

Potential Impacts of Energy and Vehicle Transformation through 2050 on the Atmospheric Environment of Japan: focus on PM_{2.5} Metals and Aerosol Acidity inducing Respiratory Inflammation

Satoko Kayaba^{1,2} and Mizuo Kajino^{2,3}

¹Graduate School of Science and Technology, University of Tsukuba, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-8572, Japan

²Meteorological Research Institute, Japan Meteorological Agency, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-0052, Japan

³Faculty of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Tsukuba, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-8572, Japan

Corresponding author: Satoko KAYABA (satoko@mri-jma.go.jp)

Key Points:

- Vehicle electrification effectively reduced the concentrations of Fe and Cu, which are toxic to respiratory inflammation, in PM_{2.5}.
- The lightweighting of battery electric vehicles reduced all non-exhaust PM from tire, brake, road wear, and resuspension.
- Changes in aerosol acidity due to gaseous pollutants reduction had little effect on the water-solubility of metals.

Abstract

The impacts of renewable energy shifting, passenger car electrification, and lightweighting through 2050 on the atmospheric concentrations of PM_{2.5} total mass, Fe, Cu, and Zn, and aerosol acidity in Japan were evaluated using a regional meteorology–chemistry model. We focus on the changes in on-road exhaust/non-exhaust and upstream emissions. The domestic primary emissions of PM_{2.5}, Fe, Cu, and Zn were reduced by 9%, 19%, 18%, and 10%, and their surface concentrations in the urban area decreased by 8%, 13%, 18%, and 5%, respectively. On a PM_{2.5} mass basis, battery electric vehicles (BEVs) have been considered to have no advantage in non-exhaust PM emissions because the increased tire and road wear and resuspension due to their heavy weight offset the benefit of brake wear reduction by regenerative brake. Indeed, passenger car electrification without lightweighting also did not significantly reduce PM_{2.5} concentration in urban area in this study (−2%) but was highly effective in reducing Fe and Cu concentrations owing to their high brake wear dependence (−8% and −13%, respectively). Furthermore, the lightweighting of the drive battery and the body frame of BEVs reduced even tire and road wear and resuspension. Therefore, vehicle electrification and lightweighting could effectively reduce the risks of respiratory inflammation. The reduction of SO_x, NO_x, and NH₃ emissions changed aerosol acidity in urban area (maximum pH ±0.2). However, changes in aerosol acidity only slightly changed water-soluble metal concentrations (maximum +2% for Fe and +0.5% for Cu and Zn); therefore, it is important to focus on reducing primary metal emissions.

Plain Language Summary

Water-soluble transition metals in PM_{2.5} are redox active and induce respiratory inflammation. Gaseous pollutants increase the aerosol acidity and contribute to metal dissolution and hence redox activation. In this study, the effects of renewable energy shifting, passenger car electrification, and lightweighting by 2050 on the atmospheric concentrations of PM_{2.5} total mass, Fe, Cu, and Zn and aerosol acidity in Japan were evaluated using atmospheric simulation. Since the regenerative braking systems of battery electric vehicles (BEVs) have lower brake wear emissions than those of conventional vehicles, the penetration of BEVs was effective in reducing the concentrations of Fe and Cu, which have high brake wear dependence (−13% and −18%, respectively, in urban area). Current BEVs increase tire and road wear and resuspension-derived PM emissions due to their heavy weight, which can be avoided by lightweighting technologies through 2050. The reduction of gaseous pollutants from thermal power plants and on-road slightly changed aerosol acidity, but the effect on water-soluble metal concentrations was small. Therefore, it was suggested that reducing primary metal emissions is more important than gaseous pollutants in decreasing concentration of water-soluble metals that are harmful to the respiratory system, and that vehicle electrification and lightweighting are effective means for that.

1. Introduction

There is a strong association between the dry mass of particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 μm or less ($\text{PM}_{2.5}$) and the development of cardiovascular and respiratory diseases (e.g. Pope and Dockery, 2006; Valavanidis et al., 2008). Among the various PM components, transition metals and quinones possess redox activity and are catalytically active in promoting reactive oxidation species (ROS), such as O_2^- , H_2O_2 , HO_2 , and OH in the body, inducing oxidative stress (e.g. Lakey et al., 2016; Shiraiwa et al., 2017; Bates et al., 2019). Kumagai et al. (2002) demonstrated that 9,10-phenanthraquinone, which has redox activity, effectively catalyzes the electron transfer from dithiothreitol (DTT) to oxygen and generates superoxide. Since then, the DTT assay has been widely used as a cell-free measure of the oxidative potential of particles. Among the metal components, Cu and Fe are especially important. Cu has the highest OP_{DTT} (the rate of DTT consumption per unit time) among transition metals. Charrier and Anastasio (2012) measured the OP_{DTT} of 10 soluble transition metals and 7 quinones and concluded that Cu(II) contributes to approximately 50% of the total DTT consumption on a typical urban air concentration basis. Fe(II) and Fe(III) substantially produce OH , the most oxidizing and toxic of the ROS, through Fenton reactions in the body (Gutteridge, 1995; Valavanidis et al., 2000; 2008; Charrier and Anastasio, 2011). OP_{DTT} is only correlated with H_2O_2 production associated with antioxidant consumption and not with OH production (Xiong et al., 2017; Jiang et al., 2019). Therefore, although the toxicity of Fe cannot be evaluated only by the OP_{DTT} index, but Fe is important in inducing oxidative stress. It is necessary that the transition metals be solubilized for them to have redox activity. Increased aerosol acidity due to sulfuric and nitric acids and the formation of metal–ligand complexes with organic matters affect metal solubility (Meskhidze et al., 2003; Oakes et al., 2012; Paris and Desboeufs, 2013; Fang et al., 2017; Shahpoury et al., 2021; Yang and Weber, 2022). Fang et al. (2017) showed a series of associations between low aerosol pH, transition metal solubilization, and OP_{DTT} increase due to sulfuric acid.

Zn, for example, is a redox inactive metal with no unpaired electrons in the d orbital and is not involved in a catalytic cycle like Fe and Cu. However, Zn can cause inflammation directly or indirectly because of biological mechanisms in the body (Samet et al., 2020; Wu et al., 2013; Gottipolu et al., 2008); such as the inhibition of the ROS reduction circuit in mitochondria (binding sites for Zn^{2+} on cytochrome C oxidase) (Muramoto et al., 2007; Qin et al., 2007), the inhibition of tyrosine phosphatase (Inflammation inhibition enzyme) activity (Samet et al., 1999), and the induction of inflammatory mediator (IL-8) (Samet et al., 1998). Gottipolu et al., (2008) examined inflammatory markers (increased rate of macrophages and neutrophils) of metals, such as Zn, in tire particles in rat tracheas and found that inflammation did not occur when the water-soluble compartment was low. Furthermore, insoluble components were expelled by mucociliary clearance, whereas soluble metals are bioavailable, leached off in the lung lining, rapidly enter the circulatory system within 24 h, and migrate to extrapulmonary organs

such as the heart (Wallenborn et al., 2007). Therefore, the water-soluble fraction of redox-inactive metals is also an important factor in inducing inflammation in biological processes.

The road transport and power generation sectors are both major sources of anthropogenic pollutant emissions. However, based on the Paris Agreement, many countries are promoting the spread of renewable energy and next-generation vehicles, such as battery electric vehicles (BEVs), to reduce pollutant emissions. In Japan, the government has set a green growth strategy that aims for carbon neutrality by 2050, targeting the production of 50%–60% of the total electricity demand from renewable energy sources and 30%–40% of it from nuclear power or thermal power using CO₂ capture and storage (CCS) technologies. It is also aimed that next-generation vehicles will account for 50%–70% of new passenger car sales by 2030. The renewable energy shift will reduce the emissions of gaseous pollutants and metals derived from fly ash in thermal power plants. The penetration of BEVs will also reduce on-road emissions, and if the electricity is clean (renewable and nuclear electricity), increased upstream emissions will be avoided. However, the case for metals emitted from vehicles is slightly more complicated.

The contribution of “non-exhaust” PM emissions, such as brake, tire, and road wear, is becoming more significant as exhaust becomes cleaner (OECD, 2020; Vanherle et al., 2021; CEC, 2022). Brake wear is a major source of metal emissions from automobiles, and metal components (Fe, Cu, Zn, Ba, etc.) account for 35%–47% of the PM_{2.5} particle size wear suspended in the air (Hagino et al., 2016). The most abundant metal in tire treads is Zn, which is added as a vulcanizing agent and accounts for approximately 1% of the PM_{2.5} size mass of tire wear particles (Smolders and Degryse, 2002; Blok, 2005; Grigoratos and Martini, 2014). Several reports and review articles have pointed out the risk of non-exhaust PM-derived metals causing the above health effects (Grigoratos and Martini, 2014; Fussell et al., 2022). However, regulations for non-exhaust PM are currently limited to only a few regions (OECD, 2020) and are currently in the process of standardizing emission estimates (EMEP/EEA, 2019) and considering measures.

Under this situation, several studies have estimated that BEV proliferation will not bring benefits in terms of non-exhaust PM emissions, which seems to be the consensus (Timmers and Achten, 2016; Alam et al., 2018; OECD, 2020; Beddows and Harrison, 2021; Fussell et al., 2022; Mehlig et al., 2021; Sisani et al., 2022). While the increase in vehicle weight due to the BEV's drive battery increases non-exhaust PM (Timmers and Achten, 2016), the regenerative braking system (RBS) reduces the frequency of friction brake operation and decreases brake wear. Although these changes are depend on additional weight and driving assumptions, an increase due to weight and a decrease due to RBS are estimated to cancel each other out, resulting in a small net change. For example, OECD (2020) estimated that, for lightweight BEVs (range of 100 miles), the benefits of the RBS would dominate the effect of vehicle weight increase,

reducing $PM_{2.5}$ by approximately 11%–13%, while heavy BEVs (range of 300 miles) would increase $PM_{2.5}$ by 3%–8% because the significant weight increase would mainly increase tire wear. [Beddows and Harrison \(2021\)](#) reported that the advantages of the RBS do not offset the disadvantages of vehicle weight increase in highway driving, although they are reduced in urban and rural areas where braking occurs more frequently than with internal combustion engine vehicles (ICEVs) (–26% and –12%, respectively). [Alam et al. \(2018\)](#) evaluated fleet-based CO_2 and $PM_{2.5}$ emission trends based on a BEV penetration scenario in Ireland through 2035. They estimated that $PM_{2.5}$ emissions will decrease until about 2028 due to exhaust gas reductions, but then will begin to increase mainly due to the growing due to the increased contribution of non-exhaust PM.

However, the relative weight ratios of BEVs to ICEVs in these studies were based on current assumptions. In reality, it is assumed that vehicle lightweighting technologies, including batteries for BEVs, will advance in the future ([Moawad et al., 2011](#); [Moawad et al., 2016](#); [Kelly et al., 2015](#)), but no quantitative evaluation of their effects on non-exhaust PM emissions has been conducted. Furthermore, all of the above studies were based on $PM_{2.5}$ emissions, and none of them estimated changes in emissions or atmospheric concentrations of metal components with high oxidative stress risks. Several studies have conducted to evaluate the impacts of next-generation vehicle penetration on atmospheric $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations using 3-dimensional numerical modeling, but the primary emissions of non-exhaust PM were not considered ([Tessum et al., 2014](#); [Li et al., 2016](#); [Ke et al., 2017](#)) or assumed to be the same as for ICEVs ([Soret et al., 2014](#); [Pan et al., 2019](#); [Schnell et al., 2019](#)). Only [Nopmongcol et al. \(2017\)](#) assumed that the brake wear emissions from BEVs and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) are 25% lower than those from conventional vehicles, but again, the evaluation was based on only the $PM_{2.5}$ mass concentration.

In this study, the impacts of changes in primary emissions associated with the renewable energy shift, passenger car electrification, and lightweighting through 2050 on not only the mass concentration of $PM_{2.5}$ in the atmosphere, but also those of metal species (Fe, Cu, and Zn) and aerosol acidity that cause respiratory system oxidative stress and inflammation, were evaluated using chemical transport modeling (CTM). In Section 2, the methodology is explained, including an overview of the CTM, observational data for model evaluation, and assumptions for sensitivity experiments. In Section 3, the reproducibility of the model is verified first. Then, the impacts of renewable energy shifting, passenger car electrification, and lightweighting on the concentrations of the $PM_{2.5}$ total mass, Fe, Cu, and Zn and aerosol pH are evaluated. By integrating these results, changes in water-soluble metal concentrations are discussed. In Section 4, we present conclusions and discuss future work.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Regional meteorology–chemistry model

A regional-scale offline-coupled nonhydrostatic meteorology–chemistry model (NHM-Chem) (full chemistry version; [Kajino et al., 2019a; 2021](#) and transition metal version; [Kajino et al., 2020](#)) was used in this study. Detail descriptions are summarized in [Table S1](#). [Figure 1](#) shows the model calculation domains. The mother domain (domain 01) covered the Northeast Asian region and was calculated with $dx = 30$ km. The nested domain (domain 02) covered Japan from Kyushu to Tohoku regions with $dx = 6$ km. The vertical layer involved 40 layers up to an altitude of approximately 20 km in both domains. Hereafter, the model simulation results were of the lowest level (approximately 15 m above the ground level) unless otherwise noted. The calculation period was from January 1, 2015, to December 31, 2015; the simulation began on December 26, 2014, with a spin-up period of 5 days.

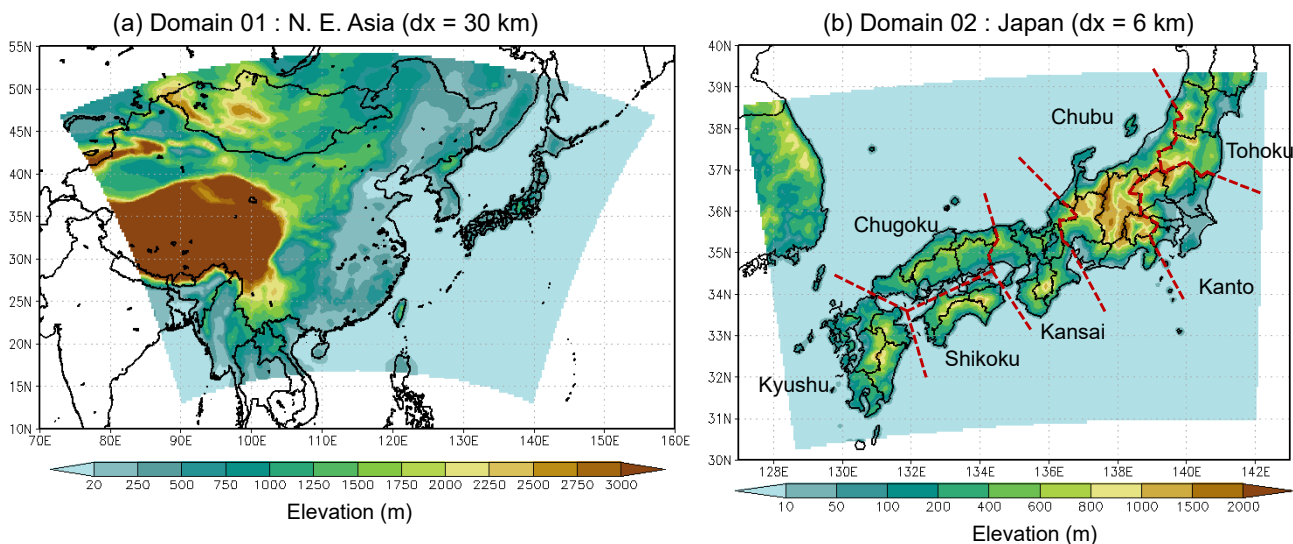


Figure 1. Model domains in this study. (a) Terrestrial elevations of domain 01 (Northeast Asia, $dx = 30$ km) and (b) same as (a) but for domain 02 (Japan, $dx = 6$ km).

First, the emission inventories used for gas and particle calculations for the full chemistry version model are described. For Northeast Asian anthropogenic emissions, REAS v3.2.1 (minor change in December 2021 from v3.2 ([Kurokawa and Ohara, 2020](#)), $0.25^\circ \times 0.25^\circ$, base year = 2015) and for Japan, PM2.5EI ([Morikawa, 2017](#), $1 \text{ km} \times 1 \text{ km}$, base year = 2012) were used. NO_x emissions were allocated 9:1 to NO and NO_2 for both REAS v3.2.1 and PM2.5EI. Taking chimney elevation into account, emissions from industries and power plants were distributed in this study from 0 m to 300 m above the ground level. We assumed the following for the original DB of PM2.5 EI in this study.

- In the PM2.5EI, since there is no information on the mass fraction of “brake wear” in “road dust (including brake wear)”, it was assumed to be 0.35 based on the value calculated by [EMEP/EEA](#)

(2019). The EMEP/EEA air pollutant emissions inventory guidebook (2019) was published by the European Environment Agency (EEA) and supports the reporting of emissions data under the UNECE convention on long-range transboundary air pollution (CLRTAP) and the EU national emissions control directives. In this study, the remainder of “road dust (including brake wear)” minus “brake wear” is called “road wear and resuspension”.

- In the PM_{2.5}EI, non-exhaust PM emissions from automobiles are not classified by particle size (those from other sources are classified as PM_{2.5} or PM₁₀). In this study, the PM_{2.5}/PM₁₀ mass fraction of non-exhaust PM was assumed to be 0.35 based on hearing information from JCAP/JATOP and the estimated data of EMEP/EEA (2019). EMEP/EEA (2019) estimated the PM_{2.5} fraction for tire wear, brake wear and road surface wear to be 0.42, 0.39 and 0.27, respectively, their mean is approximately 0.35. NHM-Chem assumes a log-normal distribution for the PM particle size distribution at emission. By setting the parameter of number-equivalent geometric mean dry diameter = 0.80 μm (number-equivalent aerodynamic mean dry diameter = 1.13 μm), and standard deviation = 1.8, the aerodynamic PM_{2.5} fraction is approximately 0.35.
- Since our available PM_{2.5}EI data do not provide information on the mass fractions of BC and OC in PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ emissions, we applied the corresponding REAS v3.2.1 mass fractions for each sector of PM_{2.5}EI. The remaining primary PM emissions, excluding BC and OC, were defined as inert unidentified components (UIDs).
- For domain 2 over Japan, the ship emissions from EAGrid (Fukui et al., 2014; Kannari et al., 2007) were added because PM_{2.5}EI does not provide ship emissions.

GFED v4 (Giglio et al., 2013) was used for biomass burning emissions and JMA data was used for volcanic SO₂ emissions for both domains. Biogenic nonmethane volatile organic compound (NMVOC) emissions were calculated inline based on MEGAN v2 (Guenther et al., 2006) as a function of temperature and solar radiation, simulated by the meteorological model.

The transition metal version of the model simulated 10 metals (Cu, Mn, Co, V, Ni, Pb, Fe, Zn, Cd, and Cr) in three categories (anthropogenic PM_{2.5} metals, anthropogenic PM₁₀ metals, and Asian mineral dust metals). The anthropogenic emission inventory used for the simulations of PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ metals was TMI-Asia/Japan v1.1, developed in this study. The previous version (v1.0; Kajino et al., 2020) contained considerable discrepancies between simulated and observed metal concentrations, especially for Cu and Zn, which were substantially improved in this revision. In addition, TMI-Asia v1.0 did not consider metals from all non-exhaust PM (brake wear, tire wear, road wear and resuspension), but they were added in v1.1 (note that only Fe, Cu, and Zn were considered for road wear and resuspension). TMI-Japan v1.0 considered brake and tire metal emissions but did not consider those from road wear and resuspension, which were added in v1.1. The details of the revisions from v1.0 to v1.1 are described in

[Supporting Text S1](#), [Figure S1–S4](#), and [Table S1–S3](#). TMI-Asia/Japan were developed by multiplying sector-specific PM_{2.5} or PM₁₀ emission estimates from REAS v2 (Kurokawa et al., 2013, 0.25° × 0.25°, base year = 2008) and PM_{2.5}EI by metal content, respectively. However, in TMI-Japan, brake, tire, and railway-derived metals were based on PM emission estimates from EAGrid (1 km × 1 km, base year = 2010). The metal content of PM by sector is an average of several literature values registered in SPECIATE v4.4 provided by the USEPA. The list of metal content by sector used in TMI-Asia/Japan v1.1 is shown in the [Supporting excel data](#). The metals in Asian mineral dust particles were diagnosed from the simulated dust mass concentration and the metal profiles of the Certified Reference Material of the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES CRM No. 30; Gobi Kosa) (Nishikawa et al., 2013).

For the initial and boundary conditions for the NHM (meteorological model part of NHM-Chem), we used a 6-hourly JRA-55 global reanalysis dataset (Kobayashi et al., 2015) for domain 01 and 3-hourly JMA's Meso-Regional Objective Analysis (MA) for domain 02 (available at <https://www.jma.go.jp/jma/jma-eng/jma-center/nwp/nwp-top.htm>, last accessed: 20 January 2023). For the large-wave components of horizontal momentum and potential temperature (wavelengths >1,000 km), spectral nudges above a 7-km altitude were applied, and the weighting factor was set to 0.06. For the chemical transport model (CTM) part of NHM-Chem, monthly climatological values (10-year averages for the global models MRI-CCM2 and MASINGAR-mk2 from 2003 to 2013) were used for the initial and boundary concentrations in domain 01, and the results of domain 01 were used for domain 02. The input/output time interval of CTM was 1 h.

2.2. Aerosol pH calculation

The aerosol pH discussed in Section 3.2.2 was derived using ISORROPIA-II (Fountoukis and Nenes, 2007). ISORROPIA-II can simulate the thermodynamic equilibrium of water-soluble inorganic ions and calculate the pH of aerosol particles in the equilibrium state. ISORROPIA-II was implemented in NHM-Chem for the calculation of the condensation of HNO₃, NH₃, HCl, and H₂O (Kajino et al., 2021), but aerosol pH was not dynamically solved. In addition, ISORROPIA-II in NHM-Chem solves the aerosol thermodynamics of each aerosol category but does not solve the aerosol pH of bulk submicron aerosols discussed in the study. Thus, a standalone ISORROPIA-II model was used to diagnose the aerosol pH after the NHM-Chem simulation. In addition, sensitivity tests of Equations (5)–(7) were only feasible using this standalone model.

The PM_{2.5} particle size aerosol pH was derived as follows. First, the forward mode of ISORROPIA-II was run using hourly NHM-Chem calculation results as input data; the mass concentrations (mol m⁻³) of K⁺, Ca²⁺, Mg²⁺, NH₄⁺, Na⁺, SO₄²⁻, NO₃⁻, and Cl⁻ in the submicron category (aitken, soot-free

accumulation, and soot containing accumulation modes), relative humidity (RH), and temperature. The output of the 1-hour aerosol liquid water content (LWC) and hydronium ion concentration data for each model grid were monthly averaged and applied to the following equation (1) for defining monthly averaged aerosol pH:

$$pH = -\log_{10}(\gamma_{H^+} \cdot H_{aq}^+) = -\log_{10}\left(\frac{1000\gamma_{H^+} \cdot H_{air}^+}{LWC}\right) \quad (1)$$

where γ_{H^+} is the activity coefficient of hydronium ions (assumed =1), H_{aq}^+ is the concentration of hydronium ions in the aerosol water phase (mol L^{-1}), H_{air}^+ ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$) is the concentration of hydronium ions per air volume, and LWC ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$) is the water concentration of aerosol particles. However, only 1-h data corresponding to $20\% < \text{RH} < 95\%$ were used for the monthly average. Data with $\text{RH} < 20\%$ were excluded because the aerosol was unlikely to be in a liquid state and the activity coefficient of hydronium ions in the aerosol water phase was highly uncertain at the case of high concentrations under low RH conditions (Fountoukis et al., 2009; Guo et al., 2016). The LWC increases exponentially with increasing RH due to the hygroscopicity of NH_4NO_3 and $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$ (Kitamori et al., 2009). Data with $\text{RH} > 95\%$ were excluded because the uncertainty in RH could significantly increase the uncertainty in LWC and aerosol pH (Guo et al., 2015; Guo et al., 2016). The LWC mainly depends on hygroscopic inorganic species, such as sulfate. Organics have relatively low hygroscopicity, so their effect on aerosol pH is small and can be neglected (Guo et al., 2015; Vasilakos et al., 2018; Pye et al., 2018). Similar to many other studies (Lawal et al., 2018; Ding et al., 2019; Paglione et al., 2021), this study did not consider the impact of organic matter on aerosol pH. Instead, the uncertainty in aerosol pH due to unaccounted for organic matter is described in [Supporting Text S2](#) and [Figure S5](#).

2.3. Model experiment cases and parameter setting

2.3.1. Model experiment cases

A base experiment and the following three sensitivity experiments were conducted in this study. The emissions for each sensitivity experiment were determined by scaling the base experiment by the coefficients shown in [Table 1](#). Our previous study (Kayaba and Kajino, 2022), which estimated the impact of the BEV shift of all passenger vehicles on surface O_3 concentration, did not consider scenarios of changes in vehicle type mix or power supply mix over time. However, we developed detailed future scenarios based on the aims of the Japanese government in this study. The coefficients were derived based on the estimated trends in vehicle exhaust and non-exhaust emissions, and gasoline and electricity demands through 2050. The details of the process of derivation are described in Sections 2.3.2–2.3.4.

(1) BASE experiment.

The simulation period was the whole year 2015, and the emission amounts of the base year (2010–2015) values were used for the simulation ([Table S1](#)).

(2) 2050R experiment; assumption of the penetration of renewable energy through 2050.

This scenario assumed the penetration of renewable energy, taking into account changes in the power supply mix through 2050. The emissions from power plants were reduced considering the decrease in thermal power generation.

(3) 2050R&E experiment; assumption of the penetration of renewable energy and passenger car electrification through 2050.

This scenario assumed passenger car electrification (without lightweighting) through 2050 in addition to (2). Changes in exhaust/non-exhaust emissions due to changes in vehicle type mix (ICEV, hybrid electric vehicle (HEV), PHEV, and BEV) were considered. To assess the impact of passenger car electrification, the assumptions for heavy-duty vehicles were not changed. Also, the total number of vehicles owned and the volume of traffic were not changed to evaluate the sensitivity of changes in emission factors. The additional electricity demand for charging BEVs and PHEVs was estimated to be mostly covered by solar surpluses, although not completely, resulting in a slight increase in power plant emissions of 1% from (2). NMVOC emissions from gas stations were reduced due to the reduced demand for gasoline.

(4) 2050R&E&L experiment ; assumption of the penetration of renewable energy and passenger car electrification and light-weighting through 2050.

This scenario considered passenger car lightweighting through 2050 in addition to (3). Non-exhaust emissions were reduced from (3) due to vehicle weight reduction. It was assumed that exhaust performance would not change due to lightweighting. No increase in power plant emissions was assumed (same as (2)), because the additional electricity demand for charging BEVs and PHEVs was estimated to be lower than that in (2) because of the lower electricity consumption due to lightweighting, which can be covered by the surplus of solar power. NMVOC emissions from gas stations were further reduced compared to that in (3) due to the improved of energy consumption by vehicle lightweighting.

Table 1. Ratios of emission factors for the sensitivity experiments (2050R, 2050R&E, and 2050R&E&L) to BASE experiment.

Emission source	species		BASE	2050R	2050R&E	2050R&E&L
	particle pollutants	gaseous pollutants				
Passenger car exhaust	PM _{2.5} , Fe, Cu, Zn	SO _x , NO _x , NH ₃ , NMVOC ^a , CO	1	1	0.31 ^b	0.31 ^b
Passenger car evaporative	-	NMVOC ^a	1	1	0.31 ^b	0.31 ^b
Passenger car tire wear	PM _{2.5} , Zn	-	1	1	1.09 ^c	0.89 ^c
Passenger car road wear & resuspension	PM _{2.5} , Fe, Cu, Zn	-	1	1	1.09 ^c	0.89 ^c
Passenger car Brake wear	PM _{2.5} , Fe, Cu, Zn	-	1	1	0.67 ^d	0.55 ^d
Thermal power plant	PM _{2.5} , Fe, Cu, Zn	SO _x , NO _x , NH ₃ , NMVOC ^a , CO	1	0.18 ^e	0.19 ^e	0.18 ^e
Gas station	-	NMVOC ^a	1	1	0.41 ^f	0.33 ^f

- a. SOA formation was not included in the simulations. Therefore, changes in NMVOC emissions only affected changes in oxidant concentrations such as O₃, OH, and H₂O₂, and the associated changes in secondary inorganic aerosol formation.
- b. Passenger car electrification was considered ([Figure 4d](#))
- c. Passenger car electrification and lightweighting were considered ([Figure 4b](#))
- d. Passenger car electrification, lightweighting, and effect of BEV's RBS were considered ([Figure 4c](#))
- e. The reduction of thermal power plants was considered (see [Figure S1b](#)). No increase in thermal power plant emissions was assumed because it was assumed that the additional electricity demand for charging BEVs and PHEVs ([Figure 4e](#)) could be covered by the surplus electricity obtained solar power generation.
- f. The reduction of gasoline consumption was assumed ([Figure 4f](#)).

[Table 2](#) shows the assumptions that were changed and unchanged from the BESE experiment.

Table 2. Assumptions that were changed or unchanged in the 2050R&E&L experiment compared to the BASE experiment.

Sector	Changed	Unchanged
Vehicle transport	✓ Vehicle type mix (passenger car)	✓ Assumption of truck, bus and motorcycle
	✓ Vehicle lightweighting (passenger car)	✓ Total traffic volume
	✓ Energy consumption (passenger car)	✓ Total vehicle stock
Power plant	✓ Power supply mix ✓ Additional electricity demand for BEV and PHEV charging	✓ Electricity demand excluding BEV and PHEV charging
Stationary VOC	✓ Gasoline fuel demand at gas stations	✓ Assumption of other stationary VOC source
Other sectors ^a	-	✓ All assumptions

- a. Industry, domestic, aviation, navigation, railway, off-road vehicle, and field-burning

2.3.2. Passenger car lightweighting through 2050

[Figure 2](#) shows the change in vehicle weight for each vehicle type through 2050. For each of the four vehicle types (ICEV, HEV, PHEV, and BEV), the weights of six components (body frame, tire, engine, transmission, motor/generator, fuel tank, and drive battery) are combined. Each component weight was referenced to calculations conducted by Autonomie, a vehicle simulation tool developed by the Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) of the U.S. Department of Energy ([Moawad et al., 2016](#); [Islam et al., 2020](#)). Autonomie can evaluate vehicle weight, fuel consumption, performance, and cost for various vehicle classes (mini, medium, small sport utility vehicles (SUV), medium SUV, and pickup truck) and vehicle types (ICEV, HEV, PHEV, BEV, and fuel-cell electric vehicle (FCV)). In this study, only the body frame and the drive battery were assumed to be lightweight through 2050 (their reduction rates are shown in [Table S4](#) and [Table S5](#), respectively). The lightweighting of body frames can be achieved by alternative materials, such as high-strength low-alloy steels and aluminum and will be relatively early in the future. Compared to 2020, approximately –10% will be achieved by 2025, followed by a gradual decrease, with a lightweighting of approximately 20% in 2050 ([Table S4](#)). As the energy density of the battery increases, the weight per unit capacity decreases for the fixed driving range. Approximately 43% lighter body frames were expected in 2050 than in 2020 ([Table S5](#)). The battery weight of the PHEV was assumed to be 1/3 of that of the BEV in this study. The weights of other components such as the engine and motor/generator were assumed to be unchanged. Until 2020, BEVs were net 14% heavier than ICEVs due to their batteries. By 2050, ICEVs and HEVs will be 15% lighter compared to those in 2020 due to the lightweighting of the body frame. PHEVs and BEVs have a larger lightweight ratio than ICEVs and HEVs because of the reduction in battery weight in addition to the reduction in body frame. After 2030, BEVs and PHEVs will be lighter than ICEVs produced in 2015. By 2050, the weight difference between vehicle types will be smaller, with a +5% relative weight difference for BEVs compared to ICEVs.

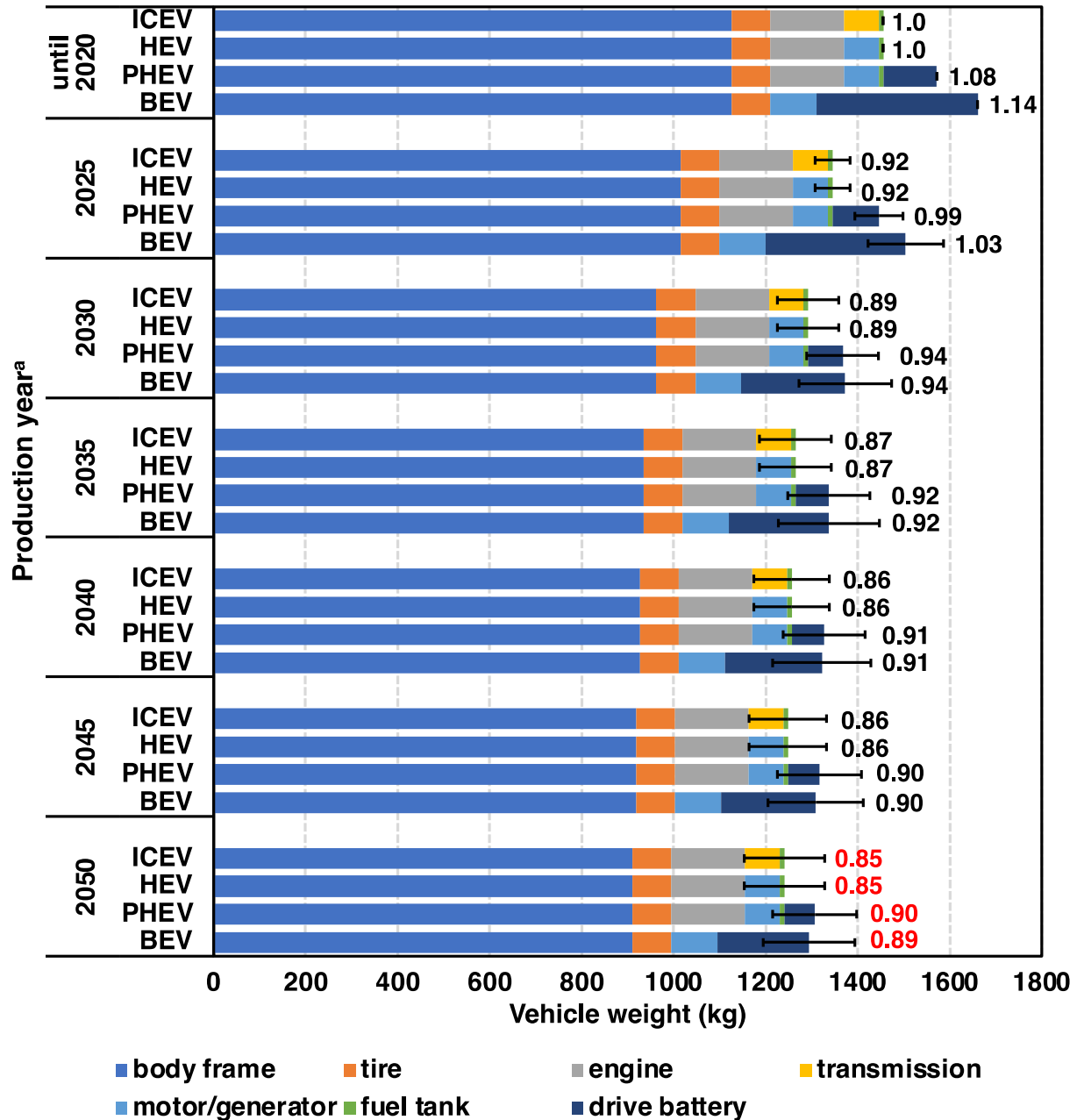


Figure 2. Vehicle weight transition of each vehicle type through 2050 due to lightweighting. The numbers shown along with the bars represent the values relative to ICEVs produced until 2020. The error bars indicate the uncertainty in the degree of the technological progress of lightweighting (low and high). The weight of each component in the base year (until 2020) was based on literature values derived using Autonomie (Moawad et al., 2016). Only the glider and the drive battery were assumed to be lightweight (weight reduction rates are shown in [Tables S4](#) and [Table S5](#), respectively), while the weights of other components remained unchanged.

2.3.3. Vehicle type mix through 2050

It is necessary to estimate fractions of each vehicle type and its production year at the same time in the passenger car fleet in 2050 since the year of vehicle production affects fuel economy and vehicle weight. In this study, the vehicle turnover was estimated as a function of scrapping rate according to vehicle age, and the trend in the vehicle ownership share was predicted, as shown in [Figure 3a](#). [Figure S6](#) shows the vehicle type mix of new passenger car sales through 2050. This was estimated based on [Sato and Nakata \(2020\)](#) (based on data published by the METI, JAMA, and the Next-Generation Vehicle Promotion Center (NGVP)). Although FCVs are expected to account for approximately 5% of the total sale share in 2050, FCVs were excluded from this study since they are not majors. [Figure S7](#) shows the scrap and residual rates as a function of vehicle age, derived by the Weibull functions shown in Equations (2) and (3). The Weibull function was first proposed by [Weibull \(1951\)](#), and it statistically represents the phenomenon of machine deterioration. It is widely used in the field of reliability engineering and has been used for modeling vehicle survivability ([Hao et al., 2011](#)).

$$R(t) = \exp\left(-\left(\frac{t}{\eta}\right)^m\right), \quad (2)$$

$$f(t) = \frac{m \cdot t^{m-1}}{\eta^m} \cdot \exp\left\{-\left(\frac{t}{\eta}\right)^m\right\}, \quad (3)$$

where $R(t)$ is the survival ratio at age t (years), and $f(t)$ is the scrap ratio at age t (years). η is called scaling parameter and is defined as the average vehicle lifetime. Assuming $t = \eta$ and substituting it into Equation (2), we obtain the residual $R(t) = 1/e$. m is called Weibull coefficient. In this study, $\eta = 12.7$ and $m = 4.0$ were used to reflect the residual pattern of ordinary vehicles in Japan ([Lu et al., 2018](#)). These values were derived by [Lu et al \(2018\)](#) through regression against the patterns of residual rates derived from data on the numbers of registered and scrapped ordinary vehicles in Japan reported by [Huo and Wang \(2012\)](#). [Figure 3a](#) shows the vehicle type mix by production year for the total passenger car fleet in Japan through 2050. It was derived by assuming that cars are replenished by the share of new car sales in that year ([Figure S6](#)) for the number of scrapped cars in each year derived in Equation (2). The estimated vehicle ownership share in 2050 was 11% for ICEVs, 14% for HEVs, 20% for PHEVs, and 55% for BEVs ([Figure 3a](#)).

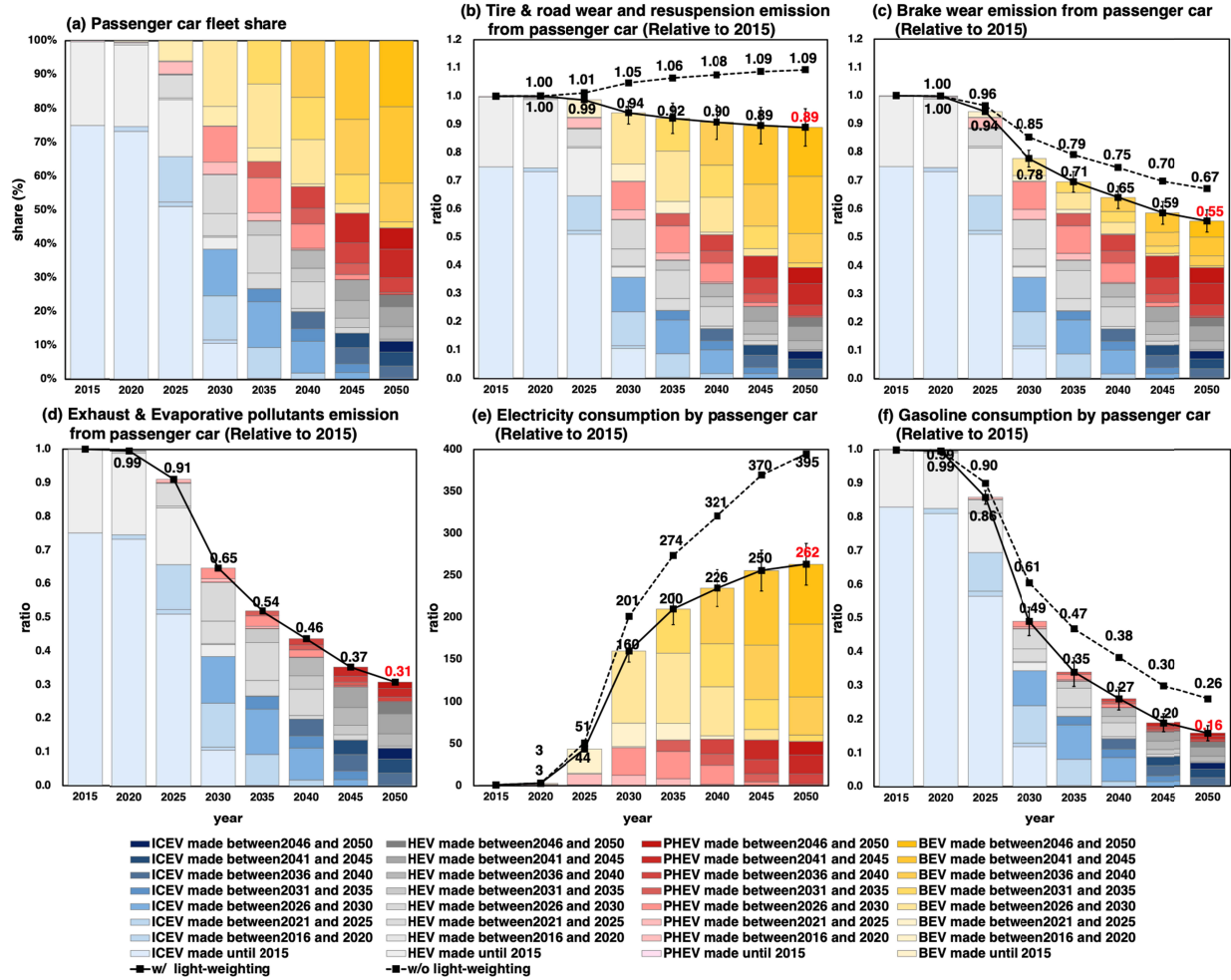


Figure 3. Trend in (a) passenger car fleet share, (b) tire and road wear and resuspension emission, (d) brake wear emission, (e) gasoline fuel consumption, and (f) electricity consumption through 2050. Each graph shows values relative to 2015. The bar graph and the solid black line indicate the transition with vehicle lightweighting, and breakdown by production year and vehicle type is shown. The dashed black lines indicate the transition without vehicle lightweighting. The error bars indicate the uncertainty due to the degree of the technological progress of lightweighting (Figure 2). Since it is assumed that exhaust gas pollutants do not change with lightweighting (see Section 2.3.4.2), the error bars are not indicated in (d).

2.3.4. Change in emissions through 2050

2.3.4.1. Non-exhaust PM emissions from passenger car

The emissions of “tire and road wear and resuspension” and “brake wear” in the 2050R&E&L experiment were estimated to be 89% and 55% of those in the BASE experiment, respectively ([Figure 3b and 3c](#) solid line). [Figure 3b and 3c](#) were derived by weighting the vehicle type mix by production year in [Figure 3a](#) by the vehicle weight in [Figure 2](#) since both non-exhaust PM emissions are proportional to vehicle weight ([Simons, 2016](#)). The brake wear was then further multiplied by 0.33 to take into account the effect of regenerative braking for BEVs only. In the friction brake system (FBS) used in conventional vehicles, excess kinetic energy during braking is discarded as heat. In contrast, the RBS in BEVs can recover braking force by converting it into electrical energy. In BEVs, the combined use of the FBS and the RBS can reduce brake disc wear. Various values have been reported in the literature regarding the effectiveness of the RBS in reducing brake wear ([Table 3](#)). The value indicated by [Hagino \(2019\)](#), –67%, was adopted of these literature values in this study. This is because PM emissions are directly measured by the Particle Measurement Program (PMP) test cycle, an expert working group for brake wear measurement, and non-asbestos organic (NAO) brake pad material, which is the most common material used in Japan (accounts for approximately 70% share of passenger cars), is used. The brake wear reduction effect of the RBS was assumed to be –67%, even if the vehicle weight changed.

Primary emissions from tire and road wear and resuspension will be reduced to approximately 10% by around 2035 because of the body frame lightweighting of ICEVs and HEVs, but the reduction will stall after that ([Figure 3b](#) solid line) because BEVs will not be relatively lighter than ICEVs, HEVs, and PHEVs even in the future. As mentioned in Section 2.3.2, BEVs have a large rate of lightweighting and will be lighter than ICEVs produced in 2015 by 2030, so it was estimated that tire and road dust emissions will not increase in the future from the 2015 level.

In the case of the 2050R&E experiment, PHEVs are 8% heavier and BEVs are 14% heavier than ICEVs without considering future weight reductions ([Figure 2](#)). Therefore, the increase in the share of PHEVs and BEVs is estimated to increase tire and road wear and resuspension by 9% in 2050 relative to the reference experiment ([Figure 3b](#) dashed line). This is a disadvantage of BEVs, as mentioned in the Introduction. However, our estimation suggests that the disadvantages can be suppressed by lightweighting the body frame and battery ([Figure 3b](#) solid line).

Brake wear emissions will be reduced by 33% in 2050 compared to that in 2015 due to the penetration of BEVs even without considering vehicle lightweighting ([Figure 3c](#) dashed line) but can be reduced by 44% with lightweighting ([Figure 3c](#) solid line).

Table 3. Literature values for brake dust reduction owing to the regenerative braking of BEVs. Much of this information is summarized in [OECD \(2020\)](#).

Sector	Reported reduction ratio	Unchanged
Barlow, 2014	almost –100%	Visual confirmation (Brake components look new after 22,000 miles)
Hooftman et al., 2016	–40%	Replacement interval of brake pads (BEV's brake pad last approximately two-thirds longer than that of diesel/petrol vehicles, in case of Tesla BMW i3 and LEAF)
Platform for Electromobility, 2016	–25 – –50%	Information provided by company (Brake pad reduction ratio in case of Renault ZOE)
Kendrick and Kulkarni, 2019	–50%	Laboratory test (WLTP ^a driving cycle and semi-metallic brake pad)
Hagino., 2019	–67%	Laboratory test (PMP ^b driving cycle and NAO ^c brake pad)
Hall, 2017	–88%	Los Angeles city traffic test (LACTT) ^d (The frequency of friction braking for BEVs was 1/8 of that for ICEVs of the same vehicle class.)

- a. Worldwide-harmonized light vehicles test procedure
b. Particulate measurement program
c. Non-asbestos organic
d. LACTT is an established procedure used almost universally for generations by vehicle manufacturers to evaluate and validate braking systems ([Hall, 2017](#)).

2.3.4.2. Exhaust gas and PM emissions from passenger car

The emissions of gaseous pollutants such as NO_x from passenger car exhaust will decrease as the fractions of BEVs and PHEVs increase. The emissions of exhaust gas pollutants in the 2050R&E and 2050R&E&L experiments were assumed to be 31% of those in the BASE experiment ([Figure 3d](#)). It was assumed that the emission factors of exhaust pollutants would not change even if fuel consumption was improved due to lightweighting. In addition, the emission factors for exhaust pollutants from gasoline driven HEVs and PHEVs were assumed to be the same as those for ICEVs. This is because while improved fuel consumption reduces CO₂ emissions, but this is not true to trace pollutants such as NO_x. HEVs are often driven by a motor using electricity generated by running the engine at low load and low speed. The low power operation of the engine may reduce exhaust emissions, but it may also increase emissions as the aftertreatment system takes longer to warm up and the catalyst stays at a lower temperature ([Zhao and Wang, 2016](#)).

For PHEVs, the ratio of electric driving to gasoline driving was assumed to be 7/3. The PHEV runs by externally charged electric power for a certain distance from the start of driving with a small drive battery of approximately 10 kWh and switches to engine-driven hybrid running when the battery's state of charge (SOC) decreases to a certain value. The ratio of electric drive to the total daily driving distance is called the utility factor (UF) (Society of Automotive Engineers J2841 standard). Since the UF varies by person and by day, previous studies have derived the average UF of PHEVs in Japan based on the

statistical data of the daily distance traveled by PHEV users. It is estimated that the $UF = 0.7$ when assuming a PHEV with an electric driving range of 60 km, as represented by the Prius PHV (Hori and Kaneda, 2012). Therefore, the electric driving ratio of PHEVs was assumed to be 70% in this study as well.

2.3.4.3. Upper-stream emissions (thermal power plant and gas station)

The Japanese government expects an increase in renewable energy and a decrease in thermal power generation in the future in order to decarbonization. The emissions from power plants in the 2050 R&E&L experiment were assumed to be 18% of those obtained from the BASE experiment.

- The power supply mix in 2050 was estimated to be 50% renewable energy, 34% nuclear, and 16% thermal, provided that the government targets would be achieved (Figure S8b).
- Thermal power generation, which provided 89% of the total electricity demand in 2012 (the PM2.5 EI base year) (Figure S8a) (METI, 2019) would decrease by 82% by 2050.

The change in air pollutant emissions due to the introduction of CCUS in thermal power plants strongly depends on the type of CO₂ capture technology employed (EEA, 2011) (Supporting Text S4). Furthermore, there are many uncertainties, including future innovations in denitrification and desulfurization technologies and regulatory changes, so estimating the changes in emission factors of thermal power plants is difficult. Therefore, the emission factors for pollutants from thermal power plants were assumed to remain the same in 2050 as in the base year.

No increase in power plant emissions was assumed for charging BEVs and PHEVs since it will be met by solar surplus electricity in 2050 (Supporting Text S5). Figure 3e shows the electricity demand for external charging for passenger cars considering the improvement of fuel and electricity consumption (Table S6) due to electrification and lightweighting in 2050. The external charging electricity demand was negligible in 2015, as the share of BEVs and PHEVs in the total passenger car fleet was very small, approximately 0.2% (NGVP's website: <https://www.cev-pc.or.jp/tokei/hanbaidaisu.html>; Automobile Inspection & Registration Information Association (AIRIA)'s website: <https://www.airia.or.jp/publish/statistics/trend.html>, both in Japanese, last accessed: 22 January 2023). The additional electricity demand was only 0.02% of the total annual domestic electricity generation (107.78 billion kWh year⁻¹; METI, 2019), assuming a total annual passenger car fleet of 420 billion km/year (MLIT, 2010) and an electricity consumption of 0.17 kWh km⁻¹ for BEVs and PHEVs. In 2050, the demand for externally charged electricity will increase by 260 times (Figure 3e solid line) due to the penetration of BEVs and PHEVs, which increase the total electricity demand by 4% in Japan. However, it was estimated that this additional electricity demand could be met by surplus PV power (even in winter when solar radiation is low) (Figure S8b). Without considering the improvement of electricity

consumption due to lightweighting (2050R&E experiment), more electricity would be required for charging (395 times more than that in 2012 ([Figure 3e](#) dashed line), and 6% increase in the total demand). This may not be covered by some surplus power in the winter, but the increase in thermal generation would be approximately 1% at worst ([Supporting Text S5](#)).

The electrification and lightweighting of passenger cars will also reduce gasoline consumption. The decreasing refueling frequency will reduce fuel evaporation VOCs at gas stations. [Figure 3f](#) shows the gasoline demand by passenger cars. Gasoline consumption by passenger cars accounts for 80% of the total gasoline consumption ([MLIT, 2012](#)). With (without) vehicle lightweighting, it was estimated that electrification would reduce gasoline consumption in passenger cars by 84% (74%) ([Figure 3f](#), solid (dashed) line) and VOC evaporation from gas stations by 0.33 (0.41) times compared to those in the BASE experiment.

2.4. Observation data for model validation

To validate the simulation results, nationwide seasonal observation data of Ministry of Environment (MOE), Japan, were used (available at <http://www.env.go.jp/air/osen/pm/monitoring.html>, last accessed: January 25, 2023)). The survey was conducted at 192 stations in Japan in 2015 (158 public, 44 roadside, and 15 background sites). During a period of 2 weeks \times 4 seasons for a total of 56 days, daily concentrations of 32 inorganic elemental components (Cu, Fe, Mn, Ni, Pb, V, Zn, etc.), and 9 ionic components (NO_3^- , SO_4^{2-} , NH_4^+ , Na^+ , K^+ , Mg^{2+} , Cl^- , Ca^{2+} , and $\text{C}_2\text{O}_4^{2-}$) were analyzed. The meteorological fields (temperature, pressure, wind speed, and solar radiation) were also measured. The inorganic elemental components other than Si were mainly measured using inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) after acid decomposition with nitric acid, hydrofluoric acid, hydrogen peroxide, etc. The ionic components were analyzed using ion chromatography. In this study, simulated values from four model grids adjacent to the observation point were weighted inversely proportional to the square of distances and used for comparison with the observations.

3. Result and Discussion

3.1. Model evaluation

First, the reproducibility of metal concentrations is discussed. The scatter plots and comparative statistics of the simulation results and observations for Fe, Cu, and Zn in $PM_{2.5}$ are shown in [Figure S1](#) and [Table S2](#), respectively. The biases for Cu and Zn were significantly improved by the revision of the transition metal emission inventory TMI-Asia/Japan from v1.0 to v1.1 in this study ([Figure S1, Table S2](#)). In v1.0, the NMB of Cu ranged from 130% (roadside site) to 680% (background site) but improved to approximately 30% after the revision. In addition, the NMB at the Zn at the background site improved from approximately 100% to -5% ([Table S2](#)). Therefore, the metal bias is within approximately 30% for Fe, Cu, and Zn (refer to [Supporting Text S1](#) for details). The correlation coefficients are $R = 0.37, 0.20,$ and 0.25 for Fe, Cu, and Zn, respectively, and these were relatively high at the background site, $R = 0.51, 0.35,$ and $0.50,$ respectively ([Table S2](#)), indicating that the model well reproduces the temporal concentration variations caused by advection from the continent. On the other hand, values were lower at the roadside sites, $R = 0.28, 0.14,$ and 0.30 . One possible cause is the dissociation between inventory and daily actual emissions. Therefore, this study is discussed on a monthly or annual average concentration basis.

Next, $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations and their ionic components in full chemistry simulations are described. The scatter plots and comparative statistics of the simulated and observed $PM_{2.5}$ total mass concentrations and ionic components ($SO_4^{2-}, NO_3^-, NH_4^+, Cl^-, Na^+, Ca^{2+},$ and Mg^{2+}) are shown in [Figure S9](#) and [Table S7](#), respectively. The model overestimated $PM_{2.5}$ mass concentrations by approximately 60% throughout the year ([Table S7](#)). As for the main ionic components, the NMBs of SO_4^{2-} and NH_4^+ are -13% and -9%, respectively, but NO_3^- is overestimated at 247% ([Table S7](#)). The overestimation of NO_3^- is significant in summer (NMB = 94%, 199%, 2008%, and 234% in winter, spring, summer, and fall, respectively) ([Table S7, Figure S9c](#)). The counter ions of NO_3^- are considered to be predominantly Na^+ derived from sea salt particles. NHM-Chem defines $Cl^-, Na^+,$ and Mg^{2+} concentrations as the ratios of sea salt particle concentrations and $Na^+, Mg^{2+},$ and Ca^{2+} as the ratios of Asian mineral dust particle concentrations, and these ionic components are not simulated separately. The bias for Ca^{2+} only from mineral dust was within a factor of 2, but the sea salt particle components, $Na^+, Cl^-,$ and $Mg^{2+},$ were overestimated by a factor of 10 or more ([Table S7, Figure S9e–S9h](#)). Therefore, the main cause of the $PM_{2.5}$ overestimation is thought to be the excess of NaCl, mainly due to the uncertainty in the model's sea salt particle generation rate, and the associated excess production of $NaNO_3$ due to chlorine loss ($NaCl + HNO_3 \rightarrow NaNO_3 + HCl$). Other factors such as uncertainties in anthropogenic NO_x and NH_3 emissions and HNO_3 dry deposition rates are also possible.

The model also slightly underestimated the temperature (NMB = -10%) ([Figure S10a](#)) and overestimated the RH (NMB = 16%) ([Figure S10b](#)). The uncertainties in NO_3^- and RH affect the sensitivity of aerosol pH and thus metal solubility. In this study, when calculating aerosol pH in ISORROPIA-II, the range of uncertainty in aerosol acidity was considered by also inputting the case corrected for bias from observations for the NO_3^- concentration and RH, respectively. And the range of metal solubility due to NO_3^- and RH uncertainties is described in Section 2.3.4.

3.2. Impacts of renewable energy shifting, passenger car electrification, and lightweighting

3.2.1. Impact on primary emissions

3.2.1.1. $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ and $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ -metals

First, the metal content assumptions in $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ in TMI-Asia/Japan v1.1 are explained for estimating the primary emissions of metals. Power plants, automobile exhaust, brake and tire wear, and resuspension are shown in [Table 4](#) (for other sectors, see supporting information of [Kajino et al., 2020](#)).

The PM of fly ash from coal-fired power plants contains 1.0%–10% Fe, 0.01%–0.1% Cu, and 0.01–0.1% Zn approximately, respectively, in both $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ and PM_{10} particle sizes ([Chow et al., 2004](#)). In this study, the assumptions for the Fe, Cu, and Zn content in thermal power plant exhaust $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ were 4.2%, 0.07%, and 0.3%, respectively.

The gasoline and diesel exhaust gases contain approximately 0.1%–1.0% Fe and Zn and 0.01%–0.1% Cu ([Chow et al., 2004](#)). Zn is included because zinc dithiophosphate is added to lubricants as an antiwear and antioxidant ([Lough et al., 2005](#); [Cadle et al., 1997](#)). Fe and Cu are included mainly due to bearing wear and other component wear mixing ([Cadle et al., 1997](#)). The assumptions for the Fe, Cu, and Zn contents in vehicle exhaust $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ in this study were 0.5%–0.7%, 0.03%–0.06%, and 0.2%–0.4%, respectively.

The metal content in brake wear varies widely depending on the brake pad material. NAO, the most major brake pad material in Japan, contains almost no steel material. However, because of the cast iron component of the rotor (mating material), Fe is the most abundant metal in brake wear $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ ([Hagino et al., 2016](#); [Hagino, 2020](#)). The assumptions for Fe, Cu, and Zn contents in brake wear $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ were 22%, 1.5%, and 1.3%, respectively, in this study ([Table S3](#)).

The composition of tire wear is mostly organic matter and carbon. Zn, added as a vulcanizing agent, is the most abundant heavy metal in tire wear, accounting for approximately 1% ([Smolders and Degryse, 2002](#); [Blok, 2005](#); [Grigoratos and Martini, 2014](#)).

It is nearly impossible to separate primary road wear from other mineral dust deposited on roads ([Denier van der Gon et al., 2013](#)). Concrete and asphalt, the main components of road surfaces, are mineral aggregates comprising the crustal components Si, Ca, K, Fe, and Al, whose compositional ratios

vary based on the geological source (Harrison et al., 2021). Resuspended particles consist of all non-exhaust particles (brake, tire, and road wear) and particles from other sources deposited on the road surface (e.g., exhaust gas particles, particles from deicing and gritting, wind-blown dust, and biogenic particles) (Harrison et al., 2021). The road dust sampling on asphalted roads in Portugal contained approximately 2%–5% PM₁₀-Fe and 0.03%–0.3% PM₁₀-Cu and PM₁₀-Zn (Alves et al., 2018). In this study, the assumptions for Fe, Cu, and Zn contents in road wear and resuspension PM were 3%, 0.03%, and 0.1%, respectively (Table S3).

Table 4. Assumptions of the metal content ratio in PM_{2.5} from power plant, vehicle exhaust, brake wear, tire wear, road wear and resuspension used in TMI-Asia/Japan v1.1 development.

g-metal/g-PM _{2.5} in %	Fe	Cu	Zn
Thermal power plant	4.2	0.07	0.3
Vehicle exhaust	0.5 – 0.7 ^a	0.03 – 0.06 ^a	0.2 – 0.4 ^a
Brake wear	22.2	1.5	1.3
Tire wear	0	0	1.0
Road wear and resuspension	3.0	0.03	0.1

a. The values used for different vehicle types (mini passenger car, passenger car, light duty truck, heavy-duty truck, bus, and motorcycle) and subsectors by fuel (gasoline, diesel, and LPG) are indicated.

Figure 4 shows the total annual emissions of the anthropogenic PM_{2.5} total mass, Fe, Cu, and Zn in domain 02 Japan region and reductions by 2050 due to the renewable energy shifting, vehicle electrification, and lightweighting. To summarize, in the 2050R&E&L experiment, Fe and Cu were estimated to be reduced by approximately 19%, Zn by 10%, and PM_{2.5} total mass by 9%. The decisive factor in the difference in these reduction rates is the difference in the brake wear-derived contribution to total emissions. In the 2050R&E&L experiment, brake wear has the largest reduction rate in emission factors than tire and road wear and resuspension due to the double effect of the regenerative brake and lightweighting of BEVs. Therefore, the emissions of Fe and Cu, which heavily depend on brake wear, were most significantly reduced.

Renewable energy shifting contributed the most to the reduction of primary PM_{2.5} emissions (–5.8%) (Figure 4a). With the electrification of passenger cars without lightweighting (2050R&E–2050R), the decrease in PM_{2.5} from brake wear and exhaust gas would be partially offset by the increase in PM_{2.5} from tire wear, road wear, and resuspension. As a result, the net reduction in PM_{2.5} emissions was –1.4%, although it did not increase. Lightweighting prevents the increase in tire wear, road wear, and resuspension, further reducing PM_{2.5} emissions by 1.9%. However, passenger car exhaust/non-emission PM_{2.5} accounts for approximately only 10% of total emissions, and in any case, the PM_{2.5} reduction effect of electrification and lightweighting is limited (–3.2%).

The largest sources of Fe emissions in Japan are brake wear and the steel industry (included in Industry and others). When PM_{2.5} from brake wear is reduced by 45% by passenger car electrification and lightweighting ([Table 1](#)), it contributes to a 9.7% reduction in total Fe emissions. When PM_{2.5} from thermal power plants is reduced by 82% by renewable energy shifting ([Table 1](#)), it contributes to an 8.2% reduction in total Fe emissions. As a result, reductions in brake wear and thermal power plants contributed roughly equal to the reduction in Fe emissions ($-18.7 \pm 1.4\%$) in 2050 ([Figure 4b](#)).

Cu emissions from power plants and other sources are relatively low. Brake wear is the largest source of Cu emissions, accounting for 60% of total emissions. Therefore, the reduction in Cu emissions in 2050R&E&L ($-18.9 \pm 1.8\%$) is mostly due to the reduced brake wear (-15.4%) due to passenger car electrification and lightweighting ([Figure 4c](#)).

Zn is characterized by having a tire wear-derived source. In the case of passenger car electrification without lightweighting (2050R&E–2050R), Zn emissions increase from tire and road wear and resuspension ($+0.3\%$) but decrease more from brake wear (-4.0%), resulting in a net decrease (-3.5%) ([Figure 4d](#)).

The error bars in [Figure 4](#) show the range of lightweight technology progress. The uncertainties are estimated to be $\pm 0.6\%$, $\pm 1.4\%$, $\pm 1.8\%$, and $\pm 0.7\%$ of the PM_{2.5} total mass, Fe, Cu, and Zn emissions in the 2050 R&E&L experiment, respectively, which are relatively small. Therefore, from now on, the lightweight technology progress is discussed in terms of low and high averages.

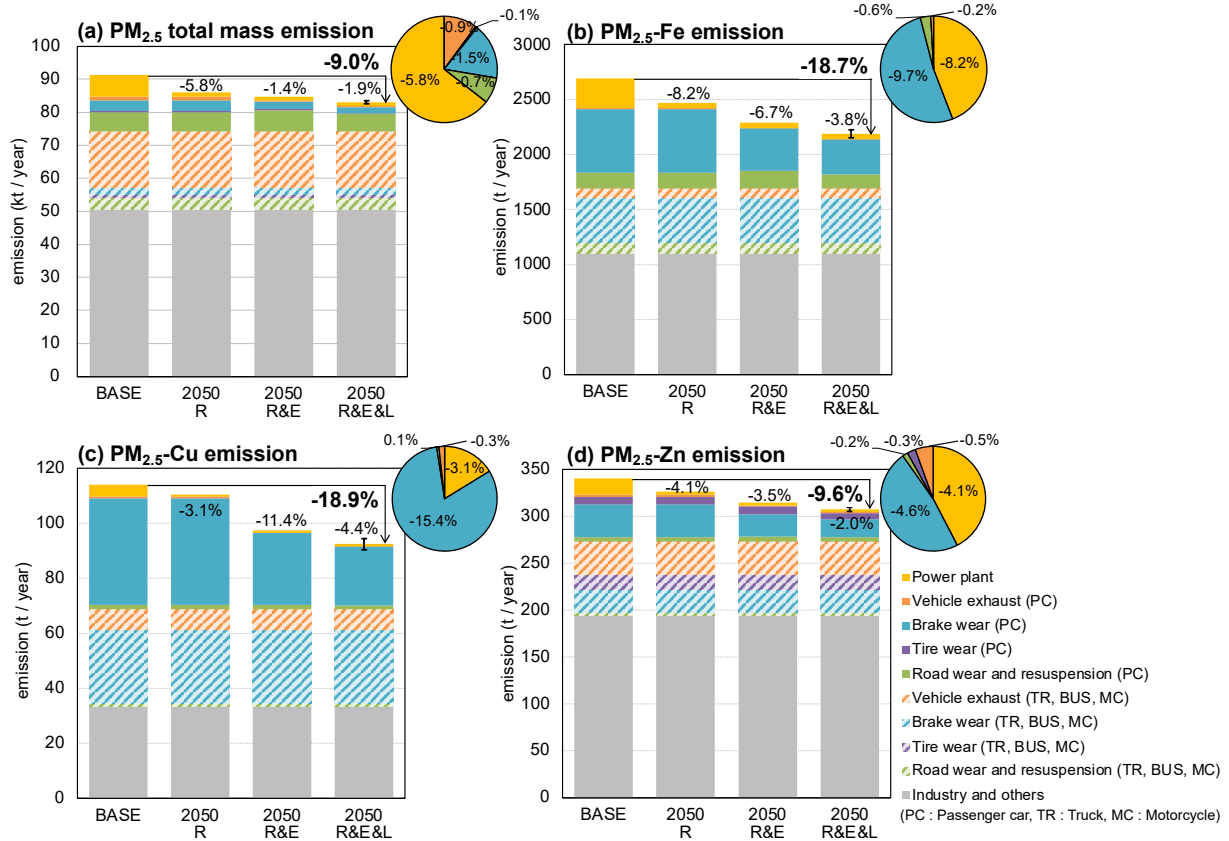


Figure 4. Total annual anthropogenic emissions of (a) PM_{2.5} total mass, (b) PM_{2.5}-Fe, (c) PM_{2.5}-Cu, and (d) PM_{2.5}-Zn in domain 02 Japan region. Comparison between the BASE experiment and each sensitivity experiment. The contributions of sectors to the reduction ratio in the 2050R&E&L case are indicated as a pie chart. The error bars indicate the uncertainty due to the degree of the technological progress of lightweighting; high and low (Figure 2). The reduction ratio shown for each sensitivity experiment represent is based on the BASE experiment. (a) PM_{2.5} emission is based on the PM2.5EI inventory. In this study, the “road dust (including brake wear)” of the original PM2.5EI was allocated to “brake wear” and “road wear and resuspension” in the ratio of 0.35/0.65 (Section 2.1). (b–d) PM_{2.5} metal emissions are based on TMI-Japan, but it does not consider “road wear and resuspension”. “Industry and others” sector include aviation, navigation, railway, domestic, cooking, incineration, and field burning.

3.2.1.2. Gaseous pollutants

[Figure 5](#) shows the primary emissions of SO_x , NO_x , and NH_3 in domain 02 Japan region. In the 2050R&E&L experiment, they were reduced by 7%, 16%, and 7%, respectively, in comparison to the base experiment.

The reduction in SO_x emissions is almost entirely due to the reduction in thermal power generation ([Figure 5a](#)). The limit of sulfur content in fuel is lower than 0.001% in Japan ([CEC, 2003](#)) to maintain the performance of diesel particulate filters (DPFs), so there is originally almost no emission from vehicles.

Both passenger cars and thermal power plants contribute to the reduction of NO_x emissions, while the latter contributes more (−9.8%). The domestic NO_x emissions would only be reduced by −6.1% ([Figure 5b](#)), even in the case of a 70% emission reduction due to the passenger car electrification in 2050 ([Table 1](#)), because of the high contribution of heavy-duty diesel vehicles.

NH_3 emission reductions were mainly brought by vehicles. NH_3 is generated in power plants during the denitration process and from vehicles as a byproduct of selective catalytic reduction in diesel vehicles and three-way catalysts in gasoline vehicles. The change in energy and vehicles contributed to 1.1% and 5.5% NH_3 emission reductions from the base year in 2050, respectively ([Figure 5c](#)).

NM VOC is a precursor of O_3 , and O_3 and OH radicals originating from O_3 contribute to the oxidation of NO_x and SO_x to HNO_3 and H_2SO_4 , and O_3 and H_2O_2 oxidize SO_2 to produce SO_4^{2-} in liquid water droplets. NM VOC emission decreased by 2% in July and 7% in December due to lower vehicle exhaust emissions and fuel evaporation at fueling stations (figure omitted).

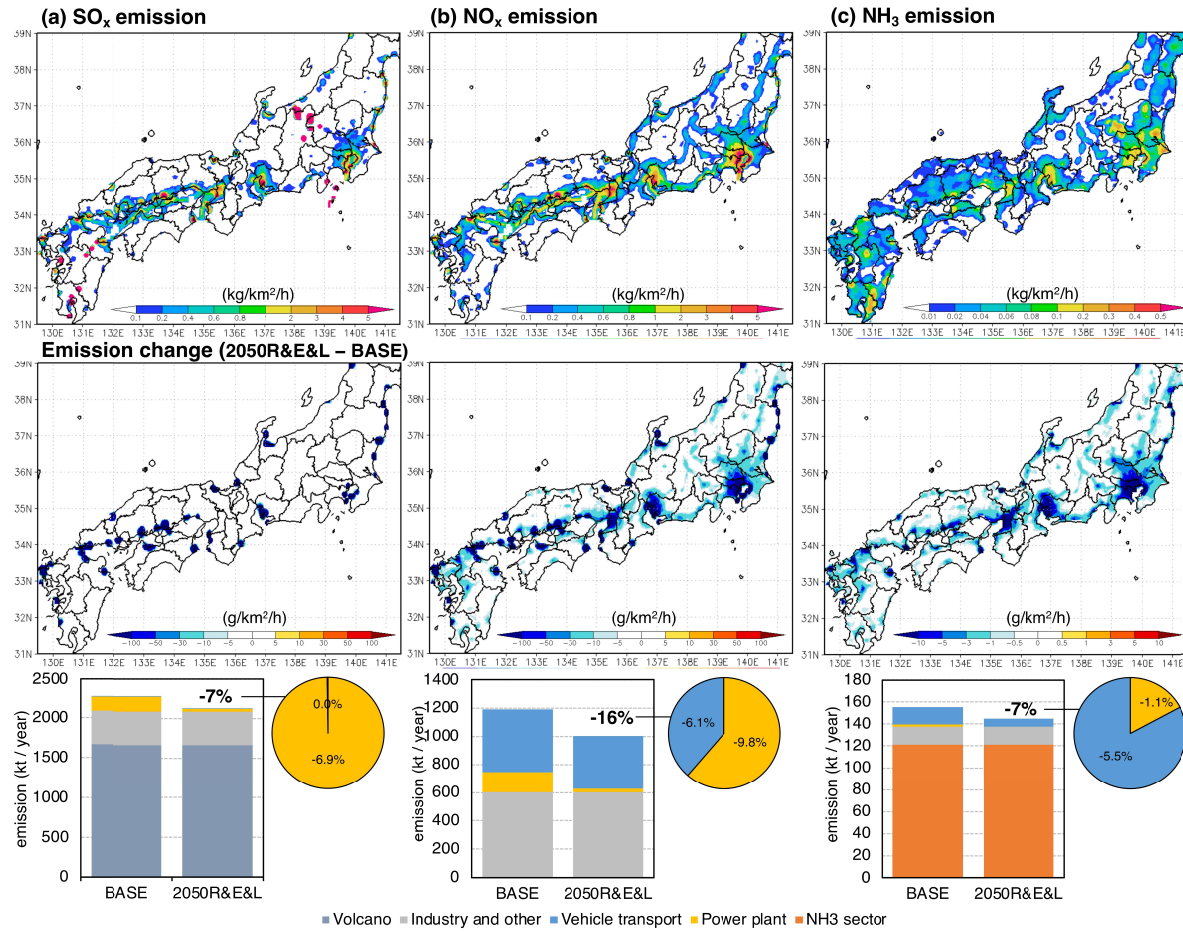


Figure 5. Total annual emissions of (a) SO_x, (b) NO_x, and (c) NH₃ in domain 02 Japan region (top), and reduction in the 2050R&E&L experiment (middle). The bar graphs show the breakdown of the total domestic emission in the BASE experiment and the 2050R&E&L experiment. The contribution of the sectors to the reduction rate is shown as a pie chart. “Industry and other” includes aviation, navigation, domestic, cooking, incineration and field burning. “NH₃ sector” includes livestock, agriculture, and drainage.

3.2.2. Impact on atmospheric PM_{2.5} and PM_{2.5}-metals concentration

[Figure 6a](#) shows the annual average PM_{2.5} total mass concentration in the BASE experiment, and [Figure 6b](#) shows the sensitivity in the 2050 R&E&L experiment. [Figure 6c](#) shows the breakdown of PM_{2.5} components in area A (urban area including Tokyo; [Figures 6a and 6b](#) black boxes) for each sensitivity experiment. In the 2050R&E&L experiment, the PM_{2.5} concentration was reduced by 8.3% in area A ([Figure 6b and 6c](#)).

In area A, renewable energy shifting (2050R–BASE) reduced secondary-formed PM_{2.5} (nitrate and sulfate) more than primary emission-derived PM_{2.5} (i.e., UID, BC, and OC) ([Figure 6c](#)). The reduction of SO_x from the thermal power plant freed cations (NH₄⁺, Na⁺, and Mg²⁺) in sulfate, which reacted with HNO₃ to form nitrate, thus increasing Na⁺ (i.e., the reduction of NO₃[−] was probably partially offset). The electrification of passenger cars (2050R&E–2050R) reduced exhaust-derived nitrate and non-exhaust-derived UID by about the same amount ([Figure 6c](#)). While the reduction of the PM_{2.5} concentration by the electrification of passenger cars alone is −2.3%, the reduction in non-exhaust PM due to lightweighting (2050R&E&L–2050R&E) increased the effect by more than twice (−5.8%).

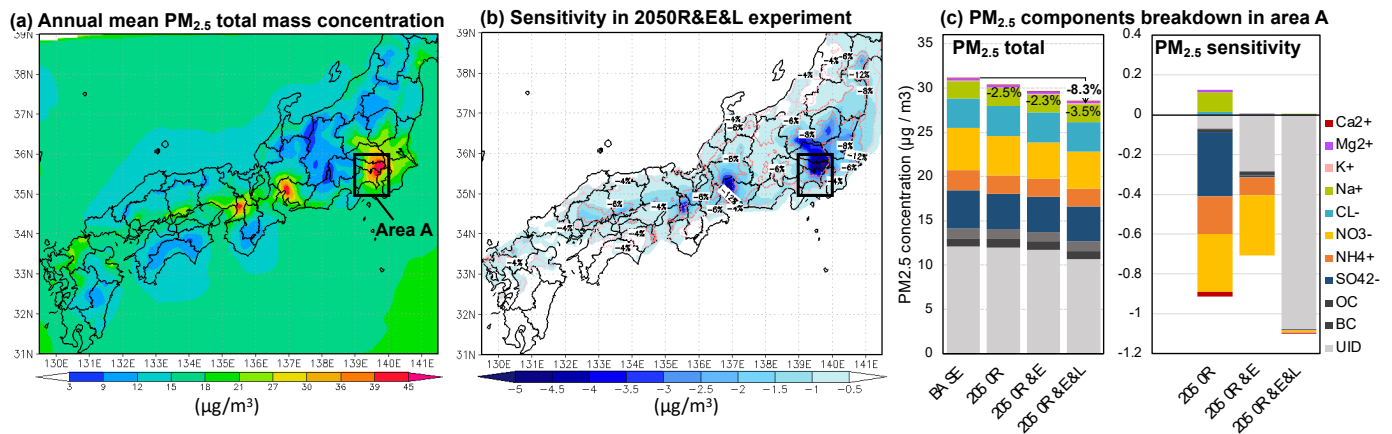


Figure 6. (a) Annual mean concentration of PM_{2.5} total mass in the BASE experiment and (b) sensitivity of the PM_{2.5} concentration in the 2050R&E&L experiment. (c) shows the breakdown of PM_{2.5} components in area A (139–140°E, 35–36°N; urban area including Tokyo).

[Figure 7a–7c](#) shows the annual mean concentrations of Fe, Cu, and Zn in PM_{2.5} in the BASE experiment. The concentrations are high in urban areas in the Kanto, Kansai, and Chubu regions, which are major emission sources. For Fe and Zn, the concentration gradient between the Japan Sea and the Japanese Islands is more gradual than that for Cu, suggesting a relatively higher contribution from continental transport. As a result of source–receptor analysis, the contribution of the emissions from the Asian continent was high for Zn, Fe, and Cu in that order, and the seasonal variations associated with continental advection (high concentrations in winter and spring, low concentrations in summer) were

distinct in the same order (Figure S11). The effect of reducing domestic emissions was higher in the summer months when the continental contribution was lower for all metals.

In the 2050R&E&L experiment, Fe, Cu, and Zn concentrations were reduced by 13%, 18%, and 5%, respectively, in area A (Figure 7d–7f). The rate of primary emission reduction for Fe and Cu was similar at –19% (Figure 4b and 4c), but Cu reduced the concentration more. This may be because brake wear was the dominant contributor to the primary emission reduction of Cu, effectively reducing the areal concentration. For Fe, the contribution of power plants to emission reductions was higher than for Cu, indicated by more localized reductions in concentrations near coastal thermal power plants in East Japan (Figure 7d).

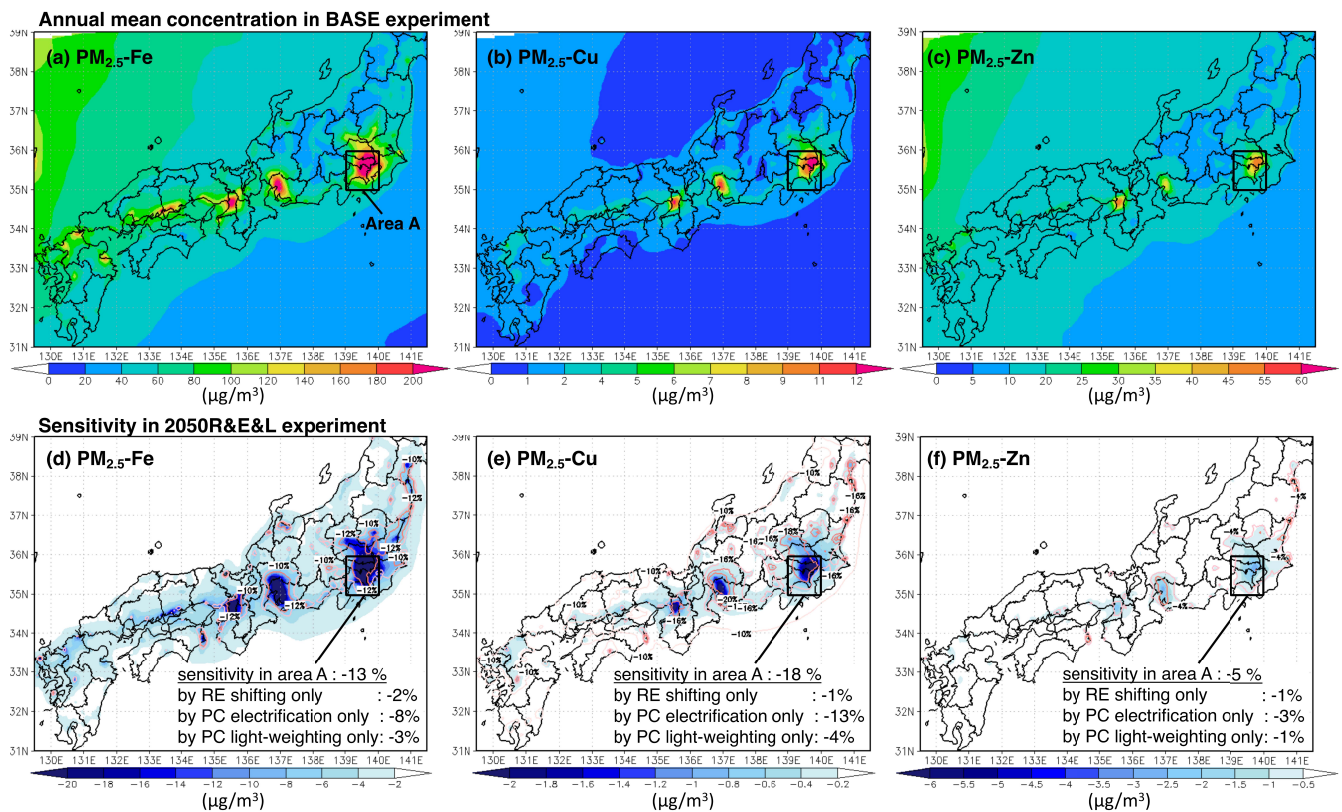


Figure 7. Annual mean concentrations of (a) $PM_{2.5}$ -Fe, (b) $PM_{2.5}$ -Cu, and (c) $PM_{2.5}$ -Zn in the BASE experiment. (d–f) are the sensitivity of (a–c) in the 2050R&E&L experiment. The sensitivity in area A and that due to renewable energy (RE) shifting, passenger car (PC) electrification, and PC lightweighting alone are shown in the figure d–f. As in Figure 6, the urban area is enclosed as area A (139–140°E, 35–36°N).

3.2.3. Impact on aerosol acidity

Figure 8 shows the monthly mean aerosol pH in July and December. July and December were chosen because pH is generally lower in summer and higher in winter. The main reason for the low pH during the summer months is the high concentration of oxidants due to high solar radiation, which promotes sulfate formation (Guo et al., 2018; Song and Osada, 2020). NH_4^+ and NO_3^- migrate to the gas phase at high temperatures, while SO_4^{2-} is always in the particulate phase due to its low vapor pressure. The loss of NH_4^+ from NH_4NO_3 and $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$ predominates over the loss of NO_3^- only from NH_4NO_3 , and the net increase in particle H^+ lowers pH (Guo et al., 2018). The pH was estimated to range from 0.5 to 1.5 in July and from 1 to 3 in December in this study.

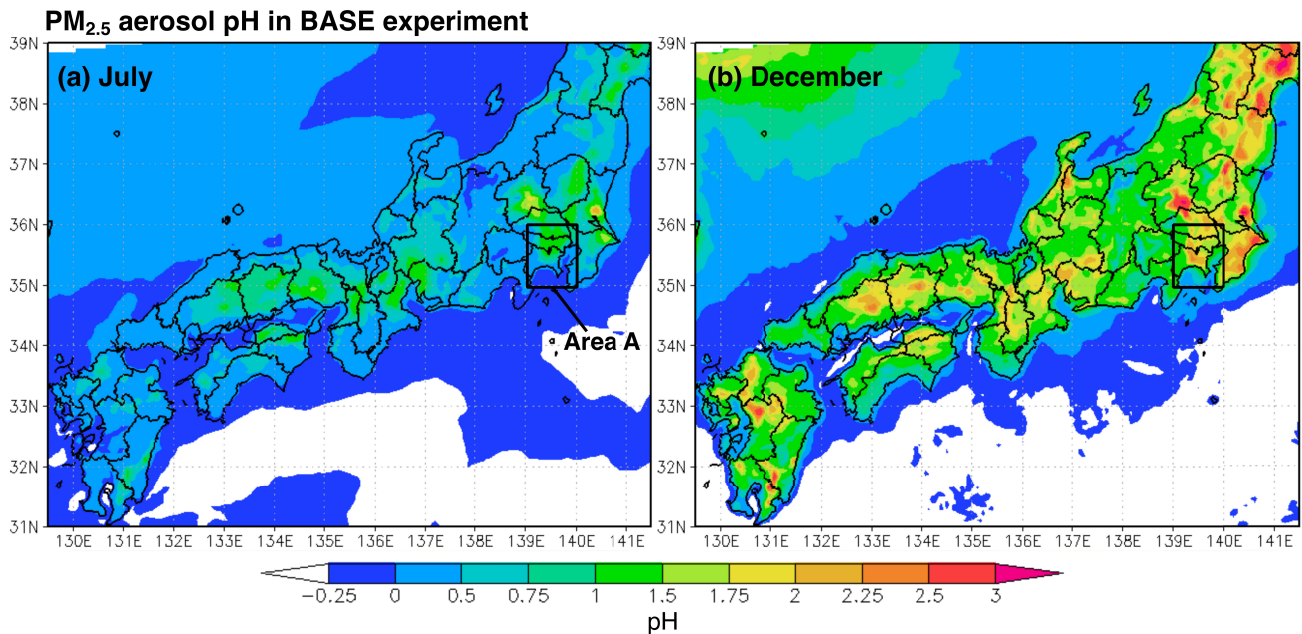


Figure 8. Simulated monthly mean of PM_{2.5} aerosol pH in (a) July and (b) December in the BASE experiment, averaged using only hourly data of $20\% < \text{RH} < 95\%$. As in **Figure 6**, the urban area is enclosed as area A ($139\text{--}140^\circ\text{E}$, $35\text{--}36^\circ\text{N}$).

Figure 9a shows the change in aerosol pH in July in the R&E&L experiment. **Figure 9b, 9e, and 9h** show the sensitivity by renewable energy shifting, passenger car electrification and lightweighting alone, respectively. The results for December are also shown in **Figure S17**. Aerosol pH depends both on H^+_{air} and LWC concentration. Acidic substances such as H_2SO_4 and HNO_3 increase H^+_{air} , while basic substances such as NH_3 decrease H^+_{air} in aerosols (hereafter referred to as the H^+_{air} process). The increase in water-soluble aerosols increases the LWC and decreases the pH (hereafter referred to as the LWC

process). The net pH sensitivity (ΔpH_{NET}) is equal to the sum of the pH sensitivity of the H^+_{air} process alone (ΔpH_{H^+}) and that of the LWC process alone (ΔpH_{LWC}).

The respective sensitivities can be derived by Equations (5)–(7):

$$\Delta pH_{NET} = -\log_{10} \left(\frac{1000\gamma_{H^+} \cdot H^+_{air_{sens}}}{LWC_{sens}} \right) + \log_{10} \left(\frac{1000\gamma_{H^+} \cdot H^+_{air_{cntrl}}}{LWC_{cntrl}} \right) \quad (5)$$

$$\Delta pH_{H^+} = -\log_{10} \left(\frac{1000\gamma_{H^+} \cdot H^+_{air_{sens}}}{LWC_{cntrl}} \right) + \log_{10} \left(\frac{1000\gamma_{H^+} \cdot H^+_{air_{cntrl}}}{LWC_{cntrl}} \right) \quad (6)$$

$$\Delta pH_{LWC} = -\log_{10} \left(\frac{1000\gamma_{H^+} \cdot H^+_{air_{cntrl}}}{LWC_{sens}} \right) + \log_{10} \left(\frac{1000\gamma_{H^+} \cdot H^+_{air_{cntrl}}}{LWC_{cntrl}} \right) \quad (7)$$

where $H^+_{air_{cntrl}}$ and LWC_{cntrl} are the reference H^+_{air} and LWC concentrations ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$), and $H^+_{air_{sens}}$ and LWC_{sens} are those of sensitivity. The renewable energy shifting decreased aerosol acidity (maximum pH +0.2) in areas near power plants (Figure 9b), and the passenger car electrification increased aerosol acidity (maximum pH –0.2) in urban areas (Figure 9e). The aerosol acidity increased slightly net in urban areas in 2050 (maximum pH –0.1) (Figure 9a).

The explanation of the sensitivity of pH due to renewable energy shifting is relatively simple. Renewable energy shifting mainly reduces SO_x and NO_x emissions from power plants but has a small effect on NH_3 reduction. Also, because SO_4^{2-} is nonvolatile, the effect on pH due to the SO_x emission control is not affected by gas–aerosol distribution, contrary to the case of NO_x and NH_3 emission control. Therefore, ΔpH_{H^+} increased (Figure 9c). Although the LWC decreases as SO_4^{2-} decreases, the freed cations (such as NH_4^+ and Na^+) form nitrate with HNO_3 (Seinfeld and Pandis, 2016), which may partially offset the LWC decrease. Despite the reduction in power plant NO_x emissions, increases in nitrate partially occurred in this study as well, but the effect of sulfate reduction was larger, resulting in a net decrease in LWC (ΔpH_{LWC} decrease) (Figure 9d). Finally, the effect of H^+ reduction (pH increase) (Figure 9c) was greater than the effect of concentration by LWC reduction (pH decrease) (Figure 9d), resulting in a net pH increase (Figure 9b).

The vehicle electrification contributed to the pH decrease (Figure 9e). The reduction of on-road NO_x and NH_3 resulted in an increase in H^+ (ΔpH_{H^+} decreased) in urban areas in July as a result of the acid–base balance (Figure 9f). However, in December, unlike the trend in July, the distribution of ΔpH_{H^+} was random with mixed positive and negative values (Figure S17f). These differences in sensitivity trends are due to seasonal differences in aerosol pH. The aerosol pH was lower in summer, and NH_4^+ tended to be more present in the particle phase than NO_3^- , so NH_3 emission reduction was effective in reducing NH_4^+ (i.e., increasing H^+) in the particle phase. This mechanism of seasonal differences in aerosol pH sensitivity due to NO_x and NH_3 emission controls is discussed in detail in Appendix A. The effect of ΔpH_{LWC} was small in both summer and winter (Figure 9g).

758 The vehicle lightweighting had little effect on either the H^+ or LWC process ([Figure 9i and 9j](#)). Note
759 that the impact of light-weighting alone is due only to reduced fuel evaporative NMVOC emissions at the
760 gas station and not to any change in on-road emissions ([Table 1](#)).
761

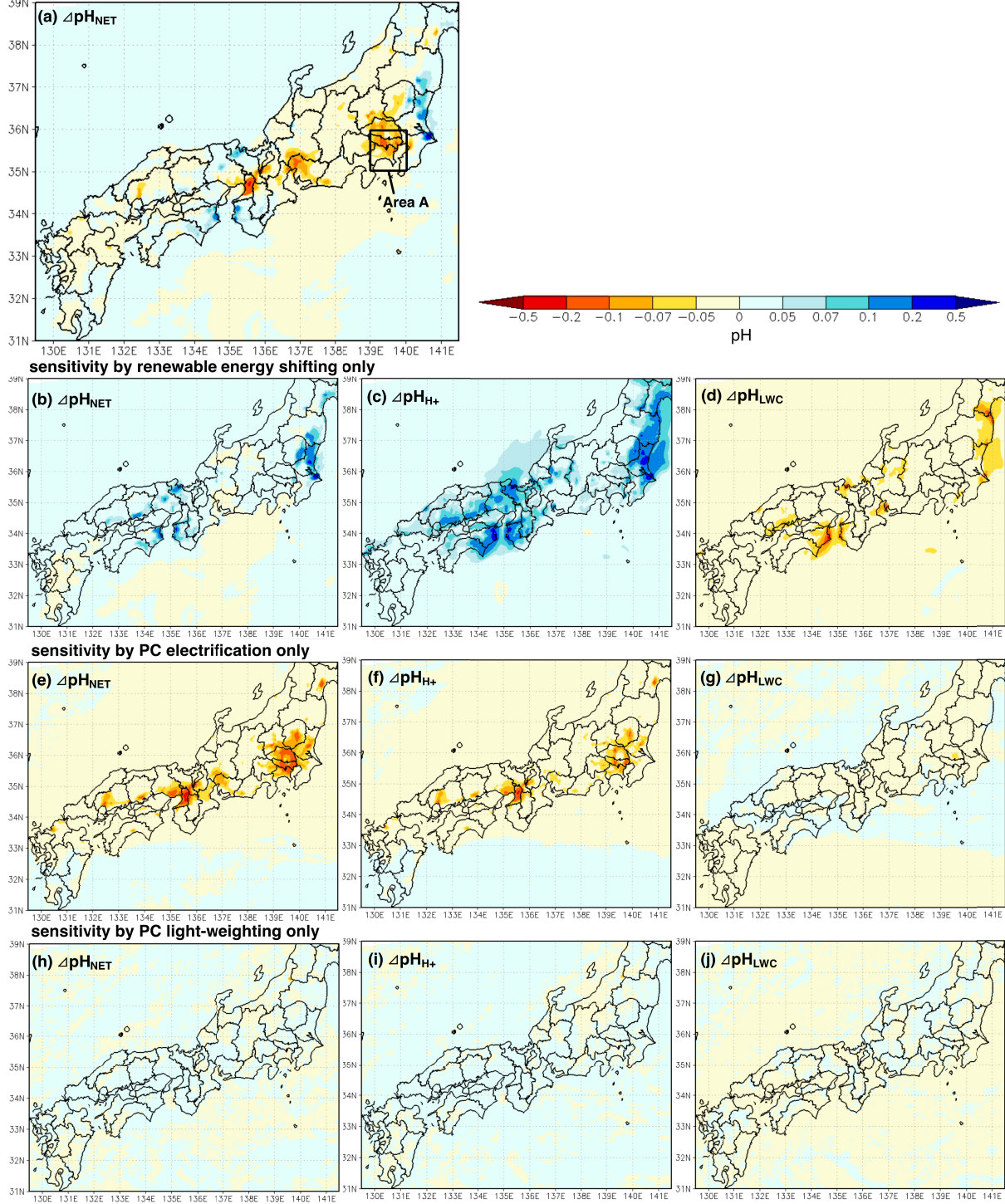
PM_{2.5} aerosol pH sensitivity in 2050R&E&L experiment (July)

Figure 9. (a) PM_{2.5} aerosol pH sensitivity in the R&E&L experiment in July. Rows 2, 3, and 4 are the aerosol pH sensitivity by (b) renewable energy shifting, (e) passenger car (PC) electrification, and (h) PC light-weighting alone, respectively. The sum of ΔpH_{H^+} (center) and the ΔpH_{LWC} (right) is ΔpH_{NET} (left). The ΔpH_{H^+} is the effect of the H^+ process, that is sensitivity in the amount of hydronium ions due to change in acidic or basic substances (c, f, i). The ΔpH_{LWC} is the effect of the LWC process, which is the change in aerosol water content due to the change in the mass of water-soluble aerosols (d, g, and j). As in [Figure 6](#), the urban area is enclosed as area A (139–140°E, 35–36°N).

3.2.4. Impact on water-soluble metals

Finally, the sensitivity of water-soluble metal concentrations is discussed, considering the water solubility of metals depending on aerosol pH. [Figure S18](#) shows the relationship between aerosol pH and the water solubility of Fe and Cu indicated by [Fang et al. \(2017\)](#). The solubility of metals increases significantly below pH 2–3 ([Fang et al., 2017](#); [Wong et al., 2020](#)). [Fang et al. \(2017\)](#) did not measure Zn, but Zn was reported to have a higher water-soluble fraction under the same pH conditions than Cu ([Shahpoury et al., 2021](#)), and in this study we assumed that the water-soluble fraction of Zn is the same as that of Cu.

The change in metal solubility due to emission changes in 2050 (2050R&E&L–BASE) was estimated to be negligible (<1%). Note that the uncertainties in the NO_3^- concentration and RH of the model simulations may result in biases less than $\pm 1\%$ and $\pm 3\%$ for changes in the water-soluble fractions of Fe and Cu, respectively. In addition, water-soluble fractions may be affected by history in past transport pathways ([Wong et al., 2020](#)), but this effect was not considered. In addition, the solubility of metals is promoted by not only changes in aerosol pH (i.e., proton-driven) but also by complex formation with organic materials and their photoinduced dissolution. The solubility of Fe at pH 2 with oxalate under dark conditions was found to be four times greater than that of proton-promoted dissolution, and photoinduced dissolution was twice greater than that found under dark conditions based on laboratory experiments ([Chen and Grassian, 2013](#); [Ito, 2015](#)). The effects of such ligand-drive and photoinduced dissolution were not considered in this analysis. Compared to the ranges of these uncertainties and the seasonal variation of aerosol pH, the sensitivity of metal solubility in the 2050R&E&L experiment was estimated to be very small.

[Table 5](#) summarizes the total metal concentrations, water-soluble fractions of metals, and water-soluble metal concentrations in area A. Their respective spatial distributions are shown in [Figure S19](#). The sensitivity of water-soluble metal concentrations in the 2050R&E&L experiment depends on (1) changes in primary metal emissions and (2) changes in aerosol acidity, and sensitivity due to each alone is also shown. As described above, aerosol acidity is largely determined by seasonality. The sensitivity of water-soluble metal concentrations depends on (1) changes in primary metal emissions and is barely by (2) changes in aerosol acidity (maximum +2% for Fe and maximum +0.5% for Cu and Zn). Therefore, the primary emission control of metals is more important than gaseous pollutants in reducing water-soluble metal concentrations.

Table 5. Total metal concentrations, water-soluble fractionss of metals and water-soluble metal concentrations in area A (139–140°E, 35–36°N). Comparison of the BASE and 2050R&E&L experiments for water-soluble metal concentrations and the contribution to these from (1) changes in primary metal emissions and (2) changes in aerosol acidity alone, respectively.

		total metal concentration (ng m ⁻³)	water-soluble fraction of metals ^a (%)	water-soluble metal concentration (ng m ⁻³)		water-soluble metal sensitivity (ng m ⁻³)	
				BASE	2050R&E&L (sensitivity from BASE in %)	(1) by metal emission change	(2) by aerosol acidity change
July	Fe	147.0	34	49.5	43.8 (−12%)	−6.8 (−14%)	+1.0 (+2%)
	Cu	6.1	100	6.1	5.0 (−18%)	−1.1 (−18%)	±0.0 (±0%)
	Zn	19.8	100	19.8	19.0 (−6%)	−1.2 (−6%)	±0.0 (±0%)
December	Fe	169.3	12	20.0	20.1 (−9%)	−2.4 (−11%)	+0.5 (+2%)
	Cu	7.3	52	3.7	3.2 (−17%)	−6.0 (−17.5%)	+0.02 (+0.5%)
	Zn	30.3	52	15.8	15.5 (−4%)	−0.7 (−4.5%)	+0.1 (+0.5%)

a. The water-soluble fraction of metals was derived from the calculated aerosol pH and [Figure S18](#) (relationship between aerosol pH and the water-soluble fraction of metals indicated by [Fang et al. \(2017\)](#)). Since there is no information on the water-soluble fraction of Zn, it was assumed to be the same as that of Cu.

4. Conclusions and Future issue

The impacts of renewable energy shifting, passenger car electrification, and lightweighting on the atmospheric concentrations of the PM_{2.5} total mass, Fe, Cu, and Zn and aerosol acidity in Japan through 2050 were evaluated using a regional meteorology–chemistry model.

The domestic primary emissions of PM_{2.5}, Fe, Cu, and Zn reduced by 9%, 19%, 18%, and 10%, and their surface concentrations in the urban area decreased by 8%, 13%, 18%, and 5%, respectively. On a PM_{2.5} mass basis, BEVs have been considered to have no advantage in non-exhaust PM emissions because the increased tire and road wear and resuspension due to their heavy weight offset the benefit of brake wear reduction by the regenerative brake. Indeed, passenger car electrification without lightweighting also did not significantly reduce the PM_{2.5} concentration in the urban area in this study (–2%) but was highly effective in reducing Fe and Cu concentrations owing to high brake wear-derived contributions (–8% and –13%, respectively). In addition, this study estimated that the lightweighting of the drive battery and the body frame would reduce even tire and road wear and resuspension. Therefore, vehicle electrification (mainly BEVs) and lightweighting could be one of the effective means of reducing the risk of respiratory inflammation.

Renewable energy shifting reduced SO_x and NO_x emissions from thermal power plants and decreased aerosol acidity near power plants (maximum pH +0.2), while the passenger car electrification reduced NO_x and NH₃ emissions and slightly increased aerosol acidity in the urban area as a result of acid–base balance (maximum pH –0.2). It is because that, in summer, NH₄⁺ tends to be more present in the particle phase than NO₃[–] due to the low pH of the aerosol and NH₃ emission reductions were more effective than NO_x reductions on aerosol acidity. In winter, their effects were comparable. However,

anyway, changes in aerosol acidity little changed water-soluble metal concentrations (maximum +2% for Fe, +0.5% for Cu, and Zn); therefore, it is important to reduce primary metal emissions.

Finally, we present four major future issues for the model prediction of the risk of respiratory inflammation due to air pollutants.

1. Consideration of PAHs and PAH quinones in the model. PAH quinones catalytically consume DTT in the redox cycle (Kumagai et al., 2002; Jiang et al., 2019; McWhinney et al., 2013; Charrier and Anastasio, 2012) and also have noncatalytic DTT-consuming effects through direct addition with DTT (Gant et al., 1988; Katritzky et al., 2008). PAHs are also reduced to quinones in the body by reductases such as cytochrome P-450 (Kumagai et al., 2012; Jiang et al., 2019).
2. Consideration of the source-dependent solubility of metals. The Fe solubility of pyrogenic aerosols such as biomass burning and fossil fuel combustion varies greatly depending on the source and can be one to two orders of magnitude higher than that of lithogenic aerosols (as low as 0.5%) (Ito et al., 2021). Oakes et al. (2012) estimated Fe solubility in automobile exhaust and biomass burning to be 51–75% and 46%, respectively. The solubility of aerosol Fe in coal fly ash (present as glassy Fe (oxyhydroxide aggregates)) was reported to be less than 1%, while the that of oil fly ash (present as ferric sulfate salt) was as high as 36% (Desboeufs et al., 2005) and even approximately 80 % (Schroth et al., 2009). In metal modeling, it is ideal to be able to set the initial solubility rate at primary emissions linked to emission inventories, in addition to the atmospheric process of changing solubility due to protons and ligands.
3. Consideration of organic matter in the model. Water-soluble organic compounds (WSOCs) such as HULIS and transition metals have synergistic, additive, or antagonistic effects on OP_{DTT} (Xiong et al., 2017; Yu et al., 2018; Lin and Yu, 2020). WSOCs also contain atmospheric ROS (H_2O_2 , ROOH), which decompose in the body to bring OH radicals (Tong et al., 2016). Furthermore, the complex formation of metals with the organic ligands of oxalates solubilizes the metals (Chen and Grassian, 2013; Zhou et al., 2015; Wong et al., 2020). Ligand-driven iron dissolution may play an important role, especially under low-pH conditions, compared to proton-driven dissolution (Chen and Grassian, 2013). This is because under high pH conditions, the Fe particle surface loses its positive charge, while the acid dissociates and becomes more negatively charged, resulting in a repulsive electrostatic action that makes it less likely for the acid to approach and bind to the surface (Chen and Grassian, 2013; Miller et al., 1986). Therefore, it is important to consider the organic matter in terms of its own ROS-producing capacity and metal solubilization.
4. Consideration of differences in metal solubility between the atmosphere and the body. Because the respiratory tract is water-saturated and the alveolar epithelial lining fluid is weakly basic, the

solubility of metals that affects ROS production may be different between the atmosphere and the body, requiring further investigation.

5. Improvement of the reproducibility of nitrate concentration by NHM-Chem. The current NHM-Chem was found to overestimate NO_3^- especially in the summer, due probably to the overestimation of the $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ fraction of sea salt particles (to produce NaNO_3). This overestimation does not substantially affect the main results of this study, but should be resolved in the future using size-resolved measurements of inorganic compounds.

Appendix A. Effect of gas–aerosol partitioning on nitrate sensitivity to NO_x and NH_3 emission control

As described in Section 3.2.3, on-road NO_x and NH_3 emission changes due to passenger car electrification alone increased H^+ (decreased pH) in urban areas in July, while the sensitivity was random in December (Figure A1). Reducing NO_x and NH_3 will not affect aerosol pH if HNO_3 and NH_3 gases are reduced, not the particle phase. Therefore, this seasonal difference in sensitivity is discussed in terms of the gas–aerosol partitioning of $\text{HNO}_3\text{--NO}_3^-$ and $\text{NH}_3\text{--NH}_4^+$.

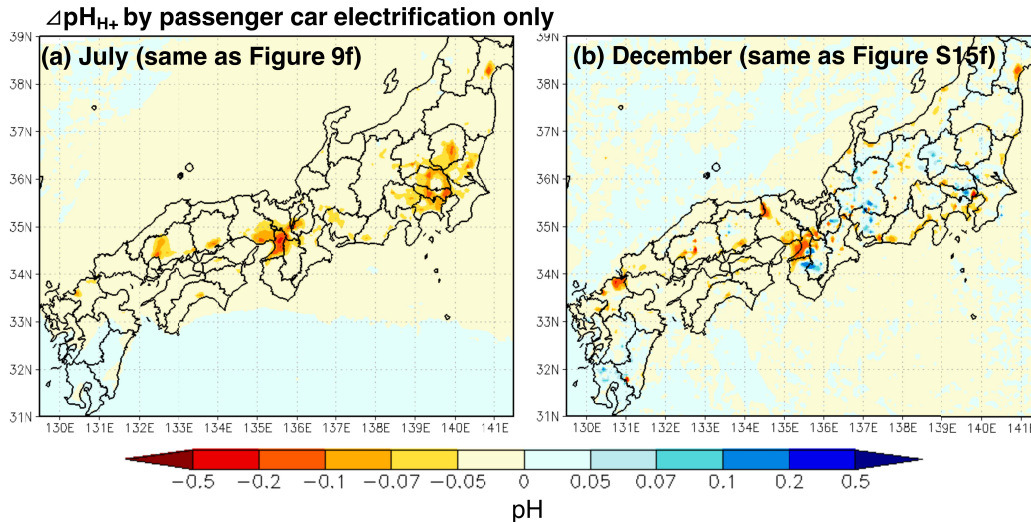


Figure A1. Change in $\Delta\text{pH}_{\text{H}^+}$ due to passenger car electrification only. Same as Figures 9f and Figure S15f for (a) July and (b) December, respectively.

Figure A2 shows the ratio of concentration sensitivity based on passenger car electrification alone. In December, the reduction ratios of the molar concentrations of NH_4^+ and NO_3^- were comparable (1 to 1.1 times), while in July, NH_4^+ was reduced more than 2 times than NO_3^- in many areas (Figure A2a). The ratio of the particle phase (NH_4^+) reduction to the total ammonium ($\text{TNH}_4 = \text{NH}_4^+ + \text{NH}_3$) reduction was comparable in July and December (Figure A2b), whereas for total nitric acid ($\text{TNO}_3 = \text{NO}_3^- + \text{HNO}_3$), the reduction was clearly more from the particle phase (NO_3^-) in December than in July (Figure A2c). This means that NO_3^- in the particle phase was less reduced in July than in December, and NH_4^+ was reduced more than NO_3^- from the particle phase. The equilibrium constants for $\text{NH}_3 + \text{H}^+ \rightarrow \text{NH}_4^+$ and $\text{HNO}_3 \rightarrow \text{NO}_3^- + \text{H}^+$ ($H_{\text{NH}_3}^*$ and $H_{\text{HNO}_3}^*$, respectively) decrease faster for $H_{\text{NH}_3}^*$ than for $H_{\text{HNO}_3}^*$ with increasing temperature (Guo et al., 2018; Clegg et al., 1998; Clegg and Brimblecombe, 1990). Therefore, during high temperatures in the summer, NH_4^+ is more likely to remain in the particle phase than NO_3^- . Nevertheless, NH_4^+ was reduced more, likely due to the low aerosol pH in July. The reasons are described in detail below.

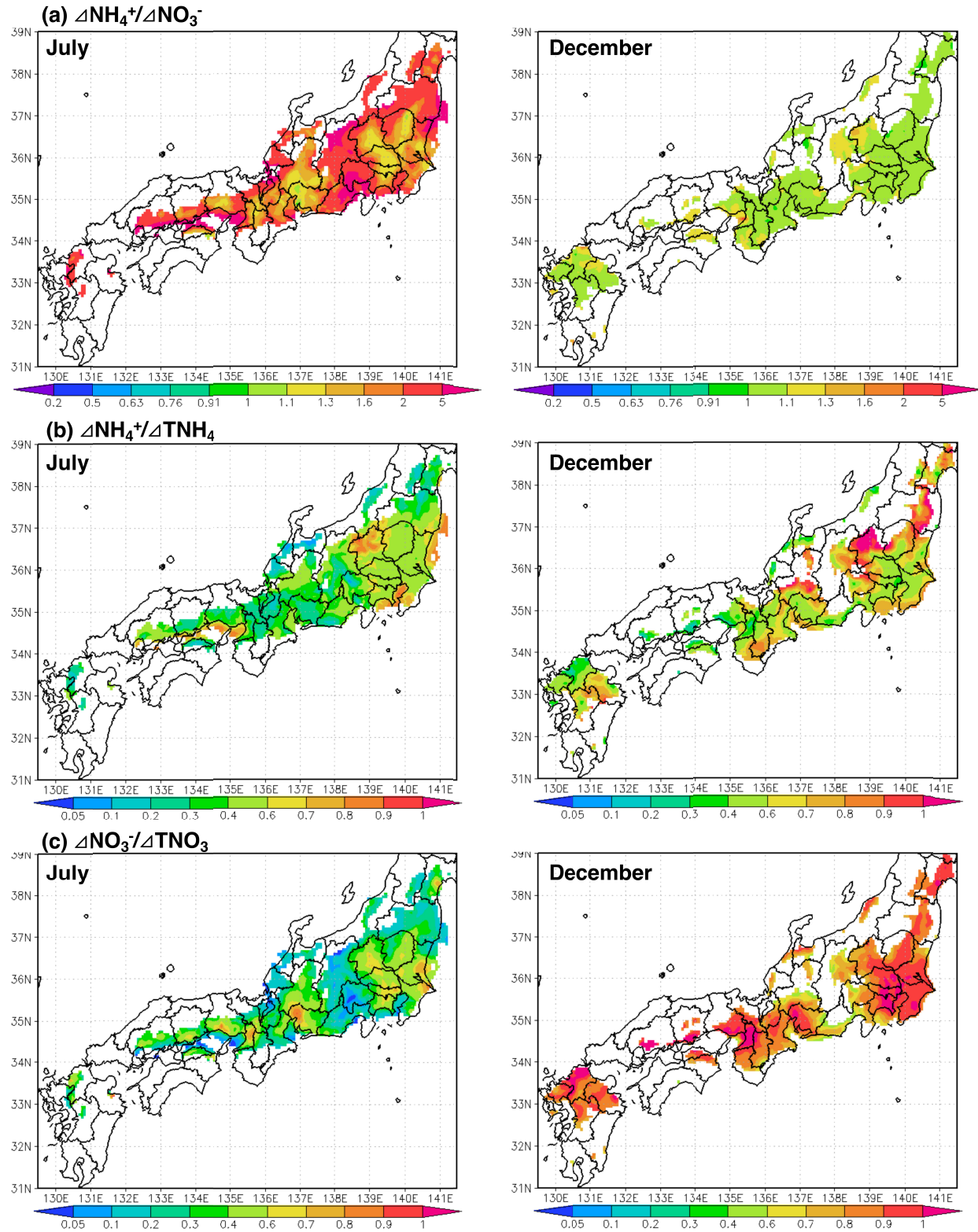


Figure A2. (a) Reduction ratios of NH_4^+ and NO_3^- concentrations ($\Delta\text{NH}_4^+/\Delta\text{NO}_3^-$) by passenger car electrification only (2050R&E–2050R), (b) ratio of NO_3^- in the reduction of TNO_3^- ($= \text{NO}_3^- + \text{HNO}_3$), and (c) ratio of NH_4^+ in the reduction of TNH_4 ($= \text{NH}_4^+ + \text{NH}_3$). Only the grids with TNO_3^- and TNH_4 reduction ratios greater than 5% were drawn.

[Figure A3](#) shows the ratio of the particle phase in TNO_3 or TNH_4 ($\varepsilon\text{NO}_3 = \text{NO}_3^- / (\text{NO}_3^- + \text{HNO}_3)$, $\varepsilon\text{NH}_4 = \text{NH}_4^+ / (\text{NH}_4^+ + \text{NH}_3)$, respectively) to ambient aerosol pH conditions. The dots are scatter plots of aerosol pH and εNO_3 and εNH_4 from the simulation results (2050R experiment). In July, NH_4 is clearly partitioned into the particle phase and NO_3 into the gas phase, and the two are almost completely separated ([Figure A3a](#)), whereas, in December, the same trend as described above was observed in the relatively low-pH region (<0.5), but the gas–aerosol partitioning of NO_3 and NH_4 was comparable in most cases, ranging from approximately 0.4 to 0.9 ([Figure A3b](#)).

[Guo et al. \(2017\)](#) proposed that εNO_3^- and εNH_4^+ can be expressed as sigmoid functions with respect to pH by the following Equations (A1) and (A2), depending on the ambient aerosol pH, LWC, and T conditions.

$$\varepsilon\text{NO}_3^- = \frac{K_{n1} H_{\text{HNO}_3} C_w R T}{\gamma_{\text{H}^+} \gamma_{\text{NO}_3^-} H_{\text{aq}}^+ + K_{n1} H_{\text{HNO}_3} C_w R T} \quad (\text{A1})$$

$$\varepsilon\text{NH}_4^+ = \frac{\frac{\gamma_{\text{H}^+}}{\gamma_{\text{NH}_4^+}} \frac{H_{\text{NH}_3}}{K_a} H_{\text{aq}}^+ C_w R T}{1 + \frac{\gamma_{\text{H}^+}}{\gamma_{\text{NH}_4^+}} \frac{H_{\text{NH}_3}}{K_a} H_{\text{aq}}^+ C_w R T} \quad (\text{A2})$$

where H_{aq}^+ is the concentration of hydronium ions in the aerosol aqueous phase (mol L^{-1}), C_w is the LWC in air ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$), K_{n1} and K_a are the acid dissociation constants for HNO_3 and NH_4^+ , respectively ($K_{n1} = 12$, $K_a = 5.69 \times 10^{-10}$), R is the gas constant, and T is the temperature (K). H_{HNO_3} and H_{NH_3} are Henry's Law constants for HNO_3 and NH_3 , which are functions of temperature. γ_{H^+} , $\gamma_{\text{NO}_3^-}$, $\gamma_{\text{NH}_4^+}$ are the ion activity coefficients of H^+ , NO_3^- , and NH_4^+ respectively. $\gamma_{\text{H}^+} \gamma_{\text{NO}_3^-} = 0.324$ and $\gamma_{\text{NH}_4^+} \gamma_{\text{NO}_3^-} = 0.017$, in this study.

The S-curves in [Figure A3](#) are εNO_3^- and εNH_4^+ derived from theoretical Equations (A1) and (A2). εNO_3^- increases with higher ambient aerosol pH due to promoted particulation. The S-curve of εNO_3^- shifts to the right as gasification is promoted at higher temperatures and lower humidity, even under the same pH conditions. εNH_4^+ , contrary to εNO_3^- , tends to be higher at lower pH and tends to shift to the left at higher temperatures and lower humidity. The gas–aerosol partitioning of the simulation results is consistent with the function derived in the theoretical equation; that is, it can be approximately explained by aerosol pH, LWC, and temperature.

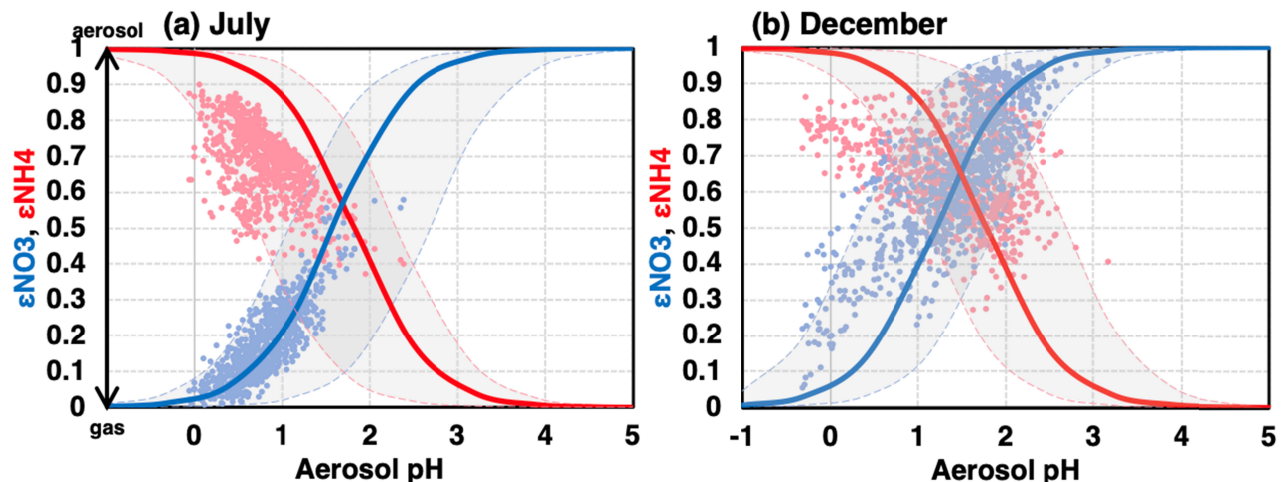


Figure A3. Relationship of εNO_3^- and εNH_4^+ to ambient aerosol pH in (a) July and (b) December. The scatter plots are the results of the model simulation (2050R experiment). Only data from grids that were relatively sensitive ($\Delta\text{pH}_{H^+} > 0.05$) in [Figure A1a and A1b](#) are plotted for the purpose of interpreting their positive and negative sensitivity. The S-curves were derived using the theoretical equation proposed by [Guo et al. \(2017\)](#) shown in Equations A1 and A2, with monthly averages of temperature and LWC for the model grid of interest (July: $T = 297$ K, $C_w = 12.7 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$; December: $T = 279$ K, $C_w = 5.0 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$). The gray shading indicates the max–min temperature range and LWC. These figures were drawn using the spread sheet provided as Supporting information of [Nenes et al. \(2020\)](#).

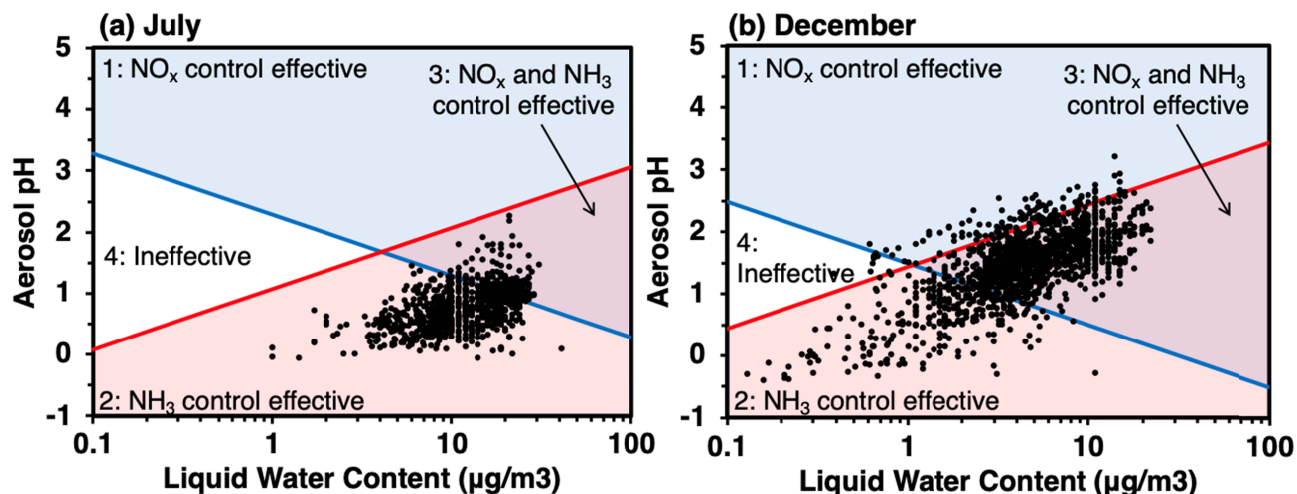
[Nenes et al. \(2020\)](#) proposed a new framework to evaluate whether NO_x and NH_3 emission controls are effective in reducing particle phase concentrations by a chemical sensitivity window delimited by εNO_3^- and εNH_4^+ thresholds. In [Figure A3](#), it can be considered that controlling primary emissions is not effective in reducing aerosol mass when the particle fraction is low. When the threshold value of εNO_3^- (or εNH_4^+) = 0.3 was used in this study, the pH was uniquely determined from the sigmoid function, and when it is applied to various LWC widths, [Figure A4](#) was obtained. In this way, the four chemical sensitivity windows derived can be classified as 1: NO_x control effective, 2: NH_3 control effective, 3: both NO_x and NH_3 control effective, and 4: NO_x nor NH_3 control ineffective.

In July, most of the target data (model simulation result data for the grid with $\Delta\text{pH}_{H^+} > 0.05$ in [Figure A1](#)) are classified into chemical window 2 ([Figure A4a](#)), consistent with the positive trend of ΔpH_{H^+} in [Figure A1a](#). The blue line is located higher in July than in December due to higher temperatures, and NO_x emission control is ineffective, except for higher aerosol pH. However, because of the low aerosol pH in summer (the plot is located lower than in December), many were not classified in chemical window 1 or 3 ([Figure A4a](#)). The high humidity and high LWC characteristics of summer make emission controls more effective in reducing particle phase concentrations (the plot is more to the right than in December), and part of the plots was classified as chemical window 3. In the horizontal distribution of chemical windows, the area of no ΔpH_{H^+} sensitivity in Tokyo and Saitama corresponded to chemical window 3 ([Figure A5a](#),

953 [Figure A1a](#)), suggesting that the effects of acid and base reduction due to decreases in both NO_3^- and
 954 NH_4^+ were offset.

955 In December, many of the target data were evaluated to be classified in chemical window 3, and
 956 some were classified in windows 1 and 2. This is also consistent with the random trend of ΔpH_{H^+} in
 957 [Figure A1b](#). With similar rates of NO_3 and NH_4 as particle phases ([Figure A3b](#)), the offsetting effects of
 958 NO_3^- and NH_4^+ reduction occur in many grids. In December, the positive and negative distribution of
 959 ΔpH_{H^+} did not correspond to the horizontal distribution of chemical window classification ([Figure A5b](#),
 960 [Figure A1b](#)). This framework is only a sensitivity classification for aerosol mass, so the classification
 961 might be slightly different if the ionization of NO_3^- and NH_4^+ is considered. These results suggested that
 962 NO_3 tends to exist in the gas phase and NH_4 in the particulate phase during the summer due to the low pH
 963 and that the effect of NH_3 reduction was dominant despite the reduction of both NO_x and NH_3 as a result
 964 of the chemical sensitivity window classification.

965



966

967 **Figure A4.** Evaluation of chemical sensitivity windows of the particle phase by NO_x and NH_3 emission
 968 control. The effectiveness of NO_x and NH_3 emission control is classified into four “windows” depending
 969 on the LWC and aerosol pH conditions. The solid blue (or red) line is the boundary of εNO_3^- (or εNH_4^+) =
 970 0.3 derived by the theoretical equation of [Guo et al. \(2017\)](#) shown in Equations A1 and A2. In the
 971 windows where pH is below the blue line or above the red line, NO_3 and NH_4 are relatively abundant in
 972 the gas phase (>70%) and NO_x (NH_3) emission control is considered ineffective. The temperatures are the
 973 monthly average values (July: $T = 297$ K, December: $T = 279$ K). The plots are model simulation result
 974 data for the grid with $\Delta\text{pH}_{H^+} > 0.05$ in [Figure A1](#) and [Figure A3](#). These figures were drawn using the
 975 spread sheet provided as Supporting information of [Nenes et al. \(2020\)](#).

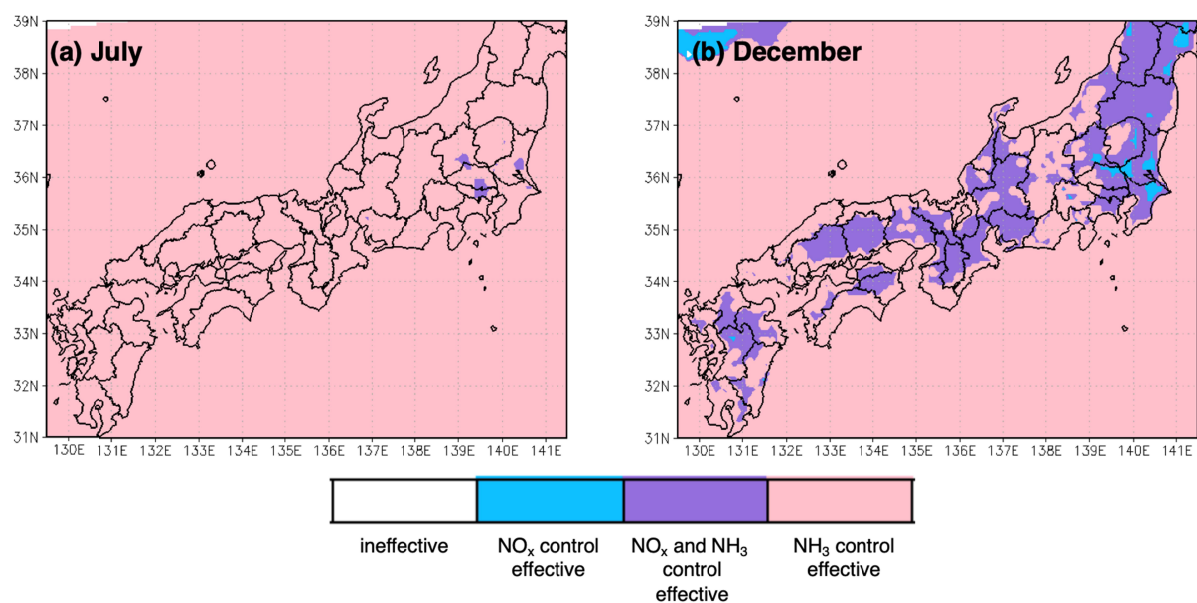


Figure A5. Horizontal distribution of the chemical sensitivity window classification of the particle phase for NO_x and NH₃ emission control in (a) July and (b) December.

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Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest relevant to this study.

Data availability statement

The NHM-Chem source code is available at subject to a license agreement with the Meteorological Research Institute. Further information is available at https://www.mri-jma.go.jp/Dep/glb/nhmchem_model/application_en.html (last accessed: 23 January 2023). The raw data of REASv3.2.1 provided by Kurokawa and Ohara (2020) used for the anthropogenic emission inventory in Northeast Asia can be obtained from <https://www.nies.go.jp/REAS/> (last accessed: 23 January 2023). The raw data of GFED v4 used for the biomass burning emission inventory provided by Giglio et al. (2013) can be obtained from <https://www.globalfiredata.org/data.html> (last accessed: 23 January 2023). The metal emission inventory data of TMI-Asia v1.1 developed in this study is available from Kayaba (2023) (<https://doi.org/10.17632/r9c59639pg.1>). The data of TMI-Japan v1.1 cannot be uploaded due to excess cloud capacity, so please contact the author if you need that. The metal content rates in PM_{2.5} or PM₁₀ used in the TMI-Asia/Japan v1.1 development are indicated in the Supporting excel file. The observation data of MOE PM_{2.5} survey are available at <https://www.env.go.jp/air/osen/pm/monitoring.html> (last accessed: 23 January 2023). The map figures in this paper were drawn with GrADS v2.0. The GrADS software provided by Center for Ocean-Land-Atmosphere Studies (COLA) can be obtained at <http://cola.gmu.edu/grads/> (last accessed: December 14, 2022).

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