

1 **Aerosol Vertical Mass Flux Measurements During Heavy**
2 **Aerosol Pollution Episodes at a Rural Site and an Urban Site**
3 **in the Beijing Area of the North China Plain**

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15 **Abstract:**

16 Due to excessive anthropogenic emissions, heavy aerosol pollution episodes (HPEs) often
17 occur during winter in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei (BTH) area of the North China Plain. Extensive
18 observational studies have been carried out to understand the causes of HPEs; however, few
19 measurements of vertical aerosol fluxes exist, despite them being the key to understanding vertical
20 aerosol mixing, specifically during weak turbulence stages in HPEs. In the winter of 2016 and the
21 spring of 2017 aerosol vertical mass fluxes were measured by combining large aperture
22 scintillometer (LAS) observations, surface PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ mass concentrations, and meteorological
23 observations, including temperature, relative humidity (RH), and visibility, at a rural site in Gucheng
24 (GC), Hebei Province, and an urban site at the Chinese Academy of Meteorological Sciences
25 (CAMS) in Beijing located 100 km to the northeast. These are based on the light propagation theory
26 and surface-layer similarity theory. The near-ground aerosol mass flux was generally lower in winter
27 than in spring and weaker in rural GC than in urban Beijing. This finding provides direct
28 observational evidence for a weakened turbulence intensity and low vertical aerosol fluxes in winter
29 and polluted areas such as GC. The HPEs included a transport stage (TS), an accumulative stage
30 (AS), and a removal stage (RS). During the HPEs from 25 January 2017 to January 31, 2017, in
31 Beijing, the mean mass flux decreased by 51% from 0.0049 mg m⁻²s⁻¹ in RSs to 0.0024 mg m⁻²s⁻¹
32 in the TSs. During the ASs, the mean mass flux decreased further to 0.00087 mg m⁻²s⁻¹, accounting
33 for approximately 1/3 of the flux in the TSs. A similar reduction from the TSs to ASs was observed
34 in the HPE from 16 December 2016 to 22 December 2016 in GC. It can be seen that from the TS to
35 the AS, the aerosol vertical turbulent flux decreased, but the aerosol particle concentration with
36 surface layer increased, and it is inferred that in addition to the contribution of regional transport
37 from upwind areas during the TS, suppression of vertical turbulence mixing confining aerosols to a

38 shallow boundary layer increased accumulation.

39 **1 Introduction**

40 Recently, due to the country's rapid development of industrialization and urbanization, China
41 has experienced heavy aerosol pollution episodes, particularly in the Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei
42 (BTH) region, which is one of the most polluted areas in China (Zhang et al., 2012). The pollution
43 episodes often last for a long duration in the BTH region and cover a wide area, particularly in
44 winter; they also severely reduce near-ground visibility (Lei and Wuebbles, 2013) and can have
45 detrimental effects on public health (He et al., 2018; Cao et al., 2012). This heavy pollution
46 environment has received extensive attention in recent years, and many observational studies have
47 been carried out (Zhong et al., 2018b; Sun et al., 2014; Wang et al., 2015; Guo et al., 2011; Zhang
48 et al., 2009b; Huang et al., 2014). Modelling studies have also been performed to examine the
49 regional transport of pollutants (Wang et al., 2014) and to study the important role of large-eddy
50 convective turbulent mixing in the vertical transfer of pollutants from a field campaign in Beijing
51 (Li et al., 2018). However, few study on the turbulence contribution of the aerosol turbulent flux in
52 the surface layer has been conducted.

53 Ground pollutant emissions are known as the main source of aerosols in the atmosphere.
54 However, in previous studies, no measurements of ground emissions during heavy pollution events
55 were collected. Surface emission data are currently required for model verification and pollution
56 predictions, and these data are primarily obtained through emission inventories (Wu et al., 2012;
57 Bond et al., 2004). The establishment of emission inventories is primarily based on emission activity
58 and emission factor (EF) data (Akagi et al., 2011; Lu et al., 2011; Roden et al., 2006; Zhang and
59 Tao, 2009). Emissions data are mainly obtained from statistical yearbooks (Zhang et al., 2009a).
60 Some studies have used fixed EFs while others have implemented dynamic EFs (Bond et al., 2004;
61 Zhang et al., 2009a). Many factors are considered in dynamic EFs, such as the size of a city, the
62 degree of economic development, the type of fuel, the kind of technology, product energy
63 consumption, the control technology, and so on, as well as estimates based on actual measured
64 meteorological parameters and aerosol parameters (Chen et al., 2015; Karvosenoja et al., 2008; Shen
65 et al., 2013). A numerical model has also been used to estimate average fleet emission factors in
66 typical urban conditions (Ketzler et al., 2003; Krecl et al., 2018). The uncertainties in the emissions
67 of primary aerosols for inventories are much high due to the highly uncertain contributions from the
68 residential sector (Li et al., 2017), and the error in aerosol fluxes based on the use of emission
69 inventories is huge (Liu et al., 2017; Zheng et al., 2017). Emission inventories constructed using the
70 EF method provide only the total emission amount of atmospheric pollutants within a region.
71 However, the emission data should be gridded to a suitable scale for air quality modeling and
72 pollution predictions. Thus, near-surface aerosol emission data with a higher temporal and spatial
73 resolution are urgently needed.

74 Many methods have been used to obtain aerosol flux data. For the upward transport of aerosols
75 near the surface layer, the aerodynamic approach was adopted in the early years. The aerosol
76 concentration gradient at different heights was measured and then calculated based on the similarity
77 theory of the near-surface layer or calculated by the boundary layer box model, which can be based
78 on meteorological data and the boundary layer is taken as a box (Ceburnis et al., 2016; Hourdin et
79 al., 2015; Zhang and Li, 2014). The emission rates of bioaerosols were also estimated from spore
80 counts and molecular tracers (Elbert et al., 2007). The abundance of microbes and meteorological

81 data were measured, and an estimate may be derived from the sea-air exchange of microorganisms
82 (Mayol et al., 2014).

83 With the use of instruments for measuring the number of aerosol particles (for example, a
84 condensational particle counter, abbreviated as CPC by TSI), the eddy covariance (EC) method has
85 been applied, and measurements of the aerosol particle number flux have become possible (Buzorius
86 et al., 1998). The vertical turbulent flux of the aerosol particle number density F_p is denoted as a
87 cross-covariance between the aerosol particle number concentration N' and the vertical wind speed
88 w' (Ripamonti et al., 2013). To obtain vertical turbulent flux of the aerosol number density, the EC
89 principle allows quantifying the number flux from fluctuation measurements. As a result, the
90 vertical turbulent flux of the aerosol particle number density has been measured in many cities, such
91 as in Toronto, Canada (Gordon et al., 2011), Stockholm, Sweden (Vogt et al., 2011b), Helsinki,
92 Finland (Ripamonti et al., 2013), London, UK (Harrison et al., 2012), the Blodgett Forest
93 Observatory in the United States (Farmer et al., 2011), and measurements of sea salt aerosol fluxes
94 in northern Europe (Brooks et al., 2009; Sproson et al., 2013). These results have shown the
95 quantitative relationship among urban aerosol fluxes, urban vehicle emissions, and meteorological
96 conditions (Jarvi et al., 2009) and have been used to determine transport characteristics of sea salt
97 aerosol and provide further knowledge of aerosol properties (Nemitz et al., 2009). These
98 measurements have been mainly collected in cities because of their anthropogenic contributions to
99 aerosol emissions. These data can be used as routine model inputs. Direct eddy covariance
100 measurements of aerosol exchanges in tropical forests, where primary biological aerosol particles
101 represent a substantial fraction of the airborne particulate matter (Graham et al., 2003), were also
102 performed by Ahlm et al. (Ahlm et al., 2010a; Ahlm et al., 2010b) and Whitehead et al. (Whitehead
103 et al., 2010), potentially giving a proxy for microbial emissions in tropical ecosystems.

104 Although measurements of urban aerosol particle number density fluxes have been collected,
105 the current eddy covariance method only provides fluxes for the aerosol particle number density at
106 a point. We know that the underlying surface of a city is very complex, and thus the aerosol particle
107 flux is not homogeneous in the horizontal. For a complex underlying surface such as a city, these
108 point measurements are not very representative. Therefore, it is of great importance to design an
109 aerosol flux measurement system with an accurate spatial representation.

110 The use of eddy covariance principles to measure sensible heat fluxes has been widely
111 performed (Lee, 2004). Current sensible heat fluxes can also be obtained using a large aperture
112 scintillometer (LAS) based on the light propagation theory and similarity theory (Zeweldi et al.,
113 2010). This configuration makes it possible to achieve aerosol mass flux measurements using the
114 light propagation theory and similarity theory. Recently, we measured the imaginary part of the
115 atmospheric equivalent refractive index structure parameter based on the light propagation theory
116 (Yuan et al., 2015). The results showed that the imaginary part of the atmospheric equivalent
117 refractive index structure parameter is related to turbulent transport and the spatial distribution
118 characteristics of aerosols. Experiments also showed that there is a strong correlation between the
119 imaginary part of the atmospheric equivalent refractive index and the mass concentration of aerosol
120 particles (Yuan et al., 2016). Thus, similar to the temperature structure parameter reflecting the
121 sensible heat flux, the structural parameter of the imaginary part of the atmospheric equivalent
122 refractive index can reveal the mass flux of aerosol particles. This paper attempts to measure the
123 aerosol mass flux in the BTH area, especially during heavy aerosol pollution episodes.

124 Generally, based on the PM_{2.5} daily mean mass concentration limit in the primary standard of

125 China's national environmental quality standards (EPD, 2012), a pollution episode is referred to as
126 the period during which the $PM_{2.5}$ concentration exceeds $80 \mu g m^{-3}$ for 3 consecutive days between
127 two clean periods, while a period when the $PM_{2.5}$ level is less than $35 \mu g m^{-3}$ is defined as a clean
128 period. Pollution episodes with peak $PM_{2.5}$ values of more than $400 \mu g m^{-3}$ or less than $300 \mu g m^{-3}$
129 are termed heavy-pollution episodes (HPEs) or light-pollution episodes (LPEs), respectively (Zhong
130 et al., 2017b).

131 To gain a deeper understanding of the interaction between atmospheric heavy pollution and
132 weather in the BTH region, joint observations have been carried out in the BTH region since the
133 winter of 2016 (Zhong et al., 2018c; Zhong et al., 2018b; Wang et al., 2018; Shen et al., 2018). Based
134 on meteorological causes of the increase or decrease in $PM_{2.5}$ mass concentrations, an HPE in the
135 BTH region can be divided into a transport stage (TS), an accumulative stage (AS) and a removal
136 stage (RS). During the TS, the $PM_{2.5}$ is dominated by relatively strong southerly winds, which carry
137 polluted air masses from more populated southern industrial regions (Guo et al., 2014; Zhong et al.,
138 2018a). Before rising processes during TSs, the urban $PM_{2.5}$ mass concentration of Baoding, which
139 is typically representative of pollution conditions in the south of Beijing, was much higher than
140 Beijing; the winds in Beijing rapidly shifted from northerly to southerly. Then the rising in $PM_{2.5}$
141 occurred, consistently with southerly slight or gentle breezes in the BL. The southerly air mass
142 moves more than $288 km d^{-1}$ below 500 m (estimated from the measured wind speed), which are
143 fast enough to transport pollutants to Beijing. Such processes indicate southerly pollutant transport
144 is primarily responsible for the rising, given the pollution transport pathway of the southwest wind
145 belt determined by the unique geographic features of the North China Plain, with the Tai-hang
146 Mountains and the Yan Mountains strengthening the southwest wind belt and leading the
147 convergence of pollutant transport in Beijing (Su et al., 2004). During the ASs, $PM_{2.5}$ increase is
148 dominated by stable atmospheric stratification characteristic of southerly slight or calm winds, near-
149 ground anomalous inversion, and moisture accumulation. When the vertical aerosols are
150 accumulated to a certain degree, the dominant scattering aerosols will substantially back-scatter
151 solar radiation, causing a reduction in the amount of solar radiation that reaches the surface, which
152 creates a near-ground cooling effect through atmospheric circulation and vertical mixing (Zhong et
153 al., 2018c). A feedback effect of further worsened meteorological conditions aggravates $PM_{2.5}$
154 pollution (Zhong et al., 2017a). During the RSs, strong north-westerly winds whose velocity
155 increases with height occur mostly. Strong northerly winds are from less populated north
156 mountainous areas and carry unpolluted air masses to Beijing, which is favorable for pollution
157 dispersion. The observations reveal the large-scale and mesoscale transport processes of aerosols
158 between HPEs in the BTH region in the winter of 2016. However, during HPEs, no research has
159 been conducted in the BTH area on quantifying the contribution of surface emissions to the
160 concentration of pollutants. In this study, we focus on aerosol emission during HPEs through field
161 observations of aerosol turbulent based on the light propagation theory and surface similarity in the
162 Beijing urban district and Gucheng suburban area.

163 The second section of this paper introduces the theory of aerosol vertical turbulent flux
164 measurements, the third section introduces the experiment, the fourth section gives the experimental
165 results, and finally, the conclusion and discussion are presented in the fifth section.

166 2 Theory and methods

167 The argument for calculating the vertical flux of aerosol particles and the approach for
168 calculating the friction velocity and characteristic temperature using the temperature and wind
169 profiles is presented in the following subsections.

170 2.1 Calculation of the aerosol mass vertical flux

171 According to the micrometeorological principle (Stull, 1988), similar to the estimation method
172 of the sensible heat flux, the aerosol flux F_a can be obtained as follows:

$$173 \quad F_a = u_* M_* \quad (1)$$

174 where u_* is the friction velocity, which can be obtained from the temperature and wind speed
175 profiles or directly from three-dimensional wind speed measurements; see Sec. 2.2. Prior
176 experiments have shown that the spectral characteristics of aerosol number concentration
177 fluctuations approximate the spectral characteristics of molecular density fluctuations. (Martensson
178 et al. 2006; Vogt et al. 2011b). Therefore, aerosol particles can be approximated as scalars for
179 turbulent statistics, and characteristic parameters M_* similar to the scalars can be introduced,
180 which can be regarded as the atmospheric aerosol mass concentration scale in the surface layer and
181 deduced from surface layer similarity theory. This approximation is similar to the surface-layer
182 temperature scale (Stull, 1988) as follows:

$$183 \quad \frac{C_M^2 (z-d)^{2/3}}{M_*^2} = \eta(\xi) \quad (2)$$

184 where z is the measurement height, d is the zero-displacement height (Evans and De Bruin, 2011;
185 Hartogensis et al., 2003), $\xi=(z-d)/L$ is the nondimensional stability parameter, L is the Monin-
186 Obukhov (MO) length and defined as $L = \frac{\bar{T} u_*^2}{\kappa g T_*}$ (Stull, 1988), \bar{T} is the average temperature, T_*
187 is the surface-layer characteristic temperature, κ is the von Karman constant, which is 0.4, and g is
188 acceleration due to gravity. The stability function ($\eta(\xi)$) can be expressed as follows depending
189 on the stability condition (DeBruin et al., 1995):

$$190 \quad \eta(\xi) = a_1 [1 - a_2 \xi]^{-2/3} \quad (3)$$

191 for unstable conditions ($\xi < 0$), and the following:

192
$$\eta(\xi) = b_1[1 + b_2(\xi)^{e_1}] \quad (4)$$

193 for stable conditions ($\zeta \geq 0$) (Wyngaard et al., 1971).

194 In Eqs. (3) and (4), a_1, a_2, b_1, b_2 and e_1 are constants, and different experiments have provided
 195 different values, although the differences between these results are small. It is assumed that the
 196 aerosol mass concentration fluctuation characteristics are the same as the temperature fluctuation
 197 characteristics and the same similarity law of Eq. (2) is satisfied. Therefore, based on the

198 experimental data, the values of $\sqrt{\frac{C_T^2(z-d)^{2/3}}{\eta(\zeta)}}$ and T_* are calculated using various schemes.

199 After comparing the differences between the two, the scheme of DeBruin et al (DeBruin et al., 1995)
 200 with $a_1=4.9, a_2=9, b_1=5,$ and $b_2=0$ is taken with a minimum difference.

201 C_M^2 in Eq. (2) is the aerosol mass concentration structure parameter. We assume that the
 202 aerosol particles in the atmosphere follow the movement of the air and satisfy the turbulent motion
 203 law. Previous studies have shown that the particle concentration fluctuation spectra follow a ‘-5/3’
 204 power law under unstable stratification conditions (Martensson et al., 2006; Vogt et al., 2011b), and
 205 the velocity-concentration co-spectra follows a ‘-4/3’ power law (Martensson et al., 2006; Vogt et
 206 al., 2011a; Kaimal et al., 1972). Thus, similarity of atmospheric aerosols and temperature can be
 207 assumed for the purpose. Then, at a separation (r) of the order in the inertial subrange in a locally
 208 isotropic field, the aerosol mass concentration (denoted as M_a) structure function ($D_M(\mathbf{r})$) follows a
 209 “2/3 law” (Wyngaard, 2010) and can be expressed as $D_M(\mathbf{r}) = \overline{[M_a(\mathbf{x}) - M_a(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{r})]^2} = C_M^2 r^{2/3}$,

210 where \mathbf{x} is the position vector, \mathbf{r} is the separation vector, and the overbar indicates the spatial average.

211 The following describes the method to deduce the aerosol mass concentration structure
 212 parameter C_M^2 .

213 Although the aerosol particles are dispersed in the air, the macroscopic behavior of the gas-
 214 particle two-phase mixture is the same as if it is perfectly continuous in structure and physical
 215 quantities, such as the mass and refractive index associated with the matter contained within a given
 216 small volume, which will be regarded as being spread continuously over that volume. The aerosol
 217 particles and gases in the atmosphere can be considered as an equivalent medium, and an
 218 atmospheric equivalent refractive index (AERI) n_{equ} is introduced that contains the real part n_{re} and
 219 the imaginary part n_{im} of the equivalent refractive index. Thus, $n_{equ} = n_{re} + i \cdot n_{im}$. For visible light, the
 220 attenuation of light by gases in the atmosphere is very weak; the cause of the attenuation is the

221 absorption and scattering due to aerosol particles. Therefore, the real part of the equivalent medium
 222 of aerosol particles and gases is determined by the gas composition of the air. The fluctuation of the
 223 real part is mainly determined by temperature fluctuations; the imaginary part is determined by the
 224 aerosol particles, and the fluctuation of the imaginary part is determined by fluctuations in the
 225 aerosol concentration.

226 For visible light, there is a robust linear relationship between the variation of the real part of

227 the AERI and the variation of the atmospheric temperature, namely, $R_{TN} = \frac{\delta T}{\delta n_{Re}}$; thus, we have the

228 following:

$$229 \quad R_{TN} = -1.29 \times 10^4 \times \left(1 + \frac{7.52 \times 10^{-3}}{\lambda^2}\right)^{-1} \frac{\bar{T}^2}{\bar{P}} \quad (5)$$

230 which is based on the relationship between the real part of the AERI (n_{Re}) and atmospheric
 231 temperature (Tatarskii, 1961). Because the wavelength is deterministic, the ratio R_{TN} can be obtained
 232 by measuring the atmospheric temperature. The imaginary part of the AERI (n_{Im}) has a close
 233 correspondence with the extinction coefficient of the equivalent medium, and the extinction
 234 coefficient is inversely proportional to the visibility. The light wavelength is selected as 0.620 μm .
 235 This wavelength is only weakly absorbed by O_3 ; therefore, the observed absorption is primarily due
 236 to aerosol (Brion et al., 1998; Lou et al., 2014; Nebuloni, 2005). Higher concentrations of aerosols
 237 in the atmosphere are related to lower visibility and vice versa; thus, the relationship between the
 238 imaginary part of the AERI and the atmospheric aerosol mass concentration can be established. The
 239 ratio of the atmospheric aerosol mass concentration to the imaginary part of the AERI R_{MN} can be
 240 defined as follows:

$$241 \quad R_{MN} = \frac{M_a}{n_{Im}}. \quad (6)$$

242 Theoretical analysis has revealed that R_{MN} is associated with the aerosol particle size
 243 distribution, mass density of the aerosol particles, and the aerosol particle refractive index. Because
 244 of the relatively small variations in particle size and aerosol refractive index (Dubovik et al., 2002),
 245 R_{MN} can be treated as a constant for surface-layer aerosols at a given location. Of course, R_{MN} can
 246 be obtained by simultaneously measuring M_a and the imaginary part of the AERI, so that real-time
 247 R_{MN} can be obtained. M_a approximates the PM_{10} value. The variable n_{im} can be calculated as follows
 248 (Yuan et al., 2016):

$$249 \quad n_{im} = \frac{0.55e-6}{4\pi} \cdot \frac{3.912}{L_v} \quad (7)$$

250 where the unit of visibility (L_V) is m.

251 According to Eqs. (5) and (6), we have the following:

$$252 \quad C_T^2 = R_{TN}^2 C_{n,Re}^2 \quad (8)$$

$$253 \quad C_M^2 = R_{MN}^2 C_{n,Im}^2 \quad (9)$$

254 Thus, the temperature structure parameter C_T^2 and the aerosol mass concentration fluctuation
255 structure parameter C_M^2 are converted into the measurement of the real and imaginary structural
256 parameters of the AERI, namely, $C_{n,Re}^2$ and $C_{n,Im}^2$ respectively.

257 The measurement of relevant parameters is performed based on the light propagation theory.
258 When light is transmitted in an equivalent medium, the AERI fluctuation will cause light
259 fluctuations in light intensity. When the attenuation caused by scattering and absorption along the
260 propagation path is very weak, light intensity fluctuation depends on the fluctuation of the real part
261 of the AERI along the propagation path. When the attenuation caused by scattering and absorption
262 along the propagation path is relatively strong, the light intensity fluctuation is also related to the
263 fluctuation of the imaginary part of the AERI along the propagation path. With the spectral analysis
264 method, the LAS light intensity fluctuations can be separated into the contributions of the real and
265 imaginary parts of the AERI. The contribution of the real part of the AERI corresponds to the high
266 frequencies, whereas the contribution of the imaginary part of the AERI corresponds to the low
267 frequencies, suggesting that the variances resulting from the real and imaginary parts are
268 independent. Therefore, the light intensity variances induced by the real and imaginary parts can be
269 detected separately at high frequencies and low frequencies from the LAS measurements (Yuan et
270 al., 2015). Thus, the real and imaginary structure parameters of the AERI can be calculated by our
271 developed LAS.

272 So far, we have completed the estimation of the aerosol mass turbulent flux.

273 According to the previous derivation and analysis, there are two calculation schemes for
274 determining the aerosol mass flux as follows:

$$275 \quad F_{a1} = \left(\frac{C_{n,Im}^2}{C_{n,Re}^2} \right)^{1/2} \frac{R_{MN}}{R_{TN}} u_* |T_*| \quad (10)$$

$$276 \quad F_{a2} = u_* \sqrt{\frac{C_M^2 (z-d)^{2/3}}{\eta(\xi)}} = u_* R_{MN} \sqrt{\frac{C_{n,Im}^2 (z-d)^{2/3}}{\eta(\xi)}} \quad (11)$$

277 When the free convection approximation ($-\xi \gg 1$) is assumed, based on the definition of the
 278 M-O length, and the similarity theory (Wyngaard et al., 1971), the following can be obtained:

$$279 \quad F_{a3} = a \left(\frac{g}{T} \right)^{1/2} R_{TN}^{1/2} (C_{n,Re}^2)^{1/4} R_{MN} (C_{n,Im}^2)^{1/2} (z-d) \quad (12)$$

280 where the coefficient $a = a_1^{-3/4} a_2^{1/2} \kappa^{1/2}$ can be taken as 0.567 (DeBruin et al., 1995; Lagouarde et
 281 al., 2006). Eqs. (10)-(12) are the theoretical basis for the aerosol mass flux measurements.

282 According to Eqs. (10)-(12), the vertical turbulent flux of aerosol particles is related to the
 283 strength of turbulent fluctuations of temperature and aerosol mass concentration fluctuations.

284 Based on the discussion above, the LAS technique is capable to determine the magnitude of
 285 the flux but not the sign. In general, the aerosols are very heterogeneous in space and the measured
 286 fluxes show typically large variation in magnitude including the sign. Over the polluted areas, which
 287 behave as the source, the emissions presumable overwhelmingly exceed the deposition sinks
 288 (Ripamonti et al., 2013). Therefore, a rough quantification of the deposition sink would allow
 289 concluding that the sink term is negligible and the flux quantified by LAS can be assumed to
 290 represent the upward fluxes.

291 2.2 Calculation of the friction velocity and surface-layer characteristic temperature

292 To calculate the aerosol vertical turbulent flux, according to Eq. (10), the values of the friction
 293 velocity u_* and the characteristic temperature T_* are required. These can be obtained via wind speed
 294 and temperature profile data. From the near-surface similarity theory, the temperature and wind
 295 speed data measured at two heights of z_1 and z_2 can be used in the expressions of the friction velocity
 296 u_* and the characteristic temperature T_* (Stull, 1988) as follows:

$$297 \quad u_* = \frac{\kappa[U(z_2) - U(z_1)]}{\ln \frac{z_2}{z_1} - \Psi_U(\xi_2) + \Psi_U(\xi_1)} \quad (13)$$

$$298 \quad T_* = \frac{\kappa[T(z_2) - T(z_1)]}{0.74[\ln \frac{z_2}{z_1} - \Psi_T(\xi_2) + \Psi_T(\xi_1)]} \quad (14)$$

299 where $U(z_1)$ and $U(z_2)$ are the measured velocities at heights z_1 and z_2 , respectively, $T(z_1)$ and $T(z_2)$
 300 are the measured temperatures at heights z_1 and z_2 , respectively, ξ_1 and ξ_2 are the stabilities at heights
 301 z_1 and z_2 , respectively, and Ψ_U and Ψ_T are the correction terms for the velocity and temperature
 302 profiles under the condition of stability L . Under unstable conditions (Stull, 1988), we have the
 303 following:

$$304 \quad \Psi_U(\xi) = \ln \left[\left(\frac{1+x^2}{2} \right) \left(\frac{1+x}{2} \right)^2 \right] - 2 \arctan(x) + \frac{\pi}{2}, \quad x = (1-15\xi)^{1/4} \quad (15)$$

$$305 \quad \Psi_T(\xi) = \ln \left[\left(\frac{1+y}{2} \right)^2 \right], \quad y = (1-9\xi)^{1/2} \quad (16)$$

306 Under stable conditions (Cheng and Brutsaert, 2005), we have the following:

$$307 \quad \Psi_U(\xi) = -a \ln[\xi + (1 + \xi^b)^{1/b}], \quad a=6.1, \quad b=2.5. \quad (17)$$

308
$$\Psi_T(\xi) = -c \ln[\xi + (1 + \xi^d)^{1/d}], c=5.3, d=1.1. \quad (18)$$

309 Based on Eqs. (13)-(18), the friction velocity u^* and characteristic temperature T^* can be
 310 determined.

311 **3 Measurements and data processing**

312 **3.1 Introduction of Experiments**

313 Observations were collected at two locations (two rectangles in Fig. 1a) from December 2016
 314 to March 2017: a rural site in Gucheng (GC site), Hebei Province and an urban site at the Chinese
 315 Academy of Meteorological Sciences (CAMS site) in Beijing. The distance between the two
 316 locations is approximately 100 km. According to the theoretical methods defined in the preceding
 317 section, to estimate the aerosol turbulent flux, the ratio of the aerosol mass to the imaginary part of
 318 the AERI, the ratio of the temperature to the real part of the AERI, the real and imaginary parts of
 319 the atmospheric equivalent refractive index structure parameter (AERISP, $C_{n,Re}^2$ and $C_{n,Im}^2$), the
 320 friction speed, and the characteristic temperature must all be obtained. If the free convection
 321 condition is satisfied, fewer parameters are required, including the real and imaginary parts of the
 322 AERISP, the ratio of the aerosol mass to the imaginary part of the AERI, the ratio of the temperature
 323 to the real part of the AERI, and the atmospheric temperature.

324 Two sets of LASs developed by our research group were installed at the top of the building of
 325 the Chinese Academy of Meteorological Sciences (point A in Fig. 1b) and at the top of a two-story
 326 building in the farm of the Central Meteorological Bureau of Gucheng Town, Baoding City (point
 327 D in Fig. 1c). The light intensity sampling frequency of the receiving end was 500 Hz, and a file
 328 was recorded every 20 minutes. Then, the real and imaginary parts of the AERISP were calculated.
 329 In the CAMS site, the transmitter end of the LAS was placed on the roof of a building on the east
 330 side of the Chinese Academy of Meteorological Sciences, and the receiver end was placed at the top
 331 of the Chinese Academy of Meteorological Sciences. The propagation path was along an east-west
 332 direction. The distance between the two ends was 550 meters as shown in Fig. 1d. The light beam
 333 passed over urban buildings, residential areas and urban roads. The beam height was 43 meters. The
 334 average height of the building below the beam was 24 meters; thus, the zero-displacement was 18
 335 meters ($24 * 0.67 = 18$) (Leclerc and Foken, 2014), and the effective height of the beam was 25
 336 meters. At the Beijing observation point, the conventional meteorological parameters are measured
 337 on the same roof, 20 meters away from the receiving end and in the northwest direction of the
 338 receiving end. The measurement heights were 1.5 m and 10 m above the roof for air temperature
 339 and wind speed. To calculate the aerosol flux, it is necessary to obtain the ratio of the aerosol mass
 340 to the imaginary part of AERI and to measure the aerosol mass concentration and visibility. In
 341 Haidian District, there is a site to measure the visibility of the near-surface layer (point B in Fig.
 342 1b), and the PM_{10} mass concentration measurements were collected at Guanyuan Station (see point
 343 C in Fig. 1B). The sampling interval for the visibility and PM_{10} mass concentration measurements
 344 was 1 h. The measurement height of points B and C in Fig. 1b was approximately 20 metres. The
 345 ratio of the aerosol mass PM_{10} to the imaginary part of the AERI was calculated based on the data.
 346 The measurements were collected at the CAMS site from 15 January 2017 to 20 March 2017.

347 In the GC site (point D in Fig. 1c, namely, the LAS position) of Gucheng, Baoding, Hebei, the

348 transmitter of the LAS was placed on the roof of a two-story building with a height of 8 m, and the
349 receiving end was located in a room in a three-story building on the west side of National Highway
350 107 at the same height as the transmitting end. The distance between the transmitting end and the
351 receiving end was 1670 metres. The terrain between the transmitting end and the receiving end was
352 flat, with farmland, a national road and sporadic trees below the beam, as seen in Fig. 1e. Near the
353 light beam, there was a 30-meter-high meteorological observation tower, in which the temperature,
354 relative humidity (RH), and wind speed were measured at five levels (1 m, 3 m, 8 m, 18 m, and 28
355 m). The friction speed and characteristic temperature were calculated according to the temperature
356 wind speed profile. Visibility observations were made in Xushui District near the LAS position (see
357 point E in Fig. 1c). The PM₁₀ mass concentration was measured in Beishi District (see point F in
358 Fig. 1c). From Fig. 1c, the three observation points (points D, E and F in Fig. 1c) formed a nearly
359 straight line and were distributed in a northeast-southwest direction. During the experimental
360 observation period, a northeast-southwest wind prevailed; thus, the Xushui District visibility data
361 and Beishi District PM₁₀ data can approximate the situation of the scintillometer position. The
362 measurements were collected at the GC site from 17 November 2016 to 30 March 2017.

363 3.2 Data quality control

364 There are two types of variables, namely mean variables and fluctuation variables. Mean
365 variables include temperature, wind speed, wind direction, PM₁₀, and visibility for averages of 30
366 minutes or 60 minutes. Data quality control for the mean variables was conducted by comparing the
367 measured data at different heights or at different stations. Same variables between different heights
368 and different locations having the same trend are considered high quality. All the measured mean
369 data were determined to be adequate. Fluctuation variables include the high-frequency intensity
370 fluctuation data measured by the LAS, the real and imaginary parts of the AERISP, and the
371 calculated aerosol flux. Quality control mainly consists of the elimination of spike and
372 supplementing missing data.

373 Peaks in the light intensity fluctuation data appear because the received signal quickly increases
374 when the light signal is blocked, such as due to birds along the transmission path. The data
375 processing program automatically determines this situation. When this happens, the current 20-
376 minute period is rejected. For the real and imaginary parts of the AERISP and the aerosol flux data,
377 (a) 3 times the standard deviation (SD) of the anomaly and (b) 3 times the SD of the difference
378 between adjacent moments (AMD) were determined. A trend of two-hour averages, namely, 6-point
379 moving averages, is first obtained. Then, the difference between the measured value and the trend
380 at each moment was calculated, and the mean and SD of the difference were also calculated. The
381 data with differences from the trend exceeding three times the SD were considered as spikes. The
382 method for judging three times the SD of the AMD was first to calculate the AMD and then calculate
383 the mean and SD of the AMDs. Any data whose AMD deviated from the mean of the AMD by more
384 than 3 the SD of the AMD was considered an error. Less than 5% of the data were found to contain
385 spikes or errors.

386 The data determined to be errors were supplemented with the average of the nearby
387 observations. Of course, if data were missing over a long period, the missing gap could not be filled.
388 For this situation, further supplementation was not considered.

389 Other errors in the measurements using a LAS due to specific reasons (Moene et al., 2009); for

390 example, the impact of the uncertainty in the exact shape of the turbulence spectrum with von
391 Karman's scheme and the intermittent variations in the characteristics of that spectrum on the LAS
392 signal were not considered in this study.

393 **4 Results**

394 First, the visibility and PM₁₀ aerosol mass concentration results at the CAMS site and the GC
395 site are given and compared. Then, the characteristics of aerosol transport in typical weather
396 conditions at the CAMS site and the GC site are discussed. Finally, the aerosol flux characteristics
397 during the HPEs are analyzed.

398 **4.1 Relationship between n_{im} and PM₁₀**

399 To obtain the ratio of the atmospheric aerosol mass concentration to the imaginary part of the
400 AERI (n_{im}) R_{MN} , PM₁₀ and visibility were measured.

401 The maximum PM₁₀ concentration in the Baoding area appeared at 1:00 on January 28, 2017
402 (up to 1071 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$), and the maximum PM₁₀ concentration in the Beijing area appeared at 2:00 on
403 January 28, 2017 (up to 917 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$). This heavy pollution event swept through Beijing and the
404 surrounding areas, reaching a maximum at almost the same time. The visibility at the corresponding
405 time was less than 500 meters. The imaginary part of the AERI can be calculated from the visibility
406 according to Eq. (7). Fig. 2a shows a scatter diagram of the imaginary parts of the AERI and PM₁₀
407 data measured in the Beijing area; there is a strong correlation between the AERI and aerosol particle
408 mass concentration, with a linear correlation coefficient of 0.96. The fitted linear in Fig. 2a has a
409 slope of 3845 kg m^{-3} . Therefore, R_{MN} was taken as 3845 kg m^{-3} for the Beijing area to estimate the
410 aerosol vertical turbulent flux. Similarly, Fig. 2b shows the results for the Baoding area, and R_{MN}
411 was set to 3711 kg m^{-3} for the Baoding area to estimate the aerosol vertical turbulent flux. The two
412 ratio coefficients are relatively close. Figs. 2a and 2b also show that in the case of light pollution,
413 Beijing's R_{MN} is slightly larger.

414 Furthermore, Figs. 2a and 2b show that although there is a significant scattering between PM₁₀
415 and n_{im} that may be attributed to a significant separation between the two measurement locations
416 for visibility and PM₁₀, there is a strong linear correlation between the imaginary part of the AERI
417 and PM₁₀. The imaginary part of the AERI has a slightly stronger relationship with the PM₁₀ data
418 obtained in the Baoding area than in the Beijing area.

419 R_{MN} should be obtained by simultaneously measuring n_{im} and the imaginary part of the AERI
420 at the same location with the LAS, so that real-time R_{MN} can be obtained. For GC site and CAMS
421 site, measuring positions of PM₁₀ and visibility are a little far from LAS measurement. So a constant
422 ratio R_{MN} is more representative than a simultaneous value.

423 The following provides the results of the aerosol turbulent flux under typical weather
424 conditions in Beijing and Baoding for the period from 10 March 2017 to 17 March 2017.

425 **4.2 Characteristics of aerosol flux in the Beijing region**

426 To analyze the aerosol turbulent flux characteristics, we present the time series of the
427 conventional meteorological parameters. The time series of temperature, RH, wind speed, wind

428 direction, PM_{10} , $C_{n,Re}^2$, $C_{n,Im}^2$ and aerosol flux are shown in Figs. 3a-3h, respectively. The
429 temperature has a distinct diurnal variation, indicating that this period had primarily sunny weather.
430 The RH from 10 March 2017 to 17 March 2017, was less than 60%, and the RH for most of the
431 period was less than 30%. The wind speed was low; only during the period from March 11 to March
432 14 was the wind strong. At 6:00 on March 12, the maximum wind speed was 4.2 m s^{-1} . At that time,
433 the wind direction has diurnal variation characteristics, which are related to the sea-land breeze,
434 valley wind and urban heat island circulation which may exist under the control of weak weather
435 system(Li et al., 2019). Moreover, two light pollution events occurred (MEP, 2012) on March 11
436 and March 16, with PM_{10} concentrations approaching $200 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$. From the data of $C_{n,Re}^2$ and $C_{n,Im}^2$
437 in Figs. 3f and 3g, the real part of the AERISP $C_{n,Re}^2$ has obvious diurnal variations, i.e., smaller in
438 the morning and at night and larger at noon. The imaginary part of the AERISP $C_{n,Im}^2$ had no distinct
439 diurnal variation. According to Fig. 3g, there are some peak values, i.e., some sudden increases and
440 decreases, which may be related to sudden changes in wind direction, as shown in Fig. 3d.

441 The LAS at the CAMS site was located in the roughness layer, so the local similarity theory
442 should in principle applied to flux calculation. Because there was no measurement of wind speed
443 and temperature profiles near the LAS measurement location, the friction velocity and characteristic
444 temperature could not be calculated. We (Yuan et al, 2015) conducted a test experiment for aerosol
445 vertical flux in Hefei, China, using free convection assumptions and local similarity theories to
446 calculate aerosol fluxes. Comparison of the calculation results of the two methods shows that very
447 unstable condition accounts for about 62 % of the time, and the relative difference is about 5%.
448 Under weak unstable and stable condition, the relative error is about 15%. Although the relative
449 error is a little large under weak unstable stable stratification conditions, the absolute difference in
450 flux is still small.

451 There is a weather tower in the north of Beijing. The weather tower is 6.1km far from the
452 CAMS site. The meteorological observation data from the weather tower show that the Monin-
453 Oubhov similarity theory has a significant error under stable condition, while the Monin-Oubhov
454 similarity theory is still basically applicable in the case of unstable stratification (Liu et al. 2009).
455 In the roughness sub-layers of other cities, under the condition of unstable stratification, the local
456 similarity theory is similar to MOST (Zou et al. 2018, 2019). Because the height of the LAS
457 instrument at the CAMS site was 43 m, during most of the time the conditions assumed for free
458 convection were easily satisfied. During the day, the surface layer is usually unstable. At night, for
459 the city, even if there is an inversion at a higher altitude, due to the existence of the urban heat island,
460 the surface layer is often weakly unstable. The stable stratification situation is rare (Li et al., 2007).
461 Therefore, aerosol fluxes in Beijing are calculated using Eq. (12) based on the assumption of free
462 convection.

463 From the aerosol flux time series given in Fig. 3h, the aerosol flux is large at noon and small
464 in the morning and at night, which is mainly because of the strong convection at noon. However,
465 large aerosol fluxes also occurred on the nights of March 11 and March 12, which were related to
466 high wind speeds. The mean aerosol flux measured at this observation point during this period was
467 $0.0039 \text{ mg m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$.

468 4.3 Characteristics of aerosol flux at the GC site

469 Similarly, Figs. 4a-4d provide the time series of temperature, RH, wind speed and wind

470 direction at 3 meters and 18 meters for the GC site, and Figs. 4e-4h show the PM_{10} , C_n , Re^2 , C_n , Im^2
471 and aerosol flux curves over time. According to Fig. 4a, the temperatures at both heights show
472 distinct diurnal variations. The daytime is characterized by unstable stratification, and at night,
473 stable stratification prevails. Moreover, in the morning and evening, there is a transition period
474 between stable and unstable stratification. Here, u^* , T^* and MO length L were calculated from the
475 wind speed and temperature measured at 3 m and 18 m on a meteorological tower. Fig. 4b shows a
476 plot of the two levels of RH over time, again with apparent diurnal variations. The RH of the GC
477 site was lower at the CAMS site. Figs. 4c and 4d provide the time series of wind speeds and wind
478 directions at two levels. At 6:00 on March 12, the wind speed was relatively high, and the maximum
479 at 18 meters was 6.5 m s^{-1} . At the same time, the maximum wind speed was reached in the Beijing
480 area, although the speed was lower in Beijing. The overall trend of wind direction at the GC site
481 was more consistent with the results of the CAMS site.

482 Figure 4e shows the PM_{10} trend of over time. There were two light pollution events on March
483 11 and March 16. The overall trend is the same as in Fig. 3(e) except that there is a slight difference.
484 Figs. 4f and 4g show the time series of the imaginary and real parts of the AERISP for the GC site.
485 The real part of the AERISP is large at noon, and the optical turbulence is strong. The real part of
486 the AERISP is small during the morning and evening, and the corresponding turbulence is weak.
487 The imaginary part of the AERISP given in Fig. 4g does not show an apparent diurnal variation, and
488 there may be some sharp peaks.

489 Figure 4h shows the aerosol mass vertical flux changes over time. The aerosol flux has a
490 significant diurnal variation characteristic associated with turbulent transport near the surface. The
491 mean aerosol flux measured at the GC site during this period was $0.0016 \text{ mg m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$. This value is
492 much smaller than the results for the CAMS site. Human activities contribute to increased water
493 vapor releases in urban areas compared to rural areas, as observed by (Dou et al., 2014), and
494 especially for the night-time SBL in winter. During our observation period, the RH of the city was
495 lower than the rural area. However, human activities cause more aerosol particles in urban areas
496 than in rural areas.

497 4.4 Aerosol flux during heavy pollution periods

498 In the winter of 2016, there were several HPEs. A heavy pollution event began on 1 December
499 2016 and ended on 10 January 2017. Relevant observational experiments were performed in the
500 Beijing and Baoding areas, including observations of meteorological parameters and aerosol
501 parameters, to understand the causes of the heavy pollution.

502 According to the definition of HPEs and classification, there were 7 TS stages in the 2016
503 winter heavy pollution event, and the AS stage appeared immediately after 4 TS stages. These
504 included 00:00 on December 1 to 03:20 on December 4, 18:40 on December 15 to 00:00 on
505 December 22, 00:00 on December 29 to January 2, and 00:00 and 8:40 on January 2 to 00:00 on
506 January 5.

507 During this period, we used a LAS to conduct an observational study of the vertical aerosol
508 flux in the GC site, which was from 00:00 on December 1, 2016, to 00:00 on December 22, 2016.
509 No corresponding observations were made at the Beijing site during this period. Here, we first
510 discuss the observation results of the GC site, Baoding City, as shown in Fig. 5. Fig. 5a shows the
511 time series of the aerosol vertical turbulent flux. Figs. 5b-5g indicate the time series for the real and

512 imaginary parts of the AERISP, the temperature and RH at 18 meters, and the wind speed and
513 direction. Purple curves indicate the TS stages, red curves show the AS stages, and grey curves
514 show the RS stages.

515 According to Fig. 5a, in the TS stages and the RS stages, the aerosol flux exhibited diurnal
516 variations, while the AS stage did not show a diurnal variation. There were some peaks in the TS
517 stage. The average aerosol flux of the TS stages was $0.00065 \text{ mg m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$, the average value of the
518 AS stages was $0.00025 \text{ mg m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$, and the average value of the RS stages was $0.00063 \text{ mg m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$.
519 The aerosol turbulent fluxes in the TS and RS stages were similar, while the aerosol turbulent flux
520 in the AS stage was much smaller than the TS and RS stages.

521 According to Fig. 5b-5c, the imaginary structure parameters and the real structure parameters
522 of the refractive index in the TS and RS stages exhibited diurnal variations, while the AS stage did
523 not exhibit a diurnal variation. Fig. 5d shows that except for the second AS event (22:00 on 19
524 December 2016 to 00:00, 22 December 2016), the temperature showed a diurnal variation. During
525 the AS stage, the RH (see Fig. 5e) was close to 100%, while the RH during the TS and RS stages
526 were lower. Moreover, Fig. 5f shows that during this time, the wind speed was relatively weak,
527 although the wind speed was slightly stronger on December 5. As shown in Fig. 5g, during the TS
528 and AS stages, southerly winds prevailed, while during the RS period, northerly winds prevailed.
529 The high wind speed and convection in the TS and RS stages contributed to the upward transport of
530 aerosol particles, whereas the low wind speed and stable stratification in the AS stage were not
531 conducive to the upward transport of aerosol particles.

532 During the heavy pollution period from 1 December 2016 to 10 January 2017, we did not
533 conduct surface aerosol flux observations at the CAMS site. From January 25 to January 31, the
534 pollution in the Beijing area also reached the level of heavy pollution. During this HPE, a
535 measurement of surface aerosol fluxes at the CAMS site was conducted. Figure 6 shows the results
536 of the meteorological and pollutant observations for six days from 00:00 on January 25, 2017 to
537 00:00 on January 31, 2017. According to Fig. 6, northerly winds prevailed after noon on January
538 26, when the concentration of PM_{10} dropped rapidly from $254 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ at 12:00 to $5 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ at 15:00.
539 During the period 12:00-24:00 on January 26, the average wind speed was 2.6 ms^{-1} . On January 27,
540 southerly winds prevailed, the average wind speed was only 0.8 ms^{-1} , and the aerosol concentration
541 (PM_{10}) increased slowly; the increase began at 6:30 before growing rapidly at 17:50, reaching more
542 than $300 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ at 23:00 and $917 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ at 2:00 am on January 28, which was the maximum aerosol
543 concentration over the 6 day period. Then, the aerosol concentration decreased gradually. The
544 average wind speed on January 27 was 0.6 ms^{-1} , southerly winds prevailed, and the mean PM_{10}
545 concentration was $440 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$, which constitutes a severe pollution level. The average PM_{10}
546 concentration during the period from 00:00 on January 25 to 00:00 on January 31 was $170 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$.

547 According to the previous characteristics for the TS and AS stages, a period of southerly winds
548 can be determined as the TS stage. Thus, January 27 can be designated as the TS stage, January 28
549 can be determined as the AS stage, and January 29 can be determined as the RS stage. During
550 Beijing's heavy pollution event in January 2017 (20170125-20170131), the mean aerosol vertical
551 flux in the TS stage was $0.0024 \text{ mg m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$, the average value during the AS stage was 0.00087 mg
552 $\text{m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ and the RS stage was $0.0049 \text{ mg m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$. The overall average value was $0.0032 \text{ mg m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$.

553 Even during heavy pollution events, the RH in Beijing was lower than in the outer suburbs.
554 According to Fig. 6e, the RH exceeded 60% in the period from 3:00 to 6:00 on January 26, where
555 the maximum value was 63%, and the RH was less than 60% in the remaining periods. In urban

556 areas, when the RH is low, heavy pollution incidents can occur. In Beijing, during the AS stage, the
557 vertical flux of aerosol was less than during the TS and RS stages.

558 **5 Discussions and conclusions**

559 During the winter of 2016 and the spring of 2017, HPEs frequently occurred in the BTH area.
560 This study investigated the aerosol vertical mass flux and compared its magnitude during different
561 stages of HPEs, including RSs, TSs, and ASs, in two representative urban and rural sites, including
562 the CAMS site in Beijing and the GC site in Hebei Province. Based on the light propagation theory
563 and surface-layer similarity theory, the aerosol vertical mass flux was obtained by combining LAS
564 observations, surface PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ mass concentrations, and meteorological observations,
565 including air temperature and RH. We found that under favorable meteorological conditions for
566 pollution dispersion, i.e., from 10 March 2017 to 17 March 2017, the vertical aerosol mass flux
567 exhibited striking diurnal variations, with the mass fluxes reaching peak values at noon and lowering
568 in the morning and evening. During the HPEs from 25 January 2017 to 31 January 2017 in Beijing,
569 the vertical aerosol mass flux varied substantially during the different stages. Specifically, the mean
570 mass flux decreased by 51% from 0.0049 mg m⁻²s⁻¹ in the RSs to 0.0024 mg m⁻²s⁻¹ in the TSs, which
571 was partly due to the wind speed reduction from strong northerly winds in the RSs to southerly
572 winds in the TSs. During the ASs, the mean mass flux decreased further to 0.00087 mg m⁻²s⁻¹, which
573 accounted for approximately 1/3 of the flux during the TSs. The weakened mass flux would further
574 facilitate aerosol accumulation. During the HPE from December 01, 2016, to December 22, 2016,
575 in Gucheng, the mean mass flux was similar in the RSs and TSs, ranging from 0.00063 mg m⁻²s⁻¹ to
576 0.00065 mg m⁻²s⁻¹. This is partly because Gucheng was less affected by strong northerly winds than
577 Beijing. Thus, the wind speed varied slightly from the RSs to TSs. However, the mass flux decreased
578 substantially to 0.00025 mg m⁻²s⁻¹ in the ASs, which was merely 1/3 of the mean flux in the TSs.

579 Based on our measurement results, it can be seen that from the TS to the AS, the aerosol vertical
580 turbulent flux decreased, but the aerosol particle concentration with surface layer increased. It is
581 inferred that in addition to the contribution of regional transport from upwind areas during the TS,
582 suppression of vertical turbulence mixing confining aerosols to a shallow boundary layer increased
583 accumulation.

584 In this study, the aerosol emission flux was also estimated in these two rural and urban sites.
585 Generally, compared with the emissions in spring, we found that in winter, the near-ground
586 emissions were weaker in suburban areas and were similar in urban areas. In suburban areas,
587 although the aerosol concentrations were relatively high (Shen et al., 2018), the upward emitted
588 aerosol flux was smaller than in urban areas. During the ASs of the HPEs, the aerosol emission flux
589 from the ground was weaker than for the RSs and TSs at both the CAMS and GC sites, which
590 indicates that surface pollutant emissions are not the major cause of explosive PM_{2.5} growth. During
591 the ASs with weak solar radiation, the factors most associated with aerosol concentration changes
592 were horizontal transport and BL height variations, which might be the leading causes of increased
593 PM_{2.5}. This is in line with previous studies that the main reason for the explosive growth of aerosol
594 concentration during AS is attributed to the horizontal transport during TS. The TS will definitely
595 appear before CS. The south or southwest wind will always appear in the TS, and the concentration
596 of PM₁₀ in Baoding is higher than the mass of PM₁₀ in Beijing, which is generally maintained for
597 one to two days. Except for the southerly or southwesterly winds for one to two days, there will be
598 no CS in Beijing. Even if it is a southerly or southwesterly wind, if the wind speed is too small

599 ($<1\text{ms}^{-1}$), AS will not appear. Only the southerly or southwesterly wind with a wind speed greater
600 than a specific value ($>1.5\text{ m s}^{-1}$), and the concentration of PM_{10} in the area to the south of Beijing
601 is higher than that in Beijing, and then there will be CS after a small wind (Zhong et al., 2018c;
602 Zhong et al., 2018b; Zhang et al., 2018).

603 Compared to the results (Yuan et al. 2016) from Hefei, China, a small and medium-sized
604 provincial capital city in East China, the measured aerosol mass-fluxes in Beijing are almost at the
605 same amount. A series of measures and actions have been made for emission reduction in Beijing,
606 and the main emission is from vehicles. The difference in aerosol mass flux may be small.

607 Due to the lack of necessary experimental conditions, such as meteorological towers and EC
608 systems, current experimental results cannot be compared with EC methods. According to the
609 literature data, the two methods have been compared indirectly, and the estimated aerosol flux under
610 different measurement conditions is consistent in magnitude (Yuan et al., 2016). However, a direct
611 comparison of the two methods is in development.

612 Compared with the EC method, the aerosol flux has high spatial representativeness based on
613 the principle of light propagation, and there is no need to install a tall tower. However, the estimation
614 of aerosol fluxes using the LAS method still has theoretical and practical deficiencies. At present,
615 the LAS method for the aerosol flux regards the aerosol particles as ordinary scalar molecules. At
616 the same time, based on the assumption of the equivalent medium, the imaginary part of the AERI
617 is taken for granted as proportional to the aerosol mass concentration. This is often not the case. The
618 actual turbulence spectrum shape may deviate from von Karman spectrum, and turbulence
619 intermittent and scintillation saturation can also occur (Moene et al., 2009). The applicability of the
620 near-surface layer similarity theory to the aerosol particle motion under stable layer conditions also
621 has many problems. The formation of new particles and changes in aerosol particle size distribution
622 also affect the scintillation in light propagation. There are also practical problems such as untimely
623 maintenance, rainfall and low visibility, and platform vibrations required for observation. All these
624 problems will cause errors in final estimates, so more theoretical and experimental research is
625 needed.

626

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628 Renmin Yuan, Hao Liu, Yu Gui, Bohao Shao, Yaqiang Wang, Junting Zhong and Xaioping Tao
629 carried out experiments; Renmin Yuan analyzed experimental results. Yubin Li and Zhiqiu Gao
630 designed experiments and discussed the results.

631

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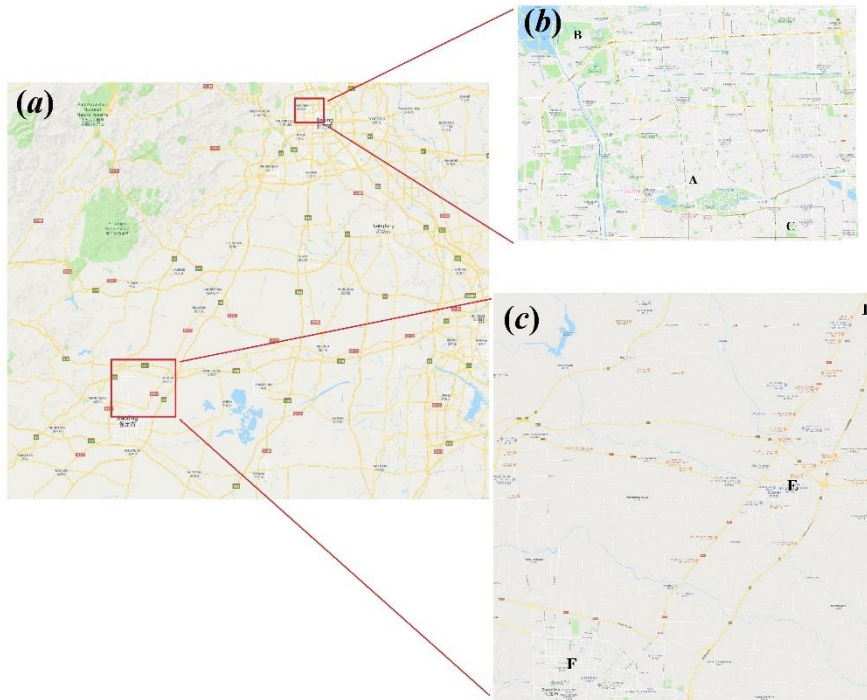
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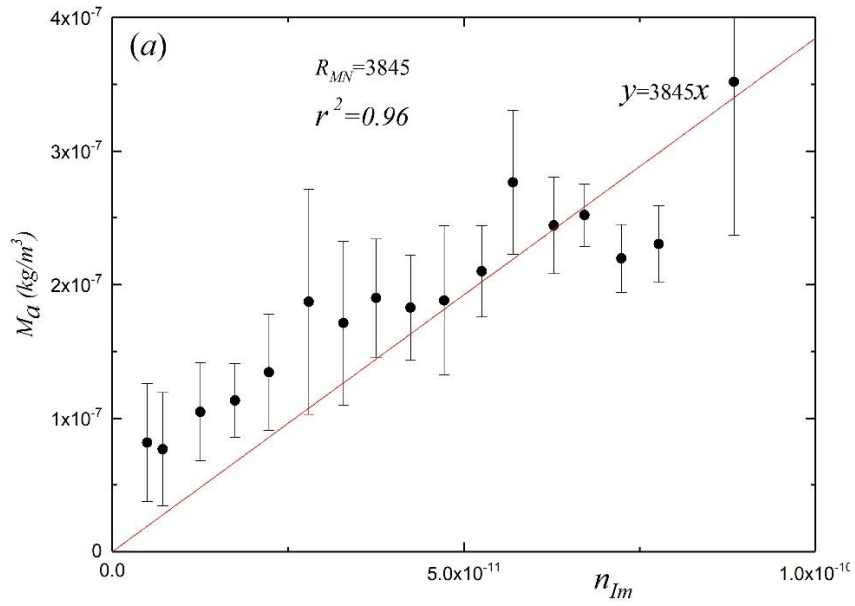


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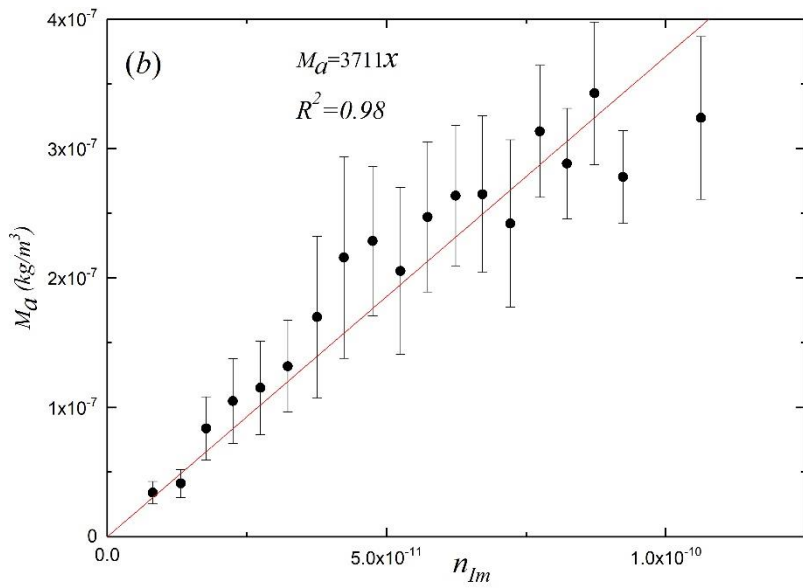


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884 Figure 1. Photographs of the measurement site. (a) Map of the experiment area in the Beijing urban area
885 and suburban area and (b) expanded view of the Beijing experiment area, which is marked as the
886 rectangle in (a). (c) Expanded view of the Baoding experiment area, which is marked as the rectangle in
887 (a). (d) Satellite image of the CAMS site and (e) the satellite image of the GC site. Figs. 1a, b, c, and d
888 © Google.



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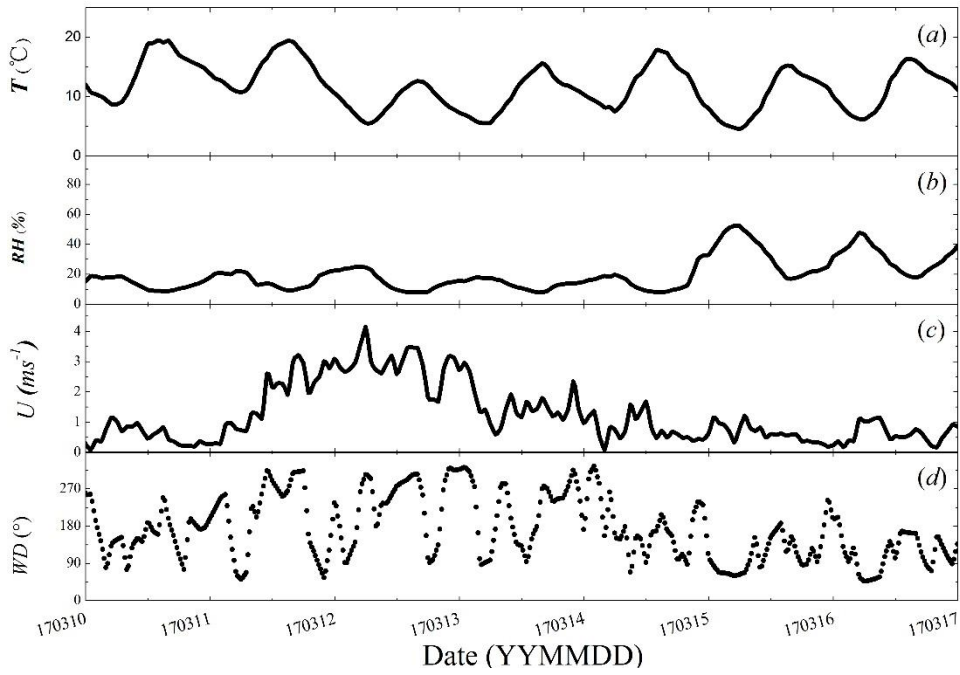


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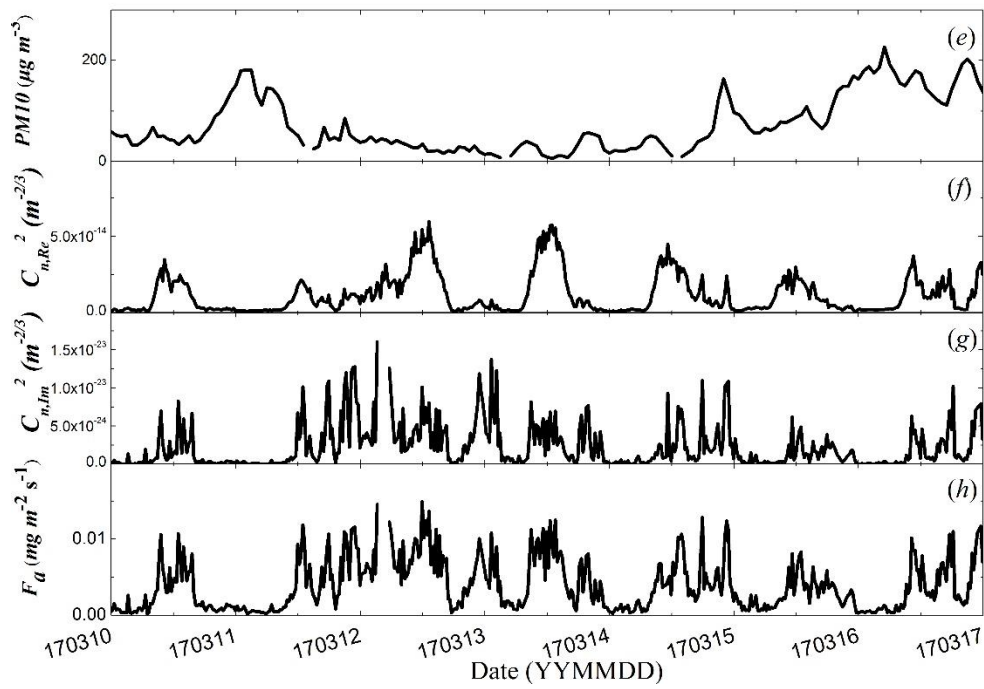
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892 Figure 2. Scatterplots of aerosol mass concentration M_a vs. the imaginary part of the AERI for (a) the

893 Beijing area and (b) the Baoding area.

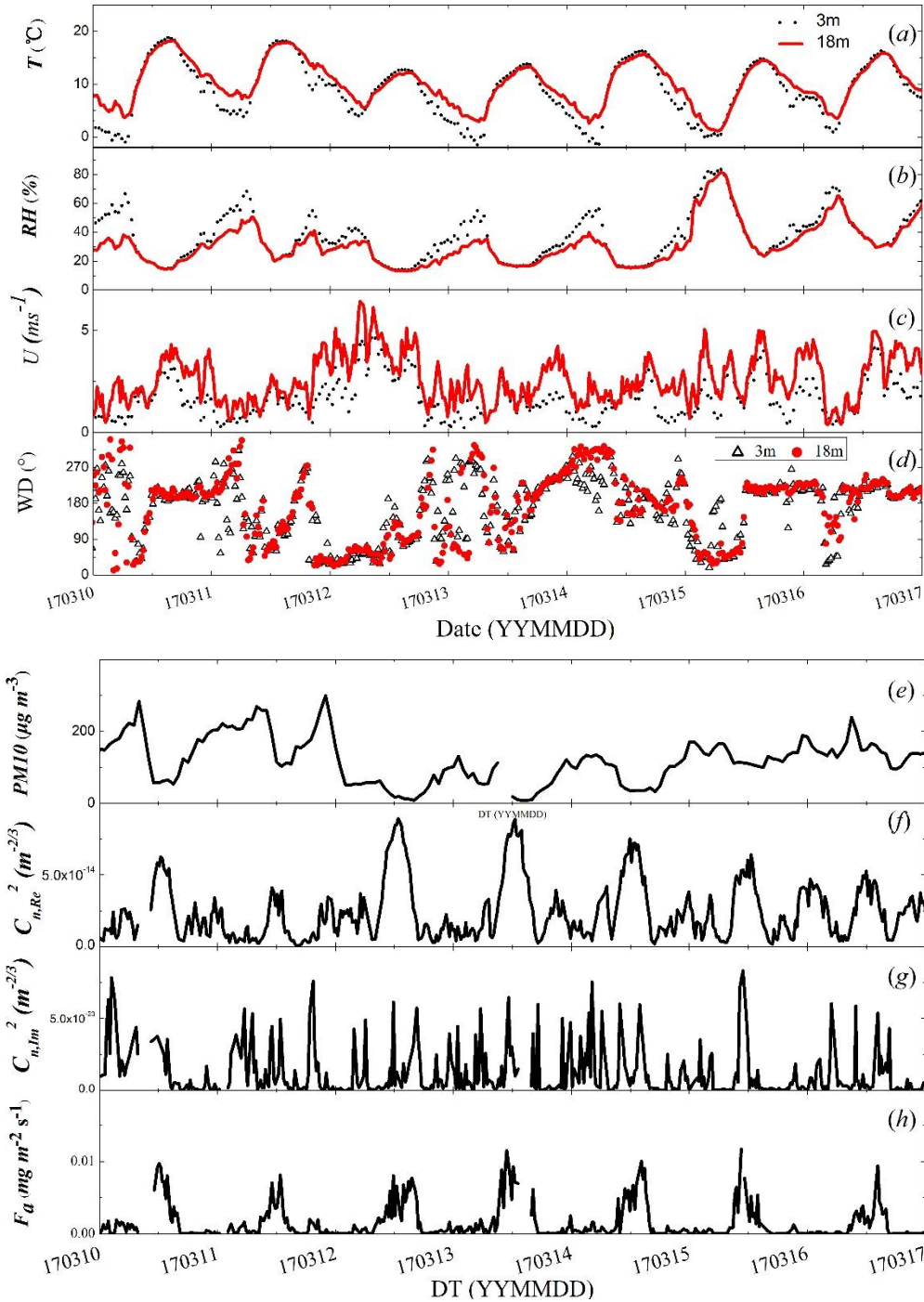


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896 Figure 3. Temporal variations in (a) air temperature, (b) RH, (c) wind speed, (d) wind direction, (e) PM₁₀,
 897 (f) real part of the AERISP, (g) imaginary part of the AERISP and (h) aerosol mass flux in the Beijing
 898 area from March 10, 2017 to March 17, 2017.



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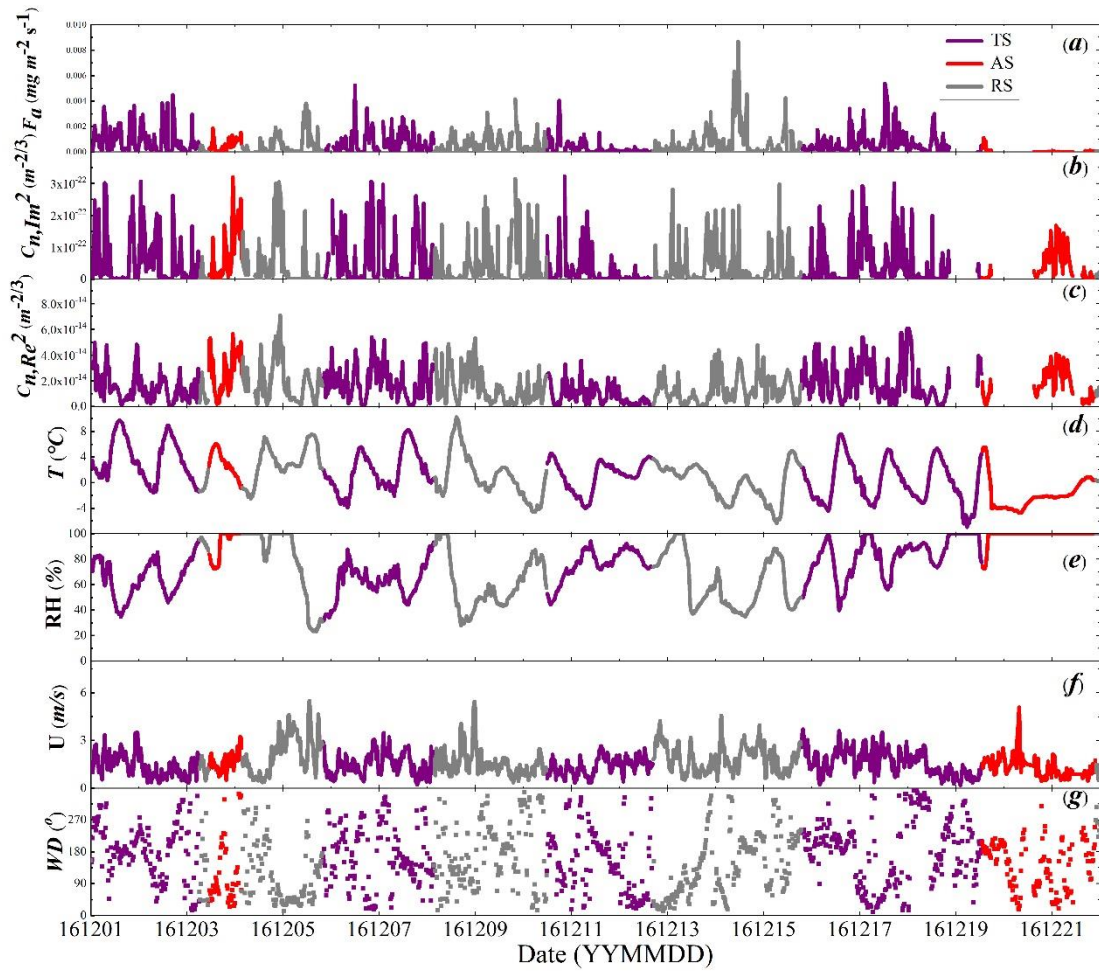
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901 Figure 4. Temporal variations in (a) air temperature, (b) RH, (c) wind speed, (d) wind direction, (e) PM_{10} ,

902 (f) real part of the AERISP, (g) imaginary part of the AERISP and (h) aerosol mass flux in the Baoding

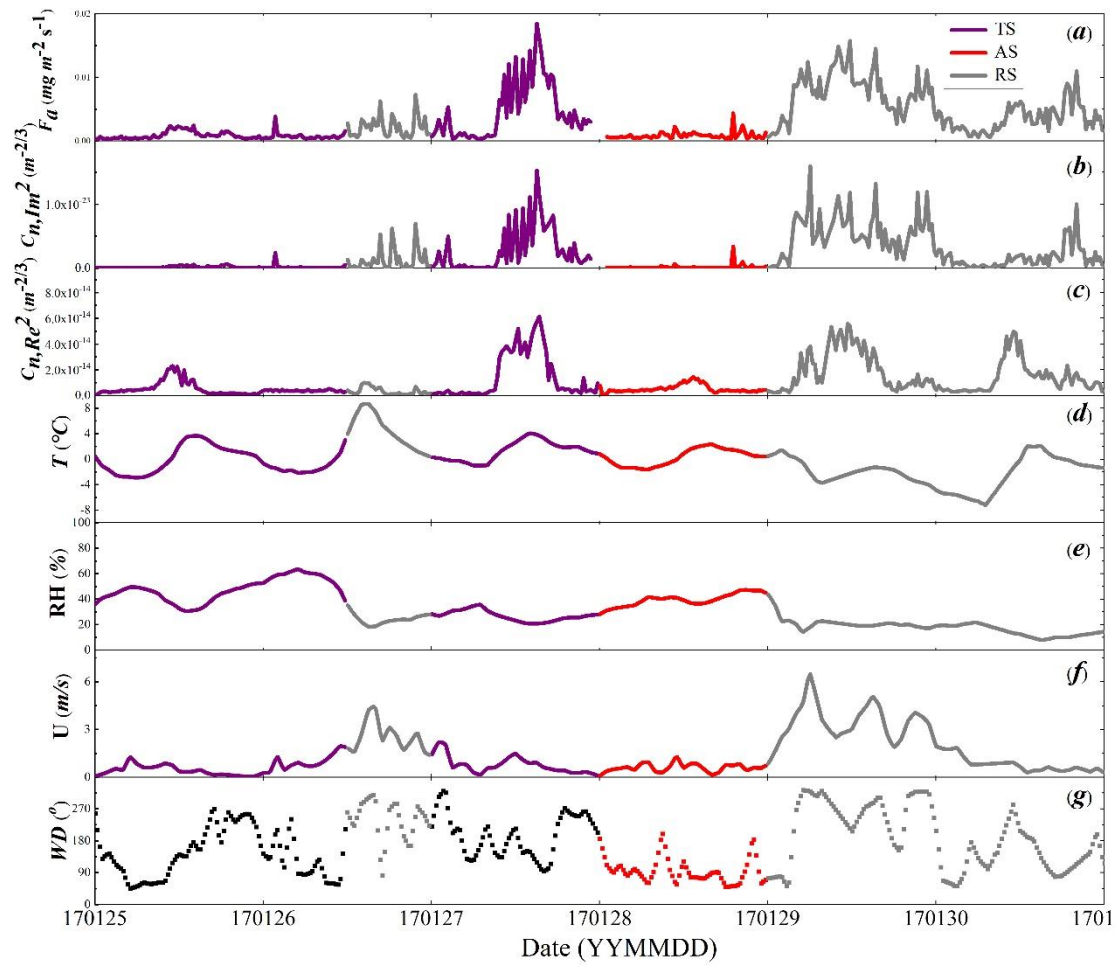
903 area from March 10, 2017 to March 17, 2017.

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906 Figure 5. Temporal variations in (a) aerosol flux, (b) imaginary part of the AERISP, (c) real part of the
 907 AERISP (d) air temperature, (e) RH, (f) wind speed, and (g) wind direction in the Baoding area during a
 908 heavy pollution period, i.e., December 1, 2016 to December 22, 2016.



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910 Figure 6. Temporal variations in (a) aerosol flux, (b) imaginary part of the AERISP, (c) real part of the
 911 AERISP (d) air temperature, (e) RH, (f) wind speed, and (g) wind direction in the Beijing area
 912 during a heavy pollution period, i.e., January 25, 2017 to January 31, 2017.

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