

# Resolving Systematic Errors in Sulfate Source Apportionment: A Field-Validated Kinetic Isotope Fractionation Framework

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## **Text S1. Estimation of primary sulfate and secondary sulfate**

The primary sulfate (calculated by  $0.18 \times \text{Ca}^{2+} + 0.25 \times \text{Na}^{+}$ )<sup>1</sup> contributed (2.65 ± 2.11% ) to total sulfate mass.

$$T_{PS} = T_{SS} + T_{ts} \quad (1)$$

$$T_{SS} = T_{bbus} + T_{cc} + T_{VS} + T_{os} \quad (2)$$

where  $T_{PS}$ ,  $T_{SS}$ ,  $T_{ts}$ ,  $T_{SS}$ ,  $T_{bbus}$ ,  $T_{cc}$ ,  $T_{vs}$ ,  $T_{os}$  are the primary sulfate (ps), sea salt sulfate (ss), terrestrial sulfate (ts), secondary sulfate(SS),biomass burning sulfate (bbus), coal combustion(cc), vehich sulfate(vs),oil sulfate(os).

### **Text S2. Calculation of $^{34}\text{S}$ Fractionation.**

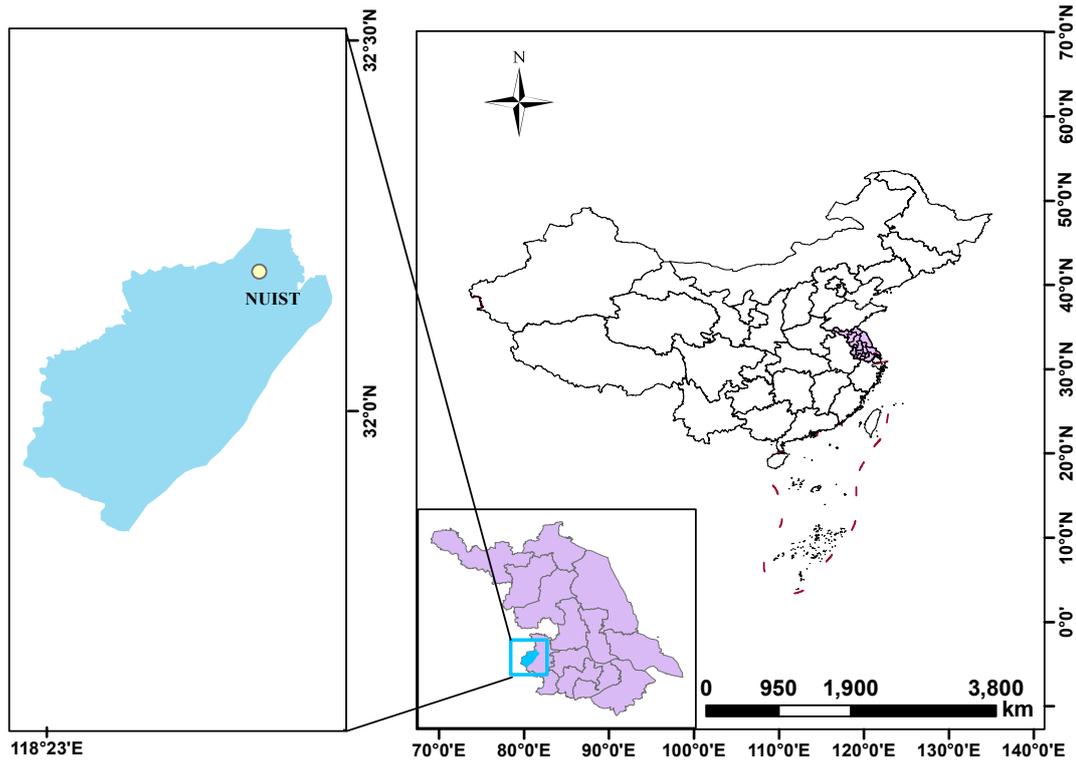
Theoretical  $\delta^{34}\text{S-SO}_4^{2-}$  values can be calculated using the following equation according to previous studies<sup>2-4</sup>:

$$\delta^{34}\text{S} - \text{SO}_4^{2-} \textit{theoretical} = \sum \delta^{34}\text{S} - \varepsilon_i \times \ln(1 - \text{SOR}) \times (1 - \text{SOR})/\text{SOR} \quad (3)$$

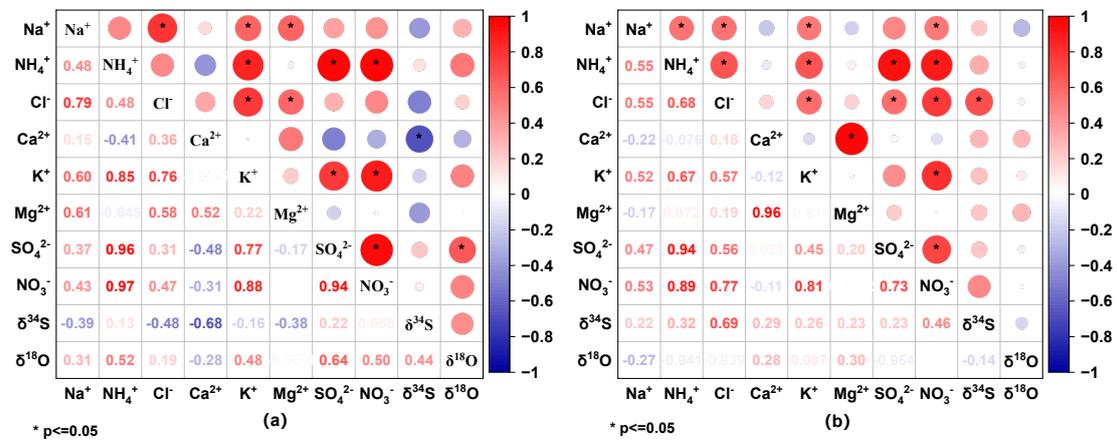
where  $\sum \delta^{34}\text{S}$  is calculated using eq 4;  $\varepsilon_i$  is the  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  fractionation factor between gas-phase  $\text{SO}_2$  and particulate  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  generatedthrough different  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  formation pathways ; and SOR is the ratio of  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  to  $(\text{SO}_4^{2-} + \text{SO}_2)$ , which ranges from 0 to 1.

$$\sum \delta^{34}\text{S} = \frac{[\text{SO}_2] \times \delta^{34}\text{S} - \text{SO}_2 + [\text{SO}_4^{2-}] \times \delta^{34}\text{S} - \text{SO}_4^{2-}}{[\text{SO}_2] + [\text{SO}_4^{2-}]} \quad (4)$$

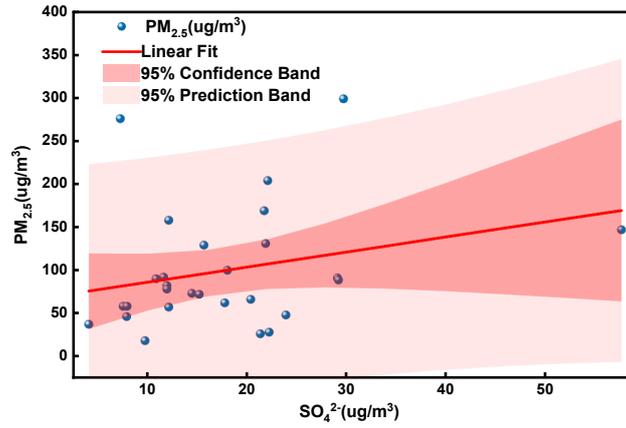
where  $[\text{SO}_2]$  and  $[\text{SO}_4^{2-}]$  are the concentrations of gas-phase  $\text{SO}_2$  and particulate  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  in the atmosphere, respectively;  $\delta^{34}\text{S-SO}_2$  is the gas-phase  $\text{SO}_2$  value, and  $\delta^{34}\text{S-SO}_4^{2-}$  is the  $\delta^{34}\text{S-SO}_4^{2-}$  value in  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  in Nanjing.



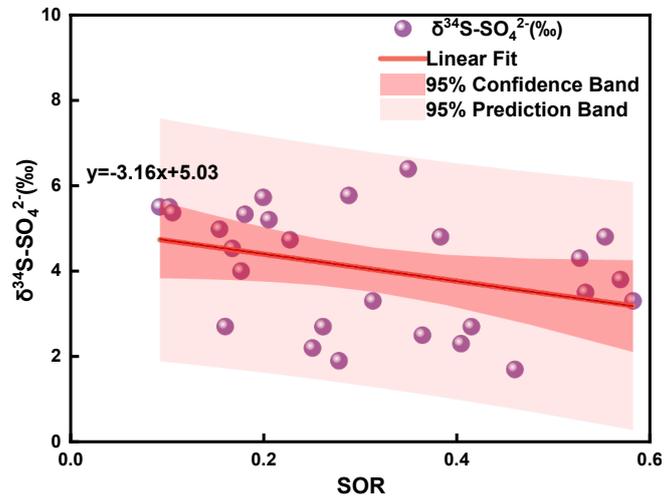
**Figure S1.** Map of atmospheric PM<sub>2.5</sub> sampling site in Nanjing City.



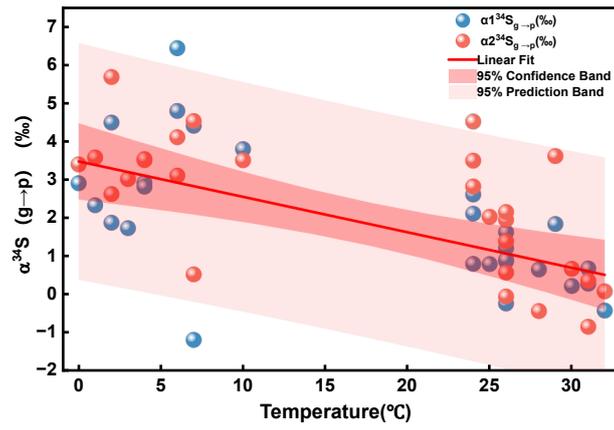
**Figure S2.** Correlation coefficients of water-soluble ions and stable isotopes in PM<sub>2.5</sub> in Nanjing (a: winter b: Summer).



**Figure S3.** Scatter plot of  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  in  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  in Nanjing.



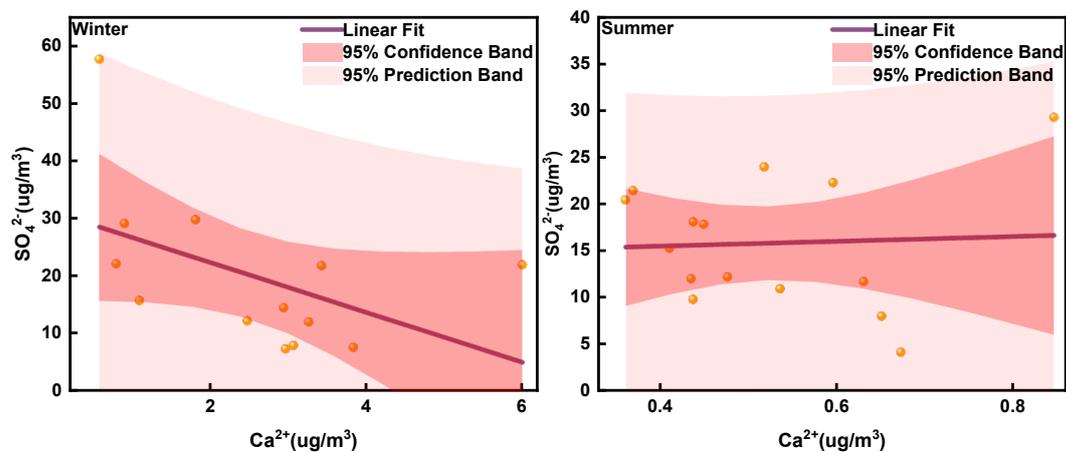
**Figure S4.** Scatter plot of  $\delta^{34}\text{S-SO}_4^{2-}$  values against SOR in Nanjing during the sampling period.



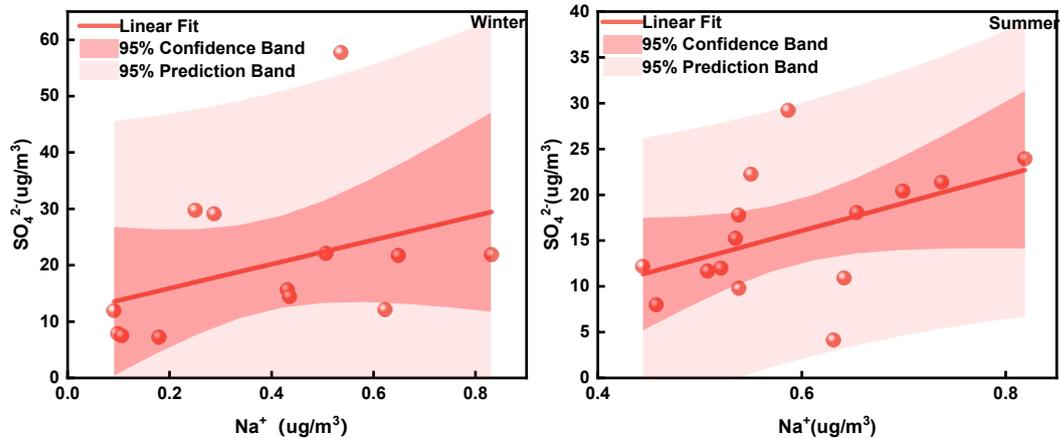
**Figure S5.** Scatter plot of  $\alpha^{34}\text{S}_{\text{g}\rightarrow\text{p}}$  against the ambient temperature in Nanjing during the sampling period.

**Table S1.** The  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ - $\text{SO}_2$  values of various Chinese emission sources used in this study.

Source	$\delta^{34}\text{S}(\text{‰})$	Reference
Coal combustion	$4.6\pm 2.7$	Zheng et al. <sup>6</sup> Zhang et al. <sup>17</sup> Wei et al. <sup>18</sup>
Traffic emission	$6.6\pm 2.1$	Wei et al. <sup>18</sup> Feng et al. <sup>19</sup>
Biomass burning	$7.2\pm 1.5$	Fan et al. <sup>1</sup> Wei et al. <sup>18</sup> Guo et al. <sup>20</sup>
Oil combustion	$6.5\pm 2.4$	Zheng et al. <sup>6</sup> Wei et al. <sup>18</sup> Guo et al. <sup>20</sup>



**Figure S6.** Scatter plot of  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  versus  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  in  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  during the sampling periods in Nanjing during the sampling period.



**Figure S7.** Scatter plot of  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  versus  $\text{Na}^+$  in  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  during the sampling periods in Nanjing during the sampling period.

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