



1 **Numerical analysis of the impact of agricultural emissions on PM_{2.5} in China using a**
2 **high-resolution ammonia emissions inventory**

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30 **Abstract**

31 China is one of the largest agricultural countries in the world. The NH₃ emissions from agricultural activities
32 in China significantly affect regional air quality and horizontal visibility. To reliably estimate the influence
33 of NH₃ on agriculture, a high-resolution agricultural NH₃ emissions inventory, compiled with a 1 km × 1
34 km horizontal resolution, was applied to calculate the NH₃ mass burden in China. The key emission factors
35 of this inventory were enhanced by considering the results of many native experiments, and the activity
36 data of spatial and temporal information were updated using statistical data from 2015. Fertilizer and
37 husbandry, as well as farmland ecosystems, livestock waste, crop residue burning, fuel wood combustion,
38 and other NH₃ emission sources were included in the inventory. Furthermore, a source apportionment tool,
39 ISAM (Integrated Source Apportionment Method), coupled with the air quality modeling system RAMS-
40 CMAQ (Regional Atmospheric Modeling System and Community Multiscale Air Quality), was applied to
41 capture the contribution of NH₃ emitted from total agriculture (Tagr) in China. The aerosol mass
42 concentration in 2015 was simulated, and the results showed that a high mass concentration of NH₃, which
43 exceeded 10 µg m⁻³, appeared mainly in the North China Plain (NCP), Central China (CNC), the Yangtze
44 River Delta (YRD), and the Sichan Basin (SCB), and the annual average contribution of Tagr NH₃ to PM_{2.5}
45 mass burden in China was 14-18%. Specific to the PM_{2.5} components, Tagr NH₃ provided a major
46 contribution to ammonium formation (87.6%) but a tiny contribution to sulfate (2.2%). In addition, several
47 brute-force sensitivity tests were conducted to estimate the impact of Tagr NH₃ emissions reduction on the
48 PM_{2.5} mass burden. Compared with the results of ISAM, it was found that even though the Tagr NH₃ only
49 contributed 10.1% of nitrate under current emissions scenarios, the reduction of nitrate could reach 98.8%
50 upon removal of the Tagr NH₃ emissions. The main reason for this deviation could be that the NH₃
51 contribution to nitrate is small under "rich NH₃" conditions and large in "poor NH₃" environments. Thus,
52 the influence of NH₃ on nitrate formation could be enhanced with the decrease of ambient NH₃ mass
53 concentration.

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60 1. Introduction

61 Ammonia (NH_3) is an important pollution species which principal neutralizing agent for the acid
62 aerosols, SO_4^{2-} and NO_3^- formed from the SO_2 and NO_x (Chang, 1989; McMurry et al.; 1983). In addition,
63 NH_3 also influences the rate of particle nucleation (Ball et al.; 1999; Kulmala et al.; 2002) and enhances
64 secondary organic aerosols (SOA) yields (Babar et al.; 2017). The widespread haze events have frequently
65 occurred in most regions of eastern China in recent years, and several studies have reported that the
66 secondary inorganic salts, including sulfate, nitrate, and ammonium, were the majorities of the total aerosols
67 in the urban and rural regions (Tao et al.; 2014; Wang et al.; 2016; Zhang et al.; 2012; Lai et al.; 2016;
68 Zhang et al.; 2018). Therefore, besides the heavy emissions of SO_2 and NO_2 , NH_3 emissions from the
69 agriculture activities are also non-negligible.

70 China is one of the largest agricultural countries in the world. Even though the annual emissions budget
71 of NH_3 decreased from 2006 to 2012, the emissions were still high and reached 9.7-12 Tg (Kang et al.,
72 2016; Xu et al., 2016; Zhou et al., 2015), leading to high ambient NH_3 concentrations. These massive NH_3
73 levels significantly affect regional air quality and horizontal visibility. Firstly, the major $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ components,
74 $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$, $(\text{NH}_4)_3\text{H}(\text{SO}_4)_2$, NH_4HSO_4 , and NH_4NO_3 were partially or fully produced from the
75 neutralization of H_2SO_4 and HNO_3 by the reaction with NH_3 (Tanner et al.; 1981; Brost et al.; 1988; Quan
76 et al.; 2014; Zhao et al.; 2013; Zhang et al.; 2014). Studies also showed that NH_3 improves the H_2SO_4
77 nucleation by 1-10 times (Benson et al.; 2011), and provides sufficient new particle to alter the number and
78 size distributions. Thus, the NH_3 and its secondary product NH_4^+ play an important role in the formation
79 of air pollution and haze days. Research has shown that approximately 80% of total anthropogenic NH_3
80 emissions derived from agricultural sources and livestock manure provided a greater contribution than
81 synthetic fertilizer (Kang et al., 2016; Zhou et al., 2016). The Chinese government has undertaken several
82 control strategies to reduce particulate pollution and its precursors, such as catalytic reduction systems in
83 the power sector (Xia et al., 2016), measures to change coal to gas for residential life and heating (Ren et
84 al., 2014), etc. Related observations have shown that the mass burdens of SO_2 and NO_x have decreased
85 distinctly in recent years (De Foy et al., 2016; Wang et al., 2015; Zheng et al., 2018). However, no specific
86 measures for agricultural NH_3 emissions control have been implemented to date, and the total agricultural
87 NH_3 emissions budget did not change substantially from 2010 to 2017 (Zheng et al., 2018).

88 In addition, accurate information on agricultural NH_3 emissions is also important for estimating the
89 NH_3 mass burden and its environmental effect. There have been several studies focusing on NH_3 emissions



90 from agricultural activities in China or East Asia. REAS (Regional Emission inventory in Asia) version 2
91 established an anthropogenic emissions inventory that included the source of agricultural NH₃ (fertilizer
92 application and livestock) (Kurokawa et al.; 2013). This inventory, targeting years from 2000 to 2008, has
93 a 0.25° × 0.25° spatial resolution with monthly variation. MASAGE_NH₃ (Magnitude and Seasonality of
94 Agricultural Emissions model for NH₃) was used to develop a bottom-up NH₃ emissions inventory by using
95 the adjoint of the GEOS-Chem chemical transport model (Paulot et al.; 2014). The inverse of the network
96 data for NH₄⁺ wet deposition fluxes from 2005-2008 was used to optimize the NH₃ emissions in China in
97 this inventory. Fu et al. (2015) used the CMAQ (Community Multiscale Air Quality) model coupled to an
98 agro-ecosystem, which could obtain hourly emissions features by online model calculation, to estimate NH₃
99 emissions in 2011 with high spatial and temporal resolution. These NH₃ emissions inventories provided
100 very useful datasets for understanding the distribution features of the NH₃ mass burden in China. However,
101 with population migration, economic growth, and the increased consumption of agricultural products, the
102 spatial distribution and strength of agricultural NH₃ emissions has significantly changed in China during
103 the last decade (Xu et al., 2017), so that reliable emissions information based on recent years is also
104 necessary for estimating the NH₃ mass burden.

105 Previous studies have investigated the influence of NH₃ emissions on aerosol loading in several typical
106 areas of China. Wu et al. (2008) conducted sensitivity studies to assess the impact of livestock-produced
107 NH₃ emissions on PM_{2.5} mass concentration in North China by using the MM5/CMAQ modeling system.
108 The results showed that the livestock-produced NH₃ provided >20% contributions to nitrate and ammonium,
109 but provided only a small contribution to sulfate. Wang et al. (2011) used the response surface modeling
110 technique to estimate the contribution of NH₃ emissions in East China and found that total NH₃ emissions
111 contributed 8-11% to PM_{2.5} concentration, and the nonlinear effects were significant while the transition
112 between NH₃ rich and poor conditions. Fu et al. (2017) and Zhao et al. (2017) also investigated the impact
113 of NH₃ emissions on PM_{2.5} in East China and the Hai River Basin. However, the related studies were few
114 and focused mainly on local regions; furthermore, most of them generally used the brute-force sensitivity
115 method to estimate the NH₃ impact based on the chemistry model, which reflected the change in particulate
116 concentration with emissions reduction (Koo et al., 2009).

117 PKU-NH₃, a comprehensive high-resolution NH₃ emissions inventory based on the year 2015, was
118 applied in this study to capture the agricultural NH₃ mass concentration in China, and the contribution to
119 PM_{2.5} particles was estimated with an RAMS-CMAQ air quality modeling system, coupled with the online



120 source tagged module ISAM. Compared with previous studies, this high-resolution agricultural NH₃
121 emissions inventory was more accurate and reflected the latest spatial and temporal distribution features
122 (Liu et al.; 2019). The major trace gases and aerosol species in 2015 were simulated by the modeling system
123 and evaluated by several observational data. The contribution to the pollutant concentrations was tagged
124 and quantified by RAMS-CMAQ-ISAM under the current scenario (Wang et al., 2009). Then, several brute-
125 force sensitivity tests were conducted to estimate the effect of reducing agricultural NH₃ emissions on the
126 PM_{2.5} mass burden. The results from the source apportionment simulation and brute-force sensitivity tests
127 in January, April, July, and October are presented here, and the detailed features over seven major populated
128 areas of China (as shown in Figure 1) are discussed.

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130 **2. Methodology**

131 The emissions inventory can be described as follows: First, the NH₃ emissions data in China were
132 provided by the PKU-NH₃ emissions inventory (Kang et al., 2016; Zhang et al., 2018). This inventory was
133 developed on the basis of previous studies (Huang et al., 2012) and improved the horizontal resolution and
134 accuracy. It was compiled at a 1 km × 1 km horizontal resolution, with monthly statistical data from 2015.
135 Some of the most uncertain parameters, the emission factors applied in this inventory, were enhanced by
136 considering as many native experiment results as possible, with ambient temperature, soil acidity, and
137 changes in other factors. In addition, this inventory not only included fertilizer and husbandry emissions
138 from agricultural activities but also collected the emissions data of farmland ecosystems, livestock waste,
139 biomass burning (forest and grassland fires, crop residue burning, and fuel wood combustion), and other
140 sources (excrement waste from rural populations, the chemical industry, waste disposal, NH₃ escape from
141 thermal power plants, and traffic sources). Second, the anthropogenic emissions of primary aerosols and
142 their precursors were obtained from the MIX Asian emission inventory (base year 2012), prepared by the
143 Model Inter-Comparison Study for Asia (MICS-ASIA III) (Lu et al., 2011; Lei et al., 2011). The
144 anthropogenic emissions sources of SO₂, NO_x, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), black carbon (BC),
145 organic carbon (OC), primary PM_{2.5}, and PM₁₀ were obtained from the monthly MIX inventory, with a 0.25°
146 × 0.25° spatial resolution. The REAS (Regional Emission Inventory in Asia; Version 2; Kurokawa et al.,
147 2013) and GFED (Global Fire Emissions Database; Version 3; van der Werf et al., 2010) were used to
148 provide the VOCs, and nitrogen oxides from flight exhaust, lightning, paint, wildfires, savanna burning,
149 and slash-and-burn agriculture.



150 The RAMS-CMAQ modeling system was applied to simulate the transformation and transport of
151 pollutants in the atmosphere. The CMAQ regional air quality model (version 5.0.2) released by the US
152 Environmental Protection Agency (Eder et al., 2009; Mathur et al., 2008) was a major component of the
153 RAMS-CMAQ modeling system. In this model, the CB05 (version CB05tucl) chemical mechanism
154 (Whitten, 2010) and the sixth-generation CMAQ aerosol model (AERO6) were used to treat the gas-phase
155 chemical mechanism and the formation and dynamic processes of aerosols. The ISORROPIA model
156 (version 2.1) (Fountoukis and Nenes, 2007) was used to describe the thermodynamic equilibrium of gas-
157 particle transformation. The highly versatile RAMS numerical model, which can well capture the boundary
158 layer and the underlying surface, was applied to provide the meteorological fields for CMAQ (Cotton et al.,
159 2003). The European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts reanalysis datasets ($1^\circ \times 1^\circ$ spatial
160 resolution) were used to supply the background fields and sea surface temperatures. The model domain
161 (Figure 1) was $6654 \text{ km} \times 5440 \text{ km}$, with 64 km^2 fixed-grid cells, and a rotated polar stereographic map
162 projection covering the entire mainland of China and its surrounding regions was used. The model had 15
163 vertical layers, and half of them were located in the lowest 2 km to provide a more precise simulation of
164 the atmospheric boundary layer. Several previous studies have demonstrated that the modeling system
165 performs well when simulating the spatial and temporal distribution of China's major aerosol components
166 (Han et al., 2013, 2014, 2016).

167 The ISAM is a flexible and efficient online source apportionment implementation, which was used to
168 track multiple pollutants emitted from different geographic regions and source types. Compared with its
169 previous version TSSA (Tagged Species Source Apportionment), the processes of tracking tagged tracer
170 transport and precursor reactions were optimized for balancing the computational requirements and reliable
171 representation of the physical and chemical evolution. To reduce the nonlinear effect during phase
172 transformation and relative chemical interactions, a standalone subroutine “wrapper” approach was applied
173 to the ISAM model to apportion the secondary PM species and their precursor gases during the
174 thermodynamic equilibrium simulation; a hybrid approach, which employed the LU decomposition
175 triangular matrices (Yang et al., 1997), was also developed for describing the gas-phase chemical
176 interactions. In this study, ISAM was coupled with RAMS-CMAQ and was set to trace the transport and
177 chemical reactions of NH_3 from fertilizer and husbandry emissions sectors to quantitatively estimate the
178 contribution of agricultural NH_3 emissions to the $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ mass concentration in China.

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180 3. Model evaluation

181 To evaluate the model performances, several observation data were compared with the simulation
182 results. The meteorological factors are important to capture the formation processes and transport of
183 secondary aerosols. Thus, in this paper, the observed meteorological data from surface stations of the
184 Chinese National Meteorological Center are collected to evaluate the performance of the model. The detail
185 information is described in Appendix A. Furthermore, the observed SO₂, NO₂, and PM_{2.5} released from the
186 Ministry of Environmental Protection of China were applied to evaluate the modeled mass concentration
187 of these pollutants. The observation data at 416 stations, located in 101 model grids (distributed in Beijing,
188 Tianjin, Hebei, Shandong, Shanxi, Henan, Jiangsu, and Anhui), were collected, and the values in same grid
189 were averaged. The scatter plots of comparison are shown in Figure 2, and the statistical parameters
190 between the observations and simulations are listed in Table 1. It can be seen that most of the scatter points
191 broadly gather around the 1:1 solid line. The correlation coefficients in this table are all higher than 0.5,
192 which indicates that the model can capture the regional variation in the measurements. The standard
193 deviations between the observations and simulations were similar in most cases, except for SO₂ in January.
194 The largest deviation of the modeled mean, which was higher than that of the observation, was also between
195 the observed and modeled SO₂ in January. However, the correlation coefficients reached 0.71 in January,
196 and the performance of the model in other months was relatively good, as shown in Table 1. It can be
197 deduced that the obvious deviation may be a systemic underestimation due to the lack of emission intensity
198 in this month.

199 The horizontal distributions of modeled monthly NH₃ mass concentration in January, April, July, and
200 October in 2015 are shown in Figure 3. Pan et al. (2018) provided the distributions of satellite NH₃ total
201 column distribution and the surface NH₃ concentrations at several observation sites (as shown in Figure 1
202 in the aforementioned study). As shown from their results, the highest mass burden was concentrated
203 mainly in the North China Plain (NCP), Central China (CNC), the Yangtz River Delta (YRD), and the
204 Sichan Basin (SCB). The simulation results in this study broadly reflected these distribution features. The
205 NH₃ concentrations in these regions reached 10-25 μg m³ in Pan et al. (2018), which also coincided well
206 with the simulation results. However, some obvious deviations appeared in the eastern part of Gansu
207 province. The modeled NH₃ in these regions was slightly higher than that of the observations in Pan et al.
208 (2018). Zhang et al. (2018) also showed the NH₃ mass concentration in four seasons over China from
209 simulation (horizontal distribution) and ground-based measurements (point values) in Figure 9 of their



210 study. Aside from the regions mentioned in Pan et al. (2018), the high mass burden of NH_3 also appeared
211 in the NEC, as shown by both simulation and observation results in Zhang et al. (2018). Generally, this
212 distribution feature should be reasonable because the Three River Plain located in NEC is an important
213 agriculture base in China, and the NH_3 emissions in this region can be strong during spring and summer.
214 The simulation results in this study also supported the seasonal variation of the NH_3 mass burden shown in
215 Zhang et al. (2018), which was higher in summer and lower in winter, and the magnitudes of the two were
216 close. Thus, it can be seen that the NH_3 concentration modeled by RAMS-CMAQ was reliable and can be
217 applied to the analysis in this study.

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219 **4. Results and discussions**

220 The horizontal distributions of modeled monthly $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ mass concentrations in January, April, July,
221 and October 2015 are shown in Figure 4. Over the eastern part of China, the heavy $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ pollution occurred
222 in January, and the relatively better air quality appeared in July. The large $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ mass burden, exceeding
223 $200 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ in January, was mainly concentrated in the NCP, the Yangtze River Valley of CNC, and the SCB,
224 which broadly coincided with the regions covered by a high mass burden of NH_3 , as shown in Figure 3. In
225 addition, the $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ mass burden ($50\text{-}150 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$) was obviously lower in July than in the other months.
226 Since NH_3 concerns mainly with secondary inorganic aerosols: sulfate, nitrate, and ammonium (SNA)
227 formation, the analysis hereafter will mainly focus on the SNA. Figure 5 presents the modeled monthly
228 SNA mass concentrations in January, April, July, and October 2015. The mass loading of SNA generally
229 contributed 40-60% of the total $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ in the eastern part of China, which was comparable with previous
230 studies (Cao et al., 2017; Chen et al., 2016; Lai et al., 2016; Wang et al., 2016). The distribution pattern and
231 seasonal variation of SNA also followed the features of $\text{PM}_{2.5}$, and the high mass concentration of SNA
232 exceeded $100 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ in January.

233 Then, the contributions of NH_3 from multiple agricultural emissions (including fertilizer, husbandry,
234 farmland ecosystems, livestock waste, crop residue burning, and excrement waste from rural populations)
235 to aerosols were calculated using RAMS-CMAQ-ISAM; the monthly average contribution percentage of
236 total agriculture activities (Tagr) in January, April, July, and October are shown in Figure 6. Generally, Tagr
237 NH_3 provided a 30-50% contribution to the SNA over most of eastern China in January and October, and a
238 20-40% contribution in April and July. The relatively lower value appeared mainly in April. The regional
239 and annual average percent contributions of Tagr to sulfate, nitrate, ammonium, SNA, and $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ are shown



240 in Table 2. As shown in this table, Tagr NH₃ provided the major contribution to ammonium, which reached
241 approximately 90%, and a relatively small contribution to nitrate mass burden, which was 5-10%. However,
242 the contribution to sulfate was tiny, and the main reason is that there are various methods of sulfate
243 formation from SO₂ other than neutralization by NH₃, such as oxidation by H₂O₂, O₃, or peroxyacetic acid.
244 Tagr NH₃ provided a 28-37% contribution to the SNA mass concentration, and the spatial features of the
245 Tagr NH₃ contribution to the PM_{2.5} mass concentration were similar to the features of SNA. Generally, it
246 provided an approximately 14-18% contribution to the total PM_{2.5} mass concentration in these places, and
247 the largest annual average contribution appeared in CNC (17.5%).

248 In addition, the brute-force method (zero-out sensitivity test), which can capture the effect of emissions
249 changes on aerosol mass burden, was applied to investigate the impact of the removal of Tagr NH₃
250 emissions. Unlike online source apportionment, the brute-force method mainly reflects the disparity of the
251 chemical balance caused by the emissions change, which could significantly alter secondary pollutant
252 formation. Several sensitivity tests were conducted, and the results are shown in Figure 7 and Table 3.
253 Figure 7 presents the mass burden variation of SNA associated with Tagr NH₃ removal. From Figure 7, it
254 can be seen that the reduction patterns of the aerosol broadly followed those of their mass burden. The
255 significant reduction of SNA mainly appeared in the high concentration regions, and generally exceeded
256 25 μg m⁻³. Table 3 shows the percentage of the variation of sulfate, nitrate, ammonium, SNA, and PM_{2.5}.
257 Compared with Table 2, it can be seen that the variation percent of SNA and PM_{2.5}, which reached 40-51%
258 and 23-35%, respectively, were approximately two times higher than those of the contribution percent, and
259 this significant distinction was mainly caused by the variation of nitrate: the contribution of Tagr NH₃ to
260 nitrate was generally below 10%, as shown in Table 2, but the reduction of nitrate associated with removing
261 Tagr NH₃ emissions could exceed 95%, as shown in Table 3. This difference between the results of ISAM
262 and brute-force was expected as a result of high nonlinearity in the NO_x chemistry. The nitrate formation
263 could become more sensitive when the “rich NH₃” environment shifts to a “poor NH₃” environment, which
264 means the decrease of the nitrate mass burden would accelerate with the NH₃ emissions reduction.
265 Therefore, it can be deduced that the contribution of NH₃ to nitrate should be significantly lower under a
266 “rich NH₃” environment than that under a “poor NH₃” environment. A similar phenomenon was also
267 reported in previous studies (Wang et al., 2011; Xu et al., 2016). To prove this point, further brute-force
268 sensitivity tests were conducted. The variations of sulfate, nitrate, ammonium, and SNA mass burden
269 associated with the reduction of NH₃ emissions (80%, 50%, 40%, 30%, 20%, and 10% TA NH₃ emission,



270 respectively) is shown in Figure 8. It can be seen that the decrease in nitrate mass concentration was more
271 rapid than that of ammonium, and the trend became slightly faster with the reduction of NH_3 emissions
272 (signifying the transition from a “rich NH_3 ” to a “poor NH_3 ” environment) in the regions with a high mass
273 burden of NH_3 : BTH, NEC, SCB, and SDP. Furthermore, this acceleration stopped while 20% of NH_3
274 emissions remained.

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276 **5. Conclusions**

277 The emission budget of agriculture NH_3 was huge and played an important role on the regional particle
278 pollution in China. As a precursor of the secondary aerosol, reasonably estimate the nonlinear processes of
279 secondary aerosol formation should be the key point for capturing the contribution of NH_3 to particle
280 pollution. In this study, the air quality modeling system RAMS-CMAQ was applied to simulate spatial-
281 temporal distribution of trace gas and aerosols in 2015. In addition, the PKU- NH_3 emission inventory which
282 compiled on $1\text{km} \times 1\text{km}$ horizontal resolution with monthly based data was applied to accurately capture
283 the agriculture NH_3 emission features in China. Then, the source apportionment module ISAM was coupled
284 into this modeling system to quantitatively estimate the contribution of agriculture NH_3 to $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ mass
285 burden. The brute-force sensitivity tests were also conducted for discussing the impact of the agriculture
286 NH_3 emission reduction. The meteorological factors and mass concentration of NH_3 , SO_2 , NO_2 , and $\text{PM}_{2.5}$
287 from simulation were evaluated and showed well agreement with the observation data. Some interesting
288 results were explored and summarized as follow:

289 (1) The high mass burden of NH_3 could exceeded $10 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$, and mainly appeared in the NCP, CNC,
290 YRD, and SCB. These regions were highly coincidence with the regions that heavy particle pollution
291 covered in China. Therefore, it can be deduced that the influence of agriculture NH_3 on the $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ mass
292 concentration should be significant.

293 (2) The results from ISAM simulation shows that the Tagr NH_3 provided 14-18% contribution to the
294 $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ in the most part of east China, and the largest annual average contribution appeared in CNC (17.5%).
295 Specific to the SNA components, the annually and regional average contribution of Tagr NH_3 to ammonium,
296 nitrate, sulfate was 87.6%, 10.1%, and 2.2% in China. The agriculture NH_3 emission provided major
297 contribution to the ammonium formation, but tiny contribution to the sulfate due to the various other ways
298 of sulfate formation.

299 (3) The brute-force sensitive test could reflect the effect of changing Tagr NH_3 emission on $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ mass



300 burden. The results indicated that the reduction percent of $PM_{2.5}$ mass burden due to removal $Tagr NH_3$
301 emission could reach 23-35% in the most part of east China, which was approximately two times higher
302 than the contribution. The reduction percent of nitrate that reached exceed 95% was the main reason caused
303 this significant different. In addition, the further analysis proved that the ambient NH_3 mass burden could
304 obviously affects its contribution to the SNA formation: the NH_3 contribution to nitrate should be lower
305 under "rich NH_3 " and higher under "poor NH_3 ". Therefore, the influence of NH_3 would enhance with the
306 decreasing of ambient NH_3 mass concentration.

307 It is suggested that the influence of NH_3 on the $PM_{2.5}$ mass burden is complex because of the
308 nonlinearity of secondary aerosol formation. Significant deviation exists between the results from ISAM
309 and the brute-force method; therefore, these two kinds of results should be distinguished and applied to
310 explain different issues: the contribution under the current scenario and the effect due to emissions reduction,
311 respectively. The modeling system is a versatile tool that allows us to investigate this valuable information
312 to choose more efficient strategies for reducing the impact of agricultural NH_3 and improving air quality.

313

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316 Sciences (XDA19040204), and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (41830109).

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330 **Appendix A**

331 The daily average temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and maximum wind direction in January
332 and July 2015 were compared with the surface shared data from the Chinese National Meteorological
333 Center (<http://data.cma.cn/>) in 9 stations. The comparison results are shown in Figure A1-A4. These stations
334 are located in the East China where the high NH₃ emission regions. Generally, the modeled temperature
335 was in good agreement with the observed data, and can reflect the large fluctuation and seasonal variation
336 of relative humidity as well, except that some of the extreme high or low values appeared abruptly. As
337 shown in Figure A3, most of the daily average wind speed was lower than 3 m s⁻¹ at Zhengzhou, Jinan,
338 Miyun, and Baoding station (all located in the North China Plain), which means the diffusion condition was
339 not good due to the stable weather. Otherwise, the relatively strong wind appeared at Nanjing, Chaoyang,
340 Nanning, and Tianjin. The modeled wind speed generally reproduced all these features. The direct
341 comparison between observed and modeled wind direction which can be easily influenced by the
342 surrounding surface features is difficult. Nevertheless, the prevailing wind direction in different seasons
343 can be captured by the simulation results for all stations.

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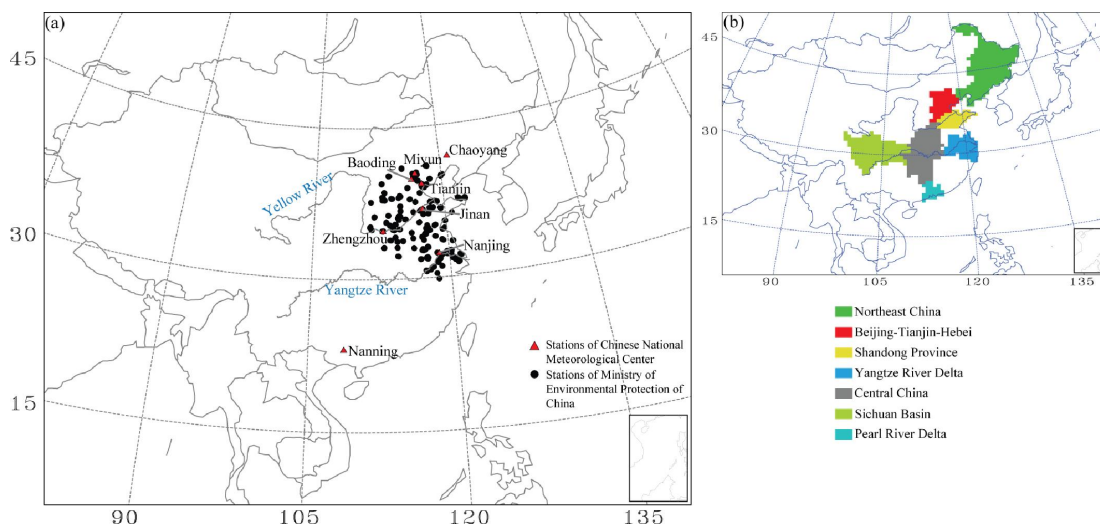
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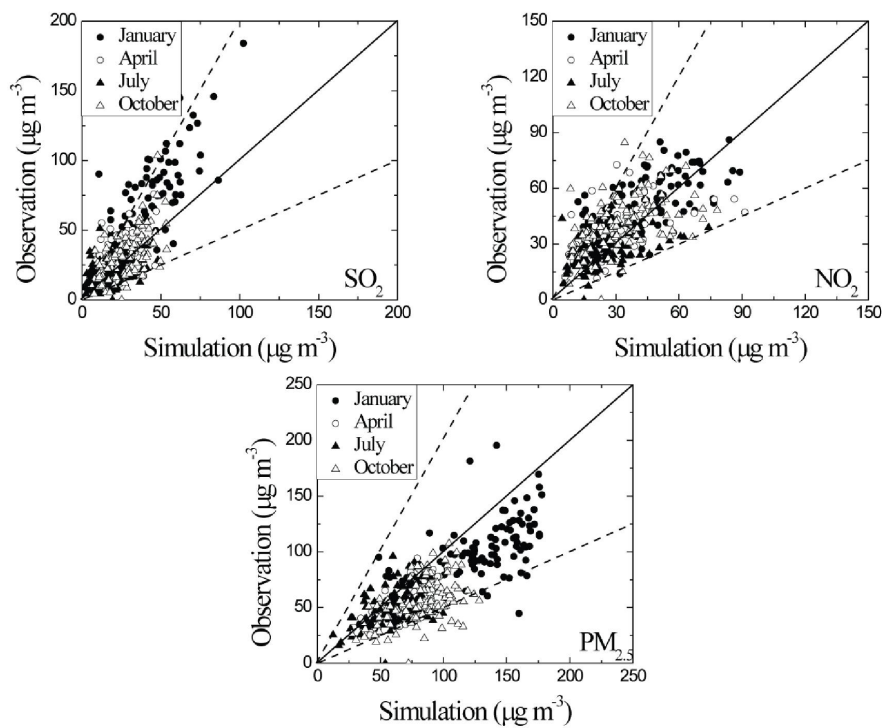
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Figure 1. Model domain used in this study and the geographic locations of Northeast China, Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei, Shandong Province, Yangtze River Delta, Central China, Sichuan Basin, and Pearl River Delta. The location of observation data was also shown in the model domain.



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557 Figure 2. The scatter plots between the modeled and the observed monthly SO₂, NO₂, and PM_{2.5} in 2015. The solid lines
558 are 1:1 and the dashed lines are 2:1 or 1:2.

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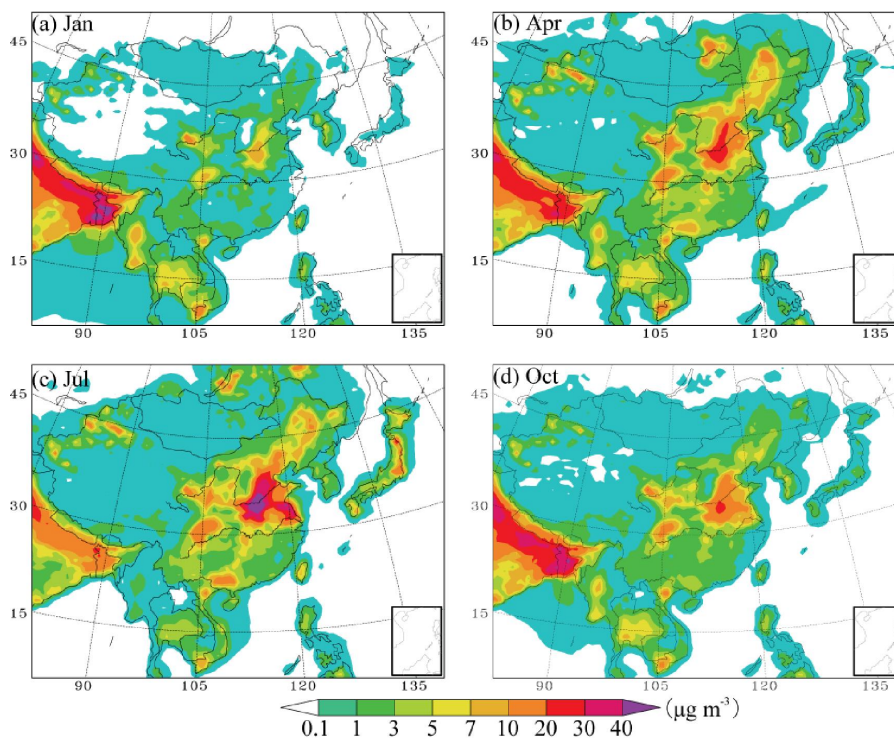
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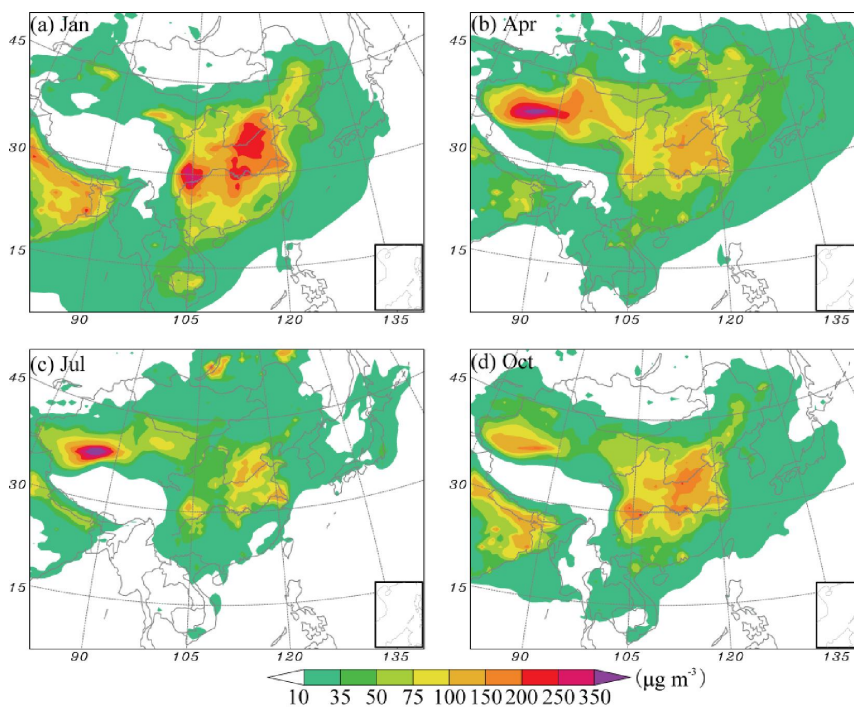
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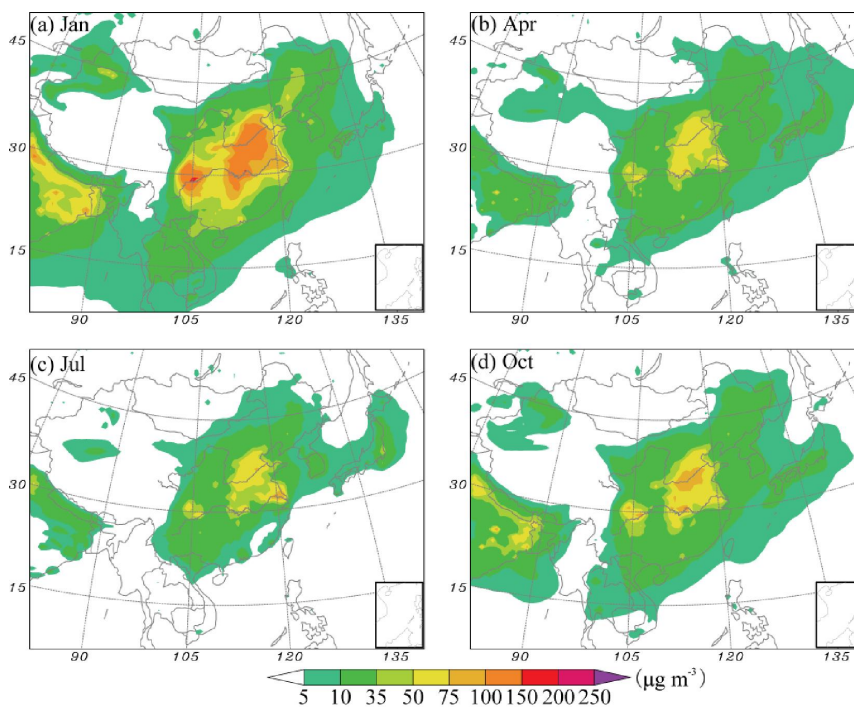
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Figure 3. The horizontal distributions of the modeled monthly NH_3 mass concentration in January, April, July, and October in 2015.



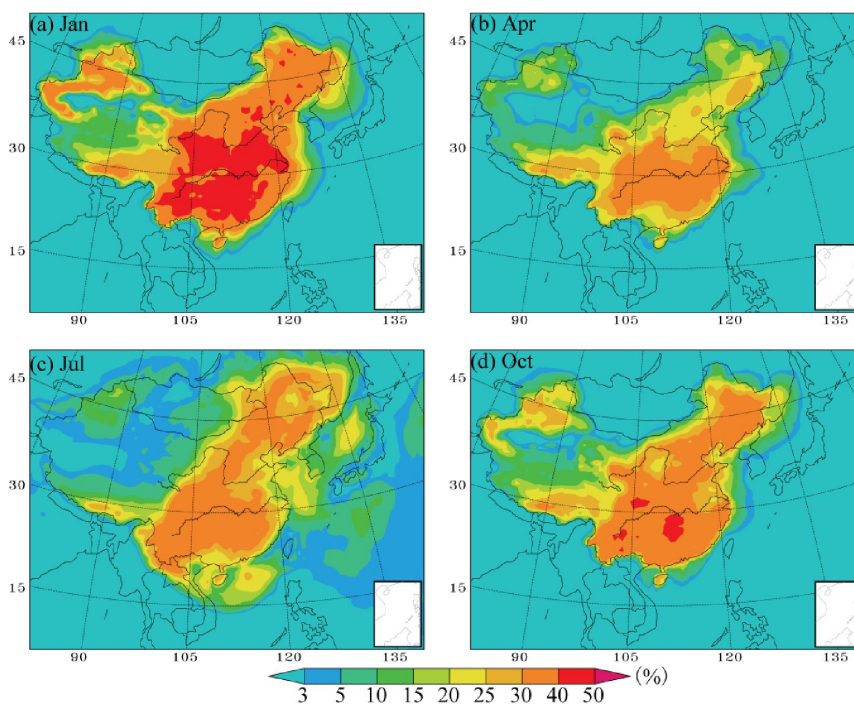
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Figure 4. The horizontal distributions of the modeled monthly PM_{2.5} mass concentration in January, April, July, and October in 2015.



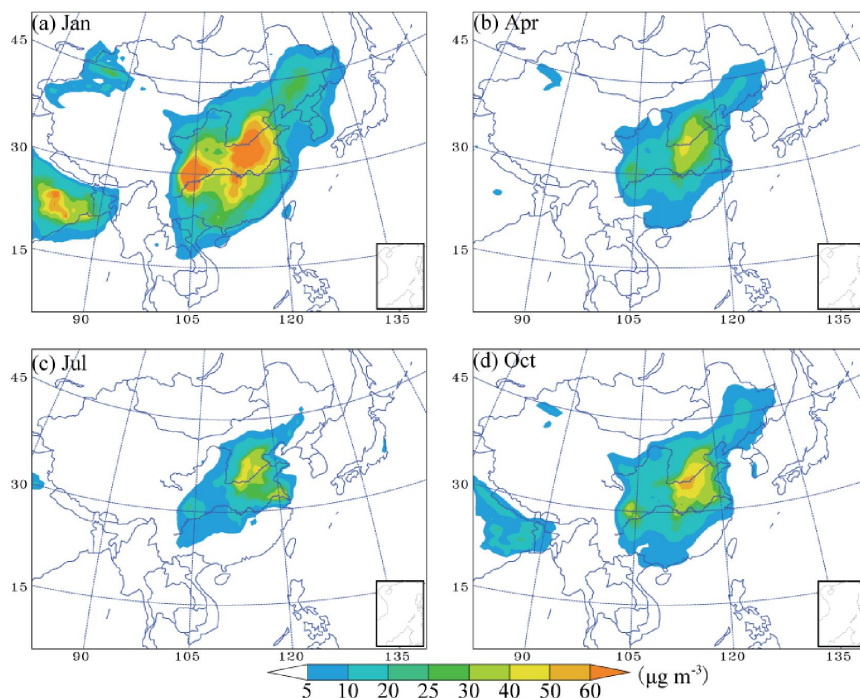
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Figure 5. The horizontal distributions of the modeled monthly SNA mass concentration in January, April, July, and October in 2015.



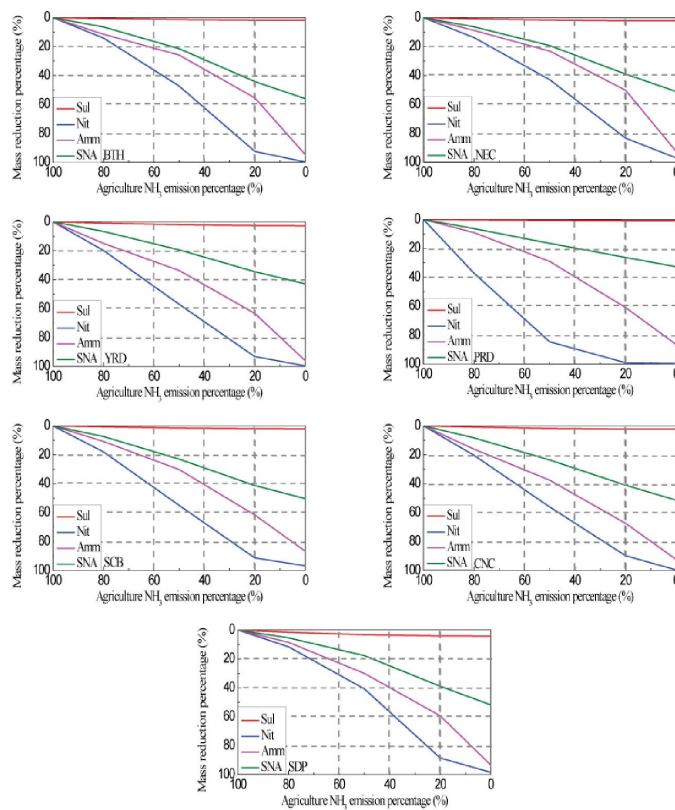
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Figure 6. The horizontal distributions of the contribution percentage of NH_3 emissions to SNA mass concentration (%) in January and July.



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Figure 7. The horizontal distributions of SNA mass concentration ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$) variation associated with agriculture NH_3 removal in January and July.



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Figure 8. The variation (%) of sulfate, nitrate, ammonium, and SNA mass burden associated with the NH_3 emission reduction (%).

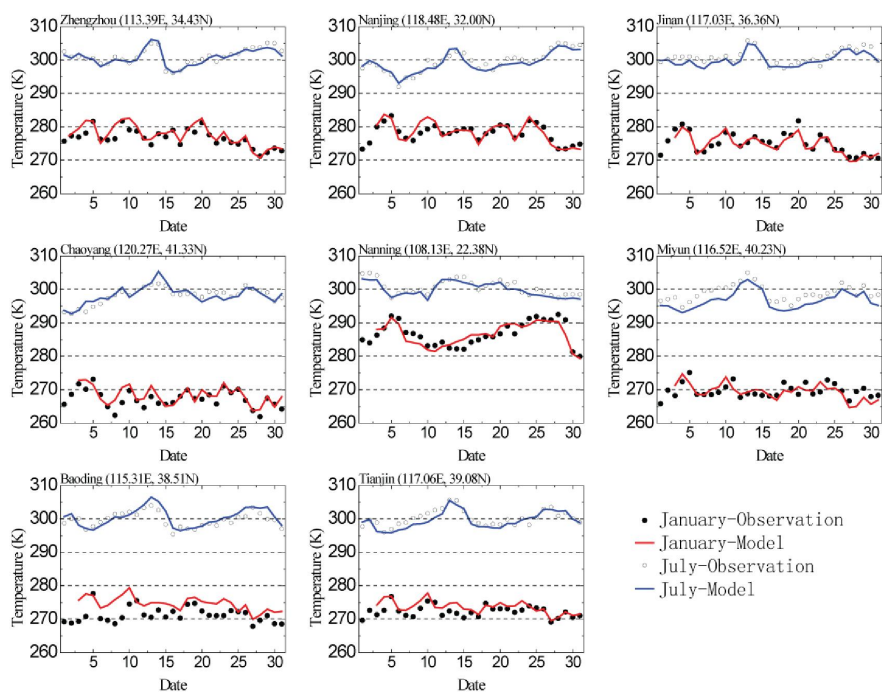
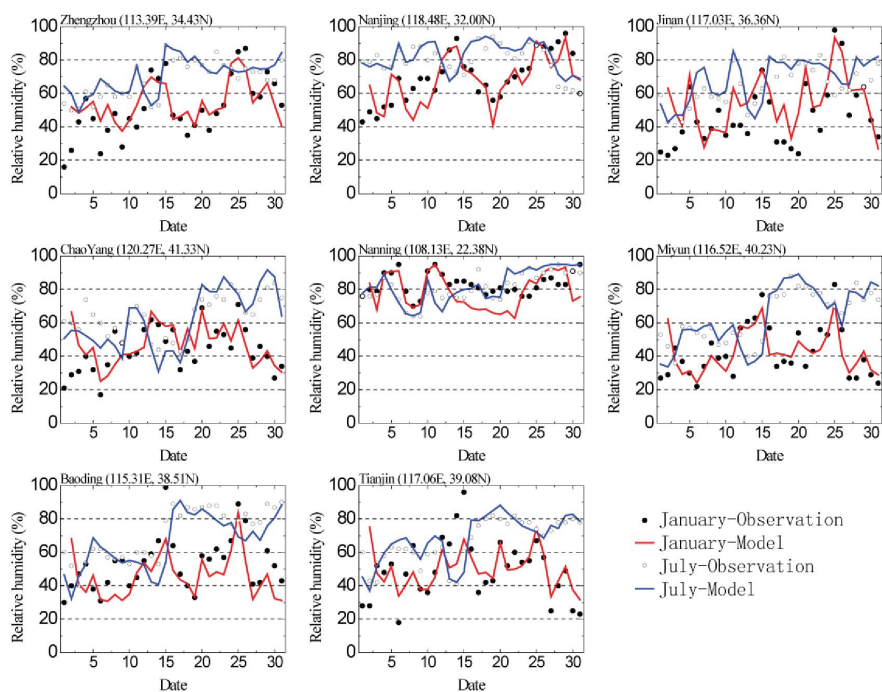


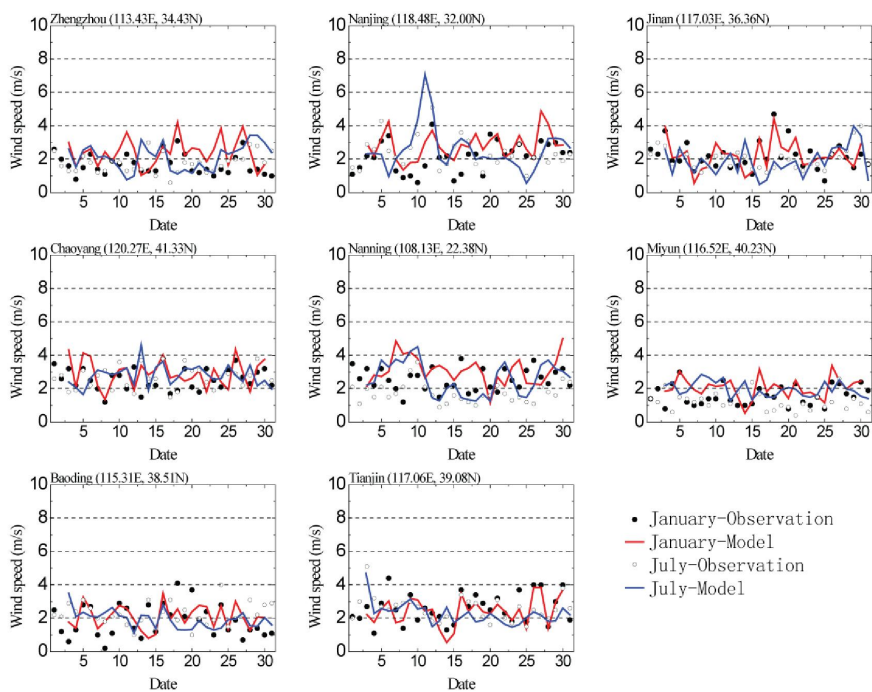
Figure A1. Observed and modeled daily average temperatures (K) in January and July 2015.

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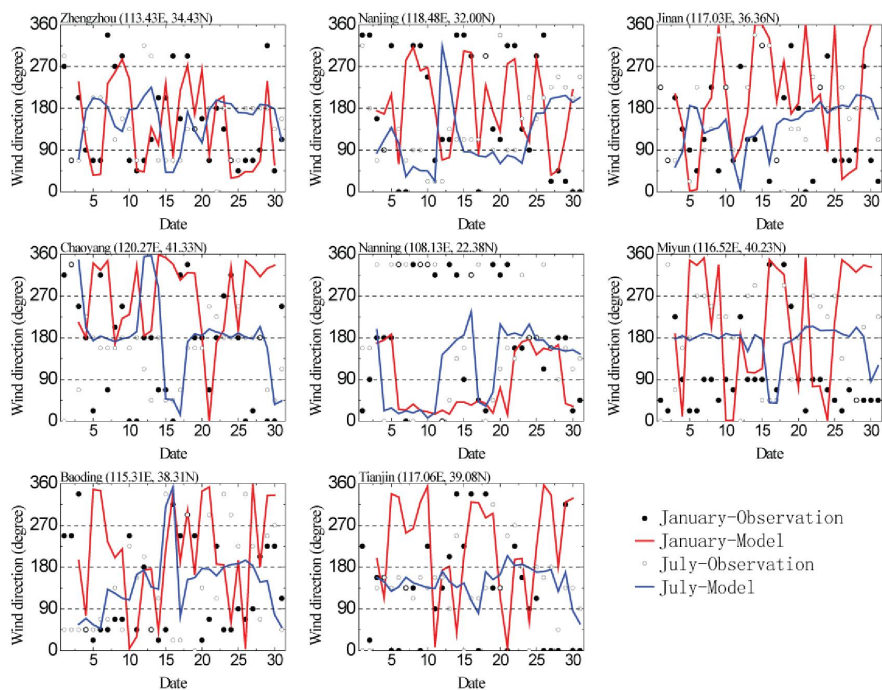
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Figure A2. Same as Figure A1 but for relative humidity (%)



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Figure A3. Same as Figure A1 but for wind speed (m s^{-1})



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Figure A4. Same as Figure A1 but for daily maximum wind direction (degree)



802 Table 1. Statistical summary of the comparisons of the monthly average PM_{2.5} between simulation and observation

		N^a	M^b	O^c	σ_m^d	σ_o^e	R^f	FB^g	NMB^h
PM _{2.5}	Jan	101	128.3	100.1	34.9	28.3	0.60	0.2	28.2
	Apr	101	74.9	58.4	15.4	15.2	0.67	0.3	28.3
	Jul	100	58.6	50.3	17.6	16.0	0.52	0.1	16.6
	Oct	100	81.0	54.8	23.1	19.7	0.52	0.4	47.9
NO ₂	Jan	101	42.5	51.7	19.4	16.2	0.65	-0.2	-17.8
	Apr	101	27.8	35.0	15.7	11.5	0.57	-0.3	-20.5
	Jul	100	24.3	26.5	13.2	9.2	0.50	-0.2	-8.4
SO ₂	Oct	100	33.2	42.0	16.4	14.9	0.53	-0.3	-20.9
	Jan	101	39.9	69.1	18.7	42.4	0.71	-0.5	-42.2
	Apr	101	22.9	31.2	10.1	12.7	0.51	-0.3	-26.6
	Jul	100	17.8	20.3	10.9	10.4	0.46	-0.2	-12.5
	Oct	100	27.0	31.5	12.3	16.7	0.63	-0.1	-14.4

- 803 ^a Number of samples
 804 ^b Total mean of observation
 805 ^c Total mean of simulation
 806 ^d Standard deviation of observation
 807 ^e Standard deviation of simulation
 808 ^f Correlation coefficient between daily observation and simulation
 809 ^g Fractional Bias
 810 ^h Normalized Mean Bias

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833 Table 2. The regional percent (%) of T contribution to sulfate, nitrate, ammonium, and SNA mass concentration.

	Sulfate	Nitrate	Ammonium	SNA	PM _{2.5}
BTH	1.1	8.0	83.3	31.9	15.5
NEC	1.0	5.6	83.7	28.1	14.3
YRD	1.0	7.4	85.7	29.2	15.3
PRD	0.9	5.8	90.6	33.5	14.2
SCB	0.7	5.1	93.9	32.6	13.0
CNC	0.9	6.0	92.8	36.6	17.5
SDP	0.9	7.1	80.5	30.1	15.1
China	2.2	10.1	87.6	29.0	16.0

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868 Table 3. The variation percent (%) of sulfate, nitrate, ammonium, and SNA mass concentration associated with
869 agriculture NH₃ removal.

	Sulfate	Nitrate	Ammonium	SNA	PM _{2.5}
BTH	0.7	99.8	94.7	49.4	34.4
NEC	0.7	96.9	92.5	48.9	31.1
YRD	5.0	99.2	96.1	48.8	31.6
PRD	2.0	99.2	97.2	40.3	23.4
SCB	2.6	96.7	85.9	49.8	25.9
CNC	1.9	99.2	92.3	50.9	32.3
SDP	2.7	99.5	93.4	46.6	34.0
China	1.6	98.8	93.8	45.7	25.2

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