

Salma et al. investigated the temporal variations of gaseous and particulate pollutants, including NO, NO<sub>2</sub>, CO, O<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, total particle number (N<sub>6-1000</sub>) and particles with a diameter less than 100nm from 1 January to 31 July in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 in central Budapest, Hungary. Based on the relative difference and standardized anomaly methods, the authors re-evaluated the relationships between urban air quality and motor vehicle road traffic. The authors found that the concentrations of critical particulate pollutants did not seem to be largely affected by vehicles in Budapest during the COVID-19 pandemic. The study highlighted the synergetic effect of local meteorological conditions, long-range transport and anthropogenic emissions on air quality, and also showed importance of non-linear relationships among precursors and secondary pollutions in Budapest, Hungary. I would like to recommend acceptance of the manuscript after the following comments are addressed.

1. Line 261-269: in this paragraph, the authors stated that the concentration of chemical species was based on the reanalyzed results of seven state-of-the-art European models. Please provide more descriptions about these models. If the reanalyzed data are publicly accessible, please provide a statement on how the data can be accessed.

2. In section 3.1, the alterations in the T, RH, AH, WS, GRad and PBLH<sub>max</sub> in the average reference year and year 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic are quantified separately. How about the changes of wind direction? Previous studies indicated that a structure of convergence and divergence from the surface to the middle level of the troposphere also plays an important role in air pollution, so how about the convergence and divergence in the vertical direction over Budapest during the COVID-19 pandemic? The following paper is recommended for the discussion: Wu, J., Bei, N., Hu, B., Liu, S., Zhou, M., Wang, Q., Li, X., Liu, L., Feng, T., Liu, Z., Wang, Y., Cao, J., Tie, X., Wang, J., Molina, L. T., and Li, G.: Aerosol–radiation feedback deteriorates the wintertime haze in the North China Plain, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 19, 8703–8719, <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-19-8703-2019>, 2019.

3. In Table S2, the median of hourly mean GRad in 2020 is less than that in the average reference year, and the lower radiation could suppress the development of the PBL, but the PBLH<sub>max</sub> in 2020 is higher than that in the average reference year. Please provide explanation for this phenomenon.

4. Line 277-280: Please provide quantitative results or references to explain why Spring 2020 is the third driest season since 1901.

5. Figure 8 and 9: In the figure caption, please clarify whether the data used are observations or simulations.