

1 **Effectiveness of emission control to reduce PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollution of Central China**  
2 **during winter haze episodes under various potential synoptic controls**

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22

23 **Abstract**

24 Currently mitigating the severe particle pollution in autumn and winter is the key  
25 to further improve the air quality of China. The source contributions and transboundary  
26 transport of fine particles (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) in pollution episodes are closely related to large-scale  
27 or synoptic-scale atmospheric circulation. Under different synoptic conditions, how to  
28 effectively reduce emissions to control haze pollution is rarely reported. In this study,  
29 we classify the synoptic conditions over Central China from 2013 to 2018 by using

30 Lamb-Jenkenson method and the NCEP/NCAR FNL operational global analysis data.  
31 The effectiveness of emission control to reduce PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollution during winter haze  
32 episodes under potential synoptic controls is simulated by GEOS-Chem model. Among  
33 the ten identified synoptic patterns, four types account for 87% of the total pollution  
34 days. Two typical synoptic modes of them are characterized by small surface wind  
35 speed and stable weather conditions/high relative humidity (A/C-type) over Central  
36 China due to a high-pressure system/a southwest trough low-pressure system, blocking  
37 pollutants dispersion. Sensitivity simulations show that these two heavy pollution  
38 processes are mainly contributed by local emission sources with ~82% for A-type and  
39 ~85% for C-type, respectively. The other two patterns lead to pollution of transport  
40 characteristics affected by northerly/southerly winds (NW/SW-type), carrying air  
41 pollution from northern/southern China to Central China. The contribution of pollution  
42 transmission from North/South China is 36.9%/7.6% of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and local emission  
43 sources contribute 41%/69%. We also estimate the effectiveness of emission reduction  
44 in these four typical severe pollution synoptic processes. By only reducing SO<sub>2</sub> and  
45 NO<sub>x</sub> emission and not controlling NH<sub>3</sub>, the enhanced nitrate counteracts the effect of  
46 sulfate reduction on PM<sub>2.5</sub> mitigations, with less than 4% decrease in PM<sub>2.5</sub>. In addition,  
47 to effectively mitigate haze pollution of NW/SW-type synoptic controlled episodes,  
48 local emission control actions should be in coordination with regional collaborative  
49 actions.

50

## 51 **1 Introduction**

52 The regional pollution of fine particles (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) has attracted worldwide attention  
53 in the public and in the scientific community (Cheng et al., 2016; Li et al., 2017c; Lin  
54 et al., 2018; Bi et al., 2019) due to its detrimental effect on visibility (Wang et al., 2020)  
55 and public health (Agarwal et al., 2017; Zhang et al., 2017). The PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollution in  
56 China has been continuously alleviating since 2013 as the implication of the Air  
57 Pollution Prevention and Control Action Plan (Zheng et al., 2018; Zhang et al., 2019),

58 especially in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region (BTH) (Li et al., 2017b; Cheng et al.,  
59 2019), the Yangtze River Delta (YRD) region and the Pearl River Delta (PRD) region.  
60 However, severe particle pollution still occurs frequently in autumn and winter, which  
61 is the major reason restricting the PM<sub>2.5</sub> to come up to national standard. For example,  
62 12 extremely severe and persistent PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollution episodes occurred in Beijing in  
63 January 2013, February 2014, December 2015, December 2016 and January 2017  
64 (Zhong et al., 2018; Sun et al., 2016; Wang et al., 2018). Currently, how to effectively  
65 reduce emissions in autumn and winter is the key to mitigate haze pollution in China.

66 The contribution of emission sources has been widely recognized as the decisive  
67 factor of PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollution over urban agglomerations, including industrial exhaust, urban  
68 transportation, residential emission, power plants, agricultural activities, and bio-  
69 combustion (Huang et al., 2014; Tian et al., 2016; Wu et al., 2018; An et al., 2019).  
70 While the outbreak, persistence and dissipation of particle pollution generally depends  
71 on the meteorological conditions and regional synoptic patterns, controlled by the large-  
72 scale or synoptic-scale atmospheric circulation (Chuang et al., 2008; Zhang et al., 2012;  
73 Russo et al., 2014; Zheng et al., 2015; Shu et al., 2017; Li et al., 2019).

74 Many studies have tried to reveal the relationship between synoptic patterns and  
75 severe particle pollution, and estimate the meteorological contributions to these  
76 pollution episodes. The YRD is mainly affected by pollutants transmitted from the  
77 northern and the southern China when the East Asian major trough is located at its front  
78 (Liao et al., 2017; Shu et al., 2017; Li et al., 2019). Liao et al. (2020) has confirmed that  
79 the relative position of the PRD to high-pressure systems imposes significant impacts  
80 on the diffusion conditions and the PM<sub>2.5</sub> distributions in the PRD region. For North  
81 China Plain (NCP), high frequency of stagnant weather accompanied by small pressure  
82 gradient and near-surface wind speed, and shallow mixing layer are major reasons of  
83 aerosol pollution over this region in winter (He et al., 2018). The aerosol pollution  
84 formation process in Sichuan Basin is often controlled by the large scale high-pressure  
85 circulation at sea level (Sun et al., 2020). In the Guanzhong basin, pollution event is

86 generally governed by both the large-scale synoptic situation and the small-scale local  
87 circulation. The downhill wind not only forms a convergence zone in the basin, but also  
88 makes pollutants flow back from the mountain region to the basin (Bei et al., 2017).  
89 Leung et al. (2018) also find strong correlations of daily PM<sub>2.5</sub> variability with several  
90 synoptic patterns, including monsoon flows and cold front channels in northern China  
91 related to the Siberian High, onshore flows in eastern China, and frontal rainstorms in  
92 southern China. These previous studies have highlighted that different levels of PM<sub>2.5</sub>  
93 pollutions are closely related to the dominant synoptic patterns in different regions, and  
94 they attribute the large spatial variability of pollution to the regional transport  
95 contributions, not only the different local sources of PM<sub>2.5</sub>. Thus, heavy pollution  
96 prevention and control needs to consider the weather situation, otherwise local emission  
97 reduction measures would not work well. However, under different synoptic  
98 conditions, how to effectively reduce local and regional emissions to control haze  
99 pollution is rarely reported.

100 Various key regions have issued the emergency preplan against the winter haze  
101 episodes, while these schemes can only be targeted at a certain city (The People's  
102 Government of Beijing Municipality, 2018; The People's Government of Shanghai  
103 Municipality, 2018) or a certain urban agglomeration (The People's Government of  
104 Guangdong Province, 2014). Although there are many studies targeted PM<sub>2.5</sub>  
105 mitigations at a regional scale (Ding et al., 2019; Zhang et al., 2019, Xing et al., 2018,  
106 2019; Fu et al., 2017; etc.), their results can not be directly applied to reduce winter  
107 PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollution under various synoptic controls. Moreover, current emission reduction  
108 policies in China mainly aimed at sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>),  
109 ignoring the effective emission reduction on ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>), although some modeling  
110 works have discussed the effectiveness of ammonia emission reduction for PM<sub>2.5</sub>  
111 mitigations (Liu et al., 2019; Ye et al., 2019; Xu et al., 2019; Bai et al., 2019). Compared  
112 to remarkable reduction in SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, and primary PM emissions, NH<sub>3</sub> emissions has  
113 remained stable during 2014–2018 in China (Zheng et al., 2018). In addition, given the

114 important roles of other  $PM_{2.5}$  precursors (eg., NMVOCs) in aerosol formation (Geng  
115 et al., 2019), cutting non- $SO_2$ - $NO_2$ -PM emissions should be proposed as a next-step  
116 mitigation strategy. Therefore, for  $PM_{2.5}$  mitigations in a specific region during winter  
117 haze episodes forced by various synoptic conditions, whether the air pollution  
118 emergency management and control schemes are effective and how to improve them  
119 have become an urgent scientific question to be answered.

120 In order to investigate the effectiveness of emission control to reduce  $PM_{2.5}$   
121 pollution during winter haze episodes under various potential synoptic controls (PSCs),  
122 we take the severe particle pollution of winter haze episodes over Jingzhou, the  
123 hinterland of Yangtze River middle basin in Central China, as an example. Central  
124 China is geographically surrounded by major haze pollution regions, the SCB to the  
125 west, the PRD to the south, the YRD to the east, and the NCP to the north (Fig. 1). As  
126 a regional pollutant transport hub with sub basin topography, Central China is a region  
127 of transmission-pollution characteristics affected by two reported transport pathways  
128 from the vast flatland in central eastern China (Yu et al., 2020) and from the NCP region  
129 (Zheng et al., 2019a). In combination with high anthropogenic emissions (Wu et al.,  
130 2018) and secondary aerosol formation (Huang et al., 2020), Central China often suffers  
131 severe pollution episodes in winter caused by  $PM_{2.5}$  (Gong et al., 2015; Xu et al., 2017).  
132 In this study, we conduct the circulation classification to differentiate the synoptic  
133 modes during the severe particle pollution episodes in winter over Central China from  
134 2013 to 2018 by using Lamb-Jenkenson method. Then we simulate the  $PM_{2.5}$  chemical  
135 components, and the contributions of local sources as well as transboundary transport  
136 of  $PM_{2.5}$  under different synoptic conditions. Finally, the effectiveness of emission  
137 reduction in main potential synoptic patterns are evaluated by GEOS-Chem model  
138 simulations. This study combines the atmospheric (circulation classification) and  
139 environmental (chemical transport modeling) research methods and could provide  
140 reference for emission control of severe winter haze pollution under different weather  
141 types, and provide basis for regional air quality policy-making.

142

## 143 **2 Data and Methods**

### 144 **2.1 Data**

145 Hourly mass concentrations of PM<sub>2.5</sub> at Jingzhou (112.18°E, 30.33°N, 33.7 m)  
146 from November 2013 to December 2018 are obtained from Hubei Environmental  
147 Monitoring Central Station (<http://sthjt.hubei.gov.cn/>). We screen the pollution days  
148 with daily mean PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations larger than 150 µg/m<sup>3</sup> for circulation  
149 classification.

150

151

Figure 1

152

153 We use the daily mean sea level pressure (SLP) between 2013 and 2018 from the  
154 National Centers for Environmental Prediction/National Center for Atmospheric  
155 Research (NCEP/NCAR) Final (FNL) Operational Global Analysis data (horizontal  
156 resolution: 1° × 1°; temporal resolution: 6 hours; <https://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds083.3/>)  
157 to conduct the classification of Lamb-Jenkenson circulation types.

158 The meteorological data of surface observations at Jingzhou, including ambient  
159 temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, wind direction and atmospheric pressure,  
160 are obtained from Hubei Meteorological Information and Technology Support Center  
161 (<http://hb.cma.gov.cn/qxfw/index.html>). The data from November 2013 to February  
162 2014 are used to analyze the meteorological characteristics during the period four  
163 severe particle pollution events occurred in succession over Central China (Fig. S1).

164 In order to better evaluate the GEOS-Chem model performances, we also use the  
165 PM<sub>2.5</sub> observations (a total of 633 sites; from November 2013 to February 2014) from  
166 Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China (MEE, <http://www.mee.gov.cn/>) to  
167 conduct the model-observation comparison.

168

### 169 **2.2 Lamb-Jenkenson Circulation Classification**

170 The atmospheric circulation classification adopts the Lamb-Jenkenson method  
 171 proposed by Lamb et al. (1950) and developed by Jenkenson et al. (1977). Compared  
 172 to the objective classification method PCA used in some studies (Chang and Zhan, 2017,  
 173 Dai et al., 2021), this Lamb-Jenkenson method is a combination of subjective and  
 174 objective methods. After the objective judgment of the circulation, we also make  
 175 subjective considerations to overcome the weaknesses of their respective, leading to  
 176 better synoptic significance. Many works of circulation classification have used the  
 177 Lamb-Jenkenson method and reported that the analysis can well respond to the  
 178 classification results (Philipp et al., 2016; Santurtun et al., 2015; Pope et al., 2015; Russo  
 179 et al., 2014; Pope et al., 2014; Trigo and DaCamara, 2000).

180 To calculate the circulation types of Jingzhou, we mark total 16 points (97.5°E-  
 181 127.5°E, 20°N-40°N) by every 10 longitudes and 5 latitudes and the center point  
 182 located at 112.5° E and 30° N (Fig. S2). Using the sea level pressure of 16 points, we  
 183 calculate six circulation indexes by scheme of central difference:

$$184 \quad u = 0.5[P(12) + P(13) - P(4) - P(5)]$$

185 (1)

$$186 \quad v = \frac{1}{\cos \alpha} \times \frac{1}{4} [P(4) + 2P(9) + P(13) - P(4) - 2P(8) - P(12)]$$

187 (2)

$$188 \quad V = \sqrt{u^2 + v^2}$$

189 (3)

$$190 \quad \xi_u = \frac{\sin \alpha}{2 \sin \alpha_1} [P(15) + P(16) - P(8) - P(9)] - \frac{\sin \alpha}{2 \sin \alpha_2} [P(8) + P(9) - P(1) - P(2)]$$

191 (4)

$$192 \quad \xi_v = \frac{1}{8 \cos^2 \alpha} [P(6) + 2P(10) + P(14) - P(5) - 2P(9) - P(13)$$

$$+ P(3) + 2P(7) + P(11) - P(4) - 2P(8) - P(12)]$$

193 (5)

194  $\xi = \xi_u + \xi_v$

195 (6)

196 Where  $P(n)(n=1,2,3\cdots 16)$  is the sea level pressure at the  $n^{\text{th}}$  point;  
197  $\alpha, \alpha_1$  and  $\alpha_2$  are the latitude values of points  $C, A_1$  and  $A_2$ , respectively;  $v$  is the  
198 geostrophic wind,  $u$  and  $v$  are the latitudinal and meridional components of the  
199 geostrophic wind;  $\xi$  is the geostrophic vorticity;  $\xi_u$  is the  $u$  meridional gradient,  
200 and  $\xi_v$  is the  $v$  latitudinal gradient.

201 Taking the latitude of the center point as the reference frame, the unit of six  
202 circulation indexes is  $hPa/(10^\circ lon)$ , the direction of geostrophic wind can be  
203 determined by  $u$  and  $v$ , and cyclones and anticyclones can be determined by  $\xi$ .  
204 According to the geostrophic wind speed, wind direction and vorticity value, the  
205 circulation is divided into 10 types. The classification standard and corresponding types  
206 are shown in Table 1.

207

208 Table 1

209

### 210 2.3 GEOS-Chem simulations

211 The GEOS-Chem chemistry transport model is used  
212 (<http://acmg.seas.harvard.edu/geos/>) to simulate the spatiotemporal distribution of  
213  $PM_{2.5}$ . The nested model, covering China ( $70^\circ E-140^\circ E, 15^\circ S-55^\circ N$ ), is run with a  
214 horizontal resolution of  $0.25^\circ$  latitude  $\times$   $0.3125^\circ$  longitude and 72 vertical layers. The  
215 boundary condition of nested model is provided by the GEOS-Chem global model with  
216 a horizontal resolution of  $2^\circ$  latitude  $\times$   $2.5^\circ$  longitude (Fig. S3). Both global and nested  
217 simulations, driven by the GEOS-FP assimilated meteorological data, include detailed  
218 tropospheric Ozone- $NO_x$ -VOCs- $HO_x$ -aerosol chemistry. More details are shown in  
219 Yan et al. (2019). In the models, anthropogenic and natural sources are fully considered



220 in GEOS-Chem. Table S1 and Table S2 show a list of emission inventories in the global  
221 model and nested simulation, respectively. In China, the monthly grid data of  $0.25^\circ \times$   
222  $0.25^\circ$  from MEIC inventory (<http://meicmodel.org>) for CO, NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub> and non-methane  
223 volatile organic compounds (NMVOCs) in 2013-2014 is used. Over Central China,  
224 anthropogenic sources of these species are from our group SEEA (Source Emission and  
225 Environment Research) inventory with the grid data of  $0.1^\circ \times 0.1^\circ$  (not shown). The  
226 SEEA emission inventory was developed based on the year of 2017 for the Wuhan city  
227 cluster and it has been successfully adopted for the air quality simulating and  
228 forecasting of 7th CISM Military World Games in 2019. Other emission descriptions  
229 are shown in Supplementary Sect. S1.

230 In order to better simulate the spatiotemporal distribution of PM<sub>2.5</sub> over Central  
231 China, especially in winter heavy pollution periods, the standard v11-01 of GEOS-  
232 Chem is optimized according to the actual situation in China (see details in  
233 Supplementary Sect. S2), including optimizing PM<sub>2.5</sub> sources and increasing the  
234 proportion of sulfate primary emission (Yan et al., 2020). The PM<sub>2.5</sub> primary  
235 anthropogenic emissions enhance the PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations over Central China by 5-20  
236  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  in winter (Fig. S4). Compared with the results before the model optimization  
237 (Fig. S5), the sulfate concentration simulated by the optimized model increased from  
238 10-20  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  to 30-50  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . Further comparisons of PM<sub>2.5</sub> with observations and  
239 inorganic salts (sulfate, nitrate and ammonium) with reported values from previous  
240 studies are shown in Sect.3.3.

241

## 242 **3. Results and Discussion**

### 243 **3.1 Classification of PSCs**

244 As shown in Fig. 2, among the circulation patterns of pollution-day at Jingzhou  
245 from 2013 to 2018, the frequency of SW-type circulation is the highest, accounting for  
246 29% of the total pollution days. The frequencies of NW-type, A-type and C-type are  
247 also high, accounting for 27%, 19% and 12%, respectively. While the other six

248 circulation patterns are less occurred, with the frequencies less than 5%. Thus, the  
249 above four typical circulation types are considered as the main potential synoptic  
250 controls of the severe particle pollution episodes over Central China.

251

252 

253

### 254 **3.2 Characteristics of the four main PSCs**

255 SW-type circulation is the predominant PSC of severe PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollution episodes.  
256 The circulation at 500 hPa is relatively flat and the whole East Asia region is affected  
257 by the westerly flow (Fig. S6a). Westerly belt fluctuates greatly at 700 hPa and there  
258 are two ridges and a southwest trough in the middle latitudes of Asia (Fig. S7a).  
259 Jingzhou is located in the front of a trough, prevailing the weak southwest airflow. At  
260 850 hPa, the cold high pressure center is formed in Xinjiang of China. Warm low  
261 pressure appears in the low latitude area and weak high pressure appears in the East  
262 China Sea (Fig. 3a). In combination with the surface field, a high-low-high saddle like  
263 field forms from west to east (Fig. 4a). Such synoptic type is also the dominant weather  
264 system of eastern China (Shu et al., 2017; Yang et al., 2018). Jingzhou is located in the  
265 back of Bohai-northeast high pressure and the front of southwest warm low pressure.  
266 Thus it is affected by the southerly airflow, which could be conducive to the transport  
267 of air pollutants formed over southern China to Central China. Associated with small  
268 local surface wind speed (< 3 m/s) at Jingzhou, the dispersion of local and transported  
269 pollutants is inhibited.

270

271 

272

273 NW-type circulation mainly occurs in the early winter (December and January).  
274 This synoptic pattern is also reported as one of the main types to affect the aerosol  
275 distributions over eastern China (Zheng et al., 2015). Circulation at 500 hPa is

276 controlled by one trough and one ridge, with the weak ridge located in the northwest of  
277 China and the shallow trough located in the northeast of China (Fig. S6b). The whole  
278 East Asia is affected by the westerly current. The trough and ridge at 700 hPa are  
279 deepened. Jingzhou is located at the bottom of the shallow trough, prevailing the west-  
280 northwest airflow, affected by the flow around the plateau (Fig. S7b). At 850 hPa, the  
281 cold high pressure center is formed in Xinjiang, and Jingzhou is affected by the  
282 northerly airflow, due to being in the front of the high pressure (Fig. 3b). For the sea  
283 level pressure, the cold high pressure is located in the west of Mongolia and Xinjiang  
284 of China (Fig. 4b). Jingzhou is located at the region with weak fluctuation in the front  
285 of the high pressure, and the surface wind speed is smaller than 2 m/s. The haze episodes  
286 induced by NW-type synoptic pattern is similar to the transmission-accumulation  
287 pollution caused by SW-type, but the transmission path is from Northern China to  
288 Central China.

289

290

Figure 4

291

292 A-type circulation also mainly occurs in the early winter. The high-altitude  
293 circulation field is controlled by one trough and one ridge (Fig. S6c and S7c). East Asia  
294 is affected by west-northwest air flow, and the SLP is controlled by a huge high  
295 pressure, with the center located in the southwest of Baikal Lake (Fig. 4c). A surface  
296 high pressure favors accumulation of air pollutants, especially over the regions of high  
297 pressure center (Leung et al., 2018). Jingzhou is in the sparse pressure field in front of  
298 the high pressure (Fig. 3c and 4c), with an average surface wind speed of  $\sim 1.3$  m/s. The  
299 uniform west-northwest air flow at high altitude would lead to the low water vapor  
300 content and less cloud amount, which is conducive to radiation cooling at night. In  
301 addition, due to the weak high pressure ridge in the north, it is not conducive to the  
302 eastward and southward movement of cold air, leading to the stable weather situation

303 and thus severe haze pollution at Jingzhou. This type is also responsible for most of the  
304 severe particulate pollution days in the BTH and YRD regions (Li et al., 2019).

305 C-type circulation mainly occurs in late winter and early spring, when the relative  
306 humidity is large with an average value of 74%. East Asia is controlled by the straight  
307 westerly flow, and the southwest shallow trough is obvious at 500 hPa (Fig. S6d).  
308 Additionally, the West Pacific subtropical high extends to the west, Central China is  
309 affected by the southwest flow. Southwest trough is deepened at 700 hPa, and Jingzhou  
310 is located in front of the trough and controlled by the southwest airflow (Fig. S7d). High  
311 pressure at the south of Xinjiang and the north of Plateau is strengthened at 850 hPa,  
312 and the southwest low pressure center is formed (Fig. 3d). Jingzhou is located in the  
313 low pressure system on the SLP field (Fig. 4d), with small surface wind speed (0-3 m/s).  
314 Together with the large relative humidity, which can promote the hygroscopic growth  
315 of particulate matter (Twohy et al., 2009; Zheng et al., 2015), the haze pollution is  
316 persistent and serious at Jingzhou. The impact of low-pressure systems on winter heavy  
317 air pollution have also been reported in the northwest Sichuan Basin (Ning et al., 2018).

318

### 319 **3.3 PM<sub>2.5</sub> and chemical components under the four main PSCs in control** 320 **simulations**

321 The spatiotemporal distribution of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and its components under the four typical  
322 synoptic controls over Central China were simulated by optimized GEOS-Chem model.  
323 In order to reduce the simulation cost, the continuous four severe haze episodes  
324 occurred during November, 2013-February, 2014 are selected. These four haze  
325 episodes are controlled by the synoptic pattern of SW-type (18-25 November, 2013),  
326 NW-type (19-26 December, 2013), A-type (14-21 January, 2014) and C-type (26  
327 January - 2 February, 2014), respectively. The air quality at Jingzhou during the four  
328 pollution episodes is between grade 5 (PM<sub>2.5</sub> > 150 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) and grade 6 heavy pollution  
329 (PM<sub>2.5</sub> > 250 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, as Fig. 5a and S1a shown). The simulation time is started at

330 November 1st, 2013, with the first two weeks used as spin up to eliminate the impact  
331 of initial conditions.

332

333 Figure 5

334 Figure 6

335

336 The daily/hourly mean PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations at Jingzhou in the four typical heavy  
337 pollution processes simulated by the control (CON) simulation (Table 2) are compared  
338 with the observations (Fig. 5a/Fig. S1a). The model underestimates the observed PM<sub>2.5</sub>  
339 concentrations (by 43.3 μg/m<sup>3</sup> on average), especially in the high PM<sub>2.5</sub> periods (by  
340 116.8 μg/m<sup>3</sup> at the maximum occurring in November 21-23, 2013). The possible causes  
341 for underestimation are meteorological field deviations (an overestimate in temperature  
342 and wind speed and an underestimate in humidity; Table S3) and emission errors.  
343 Anthropogenic emissions for PM<sub>2.5</sub> precursors used here are for the year 2017 over  
344 Central China from SEEA inventory (Table S4). From 2013 to 2017, anthropogenic  
345 NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, and primary PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions in Central China have declined substantially  
346 (Table S4), due to implementation of stringent emission control measures for the 12<sup>th</sup>-  
347 13<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plans (Zheng et al., 2018). The anthropogenic emissions biases may  
348 affect our simulations and PM<sub>2.5</sub> attribution results to some extent. Additionally, the  
349 underestimation is on a national scale when compared with the MEE observations, with  
350 a bias of -29.3 μg/m<sup>3</sup>, -18.7 μg/m<sup>3</sup>, -39.0 μg/m<sup>3</sup> and -21.4 μg/m<sup>3</sup> on average for SW-  
351 type, NW-type, A-type and C-type synoptic controlled episodes, respectively (Fig. 6).  
352 The national negative biases may be also attributed to insufficient resolution of the  
353 model (Yan et al., 2014) and imperfect chemical mechanisms (Yan et al., 2019).  
354 Nevertheless, the model can reproduce the evolution of each severe particle pollution  
355 episode well, including the accumulation of pollutants, the continuing process and the  
356 gradual dissipation of pollution (Fig. 5a/Fig. S1a).

357

Table 2

358

359

360 In order to examine the model performances in the PM<sub>2.5</sub> chemical compositions,  
 361 we have reviewed the reported concentrations of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and the three inorganic salts  
 362 (sulfate, nitrate and ammonium) in other cities (Table 4). The contributions of sulfate,  
 363 nitrate and ammonium are 9.1%-31.9%, 5.7%-32.1% and 5.9%-13.3%, respectively.  
 364 Figure S8/S9 shows the modeled spatial distribution of PM<sub>2.5</sub>, sulfate, nitrate and  
 365 ammonium concentrations averaged in the four typical heavy pollution processes over  
 366 Jingzhou/China. The fractions of each inorganic salt to PM<sub>2.5</sub> for these four heavy  
 367 pollution episodes are also shown in Fig. S10. Over Central China, the main  
 368 components of PM<sub>2.5</sub> are the three inorganic salts in these pollution episodes, with the  
 369 averaged contributions of sulfate, nitrate and ammonium being ~20%, ~18% and ~13%,  
 370 respectively (Table 3). Our modelling results are comparable to the previous observed  
 371 results (Table 4). Huang et al. (2014) have also reported that the three secondary  
 372 inorganic particles rank the highest fraction among the PM<sub>2.5</sub> species in Central-Eastern  
 373 China. As shown in Table 3, in addition to inorganic salts, other chemical components  
 374 include dust (~15%), black carbon (~7%), primary organic aerosol (~14%) and second  
 375 organic aerosol (~13%). In these four pollution events, the differences in mass  
 376 percentages of each chemical component ranged from 0.1% (dust) to 6.2% (sulfate)  
 377 (Table 3). See details in Sect. 3.4 for further analysis of the causes for the differences.

378

Table 3

379

Table 4

380

381

382 **3.4 Local emissions versus transmission contributions to PM<sub>2.5</sub> under the four**  
 383 **main PSCs**

384 In order to investigate the effectiveness of emission control to reduce PM<sub>2.5</sub>  
 385 pollution of Central China in the four typical severe particle pollution episodes, firstly

386 we estimate the local sources versus transmission contributions of  $PM_{2.5}$  by GEOS-  
387 Chem sensitivity simulations (Table 2). Results of XJ0 (Emissions outside Jingzhou are  
388 zero) indicates the contribution of local emission sources to the  $PM_{2.5}$  pollution over  
389 Jingzhou. The difference between CON and XCC0 (Emissions outside Central China  
390 are zero) shows the transmission contribution of  $PM_{2.5}$  outside Central China to  
391 Jingzhou. The difference between CON and NCP0/YRD0/PRD0/SCB0 (Emissions  
392 over NCP/YRD/PRD/SCB are zero) represents the contribution of pollution transport  
393 from NCP/YRD/PRD/SCB regions to Jingzhou.

394

395

#### Figure 7

396

397 For the SW-type synoptic situation, differences between the simulation results of  
398 NCP0/YRD0/SCB0 and CON show that pollution controlled by SW-type circulation  
399 over Central China is almost not affected by the emission sources from North  
400 China/East China/Sichuan Basin. The concentrations of  $PM_{2.5}$  and three inorganic salts  
401 simulated by NCP0/YRD0/SCB0 are similar to those simulated by CON, with a  
402 difference less than 3.0% (Fig. 8). However, affected by the southerly airflow at 850  
403 hPa (Fig. 7), air pollutants formed over southern China could be transmitted to Central  
404 China, with the transport contribution of 7.6%. In addition, the contributions from  
405 transboundary transport from non-Jingzhou Central China is simulated to be 12.0% by  
406 comparing the results of XJ0 and XCC0. The transport of air pollutants from the south  
407 leads to the smallest proportion of the three inorganic salts (45.7%) in Jingzhou among  
408 the four pollution episodes (50.3%-55.5% for other three episodes), because the  
409 emissions of  $SO_2$ ,  $NO_2$  and  $NH_3$  in the south (especially in Guangxi and Guizhou  
410 province) are smaller than those in Central China (Li et al., 2017a). Associated with the  
411 small surface wind speed of 2.1 m/s on average (Fig. 5) and the weak ascending in the  
412 vertical direction (Fig. 7) at Jingzhou, it is not conducive to the dispersion of local  
413 pollutants (Zheng et al., 2015). The high  $PM_{2.5}$  concentrations are mainly accumulated

414 by local emissions. The simulations of XJ0 and CON show that local emission sources  
415 over Jingzhou contribute ~70% to PM<sub>2.5</sub>.

416

417 Figure 8

418 Figure 9

419

420 For the NW-type synoptic mode, affected by the northerly airflow (Fig. 9), it is  
421 conducive to the southward movement of air pollutants in northern China ( He et al.,  
422 2018; Leung et al., 2018). Influenced by the local and surrounding terrain over Central  
423 China (Fig. 1), two transmission channels are formed from north to south and from  
424 northeast to southwest (Fig. 9). In addition, due to the local small wind speed (1.4 m/s  
425 on average) near the ground (Fig. 5), the weak convection and the warm ridge along  
426 the East Asia coast (Fig. 9), the local and transported pollutants accumulate in Central  
427 China. The average concentration of PM<sub>2.5</sub> in Jingzhou is 179.4 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. Due to the  
428 transport contribution of pollutants from northern China (with much higher  
429 anthropogenic emissions of SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub> and NH<sub>3</sub>) (Li et al., 2017a), the total proportion  
430 of the three inorganic salts is the highest (55.5%). The PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration simulated  
431 in NCP0 is 63.1% of that by CON simulation (Fig. 8), indicating that the transmission  
432 contribution from North China in this heavy pollution episode is as high as 36.9%. The  
433 contribution of local emission sources is much smaller than that of SW-type synoptic  
434 pattern, only 41.2% (comparison between XJ0 and CON).

435

436 Figure 10

437

438 Under the A-type circulation, Jingzhou is controlled by a high pressure system  
439 (Fig. 10) which can lead to stable weather conditions caused by radiation inversion  
440 (Guo et al., 2015) and subsidence inversion (Kurita et al., 1985), being favorable to  
441 continuous accumulation of local pollutants (Guo et al., 2015). The distribution of PM<sub>2.5</sub>



442 in China is similar to that of SW-type weather condition, with an averaged  $PM_{2.5}$   
443 concentration of  $128.6 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  over Central China. Unlike SW-type, the  $PM_{2.5}$  at  
444 Jingzhou in this synoptic pattern is less affected by transboundary transport, with the  
445 total transport contribution of the surrounding four major pollution regions being less  
446 than 9%. The contribution of local emission sources is about 82% (Fig. 8).

447

448

Figure 11

449

450 Under the C-type synoptic pattern, the southwest low pressure center is formed at  
451 850 hPa, and Jingzhou is located in the low pressure system of the SLP field (Fig. 11).  
452 In combination with the large relative humidity (78% on average; Fig. 5; because that  
453 the occurrence season of C-type is the late winter and early spring), it can promote the  
454 haze pollution due to its impact on hydrophilic aerosols (Twohy et al., 2009; Zheng et  
455 al., 2015). Together with the small wind speed (less than 4 m/s; Fig. 5), it is easy to  
456 cause the accumulation of pollutants. The average concentration of  $PM_{2.5}$  over Central  
457 China is as high as  $203.7 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . Air pollution controlled by this weather condition is  
458 the most serious of the four typical synoptic controls. However, in this weather situation,  
459 pollutants in North China are easy to diffuse (Miao et al., 2017; Li et al., 2019), and the  
460 concentration of  $PM_{2.5}$  is significantly lower than that in the former three weather  
461 situations (Fig. 11 and Fig. S9). The contribution of pollution transport from non-  
462 Central China region simulated by GEOS-Chem is less than 8%, and the contribution  
463 of local emission sources at Jingzhou is more than 85% (Fig. 7).

464

### 465 **3.5 Effectiveness of emission reduction under the four main PSCs**

466 In order to estimate the effectiveness of emission reduction in severe pollution  
467 events forced by the four potential synoptic controls, we conduct sensitivity simulations  
468 by applying seven emission scenarios (Table 2). All emission scenarios use the  
469 reduction ratio of 20% which is close to the average of the target emission reduction of

470 all provinces in the 13<sup>th</sup> Five-year plan (The State Council of the People's Republic of  
471 China, 2016). Although the base year of emission reduction is 2015 for the 13<sup>th</sup> Five-  
472 year plan, it does not affect to use the simulation results of emission scenarios (with the  
473 reduction ratio of 20% applied to the simulated year 2013/2014) to explore the emission  
474 reduction effect of specific haze pollution events. The differences in model results  
475 between CON (control simulation) and JSN/JSNN/JALL (emissions of  
476 SO<sub>2</sub>+NO<sub>x</sub>/SO<sub>2</sub>+NO<sub>x</sub>+NH<sub>3</sub>/all pollution sources at Jingzhou are reduced by 20%)  
477 represent the environmental benefits caused by different local emission reduction  
478 scenarios. The potential PM<sub>2.5</sub> mitigations by joint prevention and control in different  
479 regions are calculated by sensitivity experiments of CCALL (emissions of all pollution  
480 sources over Central China are reduced by 20%), CNALL (over Central China and NCP  
481 region), CPALL (over Central China and PRD region) and TALL (over Central China,  
482 NCP, YRD, PRD and SCB regions).

483 In the JSN emission reduction scenario, the sulfate and ammonium concentrations  
484 over Jingzhou are significantly reduced by 3.2-5.8 μg/m<sup>3</sup> (12.7-14.5%) and 0.6-1.9  
485 μg/m<sup>3</sup> (3.2-5.9%) in these four pollution events, respectively. However, the  
486 concentration of nitrate increases (1.3-1.7%). This is because there is a competition  
487 mechanism between nitrate and sulfate. Ammonium ions always react with sulfate ions  
488 first to generate ammonium sulfate, which will continue to react with nitrate ions to  
489 generate ammonium nitrate when ammonium ions are rich (Mao et al., 2010). Thus the  
490 reduction of SO<sub>2</sub> emission increases the concentration of nitrate, which offset the  
491 contribution of sulfate particle reduction to the environment to some extent. Therefore,  
492 the application of JSN emission reduction scheme only reduces the PM<sub>2.5</sub>  
493 concentrations by 3.1-7.2 μg/m<sup>3</sup> (2.0-3.5%, Fig. 12). This inefficient emission reduction  
494 scheme is most widely used in heavy pollution areas over China in the past decade,  
495 ignoring the synergistic effect of various precursors.

496

497

Figure 12

498

499 By applying the JSNN and JALL emission reduction scenarios, we aim to evaluate  
500 the synergistic effect of multiple precursors on emission reduction. These two scenarios  
501 reduce the average sulfate concentration in Jingzhou by 2.8-6.7  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  (11.3-17.3%)  
502 and 2.9-7.2  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  (11.7-17.9%), and the ammonium concentration by 2.0-4.8  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$   
503 (12.1-16.5%) and 2.2-4.7  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  (13.2-17.3%), respectively. Unlike the increments of  
504 nitrate in JSN emission reduction scenario, the nitrate decreases (JSNN: 0.3-1.2  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ;  
505 JALL: 0.4-1.5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ). Therefore, through the application of JSNN and JALL emission  
506 reduction schemes,  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  concentrations decrease by 4.9-8.3% and 9.0-15.9%,  
507 respectively (Fig. 12), much higher than the improvement by JSN scenario. Zheng et  
508 al. (2019b) has also evaluated the sensitiveness of  $\text{NH}_3$  control to  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  reduction based  
509 on observations. However, these results indicate that it is unrealistic to substantially  
510 reduce local emissions to achieve the national air quality standard in the long term.

511 Additionally, the sensitivity simulations by excluding emission sources over  
512 upwind regions are conducted to estimate the potential  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  mitigations of inter-  
513 regional and intra-regional joint control. Our results show that after applying TALL  
514 emission reduction scenario,  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  concentrations have been significantly improved,  
515 with the improvement rates increased from 9.0-15.9% (by JALL scenario) to 17.4-18.8%  
516 (Fig. 12). Especially, the NW-type synoptic controlled air pollution episode shows the  
517 best effect of joint prevention, followed by SW-type. For NW-type, by reducing  
518 emissions over Central China and Northern China (CNALL scheme),  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$   
519 concentrations are reduced by 26.5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  (16.9%), much more effective than JALL  
520 emission reduction scheme (14.1  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , 9.0%). In SW-type controlled pollution  
521 episode, it should be otherwise to decrease the emissions over Southern China in  
522 addition to Central China.

523

524 **4. Conclusion**

525 The PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollution in autumn and winter haze periods is now the key obstacle for  
526 further improving air quality in China. The extremely severe and persistent PM<sub>2.5</sub>  
527 pollution episodes are attributed to adverse synoptic conditions in addition to high  
528 precursor emissions. For the PM<sub>2.5</sub> mitigations during winter haze episodes in specific  
529 region forced by various potential synoptic controls, how to effectively reduce  
530 emissions has become an urgent scientific question to be answered. Our results over  
531 Central China could provide reference for regional air quality policy-making.

532 Through Lamb-Jenkenson circulation classification, the top four potential  
533 synoptic controls of heavy PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollution days (totally 109 days) over Central China  
534 from 2013 to 2018 are decomposed to be SW-type, NW-type A-type and C-type,  
535 accounting for 29%, 27%, 19% and 12% of the total pollution days, respectively. In  
536 these four PSCs, three inorganic salt aerosols (sulfate: ~20%; nitrate: ~18%;  
537 ammonium: ~13%) totally accounted for ~51% of PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations simulated by  
538 optimized GEOS-Chem modelling.

539 In the SW-type/NW-type synoptic situation, affected by the southerly/northerly  
540 airflow, pollutants over southern/northern China could be transmitted to Central China,  
541 with the transport contribution of 7.6%/37%. In the situation A-type/C-type weather,  
542 affected by stable weather condition/high relative humidity, the pollution processes are  
543 less affected by the emission sources from non-local regions. And the local emission  
544 sources dominate the contribution (82%/85%) to PM<sub>2.5</sub>.

545 By only reducing SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emission and not controlling NH<sub>3</sub>, due to the  
546 competition mechanism between nitrate and sulfate, the concentrations of sulfate and  
547 ammonium decrease, but the concentration of nitrate increases instead. The enhanced  
548 nitrate counteracts the effect of sulfate reduction on PM<sub>2.5</sub> mitigations, with less than 4%  
549 decrease in PM<sub>2.5</sub>. Even if the NH<sub>3</sub> emission is also reduced, the PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration  
550 reduction is less than 9%. By applying the TALL emission reduction scenario, PM<sub>2.5</sub>  
551 concentrations would decrease significantly, with the improvement rate increased from  
552 9.0-15.9% (by JALL scenario) to 17.4-18.8%.

553           These results provide an opportunity to effectively mitigate haze pollution by local  
554 emission control actions in coordination with regional collaborative actions according  
555 to different synoptic patterns. Especially, the NW-type synoptic controlled air pollution  
556 episode shows the best effect of joint prevention, followed by SW-type. It is noted that  
557 in this study, the division of transmission areas is relatively rough, and more accurate  
558 source area identification and refined assessment of emission reduction effect of  
559 multiple pollutants from source groups are needed in the follow-up.

560

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572

### 573 **Author contributions**

574           Yingying Yan and Shaofei Kong conceived and designed the research. Yingying  
575 Yan performed the data processing, model simulations, and analyses. Yue Zhou  
576 assisted in the circulation classification. Jian Wu provided the emission data over  
577 Central China. Shaofei Kong, Tianliang Zhao and Dantong Liu contributed the funding  
578 acquisition. Yingying Yan wrote the paper with input from all authors.

579

### 580 **Data availability**

581 Observational data are obtained from individual sources (see links in the text).  
582 Model results are available upon request. Model codes are available on a collaborative  
583 basis.

584

### 585 **Competing interests**

586 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

587

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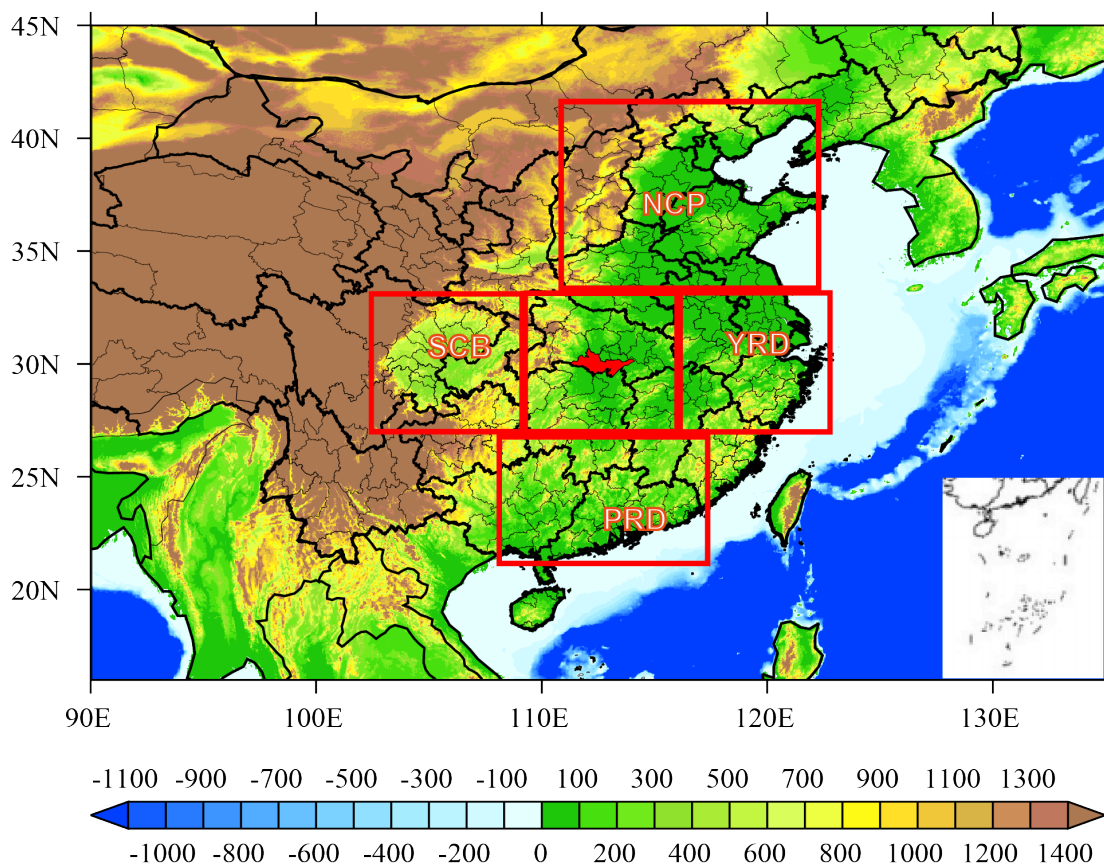
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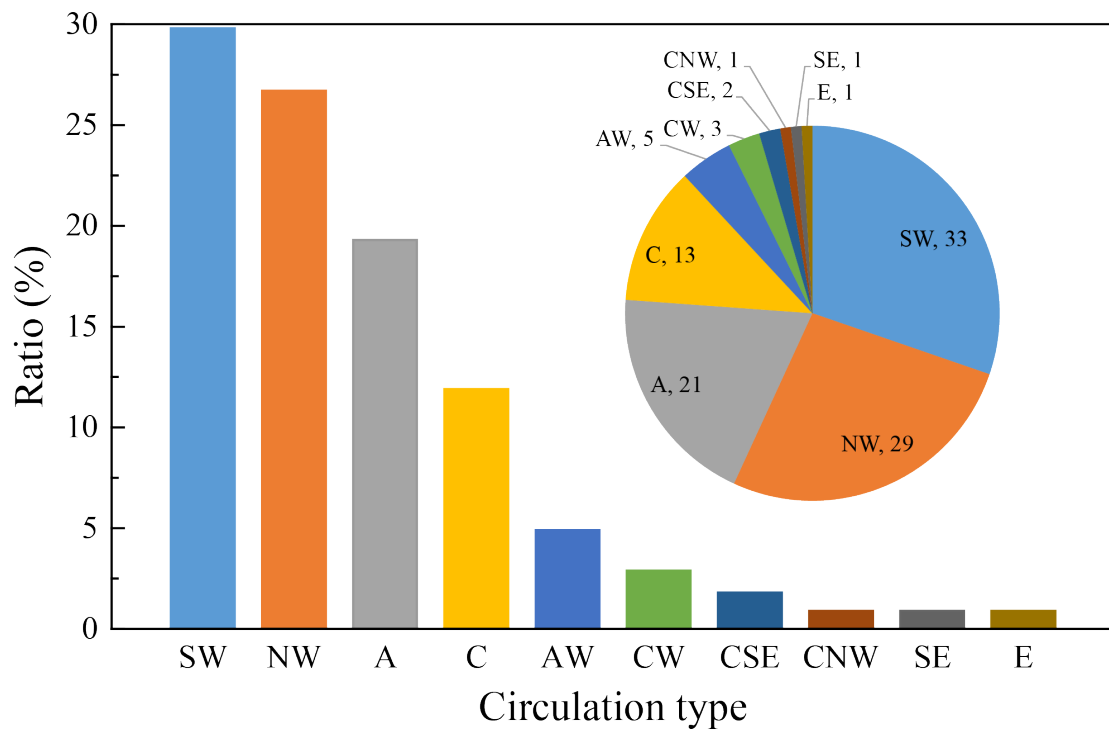
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928 Figure 1 The location of Jingzhou (red area) and the major haze pollution regions of  
929 NCP, YRD, PRD, and SCB. The areas framed in red are used to investigate the inter-  
930 regional impacts by GEOS-Chem sensitivity simulations. The overlaid map shows the  
931 surface elevation (m) from a 2 min Gridded Global Relief Data (ETOPO2v2) available  
932 at NGDC Marine Trackline Geophysical database  
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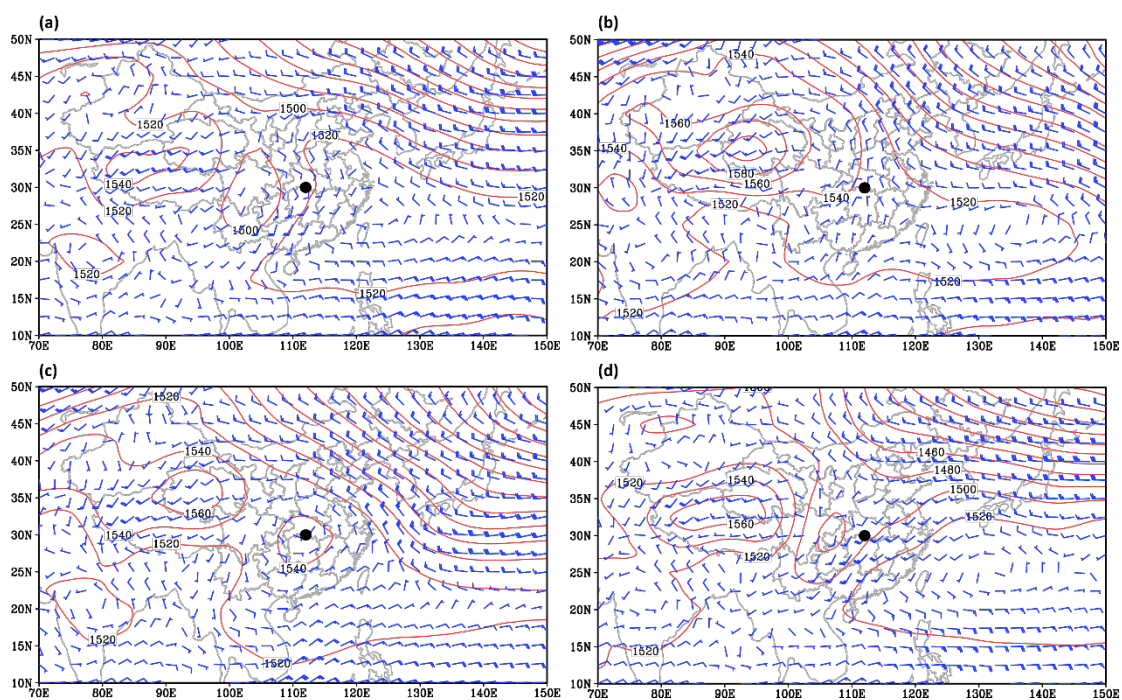


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937 Figure 2 Frequency distributions of ten circulation types for the heavy pollution days  
938 of 2013-2018 over Jingzhou. The occurrence numbers of each type are shown. The ten  
939 circulation types include Southwest (SW), Northwest (NW), Anticyclone (A), Cyclone  
940 (C), Anticyclone-West (AW), Cyclone-West (CW), Cyclone-Southeast (CSE),  
941 Cyclone-Northwest (CNW), Southeast (SE) and East (E), respectively.

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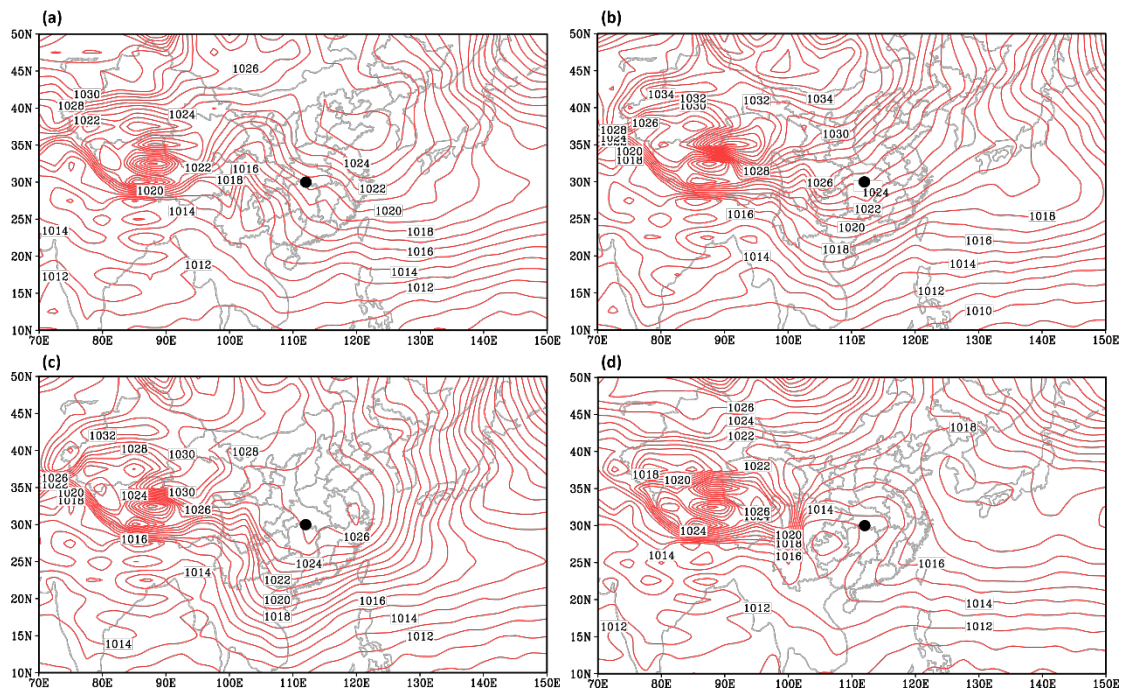
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945 Figure 3 Spatial distribution of 850 hPa geopotential height and wind vector for SW-  
946 type (a), NW-type (b), A-type (c) and C-type (d) synoptic control averaged over 2013-  
947 2018. The black dot indicates the location of Jingzhou.

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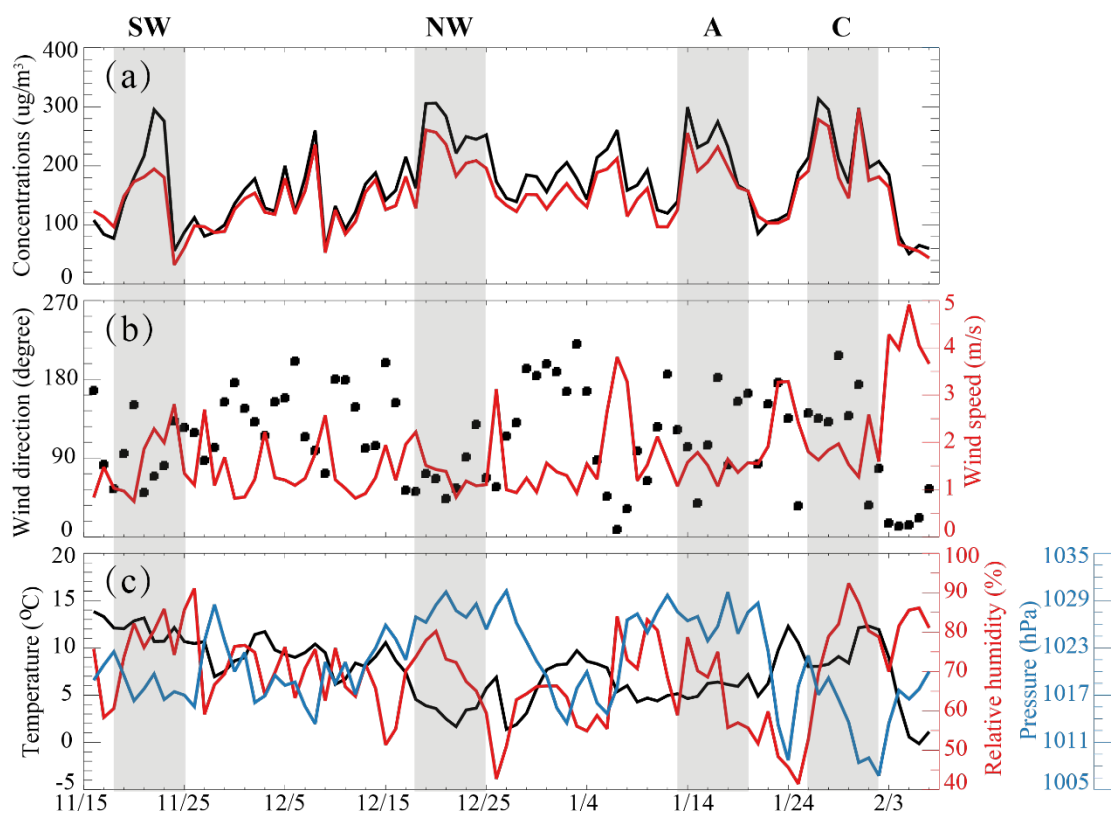


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951 Figure 4 Spatial distribution of sea level pressure for SW-type (a), NW-type (b), A-type  
 952 (c) and C-type (d) synoptic control averaged over 2013-2018. The black dot indicates  
 953 the location of Jingzhou.

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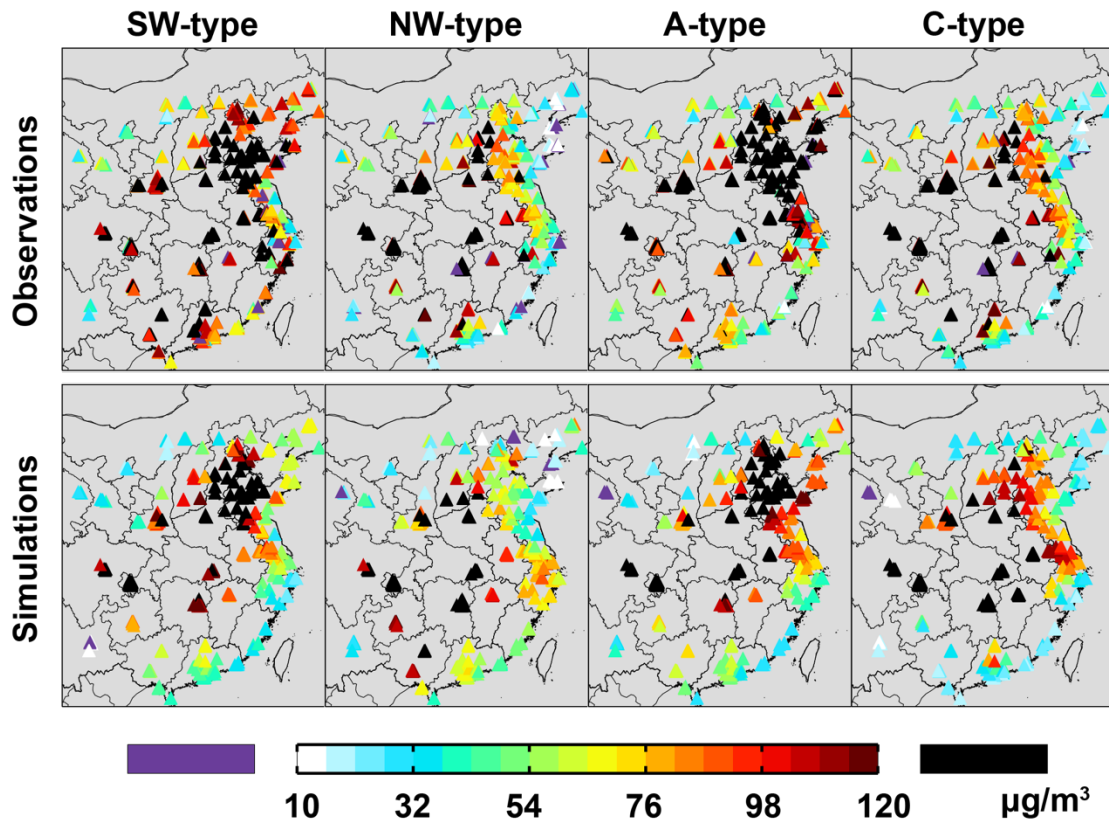


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958 Figure 5 (a) Daily mean values of modeled (red line) and observed (black line)  $PM_{2.5}$   
 959 concentration ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) at Jingzhou and four severe pollution events (grey area) from  
 960 November, 2013 to February, 2014. (b) Observed daily mean wind speed (red line) and  
 961 wind direction (black dots). (c) Observed temperature (black line), relative humidity (red  
 962 line) and sea level pressure (blue line).

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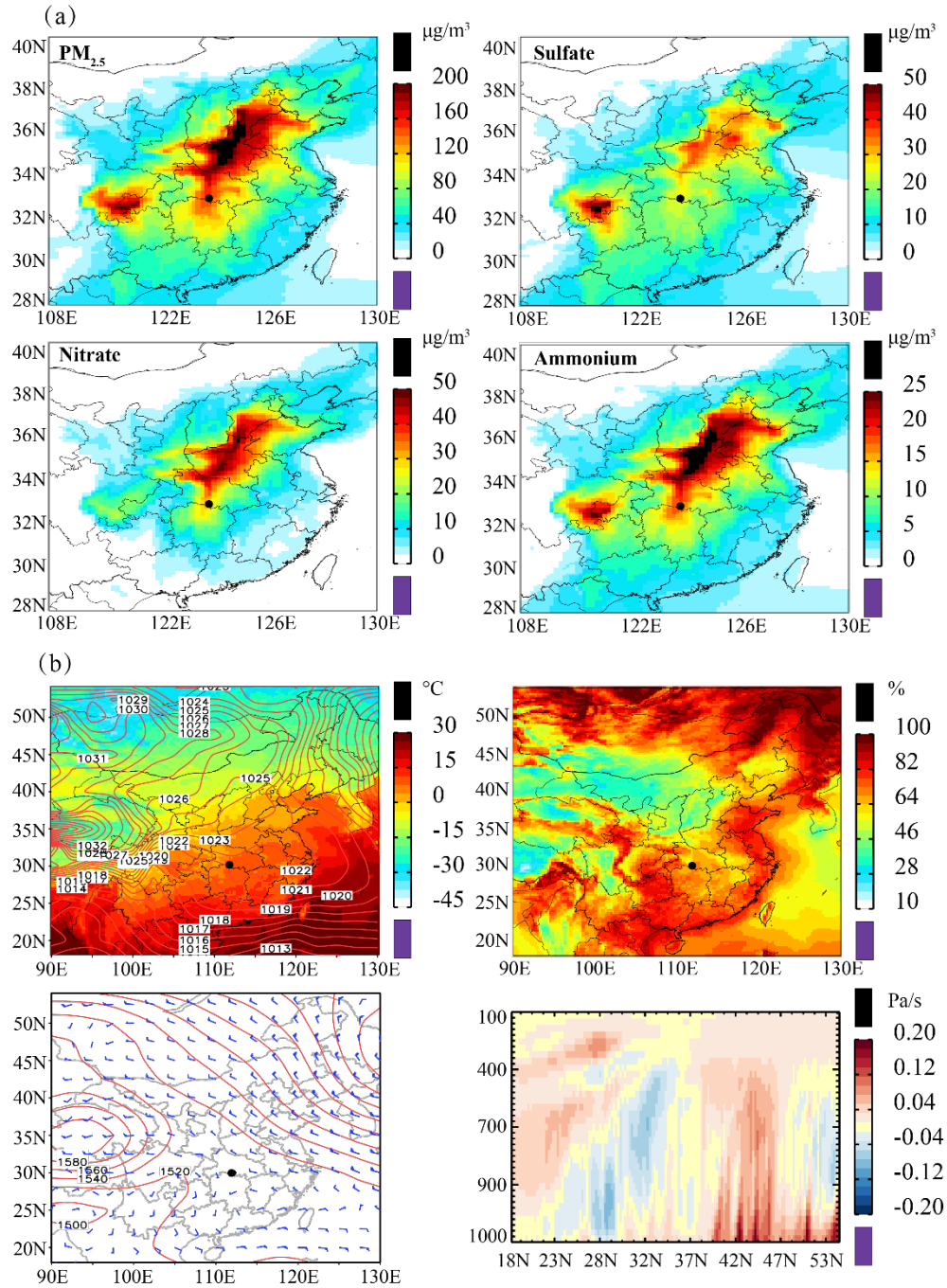
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968 Figure 6 Spatial distribution of observed (top row) and modeled (bottom row, by CON

969 case) PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) averaged over four severe pollution episodes

970 controlled by SW-type (first column), NW-type (second column), A-type (third

971 column) and C-type (forth column) synoptic pattern, respectively.



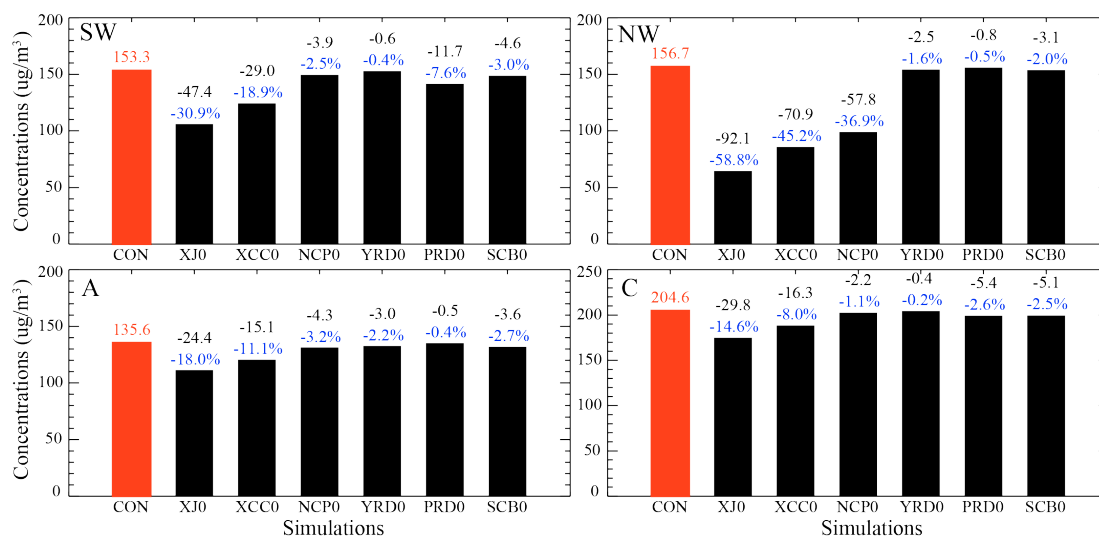
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973 Figure 7 (a) Spatial distribution of PM<sub>2.5</sub>, sulfate, nitrate and ammonium concentrations  
 974 averaged over SW-type synoptic controls (18-25 November, 2013) simulated by  
 975 GEOS-Chem control simulation ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ). (b) Meteorological conditions of SW-type:  
 976 sea level pressure (red line) and temperature (colour shades), surface relative humidity  
 977 (%) fields, 850 hPa wind and geopotential height (red line) and height–latitude cross-  
 978 sections of vertical velocity (Pa/s).

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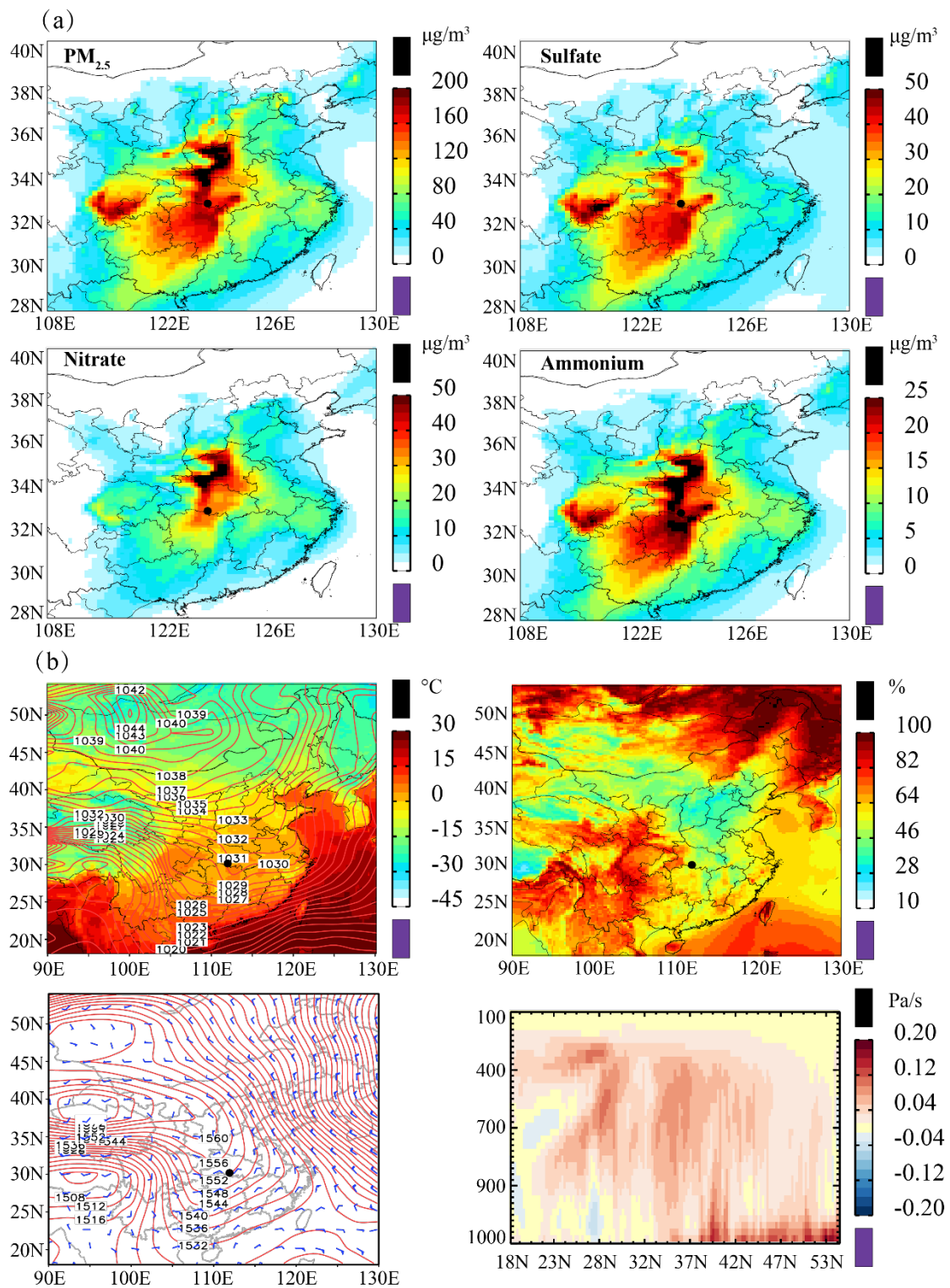
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982 Figure 8 Modeled concentrations ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) of  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  at Jingzhou in the GEOS-Chem  
 983 control (red bar) and sensitivity (black bar) simulations in view of the regional  
 984 transportation, and the differences (black characters for mass concentrations and blue  
 985 characters for mass percentages) between the sensitivity and the control simulations.

986 The abbreviations of each simulation referred to Table 2.

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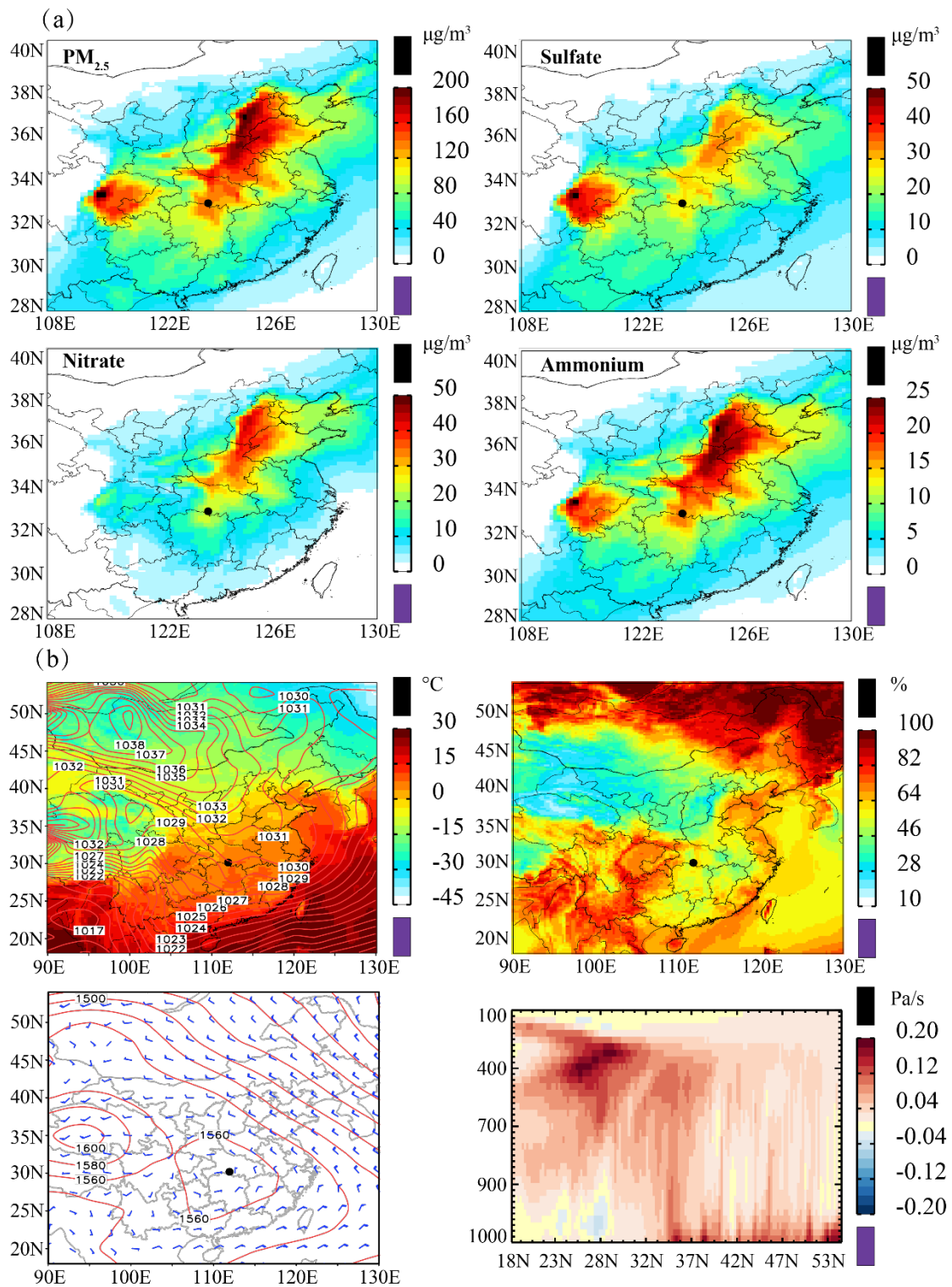
990

991 Figure 9 As in Fig. 6 but for NW-type synoptic control (19-26 December, 2013).

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996 Figure 10 As in Fig. 6 but for A-type synoptic control (14-21 January, 2014).

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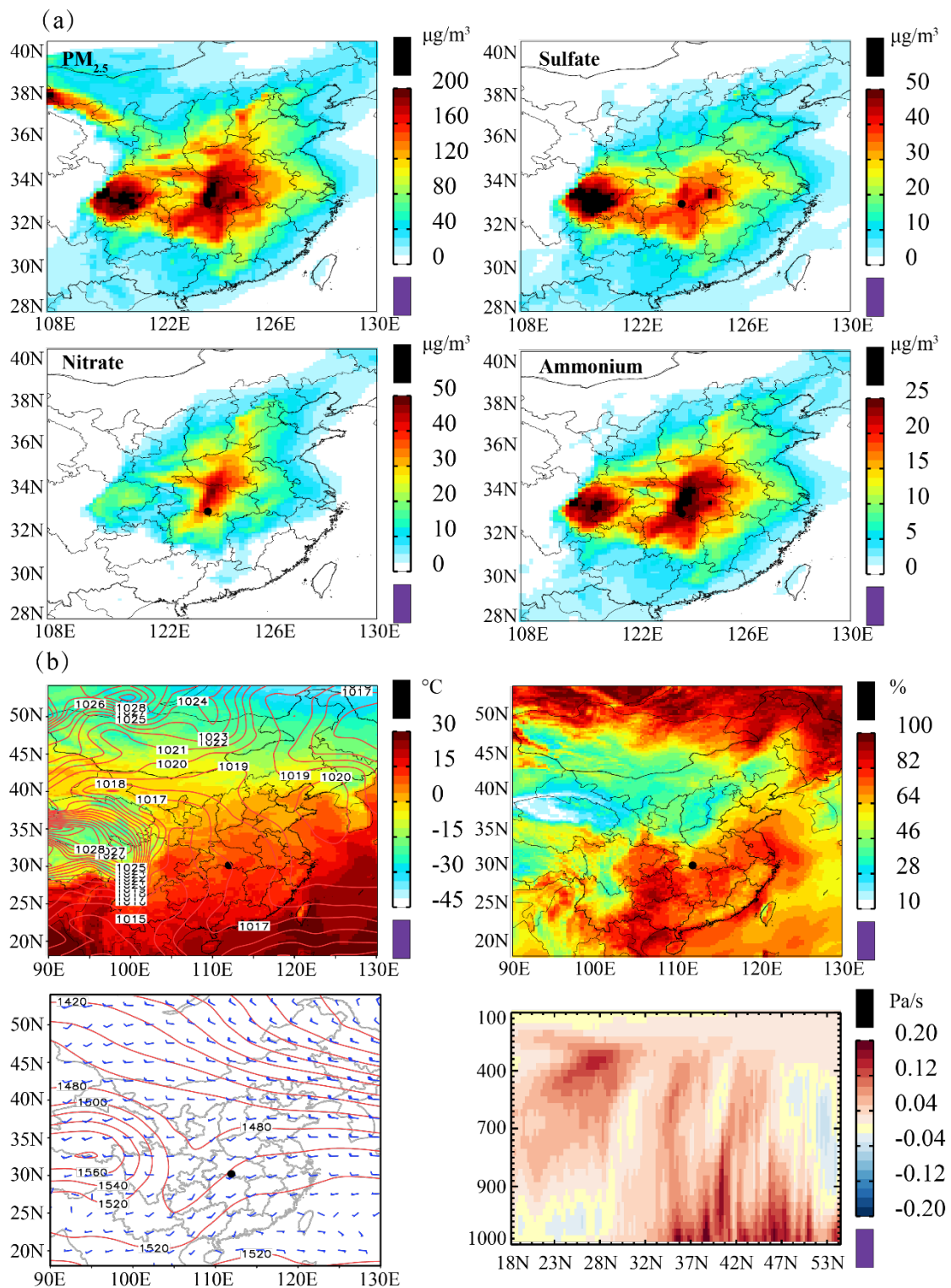
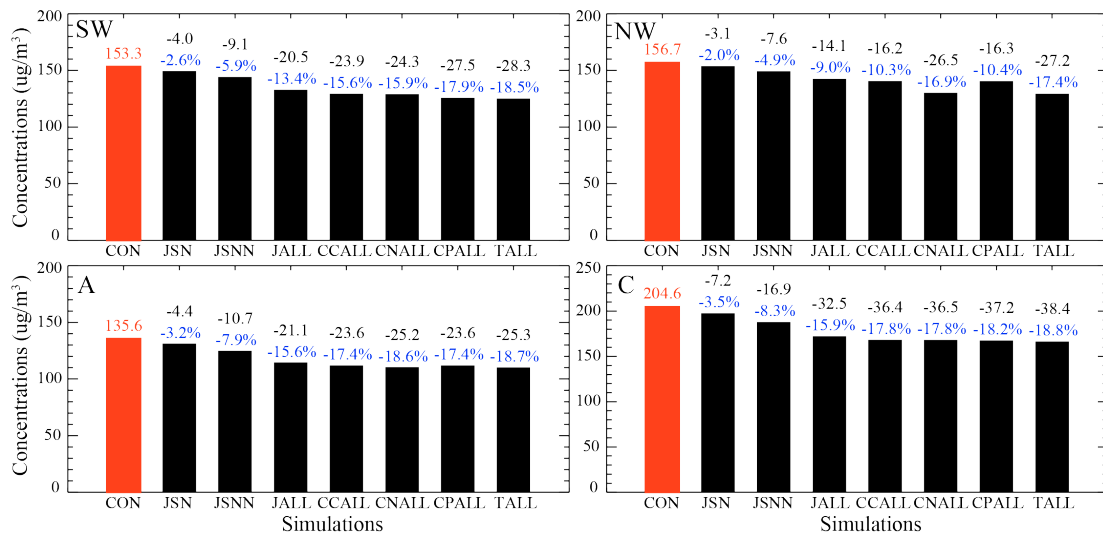


Figure 11 As in Fig. 6 but for C-type synoptic control (26 January - 2 February, 2014).

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1006 Figure 12 Modeled concentrations ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) of PM<sub>2.5</sub> at Jingzhou in the GEOS-Chem  
1007 control (red bar) and sensitivity (black bar) simulations for emission reduction, and the  
1008 differences (black characters for mass concentrations and blue characters for mass  
1009 percentages) between the sensitivity and the control simulations. The abbreviations of  
1010 each simulation referred to Table 2.

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Table 1 Lamb-Jenkinson circulation types

$ \xi  \leq V$	$ \xi  \geq 2V$	$V <  \xi  < 2V$
(Flat airflow type)	(Rotating airflow type)	(Mixed type)
East (E), Southeast (SE), Southwest (SW), Northwest (NW)	Anticyclone (A), Cyclone (C)	Cyclone-Southeast (CSE), Cyclone-West (CW), Cyclone-Northwest (CNW), Anticyclone-West (AW)

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1018 Table 2 Description of sensitivity simulations by GEOS-Chem model. The NCP, YRD,  
1019 PRD and SCB are the areas framed in red showed by Fig. 1.

Simulations	Description
CON	Applying the original emission situation in Table S1 and Table S2
XJ0	Emissions of all pollution sources <sup>1</sup> outside Jingzhou are set to be zero
XCC0	Emissions of all pollution sources outside Central China are set to be zero
NCP0	Emissions of all pollution sources over NCP region are set to be zero
YRD0	Emissions of all pollution sources over YRD region are set to be zero
PRD0	Emissions of all pollution sources over PRD region are set to be zero
SCB0	Emissions of all pollution sources over SCB region are set to be zero
JSN	Emissions of SO <sub>2</sub> and NO <sub>x</sub> at Jingzhou are reduced by 20%
JSNN	Emissions of SO <sub>2</sub> , NO <sub>x</sub> and NH <sub>3</sub> at Jingzhou are reduced by 20%
JALL	Emissions of all pollution sources at Jingzhou are reduced by 20%
CCALL	Emissions of all pollution sources over Central China are reduced by 20%
CNALL	Emissions of all pollution sources over Central China and NCP region are reduced by 20%
CPALL	Emissions of all pollution sources over Central China and PRD region are reduced by 20%
TALL	Emissions of all pollution sources over Central China, NCP, YRD, PRD and SCB region are reduced by 20%

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1. All pollution sources include emissions of SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub>, CO, BC, OC and NMVOCs.

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1025 Table 3 Simulated PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations and associated chemical components averaged  
1026 for the four typical heavy pollution episodes at Jingzhou. Also shown in brackets are  
1027 the percentages of each component in PM<sub>2.5</sub>.

PM <sub>2.5</sub> components	Typical heavy pollution episodes			
	11/18-11/25 (SW-type)	12/19-12/26 (NW-type)	1/14-1/21 (A-type)	1/26-2/2 (C-type)
µg/m <sup>3</sup>				
Nitrate	30.6 (20.0%)	34.6 (22.1%)	23.4 (17.3%)	42.3 (20.7%)
Sulfate	26.5 (13.4%)	30.7 (19.6%)	27.7 (20.4%)	40.4 (19.7%)
Ammonium	18.8 (12.3%)	21.6 (13.8%)	17.1 (12.6%)	27.1 (13.2%)
Dust	24.4 (15.9%)	22.3 (14.2%)	19.8 (14.6%)	29.2 (14.3%)
BC	10.5 (6.8%)	9.6 (6.1%)	9.5 (7.0%)	13.8 (6.7%)
POA	21.6 (14.1%)	18.9 (12.1%)	18.9 (13.9%)	27.7 (13.5%)
SOA	20.9 (13.6%)	19.0 (12.1%)	19.2 (14.2%)	24.1 (11.8%)
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	153.3	156.7	135.6	204.6

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1030 Table 4 The reported concentrations of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and the three inorganic salts (sulfate,  
 1031 nitrate and ammonium,  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) in other cities.

References	Site	Time	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	Sulfate	Nitrate	Ammonium
Cao et al., 2012	Beijing	01/03	115.6±46.6	20.0±4.2 (17.3%)	13.1±4.5 (11.3%)	9.4±4.1 (8.1%)
Cao et al., 2012	Qingdao	01/03	134.8±43.0	21.1±7.7 (15.7%)	19.3±9.2 (14.3%)	15.3±5.2 (11.4%)
Cao et al., 2012	Tianjin	01/03	203.1±76.2	32.5±15.1 (16.0%)	25.2±10.3 (12.4%)	22.2±9.8 (10.9%)
Cao et al., 2012	Xi'an	01/03	356.3±118.4	53.8±25.6 (15.1%)	29.0±10.0 (8.1%)	29.8±11.5 (8.4%)
Cao et al., 2012	Chongqing	01/03	316.6±101.2	60.9±19.6 (19.2%)	18.1±6.4 (5.7%)	28.8±8.9 (9.1%)
Cao et al., 2012	Hangzhou	01/03	177.3±59.5	33.4±16.7 (18.8%)	25.7±14.8 (14.5%)	19.1±10.7 (10.8%)
Cao et al., 2012	Shanghai	01/03	139.4±50.6	21.6±12.3 (15.5%)	17.5±8.7 (12.6%)	14.5±5.9 (10.4%)
Cao et al., 2012	Wuhan	01/03	172.3±67.0	31.4±15.6 (18.2%)	22.2±10.7 (12.9%)	18.4±10.2 (10.7%)
Zhang et al., 2011	Xi'an	03/06-03/07	194.1	35.6 (18.3%)	16.4 (8.4%)	11.4 (5.9%)
Huang et al., 2012	Xi'an	01/06-02/06	235.8±125.1	44.8±31.3 (19.0%)	20.5±14.2 (8.7%)	14.5±10.8 (6.1%)
Wang et al., 2020	Jinan	10/17	104±54	14.4±9.2 (13.8%)	33.4±23.2 (32.1%)	13.0±8.3 (12.5%)
Wang et al., 2020	Shijiazhuang	10/17	152±109	19.3±19.6 (12.7%)	42.8±41.1 (28.2%)	18.2±17.1 (12.0%)
Wang et al., 2020	Wuhan	12/17	117±33	13.6±3.2	26.6±11.1	13.1±3.8

				(11.6%)	(22.7%)	(11.2%)
Wang et al., 2016a	Zhengzhou	01/11-02/11	297±160	48±36 (16.2%)	31±19 (10.4%)	21±16 (7.1%)
Wang et al., 2016a	Zhengzhou	01/12-02/12	234±125	23±10 (9.8%)	22±9 (9.4%)	16±5 (6.8%)
Wang et al., 2016a	Zhengzhou	01/13-02/13	337±168	56±39 (16.6%)	39±20 (11.6%)	31±18 (9.2%)
Luo et al., 2018	Zibo	12/06-02/07	224.9±85.4	40.1±19.2 (17.9%)	18.1±9.0 (8.1%)	21.7±10.2 (9.7%)
Wang et al., 2016b	Shanghai	12/11, 12/12, 12/13	73.9±57.5	12.2±9.2 (16.5%)	14.6±12.2 (19.8%)	8.2±6.7 (11.1%)
Xu et al., 2019	Beijing	02/17-03/17	180.5	20.1 (11.1%)	45.6 (25.3%)	22.5 (12.5%)
Xu et al., 2019	Beijing	05/17-09/17	186.7	20.2 (10.8%)	32.4 (17.4%)	17.1 (9.2%)
Xu et al., 2019	Beijing	10/17-11/17	167.5	17.9 (10.7%)	44.5 (26.6%)	20.9 (12.5%)
Zheng et al., 2016	Beijing	03/10-05/10	65.2±65.1	11.1±10.1 (17.0%)	11.1±11.0 (17.0%)	6.8±6.7 (10.4%)
Zheng et al., 2016	Beijing	07/09-08/09	88.9±39.1	23.0±13.9 (25.9%)	16.2±11.8 (18.2%)	11.8±6.8 (13.3%)
Zheng et al., 2016	Beijing	12/09-02/10	84.0±66.6	8.1±8.3 (9.1%)	8.0±9.6 (9.0%)	5.9±7.1 (6.6%)
Zheng et al., 2016	Guangzhou	11/10	73.3±16.5	16.6±4.0 (22.6%)	5.7±3.8 (7.8%)	6.2±2.0 (8.5%)
Zheng et al., 2016	Shenzhen	12/09	64.6±24.7	20.6±3.5 (31.9%)	4.9±3.5 (7.6%)	4.6±1.0 (7.1%)
Zheng et al., 2016	Wuxi	04/10-05/10	82.1±27.0	12.8±3.8	9.9±6.3	7.0±2.0



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				(15.6%)	(12.1%)	(8.5%)
Zheng et al., 2016	Jinhua	10/11-11/11	81.9±26.2	18.3±6.7 (22.3%)	12.6±7.0 (15.4%)	10.4±4.1 (12.7%)
Liu et al., 2018	Chongqing	2012-2013	73.5±30.5	19.7±9.6 (26.8%)	6.5±6.2 (8.8%)	6.1±2.7 (8.3%)
Liu et al., 2018	Shanghai	2012-2013	68.4±20.3	13.6±6.4 (19.9%)	11.9±5.0 (17.4%)	5.8±2.1 (8.5%)
Liu et al., 2018	Beijing	2012-2013	71.7±36.0	11.9±8.2 (16.6%)	9.3±7.5 (13.0%)	5.3±2.7 (7.4%)

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