.

130 The effectiveness of control measures has been queried in recent years. Therefore, based on previous

131 examples of APEC, Parade and the Asian Games, etc., a large-scale controlling experiment for

132 atmospheric pollutants sources (i.e., TECA) was designed and implemented to investigate whether

133 control measures in Shijiazhuang are effective for the atmospheric pollution. The experiment was

134 carried out in Shijiazhuang during November 1 2016 to January 9 2017, during which more stringent

135 control measures of atmospheric pollution than usual were put into practice. Then, by combining of

136 the changes of atmospheric pollutants concentrations, emission source contributions and other

137 factors such as meteorological conditions, regional transmission, etc., the effectiveness of control

138 measures was evaluated before and after the control measures were taken.

139 **2 Materials and Methods**

140 **2.1 Site description**

141 Shijiazhuang city is located in the east of Taihang Mountain in north of China (Fig. 1), and the

142 urban area is 15848 km^2, with a population of more than 10 million in 2016. Shijiazhuang is a large

143 industrial city that is famous for raw materials, energy production and steel, power, and cement

144 industries. The number of vehicles is more than 2.0 million until 2016. Shijiazhuang has a typical

145 temperate and monsoonal climate with four clearly distinct seasons, with northeasterly,

146 southeasterly and northwesterly winds prevailed during the TECA period (Fig. S1). The mean wind

147 speed was 0.6 m/s, and the average temperature was 14.9 ℃ during the TECA period. The mean

148 relative humidity was up to 76.5 %, and the mean height of mixed layer was 509 m during the TECA

149 period. The meteorological conditions during the four stages of the TECA period in Shijiazhuang

150   were shown in Table 1.

151   The seven monitoring sites including Twenty-second Middle School (TSMS), High-tech Zone

152   (HTZ), Great Hall of the People (GHP), Century Park (CP), Water Source Area in the Northwest

153   (WSAN), University Area in the Southwest (UAS) and Staff Hospital (SH) are located in urban area

154   of Shijiazhuang. While other seventeen sites including Fenglong Mountain (FLM), Gaoyi (GY),

155   Gaocheng (GC), Xingtang (XT), Jinzhou (JZ), Jingxing Mining District (JXMD), Lingshou (LS),

156   Luquan (LQ), Luancheng (LC), Pingshan (PS), Shenze (SZ), Wuji (WJ), Xinle (XL), Yuanshi (YS),

157   Zanhuang (ZH), Zhaoxian (ZX) and Zhengding (ZD) are suited in suburbs of Shijiazhuang. The

158   more details were shown in Table S1.

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160   **Fig. 1.** Maps of the online monitoring stations and the filter membrane sampling sites in Shijiazhuang. The 24 online
161   monitoring stations mainly include Twenty-second Middle School (TSMS), Fenglong Mountain (FLM), High-tech
162   Zone (HTZ), Great Hall of the People (GHP), Century Park (CP), Water Source Area in the Northwest (WSAN),
163   University Area in the Southwest (UAS), Staff Hospital (SH), Gaoyi (GY), Gaocheng (GC), Xingtang (XT), Jinzhou
164   (JZ), Jingxing Mining District (JXMD), Lingshou (LS), Luquan (LQ), Luancheng (LC), Pingshan (PS), Shenze (SZ),
165   Wuji (WJ), Xinle (XL), Yuanshi (YS), Zanhuang (ZH), Zhaoxian (ZX) and Zhengding (ZD). The filter membrane
166   sampling sites are mainly located in TSMS, LQ and LC.
167   **Table 1.** The meteorological conditions during the four stages (NCANHP, NCAHP, CAHP and ACA) of the TECA
168   period in Shijiazhuang.

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170   **2.2 Sampling and Analysis**

171   **2.2.1 Sampling**

172   From November 1, 2016 to January 9, 2017, the concentrations of $PM_{2.5}$, PM_{10}, SO_2, NO_2, CO,

173   O_3 and synchronous meteorological conditions (temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and

174   wind direction) were monitored in the 24 monitoring sites belonged to national, provincial and city

175   controlling points (Fig. 1). The more details about monitoring instruments were described in Table

176   S2. The heights of mixed layer were measured with a lidar scanner (AGHJ-I-LIDAR (HPL)), which

177   was set at an atmospheric gradient monitoring station in Shijiazhuang near CP site (Fig. 1), and

178   more details were shown in supplemental material. The $PM_{2.5}$ filter membrane samples were

179   collected in TSMS, LQ, and LC sites from November 24, 2015 to January 9, 2017. Three sampling

180   sites were set on the rooftops of buildings at 12-15 meters above ground level. Meanwhile, the

181   parallel samples and the field blanks were also collected at each site. More details about filter

182   membrane sampling were shown in Table S3. Before sampling, the quartz filter membranes (47 mm

183 in diameter, Whatman, England) and polypropylene filter membranes (47 mm in diameter, Beijing

184 Synthetic Fiber Research Institute, China) were baked in the oven at 500 °C and 60 °C, respectively.

185 All the filter membranes after sampling were stored at 4 ℃ before subsequent gravimetric and

186 chemical analysis to improve the accuracy of experimental results.

187 **2.2.2 Gravimetric and Chemical analysis**

188 A 24-hour equilibrium process of $PM_{2.5}$ filter membranes was performed at a condition of

189 constant temperature (20 ± 1 ℃) and humidity (45-55 %) before gravimetric analysis. For the

190 gravimetric analysis, all the filter membranes were weighted twice on a microbalance with

191 resolution of 0.01 mg (Mettler Toledo, XS105DU) before and after sampling. An electrostatic

192 eliminating device was applied to ensure the accuracy of gravimetric results.

193 After the gravimetric analysis, the quartz filter membranes which carried atmospheric

194 particulates were used to analyze water-soluble ions by Ion chromatography (Thermo Fisher

195 Scientific, Dionex, ICS-5000+). One-eighth of the filter membrane was cut up and put into a 25 mL

196 glass tube with 20 mL ultrapure water. After 1-hour ultrasonic extraction and 3 minutes

197 centrifugalization, the supernatant was filtered with disposable filter head (0.22 μm) for subsequent

198 instrumental analysis. The ions analyzed included SO_4^{2-}, NO_3^-, Cl^-, NH_4^+, K^+, Ca^{2+}, Na^+ and Mg^{2+},

199 and more details were shown in Figs. S2 and S3. Prior to the ions detection, standard solutions were

200 prepared and detected for over three times and low relative standard deviations (RSD) were obtained.

201 Analytical quantification was carried out by using calibration curves made from standard solutions

202 prepared.

203 Polypropylene filter membranes were used for elemental analysis by inductively coupled

204 plasma–mass spectrometry (ICP-MS, Agilent 7700x). Perchloric acid-nitric acid digestion method

205 was applied for the pretreatment of filter membranes. Aggregately, 10 elemental species (Al, Si, Ti,

206 Cr, Mn, Fe, Cu, Zn, As and Pb) were determined. The detection limits of all the elements were

207 shown in Table S4. For quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC), standard reference materials

208 were pre-treated and analyzed with the same procedure, with the recovered values for all the target

209 elements falling into the range or within 5 % of certified values.

210 The OC and EC were determined on a 0.558 cm^2 quartz filter membrane punch by Desert

211 Research Institute (DRI) Model 2001 Thermal/Optical Carbon Analyzer with IMPROVE A

212 thermal/optical reflectance (TOR) protocol. The quartz filter membrane was heated stepwise to

213   temperatures of 140 °C, 280 °C, 480 °C and 580 °C in a non-oxidizing helium (He) oven to analyse

214   OC1, OC2, OC3 and OC4, respectively. Then, the oven was added to an oxidizing atmosphere of

215   2 % oxygen (O_2) and 98 % He, and the quartz filter membrane was gradually heated to 580 °C,

216   780 °C and 840 °C to analyse EC1, EC2 and EC3, respectively. The POC is defined as the carbon

217   combusted after the initial introduction of oxygen and before the laser reflectance signal achieves

218   its original value and the POC is specified as the fraction of OC. According to the IMPROVE A

219   protocol, OC is defined as OC1+OC2+OC3+OC4+POC, and EC is defined as

220   EC1+EC2+EC3−POC. For QA/QC, we carried out the measurement with the field blank filter

221   membranes, standard sucrose solution and repeated analysis in the study. During each season, the

222   field blanks were sampled and the particulate samples have been corrected by the average

223   concentration of the blanks. For checking the precision of instrument, a replicate sample was

224   analysed for every 10 samples, and the standard deviation $< \pm 5$ % was accepted. The method

225   detection limits (MDLs) of OC and EC are 0.45 and 0.06 $\mu g/cm^2$, respectively.

226   **2.3 PMF model**

227   PMF model can decompose a matrix of sample data (X) into two matrices: source profile (F)

228   and source contribution (G), in terms of observations at the sampling sites (Paatero and Tapper,

229   1994). The principle of PMF model can be described by:

230
$$X_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^{p} g_{ik} f_{kj} + e_{ij} \qquad \textbf{(1)}$$

231   where X_{ij} represents concentration of the jth species in the ith sample, g_{ik} represents the contribution

232   of the kth source to the ith sample, f_{kj} represents the source profile of jth species from the kth source,

233   e_{ij} represents the residual for the jth species in the ith sample, and p represents the number of sources.

234   PMF can identify emission sources of $PM_{2.5}$ without source profiles. Data below MDLs are

235   retained for using in PMF model with the related uncertainty adjusted in terms of the characteristics

236   that PMF model admits data to be signally weighed. To assess the stability of the solution, the object

237   function Q can be allowed to review the distribution of each species, which is expressed by:

238
$$Q = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{m} \left[\frac{x_{ij} - \sum_{k=1}^{p} g_{ik} f_{kj}}{\mu_{ij}} \right]^2 \qquad \textbf{(2)}$$

239   where μ_{ij} represents the uncertainty of jth species in the ith sample, which is applied to weight the

240   observations that include the sampling errors, missing data, detection limits and outliers.

241   The purpose of PMF model was to minimize the function (Eq. (2)). Data below MDLs were

242   retained and their uncertainties were set to 5/6 of the MDLs. Missing values were replaced by the

243   median concentration of a given species, with an uncertainty of four times the median (Brown et al.,

244   2015). Values that were larger than the MDLs, the calculation of uncertainty was in terms of a user

245   supplied fraction of the concentration and MDLs, and the error fraction was suggested as 10 % by

246   Paatero (2000). Uncertainty was described by:

247        $Uncertainty = \sqrt{(Error\ Fraction \times concentration)^2 + (0.5 \times MDL)^2}$ **(3)**

248   In this study, EPA PMF 5.0 model was used to identify the $PM_{2.5}$ sources in Shijiazhuang city.

249   Based on the field investigation and change of Q values, and finally, five factors were chosen in

250   PMF analysis. When five factors were chosen and input in PMF model, and the calculated Q value

251   (5162) from PMF model was close to theoretical values (5045). The observed $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations

252   and calculated $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations from PMF model showed high correlations ($r = 0.96$) (Fig. S4).

253   S/N is the signal-to-noise ratio, which is used to address weak and bad variables when running PMF

254   model (Paatero and Hopke, 2003). The signal vector is identified as S and the noise vector is

255   identified as N. Next, S/N is defined as Eq. (4). Variables with S/N ≤ 0.2 were removed from the

256   analysis, while weak variables (0.2 ≤ S/N ≤ 2.0) were down-weighted (Ancelet et al., 2012). S/N of

257   As, Ti and Cr were lower than 1.0 in this study, and these species were set as weak variables.

258           $S/N = \sqrt{\sum s_i^2 / \sum n_i^2}$ **(4)**

259   where i represents the chemical species in $PM_{2.5}$.

260 **2.4 Backward trajectory and PSCF model**

261   In this study, the 72-h backward trajectory arriving in Shijiazhuang (38.05° N, 55.2° E) was

262   calculated at 1-h intervals during the CAHP by the Hybrid Single Particle Lagrangian Integrated

263   Trajectory (HYSPLIT) model. The final global analysis data were produced from the National

264   Center for Environmental Prediction's Global Data Assimilation System wind field reanalysis

265   (http://www.arl.noaa.gov/). The model was run 4 times per day at starting times, i.e., 0:00, 06:00,

266   12:00, 18:00 LT; the starting height was set at 100 m above the ground. The PSCF model was used

267   to identify the potential sources-areas in terms of the HYSPLIT analysis. The study region was

268   divided into $i \times j$ small equal grid cells. The trajectory clustering and PSCF model were performed

269   by using the GIS-based software TrajStat (Liu et al., 2017a; Wang et al., 2009b). The PSCF value

270   was defined as:

271 $$PSCF = \frac{m_{ij}}{n_{ij}} \qquad\qquad (5)$$

272 where i and j were the latitude and longitude indices, n_{ij} represented the number of endpoints that

273 fell in the ij cell, and m_{ij} was the number of endpoints in the same cell that were related to the

274 samples that were greater than the threshold criterion.

275   Based on the NAAQS (GB3095-2012 guideline value (24 h) of Grade II), the criterion values

276 of $PM_{2.5}$, PM_{10}, NO_2, CO were set to 75 μg/m^3, 150 μg/m^3, 80 μg/m^3 and 4 mg/m^3, respectively. The

277 criterion values of SO_2 and O_3 were set to 68 μg/m^3 and 15μg/m^3 respectively, in terms of the

278 average during the CAHP. When n_{ij} is smaller than three times the grid average number of trajectory

279 endpoint (n_{ave}), a weighting function $W(n_{ij})$ was used to reduce uncertainty in cells (Dimitriou et al.,

280 2015). The weighting function was defined by:

281 $$WPSCF_{ij} = \frac{m_{ij}}{n_{ij}} * W(n_{ij}) \qquad\qquad (6)$$

282 $$W(\mathrm{n}_{ij}) = \begin{cases} 1.00, 3n_{ave} < n_{ij} \\ 0.70, 1.5n_{ave} < n_{ij} \leqslant 3n_{ave} \\ 0.40, n_{ave} < n_{ij} \leqslant 1.5n_{ave} \\ 0.20, n_{ij} \leqslant n_{ave} \end{cases} \qquad (7)$$

283   The studying field ranged from 33˚ N to 51˚ N, and 97˚ E to 121˚ E, and the region that was

284 covered by the backward trajectories was divided into 432 grid cells of 1.0˚ × 1.0˚. The total number

285 of endpoints during the CAHP was 12672. Accordingly, there was an average of 5 trajectory

286 endpoints in per cell ($n_{ave} = 5$).

287 **2.5 Measures taken in the controlling experiment**

288   The measures taken in the controlling experiment began on November 18, 2016 and ended on

289 December 31, 2016 in Shijiazhuang

290 (http://www.sjz.gov.cn/col/1274081553614/2016/11/17/1479391129628.html). The measures taken

291 in the control action were mainly aimed at controlling emission sources of atmospheric pollutants

292 in Shijiazhuang, which mainly included five aspects: (1) reduce the usage of coal, (2) decrease

293 industrial production, (3) inhibition of dust emission, (4) driving restriction, and (5) prohibit open

294 burning. The more details were described in supplemental material.

295   Actually, a total of 1543 enterprises were shut down in the whole city of Shijiazhuang during

296 the control action period, including pharmaceutical, steel, cement, coking, casting, glass, ceramics,

297 calcium and magnesium, sheet, sand and stone processing, stone processing and other industries.

298 The situation of specific closed-enterprises in different districts and counties is shown in Table S5.

299 In closed enterprises in Shijiazhuang, the number of mining and stone processing enterprises was

300 the largest, which was up to 733 and account for 48 % of all the closed enterprises. The numbers of

301 casting and building materials enterprises were up to 297 and 227, respectively, accounting for 19 %

302 and 15 % of the all, respectively. In addition, 64 enterprises related to pharmaceutical industry were

303 halted only for the VOC technology, and the 17 enterprises related to chemical industry must stop

304 production. The numbers of closed enterprises for cement and calcium/magnesium industry were

305 up to 49 and 40, respectively. The number of closed factories related to furniture and tanneries was

306 43, and the numbers of closed steel and coking enterprises were up to 4 and 7, respectively.

307 The average value of daily social-electricity consumption from November 18 to December 31,

308 2016 was 103,470,000 kW $\cdot$ h (Fig. S5), which declined 10 % compared to that of daily social-

309 electricity consumption from November 1 to 17, 2016, and declined 6 % compared to that of daily

310 social-electricity consumption during the same period in 2015. Restriction of motor vehicles based

311 on odd-and-even license plate rule in urban area of Shijiazhuang resulted in the decrease of the

312 average traffic-flow on arterial roads, which reduced about 30 % compared to before the control

313 action (Fig. S6). The dust emission can be reduced about 390 tons per day by a series of dust control-

314 measures. Compared to before the control action, the daily emissions of SO_2, NO_x, smoke dust and

315 VOCs reduced about 20 %, 33 %, 15 % and 7 %, respectively, during the control action period, on

316 the basis of the statistics on pollutants emission inventories.

317 **3 Results and discussion**

318 **3.1 Variations of atmospheric pollutants concentrations**

319 **3.1.1 Temporal trend**

320 The time series of atmospheric pollutants concentrations during the TECA period are shown in

321 Fig. 2. The average concentrations of $PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10} during the TECA period in Shijiazhuang were

322 up to 181 μg/m^3 and 295 μg/m^3, respectively, which were 5.2 and 3.2 times than the Grade II limit

323 values in the NAAQS. The ratio of $PM_{2.5}/PM_{10}$ reached up to 0.62 during the TECA period,

324 indicating that the fine particulate dominated on the particulate pollution in Shijiazhuang. The mean

325 concentration of $PM_{2.5}$ during the TECA period was significantly higher than those of winter in

326 Beijing (95.50 μg/m^3), Tianjin (144.6 μg/m^3), Hangzhou (127.9-144.9 μg/m^3), Heze (123.6 μg/m^3)

327 and Xinxiang (111 μg/m^3) (Cheng et al., 2015; Gu et al., 2011; Liu et al., 2015; Liu et al., 2017a;

328   Feng et al., 2016), and lower than those of winter in Handan (240.6 μg/m^3) and Xian (266.8 μg/m^3)

329   (Meng et al., 2016; Zhang et al., 2011). Additionally, the NAAQS (GB3095-2012 Grade II) values

330   of SO_2, NO_2, CO and O_3 were 60 μg/m^3, 40 μg/m^3, 4 mg/m^3 and 160 μg/m^3, respectively. During

331   the TECA period, the average concentration of SO_2 (60 μg/m^3) could meet the NAAQS, and that of

332   NO_2 (81 μg/m^3) was far exceed the NAAQS; while those of CO (3.4 mg/m^3) and O_3 (15 μg/m^3)

333   were less than the NAAQS.

334   As well known, the date of coal-fired heating in Shijiazhuang began in November 15, 2016

335   (http://www.sjz.gov.cn/col/1451896947837/2016/10/28/1477635691926.html). Depending on the

336   changes of atmospheric pollution sources and meteorological conditions (Table 1), the timeline of

337   the TECA was divided into four stages: stage 1: no control action and no heating period (NCANHP),

338   ranging from November 1 to 14, 2016; stage 2: no control action and heating period (NCAHP),

339   ranging from November 15 to 17, 2016; stage 3: control action and heating period (CAHP), ranging

340   from November 18 to December 31, 2016; stage 4: after control action (ACA), ranging from January

341   1 to 9, 2017.

342   During the TECA period, the variations of atmospheric pollutants concentrations were mainly

343   affected by the heating for cold winter and the control measures of the control action except for the

344   meteorological conditions. Therefore, we defined the following equations to evaluate the effects of

345   the heating and control action, respectively, based on the atmospheric pollutants concentrations

346   during the different stages of TECA (i.e., NCANHP, NCAHP, CAHP and ACA).

347    $$P_{i-heating} = \frac{(C_{i-NCAHP} - C_{i-NCANHP}) \times 100}{C_{i-NCANHP}} \qquad \textbf{(8)}$$

348    $$P_{i-action} = \frac{(C_{i-NCAHP} - C_{i-CAHP}) \times 100}{C_{i-NCAHP}} \qquad \textbf{(9)}$$

349   where $P_{i-heating}$ represents the increasing percentage (%) of atmospheric pollutant concentration

350   because of the combined effects of heating for cold winter and meteorological conditions; $P_{i-action}$

351   represents the decreasing percentage (%) of atmospheric pollutant concentration because of the

352   combined influences of control action and meteorological conditions; $C_{i-NCANHP}$ represents the

353   concentration (μg/m^3, CO: mg/m^3) of atmospheric pollutant during the no-control action and no-

354   heating period; $C_{i-NCAHP}$ represents the concentration (μg/m^3, CO: mg/m^3) of atmospheric pollutant

355   during the no-control action and heating period; C_{i-CAHP} represents the concentration (μg/m^3, CO:

356   mg/m^3) of atmospheric pollutant during the control action and heating period.

357 During the NCANHP, the mean concentrations of $PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10} were 156 μg/m^3 and 253

358 μg/m^3 in Shijiazhuang, respectively. With the beginning of heating, the mean concentrations of

359 $PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10} increased 44 μg/m^3 and 64 μg/m^3 during the NCAHP, respectively, and the $P_{PM2.5\text{-}}$

360 $_{heating}$ and $P_{PM10\text{-}heating}$ values were up to 28 % and 25 % (Fig. 3 and Fig. 4). However, during the

361 CAHP, the mean concentrations of $PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10} were 185 μg/m^3 and 291 μg/m^3, respectively,

362 which decreased by 15 % and 26 % compared to the NCAHP. And the $P_{PM2.5\text{-}action}$ and $P_{PM10\text{-}action}$

363 values were 8 % and 8 %, respectively. The mean height of mixed layer, the mean wind speed and

364 temperature during the CAHP were lower than those during the NCAHP (Table 1). Unfavorably

365 meteorological conditions during the CAHP had an offset effect on the control measures for

366 emission sources. In view of Eq. (9), it can be seen that the positive values for $P_{PM2.5\text{-}action}$ and $P_{PM10\text{-}}$

367 $_{action}$ are more able to show that control action was effective. During the ACA, the concentrations of

368 $PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10} were 227 μg/m^{3}and 383 μg/m^3, respectively, which increased significantly by 42

369 μg/m^3 and 92 μg/m^3 compared to the CAHP. The variations of SO_2 and NO_2 concentrations during

370 different stages of TECA were similar to those of $PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10} concentrations. The $P_{SO2\text{-}heating}$

371 and $P_{NO2\text{-}heating}$ values were 50 % and 33 %, respectively, and the $P_{SO2\text{-}action}$ and $P_{NO2\text{-}action}$ values were

372 5 % and 19 %. Note that the mean concentration of CO in Shijiazhuang city varied from 2.2 mg/m^3

373 during the NCANHP to 5.5 mg/m^3 during the ACA period, which showed an increasing tendency

374 (Fig. 3). Because CO was mainly produced from the uncompleted combustion of fossil fuels, so the

375 usage of domestic coal might be increasing with the gradual decrease of temperature from the

376 NCANHP (8.4 ℃) to the ACA period (0.7 ℃) (Table 1). Meanwhile, it can also be inferred that

377 the control of domestic coal during the TECA period in Shijiazhuang city performed little efficiency.

378 Because of the lack of emission inventories for domestic coal or small-boiler coal in Shijiazhuang,

379 so that the control measures were less targeted. Additionally, the concentrations of O_3 during

380 different stages of TECA were lower compared to other pollutants (Figs. 2 and 3). Overall, the

381 control measures of emission sources in Shijiazhuang during the TECA period were go into effect,

382 while the coal heating for cold winter and the unfavorably meteorological conditions during the

383 CAHP had an offset effect on the efforts of control measures for pollutant sources to some extent.

384 The average wind speed during the CAHP (0.4 m/s on average) was lower than those during the

385 other stages of the TECA period (0.5-0.7 m/s on average) (Table 1), and the wind directions were

386 changeable (Fig. S1), which was in favor of the accumulation of atmospheric pollutants, and thus

387   causing the concentrations of atmospheric pollutants to increase during the CAHP. Note that the

388   heights of mixed layer showed an apparently decreasing tendency from the NCANHP (540 m on

389   average) and the NCAHP (590 m on average) to the ACA (431 m on average), and the height of

390   mixed layer during the CAHP was only 474 m on average (Table 1). The decrease in the height

391   of mixed layer can cause the concentrations of atmospheric pollutants near the ground to be

392   compressed significantly and enhanced subsequently. In addition, during the CAHP, the

393   multidirectional air-masses that were mainly originated from the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei and its

394   surrounding areas (e.g. Henan, Shandong and south of Hebei) displayed an overlap with each

395   other in Shijiazhuang (Fig. S7), and further aggravate the level of air pollution in Shijiazhuang.

396   ----

397   **Fig. 2.** The variations of atmospheric pollutants concentrations during the four stages (NCANHP, NCAHP, CAHP
398   and ACA) of the TECA period in Shijiazhuang.

399   **Fig. 3.** The concentrations variations of $PM_{2.5}$, PM_{10} and gaseous pollutants during the four stages (NCANHP,
400   NCAHP, CAHP and ACA) of the TECA period in Shijiazhuang.

401   **Fig. 4.** The $P_{i\text{-heating}}$ and $P_{i\text{-action}}$ of $PM_{2.5}$, PM_{10} and gaseous pollutants (SO_2, NO_2, CO and O_3) calculated by equation
402   (8) and (9) in urban area and suburb in Shijiazhuang.

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404   **3.1.2 Spatial variation**

405   The concentrations variations of $PM_{2.5}$, PM_{10} and related gaseous pollutants (SO_2, NO_2, CO

406   and O_3) during four stages (NCANHP, NCAHP, CAHP and ACA) in urban area and suburb in

407   Shijiazhuang are shown in Figs. 3 and 5. During the NCANHP, the average concentrations of $PM_{2.5}$

408   in urban area and suburb were 166 μg/m^3 and 152 μg/m^3, respectively. The concentrations of $PM_{2.5}$

409   in urban area and suburb increased significantly during the NCAHP (t-test, $p<0.01$). The meanly

410   increased concentration of $PM_{2.5}$ (46 μg/m^3) in urban area was higher than that of in suburb (43

411   μg/m^3), but the value of $P_{PM2.5\text{-heating}}$ in suburb (29 %) was higher than that in urban area (27 %) (Fig.

412   4). Note that the mean concentration of $PM_{2.5}$ in urban area was up to 243 μg/m^3 during the CAHP,

413   which showed an increasing tendency, and the $P_{PM2.5\text{-action}}$ value was -15 % (Fig. 4), likely due to

414   the unfavorably meteorological conditions such as lower wind speed (0.4 m/s) and lower height of

415   mixed layer (474 m), etc. (Table 1 and Fig. S7). Conversely, compared to the NCAHP, the

416   concentrations of $PM_{2.5}$ in suburb (a mean of 161 μg/m^3) decreased significantly during the CAHP

417   (t-test, $p<0.01$), and the $P_{PM2.5\text{-action}}$ was up to 18 % (Fig. 4), indicating the control measures of $PM_{2.5}$

418   sources in suburb might be more effective than urban area. The tendency of SO_2 concentrations

during different stages of TECA (except the ACA period) was similar to that of $PM_{2.5}$. The $P_{SO2\text{-}heating}$ and $P_{SO2\text{-}action}$ values in urban area were up to 58 % and -4 %, respectively, and were up to 47 % and 8 % in suburb during the TECA period (Fig. 4). However, the concentrations of SO_2 in urban area and suburb decreased remarkably during the ACA compared to the CAHP (t-test, $p<0.01$), probably due to the effective control measures.

During the NCANHP, the average concentrations of PM_{10} in urban area and suburb were 280 and 242 $\mu g/m^3$, respectively. Then, the meanly increased concentrations in urban area and suburb were up to 65 and 64 $\mu g/m^3$ during the NCAHP, which were comparable with each other. Nevertheless, the mean $P_{PM10\text{-}heating}$ value in suburb was higher (26 %) than that in urban area (23 %) (Fig. 4). During the CAHP, the meanly decreased concentration of PM_{10} in urban area was 1 $\mu g/m^3$, and apparently lower than that of suburb (36 $\mu g/m^3$), as well as the mean $P_{PM10\text{-}action}$ values in urban area and suburb were 0.4 % and 12 %, respectively (Fig. 4). It can be seen that the control of PM_{10} sources in suburb was more effective compared to urban area, in case of exclusion of unfavorably meteorological conditions (Table 1 and Fig. S7), probably related to more than 700 enterprises closed down which mainly carried out ore mining and stone processing in suburb (Tables S1 and S5). The tendency of NO_2 concentrations in urban area and suburb was similar to that of PM_{10} during different stages of TECA period. The mean $P_{NO2\text{-}heating}$ values in urban area and suburb were up to 31 % and 34 %, respectively; while the mean $P_{NO2\text{-}action}$ values in urban area and suburb were up to 17 % and 21 %, respectively. Note that the concentrations of CO in urban area and suburb showed an increasing tendency from the NCANHP (2.1-2.4 mg/m^3) to the ACA period (5.5 mg/m^3) (Fig. 3). The $P_{CO\text{-}heating}$ and $P_{CO\text{-}action}$ values in urban area were 22 % and -15 %, respectively, while those in suburb were 32 % and -20 % during the TECA period. In addition, as shown in Fig. 5, the concentrations of CO in the eastern and northern suburb in Shijiazhuang were significantly higher than those of urban areas (t-test, $p<0.01$). Note that the concentrations of O_3 in urban area and suburb were lower during different stages of TECA (Fig. 5). Overall, during the TECA period, the effect of control measures for atmospheric pollutants sources in suburb was better than in urban area, especially for the effect of control measures for particulate matters sources. The effect of control measures for CO was not notable during the TECA period, especially in suburb, likely due to the increasing usage of domestic coal in suburb along with the temperature decreasing (Table 1).

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449   **Fig. 5.** The spatial variations of atmospheric pollutants ($PM_{2.5}$, PM_{10}, SO_2, NO_2, CO and O_3) during the four stages

450   (NCANHP, NCAHP, CAHP and ACA) of the TECA period in Shijiazhuang. The pictures were produced by ArcGIS

451   based kriging interpolation method.

452   ----

453   **3.2 Variations of chemical species in $PM_{2.5}$**

454   The average concentrations of chemical species in $PM_{2.5}$ in Shijiazhuang during the whole

455   sampling period are shown in Fig. 6. The annual mean concentrations of OC, SO_4^{2-}, NO_3^- and NH_4^+

456   in $PM_{2.5}$ were 43.1 $\mu g/m^3$, 39.0 $\mu g/m^3$, 33.6 $\mu g/m^3$ and 25.6 $\mu g/m^3$, respectively, and their

457   contributions to $PM_{2.5}$ were up to 23.1 %, 20.0 %, 17.3 % and 12.3 %, respectively. The annual

458   mean concentrations of EC and Cl^- were 11.7 $\mu g/m^3$ and 7.7 $\mu g/m^3$, respectively, which accounted

459   for 5.9 % and 4.1 % of $PM_{2.5}$. Note that the annual mean concentrations of elements in $PM_{2.5}$ were

460   relatively lower, which varied from 0.03 to 2.6 $\mu g/m^3$, accounting for 0.02-2.4 % of $PM_{2.5}$.

461   Compared to other elements, the annual mean concentrations of Si (2.6 $\mu g/m^3$) and Al (1.4 $\mu g/m^3$)

462   were relatively higher during the whole sampling period, which accounted for 2.4 % and 1.2 % of

463     $PM_{2.5}$, respectively. In this study, the annual mean concentrations of OC, SO_4^{2-}, NO_3^- and NH_4^+ in

464   Shijiazhuang were clearly higher than Beijing (Gao et al., 2016), Tianjin (Wu et al., 2015), Jinan

465   (Gao et al., 2011), Shanghai (Wang et al., 2016c), Chengdu (Tao et al., 2013b), Xian (Wang et al.,

466   2015a), Hangzhou (Liu et al., 2015) and Heze (Liu et al., 2017a).

467   The values of $P_{i\text{-heating}}$ and $P_{i\text{-action}}$ of different chemical species in $PM_{2.5}$ were calculated by

468   using the Eq. (8) and (9). The variations of chemical species in $PM_{2.5}$ at four stages of the TECA

469   and the values of $P_{i\text{-heating}}$ and $P_{i\text{-action}}$ in Shijiazhuang are shown in Figs. 7 and 8. Compared to the

470   NCANHP, the concentrations of chemical species during the NCAHP showed a significantly

471   increased tendency (t-test, $p<0.01$), the concentrations of SO_4^{2-}, Cl^-, OC, EC, Si, Al, Ca^{2+} and Mg^{2+}

472   increased by 7.9, 3.7, 6.7, 3.2, 1.6, 0.6, 0.4 and 0.1 $\mu g/m^3$, respectively, and the $P_{i\text{-heating}}$ values of

473   these species were up to 30.0 %, 40.2 %, 14.6 %, 22.1 %, 78.8 %, 63.5 %, 47.4 % and 45.9 %,

474   respectively, during the NCAHP. As these species (i.e., SO_4^{2-}, Cl^-, OC, EC, Si, Al, Ca^{2+} and Mg^{2+})

475   were closely associated with coal combustion (Cao et al., 2011; Liu et al., 2015; Liu et al., 2016;

476   Liu et al., 2017a, c), therefore, coal combustion for heating in winter probably had a great impact

477   on increasing of these chemical species in $PM_{2.5}$. Furthermore, compared to the NCANHP, the

478   concentrations of Cr, Cu, Fe, Mn, Ti, Zn and Pb increased by 0.02, 0.02, 0.34, 0.02, 0.02, 0.28 and

479   0.07 $\mu g/m^3$, respectively, and the $P_{i\text{-heating}}$ values of these species were 72.7 %, 33.1 %, 34.4 %,

480 21.0 %, 45.8 %, 48.3 % and 36.2 %, respectively, during the NCAHP. The Cr, Cu, Fe, Mn, Ti, Zn

481 and Pb were closely related to industrial sources (Liu et al., 2015; Kabala and Singh, 2001; Morishita

482 et al., 2011; Mansha et al., 2012; Yao et al., 2016), thus, the industrial emissions might have a higher

483 influence on $PM_{2.5}$ during the NCAHP than that during the NCANHP. Also, it might be closely

484 associated with the unfavorably meteorological factors (Table 1 and Fig. S7).

485   Compared to the NCAHP, the concentrations of SO_4^{2-}, Cl^-, OC and EC during the CAHP

486 increased by 16.8, 0.3, 19.8 and 14.6 $\mu g/m^3$, respectively, and the $P_{i-action}$ values of which were up

487 to -48.8 %, -2.0 %, -37.3 % and -83.0 %, respectively, during the CAHP. As coal combustion was

488 an important source of SO_4^{2-}, Cl^-, OC and EC (Cao et al., 2011; Liu et al., 2015; Liu et al., 2016;

489 Liu et al., 2017a, c), so it can be inferred that the influence of coal combustion might increase

490 apparently during the CAHP compared to the NCAHP, which was likely due to the increased usage

491 of the coal for domestic heating with the reduction of temperature during winter (Table 1).

492 Additionally, unfavorably meteorological conditions during the CAHP can have an offset effect on

493 the control measures for coal-combustion sources. As also Fig. 5 shown that the concentrations of

494 CO during the CAHP were higher than those during the NCAHP, especially in rural areas.

495 Furthermore, OC and EC were associated with the vehicle exhaust (Liu et al., 2016; Liu et al.,

496 2017a), thus, the effect of motor vehicle management and control measures during the CAHP might

497 be offset by the unfavorably meteorological conditions to some extent during the CAHP (Table 1

498 and Fig. S7). However, compared to the NCAHP, the concentrations of Si, Al, Ca^{2+} and Mg^{2+} during

499 the CAHP decreased by 1.1, 0.1, 0.6 and 0.1 $\mu g/m^3$, respectively, and the $P_{i-action}$ values of which

500 were up to 30.3 %, 4.5 %, 47.0 % and 45.2 %, respectively. As Si, Al, Ca^{2+} and Mg^{2+} were mainly

501 originated from the crustal dust (Liu et al., 2016; Shen et al., 2010; Wang et al., 2015a; Yang et al.,

502 2016b), therefore, the influence of crustal dust on $PM_{2.5}$ during the CAHP might decrease clearly

503 compared to the NCAHP. That's closely related to the control measures of inhabitation of dust

504 emission during the TECA period (as shown in section 2.5). In general, from the view of the

505 variation of $PM_{2.5}$ speciation, there was no doubt that the TECA had a certain positive environmental

506 effect on the improvement of air quality. However, the ambient pollutant concentration was

507 impacted by not only the emission sources, but also the meteorological conditions, regional

508 background level and distant transportation, it was understandable that the concentration of CO had

509 a "rebound" effect during the CAHP as the height of mixing layer was only 474 m and a low wind

510   speed of 0.4 m/s.

511   ----

512   **Fig. 6.** The average concentrations and percentages of chemical species in $PM_{2.5}$ in Shijiazhuang during the whole
513   sampling period: November 24, 2015 to January 9, 2017.

514   **Fig. 7.** The variations of chemical species in $PM_{2.5}$ during the four stages (NCANHP, NCAHP, CAHP and ACA) of
515   the TECA period.

516   **Fig. 8.** The $P_{i\text{-heating}}$ and $P_{i\text{-action}}$ of chemical species in $PM_{2.5}$ during the TECA period in Shijiazhuang.

517   ----

3.3 Variations of PM$_{2.5}$ sources contributions

519   The filter membrane samples of $PM_{2.5}$ were collected in three sites (LQ, LC and TSMS) in

520   Shijiazhuang from November 24, 2015 to January 9, 2017, and source apportionment was carried

521   out by using EPA PMF 5.0, as well as five factors were identified during the period (Figs. 9 and 10).

522   The chemical profile of factor 1 was mainly represented by Si (72.3 %), Ca^{2+} (74.0 %), Mg^{2+} (43.9 %)

523   and Al (71.3 %), which were derived mainly from crustal dust (Liu et al., 2016; Shen et al., 2010;

524   Wang et al., 2015a). Thus, factor 1 was viewed as crustal dust. The contribution proportions of factor

525   1 to $PM_{2.5}$ decreased from 19.5 % (38.5 μg/m³) during the WY, 18.7 % (42.1 μg/m³) during the

526   NCANHP, 16.9 % (48.0 μg/m³) during the NCAHP to 15.0 % (40.3 μg/m³) during the CAHP, and

527   increased up to 16.3 % (48.3 μg/m³) during the ACA. The main species of factor 2 were SO_4^{2-}

528   (53.9 %), NO_3^- (89.8 %) and NH_4^+ (75.0 %). Therefore, it was easily identified as secondary sources

529   (Liu et al., 2015, 2016, 2017a; Santacatalina et al., 2010; Srimuruganandam and Nagendra, 2012).

530   The contribution proportions of factor 2 to $PM_{2.5}$ ranged from 29.5 % (66.4 μg/m³) during the

531   NCANHP, 30.8 % (87.9 μg/m³) during the NCAHP, 31.6 % (84.8 μg/m³) during the CAHP to 32.7 %

532   (64.6 μg/m³) during the WY, and decreased to 28.8 % (85.2 μg/m³) during the ACA. Factor 3 was

533   represented by the relatively high loadings of OC (55.9 %), EC (70.9 %), Cu (26.9 %) and Zn

534   (26.5 %). Given that the OC and EC are generally predominant in the reported source profile of

535   vehicle exhaust (Liu et al., 2016, 2017a; Yao et al., 2016), and Zn is widely used as an additive for

536   lubricant in two-stroke engines, and Cu is closely associated with brake wear (Begum et al., 2004;

537   Canha et al., 2012; Lin et al., 2015; Liu et al., 2017a). Therefore, factor 3 was identified as vehicle

538   emissions. The contribution proportions of factor 3 to $PM_{2.5}$ decreased from 14.2 % (32.0 μg/m³)

539   during the NCANHP, 13.4 % (26.4 μg/m³) during the WY, 13.3 % (37.8 μg/m³) during the NCAHP

540   to 10.6 % (28.5 μg/m³) during the CAHP, and increased to 14.1 % (41.7 μg/m³) during the ACA.

Factor 4 was characterized by the high contributions of Ca^{2+} (26.0 %), Mg^{2+} (31.0 %), Si (13.3 %), As (84.9 %), Cl^- (38.6 %), OC (20.2 %) and SO_4^{2-} (26.7 %), and the combination of these species in factor 4 inferred they were co-emission from coal combustion (Cao et al., 2011; Liu et al., 2015, 2016, 2017a,c; Zhang et al., 2011). Therefore, factor 4 was identified as coal combustion. The contribution proportions of factor 4 to $PM_{2.5}$ increased from 26.2 % (51.7 $\mu g/m^3$) during the WY, 28.0 % (63.2 $\mu g/m^3$) during the NCANHP, 29.5 % (84.0 $\mu g/m^3$) during the NCAHP to 31.7 % (85.2 $\mu g/m^3$) during the CAHP, and lightly increased to 32.6 % (96.3 $\mu g/m^3$) during the ACA. Factor 5 was identified as industrial emissions, with high loadings of Cr (66.7 %), Cu (63.7 %), Fe (83.2 %), Mn (51.3 %), Ti (70.0 %), Zn (69.2 %), Pb (42.1 %) and Cl^- (41.0 %) (Almeida et al., 2015; Liu et al., 2015, 2016; Morishita et al., 2011; Mansha et al., 2012; Yao et al., 2016). The contribution proportions of factor 5 to $PM_{2.5}$ ranged from 5.0 % (11.3 $\mu g/m^3$) during the NCANHP, 5.1 % (10.0 $\mu g/m^3$) during the WY to 5.9 % (16.7 $\mu g/m^3$) during the NCAHP, and decreased to 5.3 % (14.2 $\mu g/m^3$) during the CAHP and 4.9 % (14.4 $\mu g/m^3$) during the ACA. Note that the contribution of industrial emissions to $PM_{2.5}$ was relatively lower than other sources (Fig. 10).

In general, crustal dust, secondary sources, vehicle emissions, coal combustion and industrial emissions were identified as $PM_{2.5}$ sources in Shijiazhuang (Fig. 9). Compared to the WY and NCANHP, the contribution concentrations and proportions of coal combustion to $PM_{2.5}$ increased significantly during other stages of TECA period (Fig. 10), which was closely associated with the coal heating for cold winter (Liu et al., 2016), and the unfavorably meteorological conditions (Table 1 and Fig. S7). The contribution concentrations and proportions of crustal dust and vehicle emissions to $PM_{2.5}$ decreased apparently during the CAHP compared to other stages of TECA period (Fig. 10). It indicated that the control effects of motor vehicles and crustal dust were remarkable during the CAHP, even under unfavorably meteorological conditions (Table 1), and the results were consistent with the above analysis. The contribution proportions of secondary sources to $PM_{2.5}$ during the CAHP showed little change compared to other stages of TECA period (Fig. 10). However, compared to the WY and NCANHP, the contribution concentrations of secondary sources to $PM_{2.5}$ increased significantly during the NCAHP, CAHP and the ACA (Fig. 10), likely due to high concentrations of gaseous precursors (i.e., SO_2 and NO_2) (Fig. 5), unfavorably meteorological conditions (Table 1), and frequent hazy events during these periods, when there were significant secondary reactions (Han et al., 2014; Li et al., 2016a). In addition, it also illustrated that the

571 discharge of atmospheric pollutants might be still enormous even under such strict control measures.

572 Note that the contribution concentrations and proportions of industrial emissions to $PM_{2.5}$ during

573 the CAHP decreased apparently compared to the NCAHP (Fig. 10), indicating that the control of

574 industrial emissions was also effective during the CAHP.

575   Chen et al. (2016b) reported that the concentrations of particles during the 2014 Youth Olympic

576 Games (YOG) period (August) were much lower than before-Games period (July) and after-Games

577 period (September); and fugitive dusts, construction dusts and secondary sulfate aerosol decreased

578 obviously in YOG, which means mitigation measures have played an effective role in reduction of

579 particulate matter. Wang et al. (2017) found that the contributions of vehicles, industrial sources,

580 fugitive dust, and other sources decreased 13.5-14.7 %, 10.7-11.2 %, 4.5-5.6 % and 1.7-2.7 %,

581 respectively, during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and China's Grand Military

582 Parade (CGMP), compared to the period before the control actions. Guo et al. (2013) found that

583 primary vehicle contributions were reduced by 30 % at the urban site and 24 % at the rural site,

584 compared with the non-controlled period before the Beijing 2008 Olympics. The reductions in coal

585 combustion contributions were 57 % at PKU site and 7 % at Yufa site. As we can see that these

586 control-actions of the strict measures taken for emission sources during the international events held

587 in China, including the TECA in Shijiazhuang, were all very important practical exercises and rarely

588 scientific experiments. However, it cannot be advocated as the normalized control measures for

589 atmospheric pollution in China. These strict measures taken during these periods are temporary, and

590 there is a normal recovery of all the emissions of sources after the operation. Once adverse weather

591 conditions occur, and the hazy events may continue to happen eventually. In short, the direct cause

592 of the severe atmospheric pollution in China is that the emission of pollutants beyond the air

593 environment's self-purification capacity, and the essential reason is unreasonable and unhealthy

594 pattern for economic development of China.

595 ----

596 **Fig. 9.** Source profiles obtained with the PMF for $PM_{2.5}$. Filled bars identify the species that mainly characterize
597 each factor profile.

598 **Fig. 10.** Source contributions of $PM_{2.5}$ during different stages in Shijiazhuang. WY represents whole year: November
599 24, 2015 to January 9, 2017.

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3.4 Backward trajectory and PSCF analysis

The backward trajectory analysis was used to identify the transport pathways of the air mass during the CAHP. In terms of the directions and travelled areas, these trajectories were divided into the five groups (Fig. 11). Trajectory clusters 1, accounting for 31.3 % of the total, originated from Shanxi province and passed over North of Hebei before arriving at Shijiazhuang. Trajectory cluster 1 reflected the features of small-scale, short-distance air mass transport (Fig. 11). The higher concentrations of PM_{10} (358 μg/m^3), $PM_{2.5}$ (237 μg/m^3) and CO (3.9 μg/m^3) might be due to the variety of emission sources and the accumulation of pollutants from surrounding areas, since the moving speed of air mass in cluster 1 was much lower than other trajectories (Fig. 11 and Table 2). Trajectory cluster 2, 3 and 4 accounted for 58.0 % of the total trajectories, and began from the northwest of China, passed through the Inner Mongolia and Shanxi, showing the features of large-scale, long-distance air transports. The relative lower concentrations of PM_{10} (189-290 μg/m^3), $PM_{2.5}$ (119-181 μg/m^3), SO_2 (50-67 μg/m^3), NO_2 (58-78 μg/m^3) and CO (2.1-3.0 mg/m^3) were closely associated with high moving speeds of air mass (Fig. 11 and Table 2), and relatively less anthropogenic emission sources in the northwest of China. Trajectory cluster 5 was mainly originated from Ningxia province, passed over Shaanxi, Shanxi and Hebei before arriving at Shijiazhuang, accounting for 10.8 % of the total, showing the features of small-scale, short-distance air transport significantly elevated levels of PM_{10} (451 μg/m^3), $PM_{2.5}$ (303 μg/m^3), SO_2 (83 μg/m^3), NO_2 (104 μg/m^3) and CO (4.8 mg/m^3) with trajectory cluster 5 were associated with the sources and the accumulation of pollutants from surrounding areas. As well known that the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region was one of the severest polluted areas in China (Bi et al., 2014; Chen et al., 2013; Gu et al., 2011; Wang et al., 2014; Zhao et al., 2012), it might be an important reason why the concentrations of pollutants were higher with trajectory clusters 1 and 5 (Fig. 11 and Table 2).

In this study, PSCF model was used to analyze the potential sources-areas of atmospheric pollutants by combining backward trajectories and the concentrations of atmospheric pollutants in Shijiazhuang during the CAHP, and the results were shown in Fig. 12. The values of weighted potential source contribution function (WPSCF) of CO were higher in the north of Shaanxi, south of Shanxi and central and southern Inner Mongolia, which were mainly potential sources-areas of CO concentrations in Shijiazhuang (Fig. 12 (a)). The WPSCF values of NO_2 were higher in north of Henan and Shaanxi, Hebei, Shanxi, and central and southern Inner Mongolia, which were mainly

631   potential sources-areas of NO_2 concentrations in Shijiazhuang (Fig. 12 (b)). The WPSCF values of

632   O_3 and SO_2 were higher in the north of Henan and Shaanxi, Shanxi, and south of Hebei, which were

633   distinguished as major potential sources-areas of O_3 and SO_2 concentrations in Shijiazhuang (Fig.

634   12 (c) and (d)). Moreover, the southwest of Shandong was also identified as mainly potential

635   sources-areas of SO_2 concentrations in Shijiazhuang. As for $PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10}, the WPSCF values

636   were higher in south of Hebei, and east of Shanxi, which were identified as mainly potential sources-

637   areas of $PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10} concentrations in Shijiazhuang (Fig. 12 (e) and (f)). Overall, the potential

638   sources-areas of the atmospheric pollutants in Shijiazhuang mainly concentrated in the surrounding

639   regions of Shijiazhuang, including south of Hebei, north of Henan and Shanxi. Previous studies also

640   reported that Shanxi, Hebei and Henan provinces had serious air pollution problems (Feng et al.,

641   2016; Kong et al., 2013; Meng et al., 2016; Zhu et al., 2011), revealing the regional nature of the

642   atmospheric pollution in Northern Plain of China. Therefore, there is an urgent need for making

643   cross-boundary control policy except for local control-measures given the high background level of

644   pollutants.

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646   **Fig. 11.** Five clusters of the 72-h air mass backward trajectories during the CAHP. Red star represents Shijiazhuang
647   city.

648   **Fig. 12.** Potential sources areas of atmospheric pollutants obtained from PSCF model during the CAHP. Red star
649   represents Shijiazhuang city. The colors represent potential sources-areas influenced on the atmospheric pollutants,
650   and the red color could be determined to be relatively important sources-areas while the blue color means
651   unimportant potential sources-areas.

652   **Table.2** The average concentrations of atmospheric pollutants in different clusters during the CAHP.

653   ----

654   **4 Conclusions**

655   The control measures of atmospheric pollution in Shijiazhuang were effective and was in a right

656   direction. Under unfavorably meteorological conditions, the mean concentrations of $PM_{2.5}$, PM_{10},

657   SO_2, NO_2, and chemical species (Si, Al, Ca^{2+}, Mg^{2+}) in $PM_{2.5}$ during the CAHP significantly

658   decreased compared to the NCAHP. Overall, the effects of control measures in suburbs were better

659   than in urban area, especially for the effects of control measures for particulate matters sources. The

660   effects of control measures for CO emission sources were not apparent during the CAHP, especially

661   in suburbs.

662   The pollutant's emission sources during the CAHP were in effective control, especially for

663 crustal dust and vehicles. While the necessary coal heating for cold winter and the unfavorably

664 meteorological conditions had an offset effect on the control measures for emission sources to some

665 extent. The discharge of pollutants might be still enormous even under such strict control measures.

666   The backward trajectory and PSCF analysis in the light of atmospheric pollutants suggested

667 that the potential sources-areas mainly concentrated in surrounding regions of Shijiazhuang, i.e.,

668 south of Hebei, north of Henan and Shanxi. The regional nature of the atmospheric pollution in

669 Northern China Plain revealed that there is an urgent need for making cross-boundary control policy

670 except for local control-measures given the high background level of pollutants.

671   The TECA is an important practical exercise but it can't be advocated as the normalized control

672 measures for atmospheric pollution in China. The direct cause of atmospheric pollution in China is

673 the emission of pollutants exceeds the air environment's self-purification capacity, and the essential

674 reason is unreasonable and unhealthy pattern for economic development of China.

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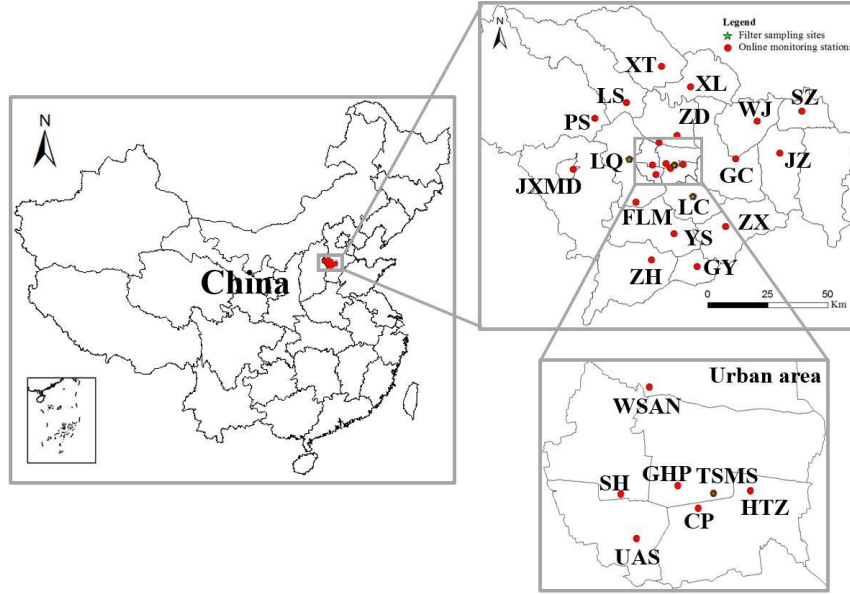
Fig. 1. Maps of the online monitoring stations and the filter membrane sampling sites in Shijiazhuang. The 24 online monitoring stations mainly include Twenty-second Middle School (TSMS), Fenglong Mountain (FLM), High-tech Zone (HTZ), Great Hall of the People (GHP), Century Park (CP), Water Source Area in the Northwest (WSAN), University Area in the Southwest (UAS), Staff Hospital (SH), Gaoyi (GY), Gaocheng (GC), Xingtang (XT), Jinzhou (JZ), Jingxing Mining District (JXMD), Lingshou (LS), Luquan (LQ), Luancheng (LC), Pingshan (PS), Shenze (SZ), Wuji (WJ), Xinle (XL), Yuanshi (YS), Zanhuang (ZH), Zhaoxian (ZX) and Zhengding (ZD). The filter membrane sampling sites are mainly located in TSMS, LQ and LC.
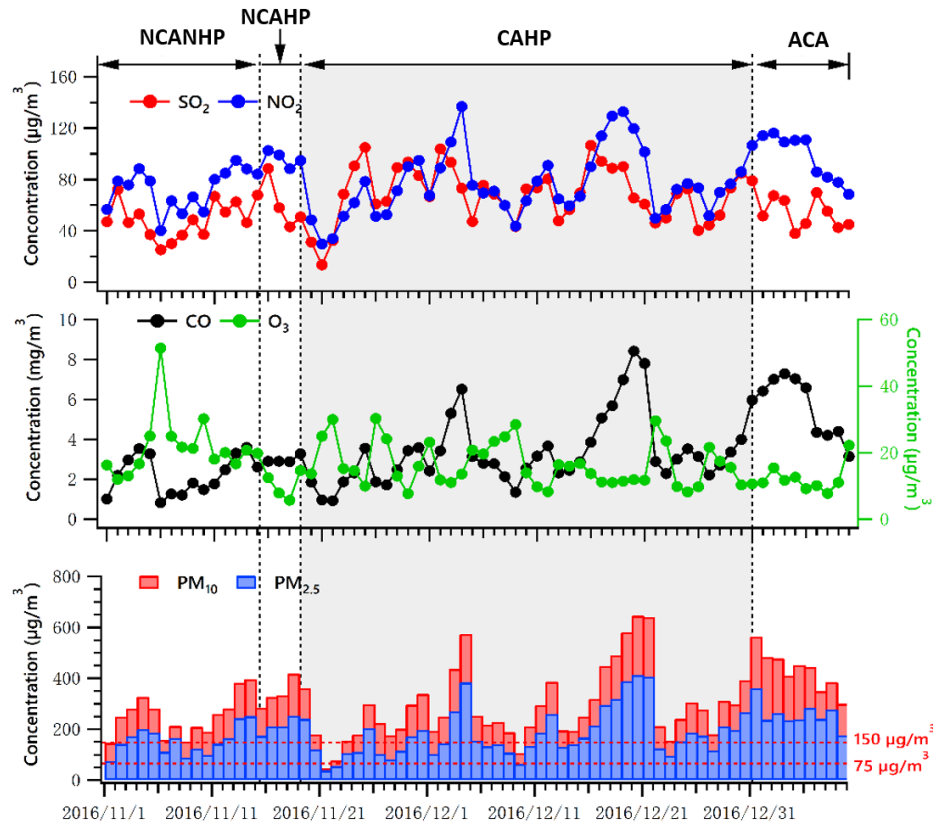
Fig. 2. The variations of atmospheric pollutants concentrations during the four stages (NCANHP, NCAHP, CAHP and ACA) of the TECA period in Shijiazhuang.
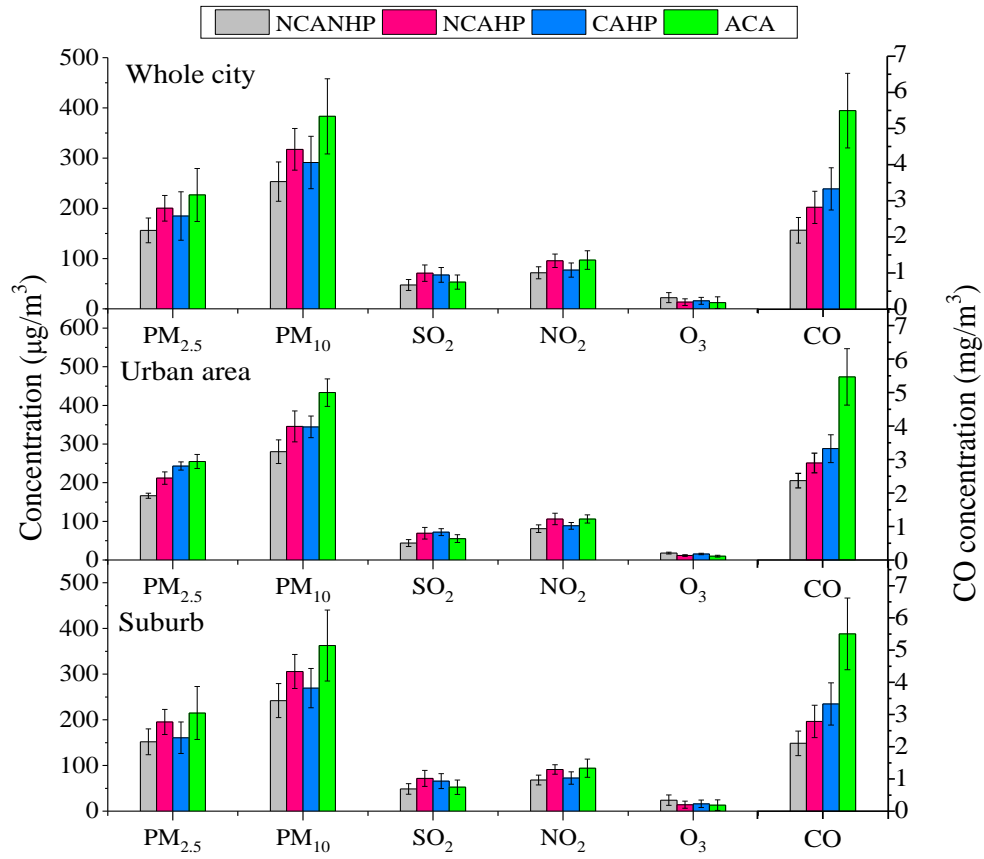
Fig. 3. The concentrations variations of PM$_{2.5}$, PM$_{10}$ and gaseous pollutants during the four stages (NCANHP, NCAHP, CAHP and ACA) of the TECA period in Shijiazhuang. Error bar represented standard deviation.
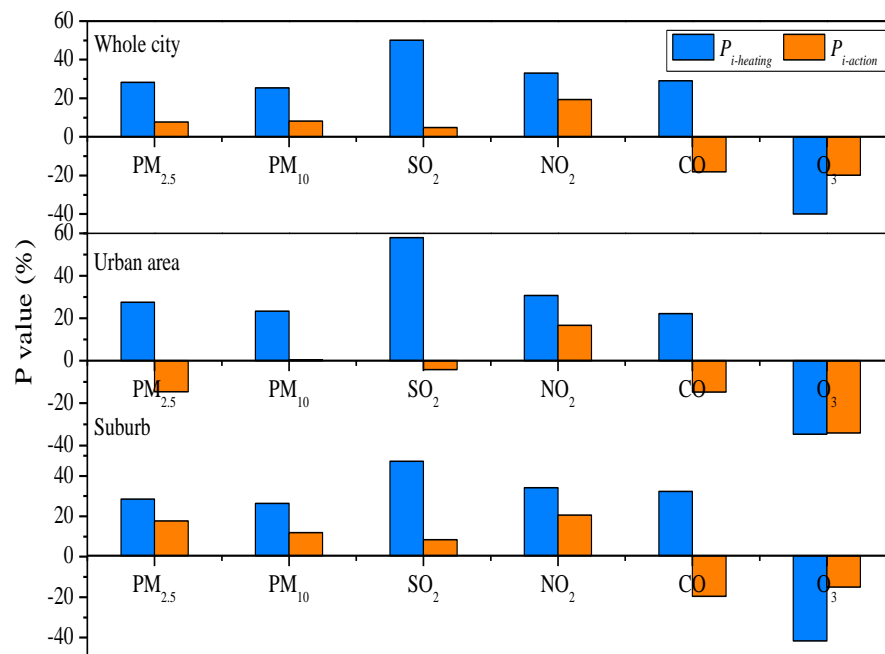
Fig. 4. The P$_{i\text{-heating}}$ and P$_{i\text{-action}}$ of PM$_{2.5}$, PM$_{10}$ and gaseous pollutants (SO$_2$, NO$_2$, CO and O$_3$) calculated by equation (8) and (9) in urban area and suburb in Shijiazhuang.
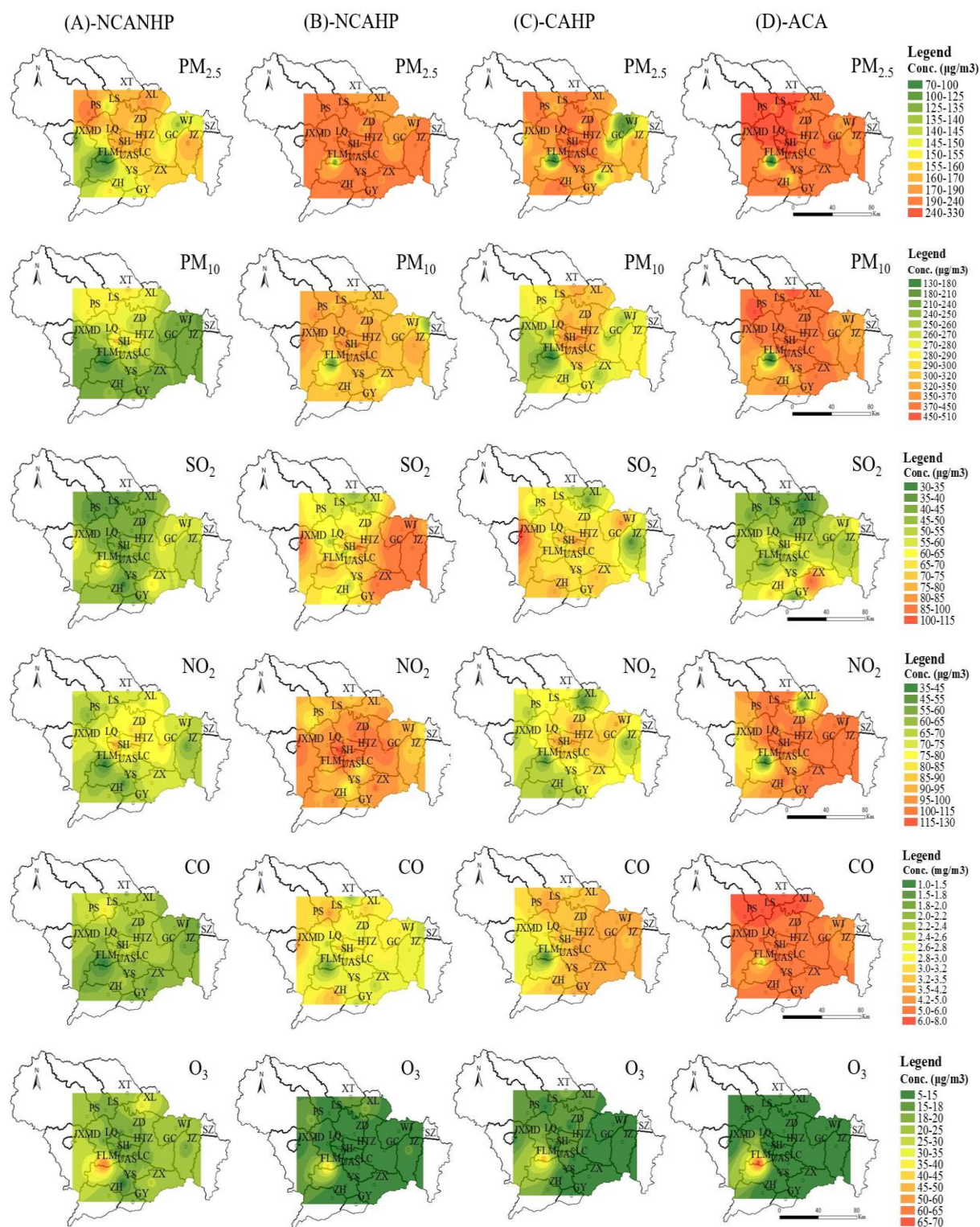
Fig. 5. The spatial variations of atmospheric pollutants (PM2.5, PM10, SO2, NO2, CO and O3) during the four stages (NCANHP, NCAHP, CAHP and ACA) of the TECA period in Shijiazhuang. The pictures were produced by ArcGIS based kriging interpolation method.
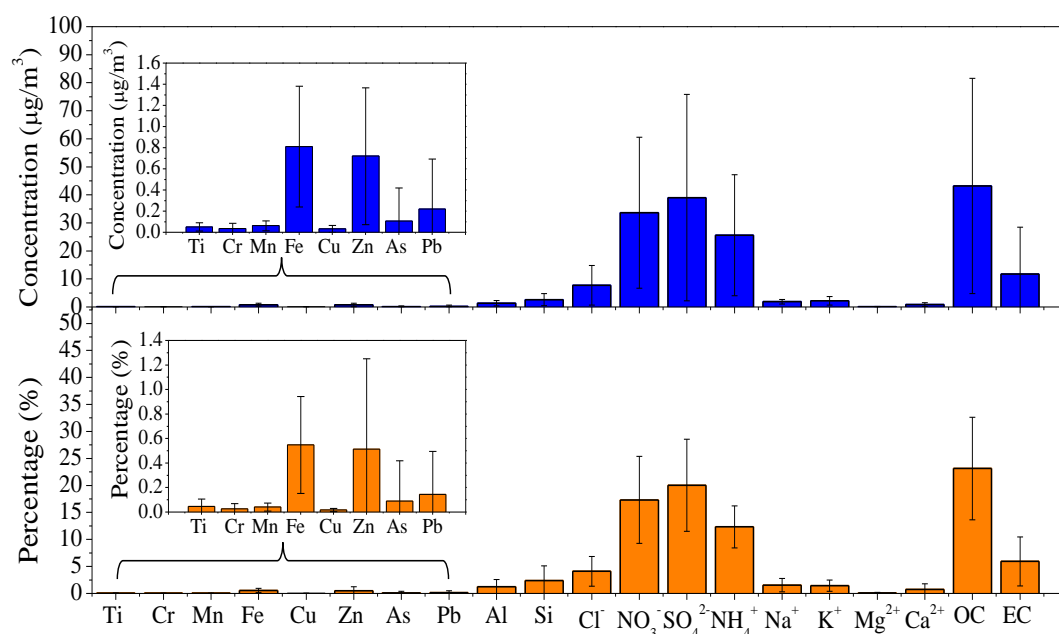
Fig. 6. The average concentrations and percentages of chemical species in PM$_{2.5}$ in Shijiazhuang during the whole sampling period: November 24, 2015 to January 9, 2017. Error bar represented standard deviation.
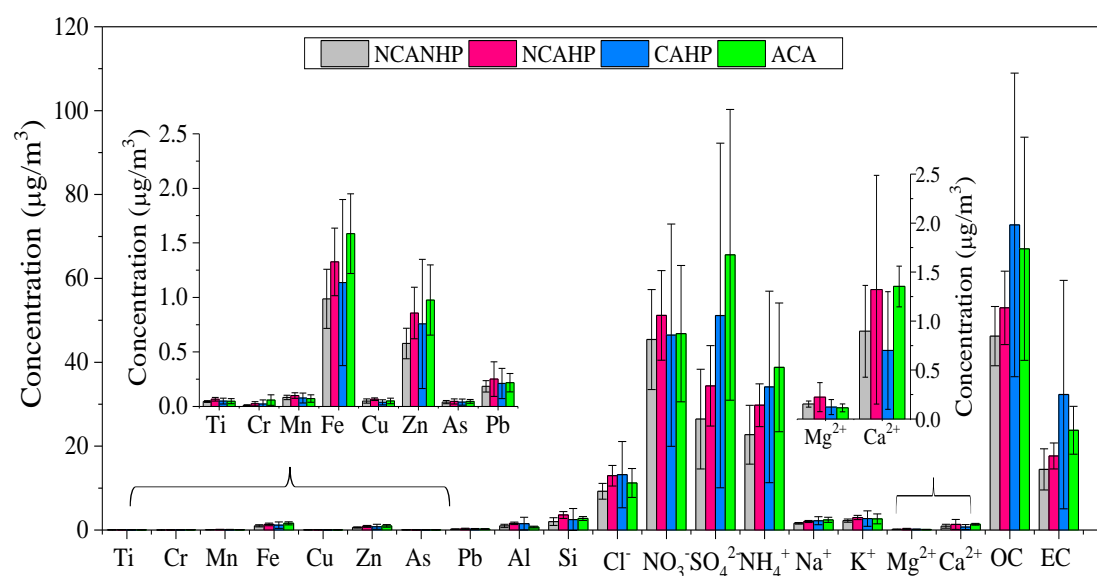
Fig. 7. The variations of chemical species in PM$_{2.5}$ during the four stages (NCANHP, NCAHP, CAHP and ACA) of the TECA period. Error bar represented standard deviation.
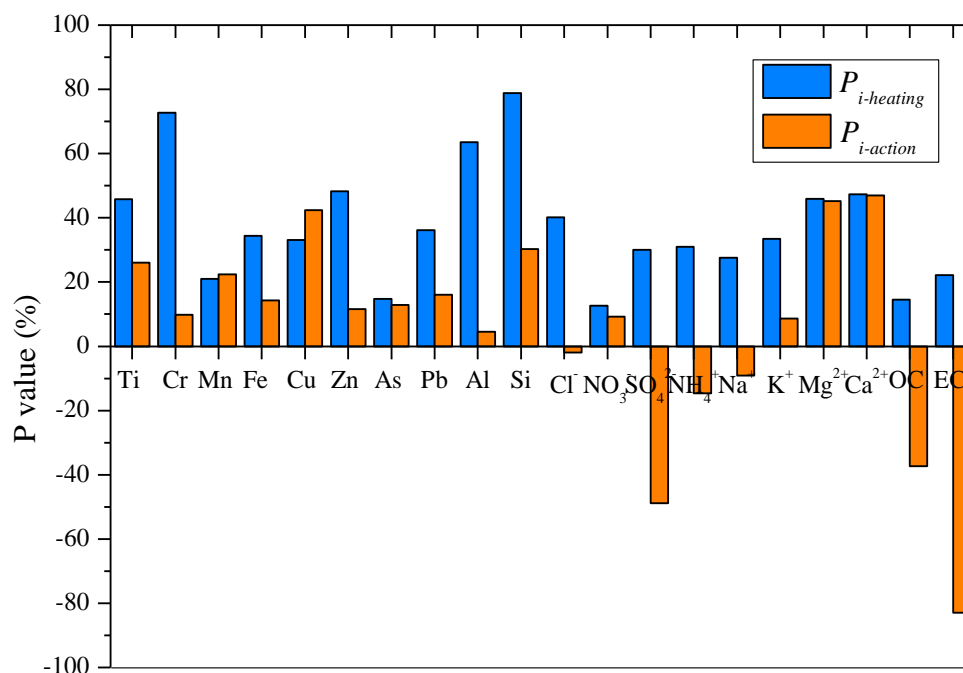
Fig. 8. The $P_{i\text{-heating}}$ and $P_{i\text{-action}}$ of chemical species in PM$_{2.5}$ during the TECA period in Shijiazhuang.
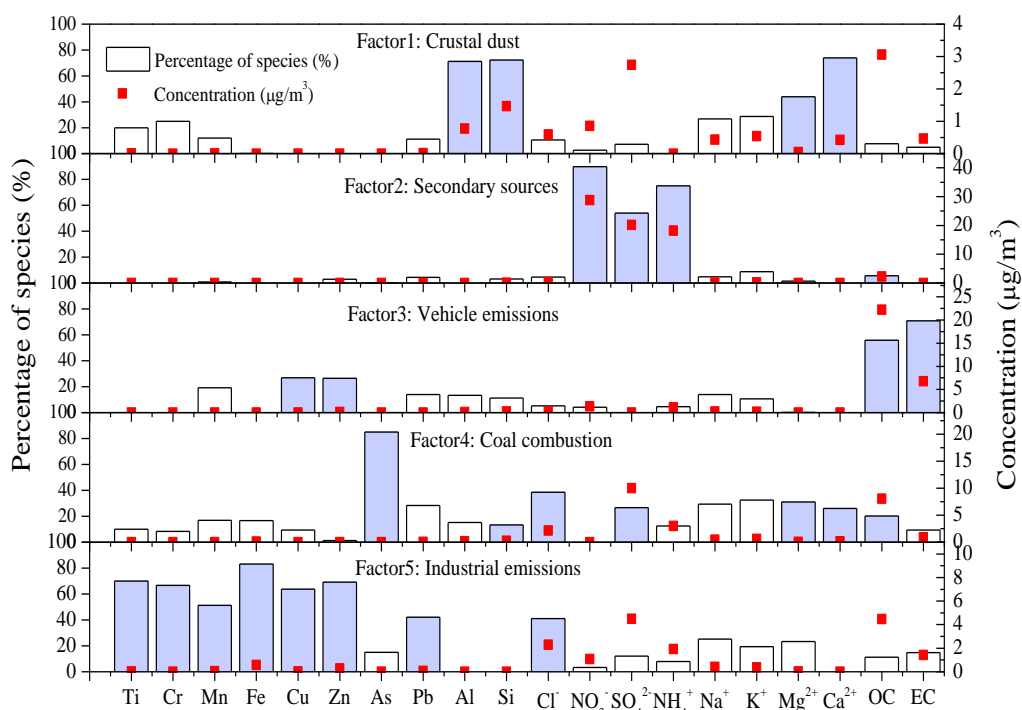
Fig. 9. Source profiles obtained with the PMF for PM$_{2.5}$. Filled bars identify the species that mainly characterize each factor profile.
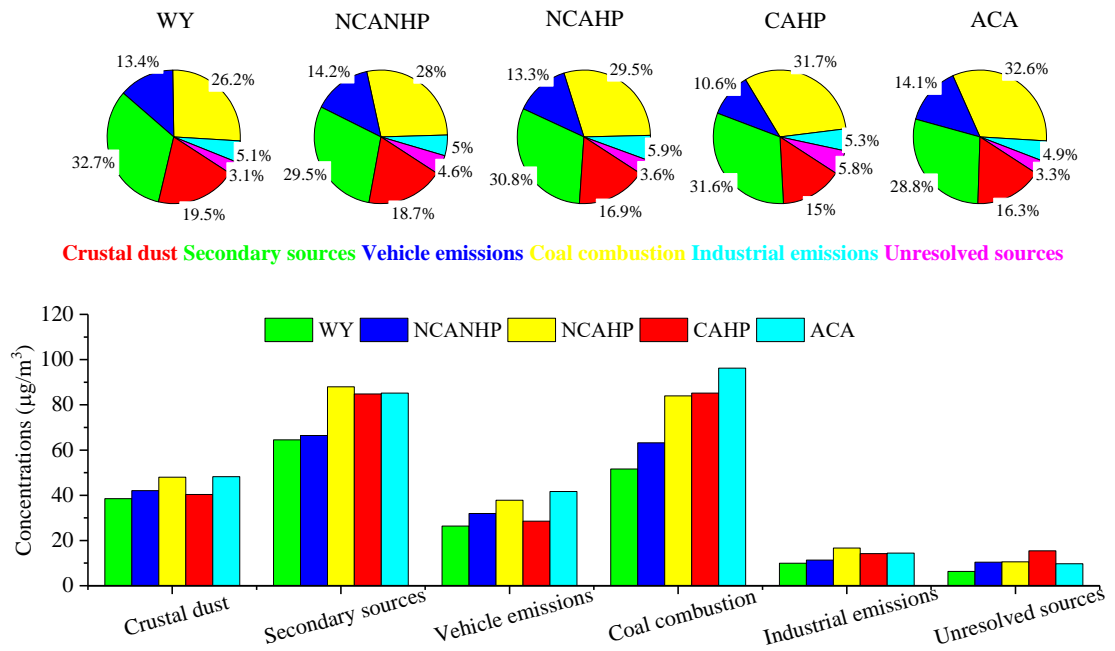
Fig. 10. Source contributions of PM$_{2.5}$ during different stages in Shijiazhuang. WY represents whole year: November 24, 2015 to January 9, 2017.
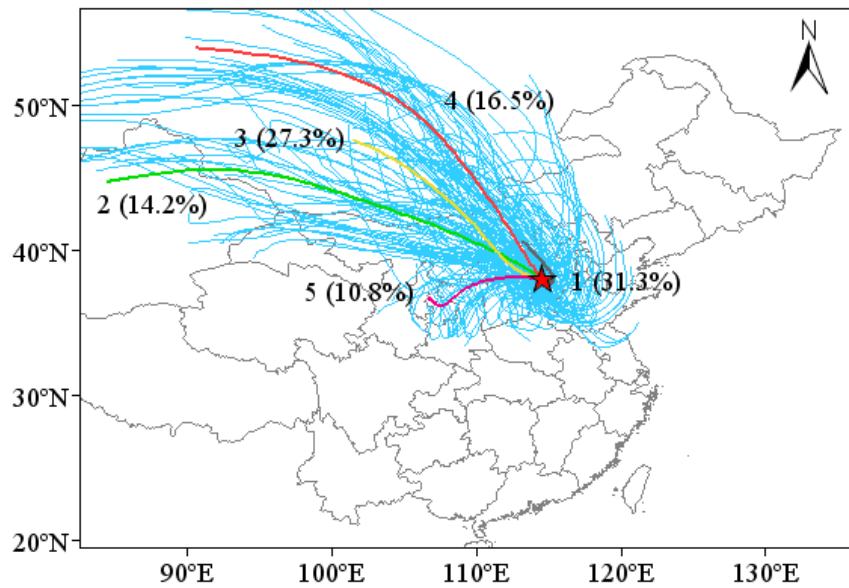
Fig. 11. Five clusters of the 72-h air mass backward trajectories during the CAHP. Red star represents Shijiazhuang city.
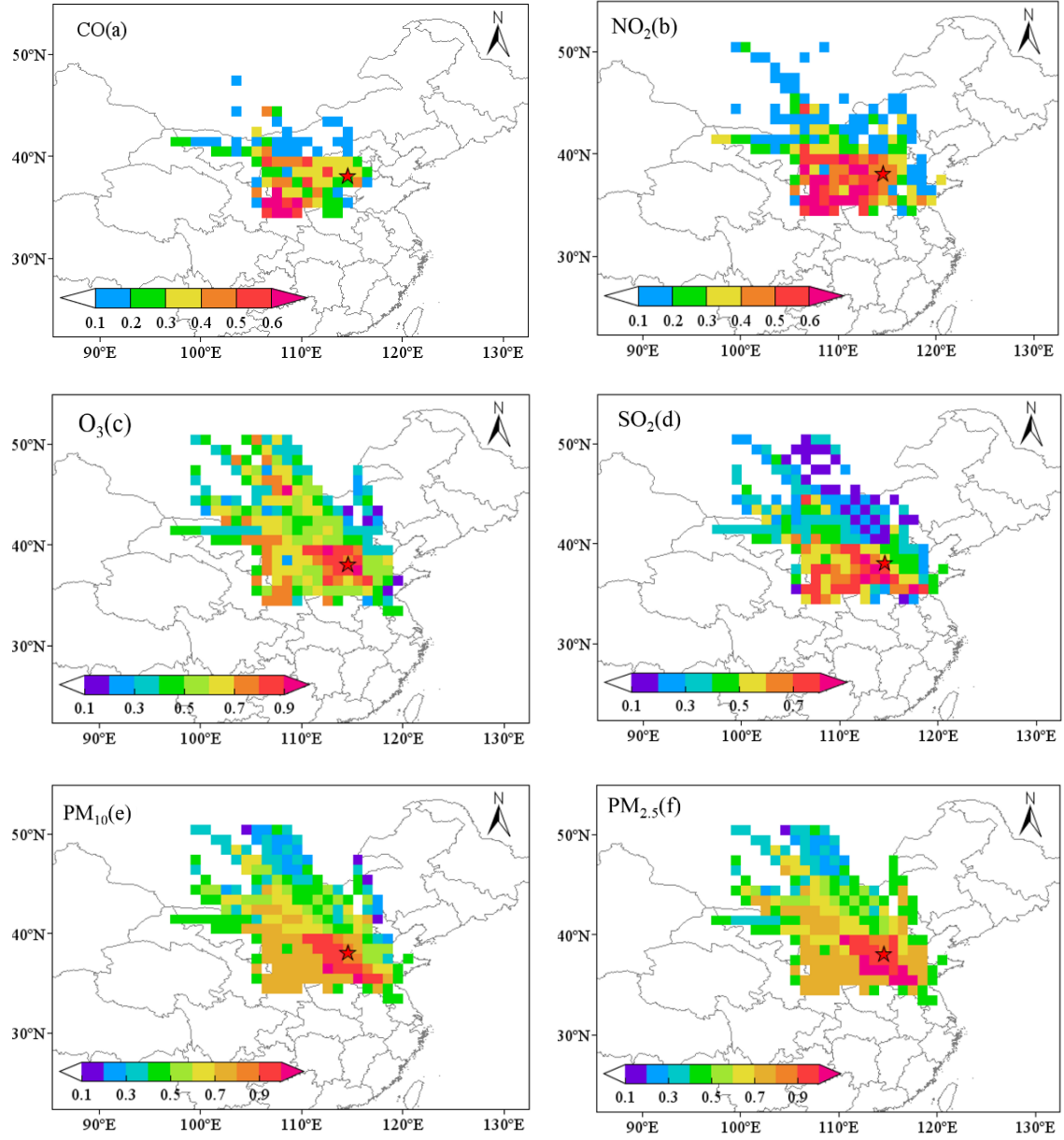
Fig. 12. Potential sources areas of atmospheric pollutants obtained from PSCF model during the CAHP. Red star represents Shijiazhuang city. The colors represent potential sources-areas influenced on the atmospheric pollutants, and the red color could be determined to be relatively important sources-areas while the blue color means unimportant potential sources-areas.

Table 1. The meteorological conditions during the four stages (NCANHP, NCAHP, CAHP and ACA) of the TECA period in Shijiazhuang.

	NCANHP		NCAHP		CAHP		ACA	
	Ave.	S.D.	Ave.	S.D.	Ave.	S.D.	Ave.	S.D.
Temperature (℃)	8.4	3.6	7.4	2.4	3.1	3.8	0.7	2.7
Relative humidity (%)	77.7	17.0	73.4	15.7	71.5	18.0	83.3	18.1
Wind speed (m/s)	0.7	1.2	0.6	0.6	0.4	1.0	0.5	1.1
Height of mixed layer (m)	540	144	590	274	474	299	431	360

Ave. represents average value, S.D. represents standard deviation. NCANHP represents the no control action and no heating period, NCAHP represents the no control action and heating period, CAHP represents the control action and heating period, and ACA represents after control action.

Table 2. The average concentrations of atmospheric pollutants in different clusters during the CAHP.

Clusters	Probability of occurrence (%)	Atmospheric Pollutants ($\mu g/m^3$)					
		SO_2	NO_2	O_3	$CO(mg/m^3)$	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$
1	31.3	68	88	14	3.9	358	237
2	14.2	67	78	24	3.0	290	181
3	27.3	65	69	20	2.8	232	152
4	16.5	50	58	27	2.1	189	119
5	10.8	83	104	16	4.8	451	303