

1 **Measurement Report: Rapid changes of chemical characteristics and health risks for high**
2 **time-resolved trace elements in PM_{2.5} in a typical industrial city in response to stringent**
3 **clean air actions**

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14 **Abstract**

15 Atmospheric trace metals entail significant damages in human health and ecosystem safety, and
16 thus a series of clean air actions have been implemented to decrease the ambient element
17 concentrations. Unfortunately, the impact of these emission control measures on element
18 concentrations in fine particles remained poorly understood. In our study, the random forest (RF)
19 model was applied to distinguish the effects of emission and meteorology to trace elements in PM_{2.5}
20 in a typical industrial city named Tangshan based on a three-year (2017-2020) hourly field
21 observation. The result suggested that the clean air actions have facilitated the dramatic decreases
22 of the deweathered concentrations of Ga, Co, Pb, Zn, and As by 72%, 67%, 62%, 59%, and 54%,
23 respectively. It is attributable to the strict implementation of “coal to gas” strategies and
24 optimization of industrial structure and layout. However, the deweathered levels of Ca (8.3%), Cr
25 (18.5%), and Fe (23%) only displayed minor decreases, indicating that the emission control
26 measures for ferrous metal smelting and vehicle emission were not very effective. The positive
27 matrix factorization (PMF) results suggested that the contribution ratios of biomass burning, non-

28 ferrous metal smelting, coal combustion, ferrous metal smelting, heavy oil combustion, and traffic-
29 related dust changed from 33%, 11%, 15%, 13%, 3%, and 25% to 33%, 8%, 8%, 13%, 4%, and
30 33%, respectively. To date, no significant noncarcinogenic and carcinogenic risks were observed
31 for all of the elements, while both of As and Pb still showed relatively high health damages. It was
32 proposed to further cut down the combustion-related emissions (e.g., As and Pb) because it showed
33 the highest marginal health benefits. Besides, the control of traffic-related emissions might be a key
34 abatement strategy to facilitate the reduction of elements in fine particles.

35 **Keywords:** hourly trace elements; chemical characteristics; health risks; clean air actions; Tangshan

36 **1. Introduction**

37 Along with the rapid economic development and accelerated urbanization, the energy
38 consumption and output of various industrial products worldwide displayed the persistent increases,
39 thereby leading to the massive emissions of elements especially trace metals into the atmosphere
40 (Tian et al., 2015; Zhu et al., 2020). These elements injected into the atmosphere could pose great
41 threaten to the terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem via dry/wet deposition and then endanger human
42 health through the physiochemical transfer and bioaccumulation in food chains (Fernandez et al.,
43 2000; Harmens et al., 2010; Storelli, 2008). For instance, some toxic trace metals including
44 cadmium (Cd), lead (Pb), and mercury (Hg) were often regarded as human carcinogens even in trace
45 amounts (Micheline et al., 2019; Olujimi et al., 2015). Besides, the excessive accumulation of some
46 biological essential elements such as copper (Cu), iron (Fe), and zinc (Zn) could initiate activation
47 of inflammatory cascades in tissues and the induction of biochemical synthesis pathways by
48 catalyzing the generation of reactive oxygen species (ROS) (Alies et al., 2013; Lopez-Cruz et al.,
49 2016; Saffari et al., 2014), though minor enrichment of these elements was beneficial to the human
50 health and plant growth (Oldani et al., 2017). Apart from the health impacts, some transition metals
51 (e.g., Ni, Zn) could catalyze some chemical reactions such as particle-phase sulfate generation and
52 heterogeneous production and removal of gas-phase hydrogen oxide radicals (HO_x) to aggravate the
53 haze formation (Clements et al., 2013; Guo et al., 2014). Therefore, it is highly imperative to
54 recognize the pollution status of elements in the atmosphere, to identify the major sources and then
55 to propose effective controls measures to alleviate their negative effects on air pollution and human
56 health especially in some developing countries.

57 In the past decades, hundreds of studies investigated the pollution levels of elements and
58 revealed their sources in various study regions including urban (Das et al., 2018; Duan and Tan,
59 2013; Lyu et al., 2017; Grivas et al., 2018; Clements et al., 2014), marine (Shi et al., 2015; Witt et
60 al., 2006), mountain (Kang et al., 2016). Most of these studies used the filter sampling (one sample
61 or two samples each day) technique coupled with offline analysis using inductively coupled plasma
62 mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) or inductively coupled plasma-atomic emission spectrometry (ICP-
63 AES) to determine the element concentrations in the atmosphere (Ao et al., 2019; Lin et al., 2016).
64 Although these studies have obtained many valuable information about the occurrence levels and
65 key sources of ambient elements, the low time-resolution data cannot accurately reflect the dynamic
66 transformation and evolution of ambient elements. It was well known that atmospheric emissions,
67 transport and deposition significantly relied on rapidly evolving meteorological conditions (Holden
68 et al., 2016; Rasmussen, 1998), and thus the offline samples inevitably ignored the impacts of
69 environmental shifts with rapid temporality on the atmospheric element concentrations. Moreover,
70 most of current source apportionment studies employed the receptor models (positive matrix
71 factorization (PMF)) to determine the potential sources of elements (Jeong et al., 2016; Lyu et al.,
72 2017), and the accuracy of these models was strongly dependent on the sample size and time
73 resolution (Liu et al., 2018b). In this regard, the high time-resolved observation of atmospheric
74 elements provided an unprecedented opportunity to characterize the occurrence levels, identify their
75 major sources, and assess the health impacts.

76 To date, only a few studies applied the high-resolution devices to capture the hourly variability
77 of ambient elements. Prati et al. (2000) firstly used Particle Induced X-ray Emission (PIXE)
78 measurements to analyze hourly trace elements in Genoa in Italy. Following this work, A.
79 D'Alessandro et al. (2003) and Dall'Osto et al. (2013) also employed the same technique to
80 determine the trace metals in Italian towns and Barcelona, respectively. Later on, Jeong et al. (2016)
81 used Xact metals monitor to reveal the temporal variability of atmospheric elements in Toronto,
82 Canada in summer and winter during 2013-2014. Recently, the Xact metals monitor has begun to
83 be performed in China due to the higher accuracy and convenience. Chang et al. (2018) firstly used
84 the online multi-element analyzer to achieve a one-year near real-time observation of ambient
85 elements in China and found traffic, nonferrous metal smelting and coal combustion were major

86 sources of atmospheric trace metals. Afterwards, Cui et al. (2019) applied the analyzer to monitor
87 1-year atmospheric elements, and demonstrated that dust, industry, and biomass burning were
88 considered as the dominant sources of most trace elements in Beijing, accounting for 36%, 10.7%,
89 and 27% of total PM_{2.5} concentration, respectively. Up to date, continuous hourly element
90 observation was only performed less than one year in most of the previous studies, and the long-
91 term temporal variability of absolute concentrations and key pollution sources of atmospheric
92 elements cannot be fully revealed.

93 Since 2013, Chinese government proposed strict Air Pollution Prevention and Control Action
94 Plan (the Action Plan) across China and the emissions of multiple gaseous pollutants suffered from
95 significant decreases. In turn, the absolute concentrations and health effects of air pollutants also
96 experienced the rapid changes response to these stringent control measures. Zhang et al. (2019)
97 reported that the population-weighted annual mean PM_{2.5} concentration decreased from 62 to 42
98 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ during 2013-2017 and reduced PM_{2.5}-attributable premature deaths by 0.4 million due to the
99 impact of the Action Plan. Shortly after that, Geng et al. (2019) estimated that the population-
100 weighted mean concentrations of SO₄²⁻, NO₃⁻, and NH₄⁺ in PM_{2.5} decreased from 11.1, 13.8, and
101 7.4 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ to 6.7, 13.1, and 5.8 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, respectively during the same period. Nevertheless, the impact
102 of the Action Plan on trace elements in fine particles still remained poorly understood. Especially,
103 the knowledge about the variation of source apportionment and health risks for trace elements
104 response to the Action Plan was extremely limited. Moreover, most of the previous studies only
105 utilized the original concentrations to analyze the impact of clean air policy (He et al., 2021; Xiao
106 et al., 2020). It was well known that the pollutant concentrations in the atmosphere were affected
107 by meteorology and anthropogenic emissions simultaneously (Li et al., 2021), and the use of original
108 element concentrations alone cannot assess the unique contribution of emission reduction to the air
109 pollutants. Thus, it is urgently needed to remove the effect of meteorology and accurately capture
110 the independent influence of the Action Plan on the chemical characteristics, source apportionment,
111 and health risks of trace elements. Such knowledge is critical to design effective air pollution
112 mitigation strategies in the near future.

113 As a heavily industrialized city located in North China Plain (NCP), Tangshan possesses many
114 energy-intensive industries including coal-fired power plants, non-ferrous smelting industries,

115 textiles, building materials, chemical engineering, and papermaking industries (Ren et al., 2011).
116 Intensifying industrial development and urbanization aggravated local air quality. Previous studies
117 performed in Tangshan focused on the trace metals in soils and dusts (Cui et al., 2020; Song et al.,
118 2011), whereas no study analyzed the long-term and high-resolution variabilities of atmospheric
119 elements. Since 2013, many emission control measures such as the establishment of desulfurization
120 and denitration facilities for coal-fired power sector have been strictly implemented in Tangshan
121 (Ma et al., 2019). Especially after 2017, coal to gas project has started to be implemented in
122 Tangshan and the energy structure suffered from significant change (Wang et al., 2020b). In
123 response to substantial pollution control policies, the chemical compositions and major sources of
124 trace elements might show corresponding change. Here, we conducted a near real-time
125 measurement of atmospheric elements in PM_{2.5} using a Xact multi-metals analyzer in Tangshan,
126 China during September 2017 to August 2020. The primary objectives of our study were to (1)
127 determine the occurrence levels of elements in PM_{2.5} of Tangshan; (2) to analyze the seasonal and
128 intra-week variations of atmospheric elements and to distinguish the separate contributions of
129 emission and meteorology to these species; (3) to quantify the changes of major sources for
130 atmospheric elements during this period; (4) to assess the changes of health risks in response to
131 these pollution control measures.

132 **2. Material and methods**

133 2.1 Sampling site

134 The sampling site (39.66°N, 118.18°E) is situated on the rooftop (~20 m above the ground) of a
135 building in the urban district of Tangshan and no high buildings spread around within 100 m range.
136 The sampling site is close to some major roads including Airport Road, Huayan North Road, and
137 Changhong Road. A large number of commercial streets and recreation facility surround the site.
138 Although no big industrial point source was closely adjacent to the sampling site, many potential
139 pollution sources were located more than 15 km away from the site. For instance, Beihu industrial
140 region is located about 15 km in the eastern direction of the site. Some large iron steel industries
141 and nonferrous/ferrous smelting industries were located on the north of sampling site (more than 30
142 km). Besides, most of large petrochemical industries, coal-fired power plants, and shipping
143 industries focus on Caofeidian and Haigang developing zones, both of which were located about 50

144 km in the South area of the sampling site. The detailed location is depicted in Figure 1.

145 2.2 Instrumentation

146 Hourly mass concentrations of 22 elements, including Ag, As, Au, Ca, Co, Cu, Cd, Cr, Fe, Ga,
147 Hg, K, Mn, Ni, Pb, Pd, Sb, Se, Sn, Tl, V, and Zn in PM_{2.5} were determined by an online multi-
148 element analyzer (Model Xact 625, Cooper Environment Service, USA) (Table S1). The sample air
149 is drawn through a small spot on the tape where the PM_{2.5} was collected at a flow rate of 16.7 L
150 min⁻¹ during September 2017-August 2020. An internal Pd pod is utilized as an internal standard to
151 detect the stability of the instrument. Tl was removed from the datasets because over 95% of their
152 concentrations were below the limit of detection (LOD) (Table S2). Au, Cd, Sn and Sb were also
153 excluded from the datasets because over 50% of the concentrations for these metals were below the
154 LOD. To validate the reliability of online multi-element analyzer, many previous studies used the
155 filter sampling coupled with ICP-MS and ICP-AES to determine the daily concentrations of
156 elements and confirmed that the online device showed good agreement with the filter sampling
157 (Furger et al., 2017; Tianxue et al., 2006). Hourly averaged meteorological parameters including air
158 temperature (T), relative humidity (RH), air pressure (P), wind direction (WD), and wind speed
159 (WS) during the sampling period were measured by a weather station with sonic anemometer
160 (150WX, Airmar, Milford, NH, USA). The hourly mass concentration of PM_{2.5} was determined by
161 the particulate monitor (Thermo, FH62C-14). The routine procedures, including the daily zero or
162 standard calibration, span and range check, station environmental control and staff certification,
163 followed the Technical Guideline of Automatic Stations of Ambient Air Quality in Tangshan based
164 on the national specification HJ/T193-2005, which was revised based on the technical guidance
165 established by the US EPA. Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QA/QC) for the Xact
166 measurements was implemented throughout the sampling period. The internal Pd upscale value was
167 recorded after daily programmed test for the instrument.

168 2.3 Deweathered model development

169 The concentrations of air pollutants were affected by meteorological parameters and emissions
170 simultaneously. In order to separate the contributions of emissions, the impacts of meteorological
171 conditions must be eliminated. In this study, a typical machine-learning model named random forest
172 (RF) approach was applied to distinguish the effects of emissions and meteorological conditions

173 (Chen et al., 2018). All of trace elements in PM_{2.5} were treated as the dependent variables. The time
174 predictors (year, day of year (DOY), day of week (DOW), hour of day (HOY)) and meteorological
175 factors including air temperature (T), relative humidity (RH), wind speed (WS), wind direction
176 (WD), and air pressure (P) were regarded as the predictors (Figure S1). The original dataset was
177 randomly classified into a training dataset (80% of input dataset) for developing the RF model and
178 the remained one was treated as the test dataset. After the building of the RF model, the deweathered
179 technique was employed to predict the concentrations of trace elements at a specific time point. The
180 deweathered element concentrations served as the concentrations contributed by emission alone.
181 The differences of original element concentrations and deweathered element concentrations were
182 regarded as the concentrations contributed by meteorology. Many statistical indicators including R²
183 value, root-mean-square error (RMSE), and mean absolute error (MAE) were regarded as the major
184 indicators to evaluate the RF modelling accuracy. The RF model with the 5-fold cross-validation R²
185 value less than 0.5 was considered to be the unconvincing result and cannot reflect the impacts of
186 emission and meteorology on air pollutants accurately because more than 50% variability of the
187 training model cannot be appropriately explained. After the model evaluation, only the trace
188 elements with the cross-validation R² values larger than 0.5 were selected to estimate the respective
189 contributions of emission and meteorology to the total element concentrations.

190 2.4 PMF model

191 As a typical receptor model applied to source apportionment, PMF 5.0 version was used to
192 identify the major origins of atmospheric elements and to determine the contribution ratio of each
193 source to these elements. The objective of PMF is to solve the issues of chemical mass balance
194 between measured concentration of each element and its source contributions by decomposing the
195 input matrix into factor contribution and factor profile. The detailed equation is shown in Eq. (1).
196 Besides, the contribution of each source for individual element must be non-negative because no
197 sample has a negative source contribution. In brief, the basic principle of PMF is to calculate the
198 least object function Q when the g_{ik} must be a positive-definite matrix based on Eq. (2) (Paatero and
199 Tapper, 1994; Reff et al., 2007).

$$200 \quad x_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^p g_{ik} f_{kj} + e_{ij} \quad (1)$$

201

$$Q = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m \left[\frac{x_{ij} - \sum_{k=1}^p g_{ik} f_{kj}}{u_{ij}} \right]^2 \quad (2)$$

202

where x_{ij} and e_{ij} denote the concentration and uncertainty of j th element, respectively. g_{ik} represents

203

the contribution ratio of k th source to i th sample, f_{kj} represents the ratio of j th element in k th source,

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and e_{ij} indicates the residual of j th element in the i sample. The uncertainties associated with factor

205

profiles were evaluated using three error calculation methods including bootstraps (BS) method,

206

displacement (DISP) analysis, and the combination method of DISP and BS (BS-DISP). For the BS

207

method, 100 runs were performed and the result has been believed to be valid since all of the factors

208

showed a mapping of above 90%. DISP analysis also confirmed that the solution was considered to

209

be stable because the observed drop in the Q value was less than 0.1% and no factor swap occurred.

210

For the BS-DISP analysis, the solution has been verified to be useful because the observed drop in

211

the Q value was less than 0.5%. Furthermore, both of the results from BS and BS-DISP did not

212

suggest any asymmetry or rotational ambiguity for all of the factors (Manousakas et al., 2017;

213

Taghvaei et al., 2018).

214

2.5 Health risk assessment of trace metals in $PM_{2.5}$

215

As a typical industrial city, Tangshan possesses a large number of residents and poor air quality.

216

Therefore, the residents in Tangshan might suffer from severe exposure risks of trace metals. In our

217

work, the carcinogenic and non-carcinogenic risks of trace metals in $PM_{2.5}$ were evaluated based on

218

some statistical threshold proposed by International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). Based

219

on the criterion of IARC, As, Ni, Cr, and Pb were considered to be carcinogenic to humans.

220

The carcinogenic and non-carcinogenic risks induced by metal exposure for adults and children

221

were evaluated based on the carcinogenic risks (CR) and hazard quotient (HQ). The formulas for

222

calculating ADD, CR, and HQ are as follows:

223

$$ADD = (C \times InhR \times EF \times ED) / (BW \times AT) \quad (3)$$

224

$$HQ = ADD / RfD \quad (4)$$

225

$$CR = ADD \times CSF \quad (5)$$

226

where C ($mg\ m^{-3}$) denotes the concentration of the corresponding trace metal in $PM_{2.5}$; $InhR$ is the

227

respiratory rate; EF represents the annual exposure frequency ($d\ y^{-1}$); ED is the exposure duration;

228

BW is the average body weight; AT denotes the average exposure time; ADD means the daily intake

229 (mg/kg/day) of trace metals; RfD represents the reference dose, calculated with reference
230 concentrations; CSF is the cancer slope factor. The potential non-carcinogenic risk of the trace metal
231 might be high when HQ was above 1.0, whereas the health risk is not obvious when HQ is below
232 1.0. The carcinogenic risk of each trace metal is evaluated based on whether CR is higher than 10^{-4} .
233

234 **3. Results and discussion**

235 3.1 Occurrence levels and inter-annual variations of original element concentrations

236 The total mass concentrations of 16 elements in PM_{2.5} of Tangshan varied between 230 ng/m³
237 to 20000 ng/m³, with the median value of 3100 ± 900 ng/m³. The total element concentrations in
238 Tangshan accounted for 5.7% of the total mass concentrations of PM_{2.5}, which was slightly higher
239 than those in Beijing (4.7%) and Qingdao (4.0%), and significantly higher than that in Shanghai
240 (1.80%) (Chang et al., 2018; Cui et al., 2019). As depicted in Figure 2, the concentrations of these
241 elements followed the order of K (1400 ± 950 ng/m³) > Fe (880 ± 590 ng/m³) > Ca (330 ± 270
242 ng/m³) > Zn (320 ± 160 ng/m³) > Pb (58 ± 36 ng/m³) > Mn (54 ± 32 ng/m³) > Cu (22 ± 19 ng/m³) >
243 As (15.3 ± 11.0 ng/m³) > Se (6.5 ± 5.3 ng/m³) > V (4.0 ± 3.6 ng/m³) > Cr (2.8 ± 2.2 ng/m³) > Ag
244 (2.8 ± 2.1 ng/m³) > Ni (2.2 ± 1.8 ng/m³) > Hg (1.5 ± 0.8 ng/m³) > Ga (0.9 ± 0.7 ng/m³) > Co ($0.7 \pm$
245 0.2 ng/m³). Among all of these elements, K, Fe, Zn, and Ca were most abundant species, accounting
246 for 95% of the total elements in PM_{2.5}. The remaining element concentrations only accounted for
247 less than 6% of the total element concentrations, which was similar to the previous studies (Chang
248 et al., 2018; Cui et al., 2019). Nearly all of the trace elements in Tangshan, Beijing, Qingdao, and
249 Shanghai were significantly lower than those in Zibo during 2006-2007 (Table S3). It suggested
250 that the trace elements in China experienced marked decreases in the past decades (Zhang et al.,
251 2018). Compared with some cities in some developed countries, all of the trace element
252 concentrations were significantly higher than those in London and Toronto. However, the
253 concentrations of K, Ca, V, Cr, Mn, and Fe in Tangshan were higher than those in Venice, Italy.

254 Due to the higher exposure risk and great threaten to human health, it is necessary to compare
255 the trace metal concentrations with the risk threshold proposed by many organizations or countries.
256 As shown in Table 1, we have collected many risk thresholds in different countries and found that
257 the Hg (1.5 ± 0.8 ng/m³), Ni (2.2 ± 1.8 ng/m³), and Pb concentrations (58 ± 36 ng/m³) in Tangshan

258 were significantly lower than the thresholds of the Chinese Ambient Air Quality Standard (CAAQS)
259 (Hg: 50 ng/m³), World Health Organization (WHO) (Hg: 1000 ng/m³, Ni: 25 ng/m³, and Pb: 1000
260 ng/m³), Europe Union (EU) (Ni: 20 ng/m³), and the United States (Pb: 150 ng/m³). However, both
261 of the As (15 ± 11 ng/m³) and Cr concentrations (2.8 ± 2.2 ng/m³) in PM_{2.5} of Tangshan were much
262 higher than the standard values of CAAQS (As: 6.0 ng/m³ and Cr: 0.03 ng/m³), WHO (As: 6.6 ng/m³
263 and Cr: 0.25 ng/m³), and EU (As: 6.0 ng/m³).

264 The inter-annual variation of original concentrations of trace elements in PM_{2.5} are depicted in
265 Figure 3 and S2-S3. The original concentrations of all the trace elements exhibited the decreasing
266 trends. Cu, Co, Zn, Pb, As, and Ga concentrations suffered from dramatic decreases from 37 to 12
267 ng/m³ (68%), 1.21 to 0.4 ng/m³ (66%), 400 to 190 ng/m³ (53%), 71 to 40 ng/m³ (44%), 20 to 11
268 ng/m³ (44%), and 1.09 to 0.6 ng/m³ (42%), respectively. Following these species, observed K (40%),
269 Ag (39%), V (39%), Ni (36%), Ca (33%), Mn (29%), Se (29%), Fe (27%), and Cr (21%)
270 concentrations showed moderate decreasing ratios. The observed Hg level exhibited the lowest
271 decreasing ratio from 1.59 to 1.43 ng/m³ (9.9%).

272 3.2 Impact of emission reduction on trace element concentrations

273 Although the original concentrations of trace elements could be utilized to analyze the impact of
274 the clean air policy, the role of emission reduction on element concentration might not be clearly
275 clarified because the meteorological factors were also important variables affecting the air quality.
276 In order to accurately reflect the response of element concentrations to emission reduction alone
277 during 2017-2020, the meteorological conditions were eliminated by RF model in our study. Based
278 on the results in Figure S4, the RF models for all of the species showed better performance because
279 their R² values were higher than 0.50, and the slopes of all of the fitting curves were also close to
280 the R² values. The result suggested that the separation of meteorology and emission of trace
281 elements based on RF model was reliable. During 2017-2020, the deweathered concentrations of
282 Ga, Co, Pb, Zn, and As showed the rapid decreases from 1.52 to 0.4 ng/m³ (72%), 1.31 to 0.4 ng/m³
283 (67%), 92 to 35 ng/m³ (62%), 410 to 170 ng/m³ (59%), and 21 to 10 ng/m³ (54%), respectively
284 (Figure 3). It was well known that As, Co, and Pb were typical marker elements for coal combustion
285 and the “coal-to-gas” and “coal-to-electricity” strategies have been widely performed in Tangshan
286 (Fang et al., 2020; Li et al., 2017). Wang et al. (2020a) has estimated that these effective control

287 measures have contributed to around 60% of the total PM_{2.5} reductions. Meanwhile, the upgradation
288 and optimization of industrial structure/layout and the shutdown of high-pollution industries were
289 also strictly implemented in Tangshan, and thus led to the dramatic decreases of Ga and Zn
290 concentrations because Ga and Zn were common forms of nonferrous metal smelting (Tian et al.,
291 2015). However, the deweathered Ca level displayed the lowest decrease ratio (8.3%) from 2017 to
292 2020, indicating that clean air actions cannot significantly reduce the fugitive emissions. In addition,
293 the deweathered Fe (23%) and Cr (18.5%) also suffered from relatively low decrease ratios. It was
294 well documented that Fe and Cr originated from metallurgical industry such as steel production and
295 ferrous metal smelting (Tian et al., 2015), and the slight decreases of deweathered Fe and Cr levels
296 during the sampling period suggested that the emission control measures for ferrous metal smelting
297 should be strengthened in the future work.

298 In addition, the decreasing ratios of the deweathered concentrations for each species displayed
299 different seasonal characteristics. The deweathered concentrations of some elements related with
300 industrial activities (e.g., Ga, Zn, and Cr) suffered from rapid decreases in autumn and winter
301 compared with other seasons during 2017-2020 (Figure 4), indicating that the optimization of
302 industrial layout and shutdown of outdated industries were effective to decrease these element
303 emissions especially in high-pollution season. Some elements derived from biomass burning
304 including K (66%) and Se (50%) also suffered from the most dramatic decreasing ratios in autumn.
305 It was assumed that enhanced crop residual burning occurred frequently during the autumn harvest
306 season. Ke et al. (2019) confirmed that the number of fire spots in October-November was even
307 higher than that in June and the burned area in harvest season was highest during 2013-2017.
308 However, the control on open biomass burning has been implemented strictly in recent years, largely
309 reducing the K and Se emissions in autumn. It should be noted that the deweathered Pb (46%), Co
310 (65%), and As (45%) concentrations in winter did not display high decreasing ratios though the
311 annual mean deweathered Pb, Co and As levels experienced dramatic decreases. The result revealed
312 that it was still difficult to reduce the Pb, Co, and As emissions during the heating season because
313 increased coal consumption for domestic heating largely offset the contributions of emission control
314 measures (Zhu et al., 2018; Zhu et al., 2020).

315 Apart from the seasonal difference of each species, the decreasing ratios of these elements also

316 suffered from distinctly intra-weekly variations. The deweathered concentrations of most elements
317 except Ca, Cu, Ni, and V exhibited the higher decreasing ratios at the weekends than those in the
318 weekdays (Figure 5). Cui et al. (2020) has demonstrated that the weaker supervision on industrial
319 enterprises on weekends could lead to the higher concentrations of non-traffic elements such as K,
320 As, Se, and Cr in some cities. Fortunately, grid monitoring has been widely performed in Tangshan
321 recently (<http://hbepb.hebei.gov.cn/hbhjt/xwzx/jicengfengcai/101624062321621.html>), and many
322 low-cost sensors were installed at some energy-intensive industries, which could decrease the
323 stealing emissions of some elements. Nonetheless, the decreasing ratios of Ca, Cu, V, and Ni did
324 not show the regular intra-weekly characteristics. In recent years, Tangshan adopted strict traffic
325 management regulation and the nonlocal light duty vehicles were restricted to drive inside the urban
326 area one day per week based on the end number of the license plates (Westerdahl et al., 2009; Wu
327 et al., 2011), whereas the restrictions were not valid at weekends (Liu et al., 2007). Theoretically,
328 the traffic control should result in marked decreases of traffic-related element concentrations on
329 weekdays compared with weekends. However, in our study, some traffic-related elements such as
330 Ca and Cu did not show similar characteristics. Meanwhile, as the important tracer of vehicle
331 emission, the NO_x concentration in Tangshan did not show regular intra-weekly pattern. It was
332 supposed that the vehicle volume in Tangshan has increase from 2.0 to 2.4 million
333 (<http://tjj.hebei.gov.cn/>), which largely offset the benefits of traffic controls. The shipping-related
334 elements including Vi and Ni also did not show regular intra-weekly variation because no heavy
335 metal emission control measures for shipping were performed.

336 3.3 The role of meteorology on the year-to-year variations of element concentrations

337 The difference of original and deweathered element concentrations could be regarded as the
338 concentrations contributed by meteorological parameters. The positive impacts of meteorological
339 parameters on trace elements suggested that the meteorological conditions were unfavorable to the
340 pollutant diffusion, while the negative impacts of meteorological indicators meant the favorable
341 condition to trace elements. In our study, the roles of meteorological conditions on Ca (-25%), V (-
342 10%), Cr (-2.5%), Mn (-0.7%), Fe (-4.6%), Ni (-7.6%), and Cu (-21%) during 2017-2020 were
343 negative (Figure S5), while the roles of meteorological parameters on other elements were positive.
344 The result suggested that those elements derived from vehicle emission (Ca, Cu, and Fe), ferrous

345 metal smelting (Cr and Mn), and heavy oil combustion (V and Ni) were less sensitive to the emission
346 reduction actions compared with other elements and the meteorological conditions were much
347 beneficial to the diffusion of these elements. In order to further reveal the key meteorological factors
348 for these elements, we used RF model to calculate the variable importance of all of these
349 meteorological parameters including P, RH, T, WD, and WS. The result suggested that Ca, Fe, and
350 Cu were mainly influenced by T, whereas V, Ni, Cr, and Mn were often associated with WD and
351 WS (Figure 6). During the spring and summer in 2017-2020, the average air temperature decreased
352 from 8.9 and 27 to 7.2 and 26°C, respectively. The decreased air temperature led to the higher water
353 content in the soil and a lower tendency of dust suspension, and might decrease the concentrations
354 of Ca, Fe, and Cu (Manju et al., 2018; Yang et al., 2017; Lyu et al., 2016). Although the annual
355 average wind speed in Tangshan decreased from 1.70 to 1.45 m/s, the mean wind speed from the
356 southeastern direction displayed slight increase from 1.34 to 1.50 m/s. Zhao et al. (2013) verified
357 that V and Ni were usually emitted from heavy oil combustion of ocean-going ship engines. Many
358 coastal ports and ferrous metal smelting industries were located on the southeastern direction of the
359 sampling site, and thus the enhanced WS might promote the dilution and dispersion of trace
360 elements (Figure S6-8). As shown in Figure S8, both of V and Ni showed the higher concentrations
361 in the southeastern part of Tangshan and the concentrations displayed gradual decreases along the
362 Southeast-Northwest transect, which also demonstrated that both of V and Ni in the sampling site
363 could be derived from coastal shipping emission.

364 3.4 The impact of clean air policy on source apportionment of trace elements

365 Although the major sources of elements could be determined based on some important tracers
366 (e.g., K, V), the contributions of major sources to each element still remained unknown. Therefore,
367 Positive matrix factorization (PMF 5.0) version was applied to identify more source information of
368 elements in PM_{2.5} during 2017-2020 based on deweathered levels. After 20 runs, more than 26000
369 samples were trained to determine the optimal six factors with the lowest values of Q (robust) and
370 Q (true). The BS, DISP, and BS-DISP methods confirmed that the most reliable solution was
371 obtained with six factors. The detailed information of PMF analysis and error diagnostics are
372 summarized in Table S4-6.

373 As shown in Figure S9, the trace elements in PM_{2.5} during 2017-2020 showed similar cluster

374 characteristics. Factor 1 possesses high loadings of K (55%) and Se (42%). K and Se were often
375 regarded as the major tracers of biomass burning. Due to the increasing usage of biomass fuels for
376 domestic heating during the heating season, K and Se in PM_{2.5} of Tangshan showed the higher
377 values in winter, suggesting that these metals in fine particles could originate from the combustion
378 of biomass fuels. Except the domestic heating, we found some episodes during harvesting season in
379 late summer (2450 and 11.2 ng/m³) and early autumn (2630 and 9.5 ng/m³) also showed extremely
380 high concentrations of K, which might be linked with local biomass burning (Chen et al., 2017).
381 Based on the map of fire points and backward air masses trajectories (Figure S6-8), the metals
382 released from biomass burning in NCP could be transported to the sampling site by the dominant
383 southerly wind, which further proved the impacts of biomass burning (Chen et al., 2017).

384 The abundant elements in factor 2 included Ag (53%), Zn (51%), and Cu (36%). Owing to the
385 higher temperatures during the roasting, sintering and smelting processes for the extraction of Cu,
386 and Zn from ores, some metals such as Ag in nonferrous metal ores could be vaporized as the
387 byproduct and released into the flue gas (Pacyna and Pacyna, 2001; Wu et al., 2012). Therefore, the
388 factor 2 was interpreted as the non-ferrous metal smelting source.

389 Factor 3 was characterized by a large mass fraction of Co (81%), Pb (61%), Hg (57%), and As
390 (39%). After the phase-out of leaded gasoline since 1980s, the contribution from coal combustion
391 to Pb suffered from rapid increase and accounted for the major fraction of particulate Pb (Das et al.,
392 2018). Meanwhile, Co and Hg were also treated as the important byproducts released from coal
393 burning and the Co and Hg concentrations often increased significantly with the elevation of burning
394 temperature (Tang et al., 2018). Tian et al. (2015) estimated that 73% of As, 56 % of Pb, and 47 %
395 of Hg were found to be emitted from coal combustion in China. Coal consumption in South China
396 was mainly driven by coal-fired power plants, while the coal-based heating was the major sector for
397 the coal consumption in NCP. In our study, As, Co and Pb showed the higher concentrations in
398 winter (heating season) (18.7, 0.9, and 76 ng/m³) compared with other seasons (14, 0.6, and 51
399 ng/m³). The markedly seasonal discrepancies of As, Co and Pb strongly supported the impact of the
400 coal combustion for domestic heating on the enhancement of As, Co and Pb in the fine particles.

401 Factor 4 was distinguished by high loadings of Cr (78%) and Mn (39%), respectively. Cr and
402 Mn were mainly sourced from metallurgical industry such as steel production and ferrous metal

403 smelting (Liu et al., 2018a; Tian et al., 2015; Zhu et al., 2018). China occupied more than 49% of
404 world steel production in 2017 (approximate 830 million tons), and 60% large steel producers were
405 located in China (Chang et al., 2018). Tangshan possesses many large steel production industries
406 such as Tangshan Steel, Qian'an Steel, and Guofeng Steel. Besides, some industries of Capital Steel
407 have been migrated into Tangshan (Li et al., 2019), which might increase the Cr and Mn emissions.

408 Factor 5 explained 10.1% of the total species and it was characterized by high loadings of V
409 (88%) and Ni (51%). It was well documented that V was a key fingerprint of heavy oil combustion,
410 which was generally emitted from shipping emission and petrochemical refining (Shafer et al.,
411 2012). However, Ni was widely utilized as a tracer of fuel oil combustion in industries (Zhu et al.,
412 2018). Many oil-fired power plants were located in Tangshan for central heating (Yu et al., 2013).
413 Based on the backward trajectory and wind direction (Figure S6-S8), we found that high
414 concentrations of V and Ni might be derived from the southeastern air masses especially in summer
415 and autumn, indicating the impacts of coastal port and petroleum refinery industry. In addition, both
416 of V and Ni concentrations displayed the gradual decreases along the Southeast-Northwest transect,
417 indicating the potential sources were located on Southeast Tangshan (Figure S8). Gathering
418 evidence suggested that the V/Ni ratio in petroleum coke with a low-sulfur content and fuel oil
419 usage ranged from 1 to 3 (Moreno et al., 2010). The annual mean ratios of V and Ni in our study
420 reached 1.2 during the sampling period, which was in the range of this interval. The result also
421 revealed that petrochemical refining and heavy oil combustion derived from coastal shipping
422 emission might be an important source of V and Ni the fine particles.

423 Factor 6 was characterized by high loadings of Ca (78%), Cu (32%), and Fe (33%), and moderate
424 loadings of Mn (31%) and Zn (29%). Some previous studies have demonstrated that both of Cu, Fe,
425 and Zn were released from tyre and brake wear because they were the necessary materials for brake
426 pads and the agents in brake linings (Dall'Osto et al., 2013; Hjortenkrans et al., 2007). Ca was
427 probably sourced from the road fugitive dust because it was one of the most abundant elements in
428 the upper continents (Alves et al., 2015; Liu et al., 2018a). Moreover, we have found Fe, Ca, and
429 Zn displayed remarkably high values during the morning rush hours and a small peak during the
430 sunset (Figure S10), which was coincident to the diurnal variation of traffic volume. Thus, the factor
431 6 was identified as the traffic-related dust source.

432 Although six similar sources were revealed during 2017-2020, the contribution concentrations
433 and ratios of these sources varied greatly in these years. As shown in Figure 7 and 8, the contribution
434 concentrations of biomass burning, non-ferrous metal smelting, coal combustion, and ferrous metal
435 smelting to trace elements decreased from 1458, 479, 636, and 569 ng/m³ to 901, 225, 230, and 345
436 ng/m³, respectively. However, the contribution concentrations of heavy oil combustion and traffic-
437 related dust displayed slight increase during 2017-2019, while they decreased rapidly after 2019.
438 The contribution concentrations for nearly all of the sources to trace elements suffered from
439 decreases during 2017-2020 because the total deweathered levels of trace elements experienced
440 decreases in the past three years. However, the contribution ratios of these sources to trace elements
441 did not show similar characteristics. For instance, the contribution ratio of traffic-related dust
442 increased from 25% to 33%. However, the contributions of non-ferrous metal smelting and coal
443 combustion decreased from 11% to 8% and 15% to 8%, respectively. The contributions of ferrous
444 metal smelting, heavy oil combustion, and biomass burning remained relatively stable during this
445 period.

446 Due to the strict implementation of clean air policy, many outdated industrial capacities were shut
447 down and the cleaner technologies have been upgraded, which facilitated the production decreases
448 of pig iron and coal-fired power plants (Ma et al., 2019). Hence, the contribution concentrations and
449 ratios of non-ferrous metal smelting and coal combustion experienced dramatic decreases. Although
450 the open biomass burning has been strictly restricted in Tangshan (Chang et al., 2018), the
451 contribution ratios of biomass burning to trace elements in PM_{2.5} remained relatively stable, which
452 might be attributable to the rapid decreases of the contributions derived from coal combustion and
453 non-ferrous metal smelting. In addition, the biofuel combustion was still widespread in some rural
454 and suburb areas (Kamal et al., 2015; Li et al., 2020), which might offset the decreases in the
455 contributions of open biomass burning. Although the contribution concentrations of traffic-related
456 dust to trace elements also showed slight decrease, the contribution ratios of traffic-related dust to
457 some trace elements exhibited the marked increases (8%) during 2017-2020 because the
458 contribution ratios of metal smelting and coal combustion suffered from substantial decreases. The
459 result also demonstrated that the implementation of coal to gas project facilitated the decreases of
460 trace element concentrations. In addition, the source variation trend also suggested that the

461 formulation of many new quality standards for non-road diesel fuels cannot fully decrease the
462 element emissions (Cui et al., 2017), and thus the control of traffic-related dust should be enhanced
463 in the future.

464 3.5 Health risk assessment of trace metals in PM_{2.5}

465 Although the trace metals only accounted for minor fraction of total mass concentration of PM_{2.5},
466 it might pose a great threaten to the human health because most of these metals were bioavailable
467 and non-degradable (Rai et al., 2019; Yi et al., 2011). Unfortunately, previous studies mainly used
468 the filter sampling techniques to determine the concentrations of trace metals and then assess their
469 health risks (Cui et al., 2018; Huang et al., 2016). These low-resolution data might not accurately
470 reflect the real health risks triggered by metal exposure. In our study, we employed the online data
471 to assess the health risks derived from metal exposure.

472 The health risks of trace metals could be classified into two types including carcinogenic and
473 non-carcinogenic risk. Based on the major parameters summarized in Table S7 and Table S8, we
474 estimated both of the carcinogenic and non-carcinogenic risks of major metals. To evaluate the
475 impacts of emission control measures on element concentrations, both of the health risks based on
476 original element levels and deweathered element concentrations were calculated. The mean CR
477 values based on original concentrations were in the order of Pb (2.3×10^{-6} (adult) and 1.4×10^{-6}
478 (child)) > As (1.9×10^{-6} and 1.1×10^{-6}) > Cr (0.11×10^{-6} and 0.07×10^{-6}). The total CR values for adults
479 and children reached 4.3×10^{-6} and 2.6×10^{-6} (Table 2), respectively. The total CR values were located
480 in the range of the acceptable (10^{-6}) and least stringent risk levels (10^{-4}), which suggested that
481 Tangshan suffered from slight metal carcinogenic risk. Among all of these metals, Pb and As
482 displayed the higher CR values. It was assumed that the coal combustion for domestic heating might
483 be the dominant factor for the higher risks of Pb and As in Tangshan because both of Pb and As in
484 PM_{2.5} were mainly derived from coal combustion. With regard to the non-carcinogenic risks of trace
485 metals, the HQ of As (1.2×10^{-2} and 2.9×10^{-2}) and Pb (6.8×10^{-4} and 17×10^{-4}) showed the higher
486 values compared with other elements. The result indicated that nearly all of the elements did not
487 display potential non-carcinogenic risk because HQ values of all the metals were less than 1. The
488 total HQ value of these metals were also lower than 1, indicating that the trace elements in Tangshan
489 did not show significant non-carcinogenic risk.

490 By removing the impact of meteorological conditions, we can isolate the impact of clean air
491 policy on health risks associated with metal exposure alone. The decrease ratios of CR values based
492 on the deweathered As and Pb concentrations during 2017-2020 were 54% and 62%, respectively
493 (Table 3). However, the decrease ratios of CR values based on original As and Pb levels only
494 reached 44%. The result suggested that the clean air policy in recent years significantly decreased
495 the As and Pb emissions. Additionally, the decrease ratios of HQ values for original Cu (41%) and
496 Zn (53%) were much less than those for deweathered ones (Cu: 47% and Zn: 59%). Nevertheless,
497 some other elements did not show the similar characteristics. For instance, the decrease ratios of
498 HQ values for original Cr (21%) and Fe (27%) were even slightly higher than those for deweathered
499 ones (Cr: 19% and Fe: 23%). It was assumed that the clean air policy in recent years facilitated the
500 emission reduction of non-ferrous metal smelting and coal combustion efficiently. However, the
501 concentrations of elements derived from ferrous metal smelting and vehicle emission did not show
502 marked decreases, which was in good agreement with the source apportionment result in the section
503 3.3. Thus, in the future work, it is highly imperative to further reduce the industrial/traffic-related
504 emissions in order to alleviate potential health risks.

505 3.6 Limitations and uncertainties

506 It should be noted that our work is still subject to some limitations. At first, some elements such as
507 Cr (0.5) and Ga (0.5) showed relatively lower CV R² values though they were generally higher than
508 0.5. These elements might show the higher uncertainties during the meteorology-normalization
509 compared with other elements such as Cu (0.85) and K (0.85). Besides, few variables were applied
510 to deweather the element concentrations, which might be responsible for the lower CV R² value for
511 some elements. Due to the lack of available hourly emission inventory of each element, we only
512 used the time variable to train the model. This method still suffered from some uncertainties, which
513 should be improved by the establishment of near-time emission database.

514 4. Conclusions and implications

515 Three-year continuous hourly observation of elements in PM_{2.5} was conducted in Tangshan
516 during September 2017-August 2020. The effect of air clean policy on element concentrations in
517 PM_{2.5} were quantified. The main conclusions were drawn as follows:

518 (1) The deweathered concentrations of Ga, Co, Pb, Zn, and As showed the rapid decreases from

519 1.52 to 0.42 ng/m³ (72%), 1.31 to 0.44 ng/m³ (67%), 92 to 35 ng/m³ (62%), 411 to 170 ng/m³
520 (59%), and 21 to 10 ng/m³ (54%), respectively. Clean air actions played the important role on
521 the emission reduction of coal combustion and non-ferrous metal smelting.

522 (2) The deweathered levels of Ca (8.3%), Cr (19%), and Fe (23%) displayed relatively low
523 decreases compared with other elements, indicating that the vehicle emission and ferrous-
524 smelting industries might be not sensitive to the air clean policy.

525 (3) The deweathered levels of some elements related with industrial activities (e.g., Ga, Zn, and Cr)
526 exhibited rapid decreases in autumn and winter compared with other seasons during 2017-2020,
527 while the combustion-related elements such as Pb and As did not show high decreasing ratios
528 in winter. The enhanced coal consumption during the heating season offset the benefits derived
529 from strict emission controls measures.

530 (4) The favorable meteorological conditions promoted the decreases of Ca (-25%), V (-10%), Cr (-
531 2.6%), Mn (-0.68%), Fe (-4.6%), Ni (-7.6%), and Cu (-21%) concentrations.

532 (5) The contribution ratios of biomass burning, non-ferrous metal smelting, coal combustion,
533 ferrous metal smelting, heavy oil combustion, and traffic-related dust changed from 33%, 11%,
534 15%, 13%, 3%, and 25% to 33%, 8%, 8%, 13%, 4%, and 33%, respectively.

535 (6) All of the elements did not show significant noncarcinogenic and carcinogenic risks, while both
536 of As and Pb still displayed relatively high health damages.

537 Our study presented detailed information about the impact of clean air policy on the chemical
538 compositions and source apportionment of trace elements in PM_{2.5} in Tangshan, and provided new
539 enlightenment for scientific community and policymakers. Many targeted measures could be
540 undertaken to alleviate the air pollution and further to reduce avoided premature health risks.
541 However, this study still suffered some limitations and more steps will be taken toward thoroughly
542 addressing these problems. First of all, the PMF model still showed some uncertainties, and thus
543 characterizing the isotopic signatures of these elements is of great significance. In addition, Sunset
544 OC/EC analyzer, Monitoring of Aerosols and Gases (MARGA) platform, and other on-line
545 measurements should be collocated to probe into the synergistic effect of emission reduction and
546 meteorology on air quality.

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549 **Data availability**

550 The boundary layer height dataset was obtained from the website of <https://www.ecmwf.int/>. The
551 dataset is archived in <https://zenodo.org/record/7031975#.Ywys8cjfmfU> (Li et al., 2022).

552 **Author contributions**

553 LR wrote the manuscript. LR, PM, ZWD, and HJM contributed to the conceptualization of the study.

554 LR and PM conducted the research, and visualized the results. WGH revised the manuscript.

555 **Competing interests**

556 The contact author has declared that neither they nor their co-authors have any competing interests.

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Figure 1 The topographic map of China indicating the location of Tangshan (a), sampling site (b), and some major industrial points (b). The population distribution of Tangshan is also depicted in (b).

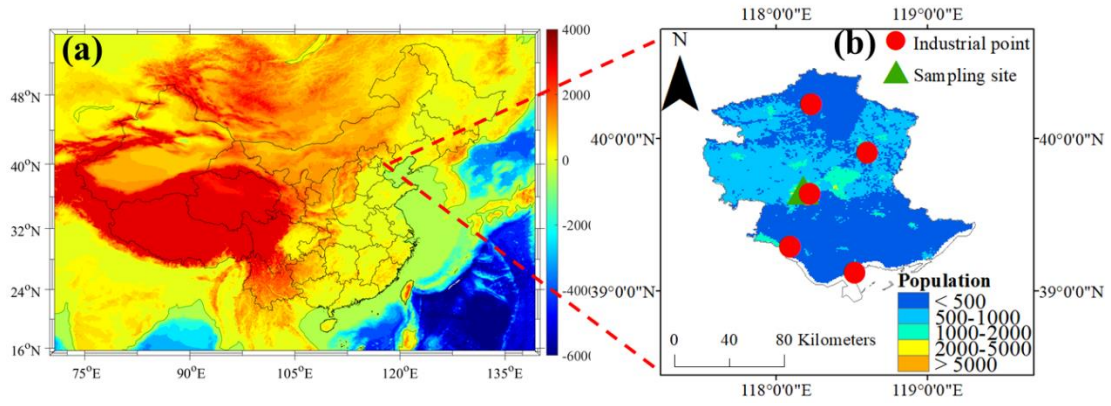


Figure 2 The bar chart of the concentrations of 16 trace elements including K, Fe, Ca, Zn, Pb, Mn, Fe, As, Se, V, Cr, Ag, Ni, Hg, Ga, and Co.

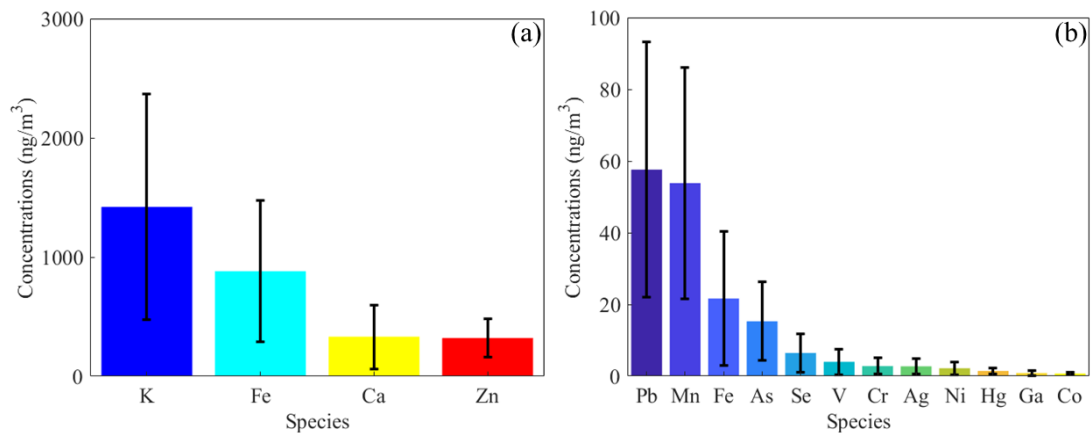


Figure 3 Inter-annual variations of original (red) and deweathered (manganese purple) element concentrations (ng/m^3) in $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ in Tangshan. The dark, nattier blue, and nattier yellow backgrounds represent the species during 2017-2018 (from September in 2017 to August in 2018), 2018-2019 (from September in 2018 to August in 2019), and 2019-2020 (from September in 2019 to August in 2020).

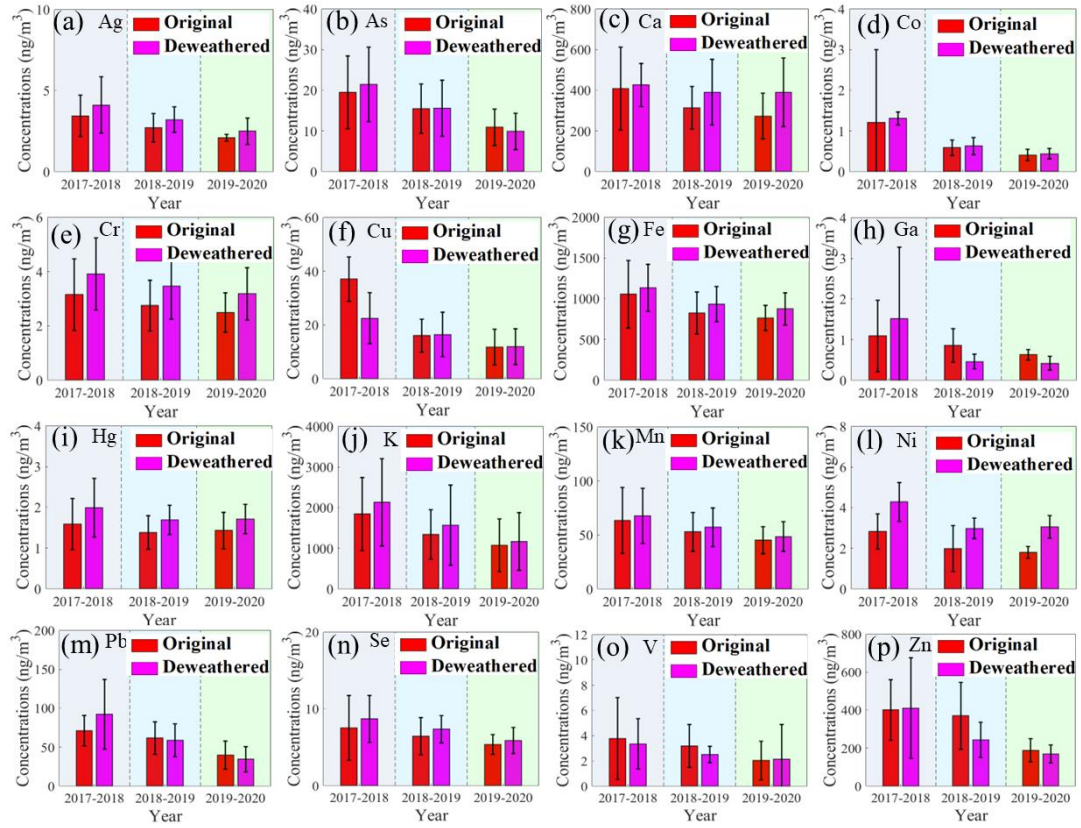


Figure 4 The original (red and orange) and deweathered (green and blue) element concentrations (ng/m^3) in $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ in Tangshan in four seasons during 2017-2018, 2018-2019, and 2019-2020. S1, U1, A1, and W1 represent the spring, summer, autumn, and winter during 2017-2018. S2, U2, A2, and W2 denote the spring, summer, autumn, and winter during 2018-2019. S3, U3, A3, and W3 are the spring, summer, autumn, and winter during 2019-2020.

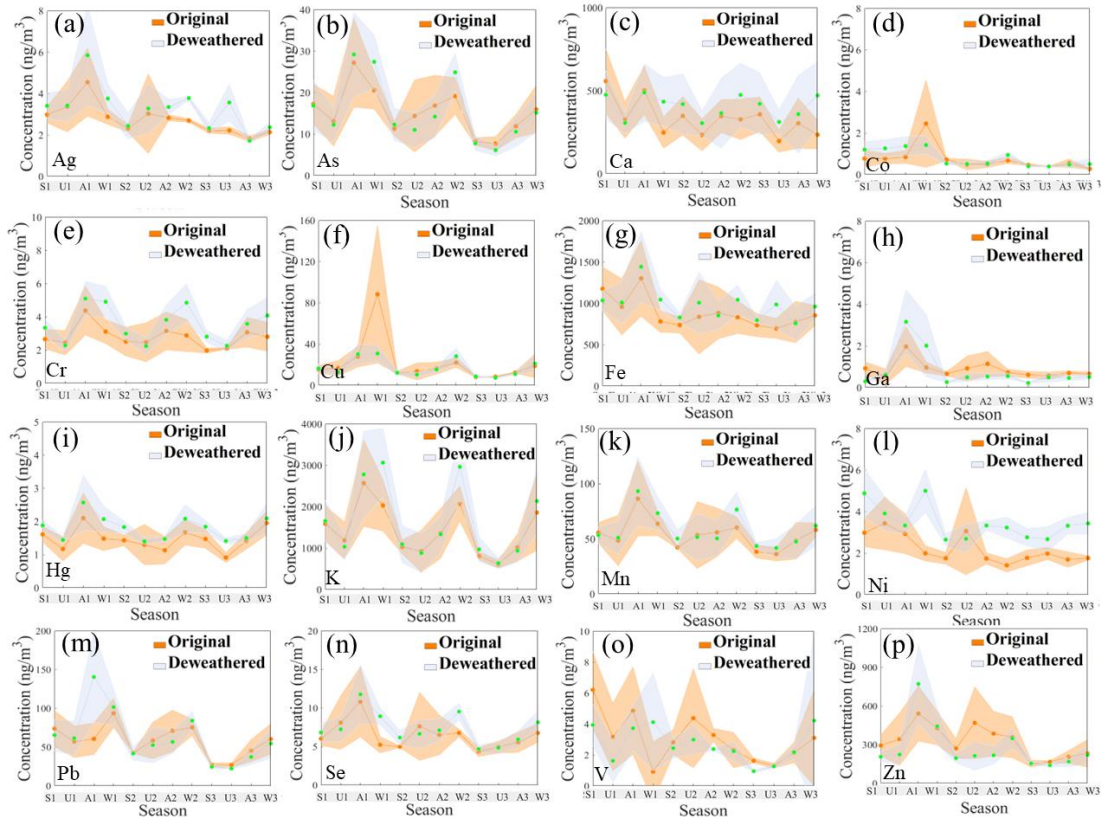


Figure 5 Weekly variations of original (green) and deweathered (orange) element concentrations (ng/m^3) in $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ in Tangshan. The green and dark backgrounds denote the error bars of original and deweathered elements, respectively.

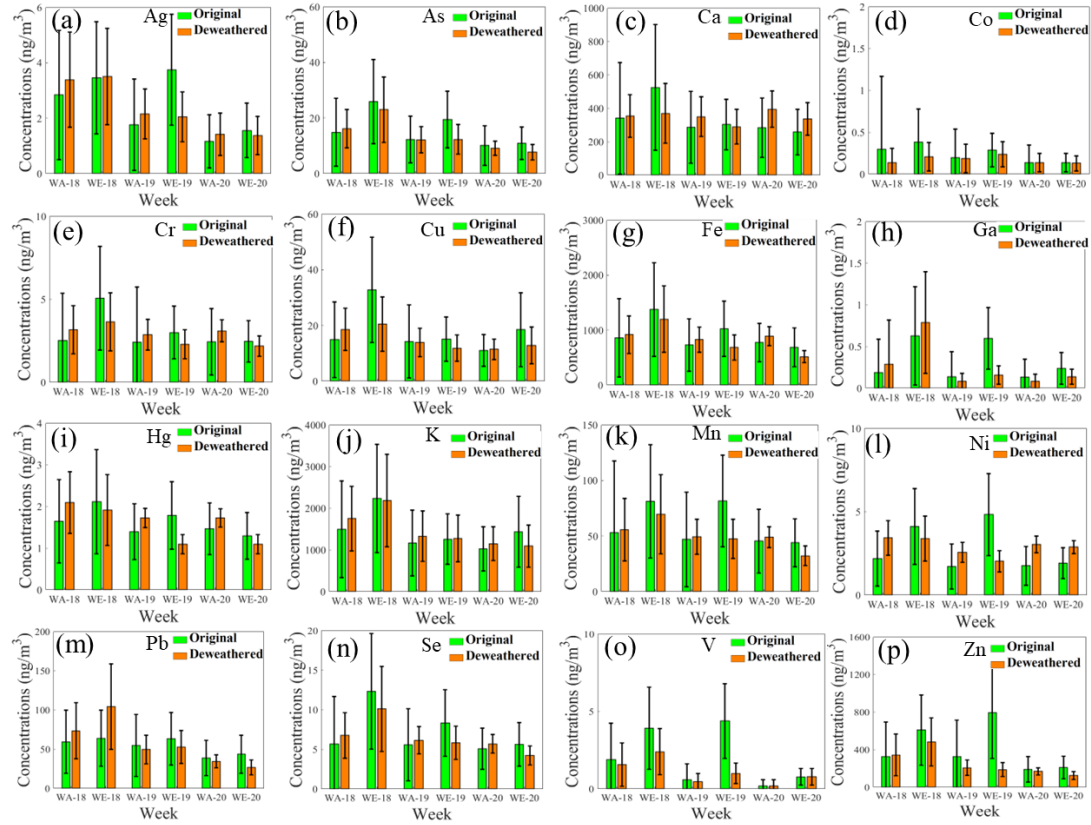


Figure 6 Relative importance of the predictors for the prediction of trace elements. The columns in the figure represent the variable importance in RF models for trace elements. P, RH, T, WD, WS, DOW, HOY, DOY, and Year denote air pressure, relative humidity, air temperature, wind direction, wind speed, day of week, hour of day, day of year, and study year, respectively.

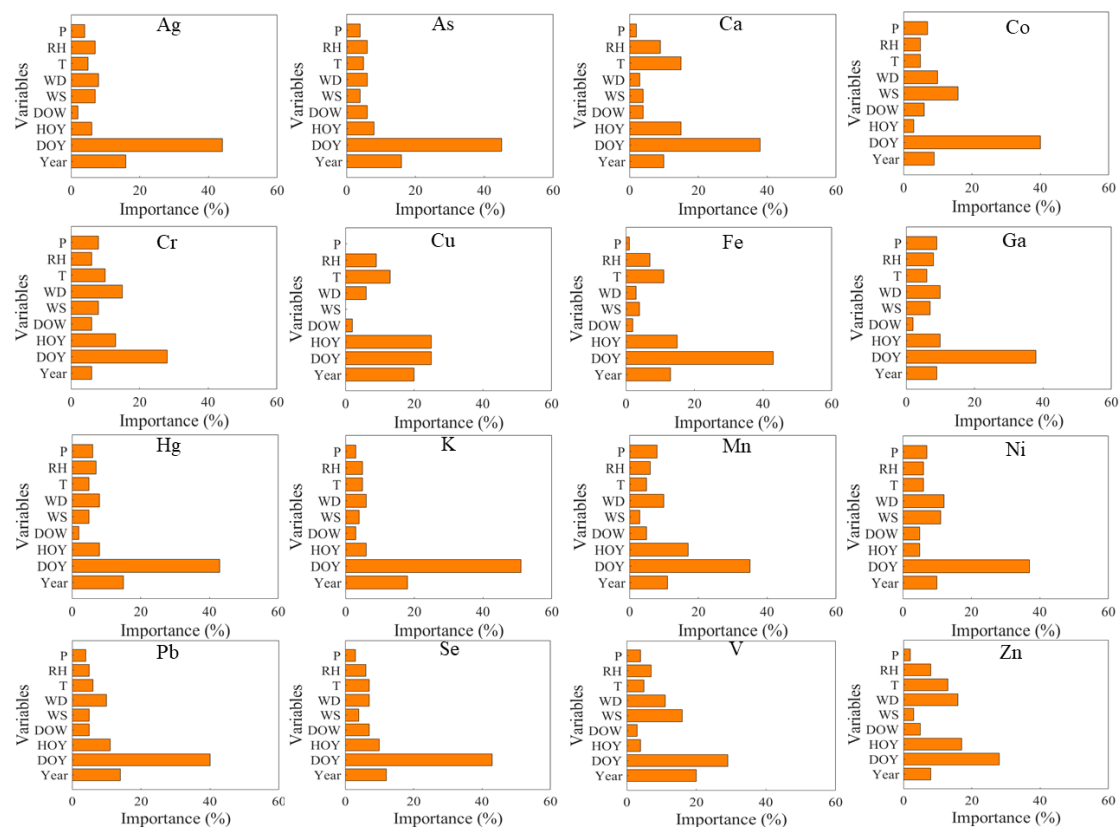


Figure 7 The deweathered concentrations of trace elements derived from six sources in Tangshan during 2017-2020.

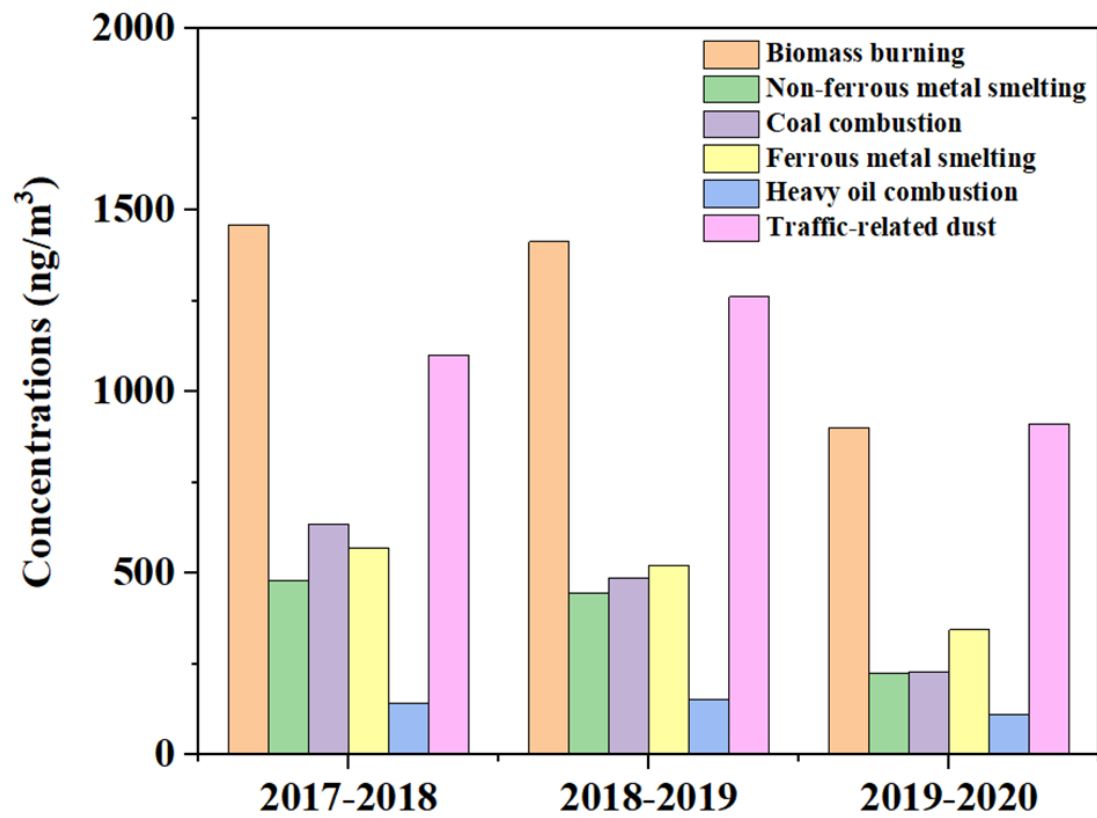


Figure 8 Average contributions of six sources to the deweathered concentrations of elements in PM_{2.5} based on PMF model. The red panel means the biomass burning; the green panel denotes the non-ferrous metal smelting; the blue one represents the coal combustion; the cyan one is the ferrous metal smelting; the pink one represents the heavy oil combustion; and the yellow one denotes the traffic-related dust. (a), (b), and (c) represent the source contributions during 2017-2018, 2018-2019, and 2019-2020, respectively.

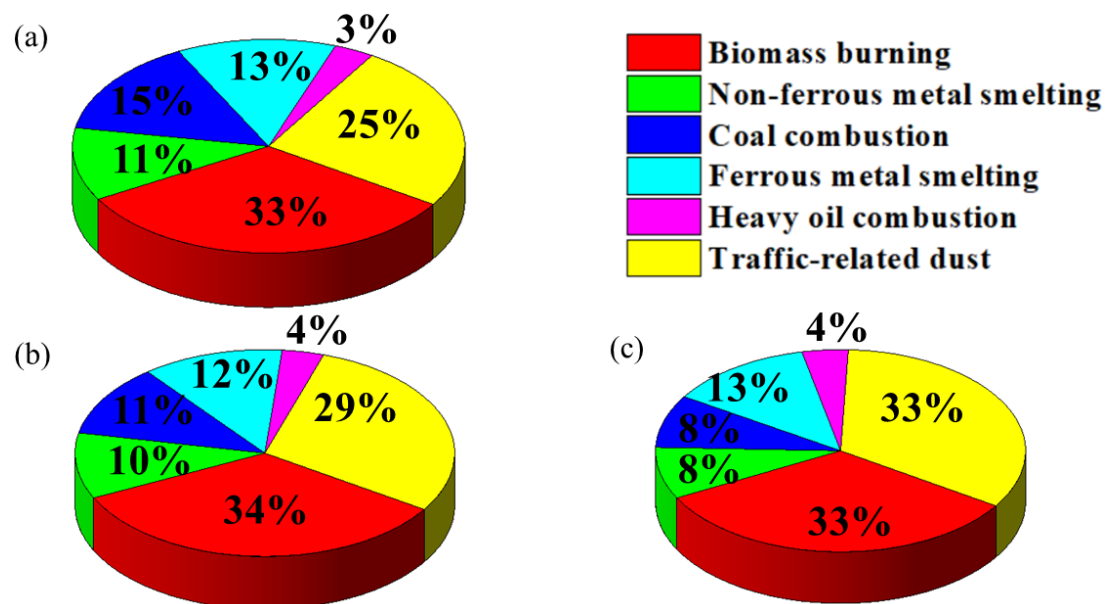


Table 1 The comparison of element concentrations in PM_{2.5} of Tangshan and the standard values for these elements in World Health Organization (WHO), China, Europe, and the United States.

Elements	Mean±SD	CAAQS	WHO	EU	United States
Co	0.74±0.24				
Ga	0.86±0.74				
Hg	1.47±0.81	50	1000		
Ni	2.21±1.80		25	20	
Ag	2.75±2.08				
Cr	2.80±2.22	0.025	0.25		
V	3.98±3.57				
Se	6.46±5.28				
As	15.3±11.0	6	6.60	6	
Cu	21.7±18.7				
Mn	53.8±32.3				
Pb	57.6±35.7		1000		150
Zn	320±162				
Ca	332±268				
Fe	881 ± 591				
K	1421±947				

Table 2 The non-carcinogenic and carcinogenic risks for the original element levels in PM_{2.5}.

Age	Year	Indicator	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	As	Pb
Adult	2017-2018	HQ	2.47×10^{-4}	1.07×10^{-4}	3.55×10^{-4}	4.50×10^{-4}	0.33×10^{-4}	1.18×10^{-4}	3.15×10^{-4}	1.53×	8.39×
		CR	0.13×10^{-6}	--	--	--	--	--	--	2.37×	2.88×
										10^{-2}	10^{-4}
										10^{-6}	10^{-6}
2018-2019	2018-2019	HQ	2.16×10^{-4}	0.89×10^{-4}	2.77×10^{-4}	4.67×10^{-4}	0.23×10^{-4}	0.95×10^{-4}	2.91×10^{-4}	1.21×	7.28×
		CR	0.11×10^{-6}	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.87×	2.50×
										10^{-2}	10^{-4}
										10^{-6}	10^{-6}
2019-2020	2019-2020	HQ	1.95×10^{-4}	0.76×10^{-4}	2.58×10^{-4}	3.26×10^{-4}	0.21×10^{-4}	0.70×10^{-4}	1.49×10^{-4}	0.86×	4.69×
		CR	0.10×10^{-6}	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.33×	1.61×
										10^{-2}	10^{-4}
										10^{-6}	10^{-6}
Child	2017-2018	HQ	6.02×10^{-4}	2.60×10^{-4}	8.64×10^{-4}	11.1×10^{-4}	0.81×10^{-4}	2.87×10^{-4}	7.67×10^{-4}	3.73×	20.4×
		CR	0.08×10^{-6}	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.44×	1.75×
										10^{-2}	10^{-4}
										10^{-6}	10^{-6}
2018-2019	2018-2019	HQ	5.26×10^{-4}	2.17×10^{-4}	6.74×10^{-4}	11.0×10^{-4}	0.57×10^{-4}	2.30×10^{-4}	7.08×10^{-4}	2.95×	17.7×
		CR	0.07×10^{-6}	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.14×	1.52×
										10^{-2}	10^{-4}
									10^{-6}	10^{-6}	

2019-2020	HQ	4.75×10^{-4}	1.85×10^{-4}	6.27×10^{-4}	7.93×10^{-4}	0.52×10^{-4}	1.70×10^{-4}	3.61×10^{-4}	2.09×10^{-2}	11.4×10^{-4}
	CR	0.06×10^{-6}	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.81×10^{-6}	0.98×10^{-6}

Table 3 The non-carcinogenic and carcinogenic risks for the deweathered element levels in PM_{2.5}.

Age	Year	Indicator	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	As	Pb
Adult	2017-2018	HQ	3.07×10^{-4}	1.14×10^{-4}	3.82×10^{-4}	10.3×10^{-4}	0.50×10^{-4}	1.33×10^{-4}	3.15×10^{-4}	1.68×	10.8×
										10 ⁻²	10 ⁻⁴
		CR	0.16×10^{-6}	--	--	--	--	--	--	2.60×	3.72×
										10 ⁻⁶	10 ⁻⁶
	2018-2019	HQ	2.73×10^{-4}	0.96×10^{-4}	3.14×10^{-4}	4.93×10^{-4}	0.35×10^{-4}	0.97×10^{-4}	2.91×10^{-4}	1.22×	6.91×
											10 ⁻²
	CR	0.14×10^{-6}	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.89×	2.37×	
										10 ⁻⁶	10 ⁻⁶
2019-2020	HQ	2.50×10^{-4}	0.82×10^{-4}	2.95×10^{-4}	3.46×10^{-4}	0.36×10^{-4}	0.70×10^{-4}	1.49×10^{-4}	0.78×	4.08×	
										10 ⁻²	10 ⁻⁴
	CR	0.13×10^{-6}	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.20×	1.40×	
										10 ⁻⁶	10 ⁻⁶
Child	2017-2018	HQ	7.47×10^{-4}	2.77×10^{-4}	9.28×10^{-4}	11.7×10^{-4}	1.23×10^{-4}	3.22×10^{-4}	3.23×10^{-4}	4.09×	26.4×
											10 ⁻²
		CR	0.10×10^{-6}	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.58×	2.26×
										10 ⁻⁶	10 ⁻⁶
	2018-2019	HQ	6.64×10^{-4}	2.34×10^{-4}	7.64×10^{-4}	11.9×10^{-4}	0.85×10^{-4}	2.36×10^{-4}	1.91×10^{-4}	2.98×	16.8×
											10 ⁻²
	CR	0.09×10^{-6}	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.15×	1.44×	
										10 ⁻⁶	10 ⁻⁶

2019-2020	HQ	6.08×10^{-4}	1.99×10^{-4}	7.17×10^{-4}	8.42×10^{-4}	0.87×10^{-4}	1.71×10^{-4}	1.34×10^{-4}	1.89×	9.92×
									10^{-2}	10^{-4}
	CR	0.08×10^{-6}	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.73×	0.85×
									10^{-6}	10^{-6}
