

# POLLUTION ASSESSMENT AND SOURCE APPROXIMATION OF TRACE ELEMENTS IN THE FARMLAND SOIL NEAR THE TRAFFICWAY

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Received 10 June 2019; accepted 18 August 2019

**Abstract.** The traffic related environmental pollution problems have attracted a lot of attention. In this study, contents of eight trace elements along with Fe and Mn in the farmland soil near a trafficway of Suzhou, Anhui province, China have been measured for the pollution assessment and source identification (along with quantification). The results show that iron is the most abundant element, followed by manganese, zinc, chromium, nickel, copper, lead, arsenic, cobalt and cadmium. They have coefficients of variation range between 0.028 and 0.281, indicating that some of them might have multi-sources. The pollution indexes (including single pollution, geo-accumulation and the Nemerow composite indexes) indicate that the soil samples are slightly polluted. Multivariate statistical analyses (including correlation, cluster and factor analyses) have identified three sources (geogenic, traffic and agriculture related) responsible for the elemental concentrations in the soils. Moreover, the EPA Unmix model have calculated their mean contributions to be 33.4%, 33.2% and 33.3%, respectively.

Keywords: soil pollution, trace elements, source approximation, traffic, agriculture.

# Introduction

With the rapid development of China's economy, the transportation industry is becoming more and more important. Under this situation, China's road construction has undergone rapid development during the past decades. "Statistical Bulletin on Transportation Industry Development in 2017, China" reported that China's total trafficway mileage has reached 4.77 million kilometres at the end of 2017 (Ministry of Transport of the People's Republic of China [MOT], 2017).

Along with this situation, a series of environmental problems (e.g. noise, vibration, emission of gas, water, residue and waste) related to traffic have been produced and attracted a lot of attention. And therefore, a large number of studies have been carried out for these environmental problems and most of them focused on the noise and air pollution (Carslaw, 2005; Zechmeister, Hohenwallner, Riss, & Hanus-Illnar, 2005; Mehdi, Kim, Seong, & Arsalan, 2011; De Silva, Ball, Huynh, & Reichman, 2016).

Among these studies, the soil pollution related to the traffic is important for the agriculture areas, because the vehicle exhaust emissions have become an important factor for the increasing of trace elements such as Co, Pb, Cu, Zn and Cd in the atmosphere (Harrison, Tilling, Romero, Harrad, & Jarvis, 2003; Alsbou & Al-Khashman, 2018), and which can increase the trace elemental concentrations in soil on both sides of trafficway (mostly, the Zn, Co, Pb, Cu, Cd and Mn) (Chon, K. W. Kim, & J. Y. Kim, 1995; Chen, J. W. C. Wong, Zhou, & M. H. Wong, 1997; Zupančič, 1999; Linde, Bengtsson, & Öborn, 2001; Guo et al., 2007). Moreover, because most of the trafficways are located crossing the farmland, and the crops grown in these polluted soils will be affected by pollution (Antisari, Orsini, Marchetti, Vianello, & Gianquinto, 2015), which will then influence the human health through food chain (Sun, Zhu, & Zhou, 2018).

Due to their harmful effects for human beings, some of the trace elements, especially the toxic ones (e.g. Hg, Cd, Pb, Zn et al.) (Duruibe, Ogwuegbu, & Egwurugwu, 2007), have long been concerned by scientists, and a large number of studies related to their toxicological characteristics (Ji, Cao, & Li, 2015; Arojojoye, Oyagbemi, & Afolabi, 2018), concentrations, distribution and forms in the environments (M. S. Islam, Ahmed, Raknuzzaman, Habibullah-Al-Mamun, & M. K. Islam, 2015; Tóth, Hermann, Da Silva, & Montanarella, 2016), sources (Huang et al., 2015), migration, enrichment and transformation

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This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. (R. Li, Zhao, Y. Li, Wang, & Zhu, 2015) have long been carried out.

The quality of soil is important for Suzhou because agriculture is one of the major industries for the city. And therefore, a series of studies related to the soil environment have been carried out (Sun, Xie, & Guo, 2014; Sun & Feng, 2019). However, there is no report about the traffic related soil environment. In this study, a total of seventy-five surface soil samples have been collected from the farmland near a representative trafficway (with high density of traffic) in the Suzhou city, Anhui province, China, and the concentrations of eight trace elements (As, Cd, Co, Cr, Cu, Ni, Pb and Zn) along with Fe and Mn have been measured and analysed by statistical methods, the goals of the study include: (1) pollution assessment of the soils by these elements and (2) identification and quantification of the different sources responsible for their concentrations.

## 1. Materials and methods

#### 1.1. Study site

Suzhou is located in the northern Anhui province, China, with longitude between 116° 09' and 118° 10' and latitude between 33° 18' and 34° 38'. The annual rainfall is 774–895 mm with mean temperature 15.7 °C (Semi-humid monsoon climate in warm temperate zone). The city has been called as the China's granary and energy base because agriculture and coal related industries are the most import industries in the city. The main crops in the area include wheat, corn, soybean, cotton, potato, rapeseed, peanuts and fruit etc. And therefore, the quality of soil is important for the development of the area.

During the past ten years, the economy of Suzhou has undergone rapid development, especially the development of transportation because of its important geographical location, including the railways and trafficways. In relation to this high speed of development, there are many kinds of environmental problems have been resulted in: e.g. the air pollution, water pollution and soil pollution, and a series of studies have been processed (Mei, Li, Sun, Gui, & Wang, 2011; Sun, Liu, & Cheng, 2016a).

The Suzhou Avenue is an urban express connecting the urban area and the high railway east station of Suzhou (Figure 1). It's an eight-lane road with two non-motorized lanes, the width is 40 meters, and the average traffic volume is near 10.000 vehicles per day and a peak period of nearly 1.500 vehicles per hour.

#### 1.2. Sampling and analysis

Seventy-five surface soil samples (<10 cm depth) in the farmland near the trafficway have been collected in March 2019, and the detailed sample distributions are shown in Figure 1: there are 15 samples collected near the southern edge of the trafficway (within 1 m from the roadside) in a line with distance near 150 m between the near two samples, and then the samples (15 samples in each line) in another 4 lines parallel to the first line have been collected. The lines between each other are 10 m.

All of the soil samples have been firstly air-dried in room temperature, and then the debris (animals and plants) have been manually removed. After these procedures, all of the samples were parched for 24 h with 80 °C in the dryer and then powdered to be small than 200 meshes (<0.075 mm). Finally, all of the samples (powder) have been compressed to be tablets under the pressure of 30 t.

The concentrations of the elements (including the As, Cd, Co, Cr, Cu, Fe, Mn, Ni, Pb and Zn) have been analysed by the X-ray fluorescence spectrometer (Innov-X Explorer 9000 SDD, USA) along with the National standard sediment sample of China (GSS-16) for calibration in the Key Laboratory of Mine Water Resource Utilization of Anhui Higher Education Institute, Suzhou University, Anhui province, China. Previous studies indicated that the portable XRF instrument gave excellent correlation with the laboratory-based reference AAS method (Radu & Diamond, 2009). The relative standard derivation (RSD) is less than 10% except for Cd (30%), which was quantified by the comparison of the measured and standard concentrations of GSS-16 with the following equation:

$$RSD = (S_M - S_S)/S_S.$$
(1)

After the analyses, the concentrations of elements have been recalculated by:

$$C_{\rm M} = C_{\rm T} \times (S_{\rm S}/S_{\rm M}), \tag{2}$$

where  $C_M$  is the concentration of samples,  $C_T$  is the concentration of samples reported by the instrument,  $S_S$  and



Figure 1. Location of the study area and sample distributions. Circles are the samples

 $S_M$  are the standard and mean measured concentrations of the standard samples (GSS-16), respectively.

# 1.3. Data treatment procedures

All of the data were firstly processed for basic statistical analyses by the Mystat 12 software, and the minimum, maximum, mean, standard deviation, coefficient of variation and the p-value of the normal distribution test have been obtained.

Then, a series of methods, including the single pollution index ( $P_i$ ) (J. Liang, Chen, Song, Han, & Z. Liang, 2011), the geo-accumulation index ( $I_{geo}$ ) (Praveena, Ahmed, Radojevic, Abdullah, & Aris, 2008) and the Nemerow composite index ( $P_s$ ) (Dai, Li, Zhang, Wang, & Yu, 2008) have been chosen for the quality evaluation of the samples. The detailed information for the calculations can be found in the following text.

Finally, correlation, cluster and factor analyses have been applied for getting the qualitative information about the sources of elements. Additionally, the Unmix model created by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was conducted for getting the quantitative information about the sources, which have long been used for environmental studies (Lewis, Norris, Conner, & Henry, 2003; Han, Cao, & Posmentier, 2006; Lang & Yang, 2014; Sun, Peng, & Cheng, 2016b).

The Unmix model is a receptor-oriented model for quantitative analysis of pollutant sources or chemical species. The source types are identified by comparing them to measured profiles, whereas the source contributions are used to determine how much each source contributed to a sample. The basic idea of the model is:

$$C_{\rm M} = \Sigma X_1 \times S_1 + X_2 \times S_2 \dots X_n \times S_n , \qquad (3)$$

where  $C_M$  is the measured concentration of sample,  $S_n$  is

the profile contributed by any types of sources,  $X_n$  is the portion of  $S_n$ , and  $(X_n \times S_n) / \Sigma (X_n \times S_n)$  is the contribution of source n for the  $C_M$ .

# 2. Results and discussion

#### 2.1. Concentrations of trace elements

The analytical results of trace elemental concentrations are shown in Table 1. It can be concluded from the table that the elements in this study have the following decreasing order: Fe > Mn > Zn > Cr > Ni > Cu > Pb > As > Co > Cd, and their mean concentrations are 30026, 433, 52.6, 52.4, 31.5, 30.0, 27.3, 11.4, 11.1 and 0.089 mg/kg, respectively.

As suggested by previous studies, the coefficient of variation (CV) can be used for identifying the types of pollution distribution: a high CV (>0.90) means high extent of spatial variation and indicating high degree of anthropogenic contribution or multi-sources, whereas a low CV (<0.10) means low extent of spatial variation and indicating low degree of anthropogenic contribution or single source (Sarkar, Datta, & Hannigan, 2011). In this study, the Fe, Pb and Zn have low CVs (<0.10), which means that concentrations of these elements vary slightly from area to area and indicating that they have relatively simple and homogeneous sources. Other elements except for Fe, Pb and Zn have medium CVs (0.102–0.281), which indicates that they have moderate degrees of spatial variability, and indirectly suggesting the multi-source of them.

Moreover, the test of normality distribution can also give information about the distribution of the elemental concentrations, because a normal distribution of the elemental concentration is always considered to represent single source. In this study, most of the elements except for Co, Mn and Cu have p-values > 0.05, indicating that they can pass the normal distribution test (p-value > 0.05),

Species	As	Cd	Со	Cr	Cu	Fe	Mn	Ni	Pb	Zn
N of Cases	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75
Minimum	8.18	0.036	7.67	37.2	18.2	24,993	322.047	15.7	25.5	42.1
Maximum	16.6	0.148	12.8	63.6	46.6	33,762	604.044	45.0	28.8	61.5
Mean	11.4	0.089	11.1	52.4	30.0	30,026	433	31.5	27.3	52.6
Standard Deviation	1.93	0.025	1.31	5.32	6.54	2,070	58.5	5.89	0.758	4.24
Coefficient of Variation	0.169	0.281	0.118	0.102	0.218	0.069	0.135	0.187	0.028	0.081
p-value	>0.15	>0.15	< 0.01	>0.15	< 0.01	>0.15	0.025	>0.15	>0.15	>0.15
Mean P <sub>i</sub>	1.02	0.92	0.87	0.86	1.33	1.02	0.74	1.17	1.05	0.71
Highest P <sub>i</sub>	1.48	1.53	1.01	1.04	2.06	1.15	1.04	1.67	1.11	0.83
I <sub>geo</sub>	-0.56	-0.71	-0.78	-0.80	-0.18	-0.55	-1.01	-0.36	-0.51	-1.08
Highest I <sub>geo</sub>	-0.02	0.02	-0.58	-0.52	0.46	-0.39	-0.53	0.16	-0.44	-0.86
Background	11.2	0.097	12.7	61	22.6	29400	583	26.9	26.0	74.2

Table 1. Descriptive statistics of heavy metal concentrations (mg/kg) in the soil samples

Note: the background data are from the CEPA (1990).

and suggesting that the elements except for Co, Mn and Cu might have single source.

#### 2.2. Evaluation of pollutions

As mentioned above, a series of methods have been applied for the evaluation of elemental pollutions. In this study, three of them have been chosen for calculation.

The first one is the single pollution index  $(P_i)$ , which was defined by:

$$P_i = C_M / C_S, \tag{4}$$

where C<sub>M</sub> and C<sub>S</sub> are the concentration of sample and background, respectively. Previous studies revealed that the pollution degrees can be classified to be three according to the threshold values of P<sub>i</sub>: light (<1), moderate (1-3) and significant (>3) (Liang et al., 2011). In this study, the national soil environmental background values of China (A-layer, Chinese Environmental Protection Administration [CEPA], 1990) have been chosen to be the background, and the calculated results of P<sub>i</sub> values are shown in Table 1. As can be seen from the table, the soil samples are moderately polluted by As, Cu, Fe, Ni and Pb with P<sub>i</sub> values of them are higher than 1, whereas others are light because their P<sub>i</sub> values are lower than 1. Moreover, it is noticed that the mean concentrations of Cd, Co, Cr and Mn are lower than the background. However, their highest concentrations are higher than their background values, which suggesting that the concentrations of them vary from area to area.

Another index, the geo-accumulation index ( $I_{geo}$ ) has also been applied for the pollution assessment (Praveena et al., 2008). The calculation of  $I_{geo}$  is as follow:

$$I_{geo} = \log_2(C_M / (1.5 \times C_S)).$$
 (5)

The classification of pollution degrees based on the I<sub>geo</sub> values can be subdivided into five degrees: unpolluted (<0), light (0–1), moderate (1–3), heavy (3–5) and serious (>5). The mean I<sub>geo</sub> values of the samples show "unpolluted" characters for all of the elements (I<sub>geo</sub> < 0), whereas some of the elements (Cd, Cu and Ni) have the highest I<sub>geo</sub> values between 0 and 1, implying that they have suffered light pollution for some of the locations.

Different with the  $P_i$  and  $I_{geo}$ , another index, the Nemerow composite index ( $P_s$ ) considers all of the elements rather than the single ones, the calculation of the  $P_s$  is as follow:

$$P_s = SQRT((P_im^2 + P_ix^2)/2),$$
 (6)

where  $P_im$  and  $P_ix$  are the mean and maximum of  $P_i$  values of all elements, respectively. Based on the  $P_s$  values, the quality of soil can also be classified to be five grades: safety (<0.7), precaution (0.7–1.0), slightly polluted (1–2), moderately polluted (2–3) and seriously polluted (>3) (Dai et al., 2008). In this study, the calculated  $P_s$  values for all of the samples range from 0.93 to 1.66 (mean =

1.21), only four sample has  $0.7 \le P_s < 1.0$ , which means that most of soil samples in this study can be classified to be slightly polluted.

#### 2.3. Separation of pollution sources

The relationships between elements can give information about their sources, because some of the elements with good correlation are always considered to have similar sources (Cobelo-García & Prego, 2004), which can be obtained through correlation analysis. In this study, some of the elements show close positive relationships (correlation coefficients higher than the critical value  $r_a = 0.23$ , a = 0.05, n = 75): e.g. Cd-Cu, Co-Fe and Co-Mn (Table 2). Such results suggest that their concentrations change simultaneously, and indicating that they might have been affected by similar factors or, have similar sources. However, some of the elements have negative correlations, e.g. the As and Cu show negative correlations with almost all of the other elements, implying that they might have different sources.

Cluster analysis comprises of a series of multivariate methods which are used to find true groups of data. In clustering, the objects are grouped such that similar objects fall into the same class. The method has long been used for environmental studies (Chen et al., 1997, 2005). In this study, the hierarchical R-mode cluster analysis has been applied to the data, and the "Ward" linkage and the "Pearson" distance have been chosen for calculation, and the results are shown in Figure 2 as a dendrogram. As can be seen from the figure, two main groups can be identified: As-Cu-Cd-Ni (Group 1) and Cr-Co-Fe-Mn-Pb-Zn (Group 2), which indicate that the elements in the similar group might have similar sources.



Figure 2. Dendrogram of R-mode cluster analysis

Factor analysis is a commonly used statistical method to classify, simplify and identify the most important variables in data sets through dimensionality reduction. During geochemical studies, factor analysis has long been used for tracing elemental sources (Lin, Teng, & Chang, 2002; Grande, Borrego, & Morales, 2010). In this study, based on the criteria of initial eigenvalue (>1, Kaiser criterion) (Maiz, Arambarri, Garcia, & Millan, 2000), three factors were obtained with total variance explanation of 69.8% (Table 3): the first one with strong positive loadings (>0.75) of Co, Fe and Pb and moderate positive loadings (0.50–0.75) of Zn, Mn and Cr, and it has 33.8% of the total

	As	Cd	Со	Cr	Cu	Fe	Mn	Ni	Pb
Cd	-0.090								
Со	-0.155	0.162							
Cr	-0.227	0.116	0.421						
Cu	0.085	0.654	0.051	0.120					
Fe	-0.221	-0.280	0.688	0.583	-0.234				
Mn	-0.059	-0.067	0.542	0.373	-0.155	0.644			
Ni	-0.202	0.573	0.260	0.372	0.274	0.207	0.168		
Pb	-0.045	-0.224	0.462	0.252	-0.044	0.540	0.466	-0.060	
Zn	-0.174	0.209	0.606	0.362	0.205	0.523	0.360	0.269	0.512

Table 2. Results of correlation analysis (n = 75, a = 0.05,  $r_a = 0.227$ ). Bold ones are those higher than the critical value

variance explanation. The second one is characterized by strong positive loadings of Cd and Cu, and moderate positive loading of Ni, and it has 21.7% of the total variance explanation. Moreover, the third factor has 14.3% of the total variance explanation and has moderate positive loading of Ni and significant negative loading of As.

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Previous studies revealed that four sources are responsible for the heavy metals (including arsenic) in the farmland soil, including the natural/geogenic processes (weathering of soil parental materials), the dustfall (mainly related to the coal combustion and traffic), agriculture (related to application of fertilizers and pesticides, and sewage irrigation) and mining activities (Huamain, Chunrong, Cong, & Yongguan, 1999; Wang, 2019). In consideration with the natural condition of the study area, three sources can be considered to be responsible for the soil elements in this study: the geogenic source related to the formation of the soil (weathering), the agricultural activities (application of fertilizers and pesticides) and traffic related activities (vehicle exhaust emissions, releasing from the lubricant and wearing of tyres). Although Suzhou is a coal producing area, the coal combustion and coal related industry (coal chemical industry and coal electricity) is limited, and the sampling site is far away from the coal power plant, and therefore, the contribution of coal-related pollution to soil in this study may be limited.

Based on this consideration, the first factor can be explained to be the geogenic source, because the most abundant element Fe has the highest positive loadings in this factor relative to other two factors. Although some other sources can affect the Fe concentration in the soil, it is hard to exceed the background value (29400 mg/kg) except for the existence of iron ore.

Previous studies revealed that the application of superphosphate can increase the concentrations of Cd, As and Pb in the soil (Wang, Li, Hao, & Zhang, 2010), whereas the long-term use of pesticides can increase the Cu concentration in the soil (Wang, 2019). Therefore, the second factor can be explained to be the agricultural source because Cd and Cu have high positive loadings, and the loading of As is positive in this factor relative to other two factors.

# Table 3. Results of factor analysis

	Factor 1	Factor 2	Factor 3
As	-0.039	0.062	-0.802
Cd	-0.081	0.913	0.163
Со	0.807	0.167	0.159
Cr	0.534	0.164	0.481
Cu	-0.005	0.856	-0.198
Fe	0.840	-0.243	0.321
Mn	0.740	-0.122	0.122
Ni	0.164	0.592	0.543
РЬ	0.780	-0.147	-0.215
Zn	0.741	0.314	0.047
Eigen value	3.38	2.17	1.43
Variance explained	33.8%	21.7%	14.3%

As to the third factor, only Ni has moderate loading and then followed by Cr. This factor might be explained to be the natural source (e.g. weathering of parental materials, especially the dark minerals, such as biotite), because most of the studies demonstrated that both Cr and Ni in soil are natural origin (Zheng et al., 2003; Huang, Xu, & Zhang, 2007).

Moreover, previous studies revealed that Zn is one of the most abundant heavy metals released by wearing of tire and releasing from the lubricant, because Zn and Co are additives for tire manufacturing. Although Pb cannot be released by gasoline combustion with the use of unleaded gasoline, the previously accumulated Pb is still existed in the soil near the trafficway because of its immobility (Shao, Xiao, Wu, & Tang, 2012). And therefore, the high loadings of Zn, Co and Pb in the first factor might be an indication that the first factor is also related to traffic and they might be adsorbed by the Fe and Mn oxides or hydroxides.

# 2.4. Quantification of source contributions

After the calculation of Unmix model, three sources responsible for the trace elemental concentrations in the soil samples have been identified (Table 4 and Figure 3) with Min Rsq = 0.99 and Min Sig/Noise = 2.45, higher than the criterion of the model (Min Rsq > 0.8 and Min Sig/Noise > 2), indicating that the analysis is efficient (Ai, Wang, & Yang, 2014). Moreover, the correlations between the measured and predicted values are significant at a = 0.05 lever (range between 0.545 and 0.963, higher than  $r_a = 0.227$  with n = 75). Detailed information about each source are as follows:

The first source is characterized by highest As proportion (48.2%) with moderate Cu (48.0%), Cd (35.3%) and Ni (23.2%) relative to other sources, and this source can be explained to be the agricultural source, because As, Cu, and Cd are always used for fertilizers and pesticides.

The third factor is characterized by highest proportions of most of the elements, including the Cd (64.7%), Co (38.8%), Cr (38.9%), Cu (48.3%), Ni (56.8%) and Zn (37.8%), and moderate Fe (34.3%), Mn (34.9%) and Pb (33.7%) relative to other sources, and therefore, this source can be explained to be the geogenic source, because the soil itself is considered to be the main contributor for the elemental concentrations in it under the condition of no or light anthropogenic contributions, which has been demonstrated by the pollution assessment therein.

Comparatively, the second source is characterized by highest Fe (39.0%), Mn (41.1%) and Pb (34.8%) proportions and moderate As (33.1%), Co (35.4%), Cr (34.2%) and Zn (32.7%) proportions relative to other sources. In consideration that the first and third sources are related to agriculture and geological condition, respectively, this source is therefore defined to be the traffic related source, which can also be supported by the medium proportions of Co and Zn, the two elements always related to traffic (wearing of tire) (Shao et al., 2012).

The contributions of the three sources are shown in Figure 3. As can be seen from the figure, the contributions of the source 1 (agriculture related) range from 2.73% to 79.8% (mean is 33.2%) for all of the samples, and the

contributions of the source 2 (traffic related) is from 6.78% to 63.8% (mean is 33.3%). Comparatively, the source 3 has



Figure 3. Variations of source contributions (%) for each sample



Figure 4. Spatial distributions of source contributions (%)

Species	Source 1	Source 2	Source 3	Total	Proportion 1	Proportion 2	Proportion 3
As	5.51	3.78	2.14	11.4	48.2%	33.1%	18.7%
Cd	0.035	0.000	0.063	0.098	35.3%	0%	64.7%
Со	2.86	3.93	4.31	11.1	25.8%	35.4%	38.8%
Cr	14.1	17.9	20.4	52.4	26.9%	34.2%	38.9%
Cu	14.4	1.13	14.5	30.0	48.0%	3.80%	48.3%
Fe	8000	11 700	10 300	30 000	26.7%	39.0%	34.3%
Mn	104	178	151	433	24.0%	41.1%	34.9%
Ni	7.32	6.30	17.9	31.5	23.2%	20.0%	56.8%
Pb	8.60	9.47	9.18	27.3	31.6%	34.8%	33.7%
Zn	15.5	17.2	19.9	52.6	29.5%	32.7%	37.8%

Table 4. Source profiles (mg/kg) and proportions

contributions range from 4.55% to 71.9% (mean = 33.4%). In a word, each source has 1/3 contribution.

The spatial distributions of source contributions in Figure 4 can be identified that the areas with high contributions from the sources 2 are located in a line from the east to west, which is consistent with the direction of the trafficway and further supporting that the source 2 is a traffic related source. Comparatively, there is no significant law of the distributions of the source 1 and 3 contributions, which suggesting that the contributions of these two sources are inhomogeneous from area to area.

#### Conclusions

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The following conclusions have been obtained:

(1) The elemental concentrations are Fe > Mn > Zn > Cr > Ni > Cu > Pb > As > Co > Cd. They have low-medium coefficients of variation (0.028–0.281).

(2) The single pollution, geo-accumulation and the Nemerow composite indexes suggest that the soils in this study are slightly polluted.

(3) Statistical analyses indicate that three sources are responsible for the soil elemental concentrations, the geogenic, agricultural and traffic related sources, and their mean contributions calculated by the Unmix model are 33.4%, 33.2% and 33.3%, respectively.

# Acknowledgements

Thanks very much to Han Sun, Zixiang Zhao, Yu Li and Xiaojun Gao for their help in sampling and analyses of metal concentrations. This work was financially supported by the Academic Funding for Top-talents in Disciplines of Universities in Anhui Province (gxbjZD48).

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