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**High-resolution regional emission inventory contributes to  
the evaluation of policy effectiveness: A case study in Jiangsu  
province, China**

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26 **Abstract**

27 China has been conducting a series of actions on air quality improvement for the past  
28 decades, and air pollutant emissions have been changing swiftly across the country.  
29 Province is an important administrative unit for air quality management [in China](#), thus  
30 reliable provincial-level emission inventory for multiple years is essential for  
31 detecting the varying sources of pollution and evaluating the effectiveness of emission  
32 controls. In this study, we selected Jiangsu, one of the most developed provinces in  
33 China, and developed the high-resolution emission inventory of nine species for  
34 2015-2019, with improved methodologies for different emission sectors, best  
35 available facility-level information on individual sources, and real-world emission  
36 measurements. Resulting from implementation of strict emission control measures,  
37 the anthropogenic emissions were estimated to have declined 53%, 20%, 7%, 2%,  
38 10%, 21%, 16%, 6% and 18% for [sulfur dioxide \(SO<sub>2</sub>\)](#), [nitrogen oxides \(NO<sub>x</sub>\)](#),  
39 [carbon monoxide \(CO\)](#), [non-methane volatile organic compounds \(NMVOCs\)](#),  
40 [ammonia \(NH<sub>3</sub>\)](#), [inhalable particulate matter \(PM<sub>10</sub>\)](#), [fine particulate matter \(PM<sub>2.5</sub>\)](#),  
41 [black carbon \(BC\)](#), and [organic carbon \(OC\)](#) from 2015 to 2019, respectively. Larger  
42 abatement of SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions were detected for the more developed  
43 southern Jiangsu. Since 2016, the ratio of biogenic volatile organic compounds  
44 (BVOCs) to anthropogenic volatile organic compounds (AVOCs) exceeded 50% in  
45 July, indicating the importance of biogenic sources on summer O<sub>3</sub> formation. Our  
46 estimates in annual emissions of NO<sub>x</sub>, NMVOCs, and NH<sub>3</sub> were generally smaller  
47 than the national emission inventory MEIC, but larger for primary particles. The  
48 discrepancies between studies resulted mainly from different methods of emission  
49 estimation (e.g., the procedure-based approach for AVOCs emissions from key  
50 industries used in this work) and inconsistent information of emission source  
51 operation (e.g., the penetrations and removal efficiencies of air pollution control  
52 devices). Regarding the different periods, more reduction of SO<sub>2</sub> emissions was found  
53 between 2015 and 2017, but NO<sub>x</sub>, AVOCs and PM<sub>2.5</sub> between 2017 and 2019. Among  
54 the selected 13 major measures, the ultra-low emission retrofit on power sector was

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60 the most important contributor to the reduced SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions (accounting for  
61 38% and 43% of the emission abatement, respectively) for 2015-2017, but its effect  
62 became very limited afterwards as the retrofit had been commonly completed by 2017.  
63 Instead, extensive management of coal-fired boilers and upgradation and renovation  
64 of non-electrical industry were the most important measures for 2017-2019, accounted  
65 collectively for 61%, 49% and 57% reduction of SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>, respectively.  
66 Controls on key industrial sectors maintained the most effective for AVOCs reduction  
67 for the two periods, while measures on other sources (transportation and solvent  
68 replacement) became more important for recent years. Our provincial emission  
69 inventory was demonstrated to be supportive for high-resolution air quality modeling  
70 for multiple years. Through scenario setting and modeling, worsened meteorological  
71 conditions were found from 2015 to 2019 for PM<sub>2.5</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> pollution alleviation.  
72 However, the efforts on emission controls were identified to largely overcome the  
73 negative influence of meteorological variation. The changed anthropogenic emissions  
74 were estimated to contribute 4.3 and 5.5 μg·m<sup>-3</sup> of PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration reduction for  
75 2015-2017 and 2017-2019, respectively. While elevated O<sub>3</sub> by 4.9 μg·m<sup>-3</sup> for  
76 2015-2017, the changing emissions led to 3.1 μg·m<sup>-3</sup> of reduction for 2017-2019,  
77 partly (not fully though) offsetting the meteorology-driven growth. The analysis  
78 justified the validity of local emission control efforts on air quality improvement, and  
79 provided scientific basis to formulate air pollution prevention and control policies for  
80 other developed regions in China and worldwide.

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## 81 **1. Introduction**

82 Severe air pollution is of great concern for fast industrialized countries like China,  
83 especially in economically developed regions where an overlap of serious pollution  
84 levels and dense populations has resulted in high exposure and adverse health  
85 outcomes (Klimont et al., 2013; Hoesly et al., 2018). Emission inventory, which  
86 contains complete information on the magnitude, spatial pattern, and temporal change  
87 of air pollutant emissions by sector, is essential for identifying the sources of air

90 pollution and effectiveness of emission controls on air quality through numerical  
91 modeling (Zhao et al., 2013). Improving the understanding of emission behaviors and  
92 reducing the uncertainty of emission estimates have always been the main focus of  
93 emission inventory studies, given the big variety of source categories, fast changing  
94 mix of manufacturing and emission control technologies, and insufficient  
95 measurements of real-world emissions. At the global and continental scales, emission  
96 inventories have been developed by combining available information of large point  
97 sources and improved surrogate statistics for area sources, e.g., Emissions Database  
98 for Global Atmospheric Research (EDGAR, <https://edgar.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>, Crippa et  
99 al., 2020) and Regional Emission Inventory in Asia (REAS,  
100 <https://www.nies.go.jp/REAS/>, Kurokawa et al., 2020). As the largest developing  
101 country in the world, China has been proven to contribute greatly to global emissions  
102 (Klimont et al., 2013; Huang et al., 2014; Wiedinmyer et al., 2014; Miyazaki et al.,  
103 2017).

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104 Along with the improved methodology and increasing availability of emission source  
105 and field measurement data, the applicability and reliability of recent Chinese  
106 emission inventories (e.g., the Multi-resolution Emission Inventory for China, MEIC,  
107 Zheng et al., 2018) have been considerably improved compared to the earlier  
108 large-scale studies for Asia or the world. When the research focus switches to smaller  
109 provincial and city scales, the uncertainty of national emission inventory may increase  
110 attributed mainly to the insufficient information on detailed emission sources,  
111 particularly for medium/small size stationary and area sources. Certain “proxies”  
112 including population and economic densities were commonly applied to downscale  
113 the emissions from coarser to finer horizontal resolution, based on the assumption that  
114 those proxies were strongly associated with emission intensity. Such “coupling effect”,  
115 however, has been demonstrated to be weakened for recent years. For example, a  
116 great number of big industrial facilities have been gradually moved out of urban  
117 centers, resulting in an inconsistency between emission and population hotspots.  
118 Therefore, inappropriate application of those proxies could lead to great uncertainty in  
119 emission estimation and thereby enhanced bias in air quality modeling (Zhou et al.,

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139 | [2017; Zheng et al., 2017](#)). For the urgent demand for preventing regional air pollution  
140 | and relevant health damage, therefore, development of high-resolution emission  
141 | inventories has been getting essential, especially in regions with developed industry,  
142 | large population and complex emission sources (Zheng et al., 2009; Shen et al., 2017;  
143 | Zhao et al., 2018). With increased proportion of point sources and more complete  
144 | facility-based information, the improved emission inventory could reduce the  
145 | arbitrary use of proxy-based downscaling technique and thereby the uncertainty of the  
146 | emission estimates (Zhao et al., 2015; Zheng et al., 2021).

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147 | For the past decade, China has been conducting a series of actions to tackle the  
148 | serious air pollution problem. With the mitigation of severe fine particulate matter  
149 | (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) pollution set as a priority from 2013 to 2017, the National Action Plan on Air  
150 | Pollution Control and Prevention (NAPAPCP, State Council of the People's Republic  
151 | of China (SCC), 2013) pushed stringent end-of-pipe emission controls (e.g., the  
152 | “ultra-low” emission control for power sector) and retirement of small and  
153 | energy-inefficient factories (Zhang et al., 2019a; 2019b; Zheng et al., 2018). On top of  
154 | that, China announced the “Three-Year Action Plan to Fight Air Pollution”  
155 | (TYAPFAP) to further reduce PM<sub>2.5</sub> and ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) levels for 2018-2020 (SCC, 2018).  
156 | Substantially enhanced measures have been required for reducing industrial (e.g.,  
157 | application of “ultra-low” emission control for selected non-electrical industries) and  
158 | residential emissions (e.g., promotion of advanced stoves and clean coal during  
159 | heating seasons). Those measures have changed the air pollutant emissions and  
160 | thereby air quality over the country. Studies have been conducted to assess the  
161 | contribution of the nation actions to the improvement of air quality, based usually on  
162 | the national emission inventory. For example, Zhang et al. (2019a) estimated a  
163 | nationwide 30-40% reduction in PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration attributed to NAPAPCP from  
164 | 2013 to 2017.

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165 | Province is an important administrative unit for air quality management [in China](#).  
166 | Given the heterogeneous economical and energy structures as well as atmospheric  
167 | conditions, there are usually big diversities in the strategies and actions of reducing  
168 | regional air pollution adopted by the local governments, leading to various progresses

172 of emission and air quality changes (Liu et al., 2022; Wang et al., 2021a). Limited by  
173 incomplete or inconsecutive information on emission sources and lack of on-time  
174 emission measurements, however, there were few studies on provincial-level emission  
175 inventories for multiple years. Studies based on the national emission inventories  
176 would be less supportive for policy makers to formulate the emission control  
177 measures and to evaluate their effectiveness on emission reduction and air quality  
178 improvement (An et al., 2021; Huang et al., 2021). Contrary to NAPAPCP that has  
179 been noticed, moreover, few analyses have been conducted for TYAPFAP after 2017  
180 due partly to lack of most recent emission data, preventing comparison and  
181 comprehensive understanding of the effectiveness of emission controls for the two  
182 phases. Jiangsu Province, located on the northeast coast of the Yangtze River Delta  
183 region (YRD), is one of China's most industrial developed and heavy-polluted regions.  
184 It contributed to 10.1% of the gross domestic product (GDP) in mainland China  
185 (ranking the second place in the country), and 6.4%, 11.3% and 11.4% of national  
186 cement, pig iron and crude steel production in 2020, respectively (National Bureau of  
187 Statistics of China, 2021). MEIC indicated the emissions per unit area of  
188 anthropogenic sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), non-methane volatile  
189 organic compounds (NMVOCs), PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) in Jiangsu were 2.8, 6.5,  
190 7.0, 4.5 and 4.8 times of the national average in 2017, respectively. Resulting from the  
191 implementation of air pollution prevention measures, PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollution in Jiangsu has  
192 been alleviated since 2013, while the great changes in emissions due to varying  
193 energy use and industry and transportation development have made it the province  
194 with the highest O<sub>3</sub> concentration and the fastest growth rate of O<sub>3</sub> in YRD for recent  
195 years (Zheng et al., 2016; Wang et al., 2017; Zhang et al., 2017a; Zhou et al., 2017).  
196 In this study, therefore, we took Jiangsu as an example to demonstrate the  
197 development of high-resolution emission inventory and its application on evaluating  
198 the effectiveness of emission control actions. We integrated the methodological  
199 improvements on regional emission inventory by our previous studies (Zhou et al.,  
200 2017; Zhao et al., 2017; 2020; Wu et al., 2022; Zhang et al., 2019b; Zhang et al., 2020;  
201 2021b), and compiled and incorporated best available facility-level information and

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207 real-world emission measurements (see details in the methodology and data section).  
208 A provincial-level emission inventory for 2015-2019 was then thoroughly developed  
209 for nine gaseous and particulate species (SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, NMVOCs, carbon dioxide (CO),  
210 inhalable particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>), PM<sub>2.5</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub>, black carbon (BC), and organic  
211 carbon (OC)). The difference between our emission inventory and others, as well as  
212 its main causes, was carefully explored. Using a measure-specific integrated  
213 evaluation approach, we further identified the drivers of emission changes of SO<sub>2</sub>,  
214 NO<sub>x</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub> and anthropogenic volatile organic compounds (AVOCs), with an  
215 emphasis on the impacts of 13 major control measures summarized from NAPAPCP  
216 and TYAPFAP. Finally, air quality modeling was applied to assess the reliability of  
217 our emission inventory and to quantify the contribution of emission controls to the  
218 changing PM<sub>2.5</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> concentrations for 2015-2017 within NAPAPCP and  
219 2017-2019 within TYAPFAP, and the differentiated impacts of emission controls on  
220 air quality were revealed for the two phases.

## 221 **2. Methodology and data**

### 222 **2.1 Emission estimation**

#### 223 **2.1.1 Emission source classification**

224 We applied a four-level framework of emission source categories for Jiangsu emission  
225 inventory, based on a thorough investigation on the energy and industrial structures in  
226 the province. The framework included six first-level categories this study, covering all  
227 the social and economic sectors in Jiangsu: power sector, industry, transportation,  
228 agriculture, residential, and biogenic source (for NMVOCs only). Moreover, the  
229 framework contained 55 second-level categories based on facility/equipment types  
230 and economical subsectors, 240 third-level categories classified mainly by fuel,  
231 product, and material types, and a total of 870 fourth-level categories including  
232 sources by combustion, manufacturing and emission control technologies of emission  
233 facilities [\(details on the first three level sectors are listed in Table S1 in the](#)

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237 [Supplement](#)).

238 Compared to [the guidelines of national emission inventory development](#) (He et al.,  
239 2018), [42](#) new categories (third-level) were added in this study, contained mainly in

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240 the second-level categories including metal products and the mechanical equipment  
241 manufacturing industries, non-industrial solvent usage from ship fittings and repairs,  
242 household appliances, and housing retrofitting emissions. Those categories were  
243 identified as important sources of NMVOCs emissions in Jiangsu. In particular, ship  
244 coating emissions, coming mainly from solvent usage during spraying, cleaning and  
245 gluing in a wide range of procedures, could account for nearly 20% of the solvent use  
246 emissions in the YRD region (Mo et al., 2021). Therefore, the updated framework  
247 [provides a more complete coverage of source categories, thus considerably reduces](#)  
248 the bias of emission estimation due to missing potentially important emitters.

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### 249 **2.1.2 Emission estimation methods**

250 We applied the “bottom-up” methodology (i.e., the emissions were calculated at the  
251 finest source level (e.g., facility level if data allowed) and then aggregated to upper  
252 categories/regions) to develop the high-resolution emission inventory for Jiangsu (and  
253 its 13 cities, as shown in Figure S1 in the Supplement) 2015-2019. As mentioned in  
254 Introduction, we have conducted a series of studies and made substantial  
255 improvements on the methodology of regional emission inventory development by  
256 source category or species, compared to the ones at larger spatial scales. Here we  
257 integrated those improvements as briefly described below, and additional further  
258 details can be found in corresponding published articles.

259 **Power plant** We developed a method of examining, screening and applying online  
260 measurement data from the continuous emission monitoring systems (CEMS, Zhang  
261 et al., 2019b) to estimate the emissions at the power unit/plant level. For units without  
262 CEMS data, we applied the average flue gas concentrations obtained from CEMS for  
263 units with the same installed capacity. The emissions were calculated based on the  
264 annual mean hourly flue gas concentration of air pollutant obtained from CEMS and

270 the theoretical annual flue gas volume of each unit/plant:

$$271 \quad E_{i,j} = C_{i,j} \times AL_j \times V_m^0 \quad (1)$$

272 where  $E$  is the emission of air pollutant;  $i$ ,  $j$  and  $m$  represent the pollutant species,  
273 individual plant/unit, and fuel type, respectively;  $C$  is the annual average  
274 concentration in the flue gas;  $AL$  is the annual coal consumption, and  $V^0$  is the  
275 theoretical flue gas volume per unit of fuel consumption, which depends on the coal  
276 type and can be calculated following the method in Zhao et al. (2010).

277 **Industrial plant** Emissions were principally calculated based on activity level data  
278 (production output or energy consumption) and emission factor (emissions per unit of  
279 activity level). For point sources with abundant information, we used a  
280 procedure-based approach to calculate the emissions of pollutants (Zhao et al., 2017).  
281 For example, we subdivided the iron and steel industry into sintering, pelletizing, iron  
282 making, steel making, rolling steel, and coking. The activity data and emission factors  
283 of each procedure were derived based on multiple information collected from  
284 enterprise regular report, statistics, and/or on-site investigation at the facility level (see  
285 Section 2.1.3). The emissions of air pollutants were calculated using Eq. (2):

$$286 \quad E_i = \sum_{j,r} AL_{j,r} \times EF_{i,j,r} \times (1 - \eta_{i,j,r}) \quad (2)$$

287 where  $r$  is the industrial procedure;  $AL$  is the activity level;  $EF$  is the unabated  
288 emission factor;  $\eta$  is the pollutant removal efficiency of end-of-pipe control  
289 equipment.

290 **Petrochemical industry** Certain procedures in petrochemical industry have been  
291 identified as the main contributors to AVOCs emissions from the sector. For example,  
292 equipment leaks, storage tanks, and manufacturing lines were estimated to be  
293 responsible for over 90% of the total emissions (Ke et al., 2020; Liu et al., 2020; Yen  
294 and Horng, 2009). Through field measurements and in-depth analysis of different  
295 emission calculation methods, Zhang et al. (2021a) suggested that procedure-based  
296 method should provide better estimate of NMVOCs emissions for petroleum  
297 industries than the commonly approach that applied a full emission factor for the  
298 whole factory. In this study, therefore, we applied the procedure-based method for

299 four key procedures (manufacturing lines, storage tanks, equipment leaks, and  
300 wastewater collection and treatment system), with best available information from  
301 on-site surveys and regular enterprise reports.

302 **Agriculture** Agricultural NH<sub>3</sub> emissions can be greatly influenced by the  
303 meteorology, soil environment, farming manners, and thus are more difficult to track  
304 compared to SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> that are commonly from power and industrial plants. For  
305 example, high temperature and top-dressing fertilization conducted in summer could  
306 elevate NH<sub>3</sub> volatilization from urea fertilizer uses in YRD. Our previous work (Zhao  
307 et al., 2020) quantified the effects of meteorology, soil property and various  
308 agricultural processes (e.g., fertilizer use and manure management) on YRD NH<sub>3</sub>  
309 emissions for 2014. Here we expanded the research period and obtained the  
310 agricultural NH<sub>3</sub> emission inventory for 2015-2019 in Jiangsu.

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311 **Off-road transportation** In this work, we combined the method developed by Zhang  
312 et al. (2020) and newly tested emission factors to estimate the emissions from off-road  
313 machines in Jiangsu for multiple years. We developed a novel method to estimate the  
314 emissions and their spatiotemporal distribution for in-use agricultural machinery, by  
315 combining satellite data, land and soil information, and in-house investigation (Zhang  
316 et al., 2020). In particular, the machinery usage was determined based on the spatial  
317 distribution, growing and rotation pattern of the crops. Moreover, twelve construction  
318 and agricultural machines with different power capacity and emission grades (China  
319 I-III) were selected and emission factors were measured under various working loads  
320 (unpublished).

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321 **Biogenic source:** Located in the subtropics, Jiangsu has abundant broadleaf  
322 vegetation, a main contributor to biogenic volatile organic compounds (BVOCs)  
323 emissions. Our previous work (Wang et al., 2020b) evaluated the effect of land cover  
324 data, emission factors and O<sub>3</sub> exposure on BVOCs emissions in YRD with the Model  
325 of Emissions of Gases and Aerosols from Nature (MEGAN). Here we followed the  
326 improved method by Wang et al. (2020b) and calculated BVOCs emissions with  
327 integrated land cover information, local BVOCs emission factors, and influence of  
328 actual O<sub>3</sub> stress in Jiangsu.

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345 **Other sources** Emissions from on-road vehicles and residential sectors were  
346 estimated following our previous work (Zhou et al., 2017; Zhao et al., 2021), with  
347 updated activity levels and emission factors.

348 **NMVOCs speciation** We updated NMVOCs speciation by incorporating the local  
349 source profiles from field measures (Zhao et al., 2017; Zhang et al., 2021a) and  
350 massive literature reviews of previous studies (Mo et al., 2016; Li et al., 2014; Huang  
351 et al., 2021; Wang et al., 2020a). Compared with the widely used SPECIATE 4.4  
352 database (<https://www.epa.gov/air-emissions-modeling/speciate>, Hsu et al., 2018), we  
353 included new source profiles from local measurements for production of sugar,  
354 vegetable oil and beer, and refined the source profiles for the use of paints, inks,  
355 coatings, dyes, dyestuffs and adhesives in manufacturing industry (Zhang et al.,  
356 2021a), and selected production processes of chemical engineering (Zhao et al., 2017).

357 Moreover, we applied more detailed profiles for some finer categories compared to  
358 the coarser source categories in the guidelines of national emission inventory  
359 development. For example, NMVOCs release in filling station into petrol and diesel  
360 release, metal surface treatment into water-based and solvent-based paints, and ink  
361 printing into offset, gravure and letterpress printing. Those efforts made the NMVOCs  
362 speciation more representative for local emission sources (Zhang et al., 2021a).

### 363 2.1.3 Data compilation, investigation and incorporation

364 In this study, we compiled, investigated and incorporated most available information  
365 on emission sources to improve the completeness, representativeness and reliability of  
366 provincial emission inventory. In particular, we collected officially reported  
367 Environmental Statistics Database (ESD, 2015-2019) and the Second National  
368 Pollution Source Census (SNPSC, 2017) for stationary sources (mostly power and  
369 industrial ones). Both of them contained basic information on their location, raw  
370 material and energy consumption, product output, and manufacturing and emission  
371 control technologies. The former database was routinely reported for relatively big  
372 point sources every year, but some information could be outdated or inaccurate

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374 attributed to insufficient on-site inspection. Through wide on-site surveys, in contrast,  
375 the latter [database](#) included much more plants, and provided or corrected crucial  
376 information at facility level, such as removal efficiency of air pollutant control  
377 devices (APCD). However, the database was developed for 2017 and could not track  
378 the changes for recent years. Therefore, we further applied an internal database from  
379 the Air Pollution Source Emission Inventory Compilation and Analysis System  
380 (APSEICAS, <http://123.127.175.61:31000>), which was developed by Jiangsu  
381 Provincial Academy of Environmental Sciences. Following the principal of SNPSC,  
382 the information of APSEICAS has been collected and dynamically updated since 2018,  
383 based mainly on in-depth investigation for individual enterprises conducted jointly by  
384 themselves and local environmental administrators. We made cross validation and  
385 necessary revision according to above-mentioned three databases, to ensure the  
386 accuracy of information as much as possible.

387 As a result, we obtained sufficient numbers of point sources with satisfying  
388 facility-level information for provincial-level emission inventory development  
389 (57,457, 32,324 and 48,826 for 2017, 2018, and 2019, respectively). The shares of  
390 coal consumption by those sources to the total ranged 90-94% for the three years. The  
391 high proportions of point sources could effectively reduce the uncertainty in  
392 estimation and spatial allocation of air pollutant emissions. For the remaining  
393 industrial sources, the emissions were calculated [by using the average emission factor](#)  
394 [of each sector in each city](#), and were spatially allocated according to the distribution  
395 of local industrial parks and GDP [data extracted from a database of the Chinese](#)  
396 [Academy of Sciences \(CAS\) for 2015 at a horizontal resolution of 1 km](#)  
397  [\(https://www.resdc.cn/DOI/DOI.aspx?DOIid=33\)](https://www.resdc.cn/DOI/DOI.aspx?DOIid=33).

398 [Other information on](#) area industrial sources, transportation, agricultural, and  
399 residential sources were taken from economical and energy statistical yearbooks at  
400 city level. Activity data that were not recorded (e.g., civil solvent usage, catering, and  
401 biomass burning) were indirectly estimated from relevant statistics, including  
402 population, building area, and crop yields.

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## 408 2.2 Analysis of emission change

409 In this study, we summarized 13 major control measures adopted between 2015 and  
410 2019, based on NAPAPCP, TYAPFAP and relative action plans promulgated by the  
411 Jiangsu government (Figure S2 in the Supplement). Those included [1\) ultra-low](#)  
412 [emission retrofit of coal-fired power plants](#), [2\) extensive management of coal-fired](#)  
413 [boilers](#), [3\) upgradation and renovation of non-electrical industry](#), [4\) phasing out](#)  
414 [outdated industrial capacities](#), [5\) promoting clean energy use](#), [6\) phasing out small](#)  
415 [polluting factories](#), [7\) construction of port shore power](#), [8\) comprehensive treatment](#)  
416 [of mobile source pollution](#), [9\) VOCs emission control in key sectors](#), [10\) application](#)  
417 [of leak detection and repair \(LDAR\)](#), [11\) oil and gas recovery](#), [12\) replacement with](#)  
418 [low-VOC paints](#), [13\) control of non-point pollution](#). We applied the method by Zhang  
419 et al. (2019a) to quantify the benefits of those air clean actions on emission abatement.  
420 Briefly, the emission reduction resulting from [the](#) implementation of a specific  
421 measure was estimated by changing the parameters of emission calculation associated  
422 with the measure within the concerned period, and keeping other parameters constant  
423 (same as initial year). The emission reduction from each measure was then estimated  
424 for 2015-2017 and 2017-2019. The provincial-level emission inventory developed in  
425 Section 2.1 was adopted as the baseline of the emission estimates. It [is](#) worth noting  
426 that the aggregated emission reduction from all the measures [is](#) not equal to the actual  
427 reduction, as the factors leading to emission growth were not counted in this analysis.

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## 428 2.3 Air quality modeling

### 429 2.3.1 Model configurations

430 To evaluate the provincial-level emission inventory, we used the Community  
431 Multiscale Air Quality (CMAQ v5.1) model developed by US Environmental  
432 Protection Agency (USEPA), to simulate the PM<sub>2.5</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> concentrations in Jiangsu.  
433 Four months [are selected to represent the four seasons](#) (January, April, July, and  
434 October) of each year between 2015 and 2019 were selected as the simulation periods,

449 with a spin-up time of 7 days for each month to reduce the impact of the initial  
450 condition on the simulation. As shown in Figure S1, three nested domains (D1, D2,  
451 and D3) were applied with the horizontal resolutions of 27, 9, and 3 km, respectively,  
452 and the most inner D3 covered Jiangsu and parts of the YRD region including  
453 Shanghai, northern Zhejiang, and eastern Anhui. MEIC was applied for D1, D2, and  
454 the regions out of Jiangsu in D3, and the provincial-level emission inventory was  
455 applied for Jiangsu in D3. The emission data outside Jiangsu in D3 were originally  
456 from MEIC and downscaled to the resolution of 3km×3km with the "proxy-based"  
457 approach. The Carbon Bond Mechanism (CB05) and AERO5 mechanisms were used  
458 for the gas-phase chemistry and aerosol module, respectively.

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459 The meteorological field for the CMAQ model was obtained from the Weather  
460 Research and Forecasting model (WRF v3.4). Meteorological initial and boundary  
461 conditions were obtained from the National Centers for Environmental Prediction  
462 (NCEP) datasets for the assimilation in simulations. Ground observations at 3-h  
463 intervals were downloaded from National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) to evaluate  
464 the WRF modelling performance, and statistical indicators including bias, index of  
465 agreement (IOA), and root mean squared error (RMSE) were calculated. (Yang et al.,  
466 2021a). The discrepancies between simulations and ground observations were within  
467 an acceptable range (Table S2 in the Supplement).

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468 In order to evaluate the model performance of CMAQ, we collected ground  
469 observation data of hourly PM<sub>2.5</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> concentrations at the 110 state-operating air  
470 quality monitoring stations within Jiangsu (<https://data.epmap.org/page/index>, see the  
471 station locations in Figure S1). Correlation coefficients (R), normalized mean bias  
472 (NMB) and normalized mean errors (NME) between observation and simulation for  
473 each month were calculated to evaluate the performance of CMAQ modeling:

$$474 \quad NMB = \frac{\sum_{p=1}^n (S_p - O_p)}{\sum_{p=1}^n O_p} \times 100\% \quad (3)$$

$$475 \quad NME = \frac{\sum_{p=1}^n |S_p - O_p|}{\sum_{p=1}^n O_p} \times 100\% \quad (4)$$

476 where  $S_p$  and  $O_p$  are the simulated and observed concentration of air pollutant,  
477 respectively, and  $n$  indicates the number of available data pairs.

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488 We further compared the modeling performance using provincial-level emission  
489 inventory in D3 with that using MEIC in D2. Basically, the proxies of total population  
490 and GDP were poorly correlated with gridded emissions dominated by point sources,  
491 and the proxy-based methodology would result in great uncertainty in downscaling  
492 emissions and thereby air quality modeling from coarser to finer resolution. For  
493 example, Zheng et al. (2017) suggested a much larger bias for high-resolution  
494 simulation (additional 8-73% at 4 km) than that at coarser resolution (3-13% for 36  
495 km) when MEIC was applied in predicting surface concentrations of different air  
496 pollutants. Our previous work in YRD also demonstrated that downscaling national  
497 emission inventory with the proxy-based method resulted in clearly larger bias in  
498 high-resolution (3 km) air quality modeling than the provincial-level emission  
499 inventory with more point sources included (Zhou et al., 2017). To avoid expanding  
500 the modeling bias, therefore, we did not directly downscale MEIC into the entire D3,  
501 and the improvement of provincial emission inventory could be demonstrated with  
502 better model performance (in D3) than MEIC (in D2).

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### 503 2.3.2 Emission and meteorological factors affecting the variation of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and O<sub>3</sub>

504 Besides the baseline simulations conducted for 2015, 2017, and 2019, we set up two  
505 extra scenarios, the meteorological variation (VMET) and anthropogenic emission  
506 variation one (VEMIS), to assess the impacts of emission and meteorological changes  
507 on the interannual variations of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> concentrations, and to reveal their  
508 varying contributions for different periods, as summarized in Table S3 in the  
509 supplement. VMET used the varying meteorological fields for the three years but  
510 fixed the emission input at the 2017 level, and was thus able to quantify the impact of  
511 changing meteorological conditions on PM<sub>2.5</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> concentrations. For example, the  
512 difference between 2015 and 2017 in VMET indicated the contribution of changing  
513 meteorology to variation of air pollutant concentration. Similarly, the emission  
514 variation scenario (VEMIS) used the varying emission inventory for the three years  
515 but fixed meteorological fields at the 2017 level, and was thus able to quantify the

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531 | impact of changing emissions on PM<sub>2.5</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> concentrations. The contributions  
532 | between 2015 and 2017, and those between 2017 and 2019, could then be compared  
533 | to evaluate the effectiveness of emission control on air quality for the two periods.  
534 | Notably the anthropogenic emission change in the modeling scenario referred to that  
535 | for entire D3, and thus the contribution of emission control to the changing air quality  
536 | was from both Jiangsu and nearby regions. Given the clearly larger emission intensity  
537 | for the former compared to the latter (An et al., 2021), the contribution of local  
538 | emissions was expected to be more important on the air quality than regional transport.  
539 | Moreover, the BVOCs emissions were selected in accordance with the used  
540 | meteorological field for the given year, thus the interannual changes of BVOCs  
541 | emissions were counted in the contribution of changing meteorology.

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## 542 | 3. Results and discussions

### 543 | 3.1 Air pollutant emissions by sector and region

#### 544 | 3.1.1 Anthropogenic emissions by sector and their changes

545 | From 2015 to 2019, the total emissions of anthropogenic SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, AVOCs, NH<sub>3</sub>,  
546 | CO, PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, BC, and OC in Jiangsu were estimated to decline 53%, 20%, 6%,  
547 | 10%, 7%, 21%, 16%, 6% and 18%, down to 296, 1122, 1271, 422, 7163, 565, 411, 32,  
548 | and 36 Gg in 2019, respectively (Table S4 in the Supplement). On top of SO<sub>2</sub> and  
549 | NO<sub>x</sub>, NMVOCs has been incorporated into national economic and social  
550 | development plans with emission reduction targets in China since 2015, because of its  
551 | harmful impact on human health and important role on triggering O<sub>3</sub> formation. The  
552 | central government required the total national emissions of SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, and AVOCs to  
553 | be cut by 15%, 15%, and 10% during the 13th Five-Year Plan period (2015-2020),  
554 | respectively (Zhang et al., 2022). Our estimates show that the actual SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub>  
555 | emission reductions were larger than planned in Jiangsu, due to the implementation of  
556 | stringent pollution control measures. However, AVOCs emissions did not decline  
557 | considerably within the research period, resulting from less penetration of efficient

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570 APCD, and more fugitive leakage that were difficult to capture. As shown in Figure 1,  
571 the GDP and vehicle population grew by 40% and 24%, respectively, while coal  
572 consumption declined slightly during 2015-2019. Along with stringent emission  
573 reduction actions, the provincial emissions of SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> were gradually  
574 decoupling from those economical and energy factors, while CO was still strongly  
575 influenced by the change of coal consumption.

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576 We present the sectoral contribution to anthropogenic emissions and their interannual  
577 changes in Figure 2 and Figure 3, respectively. Industrial sector was identified as the  
578 major contributor to SO<sub>2</sub>, CO, AVOCs, PM<sub>10</sub>, and PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions, of which the  
579 contribution accounted averagely for 50%, 62%, 64%, 68%, and 61% during  
580 2015-2019, respectively (Figure 2a, c, d, f and g). The sector was found to drive the  
581 reductions in emissions of SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, CO, PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub> and BC. In particular, the  
582 benefit of emission controls on industrial sector after 2017 was found to clearly  
583 elevated and to surpass that of power sector for SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> (Figure 3a,  
584 b, f and g).

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585 The power sector, accounting for more than half of provincial coal burning though,  
586 was not the most important contributor to the emissions of any pollutant (Figure 2).  
587 Upgrading the units with advanced APCDs, phasing-out outdated boilers, and  
588 retrofitting for ultra-low emission requirement significantly reduced SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, and  
589 particulate emissions from the power sector (Liu et al., 2015; Zhang et al., 2021b).  
590 With the completion of the ultra-low emission retrofit in 2017, the declines of  
591 emissions for most species slowed down for the power sector (Figure 3). The results  
592 indicated that the potential for further emission abatement from end-of-pipe controls  
593 has been very limited for the sector, unless an energy transition with less coal  
594 consumption is sustainably undertaken in Jiangsu.

595 The transportation sector averagely accounted for 51%, 17%, 14% and 42% of NO<sub>x</sub>,  
596 CO, AVOCs and BC emissions, respectively (Figure 2b, c, d, and h). The growth of  
597 vehicle population resulted in a 38% increase in the annual NO<sub>x</sub> emissions from  
598 transportation from 2015 to 2019, faster than that of any other sector (Figure 3b).  
599 Similarly, a 20% and 25% increase were found for transportation CO and BC

605 emissions (Figure 3c and h), respectively. Therefore, the rapid development of  
606 transportation in economically developed Jiangsu has expanded its contribution to air  
607 pollutant emissions for those species, particularly after the emissions from large  
608 power and industrial plants have been effectively curbed. However, [the](https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC102115)  
609 implementation of China V emission standard (equal to Euro V,  
610 <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC102115>) for motor vehicles  
611 since 2018 effectively slowed down the growth of transportation NO<sub>x</sub> emissions: The  
612 annual growth rate was estimated to decrease from 12% for 2015-2017 to 5% in  
613 2018-2019. Meanwhile, a downward trend was also found for transportation AVOCs  
614 emissions since 2018 (Figure 3d). Those results show that emission controls for  
615 transportation could be crucial for limiting the key precursors of ozone production  
616 (Geng et al., 2021; Zhang et al., 2019a).

617 The residential sector was the most important source of OC, contributing averagely 68%  
618 to total emissions within 2015-2019 (Figure 2i), and was the second most important  
619 source of PM<sub>10</sub> (18%, Figure 2f) and PM<sub>2.5</sub> (24%, Figure 2g). It dominated the  
620 abatement of OC emissions, attributed to the reduced bulk coal and straw burning  
621 (Figure 3i). The agricultural sector dominated NH<sub>3</sub> emissions (91%, Figure 2e), and  
622 the small decline resulted mainly from the reduced use of nitrogen fertilizer (13%)  
623 from 2015 to 2019 (Figure 3e).

624 It is worth noting that the PM<sub>2.5</sub> and OC emissions decreased faster than BC (Figure  
625 2g-i). As mentioned above, the reduction in primary PM<sub>2.5</sub> resulted mainly from the  
626 improved energy efficiencies and emission controls in industry, and promotion of  
627 clean stoves and replacement of solid fuels with natural gas and electricity in  
628 residential sources. For OC, in particular, the reduced use of household biofuel and  
629 the prohibition of open biomass burning led to considerable emission abatement (18%  
630 from 2015 to 2019). However, the lack of specific APCDs and increasing heavy-duty  
631 diesel vehicles partly offset the benefit of emission controls for other sources,  
632 resulting relatively small reduction in BC emissions (6%). Besides air quality issue,  
633 the slower decline of BC than OC raised the regional climate challenge, as the former  
634 has a warming impact while the latter a cooling one.

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### 3.1.2 City-level emissions and spatial distribution

Figure 4 and Table S5 in the supplement shows the average annual emissions of SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, AVOCs, NH<sub>3</sub>, and PM<sub>2.5</sub> for the five years by city. In further discussions, we classified the 13 cities in Jiangsu as the southern cities (Nanjing, Zhenjiang, Changzhou, Wuxi, and Suzhou), central cities (Yangzhou, Taizhou, and Nantong) and northern cities (Xuzhou, Suqian, Lianyungang, Huaian, and Yancheng) (their distributions are shown in Figure S1). Clearly larger emissions of most species were found in southern Jiangsu cities with more developed industrial economy and transportation (Figure 4a-e, see the detailed emission data by year in Table S5). The SO<sub>2</sub> emissions per unit area were calculated as 7.7, 3.3, and 2.4 ton·km<sup>-2</sup> for the southern, central and northern cities, respectively. The analogous numbers were 23.0, 11.7, and 8.1 ton·km<sup>-2</sup> for NO<sub>x</sub>, 22.5, 13.2, and 8.1 ton·km<sup>-2</sup> for AVOCs, and 7.3, 5.2, and 2.9 ton·km<sup>-2</sup> for PM<sub>2.5</sub>, respectively. As shown in Figure S3 in the Supplement, the regions along the Yangtze River are of largest densities of power and industrial plants. In contrast, higher NH<sub>3</sub> emissions were found for the central and northern cities with abundant agricultural activities (Figure 4e). Figure S4 in the Supplement illustrates the spatial distributions of emissions for selected species for 2019, at a horizontal resolution of 3km. Besides industrial sources, the spatial patterns of NO<sub>x</sub>, BC, CO and AVOCs were also influenced by the road net, suggesting the role of heavy traffic on emissions. Particulate matter emissions were mainly distributed in urban industrial regions, while OC was more found in the broader central and northern areas, attributed partly to the contribution from residential biofuel use. According to Table S5, faster declines in annual SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions for southern cities (59%, 23%, and 24% from 2015 to 2019, respectively) could be found than northern cities (53%, 18%, and 8%, respectively). In contrast, AVOCs emissions were estimated to increase by 10% in southern cities while decrease by 27% in northern cities. The fractions of southern cities to the total provincial emissions decreased from 2015 to 2019 except for AVOCs and NH<sub>3</sub>, indicating more benefits of stringent measures on emission controls for relatively developed regions (Figure 4f).

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689 | Figure 5 illustrates the changes in the spatial distribution of major pollutant emissions  
690 | from 2015 to 2019 in Jiangsu. It can be found that the areas with large emission  
691 | reduction for SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, and PM<sub>2.5</sub> were consistent with the locations of super  
692 | emitters of corresponding species (Figure 5a-c). Facing bigger challenges in air  
693 | quality improvement, the economically developed southern Jiangsu has made more  
694 | efforts on the emission controls of large-scale power and industrial enterprises, and  
695 | achieved greater emission reduction than the less developed northern Jiangsu.  
696 | Different pattern in the spatial variation of emissions was found for AVOCs (Figure  
697 | 5d). There was a big development of industrial parks for chemical engineering along  
698 | the riverside of Yangtze River in the cities of Suzhou, Nantong, and Wuxi in southern  
699 | Jiangsu. The elevated solvent use and output of chemical products of those large-scale  
700 | enterprises resulted in the growth of AVOCs emissions. In northern Jiangsu, in  
701 | contrast, small-scale chemical plants have been gradually closed, and the emissions  
702 | were thus effectively reduced. There is a great need for substantial improvement of  
703 | emission controls for the key regions and sectors for further abatement of AVOCs  
704 | emissions.

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### 705 3.1.3 Enhanced contribution of biogenic sources to total NMVOCs

706 | Table 1 summarizes AVOCs and BVOCs emissions by month and year. Different from  
707 | AVOCs that decreased slowly but continuously from 2015 to 2019, a clearly growth  
708 | of annual BVOCs emissions was estimated between 2015 and 2017, followed by a  
709 | slight reduction till 2019. The peak annual BVOCs emissions reached 213 Gg in 2017.  
710 | The interannual variation of BVOCs was mainly associated to that of temperature and  
711 | short-wave radiation (Wang et al., 2020b). Influenced by meteorological conditions  
712 | and vegetation growing, BVOCs emissions were most abundant in July, less in April  
713 | and October and almost zero in January. Within the province, there was a general  
714 | increasing gradient from southeast to northwest in BVOCs emissions (Figure S5 in  
715 | the Supplement). The rapid development of industrial economy in southern Jiangsu  
716 | has led to the expansion of urban centers and less vegetation cover, which limited the

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727 BVOCs emissions.

728 We calculated the ratio of BVOCs to AVOCs emissions by month and year (Table 1).

729 Dependent on the trends of both BVOCs and AVOCs emissions, the annual ratio

730 increased from  $11.1 \times 10^{-2}$  in 2015 to  $15.8 \times 10^{-2}$  in 2017, and stayed above  $15 \times 10^{-2}$

731 afterwards. There is also a clear seasonal difference in the ratio, with the averages for

732 the five years estimated at  $0 \times 10^{-2}$ ,  $8 \times 10^{-2}$ ,  $52 \times 10^{-2}$ , and  $3 \times 10^{-2}$  for January, April, July

733 and October, respectively. Since 2016, the ratio of BVOCs to AVOCs emissions

734 exceeded  $50 \times 10^{-2}$  in July, indicating that the  $O_3$  pollution in summer could be

735 increasingly influenced by BVOCs. Regarding the spatial pattern, larger ratios were

736 commonly found in northern Jiangsu, with a modest growth for recent years (Figure

737 6). Moreover, greater growth of the ratio was found in part of southern Jiangsu where

738 AVOCs emissions were rapidly declining (e.g., Nanjing and Zhenjiang). The

739 evolution indicated that biogenic sources became more influential in  $O_3$  production

740 even for some regions with developed industrial economy, along with controls of

741 anthropogenic emissions. Due to the relatively high level of ambient  $NO_2$  from

742 anthropogenic emissions, a broad areas of Jiangsu were identified with a mixed or

743 VOC-limited regime in terms of  $O_3$  formation (Jin and Holloway, 2015), indicating

744 the impacts of NMVOCs (including BVOCs) on the ambient  $O_3$  concentration. In the

745 future, the BVOCs emissions may further increase with the elevated temperature,

746 improved afforestation and vegetation protection, and they will probably play a more

747 important role on summer  $O_3$  pollution once the controls of AVOCs emissions are

748 pushed forward (Ren et al., 2017; Gao et al., 2022a).

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### 3.2 The comparisons between different emission inventories

#### 3.2.1 Assessment of emission amounts

We compared our provincial-level emission inventory with previous studies on emissions in Jiangsu in terms of the total and sectoral emissions through examinations of activity data, emission factor, removal efficiency and other parameters. The influence of data and methods on emission estimation was then revealed.

Table 2 compares our emission estimates, by year and species, with available global (EDGAR, Crippa et al., 2020), continental (REAS, Kurokawa et al., 2020), national (MEIC), and regional emission inventories (Li et al., 2018; Sun et al., 2018; Zhang et al., 2017b; Simayi et al., 2019; An et al., 2021; Gao et al., 2022b; Yang et al., 2021a), official emission statistics of Jiangsu Province (<http://sthjt.jiangsu.gov.cn/col/col83555/index.html>), and an emission estimate with the “top-down” approach, i.e., constrained by satellite observation and inverse chemistry transport modelling (Yang et al., 2019). In particular, we stressed the differences in emissions by sector among our study, MEIC and An et al. (2021) for 2017 as an example (Figure 8).

The annual SO<sub>2</sub> emissions in our provincial inventory were close to those in REAS (2015), MEIC, Yang et al. (2021a), and official statistics, for most years, but much smaller than those reported by EDGAR, Sun et al. (2018) and Li et al. (2018). The emissions in this work were 32% higher than the MEIC for 2017, with the biggest difference (62% higher in this work) for power sector (Figure 8). It results, mainly from the discrepancies in the penetration and SO<sub>2</sub> removal efficiency of flue gas desulfurization (FGD) systems applied in the two emission inventories. For example, Zhang et al. (2019a) assumed that the penetration rate of FGD in the coal-fired power sector reached 99.6% in 2017, with the removal efficiency estimated at 95%. According to our unit-based investigation, the removal efficiencies in the power sector were typically less than 92%, owing to the aging devices, low flue gas temperature and other reasons. The main differences between this work and the YRD

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Figure 7 compares the interannual trends of SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions estimated in this study with those in available global (EDGAR) and national emission inventories (MEIC), as well as those of annual averages of ambient concentrations for corresponding species collected from the state-operating observation sites in Jiangsu. Significantly different from other inventories, the global emission inventory EDGAR could not reflect the rapid decline of SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions of Jiangsu for recent years. It was probably due to the lack of information on the gradually enhanced penetrations and removal efficiencies of APCDs use in power and industrial sectors in EDGAR. Both MEIC and our provincial inventory show the continuous declines in SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub>

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885 emission inventory by An et al. (2021) existed in the industrial sector, attributed partly  
886 to insufficient consideration of the comprehensive emission control regulations of  
887 coal-fired boilers in Jiangsu in the past few years in An et al. (2021).

888 The estimates of NO<sub>x</sub> emissions from MEIC, EDGAR and Sun et al. (2018) were  
889 14-38% higher than ours, while the official statistics were much smaller lower than  
890 ours, attributed mainly to the absence of emissions from traffic sources in the statistics,

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891 The major difference between MEIC and our provincial inventory existed in the  
892 power and industrial sector, and the total emissions in the former were 56% larger  
893 than the latter (Figure 8). For example, the emission factors for coal-fired power

894 plants in this study were derived from CEMS (0.03-2.8 g·kg<sup>-1</sup> coal), much smaller  
895 than those from applied in MEIC and another research (2.88-8.12 g·kg<sup>-1</sup> coal, Zhang

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896 et al., 2021b). Similarly, the smaller emission factors for industrial boilers derived  
897 based on on-site investigations were commonly smaller than previous studies, leading  
898 to an estimation of 45% smaller than MEIC for industrial sector in 2017.

899 Correspondingly, some modeling and satellite studies suggested that the NO<sub>x</sub>  
900 emissions in previous studies were overestimated partly due to less consideration of  
901 improvement in NO<sub>x</sub> control measures for coal burning sources (Zhao et al., 2018;

902 Sha et al., 2019). Constrained by satellite observation, the top-down estimation by  
903 Yang et al. (2019) was 10% and 22% smaller than our provincial emission estimation  
904 and MEIC for 2016.

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905 As mentioned in Section 2.1.2, AVOCs emissions for certain industrial sources in this  
906 study were estimated with a procedure-based approach, which took the removal  
907 efficiencies of different technologies into account (Zhang et al., 2021a). Therefore, the

908 annual AVOCs emissions in the provincial inventory were commonly much smaller  
909 than others. Without sufficient the local information, for example, Simayi et al. (2019)

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910 applied the national average removal efficiencies of AVOCs in furniture  
911 manufacturing, automotive manufacturing and textile dyeing industries at 18%, 28%,  
912 and 30%, clearly lower than 21%, 42%, and 43% in our inventory, respectively. As a

913 result, the AVOCs emissions from industrial source in the former were 45% higher  
914 than the latter.

923 NH<sub>3</sub> emissions in the provincial emission inventory were commonly smaller than  
924 others. In particular, the estimate was less than half of that by An et al. (2021) for  
925 2017 (Figure 8). The big difference resulted mainly from the methodologies. As  
926 indicated by our previous study (Zhao et al., 2020), the method characterizing  
927 agricultural processes usually provided smaller emission estimates than that using the  
928 constant emission factors. The former detected the emission variation by season and  
929 region, and was more supportive for air quality modeling with better agreement with  
930 ground and satellite observation. Compared with Infrared Atmospheric Sounding  
931 Interferometer (IASI) observation, for example, application of the emission inventory  
932 characterizing agricultural processes in CMAQ reduced the monthly NMEs of vertical  
933 column density of NH<sub>3</sub> from 44%-84% to 38%-60% in different seasons for the YRD  
934 region (Zhao et al., 2020).  
935 For PM emissions, our estimates were larger than MEIC, Gao et al. (2022b), An et al.  
936 (2021) and official emission statistics, but smaller than EDGAR, REAS, and Yang et  
937 al. (2021a). The discrepancies resulted mainly from the inconsistent penetration rates  
938 and removal efficiencies of dust collectors determined at national level and from  
939 on-site surveys at provincial level. Taking cement as an example, all the plants were  
940 assumed to be installed with dust collectors, and the national average removal  
941 efficiency was determined at 99.3% in MEIC (Zhang et al., 2019a), clearly larger than  
942 that in Jiangsu from plant-by-plant surveys (93%), The PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions  
943 from the industrial sector in this study were 197 and 113 Gg higher than MEIC for  
944 2017 (Figure 8).

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### 945 3.2.2 Assessment of interannual variability

946 Figure 7 compares the interannual trends of SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions estimated in this  
947 study with those in available global (EDGAR) and national emission inventories  
948 (MEIC), as well as those of annual averages of ambient concentrations for  
949 corresponding species collected from the state-operating observation sites in Jiangsu.  
950 Different from other inventories, the global emission inventory EDGAR could not

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957 reflect the rapid decline of SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions of Jiangsu for recent years. It is  
958 probably due to the lack of information on the gradually enhanced penetrations and  
959 removal efficiencies of APCDs use in power and industrial sectors in EDGAR.  
960 Therefore, we mainly compared the interannual variability of emissions in ~~our~~  
961 provincial inventory and MEIC.

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962 Both MEIC and our provincial inventory show the continuous declines in SO<sub>2</sub> and  
963 NO<sub>x</sub> emissions for Jiangsu from 2015 to 2019, which could be partly confirmed by  
964 the ground observation. In general, quite similar trends were found for the two  
965 inventories, suggesting similar estimations in the interannual variation of total  
966 emissions at the national and provincial scales. However, there are some discrepancies  
967 between the two. Compared to MEIC, as shown in Figure 7a, a slower decline in SO<sub>2</sub>  
968 emissions between 2015 and 2017 was estimated by our provincial inventory, but a  
969 faster one between 2017 and 2019. In other words, MEIC describes a more optimistic  
970 emission abatement for earlier years. The ultra-low emission retrofit on power sector  
971 started from 2015 in Jiangsu, which was expected to ~~greatly~~ reduce the emissions of  
972 coal-fired plants to the level of gas-fired ones. Through investigations and  
973 examinations of information on APCD operations for individual sources, we  
974 cautiously speculated that the benefit of the retrofit might not be as large as expected  
975 at the initial stage. This could be partly supported by the correspondence between  
976 online monitoring of SO<sub>2</sub> emissions for individual power plants and satellite-derived  
977 SO<sub>2</sub> columns around them when the ultra-low emission retrofit was required (Karplus  
978 et al., 2018). From 2017 to 2019, we were more optimistic on the emission reduction,  
979 attributed partly to larger benefit of emission controls on non-electric industries.  
980 Similar case with less discrepancy could also be found for NO<sub>x</sub> emission (Figure 7b).

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### 981 **3.3 Analysis of driving force of emission change from 2015 to 2019**

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982 The actual reductions of annual SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, AVOCs, NH<sub>3</sub>, and PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions were  
983 estimated at 331, 289, 77, 46, and 80 Gg from 2015 to 2019, respectively in our  
984 provincial emission inventory. We analyzed the emission abatement and its driving

988 forces for two periods, 2015-2017 and 2017-2019, to represent the different influences  
989 of individual measures on emissions for NAPAPCP and TYAPFAP. As shown in  
990 Figure S6 in the Supplement, the actual emission reductions of SO<sub>2</sub> and NH<sub>3</sub> during  
991 2015-2017 (211 and 34 Gg respectively) exceeded those during 2017-2019 (120 and  
992 12 Gg, respectively). As the retrofit of ultra-low emission technologies for the power  
993 sector and the modification of large-scale intensive management of livestock farming  
994 in Jiangsu were basically completed between 2015 and 2017. The reductions of  
995 annual NO<sub>x</sub>, AVOCs, and PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions during 2017-2019 were much larger (209,  
996 72, and 57 Gg, respectively) than those during 2015-2017 (80, 5, and 23 Gg,  
997 respectively), implying bigger benefits of TYAPFAP on emission controls of those  
998 species.

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999 Figure 9 summarizes the effect of individual measures on net emission reduction for  
1000 the two periods. There were some common measures for SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>  
1001 emission controls, thus they were discussed together below. During 2015-2017, the  
1002 ultra-low emission retrofit of coal-fired power plants was identified to be the most  
1003 important driving factor for the reductions of SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions, responsible for  
1004 38% and 43% of the abatement for the two species, respectively. By the end of 2017,  
1005 more than 95% of the coal-fired power plants in Jiangsu were equipped with FGD and  
1006 selective catalytic/non-catalytic reduction (SCR/SNCR), and 91% of coal-fired power  
1007 generation capacity met the ultra-low emission standards (35, 50 and 10 mg·m<sup>-3</sup> for  
1008 SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> and PM concentration in the flue gas, respectively; Zhang et al., 2019a).  
1009 Through the information cross check and incorporation based on different emission  
1010 source databases as mentioned in Section 2.1.3, the average removal efficiencies of  
1011 SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> in the coal-fired power plants were estimated to increase from 89% and  
1012 50% in 2015 to 94% and 63% in 2017, respectively.

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1013 The extensive management of coal-fired boilers was the second most important driver  
1014 for SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> reduction and the most important driver for PM<sub>2.5</sub>, contributing to  
1015 24%, 20% and 37% of the emission reductions for corresponding species, respectively.  
1016 The main actions included the elimination of 100 MW of coal-fired power generation  
1017 capacity and the enhanced penetrations of SO<sub>2</sub> and particulate control devices on large

1021 coal-fired industrial boilers since the improved enforcement of the latest emission  
1022 standard (GB 13271–2014).

1023 The upgradation and renovation of non-electrical industry contributed 18%, 15%, and  
1024 28% to the emission reductions for SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, and PM<sub>2.5</sub>, respectively. Till 2017,  
1025 more than 80% of steel-sintering machines and cement kilns were equipped with FGD  
1026 and SCR/SNCR systems. The average removal efficiency in the steel and cement  
1027 production increased from 48% and 43% in 2015 to 60% and 57% in 2017 for SO<sub>2</sub>,  
1028 and from 45% and 38% in 2015 to 54% and 40% in 2017 for NO<sub>x</sub>, respectively (as  
1029 shown in Figure S7 in the Supplement).

1030 Phasing out outdated capacities in key industries including crude steel (8 million tons),  
1031 cement (9 million tons), flat glass (3 million weight-boxes), and other  
1032 energy-inefficient production capacity contributed 11%, 6%, and 11% to the emission  
1033 reductions of corresponding species, respectively. Given their relatively small  
1034 proportions to total emissions, the contributions of other emission reduction measures  
1035 were less than 10%, such as promoting clean energy, phasing out small and polluting  
1036 factories, and the construction of port shore power.

1037 The driving forces of emission abatement have been changing for the three species  
1038 since implementation of TYAPFAP. The potential for further reduction of SO<sub>2</sub> and  
1039 NO<sub>x</sub> emissions were narrowed through the end-of-pipe treatment in the power sector,  
1040 and the ultra-emission retrofit on the sector was of very limited influence on the  
1041 emissions during 2017-2019. Measures on the non-electric sector brought greater  
1042 benefits on emission reduction. Extensive management of coal-fired boilers and  
1043 upgradation and renovation of non-electrical industry maintained as the most  
1044 important driving factors for the reduction of SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, and PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions (33%,  
1045 20%, and 26% for the former and 28%, 29% and 33% for the latter, respectively).  
1046 After 2017, small coal boilers ( $\leq 30$  MW) were continuously shut down and remaining  
1047 larger ones ( $\geq 60$  MW) were all retrofitted with ultra-low emission technology.  
1048 Through the ultra-low emission retrofit, the average removal efficiencies of NO<sub>x</sub> in  
1049 the steel and cement production increased from 54% and 40% in 2017 to 70% and 61%  
1050 in 2019, respectively.

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1052 | Regarding AVOCs, the emission reduction resulted mainly from the implementation  
1053 | of controls on the key sectors, which accounted for 63% and 34% of the reduced  
1054 | emissions for 2015-2017 and 2017-2019, respectively. Besides, application of LDAR  
1055 | was the second most important measure for 2015-2017, with the contribution to  
1056 | emission reduction reaching 23%. The results also showed that AVOCs emission  
1057 | reductions from all the concerned measures in 2017-2019 (152Gg) were higher than  
1058 | those in 2015-2017 (116 Gg). Although more abatement in total AVOCs emissions  
1059 | was found for 2017-2019 (Figure S6), the contributions of above-mentioned two  
1060 | measures reduced clearly in the period. Some other measures were identified to be  
1061 | important drivers of emission reduction, including control on mobile sources (e.g.,  
1062 | implementation of the China V emission standard for on-road vehicles) and  
1063 | replacement with low-VOCs paints. In our recent studies, we evaluated the average  
1064 | removal efficiency of AVOCs in industrial sector was less than 30% (Zhang et al.,  
1065 | 2021a), and organic solvents with low-VOCs content accounted for less than 30% of  
1066 | total solvent use (Wu et al., 2022). Therefore, there would still be great potential for  
1067 | further reduction of AVOCs emissions through improvement on the end-of-pipe  
1068 | emission controls and use of cleaner solvents.

1069 | In summary, expanding the end-of-pipe treatment (e.g., the ultra-low emission retrofit)  
1070 | from power to non-electricity industry and phasing out the outdated industrial  
1071 | capacities have driven, the declines of emissions for most species. Along with the  
1072 | limited potential for current measures, more substantial improvement of energy and  
1073 | industrial structures could be the option for further emission reduction in the future.

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### 1074 | **3.4 Effectiveness of emission controls on the changing air quality**

#### 1075 | **3.4.1 Simulation of the O<sub>3</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations**

1076 | The CMAQ model performance was evaluated with available ground observation.  
1077 | The observed concentrations of PM<sub>2.5</sub> (hourly) and O<sub>3</sub> (the maximum daily 8-h  
1078 | average, MDA8) were compared with the simulations using the provincial emission  
1079 | inventory and MEIC for the selected four months for 2015-2019, as summarized in

1083 Table [S6](#) and Table [S7](#) in the Supplement. Overall, the simulation with the provincial  
1084 inventory shows acceptable agreement with the observations, with the annual means  
1085 of NMB and NME ranging -21% – 2% and 43% – 52% for PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and -26% – -14%  
1086 and 30% – 41% for O<sub>3</sub>. The analogous numbers for MEIC were -23% – -5% and 47%  
1087 – 53% for PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and -26% – -6% and 33% – 46% for O<sub>3</sub>, respectively. Most of the  
1088 NMB and NME were within the proposed criteria (-30% ≤ NMB ≤ 30% and NME ≤ 50%,  
1089 Emery et al., 2017). Better performance was achieved using the provincial inventory,  
1090 implying the benefit of [applying](#) refined emission data on high-resolution air quality  
1091 simulation.

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1092 Besides O<sub>3</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>, better model performances were also found for SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub>  
1093 with the provincial emission inventory than MEIC, as shown Table [S8](#) in the  
1094 Supplement. For 2017, the monthly NMB and NME ranged -38% – -24% and 43% –  
1095 53% for SO<sub>2</sub>, and 22% – 40% and 38% – 61% for NO<sub>2</sub>. The analogous numbers for  
1096 MEIC were 35% – 68% and 84% – 114% for SO<sub>2</sub>, and 50% – 133% and 65% – 138%  
1097 for NO<sub>2</sub>, respectively (unpublished data provided by MEIC development team,  
1098 Tsinghua University).

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with the provincial inventory shows acceptable  
agreement with the observations,

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1099 Figure 10 compares the observed and simulated (with the provincial inventory)  
1100 interannual trends in PM<sub>2.5</sub> and MDA8 O<sub>3</sub> concentrations from 2015 to 2019 (see the  
1101 simulated spatiotemporal evolution in Figures S8 and S9 in the Supplement).  
1102 Satisfying correlations between observed and simulated concentrations were found for  
1103 both PM<sub>2.5</sub> and MDA8 O<sub>3</sub>, with the squares of correlation coefficients (R<sup>2</sup>) estimated  
1104 at 0.81 and 0.86 within the research period, respectively. The good agreement  
1105 [suggests](#) the simulation with high-resolution emission inventory was able to well  
1106 capture the interannual changes in air quality at the provincial scale.

1107 Both observation and simulation indicated a declining trend of PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations,  
1108 with the annual decreasing rates estimated at -5.4 and -4.2 μg·m<sup>-3</sup>·yr<sup>-1</sup>, respectively  
1109 (Figure 10a). The decline reflected the benefit of improved implementation of  
1110 emission control actions as well as the influence of meteorological condition change.

1111 In general, higher concentrations were found in [winter](#) and lower in [summer](#). A

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1137 rebound in PM<sub>2.5</sub> level was notably found in winter after 2017, attributed possibly to  
1138 the unfavorable meteorological conditions that were more likely to exacerbate air  
1139 pollution for recent years. In contrast to PM<sub>2.5</sub>, MDA8 O<sub>3</sub> was clearly elevated from  
1140 2015 to 2019, with the annual growth rates estimated at 4.6 and 7.3 μg·m<sup>-3</sup>·yr<sup>-1</sup>, by  
1141 observation and simulation (Figure 10b). Higher concentrations were found in spring  
1142 and summer and lower in autumn and winter. Besides the impact of emission change,  
1143 the O<sub>3</sub> concentrations can be greatly influenced by the varying meteorological factors  
1144 such as the decreased relative humidity and wind speed for recent years in YRD  
1145 region (Gao et al., 2021; Dang et al., 2021). In addition, the recent declining PM<sub>2.5</sub>  
1146 concentration in eastern China reduced the heterogeneous absorption of hydroperoxyl  
1147 radicals (HO<sub>2</sub>) by aerosols and thereby enhanced O<sub>3</sub> concentration (Li et al., 2019). If  
1148 such aerosol effect was involved in CMAQ modeling, the increasing rate of annual O<sub>3</sub>  
1149 concentration would possibly be further overestimated. The complicated impacts of  
1150 various factors on air quality triggered the separation of emission and meteorological  
1151 contributions to the changing PM<sub>2.5</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> levels in Section 3.4.2.  
1152 The common underestimation of O<sub>3</sub> should be stressed, partly resulting from the bias  
1153 in the estimation of precursor emissions. In this study, the enhanced penetrations  
1154 and/or removal efficiencies of NO<sub>x</sub> control devices might not be fully considered in  
1155 the emission inventory development, in particular for the non-electric industry,  
1156 leading to possible overestimation of NO<sub>x</sub> emissions. Moreover, underestimation of  
1157 AVOCs emissions could exist, due to incomplete counting of emission sources,  
1158 particularly for the uncontrolled fugitive leakage. As most of Jiangsu was identified as  
1159 a VOC-limited region for O<sub>3</sub> formation (Wang et al., 2020b; Yang et al., 2021b), the  
1160 overestimation of NO<sub>x</sub> and underestimation of AVOCs could result in underestimation  
1161 in O<sub>3</sub> concentration with air quality modeling. Compared to MEIC, the improved  
1162 provincial emission inventory partly corrected the overestimation of NO<sub>x</sub> emissions  
1163 and NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations (Table S8), and helped reduce the bias of O<sub>3</sub> concentration  
1164 simulation. Furthermore, a larger underestimation in O<sub>3</sub> was revealed before 2017  
1165 (Figure 8b), attributed partly to less data support on the emission sources and thereby  
1166 less reliability in the emission inventory, compared with more recent years.

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1172 **3.4.2 Anthropogenic and meteorological contribution to O<sub>3</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> variation**

1173 As shown in Figure 11, the provincial-level PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration (geographical mean)  
1174 was simulated to decrease by 4.1 μg·m<sup>-3</sup> in 2015-2017 and 1.7 μg·m<sup>-3</sup> in 2017-2019,  
1175 and MDA8 O<sub>3</sub> increase by 17.0 μg·m<sup>-3</sup> in 2015-2017 and 3.2 μg·m<sup>-3</sup> in 2017-2019, in  
1176 the baseline that contained the interannual changes of both anthropogenic emissions  
1177 and meteorology. Smaller variations were found for more recent years for both species.  
1178 With VEMIS and VMET, the contributions of the two factors were identified and  
1179 discussed in the following. It should be noted that the air quality changes in baseline  
1180 did not equal to the aggregated contributions in VEMSI and VMET due to  
1181 non-linearity effect of the chemistry transport modeling, and the main goal of the  
1182 analysis was to compare the relative contributions of the two factors.

1183 As shown in Figure 11a, similar patterns of driving factor contributions to PM<sub>2.5</sub> were  
1184 found during 2015-2017 and 2017-2019. While meteorological conditions  
1185 consistently promoted the formation of PM<sub>2.5</sub>, the continuous abatement of  
1186 anthropogenic emissions completely offset the adverse meteorological effects and  
1187 contributed to the declines in PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations. Although less reduction in PM<sub>2.5</sub>  
1188 concentration was found for 2017-2019 due mainly to the worsened meteorology,  
1189 emission abatement was estimated to play a greater role on reducing PM<sub>2.5</sub>  
1190 concentration (5.5 μg·m<sup>-3</sup> in VEMIS) compared to 2015-2017 (4.3 μg·m<sup>-3</sup>), implying  
1191 the higher effectiveness of recent emission control actions on PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollution  
1192 alleviation.

1193 The O<sub>3</sub> case is different (Figure 11b). Both the changing emissions and meteorology  
1194 favored MDA8 O<sub>3</sub> increase for 2015-2017, consistent with previous studies (Wang et  
1195 al., 2019; Dang et al., 2021). The contribution of meteorology was estimated at 11.9  
1196 μg·m<sup>-3</sup> (VMET), larger than that of emissions at 4.9 μg·m<sup>-3</sup> (VEMIS). As shown in  
1197 Figure S6, the abatement of annual NO<sub>x</sub> emissions in Jiangsu was estimated at 104  
1198 Gg, while very limited reduction was achieved in AVOCs emissions. Declining NO<sub>x</sub>  
1199 emissions thus elevated O<sub>3</sub> formation under the VOC-limited conditions particularly  
1200 in urban areas in Jiangsu.

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- 删除的内容: Figure 11 explores the effects of the changing anthropogenic emissions (VEIMS) and meteorology (VMET) on PM<sub>2.5</sub> and MDA8 O<sub>3</sub> levels in 2015-2017 and 2017-2019. In the baseline that contained the interannual changes of both factors, the provincial-level PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration was simulated to decrease by 4.1 μg·m<sup>-3</sup> in 2015-2017 and 1.7 μg·m<sup>-3</sup> in 2017-2019, and MDA8 O<sub>3</sub> increase by 17.0 μg·m<sup>-3</sup> in 2015-2017 and 3.2 μg·m<sup>-3</sup> in 2017-2019. Therefore, smaller variations were found for more recent years for both species. Due to nonlinearity effect of the chemistry transport modeling, the air quality changes in baseline did not equal to the aggregated
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1260 During 2017-2019, the meteorological condition played a more important role on the  
1261 O<sub>3</sub> growth (14.3 μg·m<sup>-3</sup>), attributed mainly to the decreased relative humidity and  
1262 wind speed for recent years (Table S2). In contrast, the changing emissions were  
1263 estimated to restrain the O<sub>3</sub> growth by 3.1 μg·m<sup>-3</sup>, implying the effectiveness of  
1264 continuous emission controls on O<sub>3</sub> pollution alleviation. As shown in Figure S6, a  
1265 much larger reduction in AVOCs emissions was achieved in Jiangsu during  
1266 2017-2019 compared to 2015-2017, and the greater NO<sub>x</sub> emission reduction might  
1267 have led to the shift from VOC-limited to the transitional regime across the province  
1268 (Wang et al., 2021b). The emission controls thus helped limit the total O<sub>3</sub> production.  
1269 Although the reduction in precursor emissions was not able to fully offset the effect of  
1270 adverse meteorology condition, its encouraging effectiveness demonstrated the  
1271 validity of current emission control measures, and actual O<sub>3</sub> decline can be expected  
1272 with more stringent control actions to overcome the influence of meteorological  
1273 variation.

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#### 1274 **4. Conclusion remarks**

1275 In this study, we developed a high-resolution emission inventory of nine air pollutants  
1276 for Jiangsu 2015-2019, by integrating the improvements in methodology for different  
1277 sectors and incorporating the best available facility-level information and real-world  
1278 emission measurements. We evaluated this provincial-level emission inventory  
1279 through comparison with other studies at different spatial scales and air quality  
1280 modeling. We further linked the emission changes to various emission control  
1281 measures, and evaluated the effectiveness of pollution control efforts on the emission  
1282 reduction and air quality improvement.

1283 Our study indicated that the emission controls indeed played an important role on  
1284 prevention and alleviation of air pollution. Through a series of remarkable actions in  
1285 NAPAPCP and TYAPFAP, the annual emissions in Jiangsu declined to varying  
1286 degrees for different species from 2015 to 2019, with the largest relative reduction at  
1287 53% for SO<sub>2</sub> and smallest at 6% for AVOCs. Regarding different periods, larger

1290 abatement of SO<sub>2</sub> emissions was found between 2015 and 2017 but more substantial  
1291 reductions of NO<sub>x</sub>, AVOCs and primary PM<sub>2.5</sub> between 2017 and 2019. Our estimates  
1292 in SO<sub>2</sub>, AVOCs and NH<sub>3</sub> emissions were mostly smaller than or close to other studies,  
1293 while those for NO<sub>x</sub> and primary PM<sub>2.5</sub> were less conclusive. The main reasons for  
1294 the discrepancies between studies included the modified methodologies used in this  
1295 work (e.g., the procedure-based approach for AVOCs and the agricultural process  
1296 characterization for NH<sub>3</sub>) and the varied depths of details on emission source  
1297 investigation (e.g., the penetrations and removal efficiencies of APCD). Air quality  
1298 modeling confirmed the benefit of refined emission data on predicting the ambient  
1299 levels of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and O<sub>3</sub>, as well as capturing their interannual variations.

1300 For 2015-2017 within NAPAPCP, the ultra-low emission retrofit on power sector was  
1301 most effective on SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emission reduction, but the expansion of emission  
1302 controls to non-electricity sectors, including coal-fired boilers and key industries  
1303 would be more important for 2017-2019. AVOCs control was still in its initial stage,  
1304 and the measures on key industrial sectors and transportation were demonstrated to be  
1305 effective. Along with the gradually reduced potential for emission reduction through  
1306 end-of-pipe treatment, adjustment of energy and industrial structures should be the  
1307 future path for Jiangsu as well as other regions with developed industrial economy.  
1308 Air quality modeling suggested worsened meteorological conditions from 2015 to  
1309 2019 in terms of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> pollution alleviation. The continuous actions on  
1310 emission reduction, however, have been taking effect on reducing PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration  
1311 and restraining the growth of MDA8 O<sub>3</sub> level.

1312 The analysis justified the big efforts and investments by the local government for air  
1313 pollution controls, and demonstrated how the investigations of detailed underlying  
1314 data could help improve the precision, integrity and continuity of emission inventories.  
1315 Such demonstrations, was more applicable at regional scale (smaller countries and  
1316 territories) instead of national scale due to the huge cost and data gap for the latter.  
1317 Furthermore, the work showed how the refined emission data could efficiently  
1318 support the high-resolution air quality modeling, and highlighted the varying and  
1319 complex responses of air quality to different emission control efforts. Therefore, the

1320 study could shed light for other highly polluted regions in China and worldwide, with  
1321 diverse stages of regional economical development and air pollution controls.  
1322 Limitations remain in the current study. Attributed to insufficient data support, there  
1323 was little improvement on emission estimation for some sources compared to previous  
1324 studies, e.g., on-road transportation and residential sector. Those sources may play an  
1325 increasingly important role on emissions and air quality along with stringent controls  
1326 on power and industrial sectors, and thus need to be better stressed in the future. The  
1327 temporal profiles of emissions for most source categories were not improved due to  
1328 the difficulty in capturing the real-time variation of activity for individual emitters  
1329 (e.g., the operation and energy consumption of industrial plant). It could be a reason  
1330 for the bias in air quality modeling. Given the limited access on emission source  
1331 information, moreover, the emission data for nearby regions around Jiangsu were not  
1332 refined in this work. Such limitation might lead to some bias in analyzing the  
1333 effectiveness of emission controls on air quality, as regional transport could account  
1334 for a considerable fraction of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> concentrations. Should better regional  
1335 emission data get available, more analysis needs to be conducted to separate the  
1336 effectiveness of local emission controls and efforts from nearby regions. Due to huge  
1337 computational tasks through air quality modeling, finally, the individual emission  
1338 control measures were not directly linked to the ambient concentration, and their  
1339 effectiveness on air quality improvement cannot be obtained in details. Advanced  
1340 numerical tools, e.g., the adjoint modeling, are recommended for further in-depth  
1341 analysis.

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## 1342 **Data availability**

1343 The gridded emission data for Jiangsu Province 2015-2019 can be downloaded at  
1344 <http://www.airqualitynju.com/En/Data/List/Datadownload>

## 1345 **Author contributions**

1346 CGu developed the methodology, conducted the research and wrote the draft. YZhao

1348 and LZhang developed the strategy and designed the research, and YZhao revised the  
1349 manuscript. ZXu provided the support of air quality modeling. YWang, ZWang and  
1350 HWang provided the support of emission data processing. SXia, LLi, and QZhao  
1351 provided the support of emission data.

## 1352 **Competing interests**

1353 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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1634 **Figure captions**

1635 Figure 1. Emission trends, underlying social and economic factors. Coal consumption  
1636 is achieved by Chinese Energy Statistics (National Bureau of Statistics, 2016-2020).  
1637 The GDP, population, and vehicle population data come from the National Bureau of  
1638 Statistics, (2016-2020). Data are normalized by dividing the value of each year by  
1639 their corresponding value in 2015.

1640 Figure 2. Anthropogenic emissions by sector and year. The species include (a) SO<sub>2</sub>, (b)  
1641 NO<sub>x</sub>, (c) CO, (d) AVOCs, (e) NH<sub>3</sub>, (f) PM<sub>10</sub>, (g) PM<sub>2.5</sub>, (h) BC, and (i) OC. Emissions  
1642 are divided into five sectors: power, industry, transportation, residential, and  
1643 agriculture.

1644 Figure 3. Changes in emissions by sector and year. The species include (a) SO<sub>2</sub>, (b)  
1645 NO<sub>x</sub>, (c) CO, (d) AVOCs, (e) NH<sub>3</sub>, (f) PM<sub>10</sub>, (g) PM<sub>2.5</sub>, (h) BC, and (i) OC. The 2015  
1646 emissions are subtracted from the emission data for each year to represent the  
1647 additional emissions compared to 2015 levels.

1648 Figure 4. The city-level emissions and spatial distribution include (a) SO<sub>2</sub>, (b) NO<sub>x</sub>, (c)  
1649 AVOCs, (d) PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and (e) NH<sub>3</sub>; and (f) the proportions of emission by different  
1650 regions for 2015 and 2019. The blue line indicates the Yangtze River. The map data  
1651 provided by Resource and Environment Data Cloud Platform are freely available for  
1652 academic use (<http://www.resdc.cn/data.aspx?DATAID=201>), © Institute of  
1653 Geographic Sciences & Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences.

1654 Figure 5. Difference in the spatial distribution of major pollutant emissions between  
1655 2015 and 2019 for (a) SO<sub>2</sub>, (b) NO<sub>x</sub>, (c) PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and (d) AVOCs. The black circles  
1656 represent the locations of top 10 emitters for corresponding species in each panel. The  
1657 blue line indicates the Yangtze River.

1658 Figure 6. The ratios of BVOCs to AVOCs emissions in July: (a) 2015, (b) 2017, and (c)  
1659 2019.

1660 Figure 7. Comparison of interannual trends with MEIC, EDGAR, and ground-based  
1661 observations: (a) SO<sub>2</sub> and (b) NO<sub>x</sub> (NO<sub>2</sub>).

1662 Figure 8. Comparison of Jiangsu emissions for 2017 with MEIC and An et al. (2021).  
1663 The air pollutants from left to right are SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, VOCs, NH<sub>3</sub>, and PM<sub>2.5</sub>,  
1664 respectively.

1665 Figure 9. Contributions of individual measures to emission reductions in SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>,  
1666 VOCs, and PM<sub>2.5</sub> for 2015-2017 (the left column) and 2017-2019 (the right column).

1667 Figure 10. The monthly averages of (a) PM<sub>2.5</sub> and (b) MDA8 O<sub>3</sub> from CMAQ  
1668 simulation and ground observation for January, April, July and October from 2015 to  
1669 2019. The slopes of linear regressions in the panels indicate the annual variation rates  
1670 for corresponding species.

1671 Figure 11. The concentration changes during 2015-2017 and 2017-2019 from CMAQ  
1672 for (a) PM<sub>2.5</sub> and (b) O<sub>3</sub> (VEMIS and VMET: meteorological conditions and  
1673 emissions fixed at 2017 level, respectively).

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1675 **Tables**

1676 **Table 1 Annual emissions of BVOCs and AVOCs and the ratios of BVOCs to**  
 1677 **AVOCs.**

	Year	January	April	July	October	Annual
BVOCs (Gg)	2015	0.0020	8.1	38.0	3.9	150.0
	2016	0.0017	8.5	51.4	2.8	188.1
	2017	0.0023	9.4	58.7	2.8	212.7
	2018	0.0020	9.1	55.5	3.5	204.3
	2019	0.0017	6.9	53.4	4.1	193.2
AVOCs (Gg)	2015	131.3	102.8	101.8	104.0	1348.3
	2016	131.2	102.3	101.3	103.6	1346.4
	2017	123.4	97.0	96.0	98.2	1342.9
	2018	131.6	102.5	101.6	103.8	1306.0
	2019	127.7	99.4	98.4	100.6	1271.1
BVOCs/AVOCs ( $\times 10^{-2}$ )	2015	0.0	7.9	37.3	3.8	11.1
	2016	0.0	8.3	50.7	2.7	14.0
	2017	0.0	9.7	61.2	2.9	15.8
	2018	0.0	8.9	54.6	3.4	15.6
	2019	0.0	6.9	54.3	4.1	15.2

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1691 **Table 2 Air pollutant emissions in Jiangsu and comparison with previous studies**

Data source		Annual air pollutant emissions (Gg·yr <sup>-1</sup> )						
		SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>x</sub>	AVOCs	NH <sub>3</sub>	CO	PM <sub>10</sub>	PM <sub>2.5</sub>
2014	Li et al. (2018)	1002	1315	1560	544	12667	1761	779
2015	This study	627	1411	1348	468	7735	711	491
	<u>Official emission statistics<sup>a</sup></u>	<u>835</u>	<u>1068</u>				<u>655</u>	
	MEIC	626	1646	2143	544	9059	595	444
	REAS	649	1343	2063	611	10980	827	622
	<u>EDGAR</u>	<u>957</u>	<u>1693</u>	<u>2178</u>	<u>488</u>	<u>7157</u>	<u>814</u>	<u>573</u>
	Sun et al. (2018)	1230	1700	2000		13780		
	Zhang et al. (2017)				703			
	<u>Yang et al. (2021a)</u>	<u>613</u>	<u>1285</u>	<u>1911</u>	<u>354</u>	<u>7711</u>	<u>781</u>	<u>617</u>
2016	This study	580	1391	1346	452	7397	687	475
	<u>Official emission statistics</u>	<u>579</u>	<u>634</u>				<u>798</u>	
	MEIC	468	1586	2128	532	8191	516	388
	<u>EGGAR</u>	<u>905</u>	<u>1641</u>	<u>2126</u>	<u>453</u>	<u>6902</u>	<u>771</u>	<u>536</u>
	Simayi et al. (2019)			2024				
		<u>Yang et al. (2019)<sup>b</sup></u>		<u>1245</u>				
2017	This study	416	1331	1343	434	7305	676	468
	<u>Official emission statistics</u>	<u>384</u>	<u>500</u>				<u>626</u>	
	MEIC	315	1538	2132	528	7731	492	367
	<u>EDGAR</u>	<u>876</u>	<u>1614</u>	<u>2116</u>	<u>432</u>	<u>6636</u>	<u>744</u>	<u>513</u>
	An et al. (2021)	619	1165	2056	1093	17309	1440	404
2018	This study	374	1198	1306	430	7252	670	462
	<u>Official emission statistics</u>	<u>316</u>	<u>497</u>				<u>526</u>	
	MEIC	336	1456	1999	484	6513	365	272
	<u>EDGAR</u>	<u>892</u>	<u>1653</u>	<u>2147</u>	<u>414</u>	<u>6813</u>	<u>751</u>	<u>517</u>
	Gao et al. (2022)	210	830	3000	530	9950	310	260

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2019	This study	296	1122	1271	422	7163	565	411
	<u>Official emission statistics</u>	<u>226</u>	<u>333</u>				<u>242</u>	
	MEIC	311	1414	1983	455	6380	351	263

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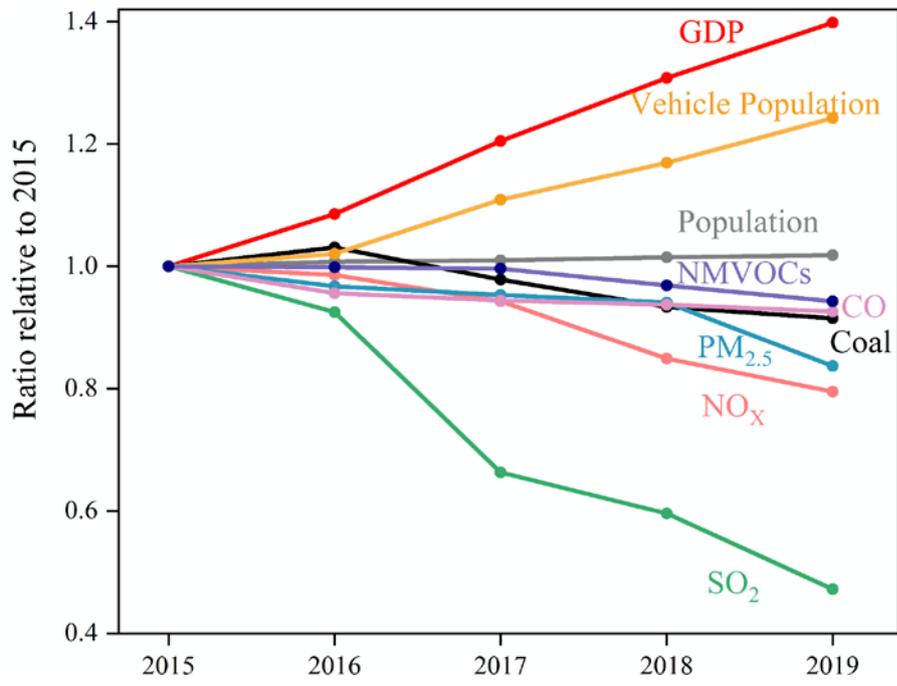
1696 <sup>a</sup> The data were taken from Department of Ecology and Environment of Jiangsu  
1697 Province (<http://sthjt.jiangsu.gov.cn/col/col83555/index.html>).  
1698 <sup>b</sup> An estimate with the “top-down” methodology, in which the emissions were  
1699 constrained with satellite observation and inverse modelling.

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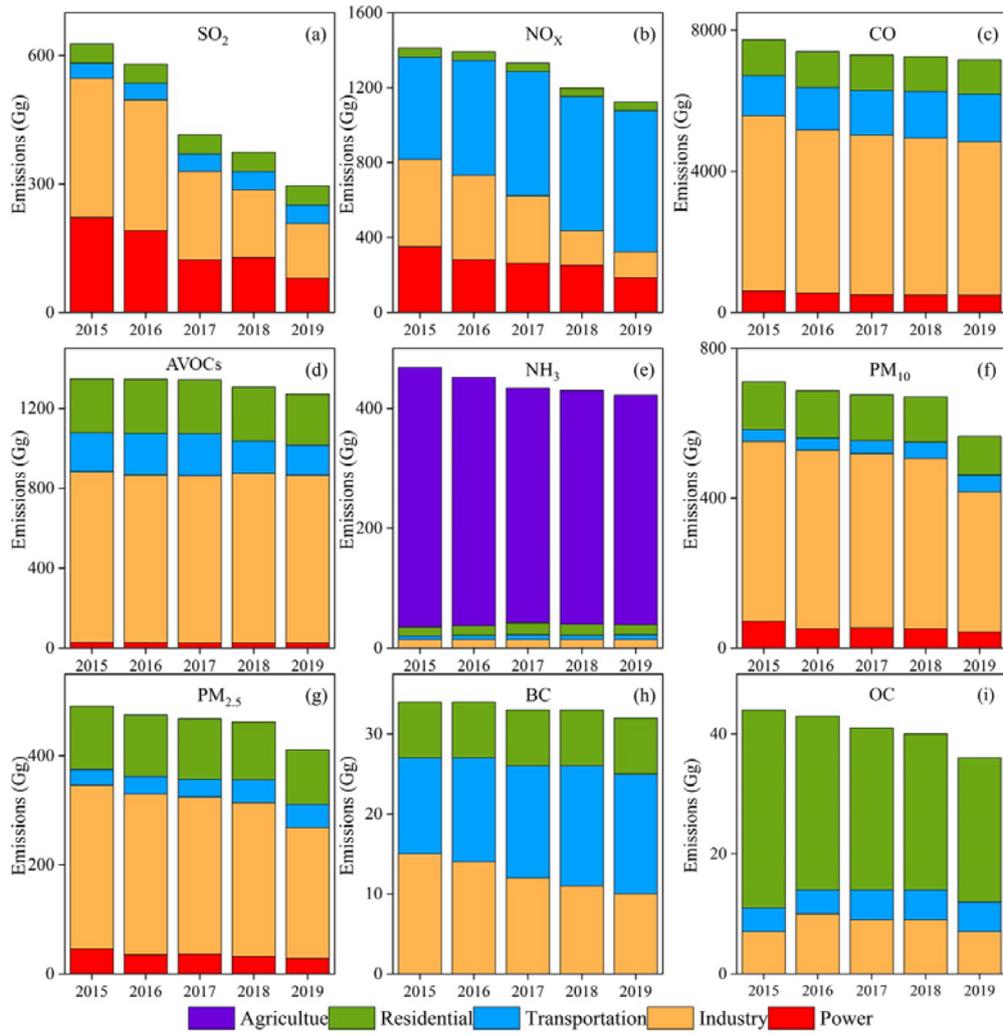
1728 **Figure 1**



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1743 **Figure 2**

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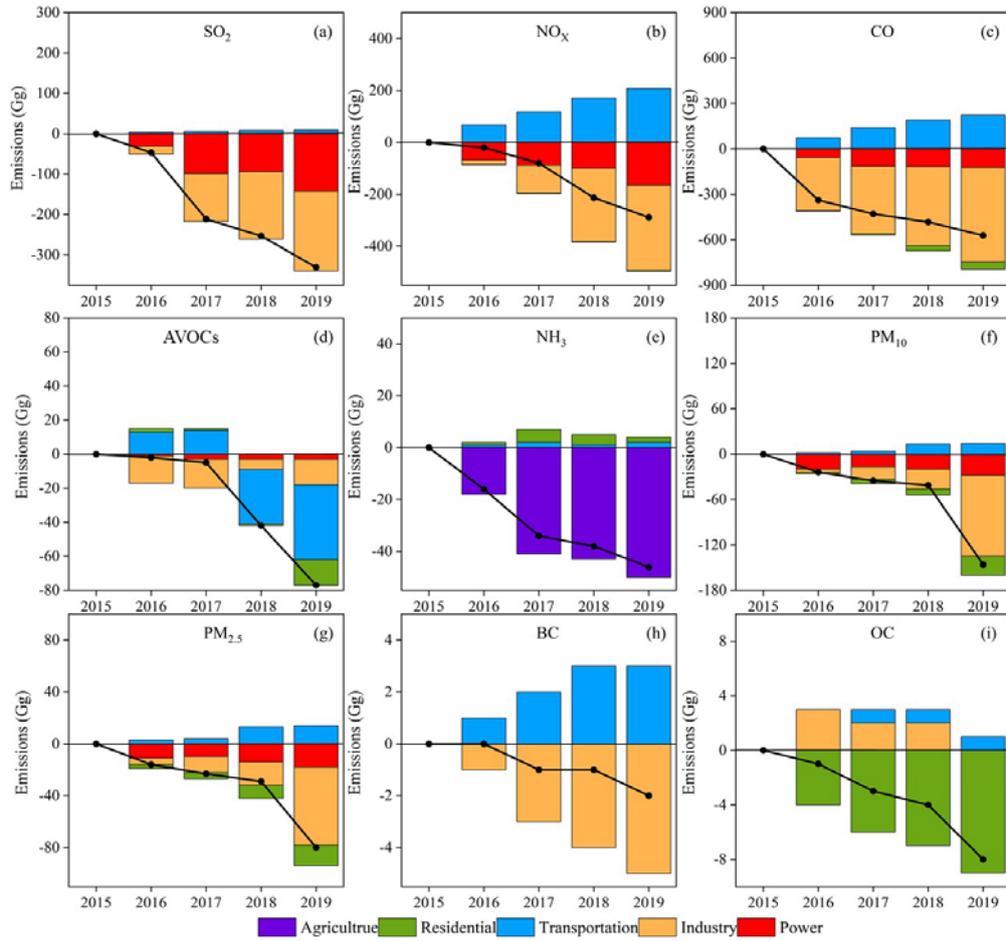
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1751 **Figure 3**



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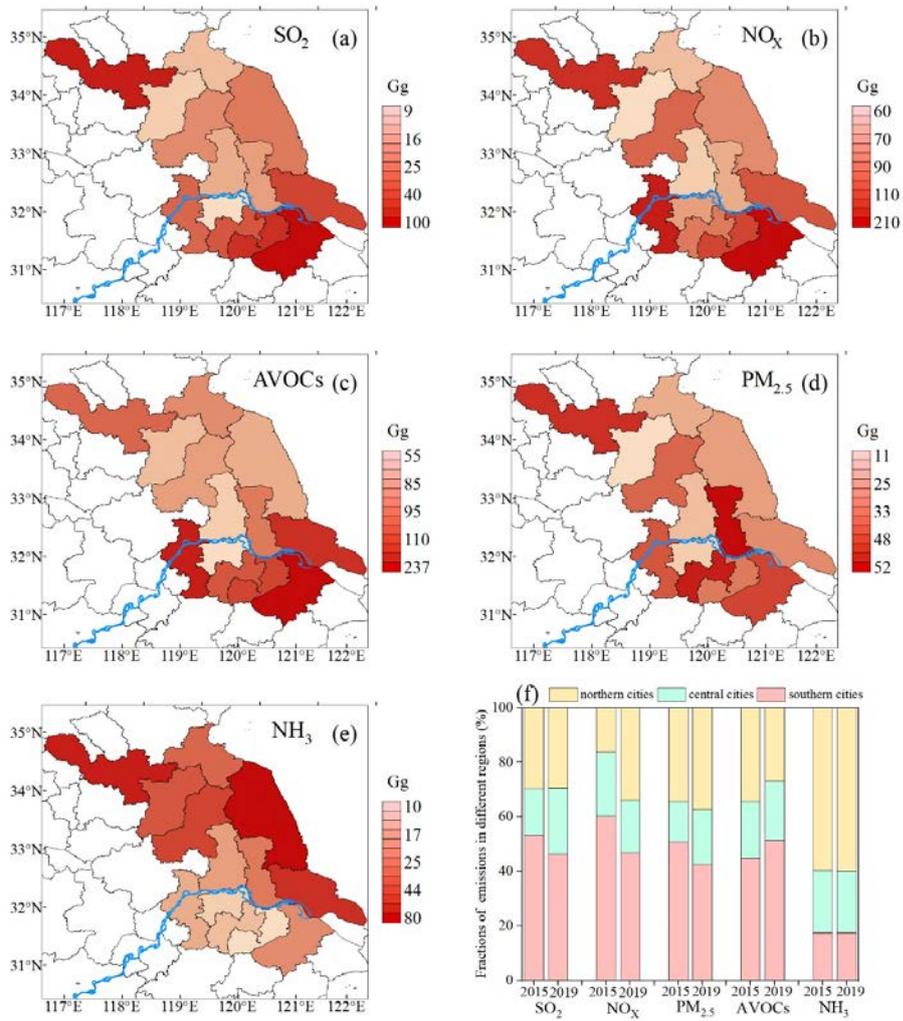
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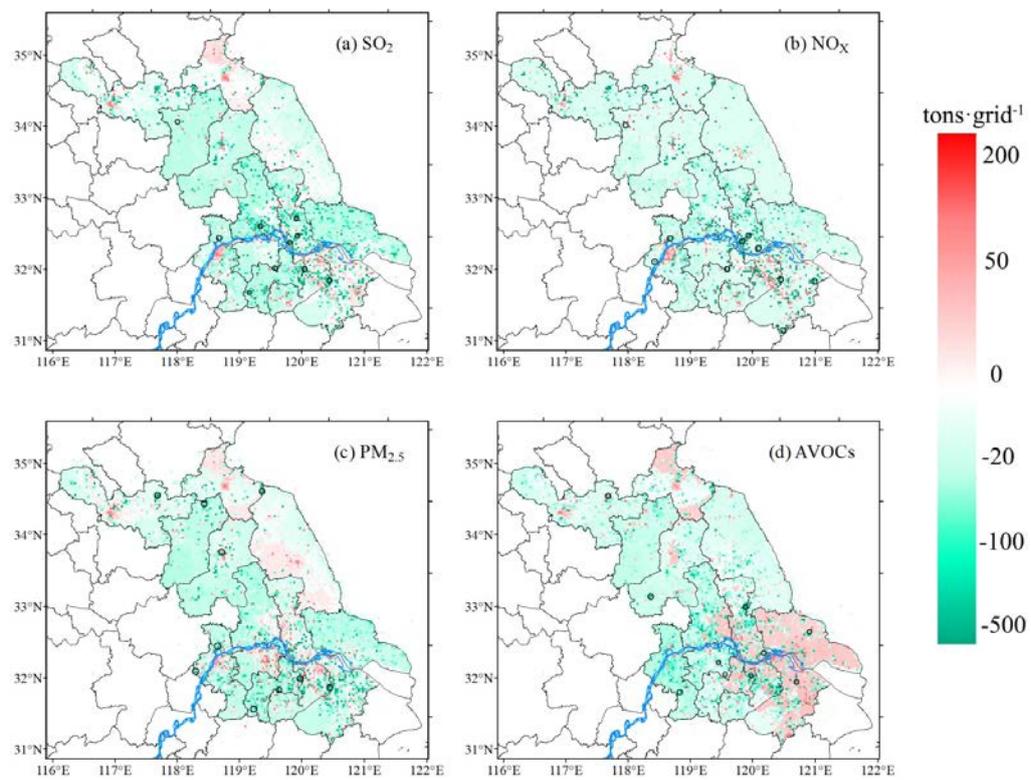
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1759 **Figure 4**



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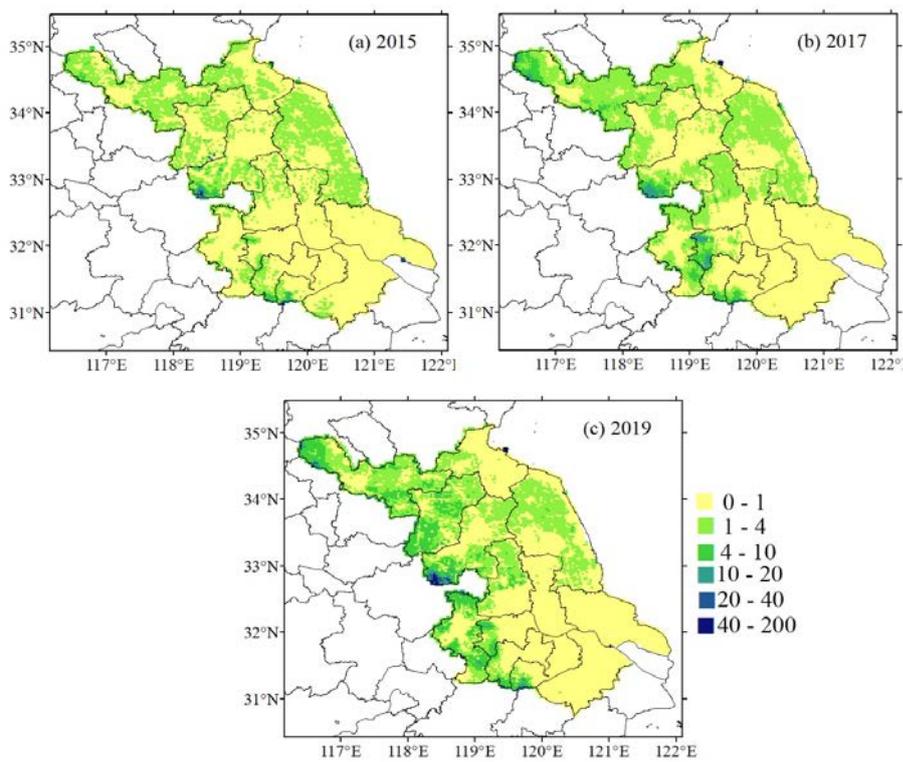
1761 **Figure 5**



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1764 **Figure 6**



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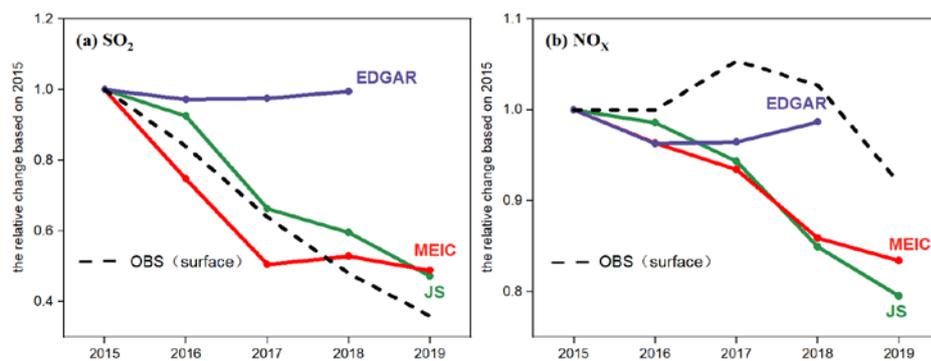
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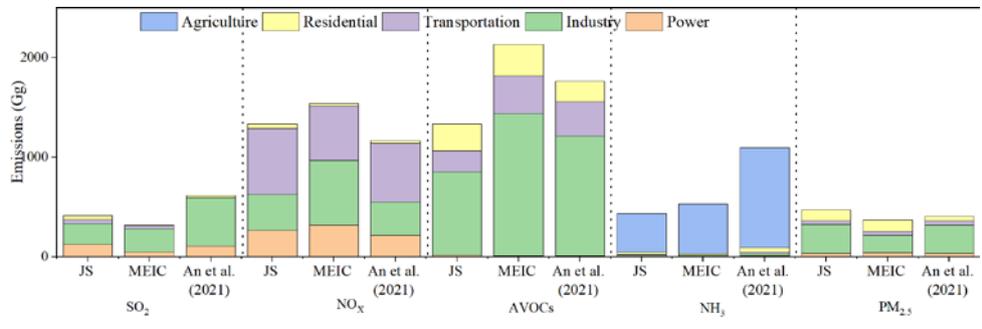
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1771 **Figure 7**



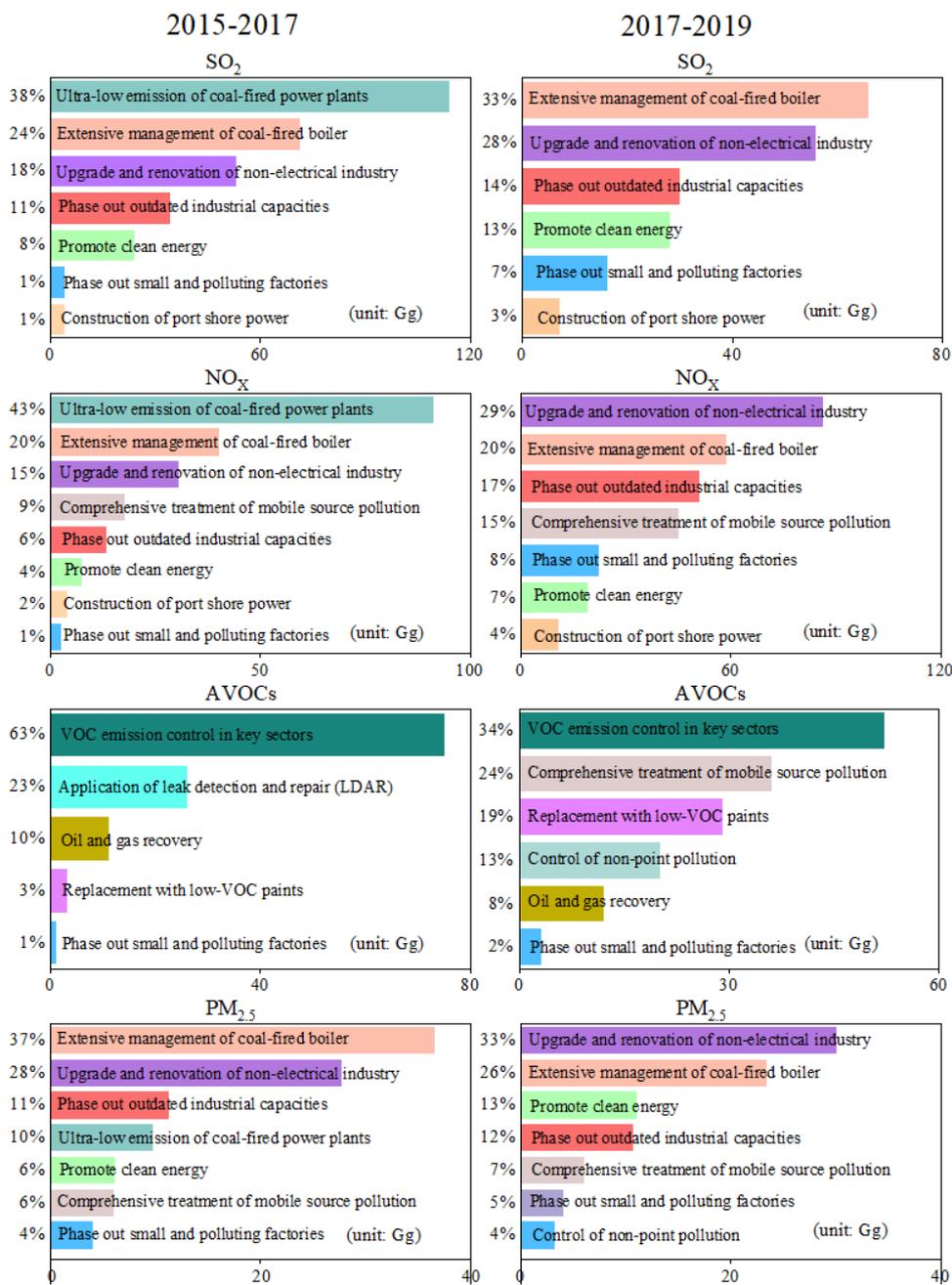
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1794 **Figure 8**



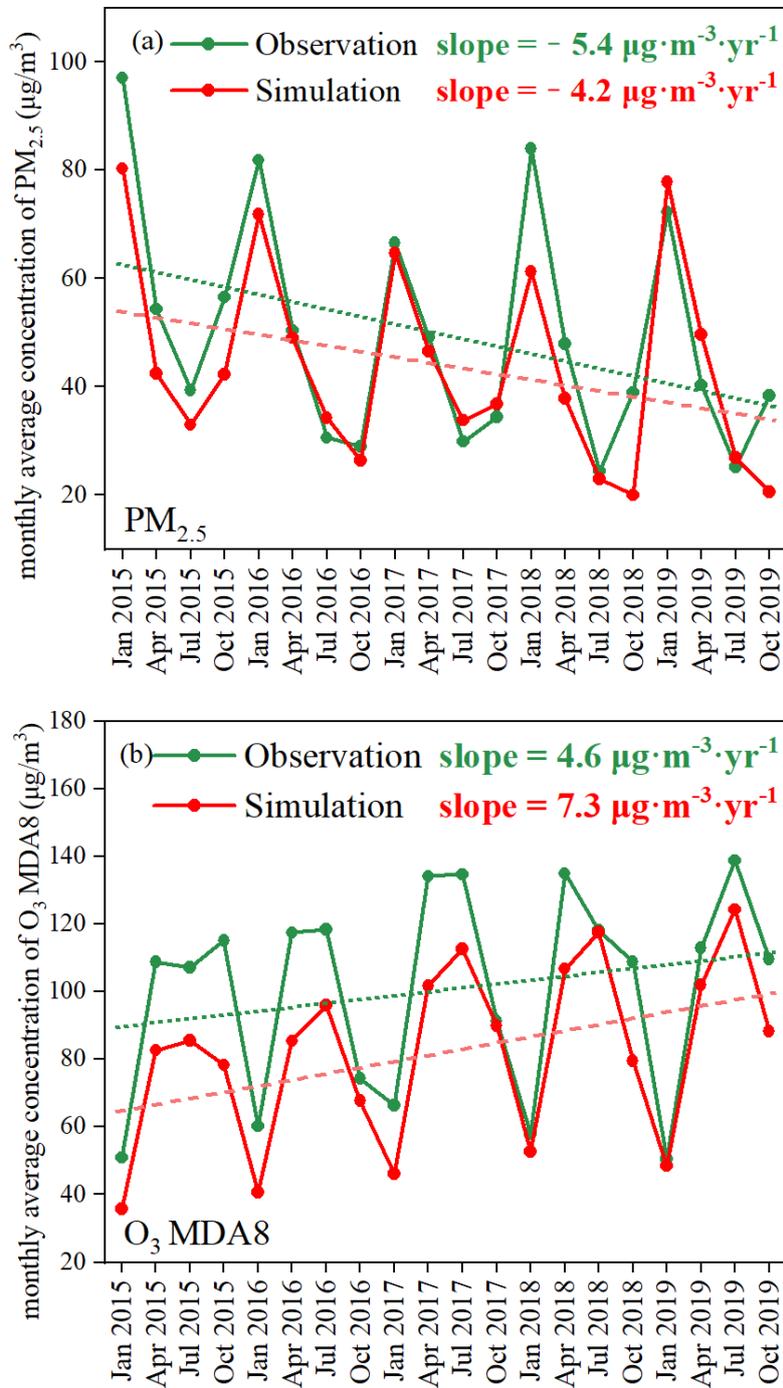
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1802 **Figure 9**



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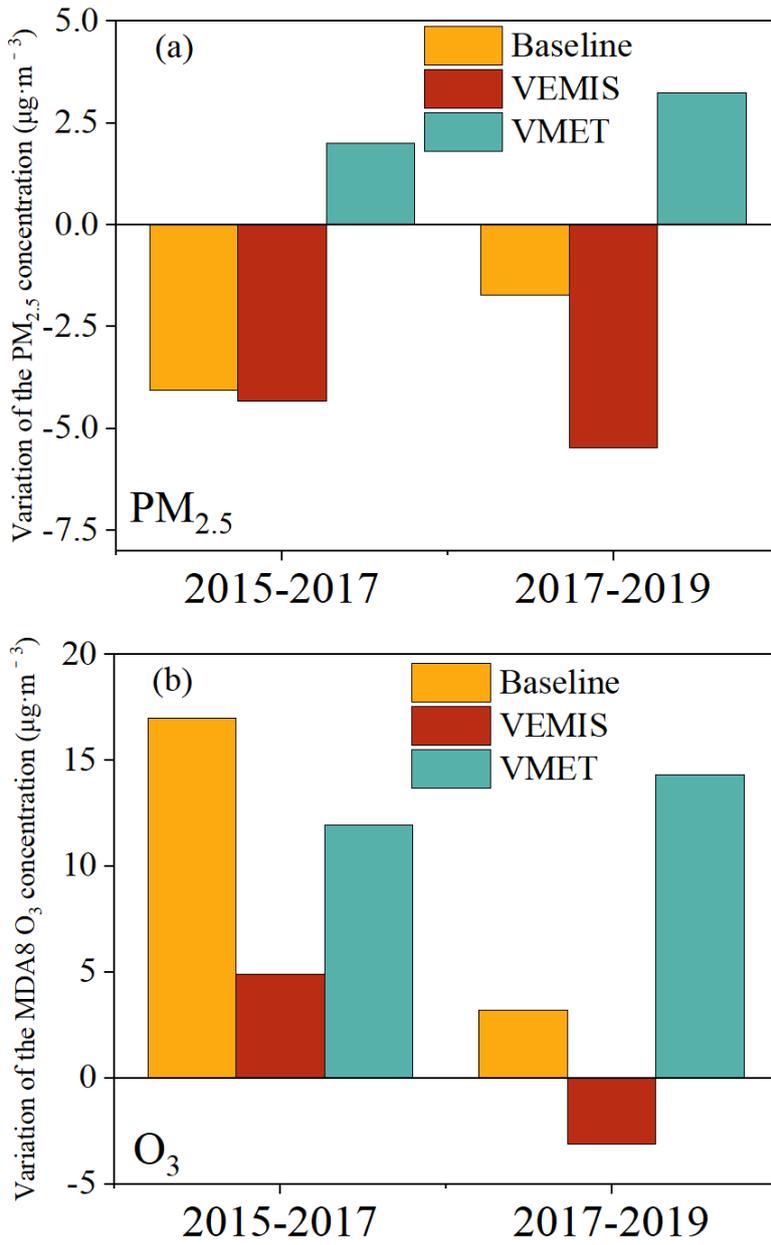
1804 **Figure 10**



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1808 **Figure 11**



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