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1 FigurEffects of anthropogenic chlorine on PM_{2.5} and 2 ozone air quality in China

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20 ABSTRACT: China has large anthropogenic chlorine emissions from agricultural fires, residential
21 biofuel, waste incineration, coal combustion, and industrial processes. Here we quantify the effects
22 of chlorine on fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) and ozone air quality across China by using the
23 GEOS-Chem chemical transport model with comprehensive anthropogenic emissions and detailed
24 representation of gas-phase and heterogeneous chlorine chemistry. Comparison of the model to
25 observed ClNO₂, HCl, and particulate Cl⁻ concentrations shows that reactive chlorine in China is
26 mainly anthropogenic, unlike in other continental regions where it is mostly of marine origin. The
27 model is successful in reproducing observed concentrations and their distributions, lending
28 confidence in the anthropogenic chlorine emission estimates and the resulting chemistry. We find
29 that anthropogenic chlorine emissions increase total inorganic PM_{2.5} by as much as 3.2 μg m⁻³ on
30 an annual mean basis through the formation of ammonium chloride, partly compensated by a
31 decrease of nitrate because ClNO₂ formation competes with N₂O₅ hydrolysis. Annual mean MDA8
32 surface ozone increases by up to 1.9 ppb, mainly from ClNO₂ chemistry, while reactivities of
33 volatile organic compounds increase (by up to 48% for ethane). We find that a sufficient
34 representation of chlorine chemistry in air quality models can be obtained from consideration of
35 HCl/Cl⁻ thermodynamics and ClNO₂ chemistry, because other more complicated aspects of
36 chlorine chemistry have a relatively minor effect.

37 1. Introduction

38 Chlorine is emitted to the atmosphere as particulate chloride (Cl⁻) from sea-salt, as hydrogen
39 chloride (HCl) from volcanoes, as HCl/Cl⁻ from combustion and industry, and as chlorocarbons

40 from the biosphere, fires, and industrial processes^{1,2}. Subsequent atmospheric reactions can lead
41 to the production of chlorine radicals³, with a broad range of implications for global tropospheric
42 chemistry and air quality. We recently presented a general analysis of the role of chlorine in global
43 tropospheric chemistry using the GEOS-Chem chemical transport model with a detailed gas-phase
44 and heterogeneous chlorine mechanism³. Here we examine the more specific implications for
45 China air quality through the effects of chlorine chemistry on ground level ozone and PM_{2.5}
46 (particulate matter smaller than 2.5 μm diameter).

47 A unique feature of China air pollution is the magnitude of the anthropogenic chlorine source.
48 The global tropospheric chlorine budget is dominated by marine sources, mainly through
49 mobilization of chloride from sea salt aerosols (SSA)³. Most of the chlorine in continental regions
50 of North America and Europe is dominated by long-range transport of this marine source.^{3,4} In
51 contrast, atmospheric measurements suggest that chlorine in China is mostly anthropogenic.^{5,6}
52 Anthropogenic sources in China include coal combustion, waste incineration, industrial processes,
53 and biomass burning, totaling more than 800 Gg Cl a⁻¹ in recent estimates.^{7,8} For comparison,
54 anthropogenic chlorine emission in the US is estimated to be < 100 Gg Cl a⁻¹ in the 2014 National
55 Emissions Inventory of the Environmental Protection Agency.⁹

56 In polluted environments, nighttime formation of nitryl chloride (ClNO₂) followed by photolysis
57 in the daytime returns Cl atoms and nitrogen oxide radicals (NO_x) to stimulate ozone production.¹⁰⁻
58 ¹³ Sarwar et al.¹⁴ applied a hemispheric-scale model to assess the effect of ClNO₂ chemistry on air
59 quality and found significant increases of ozone and decreases of nitrate PM_{2.5} in China, but they
60 did not include anthropogenic sources of chlorine (which as we will see are dominant), and they
61 showed no model evaluation for China due to lack of ClNO₂ measurements in China prior to 2010.
62 In the recent decade, a number of measurements of ClNO₂ and Cl⁻ concentrations were conducted

63 in China^{6, 13, 15-19}. A number of China-focused model studies incorporated anthropogenic chlorine
64 emissions and chlorine chemistry with varying degrees of complexity and found that ClNO₂
65 chemistry increases ozone in polluted regions of China by 2-7 ppb²⁰⁻²⁵. Most of these studies
66 mainly have focused on ClNO₂ chemistry and its impacts on the atmospheric oxidative capacity
67 and ozone concentrations. The effects of anthropogenic chlorine on PM_{2.5} have not been
68 investigated in the previous studies.

69 Here, we use the GEOS-Chem model in a full-year high-resolution simulation over China and
70 the adjacent ocean, including best estimates of anthropogenic and natural chlorine emissions
71 combined with detailed representation of chlorine chemistry. We evaluate the model with the
72 ensemble of atmospheric chlorine observations available for China, verifying the emission
73 inventory. From there we quantify the effect of anthropogenic chlorine on both PM_{2.5} and ozone
74 air quality in China. Our work extends previous studies in its comprehensive treatment of chlorine
75 chemistry, full accounting of both anthropogenic and natural chlorine emissions, and detailed
76 comparisons with observations.

77 2. Materials and Methods

78 2.1 GEOS-Chem model

79 We use the GEOS-Chem model version 11-02d (<http://www.geos-chem.org>), which includes a
80 detailed representation of coupled ozone–NO_x– volatile organic compound (VOC)–PM–halogen
81 chemistry²⁶, and to which we have included an updated comprehensive treatment of chlorine
82 chemistry³. GEOS-Chem is driven by MERRA2 (the Modern-Era Retrospective analysis for
83 Research and Applications, Version 2) assimilated meteorological fields from the NASA Global
84 Modeling and Assimilation office (GMAO) with native horizontal resolution of 0.5°×0.625° and

85 72 vertical levels from the surface to the mesosphere. Our simulation is conducted at that native
86 resolution over East Asia (60°–150°E, 10°S–55°N), with dynamical boundary conditions from a
87 global simulation with 4°×5° resolution. The Multi-resolution Emission Inventory for China
88 (MEIC)²⁷ including seasonal, weekly, and diurnal variations for 2014 is used for Chinese
89 anthropogenic emissions other than chlorine. Chlorine emissions are described in Section 2.2.
90 Results presented here are from a 1-year simulation for 2014 after a 3-month model spin up.

91 GEOS-Chem has previously been used in a number of model studies of PM_{2.5} and ozone air
92 quality in China, showing that the model provides in general a credible representation of
93 observations^{28, 29}. However, none of these studies included comprehensive representation of
94 chlorine chemistry. Here we added to the model the detailed chlorine chemistry mechanism (fully
95 coupled with bromine and iodine) of Wang et al.³. The model includes 12 gas-phase inorganic
96 chlorine species: Cl, Cl₂, Cl₂O₂, ClNO₂, ClNO₃, ClO, ClOO, OClO, BrCl, ICl, HOCl, HCl, and
97 two size ranges for aerosol Cl⁻ (fine mode <1 μm diameter and coarse mode >1 μm diameter). Gas-
98 aerosol equilibrium of HCl and Cl⁻ is calculated with ISORROPIA II³⁰ as part of the H₂SO₄-HCl-
99 HNO₃-NH₃-NVCs thermodynamic system, where NVCs stands for non-volatile cations and is
100 treated in ISORROPIA II using Na⁺ as proxy. The most important heterogeneous reactions include
101 N₂O₅ + Cl⁻ producing ClNO₂, HOBr + Cl⁻ producing BrCl, HOI + Cl⁻ producing ICl, HOCl + Cl⁻
102 producing Cl₂, OH + Cl⁻ producing Cl₂ (two-step process), and ClNO₂ + Cl⁻ producing Cl₂. ClNO₂,
103 BrCl, ICl, and Cl₂ all go on to photolyze to produce Cl atoms.

104 We added some updates to the Wang et al.⁹ mechanism including Cl oxidation of toluene,
105 monoterpenes, limonene, and methyl ethyl ketone, as given in Table S1. We updated the
106 parameterization of ClNO₂ formation from nighttime heterogeneous reaction of N₂O₅ with Cl⁻ in
107 the aerosol aqueous phase to include the effect of organic coating, as described by McDuffie et

108 al.³¹ We added the reaction between HOCl and dissolved SO₂ (S(IV) \equiv HSO₃⁻ + SO₃²⁻) to form
109 SO₄²⁻ aerosol.^{32, 33} We also now include in the model the reactive uptake of HCl on natural dust,
110 limited by dust alkalinity³⁴. Details of these updates are described in Supporting Information A1.

111 Cl-initiated VOCs oxidation can contribute to the formation of secondary organic aerosol
112 (SOA),^{35, 36} but this is not considered in the model because of the large uncertainties involved.
113 Instead, our simulation uses a simple SOA scheme which takes a fixed-yield approach to SOA
114 formation and displays good skill in capturing observations.^{37, 38}

115 2.2. Anthropogenic Chlorine Emissions

116 We include anthropogenic chlorine emissions from the China inventory of Fu et al.⁷ This
117 inventory was developed for 2014 with a horizontal resolution of 0.1°×0.1°. It gives total
118 anthropogenic (HCl + fine mode Cl⁻) emissions in China of 254 Gg Cl a⁻¹ from agricultural fires,
119 253 Gg Cl a⁻¹ from residential biofuel, 251 Gg Cl a⁻¹ from waste incineration, 109 Gg Cl a⁻¹ from
120 coal combustion, and 65 Gg Cl a⁻¹ from industrial processes, for a total source of 932 Gg Cl a⁻¹.
121 The inventory separates HCl (458 Gg Cl a⁻¹) and particulate Cl⁻ (486 Gg Cl a⁻¹) emissions, but the
122 cations associated with Cl⁻ emissions are not identified. We assume in our standard simulation that
123 all emissions are as HCl but also conduct a sensitivity simulation where particulate Cl⁻ is emitted
124 as such with accompanying NVCs. There is negligible difference in results, as discussed below.
125 We apply monthly, weekly, and diurnal scaling factors for coal combustion and industrial sources
126 based on the MEIC inventory,²⁷ and national mean monthly scaling factors for agricultural fires,
127 residential biofuels, and waste incineration based on Fu et al.⁷

128 We do not include any anthropogenic chlorine emissions from other countries in East Asia. The
129 only global emission inventory is that of McCulloch et al.³⁹, built for the 1990s and found to be

130 considerably biased high relative to present-day observations and regional emission estimates.^{3,7,}

131 ⁸ The effect of these emissions on China air quality would be small compared to the effect of SSA
132 chloride from the neighboring ocean.

133 Dichloromethane (CH_2Cl_2) and chloroform (CHCl_3) are emitted from industrial activities and
134 produce Cl atoms in GEOS-Chem through photolysis and oxidation³. Anthropogenic CH_2Cl_2
135 emission in China was estimated to be 318 Gg a^{-1} in 2016 in a bottom-up study by Feng et al.,⁴⁰.
136 The total CHCl_3 emission in China was estimated to be 88 Gg a^{-1} in 2015 based on a Bayesian
137 inversion of surface measurements.⁴¹ We include anthropogenic CH_2Cl_2 and CHCl_3 emission
138 using these national numbers with a spatial distribution the same as anthropogenic HCl. Since both
139 CH_2Cl_2 and CHCl_3 have long lifetimes (> 250 days), they have negligible effect on Chinese air
140 quality and will not be discussed further.

141 Dust is an additional source of particulate chloride but most of this would be present in coarse
142 particles (>2.5 μm diameter) and not contribute to $\text{PM}_{2.5}$. Natural $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ dust in GEOS-Chem⁴² has
143 an emission of 3300 Gg a^{-1} in China in 2014; assuming 0.15% Cl by mass based on US data,⁴³ this
144 yields a Cl^- source of 4.9 Gg $\text{Cl}^- \text{a}^{-1}$. Previous studies^{44,45} have suggested that anthropogenic dust
145 may contribute to $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ Cl^- concentrations in urban environments. We include these emissions
146 using the AFCID inventory⁴⁶, again assuming that the dust is 0.15% Cl by mass. The resulting
147 emission in China is 7.9 Gg $\text{Cl}^- \text{a}^{-1}$. These dust emissions are very small compared to the
148 anthropogenic chlorine emission from combustion.

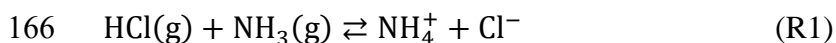
149 Figure 1 shows the annual HCl + Cl^- emissions from Chinese anthropogenic sources and Cl^-
150 emissions from sea salt aerosol (SSA) as implemented in GEOS-Chem. There are two areas of
151 high anthropogenic emissions, in the North China Plain (NCP) due to waste incineration and
152 residential biofuel, and in Northeast China due to agricultural fires and residential biofuel. The

153 SSA source over the ocean is much larger than the anthropogenic source over land (note difference
154 in scales in Figure 1), and can contribute to PM_{2.5} Cl⁻ over land both by direct transport and (for
155 coarse SSA) by displacement to HCl and subsequent re-condensation to PM_{2.5}³. However, the
156 SSA influence over land is also limited by rapid deposition during transport. The GEOS-Chem
157 simulation allows quantification of these effects.

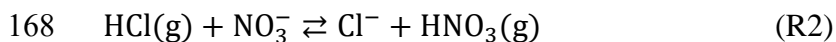
158 3. Results and Discussion

159 3.1. Anthropogenic chlorine over China

160 Figure 2 shows our simulated annual mean distributions of HCl and PM_{2.5} Cl⁻ concentrations in
161 surface air. Concentrations over China are mainly from anthropogenic chlorine emissions, despite
162 the much larger SSA emissions off-shore. Natural dust contributes 3-10% of PM_{2.5} Cl⁻ in North
163 China in spring, and less in other regions and seasons. Annual mean HCl mixing ratios range from
164 100 to 400 ppt over most of eastern China. In the H₂SO₄-HCl-HNO₃-NH₃-NVC thermodynamic
165 system, HCl partitions into the aqueous particulate phase through:

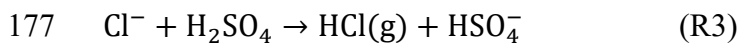


167 and



169 Since NH₃ is generally in large excess in China,⁴⁷ equilibrium (R1) is driven to the right and uptake
170 of HCl mostly takes place without displacement of NO₃⁻. Figure S1 shows the HCl/(HCl + PM_{2.5}
171 Cl⁻) molar ratio over China in different seasons. On average, 66% of the emitted HCl is partitioned
172 into the particulate phase. That fraction is larger in winter and lower in summer, mainly reflecting
173 temperature differences.

174 Even without considering anthropogenic chlorine emissions, anthropogenic HCl can be formed
175 through acid displacement of SSA Cl⁻ by H₂SO₄ and HNO₃ produced from anthropogenic
176 emissions of SO₂ and NO_x. This acid displacement involves (R2) and:



178 H₂SO₄ has a much lower vapor pressure than HCl so that (R3) fully displaces Cl⁻ if H₂SO₄ is
179 present.⁴⁸ To investigate this effect we conducted two sensitivity model simulations, one without
180 anthropogenic chlorine emissions but with anthropogenic non-chlorine emissions, and the other
181 without any anthropogenic emissions. The difference between the two isolates the chlorine
182 displaced from SSA Cl⁻ by non-chlorine anthropogenic emissions, and this is shown in the right
183 panel of Figure 2. Acid displacement requires a deficit of ammonia and thus mainly takes place
184 offshore. The resulting HCl can then be transported back onshore and contribute to PM_{2.5} Cl⁻ and
185 chlorine chemistry inland. We find that the effect is relatively small and mainly limited to
186 southeastern coastal China. We examined the sensitivity of our results to the speciation of
187 anthropogenic (HCl + Cl⁻) emission by conducting a sensitivity simulation in which emission of
188 Cl⁻ is with NVCs as associated cations (instead of HCl in the standard simulation). On average,
189 adding the NVCs emission changes the simulated annual mean HCl and Cl⁻ concentrations by -2%
190 and +1% respectively.

191 Figure 2 also shows the annual mean value of the nighttime maximum ClNO₂ mixing ratio in
192 surface air, and the contributions from anthropogenic chlorine and other (mainly NO_x) emissions.
193 We use the mean nighttime maximum mixing ratio as concentration metric for ClNO₂, following
194 standard practice^{3, 14}, because of the large diurnal variation and near-zero mixing ratios in the
195 daytime. Again, most of ClNO₂ over China is driven by anthropogenic chlorine emissions. Values

196 exceed 1000 ppt in inland urban areas of China, much higher than corresponding values in the US
197 and Europe.^{3, 14}

198 We compared the model simulation for 2014 to observations collected in China for neighboring
199 years (2012-2017), and assuming interannual differences to be a minor factor in model error.
200 Continuous 2012-2013 observations of PM_{2.5} Cl⁻ are available from 11 sites as part of the CARE-
201 China network⁴⁹. The annual mean observed values are shown as circles in the middle-left panel
202 of Figure 2. The model captures the spatial distribution of observed Cl⁻ with a correlation
203 coefficient (R) of 0.78 and a normalized mean bias (NMB) of -12%. PM_{2.5} Cl⁻ concentrations in
204 inland China are much higher than the corresponding concentrations in the US (mostly < 0.1 μg
205 m⁻³).^{3, 44}

206 Figure 3 shows absolute maximum and mean nighttime maximum ClNO₂ mixing ratios from
207 several field studies, and compares to the modeled values during the measurement months.
208 Measurement locations are indicated in Figure 2. The model successfully simulates the surface
209 ClNO₂ observations for the three sites in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei area (Changping, Beijing, and
210 Wangdu) and the mountain site (Mt. Tai) in NCP during their respective measurement periods.
211 Ignoring the anthropogenic chlorine emissions would result in underestimates by more than a
212 factor of 10 at these sites. In contrast, anthropogenic chlorine is relatively minor at the mountain
213 site in Hong Kong (Mt. Tai Mo Shan), both in the model and observations, because SSA provides
214 the dominant source of Cl⁻ at that site. The model overestimates anthropogenic influence at Ji'nan,
215 for reasons that are not clear. The observations are much lower than for other surface sites in the
216 North China Plain.

217 Continuous measurements of HCl, PM₁ Cl⁻ (in particles less than 1 μm diameter), and ClNO₂
218 concentrations were made at the semi-rural surface site of Changping (40 km northwest of Beijing

219 urban area) during May-June 2016 by Le Breton et al.⁶ Back-trajectory analyses showed no
220 significant marine influence in the data^{13,60}. Figure 4 compares the diurnal cycle of the observations
221 to the model. Model concentrations at the site are almost exclusively from anthropogenic chlorine
222 emissions. The model is consistent with the overall magnitudes observed. HCl is low at night
223 because of dry deposition. Cl⁻ is low in the daytime because of ventilation. The observed nighttime
224 peak of ClNO₂ is at 23 local time, whereas ClNO₂ in the model keeps on accumulating over the
225 course of the night consistent with other observations in polluted areas, including another site near
226 Beijing.^{3, 12, 18, 50, 51} The cause of the post-midnight decrease in the Changping ClNO₂ data is not
227 clear. Here and elsewhere in China, we find the ClNO₂ + Cl⁻ heterogeneous sink of ClNO₂ to be
228 unimportant because it requires aerosol pH < 2⁵² which generally does not occur because of the
229 excess of NH₃.

230 In summary, the model shows general consistency with observations of Cl⁻, ClNO₂, and HCl
231 available in China. We conclude from our comparisons that the chlorine over China is mainly
232 anthropogenic, and that the underlying chlorine emissions and chemistry are relatively well
233 understood.

234

235 3.3. Impact of anthropogenic chlorine emissions on inorganic PM_{2.5} in China

236 Figure 5 shows our simulated net impacts of anthropogenic chlorine emissions on annual mean
237 PM_{2.5} concentrations calculated as differences between the standard simulation and a simulation
238 without anthropogenic chlorine emissions. This does not account for Cl-initiated SOA formation,
239 as explained in Section 2. We find that the largest impact is over Northeast China, where annual
240 mean PM_{2.5} increases by 3.2 μg m⁻³ (6.5%), which is 9% of the Chinese national air quality

241 standard of $35 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ and mainly contributed by biomass burning emissions. Absolute and relative
242 impacts in January and July are given in Figure S2.

243 We find that anthropogenic chlorine has negligible effect on SO_4^{2-} concentrations in China (<
244 $0.1 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$). The contribution of $\text{HOCl} + \text{S(IV)}$ to SO_2 oxidation is minimal because the main sink
245 of HOCl is photolysis. As shown in Figure 5, anthropogenic chlorine emissions can cause annual
246 mean surface NH_4^+ concentrations to increase by up to $1 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$. Since NH_3 is in excess in most
247 areas of China,⁴⁷ the emitted HCl causes NH_3 transfer to NH_4^+ through reaction (R1), so that the
248 pattern of enhanced NH_4^+ largely matches that of Cl^- concentrations. In contrast, anthropogenic
249 chlorine emissions result in annual average NO_3^- concentrations decreases by up to $1.5 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$
250 following a similar spatial distribution as modeled ClNO_2 (Figure 2). The dominant factor for the
251 NO_3^- decrease is not acid displacement by HCl (since NH_3 is in excess) but the increased
252 competition of $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5 + \text{Cl}^-$ with N_2O_5 hydrolysis which is a major source of NO_3^- .⁵³

253

254 3.4. Impact of anthropogenic chlorine emissions on oxidants in China

255 Figure 6 shows the effects of anthropogenic chlorine emissions on annual mean hydroxyl radical
256 (OH), NO_x , and ozone concentrations in surface air, calculated as differences between the standard
257 simulation and a simulation without anthropogenic chlorine emissions. OH concentrations in
258 surface air increase by up to 6%, mainly due to ClNO_2 chemistry^{11, 12}. Annual mean Cl atom
259 concentrations (not shown) increase up to 2700 cm^{-3} ; 90% of that increase is from ClNO_2
260 chemistry, while the remaining 10% is from $\text{HCl} + \text{OH}$ and from Cl_2 and HOCl photolysis. The
261 latter reactions are most important in summer but even then they contribute less than 25% of the
262 Cl atoms. The combined increases of both Cl atoms and OH enhance the annual mean reactivities
263 of ethane, propane, $\geq\text{C}_3$ alkenes, methanol, toluene, and ethanol over the North China Plain by

264 48%, 40%, 28%, 11%, 11%, and 10%, respectively. The increase of OH leads to a decrease in NO_x
265 since the principal sink of NO_x is its oxidation by OH.

266 As shown in Figure 6, annual mean values of maximum daily 8-hour average (MDA8) ozone
267 concentrations increase by up to 1.9 ppb (3.2%) after including anthropogenic chlorine emissions.
268 Seasonal effects are presented in Figure S3 and relative effects are in Figure S4. The ozone increase
269 is mainly because of ClNO₂ chemistry and is most important in winter (Figure S3) due to the longer
270 night and higher chlorine emissions from residential heating. Wang et al.³ showed that tropospheric
271 chlorine drives a global decrease of ozone by catalytic production of bromine radicals from sea
272 salt aerosol, but we find that this effect is negligibly small over China because bromine
273 concentrations (mainly of marine origin) are negligibly low.³

274 In summary, we have examined the impact of anthropogenic chlorine emissions on air quality in
275 China through model simulations with a detailed chemical mechanism. The model is generally
276 consistent with the observations available for fine particulate Cl⁻, HCl, and ClNO₂. We show that
277 the observations are dominantly contributed by anthropogenic chlorine emissions. Anthropogenic
278 chlorine increases PM_{2.5} concentrations in China by up to 3.2 μg m⁻³ on an annual mean basis
279 because of the condensation of (NH₄⁺, Cl⁻) when NH₃ is in excess, as is the case generally over
280 China. Annual mean surface OH and MDA8 ozone concentrations increase by up to 6% and 1.9
281 ppb, respectively, mostly driven by ClNO₂ chemistry providing an early-morning source of
282 radicals. Our results suggest that a sufficient representation of anthropogenic chlorine chemistry
283 in air quality models for China can be obtained from consideration of H₂SO₄-HCl-HNO₃-NH₃-
284 NVCs thermodynamics and ClNO₂ chemistry, since other aspects of chlorine chemistry have a
285 relatively minor effect.

286 Emissions in China are presently changing rapidly in response to the governmental Clean Air
287 Action.²⁷ According to the MEIC inventory, Chinese emissions decreased by 59% for SO₂ and
288 21% for NO_x over 2013-2017, mainly due to emission controls applied to coal burning and
289 industry.²⁷ No estimates are available for trends in anthropogenic chlorine emissions. Agricultural
290 fires in China are increasingly banned out of concern for air quality⁵⁴, and coal combustion
291 emission controls would presumably remove chlorine. On the other hand, waste incineration has
292 increased during the 2010-2015 period.⁵⁵ Better understanding of trends in anthropogenic chlorine
293 emissions is needed for a comprehensive assessment of trends in China air quality.

294

295 ASSOCIATED CONTENT

296 **Supporting Information.**

297 Updated chlorine chemistry in GEOS-Chem (A1); Bimolecular reactions between Cl atom and
298 VOC included in model scheme (Table S1); Seasonal mean HCl/(HCl + PM_{2.5} Cl) ratio in surface
299 air over China in GEOS-Chem due to anthropogenic emissions of HCl (Figure S1); Effects of
300 anthropogenic chlorine emissions on monthly mean surface PM_{2.5} concentrations in China in
301 January and July (Figure S2); Absolute (Figure S3) and relative (Figure S4) enhancement of
302 anthropogenic chlorine emissions on seasonal mean surface MDA6 ozone mixing ratios in China.

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306 **Notes**

307 The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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318

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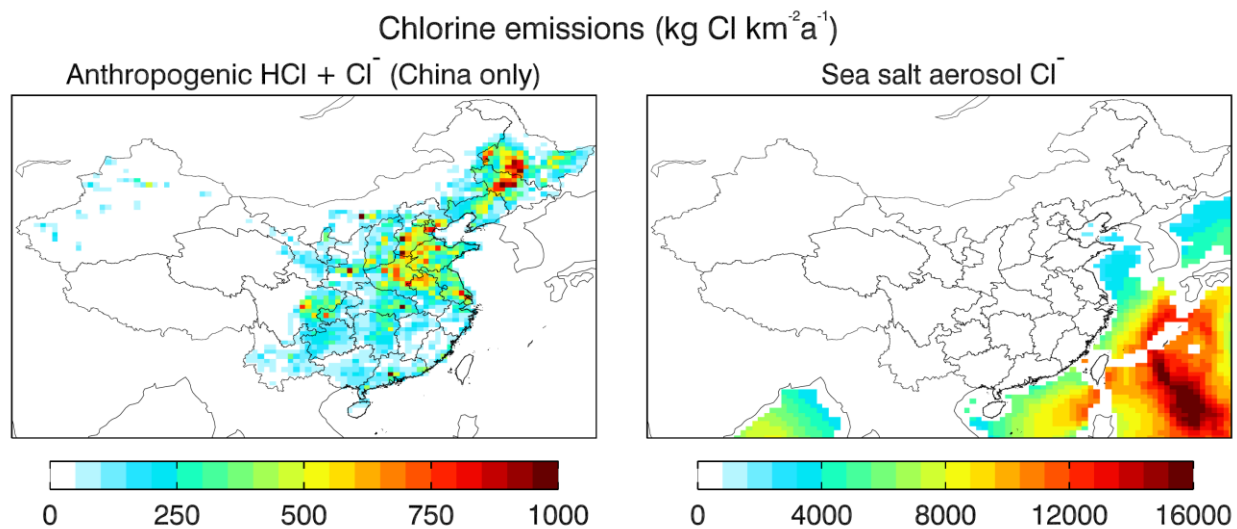
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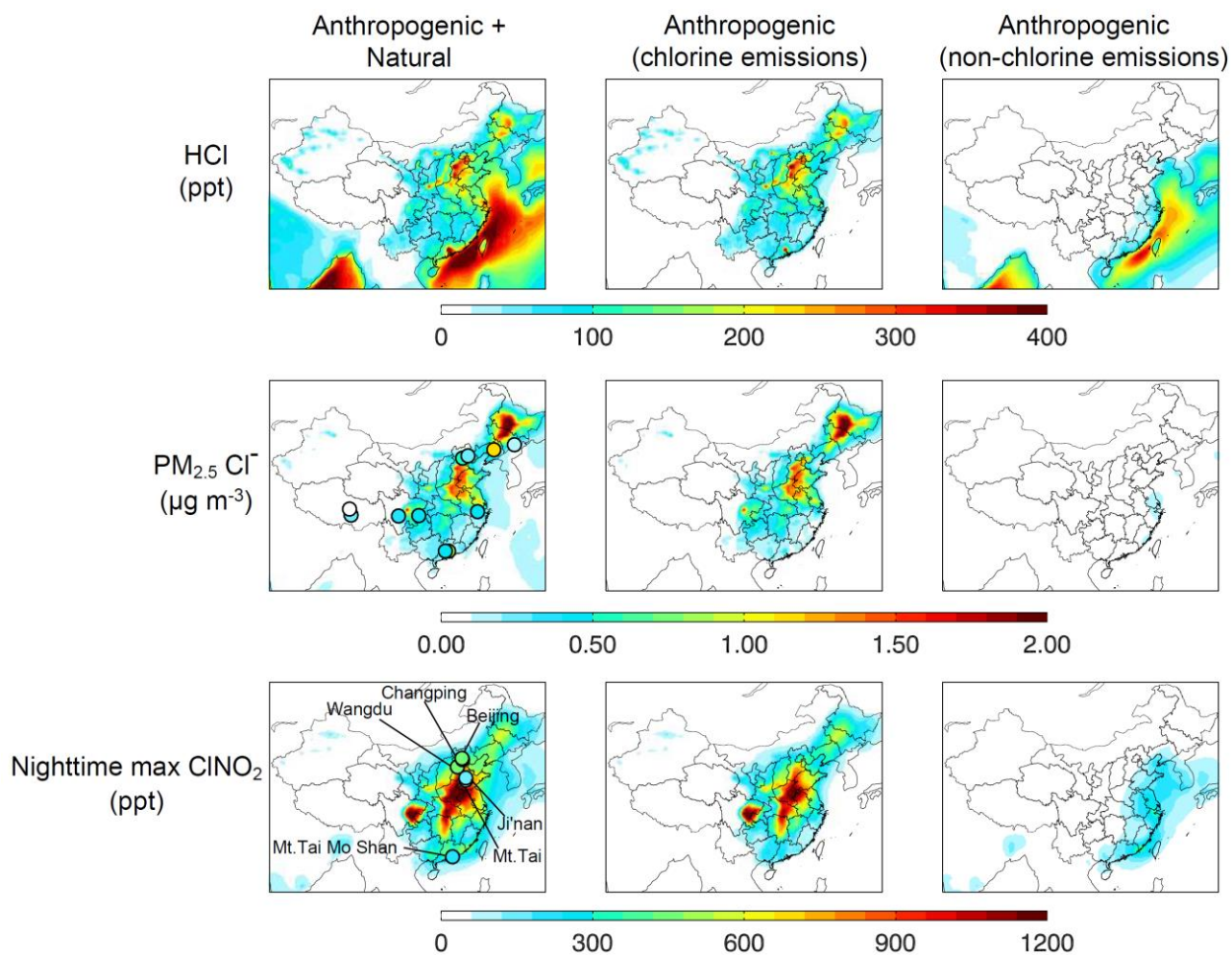
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 536 **Figure 1.** Annual chlorine emissions from Chinese anthropogenic sources (left) and from sea salt
 537 aerosol (right). Values are for 2014. Anthropogenic emissions are from the (HCl + Cl⁻) inventory
 538 of Fu et al.⁷ including contributions from agricultural fires, residential biofuels, waste incineration,
 539 coal combustion, and industry. Note difference in scales between panels.

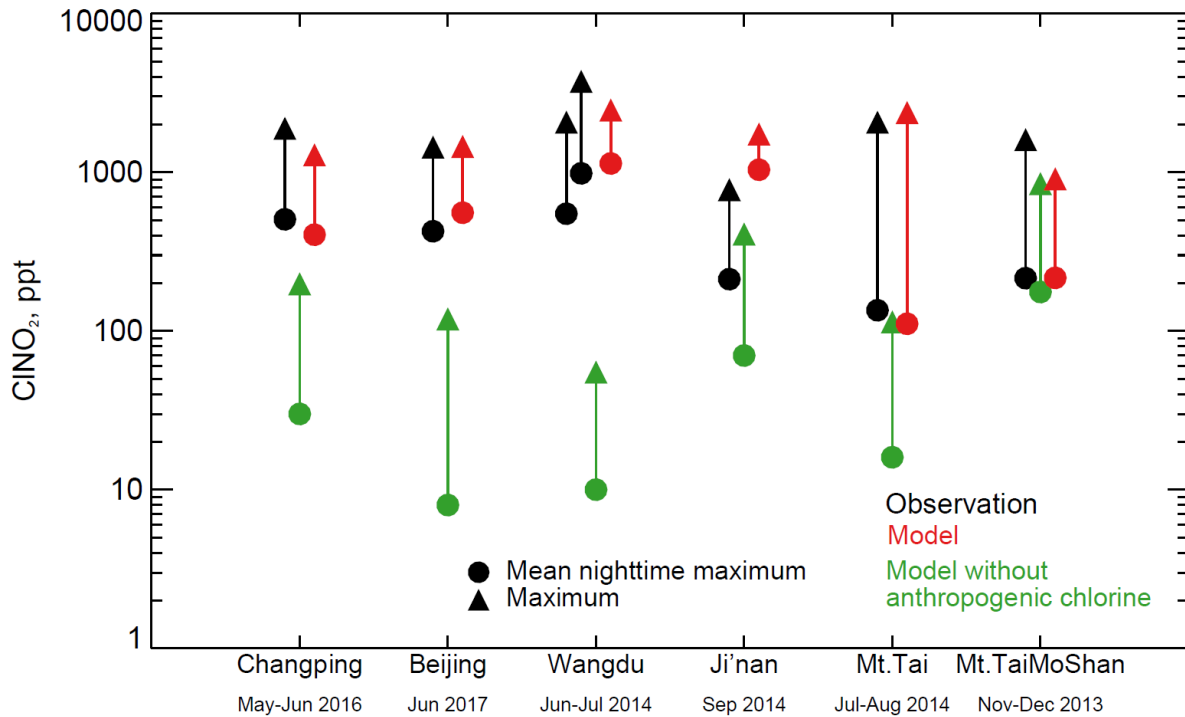
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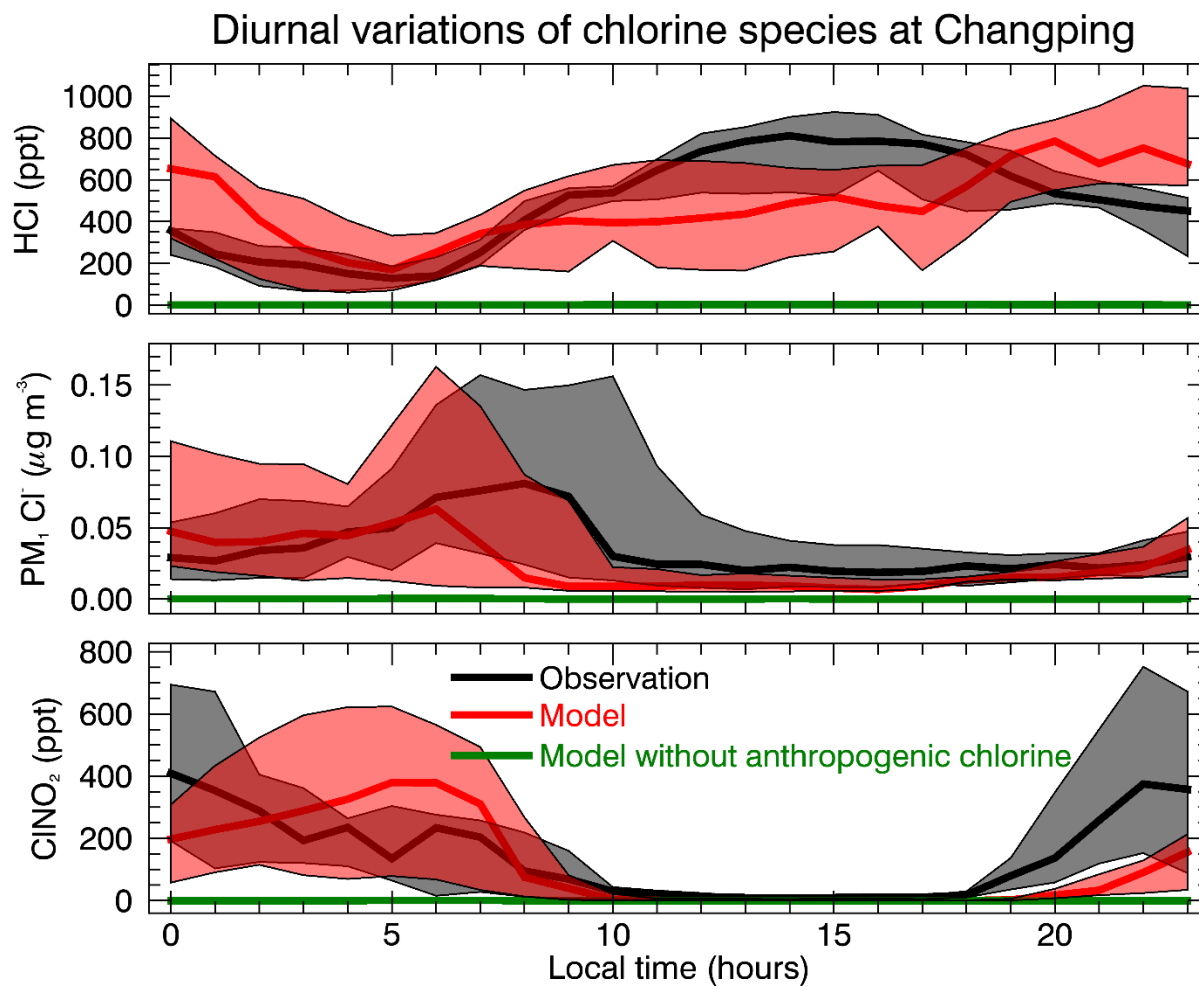
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 543 **Figure 2.** Annual mean concentrations of HCl, PM_{2.5} Cl⁻, and nighttime maximum CINO₂ in
 544 surface air. The left panels show the concentrations in the standard GEOS-Chem simulation, with
 545 superimposed circles showing PM_{2.5} Cl⁻ and CINO₂ observations discussed in the text. The middle
 546 panels show the contributions from Chinese anthropogenic chlorine emissions, as diagnosed by
 547 difference with a simulation shutting off these emissions. The right panel shows the contributions
 548 from anthropogenic non-chlorine emissions driving Cl⁻ displacement from sea-salt aerosol, as
 549 further diagnosed by difference with a simulation shutting off all Chinese anthropogenic
 550 emissions.

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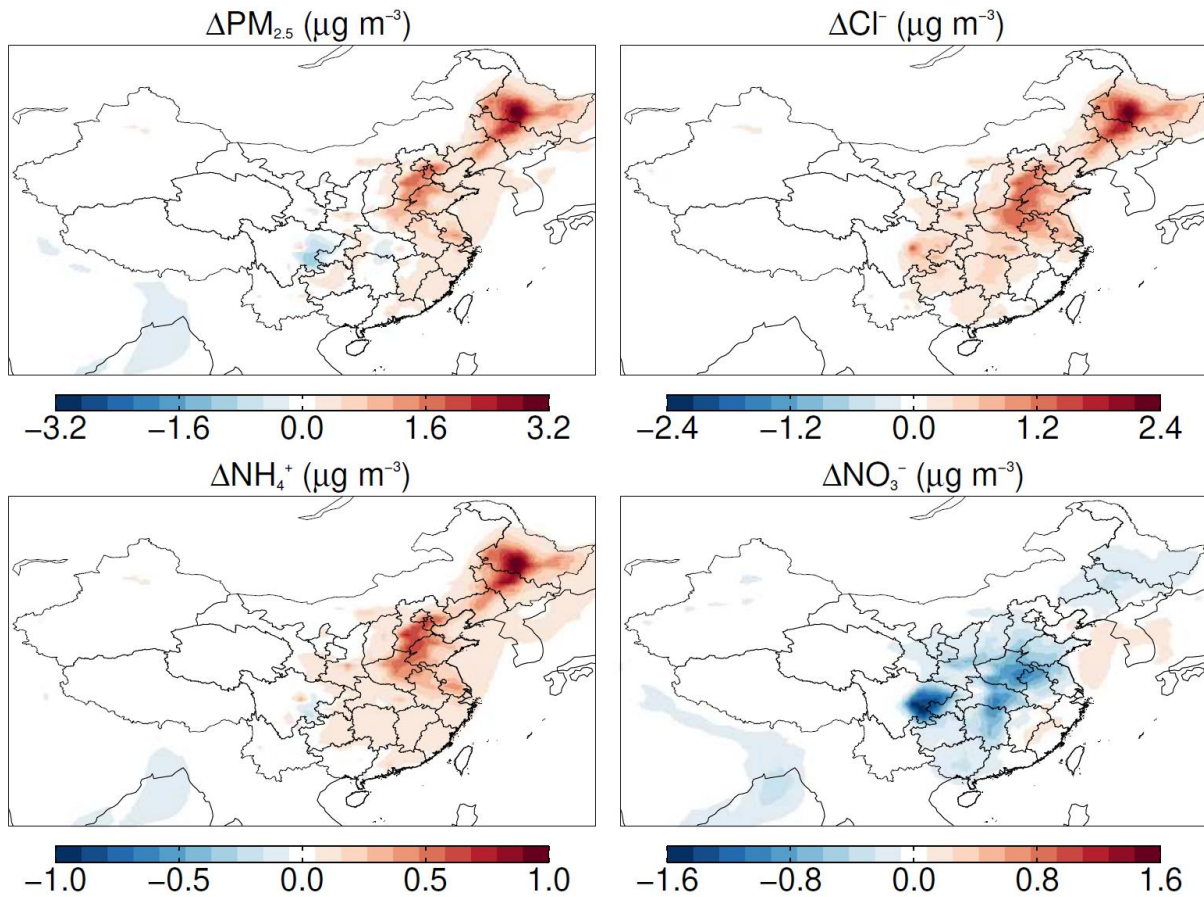
554 **Figure 3.** ClONO₂ mixing ratios measured at 6 sites in China. The maximum (triangle) and mean
 555 nighttime maximum (circle) during the measurement periods are shown. Model values are sampled
 556 for the measurement locations and months. Results from a sensitivity simulation without
 557 anthropogenic chlorine emissions are also shown. Observations are for Changping⁵⁶, Beijing⁵⁰,
 558 Wangdu^{18,17}; Ji'nan⁵⁷, Mountain Tai¹⁵, and Mountain Tai Mo Shan¹³. Site locations are shown in
 559 Figure 2. Two measurements are available at the Wangdu site during the same time period, and
 560 both values are shown here.



561
 562 **Figure 4.** Diurnal variations of HCl, PM₁ Cl⁻, and ClNO₂ concentrations at Changping in May-
 563 June 2016. Model values are compared to observations from Le Breton et al.⁶ Median values are
 564 shown as solid lines and shaded regions span 25th - 75th percentiles.

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Change in $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ from anthropogenic chlorine emissions

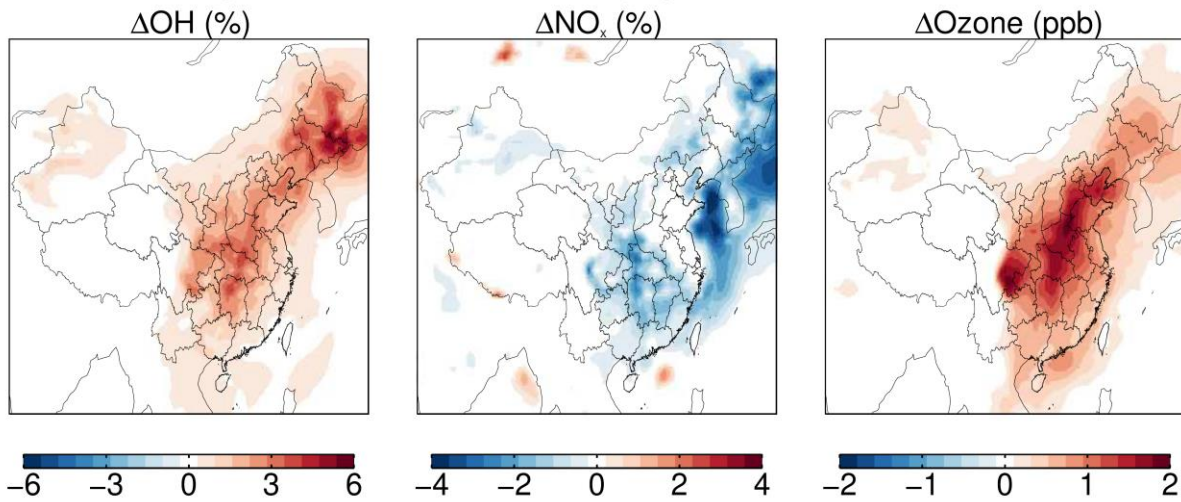


566

567 **Figure 5.** Effect of anthropogenic chlorine emissions on annual mean concentrations of $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ and
568 selected components in surface air in China. Values are obtained by difference between our
569 standard GEOS-Chem simulation and a sensitivity simulation with anthropogenic chlorine
570 emissions shut off. Note difference in scale between panels.

571

Change in oxidants from anthropogenic chlorine emissions



572

573 **Figure 6.** Effect of anthropogenic chlorine emissions on annual mean concentrations of OH, NO_x,
574 and maximum daily 8-hour average (MDA8) ozone in surface air in China. Values are obtained
575 by difference between our standard GEOS-Chem simulation and a sensitivity simulation with
576 anthropogenic chlorine emissions shut off. Note differences in units and scales between panels.