Aggravated Air Pollution and Health Burden due to Traffic Congestion in Urban China

Peng Wang[1,2#], Ruhan Zhang[3#], Shida Sun[4], Meng Gao[5], Bo Zheng[6], Dan Zhang[7,8], Yanli Zhang[7,*], Gregory R. Carmichael[9], and Hongliang Zhang[2,3,10*]

5   [1]Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, Fudan University, Shanghai 200438, China
    [2]IRDR ICoE on Risk Interconnectivity and Governance on Weather/Climate Extremes Impact and Public Health, Fudan University, Shanghai 200438, China
    [3]Department of Environmental Science and Engineering, Fudan University, Shanghai 200438, China
    [4]Ministry of Education Key Laboratory for Earth System Modelling, Department of Earth System Science, Tsinghua
10 University, Beijing 100084, China
    [5]Department of Geography, State Key Laboratory of Environmental and Biological Analysis, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong SAR, 999077, China
    [6]Institute of Environment and Ecology, Tsinghua Shenzhen International Graduate School, Tsinghua University, Shenzhen 518055, China
15 [7]State Key Laboratory of Organic Geochemistry and Guangdong Key Laboratory of Environmental Protection and Resources Utilization, Guangzhou Institute of Geochemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Guangzhou 510640, China
    [8]University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing,100049, China
    [9]Department of Chemical and Biochemical Engineering, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA52242, USA
20 [10]Institute of Eco-Chongming (IEC), Shanghai, 202162, China

    #These authors contributed equally to this work.

    Correspondence to: Yanli Zhang (zhang_yl86@gig.ac.cn) & Hongliang Zhang (zhanghl@fudan.edu.cn)

Abstract. Vehicle emission is regarded as a primary contributor to air pollution and related adverse health impacts. Heavy traffic congestion increases traffic flow and thus produces more O3 precursors emissions, leading to more

25 adverse air quality issues. Although the development of vehicle emission inventory has received great concern and continuous efforts, limitations still exist. For example, real-time diurnal variations and increases in emission rates due to traffic congestion are not well understood. In this study, we developed a new temporal-allocation approach in transportation emission to investigate its impacts on air quality and health burden due to traffic congestion in China in 2020. Both real-time congestion level data and emission correction factors were considered in the approach.

30 Results show that traffic congestion aggravates air pollution and health burden across China, especially in the urban clusters such as the North China Plain and Sichuan Basin. In these regions, the average annual increases of fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$) and ozone (O_3) could be up to 3.5 µg m^{-3} and 1.1 ppb, respectively. The excess $PM_{2.5}$ and O_3 attributed to the traffic congestion also induce an additional 20,000 and 5,000 premature mortality in China, respectively. In major cities, the increased rate of premature mortality caused by traffic congestion may reach

35 17.5%. Therefore, more effective and comprehensive vehicle emission control policies or better planning of road network should be established to reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality in China.

Graphic abstract
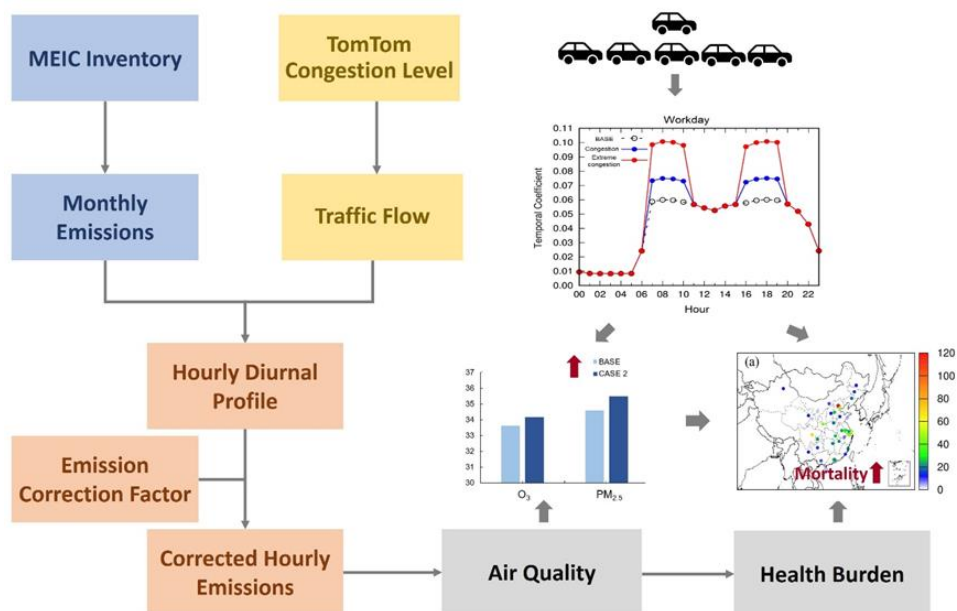
1 Introduction

40   With the rapid development of the economy and automobile industry, vehicle number has increased significantly in China in the recent decade. In June 2021, according to the Chinese government, China's vehicle number reached 384 million with the highest historical growth rate of 32.33% (compared to the year 2020)(Xinhua, 2021). However, the increasing vehicle number has deteriorated the air quality in China(Hao et al., 2007; Zhang et al., 2016; Miao et al., 2019). Xu et al. (2019) reported that vehicle volume was the most significant contributor to air pollution compared to

45   other factors such as population density during 2005-2016 in China. The vehicle emissions, including nitrogen oxides ($NO_x = NO_2 + NO$) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), are the essential precursors of fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$) and ozone (O_3)(Wang et al., 2019; Jeong et al., 2019; Li et al., 2016; Liu et al., 2017a; Yao et al., 2015). Although the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China (MEE) has implemented a series of strategies (such as updating vehicular emission standards) to reduce vehicle emissions in recent years, it was

50   still the dominant contributor to $PM_{2.5}$ concentration in the key regions such as Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei (BTH) in China(Gao et al., 2018). Thus, it is vital to have a comprehensive understanding of vehicle emissions, aiming to effectively alleviate the air pollution in China.

Vehicle emission also induces adverse health impacts since it is a major source of $PM_{2.5}$ and O_3(Levy et al., 2010;

55   Zhang and Batterman, 2013; Zhang et al., 2017; Shindell et al., 2011; Huang et al., 2020). Although $PM_{2.5}$ has decreased substantially in China(Zhang et al., 2019), it continues to receive substantial attention due to the strong correlation between adverse health impacts and climate change(De Kok et al., 2006; Chen et al., 2018; Xu et al., 2017; Bond et al., 2013). According to the MEE, the annual $PM_{2.5}$ concentration in China was 33 µg m^{-3} in 2020, which is still ~7 times the latest World Health Organization (WHO) standard(World Health, 2021). Tong et al. (2020a) stated

60   that vehicle emissions have the highest impact on public health during the morning rush hours with the annual premature deaths up to 4435 (95% confidence interval (CI): 3655, 4904) in Beijing, China. Considering O_3, Cohen et al. (2017) reported that O_3 concentrations in all major Chinese metropolitan regions were at least 10% higher than the Chinese Ambient Air Quality Standard (CAAQS) level (160 µg/m^3). In 2015, 47,000 (CI 95: 32,000 to 70,000) fewer deaths attributable to O_3 exposure were projected by the implementation of vehicle emission controls(Wang et al.,

65   2020). In China, the transportation attributable deaths related $PM_{2.5}$ and O_3 in 2015 is 11% of all sources of emission(Anenberg et al., 2019). Therefore, it is significant to figure out the related health impacts of vehicle emissions to reduce premature deaths in China.

Chemical Transport Models (CTMs) have been widely used to study vehicle emissions and their impacts on air quality

70   (Liu et al., 2010; Che et al., 2011; Zhang et al., 2020a). Zhang et al. (2012) found that the transportation sector was an important contributor to nitrate (a major component of $PM_{2.5}$) in China by using the source-oriented version of the Community Multiscale Air Quality model (CMAQ). However, the CTM performance highly depends on the emission inventories(Hu et al., 2016a), which may lead to uncertainties in understanding vehicle emissions. In China, the vehicle

Atmospheric
Chemistry
and Physics
Discussions

emission inventory has been developed in national, regional(Deng et al., 2020; Jiang et al., 2020), provincial(Liu et al., 2022; Liu et al., 2017b), and city levels in China (Sun et al., 2020b; Yang et al., 2019), which is essential for determining air pollution sources and making environmental control policies. The accurate temporal allocation of vehicle emission inventory is beneficial for air quality simulation. Zheng et al. (2014) first calculated the monthly vehicle emissions in China by estimating the monthly emission factors at the county-level. Sun et al. (2020a) introduced the speed correction curves to improve the simulation of vehicle emission factors. However, there are still shortcomings with temporal allocation in the development of vehicle emission inventories. First, most of the emission inventories are distributed at a monthly level(Jiang et al., 2020), without providing a robust diurnal distribution profile. Second, the emission inventory could not be updated in time and is usually available after several years of latency, offering limited help to understand the current air pollution(Zheng et al., 2021b). Third, the changes in emission rates due to traffic congestion are not considered(Liu et al., 2022), which could not accurately reflect the temporal emission distribution in the inventory. In China, more than 80% of cities have suffered from heavy traffic congestion that leads to substantial changes in air pollutants such as $PM_{2.5}$ and O_3(Tong et al., 2020b; Zhang et al., 2018). Consequently, a more comprehensive temporal distribution approach of vehicle emission is urgently required.

In this study, we used real-time traffic congestion data and the updated CMAQ model (Ying et al., 2015) to investigate the characteristics of vehicle emissions in China in 2020. The air pollution related premature death mortality (from O_3 and $PM_{2.5}$) was also evaluated to determine health impacts attributed to the changes in vehicle emissions. The purposes of this study are: (1) to provide a diurnal profile for vehicle emission; (2) to improve the hourly vehicle emissions rates based on the real-time traffic congestion data; (3) to determine the response of air quality and the associated health impacts from the updated emissions. This study aims to give an in-depth investigation of traffic congestion and its related air quality and health impacts, which has important implications for establishing effective control strategies in China.

2 Methods

2.1 Temporal-allocation approach of vehicle emissions

The hourly temporal coefficient in the diurnal profile was estimated considering both the traffic flow and the emission rate. First, the traffic flow at the city level was calculated based on TomTom congestion level data collected from (https://www.tomtom.com/en_gb/traffic-index/ranking/, last access: 15 Sep. 2021). The TomTom congestion level (CL) describes the extra travel time as a percentage compared to the non-congestion situation, which was obtained in 22 major cities in China (**Figure S1**). When CL is zero, the traffic is smooth without congestion, but with cars and emissions. In these 22 cities, traffic flows increased with the severity of CL. In this study, daily and hourly congestion level data were collected to achieve high temporal resolution. Then, CL was converted to traffic flow using a sigmoid function-- Eq. (1) from(Liu et al., 2020):

$$Q = a + \frac{b \cdot CL^c}{d^c + CL^c} \tag{1}$$

where Q is the daily mean car counts, while $a, b, c,$ and d are empirical parameters to fit the sigmoid function without physical meanings, and their values are 100.87, 671.06, 1.98, and 6.49, respectively, according to Liu et al. (2021).

110 In general, the vehicle emissions were proportional to the traffic flow (Gong et al., 2017), and the temporal coefficient was calculated as the Eq. (2):

$$HTC_{w,h} = \frac{Q_{w,h}}{\sum_h Q_{w,h}} \tag{2}$$

where $HTC_{w,h}$ is the hourly temporal coefficient (unit: %); w means weekday or weekend, for whom different traffic flows are considered separately.

115

Vehicle emissions were influenced by both traffic flow and emission rate(Zhang et al., 2018). During off-peak traffic hours, the emission rates were significantly lower than peak hours because vehicles were more polluted under congested conditions due to the frequent low and idle speed(Zhang et al., 2020b). To reflect the impact of congestion, this study used the temporal coefficient with the emission correction factor to reflect the emission changes in the peak

120 hours as shown in Eq. (3):

$$E'_{w,ph} = E_m \times HTC_{w,ph} \times ECF_h \tag{3}$$

where $E'_{w,ph}$ stands for the emission rate at peak hours (ph ranges from 0:00 to 23:00); E_m is the original emissions in month m; ECF_h is the emission correction factor, determined by the driving speed from the national technical guidelines on emission inventory(Mee, 2014) (**Table S1**). ECF values were from the gasoline vehicle since it was the

125 most dominant vehicle type in China(Wu et al., 2017).

2.2 CMAQ model application and validation

The CMAQ version 5.0.1 with the updated secondary organic aerosol (SOA) formation mechanism was applied in this study(Ying et al., 2015). The simulation period was the whole year 2020. The Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) model version 4.2.1 was used to generate the meteorological inputs, using the high-resolution final (FNL)

130 reanalysis data from the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP; https://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds083.3/, last access: 02 Oct. 2021). The anthropogenic emissions were from the Multi-resolution Emission Inventory for China (MEIC; http://www.meicmodel.org/, last access: 02 Oct. 2021) based on the year 2020(Zheng et al., 2021a; Zheng et al., 2018). Due to the lack of explicit vehicle emissions in the MEIC inventory, the vehicle emissions in this study were estimated based on the on-road emission ratios of the Emissions Database for Global Atmospheric Research

135 (EDGAR; https://edgar.jrc.ec.europa.eu/; last access: Oct., 2021)(Crippa et al., 2020). The open burning and biogenic emissions were from the Fire INventory from NCAR (FINN)(Wiedinmyer et al., 2011), and the Model of Emissions of Gases and Aerosols from Nature version 2.1 (MEGAN2.1)(Guenther et al., 2012), respectively.

We set up three CMAQ simulation cases using different transportation emissions as summarized below: (1) the diurnal

140 profile was determined using TomTom data, without considering the changes in emission rates due to congestion (BASE); (2) the diurnal profile was the same as the BASE case, and emissions rates were adjusted using the actual speed correction coefficient from **Table S1** (CASE 1); and (3) the diurnal profile was the same as the BASE case, and emissions rates were adjusted under the extreme congestion condition (emission correction factors from < 20 km h^{-1}

in **Table S1**, CASE 2). For CASE 1, the average speeds were 26.0 and 27.3 km h^{-1} for workdays and weekends,
145 respectively. As a result, the emission correction factors from 20-30 km h^{-1} range were used in CASE 1.

The WRF model performance is shown in **Table S2** with observation data from the National Climate Data Center
(NCDC; https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/, last access: 20 March 2021). Four key parameters including temperature at 2m
(T2), wind speed and wind direction at 10m (WS and WD), and relative humidity (RH) were selected in the validation.
150 The WRF model simulated the higher T2 in the winter but lowered T2 in other seasons, indicating the mean bias (MB)
values variations. WS was slightly overpredicted for the whole year, and its gross error (GE) values all met the
benchmark(Emery et al., 2001). For WD, its MB values have met the benchmark, while the GE values were 30%
larger than the benchmark. RH was slightly overpredicted in all months. Our WRF model performance was
comparable to previous studies in China(Hu et al., 2016a), which could provide reasonable meteorological inputs for
155 the CMAQ model.

The CMAQ model performance of the BASE case is shown in **Table S3**. The observation data is from China National
Environmental Monitoring Centre (CNEMC; http://www.cnemc.cn/, last access: 15 Aug. 2021), and a total of 1600
sites are included in the validation. The CMAQ model predictions agrees well with the observation (except the O$_3$ in
160 February slightly over the criteria), which is comparable and even better than previous studies(Hu et al., 2016b; Liu
et al., 2020). Consequently, the CMAQ model provides robust results to investigate the impacts on air quality and
public health from traffic congestion.

2.3 Estimation of premature mortality from air pollution

The premature mortalities for PM$_{2.5}$-related and O$_3$-related diseases were estimated according to the methods as
165 follows.

2.3.1 Estimation of PM$_{2.5}$-related premature mortality

The annual premature mortalities due to long-term exposure of PM$_{2.5}$ from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
(COPD), ischaemic heart disease (IHD), lung cancer (LC), and cerebrovascular disease (CEVD) were estimated in
this study. The relative risk (RR) from Burnett et al. (2014) was used to estimate premature mortality, as shown in
170 Eqs. (4) and (5):

$$RR = 1, \quad for \ c < c_{cf}, \tag{4}$$

$$RR = 1 + \alpha \left\{ 1 - exp\left[-\gamma \left(c - c_{cf} \right)^{\delta} \right] \right\}, \quad for \ c \geq c_{cf}, \tag{5}$$

Where c is the predicted average annual PM$_{2.5}$ concentration from the CMAQ model, and c_{cf} represents the threshold
concentration, below which there is no additional health risk; $\alpha, \beta,$ and γ are relevant parameters, calculated using the
175 Monte Carlo method (including 1000 simulations) from the Global Health Data Exchange (http://ghdx.healthdata.org/,
last access: 15 Aug. 2021) as described in Guo et al. (2018). In this study, RR was calculated for people above the age
of 30, and the premature mortality ($\Delta Mort$) was determined using the Eq. (6):

$$\Delta Mort = y_0 \left[\frac{RR-1}{RR}\right] Pop, \tag{6}$$

where y_0 is the baseline mortality rate, obtained from the China Health Statistical Yearbook 2020 (https://www.yearbookchina.com/navibooklist-n3020013080-1.html, last access: 15 Aug. 2021), and Pop is the population data that is from China's Seventh Census data (http://www.stats.gov.cn/tjsj/tjgb/rkpcgb/, last access: 15 Aug. 2021) as shown in **Figure S1**.

2.3.2 Estimation of O₃-related premature mortality

In this study, China-specific concentration-response functions (CRF) were adapted to estimate the health impacts due to O₃ exposure(Gu and Yim, 2016; Gu et al., 2018). The relative risk of mortalities with corresponding annual maximum daily 8h average ozone (MDA8 O₃) concentrations were calculated using the Eq. (7):

$$RR = exp\left[\theta\left(c - c_{cf}\right)\right], \tag{7}$$

Where θ is fitted by meta-regression based on the previous epidemiological studies in China(Gu et al., 2018). c and c_{cf} denote the average annual MDA8 O₃ concentration from the CMAQ model and the threshold value, below which there is no additional risk, respectively. The threshold concentration of MDA8 O₃ was 70 μg/m³ in this study(Xie et al., 2017). Same as PM₂.₅, the premature mortality induced by O₃ is calculated by Eq. (6), including cardiovascular diseases (CDM), COPD, IHD, and LC.

3 Results and discussion

3.1 Diurnal temporal-allocation in the vehicle emissions

The congestion levels in urban China have clearly shown the workday and weekend patterns (**Figure S2**), which is consistent with previous studies(Wen et al., 2020; Liu et al., 2018b). In general, the congestion levels are alleviated during the weekends. On workdays, the average congestion level is 1.4 times that on weekends. Among the 22 cities, the peak congestion level (54%) is found at 08:00 am Monday. In terms of temporal variations, the congestion levels on workdays and weekends all present the bimodal patterns with different peak hours. As a result, the workday rush hours are selected as 07:00-10:00 am and 4:00-7:00 pm, 10:00-11:00 am, and 14:00-19:00 on weekends. **Figure S3** shows the 22-city average traffic flow (Q) calculated from Eq. (1) using the TomTom congestion data. Compared with the level of congestion, the traffic flow on workdays shows a more similar result to weekends, which may underestimate the peak traffic flow on workdays. Eq. (1) was derived merely based on data in Paris due to the real-time traffic data limitation(Liu et al., 2020). Particularly, congestion level and traffic flow in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, and Chengdu are shown in **Figures S4-S5**. The changes in Beijing and Shanghai are roughly the same. In these two cities, traffic flows and congestion levels are higher in the morning than in the evening, which is in contrast to Chengdu and Guangzhou. In addition, the traffic flow is largest in Beijing in the morning and Chengdu in the evening, respectively. Using this equation in China may introduce additional uncertainties since each city has a specific relationship between congestion level and traffic flow. Thus, more localized traffic flow data is required to improve the accuracy of the vehicle emission inventory development.

Figure 1 shows the hourly temporal coefficient in the diurnal profile of all cases (take VOC emissions as an example, other pollutants are similar). In the BASE case on workdays, the temporal coefficient in rush hours is much lower than the congestion level, indicating the BASE case may underestimate the emission rates. The cases considering changes

215 in emissions (CASE 1 and 2) have comparable trends with the congestion level, with the temporal coefficient larger than 0.07 in rush hours. Considering the emissions changes, CASE 2 has the highest emissions rate (**Figures S6 and S7**). Compared with the BASE case, the anthropogenic emissions of NO_x, VOCs, and CO in CASE 2 have increased, especially in the key areas for air pollution prevention and control, such as North China Plain (NCP), Yangtze River Delta (YRD), and Sichuan Basin (SCB), where have higher vehicle numbers and population density. And these

220 increases could lead to significant impacts on air quality and public health.
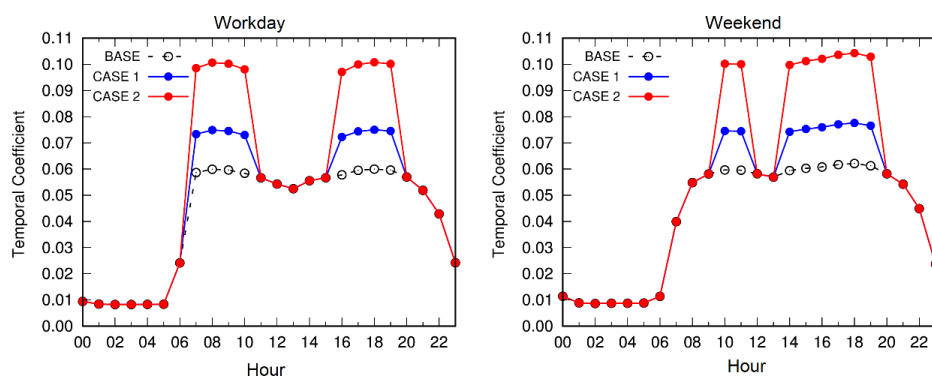

Figure 1. The VOC temporal coefficient in the hourly diurnal profile of all simulation cases on workdays and weekends.

3.2 Response of air quality due to traffic congestion

The Air Quality Index (AQI) in China is determined by the concentrations of six major pollutants: $PM_{2.5}$, PM_{10}, SO_2,

225 NO_2, O_3, and CO. Since $PM_{2.5}$ is a major component of PM_{10} and there is no obvious change in the SO_2 emission (**Figure S7**), the changes of other four pollutants ($PM_{2.5}$, O_3, NO_2, and CO) are discussed in this section. **Figure 2** shows the concentration and changes of these 4 pollutants due to urban traffic congestion. According to the CMAQ results, the annual average concentrations of $PM_{2.5}$, MDA8 O_3, NO_x, and CO are ~35 µg m⁻³, 55 ppb, 10 ppb, and 0.36 ppm, respectively in 2020. The concentrations of the $PM_{2.5}$ and MDA8 O_3 are approximately 7.0 and 1.2 times of the

230 WHO 2021 standard(World Health, 2021), which may induce severe health impacts. Ubiquitously, the peak values of these pollutants are predicted in the NCP and SCB regions, with the annual average $PM_{2.5}$ higher than 60 µg m⁻³. In addition, traffic congestion has aggravated air pollution across China, which is consistent with the previous study(Xu et al., 2019). Among all simulated cases, CASE 2 (extreme congestion conditions) has the highest pollutants level. The significant enhancements in these pollutants (compared to the BASE case) are simulated in NCP and SCB. The

235 maximum increase of $PM_{2.5}$ and O_3 are 3.5 µg m⁻³ and 1.1 ppb, respectively.

$PM_{2.5}$, NO_2, and CO have lower concentrations on weekends than on workdays (**Figure S8**), similar to previous studies(Liu et al., 2018b; Wen et al., 2020; Bao et al., 2016), which is partially attributed to the lower anthropogenic emissions on weekends. Significant decreases on weekends are predicted in the NCP and the SCB regions. In the NCP

240   region, the reduction of $PM_{2.5}$ is up to 6.0 $\mu g\ m^{-3}$. In contrast, the rising trend of O_3 has occurred on weekends, which is consistent with previous studies(Wang et al., 2021a; Zhao et al., 2019; Wang et al., 2021b). The elevated O_3 is attributed to the reduced NO_x emissions on weekends, which promoted the formation of O_3 under a VOC-limited regime and reduced the titration impacts(Li et al., 2019; Blanchard and Tanenbaum, 2003).

245   To further investigate the traffic congestion impacts on air quality in urban areas, four representative mega-cities are selected (**Figure S1**): Beijing (NCP), Shanghai (YRD), Guangzhou (PRD), and Chengdu (SCB). Except for Shanghai, the traffic congestion (CASE 2) enhances the $PM_{2.5}$ concentration during the morning and evening rush hours (**Figure 3**). The peak of $PM_{2.5}$ always occurred in the morning or evening rush hours, indicating the important role of the traffic congestion in the $PM_{2.5}$ formation(Tong et al., 2020b). Different workday-weekend patterns are also found in these

250   mega-cities. The most obvious weekend impact is in Guangzhou with more than 30% of $PM_{2.5}$ reduced in the morning peak hours (compared to workdays). Interestingly, in Shanghai the slightly rising $PM_{2.5}$ concentration is predicted on weekends, resulting from the changes of emissions and regional transport during weekends and weekdays(Atkinson-Palombo et al., 2006; Mönkkönen et al., 2004). The similar phenomenon was also reported in Nanjing(Shen et al., 2014), another megacity in the YRD region. For all these megacities, the lower NO_2 concentrations on weekends lead

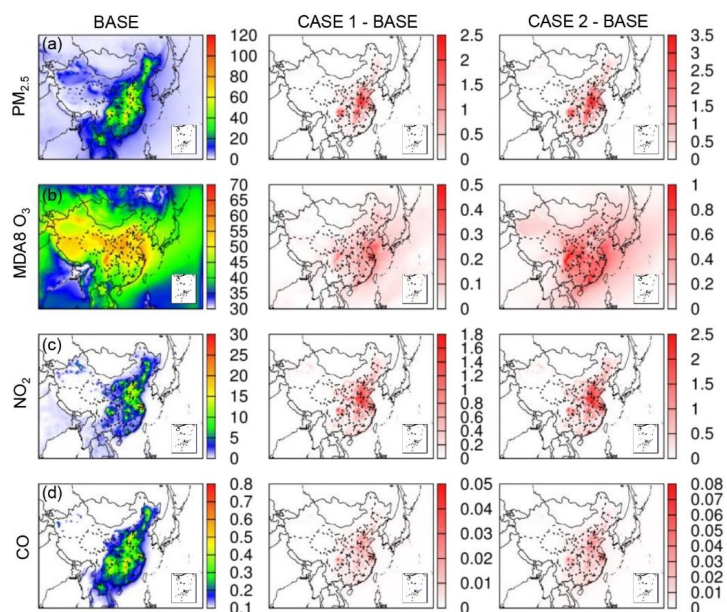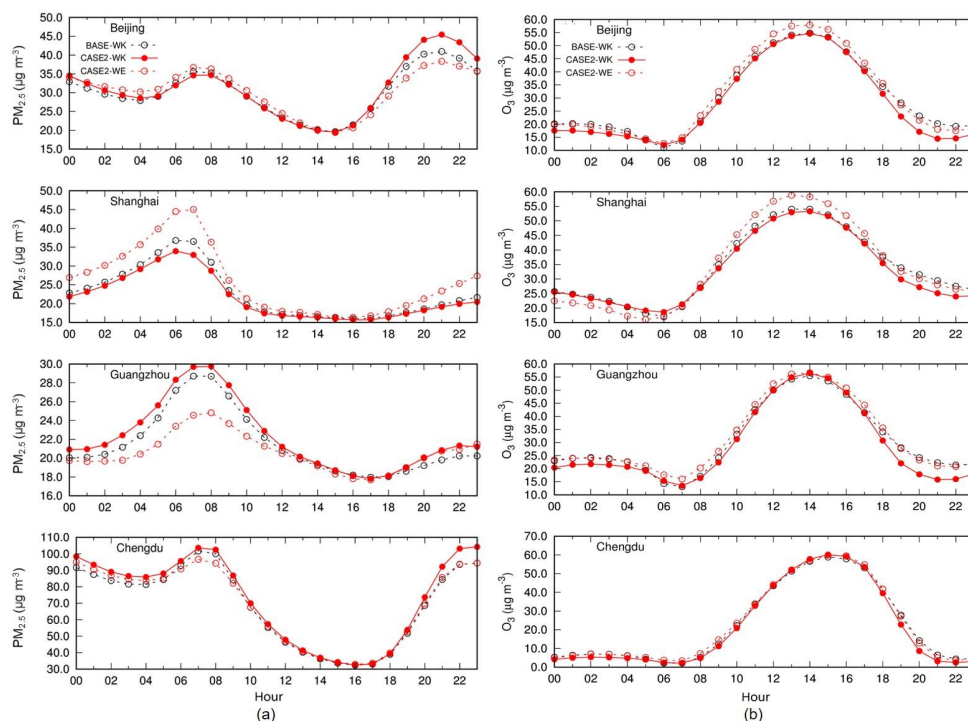255   to slightly higher O_3 (**Figures S9-S12**).

Figure 2. The annual average concentrations of (a) $PM_{2.5}$, (b) MDA8 O_3, (c) NO_2, and (d) CO of BASE case, and their differences between CASE 1, and CASE 2, respectively, in 2020. Unit for $PM_{2.5}$ is $\mu g\ m^{-3}$, ppb for MDA8 O_3 and NO_2, and ppm for CO.

260

Figure 3. The diurnal profile of PM$_{2.5}$ and O$_3$ concentrations of BASE (without considering congestion) and CASE 2 (considering congestion) in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, and Chengdu, respectively. WK: workday, and WE: weekend.

3.3 The aggravated health burden due to traffic congestion

The traffic congestion leads to more severe health impacts throughout China. As shown in

265

Table 1, the total estimated PM$_{2.5}$-related annual premature mortality is 0.90, 0.91, and 0.92 million for BASE, CASE 1, and CASE 2, respectively. The extreme congestion (CASE 2) has induced an average 1.7% increase in the

270   total premature mortality in China. The CEVD is the most important contributor to total premature mortality, followed by IHD. With considering the extreme congestion situation (CASE 2), the CEVD and IHD cause 0.51 and 0.24 million deaths, respectively, amounting to 81% of the total premature mortality. In China, the high annual premature mortality due to excess PM$_{2.5}$ is estimated in regions with the higher PM$_{2.5}$ concentrations or population density, such as the NCP and PRD regions (**Figure 4 and Figure S13**). This result is comparable with previous

275   studies(Guan et al., 2019; Xie et al., 2016; Maji et al., 2018). More severe health impacts due to traffic congestion are also predicted in these regions. It is noted that in the PRD, the annual average PM$_{2.5}$ concentration is ~20 µg m^{-3} (57% of the national average value), but it still experiences serious health risks, mainly attributed to the surge in population density. The population in Guangdong province (where the PRD region is located) increased by 21.7

million from 2010 to 2020, ranking first in China (http://www.stats.gov.cn/tjsj/tjgb/rkpcgb/, last access: 02 Oct.

280   2021). Thus, the establishment of emission control policies in the future should also refer to socioeconomic

development level besides the pollution level.

As cities are mostly affected by traffic congestion, representative cities from each province in Mainland China except

Lasa in Tibet were selected to compare the differences among regions. The most significant response to $PM_{2.5}$-related

285   health impacts due to the traffic congestion is in Beijing, with the additional 120 annual deaths (**Figure 4**). In Chengdu

and the major cities in the YRD (Shanghai, Suzhou, and Nanjing), traffic congestion also negatively impacts public

health. Surprisingly, in Sanya the increase of $PM_{2.5}$-related premature mortality is estimated as high as 17.5% (**Figure

S1**), which is much higher than that of most megacities. On workdays and weekends, the CEVD is the most significant

contributor to the $PM_{2.5}$-related health burden in megacities (**Figure 6**). Except for Shanghai, all mega-cities (Beijing,

290   Guangzhou, and Chengdu) have lower mortality on weekends, coinciding with a previous study(Tong et al., 2020b).

However, in Shanghai, a 14% increase in $PM_{2.5}$-related daily mortality on weekends is estimated due to the higher

$PM_{2.5}$ concentration.

As for O_3, the total estimated O_3-associated annual premature mortality is 0.414, 0.415, and 0.419 million for BASE,

295   CASE 1, and CASE 2, respectively. The extreme congestion leads to an average 1.4% increase in the total premature

mortality in China. CMD became the major disease rather than IHD. In CASE 2, with the extreme congestion situation

considered, the CEVD and IHD cause 0.26 and 0.08 million deaths, respectively, amounting to 81% of the total

premature mortality. In China, the highly annual premature mortality due to excess O_3 is estimated in YRD and PRD

regions (**Figure 5 and Figure S14**). This result is consistent with previous studies(Liu et al., 2018a; Chen et al., 2021).

300

Unlike $PM_{2.5}$, in the city level, the most significant O_3-related health impacts due to traffic congestion is in Chongqing,

where 139 deaths are added each year (**Figure 5**). In Chengdu, Beijing, and the major cities in the YRD (Suzhou,

Shanghai) and PRD (Foshan), negative public health impacts of excess O_3 are also associated with traffic congestion.

An average of 46 deaths are added in these regions as estimated in this study. In Beijing, the O_3-related premature

305   mortality increases by 1.1%. This result is comparable to Zhong (2015) where emergency ambulance call rates related

to heart disease were higher by 2.9% in Beijing, when the traffic congestion index increased by 20%. Traffic

congestion causes more O_3 precursors emissions to be produced, which rises O_3 concentration and aggravates health

risks, coinciding with previous studies(Bigazzi et al., 2015; Ahmad and Aziz, 2013; Wang et al., 2021b). Thus, more

effective vehicle control regulation in urban areas should be considered to avoid premature death from air pollution.

310   In addition, CDM is the major contributor to the O_3-related health burden on workdays and weekends. On weekends,

mortality is higher for all diseases (CDM, COPD, LC, and IHD) in these cities (Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, and

Chengdu), resulting from the O_3 weekend effect(Zeldin et al., 1989; Tang et al., 2008) (**Figure 6**). In Beijing, mortality

on weekends is 33.6% higher than on weekdays, and 47.0% for CDM in particular.

315

320

Table 1. Annual premature mortality (×10⁴ deaths) in China due to COPD, LC, IHD, CDM and CEVD of all simulations.

$PM_{2.5}$-related	COPD	LC	IHD	CEVD	Total
BASE	8.93	8.43	24.15	49.17	90.68
CASE 1	9.03	8.54	24.28	49.74	91.60
CASE 2	9.10	8.61	24.44	50.09	92.24
O_3-related	COPD	LC	IHD	CDM	Total
BASE	4.53	3.30	8.18	25.34	41.35
CASE 1	4.55	3.31	8.21	25.47	41.54
CASE 2	4.58	3.34	8.27	25.72	41.91
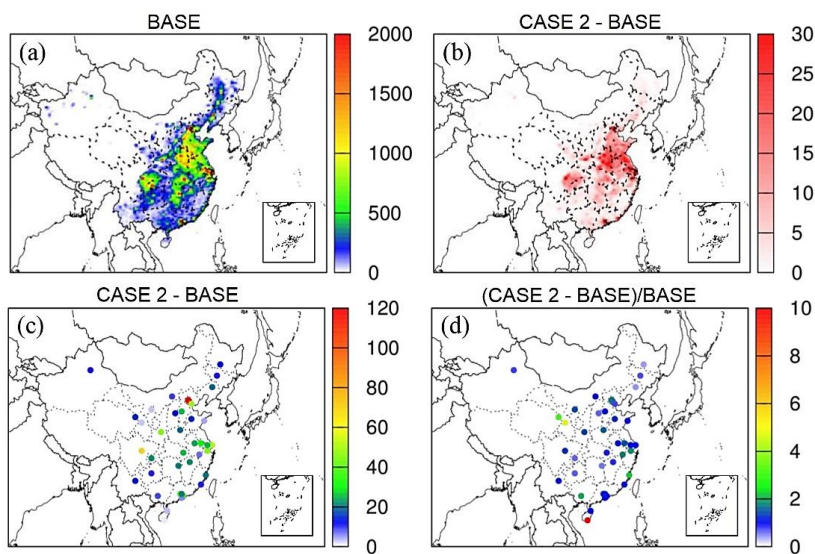
Figure 4. The total $PM_{2.5}$-related premature mortality of (a) BASE case, and its difference between CASE 2 across China (b) and in major cities (c) and (d).
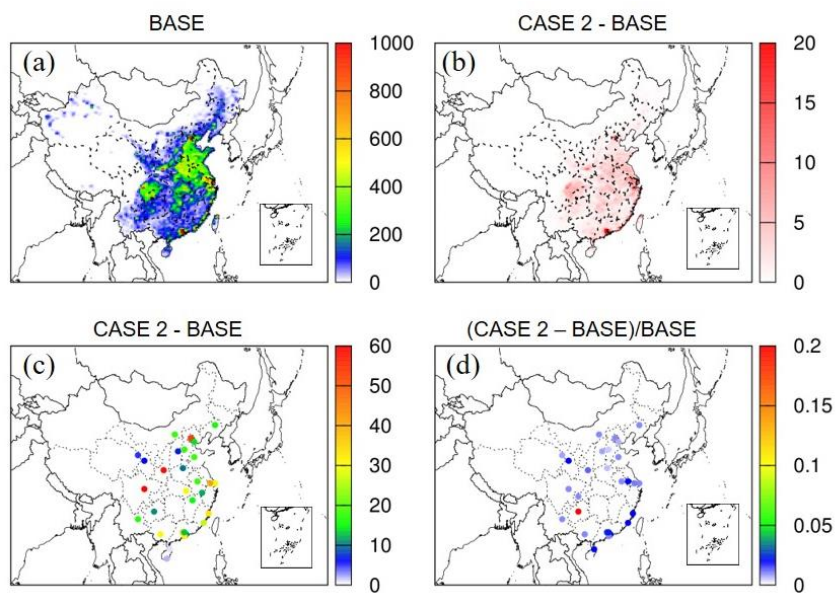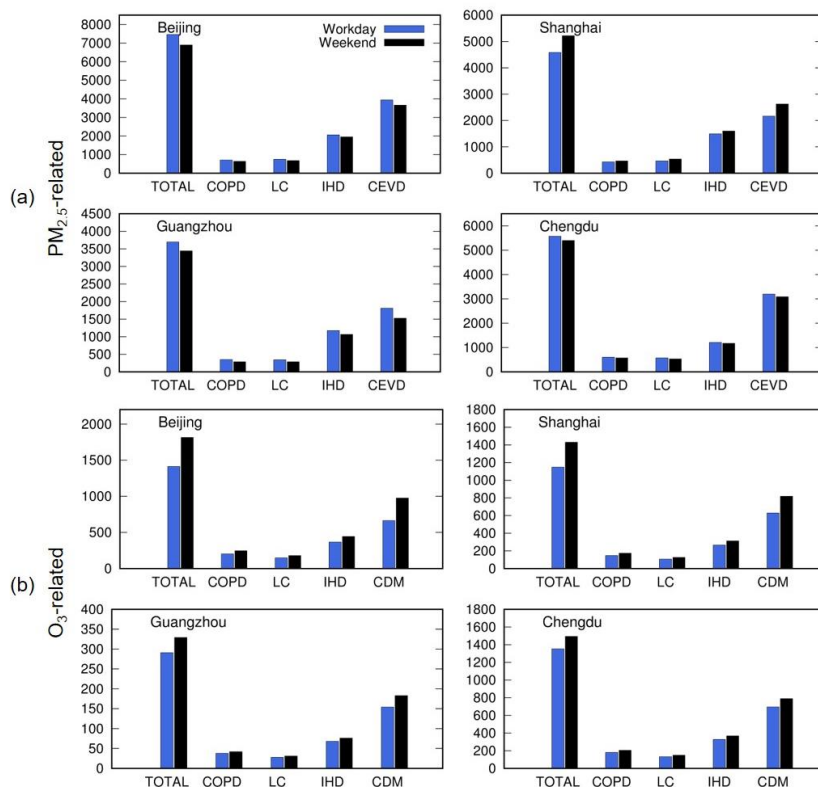
325

Figure 5. The total O₃-related premature mortality of (a) BASE case, and its difference between CASE 2 across China (b) and in major cities (c) and (d).

330

Figure 6. **The annual premature mortality from COPD, LC, IHD, CDM, and CEVD of CASE 2 in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, and Chengdu. (a) is PM$_{2.5}$-related and (b) is O$_3$-related.**

3.4 Uncertainties discussion

In this study, there are some uncertainties in the temporal-allocation approach, involving two variables: traffic flow
335   and emission rate. The traffic flow is calculated by using Eq. (1), which is derived based on the observation data in
Paris due to data limitations(Liu et al., 2020). Thus, it may not entirely reflect the actual traffic flow in China and
introduces uncertainties in the following CMAQ simulations. Besides, the emission rate changes only depend on the
driving speed in this study, which could cause deviation. The emission rate is influenced by various factors, such as
meteorological conditions, geographical conditions, fuel quality, deterioration level, load rating, and driving
340   conditions (Sun et al., 2021). However, it is challenging to incorporate all these factors into the emission rate correction
on such a national scale. Therefore, further efforts should be made to reduce the uncertainties in the vehicle emissions
inventory.

Atmospheric
Chemistry
and Physics
Discussions

4 Conclusions

345   In this study, we develop a new temporal-allocation approach to transportation emissions to investigate traffic congestion responses to air quality and health impacts in urban China. The real-time congestion data from TomTom is used to generate the hourly-diurnal temporal profile of the vehicle emissions, and emission correct factors are applied to qualify the emission rate changes corresponding to the traffic congestion. Our results show that traffic congestion increases pollutants concentrations, especially in the highly-developed urban clusters such as the NCP and SCB. The annual average increases of $PM_{2.5}$, MDA8 O_3, NO_2, and CO are up to 3.5 µg m^{-3}, 1.1 ppb, 2.5 ppb, and 0.1

350 ppm, respectively. In addition, the rising $PM_{2.5}$ and O_3 concentrations attributed to traffic congestion also enhance the health burden across China. Compared to the BASE case, the extreme congestion condition (CASE 2) induces an additional 20,000 ($PM_{2.5}$-related) and 5000 (O_3-related) premature mortality in China. Similar to the phenomenon in air quality, the remarkable increases are estimated in the urban clusters with higher population density. Therefore, more effective and comprehensive vehicle control policies considering socioeconomic factors should be implemented

355 to alleviate China's air pollution and health burden in the future.

Author Contributions. PW, YZ, and HZ designed the research. PW, SS, RZ, BZ, and DZ analyzed the data. PW and RZ performed the air quality model. PW, RZ, SS, YZ, and HZ wrote the manuscript with comments from all co-authors.

Competing interests. The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

References

Ahmad, S. S. and Aziz, N.: Spatial and temporal analysis of ground level ozone and nitrogen dioxide concentration across the twin cities of Pakistan, Environmental monitoring and assessment, 185, 3133-3147, 2013.

375   Anenberg, S., Miller, J., Henze, D., and Minjares, R.: A global snapshot of the air pollution-related health impacts of
       transportation sector emissions in 2010 and 2015, International Council on Clean Transportation: Washington, DC,
       USA, 2019.
       Atkinson-Palombo, C. M., Miller, J. A., and Balling, R. C.: Quantifying the ozone "weekend effect" at various
       locations in Phoenix, Arizona, Atmospheric Environment, 40, 7644-7658,
380   https://doi.org/10.1016/j.atmosenv.2006.05.023, 2006.
       Bao, C., Chai, P., Lin, H., Zhang, Z., Ye, Z., Gu, M., Lu, H., Shen, P., Jin, M., Wang, J., and Chen, K.: Association
       of PM2.5 pollution with the pattern of human activity: A case study of a developed city in eastern China, Journal of
       the Air & Waste Management Association, 66, 1202-1213, 10.1080/10962247.2016.1206996, 2016.
       Bigazzi, A. Y., Figliozzi, M. A., and Clifton, K. J.: Traffic congestion and air pollution exposure for motorists:
385   comparing exposure duration and intensity, International Journal of Sustainable Transportation, 9, 443-456, 2015.
       Blanchard, C. L. and Tanenbaum, S. J.: Differences between Weekday and Weekend Air Pollutant Levels in
       Southern California, Journal of the Air & Waste Management Association, 53, 816-828,
       10.1080/10473289.2003.10466222, 2003.
       Bond, T. C., Doherty, S. J., Fahey, D. W., Forster, P. M., Berntsen, T., DeAngelo, B. J., Flanner, M. G., Ghan, S.,
390   Kärcher, B., Koch, D., Kinne, S., Kondo, Y., Quinn, P. K., Sarofim, M. C., Schultz, M. G., Schulz, M.,
       Venkataraman, C., Zhang, H., Zhang, S., Bellouin, N., Guttikunda, S. K., Hopke, P. K., Jacobson, M. Z., Kaiser, J.
       W., Klimont, Z., Lohmann, U., Schwarz, J. P., Shindell, D., Storelvmo, T., Warren, S. G., and Zender, C. S.:
       Bounding the role of black carbon in the climate system: A scientific assessment, Journal of Geophysical Research:
       Atmospheres, 118, 5380-5552, https://doi.org/10.1002/jgrd.50171, 2013.
395   Burnett, R. T., Pope III, C. A., Ezzati, M., Olives, C., Lim, S. S., Mehta, S., Shin, H. H., Singh, G., Hubbell, B., and
       Brauer, M.: An integrated risk function for estimating the global burden of disease attributable to ambient fine
       particulate matter exposure, Environmental health perspectives, 122, 397-403, 2014.
       Che, W., Zheng, J., Wang, S., Zhong, L., and Lau, A.: Assessment of motor vehicle emission control policies using
       Model-3/CMAQ model for the Pearl River Delta region, China, Atmospheric Environment, 45, 1740-1751,
400   https://doi.org/10.1016/j.atmosenv.2010.12.050, 2011.
       Chen, C., Zhu, P., Lan, L., Zhou, L., Liu, R., Sun, Q., Ban, J., Wang, W., Xu, D., and Li, T.: Short-term exposures to
       PM2.5 and cause-specific mortality of cardiovascular health in China, Environmental Research, 161, 188-194,
       https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envres.2017.10.046, 2018.
       Chen, K., Wang, P., Zhao, H., Wang, P., Gao, A., Myllyvirta, L., and Zhang, H.: Summertime O3 and related health
405   risks in the north China plain: A modeling study using two anthropogenic emission inventories, Atmospheric
       Environment, 246, 118087, 2021.
       Cohen, A. J., Brauer, M., Burnett, R., Anderson, H. R., Frostad, J., Estep, K., Balakrishnan, K., Brunekreef, B.,
       Dandona, L., and Dandona, R.: Estimates and 25-year trends of the global burden of disease attributable to ambient
       air pollution: an analysis of data from the Global Burden of Diseases Study 2015, The Lancet, 389, 1907-1918,
410   2017.
       Crippa, M., Solazzo, E., Huang, G., Guizzardi, D., Koffi, E., Muntean, M., Schieberle, C., Friedrich, R., and
       Janssens-Maenhout, G.: High resolution temporal profiles in the Emissions Database for Global Atmospheric
       Research, Scientific Data, 7, 121, 10.1038/s41597-020-0462-2, 2020.
       de Kok, T. M. C. M., Driece, H. A. L., Hogervorst, J. G. F., and Briedé, J. J.: Toxicological assessment of ambient
415   and traffic-related particulate matter: A review of recent studies, Mutation Research/Reviews in Mutation Research,
       613, 103-122, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mrrev.2006.07.001, 2006.
       Deng, F., Lv, Z., Qi, L., Wang, X., Shi, M., and Liu, H.: A big data approach to improving the vehicle emission
       inventory in China, Nat Commun, 11, 2801, 10.1038/s41467-020-16579-w, 2020.
       Emery, C., Tai, E., and Yarwood, G.: Enhanced meteorological modeling and performance evaluation for two Texas
420   ozone episodes, Prepared for the Texas natural resource conservation commission, by ENVIRON International
       Corporation, 2001.
       Gao, J., Wang, K., Wang, Y., Liu, S., Zhu, C., Hao, J., Liu, H., Hua, S., and Tian, H.: Temporal-spatial
       characteristics and source apportionment of PM2.5 as well as its associated chemical species in the Beijing-Tianjin-
       Hebei region of China, Environmental Pollution, 233, 714-724, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envpol.2017.10.123, 2018.
425   Gong, M., Yin, S., Gu, X., Xu, Y., Jiang, N., and Zhang, R.: Refined 2013-based vehicle emission inventory and its
       spatial and temporal characteristics in Zhengzhou, China, Sci Total Environ, 599-600, 1149-1159,
       10.1016/j.scitotenv.2017.03.299, 2017.
       Gu, Y. and Yim, S. H. L.: The air quality and health impacts of domestic trans-boundary pollution in various regions
       of China, Environment International, 97, 117-124, 2016.

Atmospheric
Chemistry
and Physics
Discussions

430   Gu, Y., Wong, T. W., Law, C., Dong, G. H., Ho, K. F., Yang, Y., and Yim, S. H. L.: Impacts of sectoral emissions in China and the implications: air quality, public health, crop production, and economic costs, Environmental Research Letters, 13, 084008, 2018.

Guan, Y., Kang, L., Wang, Y., Zhang, N.-N., and Ju, M.-T.: Health loss attributed to PM2.5 pollution in China's cities: Economic impact, annual change and reduction potential, Journal of Cleaner Production, 217, 284-294,
435   https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2019.01.284, 2019.

Guenther, A. B., Jiang, X., Heald, C. L., Sakulyanontvittaya, T., Duhl, T., Emmons, L. K., and Wang, X.: The Model of Emissions of Gases and Aerosols from Nature version 2.1 (MEGAN2.1): an extended and updated framework for modeling biogenic emissions, Geoscientific Model Development, 5, 1471-1492, 10.5194/gmd-5-1471-2012, 2012.

440   Guo, H., Kota, S. H., Chen, K., Sahu, S. K., Hu, J., Ying, Q., Wang, Y., and Zhang, H.: Source contributions and potential reductions to health effects of particulate matter in India, Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics, 18, 15219-15229, 2018.

Hao, J., He, K., Duan, L., Li, J., and Wang, L.: Air pollution and its control in China, Frontiers of Environmental Science & Engineering in China, 1, 129-142, 10.1007/s11783-007-0024-2, 2007.

445   Hu, J., Chen, J., Ying, Q., and Zhang, H.: One-year simulation of ozone and particulate matter in China using WRF/CMAQ modeling system, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 16, 10333-10350, 10.5194/acp-16-10333-2016, 2016a.

Hu, J., Chen, J., Ying, Q., and Zhang, H.: One-year simulation of ozone and particulate matter in China using WRF/CMAQ modeling system, Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics, 16, 10333-10350, 2016b.

Huang, Y., Unger, N., Harper, K., and Heyes, C.: Global climate and human health effects of the gasoline and diesel
450   vehicle fleets, GeoHealth, 4, e2019GH000240, 2020.

Jeong, C.-H., Wang, J. M., Hilker, N., Debosz, J., Sofowote, U., Su, Y., Noble, M., Healy, R. M., Munoz, T., Dabek-Zlotorzynska, E., Celo, V., White, L., Audette, C., Herod, D., and Evans, G. J.: Temporal and spatial variability of traffic-related PM2.5 sources: Comparison of exhaust and non-exhaust emissions, Atmospheric Environment, 198, 55-69, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.atmosenv.2018.10.038, 2019.

455   Jiang, P., Zhong, X., and Li, L.: On-road vehicle emission inventory and its spatio-temporal variations in North China Plain, Environ Pollut, 267, 115639, 10.1016/j.envpol.2020.115639, 2020.

Levy, J. I., Buonocore, J. J., and von Stackelberg, K.: Evaluation of the public health impacts of traffic congestion: a health risk assessment, Environmental Health, 9, 65, 10.1186/1476-069X-9-65, 2010.

Li, H., Wang, Q. g., Yang, M., Li, F., Wang, J., Sun, Y., Wang, C., Wu, H., and Qian, X.: Chemical characterization
460   and source apportionment of PM2.5 aerosols in a megacity of Southeast China, Atmospheric Research, 181, 288-299, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.atmosres.2016.07.005, 2016.

Li, K., Jacob, D. J., Liao, H., Zhu, J., Shah, V., Shen, L., Bates, K. H., Zhang, Q., and Zhai, S.: A two-pollutant strategy for improving ozone and particulate air quality in China, Nature Geoscience, 12, 906-910, 10.1038/s41561-019-0464-x, 2019.

465   Liu, B., Wu, J., Zhang, J., Wang, L., Yang, J., Liang, D., Dai, Q., Bi, X., Feng, Y., Zhang, Y., and Zhang, Q.: Characterization and source apportionment of PM2.5 based on error estimation from EPA PMF 5.0 model at a medium city in China, Environmental Pollution, 222, 10-22, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envpol.2017.01.005, 2017a.

Liu, G., Sun, S., Zou, C., Wang, B., Wu, L., and Mao, H.: Air pollutant emissions from on-road vehicles and their control in Inner Mongolia, China, Energy, 238, 10.1016/j.energy.2021.121724, 2022.

470   Liu, H., Liu, S., Xue, B., Lv, Z., Meng, Z., Yang, X., Xue, T., Yu, Q., and He, K.: Ground-level ozone pollution and its health impacts in China, Atmospheric environment, 173, 223-230, 2018a.

Liu, X.-H., Zhang, Y., Xing, J., Zhang, Q., Wang, K., Streets, D. G., Jang, C., Wang, W.-X., and Hao, J.-M.: Understanding of regional air pollution over China using CMAQ, part II. Process analysis and sensitivity of ozone and particulate matter to precursor emissions, Atmospheric Environment, 44, 3719-3727,
475   https://doi.org/10.1016/j.atmosenv.2010.03.036, 2010.

Liu, Y.-H., Ma, J.-L., Li, L., Lin, X.-F., Xu, W.-J., and Ding, H.: A high temporal-spatial vehicle emission inventory based on detailed hourly traffic data in a medium-sized city of China, Environmental Pollution, 236, 324-333, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envpol.2018.01.068, 2018b.

Liu, Y. H., Liao, W. Y., Li, L., Huang, Y. T., and Xu, W. J.: Vehicle emission trends in China's Guangdong
480   Province from 1994 to 2014, Sci Total Environ, 586, 512-521, 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2017.01.215, 2017b.

Liu, Z., Ciais, P., Deng, Z., Lei, R., Davis, S. J., Feng, S., Zheng, B., Cui, D., Dou, X., and Zhu, B.: Near-real-time monitoring of global CO2 emissions reveals the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, Nature communications, 11, 1-12, 2020.

Liu, Z., Cui, D., Deng, Z., Wang, Y., Zhong, H., Yue, X., Zhang, N., Chen, B., Ren, X., and Wei, W.: Impact on
485   China's CO2 emissions from COVID-19 pandemic, Kexue Tongbao/Chinese Science Bulletin, 1912-1922, 2021.

Maji, K. J., Ye, W.-F., Arora, M., and Shiva Nagendra, S. M.: PM2.5-related health and economic loss assessment for 338 Chinese cities, Environment International, 121, 392-403, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envint.2018.09.024, 2018.

The Announcement about Releasing Five National Technical Guidelines of the Air Pollutant Emissions Inventory: http://www.mee.gov.cn/gkml/hbb/bgg/201501/t20150107_293955.htm, last

490 Miao, Z., Baležentis, T., Shao, S., and Chang, D.: Energy use, industrial soot and vehicle exhaust pollution—China's regional air pollution recognition, performance decomposition and governance, Energy Economics, 83, 501-514, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eneco.2019.07.002, 2019.

Mönkkönen, P., Uma, R., Srinivasan, D., Koponen, I. K., Lehtinen, K. E. J., Hämeri, K., Suresh, R., Sharma, V. P., and Kulmala, M.: Relationship and variations of aerosol number and PM10 mass concentrations in a highly polluted

495 urban environment—New Delhi, India, Atmospheric Environment, 38, 425-433, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.atmosenv.2003.09.071, 2004.

Shen, G. F., Yuan, S. Y., Xie, Y. N., Xia, S. J., Li, L., Yao, Y. K., Qiao, Y. Z., Zhang, J., Zhao, Q. Y., Ding, A. J., Li, B., and Wu, H. S.: Ambient levels and temporal variations of PM2.5 and PM10 at a residential site in the mega-city, Nanjing, in the western Yangtze River Delta, China, Journal of Environmental Science and Health, Part A, 49,

500 171-178, 10.1080/10934529.2013.838851, 2014.

Shindell, D., Faluvegi, G., Walsh, M., Anenberg, S. C., Van Dingenen, R., Muller, N. Z., Austin, J., Koch, D., and Milly, G.: Climate, health, agricultural and economic impacts of tighter vehicle-emission standards, Nature Climate Change, 1, 59-66, 2011.

Sun, S., Sun, L., Liu, G., Zou, C., Wang, Y., Wu, L., and Mao, H.: Developing a vehicle emission inventory with

505 high temporal-spatial resolution in Tianjin, China, Science of The Total Environment, 776, 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2021.145873, 2021.

Sun, S., Jin, J., Xia, M., Liu, Y., Gao, M., Zou, C., Wang, T., Lin, Y., Wu, L., and Mao, H.: Vehicle emissions in a middle-sized city of China: Current status and future trends, Environment international, 137, 105514, 2020a.

Sun, S., Jin, J., Xia, M., Liu, Y., Gao, M., Zou, C., Wang, T., Lin, Y., Wu, L., Mao, H., and Wang, P.: Vehicle

510 emissions in a middle-sized city of China: Current status and future trends, Environment International, 137, 10.1016/j.envint.2020.105514, 2020b.

Tang, W., Zhao, C., Geng, F., Peng, L., Zhou, G., Gao, W., Xu, J., and Tie, X.: Study of ozone "weekend effect" in Shanghai, Science in China Series D: Earth Sciences, 51, 1354-1360, 2008.

Tong, R., Liu, J., Wang, W., and Fang, Y.: Health effects of PM2. 5 emissions from on-road vehicles during

515 weekdays and weekends in Beijing, China, Atmospheric Environment, 223, 117258, 2020a.

Tong, R., Liu, J., Wang, W., and Fang, Y.: Health effects of PM2.5 emissions from on-road vehicles during weekdays and weekends in Beijing, China, Atmospheric Environment, 223, 117258, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.atmosenv.2019.117258, 2020b.

Wang, H., He, X., Liang, X., Choma, E. F., Liu, Y., Shan, L., Zheng, H., Zhang, S., Nielsen, C. P., and Wang, S.:

520 Health benefits of on-road transportation pollution control programs in China, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 117, 25370-25377, 2020.

Wang, P., Chen, Y., Hu, J., Zhang, H., and Ying, Q.: Source apportionment of summertime ozone in China using a source-oriented chemical transport model, Atmospheric Environment, 211, 79-90, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.atmosenv.2019.05.006, 2019.

525 Wang, P., Shen, J., Xia, M., Sun, S., Zhang, Y., Zhang, H., and Wang, X.: Unexpected enhancement of ozone exposure and health risks during National Day in China, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 21, 10347-10356, 10.5194/acp-21-10347-2021, 2021a.

Wang, P., Shen, J., Xia, M., Sun, S., Zhang, Y., Zhang, H., and Wang, X.: Unexpected enhancement of ozone exposure and health risks during National Day in China, Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics, 21, 10347-10356,

530 2021b.

Wen, Y., Zhang, S., Zhang, J., Bao, S., Wu, X., Yang, D., and Wu, Y.: Mapping dynamic road emissions for a megacity by using open-access traffic congestion index data, Applied Energy, 260, 114357, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apenergy.2019.114357, 2020.

Wiedinmyer, C., Akagi, S. K., Yokelson, R. J., Emmons, L. K., Al-Saadi, J. A., Orlando, J. J., and Soja, A. J.: The

535 Fire INventory from NCAR (FINN): a high resolution global model to estimate the emissions from open burning, Geosci. Model Dev., 4, 625-641, 10.5194/gmd-4-625-2011, 2011.

World Health, O.: WHO global air quality guidelines: particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10), ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide and carbon monoxide, World Health Organization, Geneva2021.

Wu, Y., Zhang, S., Hao, J., Liu, H., Wu, X., Hu, J., Walsh, M. P., Wallington, T. J., Zhang, K. M., and Stevanovic,

540 S.: On-road vehicle emissions and their control in China: A review and outlook, Science of The Total Environment, 574, 332-349, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2016.09.040, 2017.

Xie, Y., Dai, H., Dong, H., Hanaoka, T., and Masui, T.: Economic Impacts from PM2.5 Pollution-Related Health Effects in China: A Provincial-Level Analysis, Environmental Science & Technology, 50, 4836-4843, 10.1021/acs.est.5b05576, 2016.

545 Xie, Y., Dai, H., Zhang, Y., Hanaoka, T., and Masui, T.: Health and Economic Impacts of Ozone Pollution in China: a provincial level analysis, Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics Discussions, 1-63, 2017.
China registers 18.71 million motor vehicles in H1: http://english.www.gov.cn/archive/statistics/202107/07/content_WS60e4fcf3c6d0df57f98dc815.html, last access: 07.07.

550 Xu, Q., Wang, S., Guo, Y., Wang, C., Huang, F., Li, X., Gao, Q., Wu, L., Tao, L., Guo, J., Wang, W., and Guo, X.: Acute exposure to fine particulate matter and cardiovascular hospital emergency room visits in Beijing, China, Environmental Pollution, 220, 317-327, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envpol.2016.09.065, 2017.
Xu, W., Sun, J., Liu, Y., Xiao, Y., Tian, Y., Zhao, B., and Zhang, X.: Spatiotemporal variation and socioeconomic drivers of air pollution in China during 2005–2016, Journal of Environmental Management, 245, 66-75,

555 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvman.2019.05.041, 2019.
Yang, D., Zhang, S., Niu, T., Wang, Y., Xu, H., Zhang, K. M., and Wu, Y.: High-resolution mapping of vehicle emissions of atmospheric pollutants based on large-scale, real-world traffic datasets, Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics, 19, 8831-8843, 10.5194/acp-19-8831-2019, 2019.
Yao, Z., Wu, B., Shen, X., Cao, X., Jiang, X., Ye, Y., and He, K.: On-road emission characteristics of VOCs from

560 rural vehicles and their ozone formation potential in Beijing, China, Atmospheric Environment, 105, 91-96, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.atmosenv.2015.01.054, 2015.
Ying, Q., Li, J., and Kota, S. H.: Significant Contributions of Isoprene to Summertime Secondary Organic Aerosol in Eastern United States, Environmental Science & Technology, 49, 7834-7842, 10.1021/acs.est.5b02514, 2015.
Zeldin, M. D., Horie, Y., and Mirabella, V. A.: Analysis of weekend/weekday differences in the south coast air

565 basin of California, AIR & WASTE MANAGEMENT ASSOC, PITTSBURGH, PA,(USA). 8, 1989, 1989.
Zhang, H., Wang, S., Hao, J., Wang, X., Wang, S., Chai, F., and Li, M.: Air pollution and control action in Beijing, Journal of Cleaner Production, 112, 1519-1527, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2015.04.092, 2016.
Zhang, H., Li, J., Ying, Q., Yu, J. Z., Wu, D., Cheng, Y., He, K., and Jiang, J.: Source apportionment of PM2. 5 nitrate and sulfate in China using a source-oriented chemical transport model, Atmospheric environment, 62, 228-

570 242, 2012.
Zhang, K. and Batterman, S.: Air pollution and health risks due to vehicle traffic, Science of The Total Environment, 450-451, 307-316, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2013.01.074, 2013.
Zhang, Q., Tong, P., Liu, M., Lin, H., Yun, X., Zhang, H., Tao, W., Liu, J., Wang, S., Tao, S., and Wang, X.: A WRF-Chem model-based future vehicle emission control policy simulation and assessment for the Beijing-Tianjin-

575 Hebei region, China, Journal of Environmental Management, 253, 109751, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvman.2019.109751, 2020a.
Zhang, Q., Zheng, Y., Tong, D., Shao, M., Wang, S., Zhang, Y., Xu, X., Wang, J., He, H., Liu, W., Ding, Y., Lei, Y., Li, J., Wang, Z., Zhang, X., Wang, Y., Cheng, J., Liu, Y., Shi, Q., Yan, L., Geng, G., Hong, C., Li, M., Liu, F., Zheng, B., Cao, J., Ding, A., Gao, J., Fu, Q., Huo, J., Liu, B., Liu, Z., Yang, F., He, K., and Hao, J.: Drivers of

580 improved PM2.5 air quality in China from 2013 to 2017, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 116, 24463-24469, 10.1073/pnas.1907956116, 2019.
Zhang, S., Niu, T., Wu, Y., Zhang, K. M., Wallington, T. J., Xie, Q., Wu, X., and Xu, H.: Fine-grained vehicle emission management using intelligent transportation system data, Environmental pollution, 241, 1027-1037, 2018.
Zhang, Y., Deng, W., Hu, Q., Wu, Z., Yang, W., Zhang, H., Wang, Z., Fang, Z., Zhu, M., Li, S., Song, W., Ding, X.,

585 and Wang, X.: Comparison between idling and cruising gasoline vehicles in primary emissions and secondary organic aerosol formation during photochemical ageing, Science of The Total Environment, 722, 137934, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2020.137934, 2020b.
Zhang, Z.-H., Khlystov, A., Norford, L. K., Tan, Z.-K., and Balasubramanian, R.: Characterization of traffic-related ambient fine particulate matter (PM2.5) in an Asian city: Environmental and health implications, Atmospheric

590 Environment, 161, 132-143, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.atmosenv.2017.04.040, 2017.
Zhao, X., Zhou, W., and Han, L.: Human activities and urban air pollution in Chinese mega city: An insight of ozone weekend effect in Beijing, Physics and Chemistry of the Earth, Parts A/B/C, 110, 109-116, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pce.2018.11.005, 2019.
Zheng, B., Huo, H., Zhang, Q., Yao, Z., Wang, X., Yang, X., Liu, H., and He, K.: High-resolution mapping of

595 vehicle emissions in China in 2008, Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics, 14, 9787-9805, 2014.

Zheng, B., Zhang, Q., Geng, G., Chen, C., Shi, Q., Cui, M., Lei, Y., and He, K.: Changes in China's anthropogenic emissions and air quality during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, Earth Syst. Sci. Data, 13, 2895-2907, 10.5194/essd-13-2895-2021, 2021a.

600   Zheng, B., Zhang, Q., Geng, G., Chen, C., Shi, Q., Cui, M., Lei, Y., and He, K.: Changes in China's anthropogenic emissions and air quality during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, Earth System Science Data, 13, 2895-2907, 2021b.

Zheng, B., Tong, D., Li, M., Liu, F., Hong, C., Geng, G., Li, H., Li, X., Peng, L., Qi, J., Yan, L., Zhang, Y., Zhao, H., Zheng, Y., He, K., and Zhang, Q.: Trends in China's anthropogenic emissions since 2010 as the consequence of clean air actions, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 18, 14095-14111, 10.5194/acp-18-14095-2018, 2018.

605   Zhong, N.: Superstitious driving restriction: Traffic congestion, ambient air pollution, and health in Beijing, in: Working Paper, 2015.