

19 **Impacts of Reduced Visibility under Hazy Weather Condition on Collision Risk and Car-**
20 **following Behaviour: Implications for Traffic Control and Management**

21 **Abstract**

22 This paper examines the impacts of reduced visibility under hazy weather conditions on
23 collision risk and car-following behaviour to enhance the understanding of relationships among
24 weather conditions, driving performance and road safety. A high-fidelity driving simulator is
25 applied to collect vehicle trajectory data concerning a number of driving performance metrics
26 under both clear and hazy weather conditions. The collision risks under different weather
27 conditions as indicated by two surrogate measures - time exposed time-to-collision (TET) and time
28 integrated time-to-collision (TIT) – are compared. Results indicate that hazy weather conditions
29 have significant impacts on traffic safety in terms of increased collision risk and impaired car-
30 following performance. The TET and TIT with a critical time-to-collision threshold value of 5s
31 under hazy weather conditions are 35.9% and 43.0% higher, respectively, than those under clear
32 weather conditions. The increase in the low collision risk is more noticeable than that of the high
33 collision risk. For car-following behavior, under hazy weather conditions, the average reaction
34 time is higher and the sensitivity to the change in car-following spacing is lower. In addition, the
35 interaction effects of vehicular speed on the relationship between weather conditions and some
36 driving performance metrics are significant. Both the distance and time headways under hazy
37 weather conditions are lower than those under clear weather conditions when the vehicular speed
38 is high. However, no significant evidence is found for the relationship between weather conditions
39 and distance or time headways when the vehicular speed is low or medium. Moreover, the
40 variations in speeds under hazy weather conditions are higher than those under clear weather
41 conditions when the speed is high or medium. The plausible causal relationships among the

- 42 weather conditions, driving performance changes and collision risk are analysed and discussed.
- 43 Findings of this study contribute to effective traffic control and management to enhance road safety
- 44 under hazy weather conditions.
- 45 **Keywords:** Road safety; Reduced visibility; Collision risk; Car-following behaviour; Hazy
- 46 weather conditions.

47 1 Introduction

48 Excessive emissions, from both fixed and mobile sources, contribute to the prevalence of
49 inclement weather conditions like hazy weather. Adverse hazy weather has been frequent in the
50 central and eastern parts of China in the past decade. For example, the number of days with hazy
51 weather in the Beijing–Tianjin–Hebei region reached 21.7 in January 2013. Reduced visibility due
52 to hazy weather conditions can result in the high risk of crash and traffic congestion and, thus, high
53 societal losses (Tu, Li, Li, Zhang, & Sun, 2015). Indeed, adverse weather conditions (e.g. rainy,
54 hazy and snowy) have been correlated to 39% of the traffic crashes on China’s motorways in 2015
55 (Ministry of Public Security of China, 2015). Therefore, it is important to investigate the
56 relationships among hazy weather conditions, collision risk and driving performance to develop
57 effective measures of traffic safety control.

58 The impact of inclement weather conditions on traffic crashes has been a major road safety
59 concern. Evidence has established the association among reduced visibility under foggy or hazy
60 weather conditions, crash rate and injury severity based on historical crash data (Abdel-Aty, Ekram,
61 Huang, & Choi, 2011; Hamilton, Tefft, Arnold, & Grabowski, 2014; Meng, Zhang, Wong, & Au,
62 2016; Peng, Abdel-Aty, Shi, & Yu, 2017; Sze & Song, 2018; Tay, Choi, Kattan, & Khan, 2011;
63 Wu, Abdel-Aty, & Lee, 2017). For instance, the risk of a fatal crash increased with the existence
64 of fog and smoke (Hamilton, et al., 2014) and the likelihood of a severe injury crash under foggy
65 weather conditions varied with geographic location (Edwards, 1998). Abdel-Aty et al. (2011)
66 analysed the impacts of foggy weather conditions on traffic crashes using traffic accident data in
67 Florida. They revealed that crashes under foggy weather conditions tended to be more severe and
68 involve more vehicles, as compared to those under clear weather conditions. Wu et al. (2017)

69 proposed a crash risk increase indicator to reveal the differences in the crash risk between foggy
70 and clear weather conditions. Wang et al. (2015) examined crashes occurring on highway ramps
71 under low visibility conditions and demonstrated that the prevalence of single-vehicle and multi-
72 vehicle crashes was significantly correlated with the visibility level. Peng et al. (2017) also found
73 that the likelihood of rear-end crashes increased with a reduced visibility level based on data
74 collected from the real-time traffic surveillance system. In summary, previous studies based on
75 historical crash data have mostly suggested associations among crash risk, crash severity and
76 reduced visibility caused by reduced visibility conditions. However, on the basis of historical crash
77 data for analysis, it is difficult to analyse changes in drivers' driving behaviour due to an adverse
78 environment and, thus, the mechanism of collision risk. The effects of reduced visibility under
79 hazy weather conditions on the drivers' behaviour and collision risk are simultaneously examined
80 in relation to vehicle-based driving data to shed light on the relationships of weather conditions,
81 changes in safety-related driving behaviour and collision risk caused by reduced visibility. Indeed,
82 it is dangerous and difficult to gather naturalistic driving data by field experiments. A viable
83 approach is to examine collision risk and car-following behaviour under hazy weather conditions
84 in a controlled manner such as by using a high-fidelity simulator as reported in the current study.

85 Several studies have been conducted to investigate driving behaviour under different weather
86 conditions using the driving simulator approach. Commonly investigated driving performance
87 indicators have included speed, distance headway and time headway (Cavallo, 2002; Tu, et al.,
88 2015; Yan, Li, Liu, & Zhao, 2014). Some studies have indicated that the preferred driving speed
89 tended to be lower when the visibility level decreased (Cavallo, 2002; Tu, et al., 2015). Hawkins
90 (1988) and Brooks et al. (2011) suggested that a significant reduction in driving speed could be
91 observed only if the visibility level dramatically fell below a certain threshold limit (e.g. 100

92 meters). Generally, both distance and time headways decreased with the reduced visibility level
93 (Boer, Caro, Cavallo, & Arcueil, 2007; Caro, Cavallo, Marendaz, Boer, & Vienne, 2009; Cavallo,
94 2002; Saffarian, Happee, & Winter, 2012; White & Jeffery, 1980). Broughton et al. (2007) found
95 that variations in car-following behaviour across drivers were noticeable under foggy weather
96 conditions. Some drivers adopted active behaviour to maintain smaller headways to follow up,
97 while others lagged behind and gave up following the lead vehicle for the sake of safety. Cavallo
98 (2002) demonstrated that reductions in car-following distance and time headways could be
99 attributed to drivers' overestimation of vehicle spacing. Likewise, Caro et al. (2009) suggested that
100 headway reduction under a poor visibility environment could be ascribed to the drivers' desires for
101 better recognition of relative motion between vehicles. Moreover, when the visibility level dropped,
102 the maximum acceleration rate also dropped and the maximum deceleration rate increased in
103 contrast to clear weather conditions (Hoogendoorn, Hoogendoorn, Brookhuis, & Daamen, 2011;
104 Hoogendoorn, 2012; Tu, et al., 2015). The interaction effects of the vehicular speed (i.e. traffic
105 density) on the association between visibility level and driving performance has also been
106 evaluated (Gao, Tu, & Shi, 2018). However, the effects of reduced visibility under hazy weather
107 conditions on other driving performance indicators, including speed variance, drivers' sensitivity
108 to the changes in vehicle spacing and relative speed, have often been overlooked. It is indeed worth
109 exploring the safety implications of changes in these driving performance metrics due to haze and,
110 consequently, effective safety countermeasures can be developed. Moreover, the interaction effects
111 of the vehicular speed (i.e. traffic density) on the association between visibility level and driving
112 performance should be further evaluated as well.

113 This study aims to examine the effects of reduced visibility caused by hazy weather on traffic
114 safety and safety-related car-following behaviour based on vehicle trajectory data collected by

115 driving simulator experiments. The considered performance metrics are distance headway, time
116 headway, speed variance, reaction time, drivers' sensitivity to vehicle spacing and sensitivity to
117 relative speed. In particular, the association between changes in driving performance metrics and
118 collision risk will be discussed to analyse the mechanism of collision risk under hazy weather
119 conditions from behavioural perspectives. Note that the focuses of the current study are rear-end
120 collision risk and car-following behaviour. The findings can enhance the understanding regarding
121 the effects of hazy weather conditions on traffic safety and driving performance and suggest
122 implications for effective traffic control countermeasures.

123 The rest of this paper is structured as follows: Section 2 describes the process of data collection
124 and experiment design of the driving simulator study. The methodology of analysis is presented in
125 Section 3. The analysis results and their implications are provided and discussed in Section 4.
126 Section 5 offers concluding remarks and suggestions for future works.

127 **2 Experiments and Data Collection**

128 In this study, a high-fidelity driving simulator system was used to collect vehicle trajectory
129 data on driving performance metrics. The simulator system consisted of a fully instrumented car
130 and high-fidelity visual system. The immersive cylindrical projection system produced a front
131 view of horizontal 250 degrees and vertical 40 degrees. The immersive driving forces were
132 generated using an 8-degrees-of-freedom motion system. SCANeR™ studio software was
133 employed to set up experimental scenarios under clear and hazy weather conditions in the daytime,
134 as shown in **Figure 1**. The sight distance under clear weather conditions was greater than 10,000m
135 and that of hazy weather conditions was at most 80m (Tu, et al., 2015). The threshold limit of sight

136 distance for hazy weather conditions was set in accordance with Chinese meteorological
137 classifications regarding hazy weather conditions (Chinese Standard Council, 2011).

138 A dual-carriageway four-lane urban motorway was simulated in the experiments. In each trial,
139 the participant was asked to drive to follow a leading vehicle, with freely selected headways in
140 accordance with his or her own conventional driving habit. The speed profile of the leading vehicle
141 was prescribed, and the leading vehicle would not make any lane change throughout the
142 experiment for simulating car-following behaviour. To imitate a realistic driving environment,
143 several vehicles around the subject vehicle were randomly generated. Duration of each trial was
144 about seven minutes. **Figure 2** illustrates the speed profiles of a leading vehicle and corresponding
145 subject vehicle in a typical simulation trial.

146 In the current study, 23 participants were recruited for the driving simulator experiments. The
147 participants were in good health and had held a full driving license for at least three years. Informed
148 consent for participation was obtained, and a monetary reward of 100 RMB (equivalent to US\$16)
149 for each trial was given. The average age of the participants was 36.2 (range [26, 44]), and the
150 average driving experience was 10.3 years (range [4, 18]). Six of the participants were female.

151 Each participant was asked to complete two driving simulator trials, one under clear and
152 another under hazy weather conditions. The order of trial was randomly assigned in case of effects
153 of the experimental order. A practice section was provided to the participants before the actual
154 experiments. A five-minute break between trials was also provided. The driving performance
155 metrics including the displacement, vehicular speed, acceleration rate, distance headway, throttle
156 and brake pedal force were recorded by the system at the frequency of 10Hz.

157 3 Methodology

158 3.1 Extended Time-to-collision Measures

159 Time-to-collision (TTC) is a well-established surrogate measure for evaluating traffic safety
 160 risk. The TTC is determined by Eq. (1). One consideration for the application of TTC is the
 161 thresholds stratifying the different risk levels. Various threshold limits have been set out in
 162 previous studies (Hecht, Landwehr, Baur, & Xe, 2009; Ossen & Hoogendoorn, 2007; Vogel, 2003).
 163 In this study, referring to the thresholds from the recognised literature, the collision risk is stratified
 164 into three categories: (i) negligible collision risk ($TTC > 5s$), (ii) low collision risk ($2s < TTC \leq 5s$)
 165 and (iii) high collision risk ($TTC \leq 2s$). Also, Minderhoud and Bovy (2001) extended the
 166 conventional TTC to more complicated surrogate indicators for assessment: time exposed time-to-
 167 collision (TET) and time integrated time-to-collision (TIT). TET refers to the duration of exposure
 168 to critical TTC over a specific period H , as shown in Eq. (2). TET can represent the duration with
 169 noticeable collision risk. Critical TTC is the threshold limit of TTC for potential collision risk.
 170 However, TET does not consider the severity of the potential collision. Therefore, TIT is
 171 established. TIT denotes the integral of severity of potential collision risk (depicted by the
 172 difference between real-time and critical TTCs) with respect to time, as specified in Eq. (3). The
 173 two extended surrogate indicators are widely applied for reflecting collision risk. According to the
 174 definitions, larger TET and TIT demonstrate larger collision risk.

$$TTC_n(t) = \frac{X_{n-1}(t) - X_n(t) - l_n}{V_n(t) - V_{n-1}(t)} \quad \forall V_n(t) > V_{n-1}(t) \quad (1)$$

$$TET = \sum_{t=0}^H \delta_n(t) * \tau \quad \delta_n(t) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{else} \\ 1 & 0 \leq TTC_n(t) < TTC^\# \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

$$TIT = \int_0^H [TTC^\# - TTC_n(t)] dt \quad \forall 0 \leq TTC_n(t) < TTC^\# \quad (3)$$

175 where $X_n(t)$, $V_n(t)$ and l_n denote the displacement, speed and length of vehicle n at time t ,
 176 respectively. τ is the time step. $TTC^\#$ means the critical TTC. $\delta_i(t)$ is a dummy variable that
 177 equals 1 while the actual TTC is less than $TTC^\#$.

178 Both TET and TIT will be estimated in this study with two $TTC^\#$ of 5s and 2s, indicating the
 179 stratified risk levels. TET_5 and TIT_5 ($TTC^\#$ of 5s) denote the overall collision risk, including low
 180 and high collision risk, and TET_2 and TIT_2 ($TTC^\#$ of 2s) represent the high collision risk.

181 **3.2 Car-following Behaviour Metrics**

182 The investigated car-following performance metrics in this paper are distance headway, time
 183 headway, speed variance, response time, sensitivities to the change in spacing and relative speed
 184 between the leading and the subject vehicles. To examine the intervention effects by traffic
 185 conditions (i.e. vehicular speed) on the relationship between weather conditions and driving
 186 behaviour, the car-following behaviour at different speed stages is analysed separately. For
 187 instance, driving behaviour metrics including distance headway, time headway and speed variance
 188 in three different stages (high-speed (70-80 km/h for simulating low traffic density), medium-
 189 speed (40-50km/h for simulating medium traffic density) and low-speed (5-15km/h for simulating
 190 traffic density) stages, are evaluated. In addition, the reaction time in acceleration and deceleration
 191 stages are diagnosed separately as well (Gao, et al., 2018).

192 The formulation proposed by Zhang and Bham (2007) is applied to estimate the reaction time.
 193 The reaction time is defined as the difference between T_e (the moment at which the leading vehicle
 194 starts to accelerate or decelerate) and T_s (the moment at which the change in the acceleration rate
 195 of the subject vehicle exceeds the threshold of $A_t=0.15m/s^2$), while the time headway is less than

196 10 seconds (Zhang & Bham, 2007). To evaluate the sensitivities to changes in spacing and relative
 197 speed between subject and leading vehicles, Helly's (1959) model as specified in Eq. (4) is
 198 employed. In particular, the genetic algorithm (GA) is applied to calibrate Helly's model based on
 199 trajectory data. The objective function of optimisation is the root mean square percentage error
 200 (RMSPE) of the spacing, as illustrated in Eq. (5) (Punzo & Montanino, 2016). More details of the
 201 calibration process can be referred to the reference (Gao, et al., 2018).

$$\mathbf{Helly}: \quad a_n(t) = \begin{cases} C_1 \Delta V_n(t - \tau_n) + C_2 [\Delta X_n(t - \tau_n) - \bar{\Delta X}_n(t - \tau_n)] \\ \bar{\Delta X}_n(t - \tau_n) = a + b * V_n(t - \tau_n) \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

$$\mathbf{RMSPE} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} * \sum_{i=1}^N \left(\frac{S_i^{obs} - S_i^{sim}}{S_i^{obs}} \right)^2} \quad (5)$$

203 where $a_n(t)$ is the acceleration rate of vehicle n at time t . τ_n is the reaction time. C_1 and C_2 are the
 204 sensitivity parameters in response to the changes in relative speed and spacing, respectively.
 205 $\Delta X_n(t - \tau_n)$ and $\bar{\Delta X}_n(t - \tau_n)$ are the actual and desired spacing. a and b are the coefficients to be
 206 estimated. $V_n(t - \tau_n)$ and $\Delta V_n(t - \tau_n)$ are the speed of vehicle n and the speed difference at time
 207 $t - \tau_n$. S_i^{obs} and S_i^{sim} denote the observed and simulated values of spacing at time i , respectively. N
 208 is the size of dataset.

209 In this study, statistical tests, including the parametric *T-test* and non-parametric *Wilcoxon test*,
 210 are used to evaluate the difference in the mean values and distributions of the investigated variables
 211 under different weather conditions.

212 4 Results and Discussion

213 4.1 Collision Risk

214 **Table 1** illustrates the results of the differences in the mean evaluation and coefficient of
215 variation (COV) for the collision risk between clear and hazy weather conditions. As shown in
216 **Table 1**, the difference in the collision risk between clear and hazy weather conditions is
217 significant at the 5% level. In particular, the average TET_5 and TIT_5 under hazy weather conditions
218 are 35.9% and 43.0% higher, respectively, than those under clear weather conditions. In addition,
219 the average TET_2 and TIT_2 under hazy weather conditions are 8.1% and 3.2% higher, respectively,
220 than those under clear weather conditions. Nevertheless, no evidence is found for the significant
221 difference in the high collision risk (i.e. TET_2 and TIT_2). The results demonstrate that the overall
222 collision risk ($TTC \leq 5s$) under hazy weather conditions is significantly higher than that under clear
223 weather conditions. However, the high collision risk ($TTC \leq 2s$) under hazy weather conditions is
224 not significantly larger (even though larger on average) in contrast to clear weather conditions.
225 This implies that the reduced visibility level under hazy weather conditions can mainly be
226 correlated with the noticeable increase in the low collision risk ($2s < TTC \leq 5s$).

227 The COVs of TET and TIT are both above 50% under clear and hazy weather conditions. This
228 indicates the remarkable variations in safety performance among drivers. Furthermore, the COVs
229 of TET and TIT under hazy weather conditions are more substantial as compared to clear weather
230 conditions, demonstrating that the reduction in visibility leads to the increase in the variances of
231 drivers' safety performance.

232 4.2 Car-following Behaviour

233 4.2.1 Distance headway, time headway and speed variance

234 **Table 2** summarises the results of the differences in mean tests and COV estimates for car-
235 following behaviour metrics including distance headway, time headway and speed variance in
236 different speed stages. In the high-speed stage, differences in time headways and speed variances
237 between hazy and clear weather conditions are both significant at the 5% level in the *T-test* and
238 the *Wilcoxon test*. The distance headways under hazy weather conditions are significantly smaller
239 in comparison to clear weather conditions in the *Wilcoxon test* (at the 5% level) and *T-test* (at the
240 10% level). The average distance headway and time headway under hazy weather conditions are
241 16.6% and 17.0% lower, respectively, in contrast to clear weather conditions. In contrast, the
242 standard deviation of speeds under hazy weather conditions is 34.1% higher than that under clear
243 weather conditions.

244 In the medium-speed stage, the standard deviation of speeds under hazy weather conditions is
245 36.1% higher than that under clear weather conditions and the difference is significant at the 5%
246 level. However, no significant evidence is established for the association among distance
247 headways, time headways and weather conditions in both medium-speed and low-speed stages.
248 Moreover, the COVs of distance headways, time headways and standard deviation of speeds are
249 all greater than 35%. This again implies the remarkable variations in car-following behaviour
250 across drivers.

251 The car-following performance in terms of distance and time headways is degraded under
252 hazy weather conditions, especially in the high-speed stage. This can be attributed to the
253 impairment of visual perception under adverse weather conditions. Compensatory manoeuvres,
254 such as smaller distance and time headways, would be required to assist the driver to recognise the

255 movement (e.g. relative speed and spacing) of the leading vehicle (Caro, et al., 2009). However,
256 reductions in distance and time headways under hazy weather conditions lead to reduction in the
257 values of TTC and, therefore, an increase in the risk of collision. Note that heterogeneities exist
258 among drivers concerning driving behaviour adaptations and risk perceptions (Wild, 1988) under
259 low visibility conditions. Some drivers might slow down and give up following the leading vehicle
260 due to their serious concerns regarding potential risk under hazy weather conditions, while others
261 might choose to accept the potential risk (or even suppose it is not risky at all), follow up the
262 leading vehicle and be compelled to adapt smaller headways because of the impaired visual
263 perception (Broughton, et al., 2007). Another reason for the smaller headways under hazy weather
264 conditions might be that the drivers have a dramatically increased sense of severe collision risk
265 without awareness when the lead vehicle is not clearly visible (Saffarian, et al., 2012) and,
266 consequently, compromise to accept the risk due to smaller car-following headways. Higher speed
267 variance has been associated with an increase in crash risk (Garber & Gadirau, 1988; Stuster,
268 Coffman, & Warren, 1998). An increase in the speed variance under hazy weather conditions, as
269 indicated in this study, contributes to an increase in the risk of potential collision as well.

270 However, no evidence is found for the difference in distance and time headways between
271 different weather conditions in the medium-speed and low-speed stages. The main reason might
272 be that the impact of the impairment of visual perception is marginal if the distance headways are
273 short in the medium-speed and low-speed stages. Therefore, the degradation of car-following
274 behaviour is less sensitive to the reduction in visibility levels. The intervention by vehicular speed
275 (namely, traffic density) on the impacts of hazy weather conditions on distance and time headways
276 should be noted in the analysis. Such findings are indicative of the effective traffic control and
277 management measures (e.g. variable speed limit) to improve the safety level under adverse hazy

278 weather conditions. For instance, a temporary lower speed limit can be imposed when the visibility
279 level is severely reduced or time headway is lower than a certain threshold limit based on real-
280 time weather conditions and traffic surveillance.

281 4.2.2 Reaction time, sensitivity to spacing and relative speed

282 **Table 3** illustrates the results of difference-in-mean tests for reaction times of acceleration and
283 deceleration, sensitivities to changes in speed difference and spacing. The acceleration reaction
284 time under hazy weather conditions is on average 11.4% higher in comparison to clear weather
285 conditions, and the difference is significant at the 5% level. This indicates that the drivers respond
286 in a less timely manner to the acceleration of the leading vehicle under the reduced visibility
287 conditions. Likewise, the reaction time of deceleration under hazy weather conditions on average
288 increases by 5.1% compared to that under clear weather conditions. However, the associations
289 among deceleration reaction time, sensitivity to change in speed difference and weather conditions
290 are not statistically significant in the *T-test* and *Wilcoxon test*. However, the difference in the
291 sensitivity to change in spacing between hazy and clear weather conditions is significant at the 1%
292 level. The sensitivity to spacing under hazy weather conditions is 40.4% lower than that under
293 clear weather conditions, indicating that drivers react less actively to changes in spacing under
294 hazy weather conditions. Moreover, the COV of sensitivity to spacing under hazy weather
295 conditions is 57% higher, compared to clear weather conditions, implying that the reduced
296 visibility under hazy weather conditions amplifies the variations across drivers in sensitivity to
297 change in spacing during car-following.

298 The reduction in the sensitivity to the change in spacing and the increase in the response time
299 of deceleration might echo the estimated increase in the overall collision risk under hazy weather
300 conditions. The degraded performance may be ascribed to the reduced visual perceptions caused

301 by the haze. The stimulus to which drivers respond is the looming visual stimuli (proportional to
302 $\Delta V / \Delta X^2$) (Michaels, 1963) and the haze would reduce drivers' cognitive ability to identify the
303 motion changes. The reduction in sensitivity to spacing and the increase in reaction time could
304 both impair the capability of defensive driving manoeuvres in an emergency (e.g. sudden braking
305 of a leading vehicle) and, thus, result in an increase in the potential collision risk. Therefore,
306 variable message signs (e.g. warning the driver to maintain an adequate distance and time headway
307 under adverse weather conditions) can be implemented. Moreover, variations in driving
308 performance across drivers are remarkable under hazy weather conditions. It is worth exploring
309 the possible factors contributing to the heterogeneities in drivers' behaviour in an extended study.

310 **5 Conclusions**

311 In this study, the impacts of reduction in the visibility level under hazy weather conditions on
312 the collision risk and car-following behaviour are examined using the driving simulator approach.
313 The main findings are: (1) Overall collision risk under hazy weather conditions is significantly
314 higher than that under clear weather conditions, (2) distance and time headways under hazy
315 weather conditions are significantly lower than those under clear weather conditions in the high-
316 speed stage, (3) speed variance under hazy weather conditions is higher than that under clear
317 weather conditions in the high-speed and middle-speed stage and (4) the sensitivity to vehicle
318 spacing under hazy weather conditions is lower as compared to clear weather conditions. The
319 relationships among collision risk, car-following behaviour changes and weather conditions are
320 causally discussed to understand the mechanism of collision risk under hazy weather conditions.
321 The findings have implications for the development of effective traffic management and control

322 measures, such as variable speed limits and variable message signs, for real-time risk prevention
323 under hazy weather conditions.

324 In further research, the population of participants for the experiments can be enlarged. It is also
325 worth exploring the interaction effects by driver characteristics (e.g. age, driving experience) and
326 traffic composition (e.g. proportion of heavy vehicles) on the associations among traffic safety,
327 car-following behaviour and weather conditions.

328 **Acknowledgements:** This project is supported by Science and Technology Commission of Shanghai
329 Municipality (STCSM, 17DZ1205302), the National Key Research and Development Program of China
330 (2017YFC0803902), National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC, 51578414), and the Research
331 Grants Council of the Hong Kong SAR Government (25203717).

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