

## Source apportionment of respirable particulate matter using principal component analysis – a case study from India

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**Abstract:** Principal Component based factor analysis (FA) is used to identify the sources of PM<sub>10</sub> and to select source emission tracers by grouping the selected variables according to the common variations in order to adopt some control strategies. The development of air pollution control strategies is a wide preoccupation for human health. In order to achieve this purpose air pollution sources have to be accurately identified and quantified. Ambient air quality monitoring with particular reference to PM<sub>10</sub> was carried over a period of one year in industrial and mining area of Angul –Talcher region. The identification of source profiles for Angul –Talcher industrial area is achieved by a Principal Component based factor analysis (FA) using SPSS followed by a Varimax rotation technique. The higher particulate pollution in this area may be attributed to industrial activities, automobile traffic, re suspension of road dust, soil dust, and smelter. The results from this statistical method have enabled us to characterize and apportion fine particulate matter emissions on the basis of dependence of the factors on the elements.

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### 1. Introduction

In India, major sources of urban air pollution include coal combustion, oil refineries and industrial manufacturing facilities (Murray et al., 2001). However, automobile exhaust, emission from small-scale workshop and soil derived aerosols are considered as other important contributing sources (Dubey and Pervez, 2008). In an industrial society that pollutes its air, a reliable and accurate pollution source apportionment model would allow regulating agencies to know which sources are contributing to the airshed and in what amounts. Therefore, it is essential to delineate the contributing airborne particulate sources in view of environmental quality management and human health perspectives. Also the application of effective abatement strategies to reduce particulate matter (PM) levels is only possible when the emission sources have been uniquely identified and characterized (Viana et al., 2006). Since air pollution has been linked to mortality (Dockery et al., 1993), knowledge of what is contributing to the problem is important. Several reports revealed significant correlations between PM levels and increased respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, and mortality (Pope et al., 2002). Exposure to fine particulate matter has been implicated as a contributor to adverse human health effects including increases in cardiovascular and pulmonary disease, which leads to elevated human mortality and

morbidity (Pope, 2000; Schwartz *et al.*, 1996; United State Environmental Protection Agency [USEPA], 2002). Many studies on source apportionment of particulates have been conducted abroad (Chow et al., 1999; Watson et al., 1994), as well as in India (Sharma and Singh, 1992; Sharma and Patil, 1994; Chowdhury, 2004). A complementary approach is to examine associations between health outcomes and sources contributing to ambient PM<sub>2.5</sub> (Laden et al., 2000; Manchester-Neesvig et al., 2003; Mar et al., 2000; Tsai et al., 2000).

There are several types of multivariate receptor models used in the source apportionment studies (Henry et al., 1984). Over the last two decades, multivariate analysis has been widely used to identify sources of ambient particles. In this study to identify and estimate the possible sources of coarse and fine size particles, PCA was applied (Srivastava et al., 2008). Principle Component Analysis (PCA) has been used generally as an exploratory tool to identify the major sources of aerosol emissions and to statistically select independent source tracers. The main objective of PCA is to reduce a large number of variables to a smaller set of factors that retain most of the information in the original data set (Hopke, 1985; Marcazzan et al., 2003) and this property of multivariate PCA method has also been explained by Karar et al., (2007). In PCA a set multiple inter correlated variables is replaced by a small number of

independent variables by orthogonal transformations (Salvador et al., 2003). Thus, the objective of this research paper is to present an argument for using corroborative information to augment and support results of factor analysis associating pollution sources.

## 2. Material and Methods

### 2.1 Sampling site

Angul-Talcher area lies between  $20^{\circ} 37'$  to  $21^{\circ} 10'$  N latitudes and  $84^{\circ} 53'$  to  $85^{\circ} 28'E$  longitudes. This area is one of the major industrial zones in the state of Orissa and is fast emerging as a big source of coal and thermal power in the country. The area is recognized as one of the 24 problem areas identified by Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi in respect of industrial pollution hazard. The study area includes Angul, Banarpal, Talcher and Kaniha blocks of Angul and Talcher subdivisions of Angul district. There is a heavy transportation flux in the study area. NH-42 and NH-23 passes through this region and are also well connected with kuttcha and pucca roads. A map of the study area and its sampling locations are given in Figure1 and Figure 2 respectively.

Coal reserves in Ib valley and Talcher area are the major factors for setting up of thermal power plants in this area. There are many captive power plants established with major industries to meet the industrial power requirements. The lists of thermal power plants are:

- i. Talcher Thermal Power Station, Talcher
- ii. Captive Power Plant, NALCO
- iii. NALCO Smelter Plant
- iv. Talcher Super Thermal Power Plant, Kaniha

Besides these, there are few medium and small scale industries operating in the industrial estate of the Angul-Talcher area.

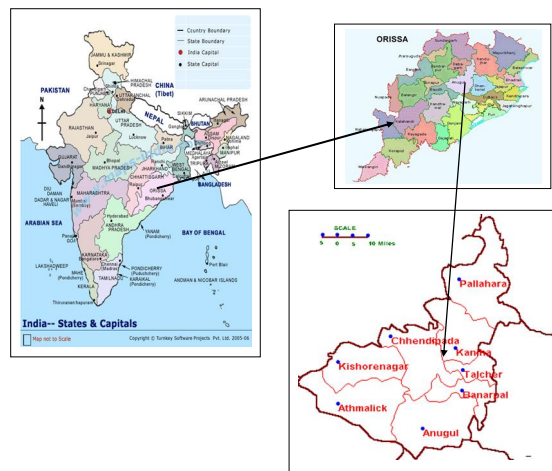


Figure 1. Location map of the study area

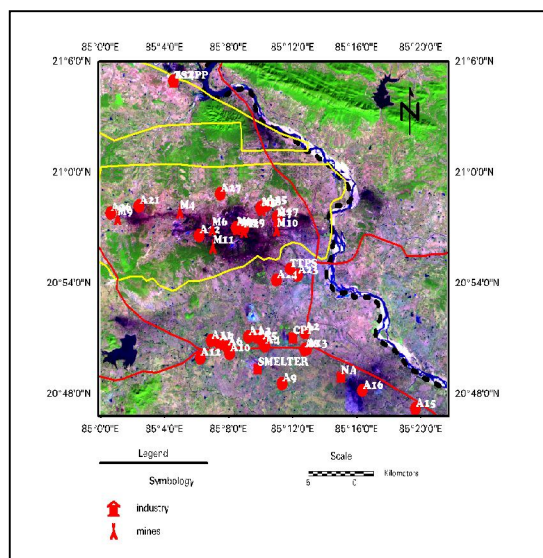


Figure 2. Sampling points of the study area

A1-NALCO Township	A10- Angul Township	A19- Ananta OCP
A2- Gotamara Village	A11-Vikashnagar, Angul	A20- Jagannath OCP
A3-NALCO Commercial area	A12- RSPCB Office, Angul	A21- Gopal Prasad Village
A4- Kuladh Village	A13- Banarpal Junction	A22- Donara Village
A5- Girang Village	A14-TSTPP(Kaniha) main gate	A23-TTPS (Talcher) Resid area
A6- Kandasar Village	A15- Meramundali Village	A24- Sharma Chawk, Talcher
A7- Turang Village	A16- Shivpur Village	A25- Dera Chawk
A8- Bonda Village	A17-LingarajOCP-New Balanda	A26- Ananta Guest House
A9-Tulsipal Village	A18-Bhubaneshwari Mines	A27- Rakash Village

### 2.2 Sampling and Analysis

PM<sub>10</sub> measurement was carried out at 27 locations in Angul –Talcher area in Orissa .24 hour filter samples of PM<sub>10</sub> were collected using an EPM

2000 filter paper in Respirable Dust Sampler. After sampling, each filter containing particulate matter was cut into two halves; one was digested in 4:1 (v/v) HNO<sub>3</sub>/HClO<sub>4</sub> mixture (NIOSH, 1984). The

components and elements analyzed were selected to provide as much information as possible for source identification. Based on the chemical analysis and trace elements identified from the GBC Avanta Beam Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer coupled with Graphite furnace, hydride generator and computer data station, factor analysis was performed to detect and quantify various source contributions. Principal component analysis was used in the present study.

SPSS software extracted factors with eigen values greater or equal to 1 as a principle component or factor (Ho et al., 2006; Gupta et al., 2007) is used for estimating the sources contributing to the pollution load. Factor analysis proceeds in following 3 steps:

- (1) Correlation matrix for all the variables are computed
- (2) Factor extraction and
- (3) Factor rotation between the original values and the extracted factors.

To maximise the source identification power of factor analysis, variables were selected with precise source information. The variables used in the factor analysis were Pb, Cu, Zn, Fe, Ni, Mn, Al and Fl. In PCA a set multiple inter correlated variables is replaced by a small number of independent variables by orthogonal transformations (Salvador et al., 2003). Principal Components (PCs) are linear combinations of the original variables and are attained in such a way that the first PC explains the largest fraction of the original data variability. The second PC explains a lesser fraction of the data variance than the first PC and so forth (Abdul-Wahab et al., 2005; Sousa et al., 2007; Wang and Xiao, 2004). This is achieved by diagonalising the correlation matrix of the variables through the computation of eigen values and eigen vectors. Each factor explains the maximum total variability of the data set and this set is completely uncorrelated with the rest of the data. The factor loadings obtained after the Varimax rotation gives the correlation between the variables and factor as shown in Tables 1 and 2. Thus the chemical elements with higher loading in each factor are interpreted as fingerprints of emission source that it represents.

The Factor Analysis (FA) model used in this study is expressed as a bilinear model:

$$C_{it} = \sum L_{ij} \times S_{jt} + E_{it}$$

Where,  $C_{it}$  is the normalized value of concentration of  $i^{\text{th}}$  species for  $t^{\text{th}}$  samples,  $N$  is the total number of sources,  $S_{jt}$  is the factor score of the  $j^{\text{th}}$  common factor for the  $t^{\text{th}}$  sample,  $L_{ij}$  is the factor loading of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  species of the  $j^{\text{th}}$  source and  $E_{it}$  is the residual of  $i^{\text{th}}$  species in the  $j^{\text{th}}$  sample not accounted by the  $j$  sources or factors (Negi et al., 1998, Kumar et al., 2001).]

### 3. Results and Discussion

To assist in the interpretation of the results a Varimax rotation technique (Sharma, 1996) was used. The Varimax rotational technique is a useful method to find simply underlying components and identify attributed contributions for highly correlated variables on environmental problems (Rachdawong, 1998; Carlon, 2001; Jaung et al., 1996; Baek et al., 1997; Yu and Chang, 1999). PCA with Varimax normalized rotation on the dataset of selected metals and particulate matter is performed for the source identification. Table 2 presents the PC loadings with Eigen values  $>1$ , embodying and explaining more than 70.36% of total variance.

The first factor of PCA results of  $PM_{10}$  showed higher loadings for Mn and Cu at 22.12% of variance. The industry factor was characterized by high concentrations of Mn and Cu. Non-ferrous and steel-processing factors have source profiles including the trace metals Cu and Mn (Lee et al., 2006). It represents the contribution of these metal particulates emitted from different industries and other anthropogenic sources.

Factor 2 explained 39.91% of the variance with high loadings of RPM, Fe and Al. The main source of this factor is road dust because both high factor loadings in the PCA results and high composition were found for crustal elements, e.g., Respirable particulate matter (RPM), Al and Fe (Watson and Chow, 2001; Almeida et al., 2005). It is important to note that the metals generated from various sources also become part of crustal dust over time (Khemani et al., 1985; Balachandran et al., 2000; Anju and Banerjee, 2003; Monkkonen et al., 2004; Khillare et al., 2004). The condition is reversed in the case of fine particulate source apportionment. The negative loading of Zinc represents the different source than that of RPM, Al and Fe. Zn is emitted from lubricant oil, brake linings, and tires (Zhou et al., 2004, Lough et al., 2005; Lee and Hopke, 2006; Chellam et al., 2005, Polissar et al., 1998). Zn originates from the interaction of road-tyre (Ho et al. 2006) too. So, Zn has been used as the fingerprint of mobile vehicle emission sources (Li et al., 2004). In two-stroke engines, because fuel and lubricant are mixed and burnt together in the piston chambers, Zn is emitted in higher quantities from two-stroke engines (Begum et al., 2005).

The third factor with high loadings of fluoride particulate (FP) and fluoride gaseous (FG) and Zn explains 56.59 % of the variance. Zn is used in the non-ferrous industries like Smelter (Ho et al., 2006) and fluoride particulate and fluoride gaseous is released from the smelter. It is used in the form of Gallium in non-ferrous metallurgical units of smelter processing plants.

Factor 4 containing high values for Pb and Ni can be labeled as vehicular emission (Handt et al., 2008). The source identification of this study is in agreement with the majority of the reported data on this subject (Ragosta et al., 2001; Khillare et al., 2004; Manoli et al., 2002; Statheropoulos et al., 1998) and shows that the major anthropogenic contribution of

toxic metals in the airborne particulate matter comes from traffic emissions/oil combustion along with industrial emissions as recently proposed by different workers in various parts of world (Manoli et al., 2002; Statheropoulos et al., 1998; Biblos et al., 2001; Sharma et al., 1992).

Table 1. Correlation Matrix of particulates and trace elements with five factor components

	RPM	Pb	Cu	Fe	Zn	Ni	Mn	Al	F(P) <sup>1</sup>	F(G) <sup>2</sup>
RPM	1.00									
Pb	-0.26	1.00								
Cu	-0.08	-0.10	1.00							
Fe	<b>0.40</b>	-0.18	-0.04	1.00						
Zn	-0.09	-0.03	0.07	-0.24	1.00					
Ni	-0.12	<b>0.43</b>	0.31	0.04	0.03	1.00				
Mn	0.25	-0.05	<b>0.57</b>	0.34	-0.01	0.04	1.00			
Al	<b>0.41</b>	-0.32	-0.08	0.02	-0.19	-0.29	-0.31	1.00		
F(P)	-0.25	0.30	-0.35	0.21	<b>0.46</b>	-0.25	-0.23	0.21	1.00	
F(G)	-0.24	0.27	-0.36	0.24	<b>0.49</b>	-0.25	-0.22	0.24	<b>0.98</b>	1.00

Bold values are significant at 0.01% significant level

<sup>1</sup> F (P) - Fluoride Particulate

<sup>2</sup> F (G) - Fluoride Gaseous

Table 2. Loadings rotated by Varimax

	PC 1	PC 2	PC 3	PC 4
RPM	0.109	<b>0.675</b>	0.034	-0.084
Pb	-0.175	0.060	0.084	<b>0.922</b>
Cu	<b>0.545</b>	0.099	0.097	-0.008
Fe	0.331	<b>0.602</b>	-0.127	-0.177
Zn	-0.062	<b>-0.804</b>	<b>0.892</b>	-0.055
Ni	-0.128	-0.105	-0.435	<b>0.646</b>
Mn	<b>0.953</b>	0.053	0.0009	-0.019
Al	-0.028	<b>0.587</b>	0.161	-0.252
F(P)	-0.248	0.386	<b>0.580</b>	0.273
F(G)	-0.256	-0.064	<b>0.595</b>	0.248
Eigen value	2.434	1.847	1.834	1.516
%Variance	22.123	17.795	16.674	13.777
%Cumulative variance	22.123	39.918	56.592	70.369

High loadings are shown in bold

Extraction method: principal component analysis. Rotation method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.

#### 4. Conclusions

Thus, the present study brings out the clear difference between the levels of trace metals in local atmosphere. The most dominant metals in local atmosphere are Mn, Cu, Zn Al, F1 and Fe. Of the remaining fractions Pb and Ni emerges as minor contributors. The relatively higher levels of selected trace metals in Angul-Talcher area are indicative of the fact that the local atmosphere is undergoing some remarkable anthropogenic translocations. Source apportionment study through PCA and CA enabled to

identify five sources of trace metals and particulate fractions in the local atmosphere, industrial activities, automobile emission, metallurgical operations and soil derived dust. PM<sub>10</sub> derived from power generation is the main contributor. The comparison study presents an alarming situation of airborne trace metals and it is high time to evolve an air pollution abatement strategy to ward off people against the hazardous effects arising from elevated trace metal levels.

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