Final_Project_Yifei_Zhang

https:

//github.com/yz470/Final-project-for-Environmental-Data-Analytics.git $Yifei\ Zhang$

Abstract

This project aims at answering the following research questions: 1. Is there a trend in PM2.5 concentrations in Shanghai from 2012 to 2017? 2. What is the spatial pattern of PM2.5 concentration in Beijing, Chengdu, Guangzhou, Shanghai, and Shenyang in 2017? The U.S. Department of State Air Quality Dataset is used to answer the research questions. Results show that from 2012 to 2017, there existed a decreasing trend in PM2.5 concentrations in Shanghai. In addition, pronounced seasonal variation is observed in PM2.5 concentrations in Shanghai, with the highest concentrations typically observed in the winter and the lowest concentrations generally found in the summer. Among the 5 cities, Beijing and Chengdu showed highest average PM2.5 concentration in 2017, with the AQI level reaching 158.

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1 Research Question and Rationale

Air pollution is a severe problem in China. It is often the smoggy air that occurs to many people when it comes to Beijing, the capital of China. Among the air pollutants, of particular concern is PM2.5 (particles with an aerodynamic diameter less than 2.5 um). Exposure to high concentrations of PM2.5 results in risks to the cardiovascular system, cerebrovascular system and an increase in the probability of cancer and premature death. In recent years, China's government has taken serious action against air pollution, but there is still a long way to go.

Given the increasing public concern in air quality and the efforts of Chinese government to fight air pollution, I am interested in the actual outcomes: whether or not there is a decreasing trend in air quality over the years. In particular, I want to examine the PM2.5 trend in Shanghai because it is the largest city in China by population, and it is also where I come from. I will use the The U.S. Department of State air quality files, which contain the hourly PM2.5 concentrations in 5 cities in China from 2011 to 2017. With this dataset, my second research question is to look at the spatial pattern of PM2.5 concentrations in these 5 cities.

Goals:

- Use Mann-Kendall test to analyze trends in PM2.5 concentrations in Shanghai from 2012 to 2017
- Run a Pettitt's Test to check if there are changing points
- Check for seasonality in PM2.5 concentrations.
- Use Seasonal Mann-Kendall test if there is seasonality
- Look at which city has the highest average PM2.5 concentration.

2 Dataset Information

The U.S. Department of State air quality files contain hourly PM2.5 or data in concentration units from each post, as reported on the www.stateair.net website. Files include hourly data with the following file name structure: Site_Year_DurationParameter.csv. Filename examples: Beijing_2013_HourlyPM2.5.csv

All files contain the following column headers: Site, Parameter, Date (LST), Year, Month, Day, Hour, Value, Unit, Duration, QC Name. Definitions and examples of column headers can be found in the table below.

The air quality data are measured at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing and at the Consulates in Chengdu, Guangzhou, Shanghai, and Shenyang.

Table 1: Data Structure and definition

Term	Definitions	Examples
Site	City or post where the measurements were taken.	Beijing,
		Shenyang
Parameter	The air quality pollutant measured.	PM2.5,
		O3
Date	The date and hour of the measurement in local	2013-05-
	standard time (e.g., BJT – Beijing Time). The date-	01
	time format follows YYYY-MM-DD HH:mm, where	00:00
	00:00 is midnight, 14:00 is 2:00 p.m., etc.	
Year	4 digit year that corresponds to YYYY in Date	2013
Month	1 or 2 digit month (1 to 12) that corresponds to MM in	5, 12
	Date	
Day	1 or 2 digit day (1 to 31) that corresponds to DD in	1, 31
	Date	
Hour	1 or 2 digit hour (0 to 23) that corresponds to HH in	0, 18
	Date	
Value	The measurement in concentration. Missing values are	45, 450,
	listed as -999.	-999
Unit	(ug/m3) for PM2.5	ug/m3
Duration	1-hour (1 Hr) for PM2.5	1 Hr
QC Name	The quality control status of the data; either valid or	Valid,
	missing (unavailable). Invalid data are not included in	Missing
	these files.	

Table 2: Embassy and Consulate geographic coordinates.

Site location	Latitude and Longitude Degrees
Beijing	39.95, 116.47
Chengdu	30.63, 104.07
Guangzhou	23.12, 113.32
Shanghai	31.21, 121.44
Shenyang	41.78, 123.42

3 Exploratory Data Analysis and Wrangling

```
#Look at the general structure of the data, number of observations, maximum and minimu
colnames (shanghai 2017)
    [1] "Site"
                                                                "Month"
##
                      "Parameter"
                                    "Date..LST." "Year"
   [6] "Day"
                      "Hour"
                                                                "Duration"
##
                                    "Value"
                                                  "Unit"
## [11] "QC.Name"
dim(shanghai_2017)
## [1] 4344
              11
head(shanghai_2017)
##
         Site Parameter
                            Date..LST. Year Month Day Hour Value Unit
## 1 Shanghai
                   PM2.5 1/1/2017 0:00 2017
                                                  1
                                                      1
                                                                 42 μg/m<sup>3</sup>
## 2 Shanghai
                   PM2.5 1/1/2017 1:00 2017
                                                      1
                                                  1
                                                           1
                                                                 46 μg/m<sup>3</sup>
## 3 Shanghai
                   PM2.5 1/1/2017 2:00 2017
                                                  1
                                                      1
                                                           2
                                                                 56 μg/m<sup>3</sup>
## 4 Shanghai
                   PM2.5 1/1/2017 3:00 2017
                                                           3
                                                                 49 \mu g/m^3
                                                  1
                                                    1
## 5 Shanghai
                   PM2.5 1/1/2017 4:00 2017
                                                  1
                                                      1
                                                           4
                                                                 51 μg/m<sup>3</sup>
## 6 Shanghai
                   PM2.5 1/1/2017 5:00 2017
                                                      1
                                                           5
                                                                 49 \mu g/m^3
     Duration QC.Name
##
## 1
         1 Hr
                Valid
## 2
         1 Hr
                 Valid
## 3
         1 Hr
                Valid
## 4
         1 Hr
                Valid
## 5
         1 Hr
                 Valid
## 6
         1 Hr
                 Valid
str(shanghai_2017)
                     4344 obs. of 11 variables:
## 'data.frame':
## $ Site
                 : Factor w/ 1 level "Shanghai": 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 ...
## $ Parameter : Factor w/ 1 level "PM2.5": 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 ...
## $ Date..LST.: Factor w/ 4343 levels "1/1/2017 0:00",...: 1 2 13 18 19 20 21 22 23 24
                 : int 2017\ 2017\ 2017\ 2017\ 2017\ 2017\ 2017\ 2017\ 2017\ 2017\ \dots
## $ Year
## $ Month
                 : int 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 ...
## $ Day
                 : int
                        1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 . . .
## $ Hour
                 : int 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 ...
## $ Value
                 : int 42 46 56 49 51 49 43 47 52 45 ...
                 : Factor w/ 1 level "µg/m³": 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 ...
## $ Unit
## $ Duration : Factor w/ 1 level "1 Hr": 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 ...
    $ QC.Name : Factor w/ 2 levels "Missing", "Valid": 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 ...
summary(shanghai 2017)
```

```
##
          Site
                    Parameter
                                           Date..LST.
                                                              Year
    Shanghai:4344
                    PM2.5:4344
                                  3/12/2017 3:00:
                                                         Min.
                                                                :2017
##
##
                                  1/1/2017 0:00 :
                                                     1
                                                         1st Qu.:2017
##
                                  1/1/2017 1:00 :
                                                     1
                                                         Median:2017
##
                                  1/1/2017 10:00:
                                                         Mean
                                                                :2017
                                                     1
##
                                                         3rd Qu.:2017
                                  1/1/2017 11:00:
                                                     1
##
                                  1/1/2017 12:00:
                                                     1
                                                         Max.
                                                                :2017
##
                                  (Other)
                                                 :4337
##
        Month
                          Day
                                         Hour
                                                         Value
##
   Min.
           :1.000
                    Min. : 1.0
                                    Min. : 0.00
                                                     Min.
                                                            :-999.00
    1st Qu.:2.000
                    1st Qu.: 8.0
                                    1st Qu.: 5.75
                                                     1st Qu.: 24.00
    Median :4.000
                    Median:16.0
                                    Median :11.50
##
                                                     Median: 39.00
           :3.508
                           :15.6
                                           :11.50
                                                               27.87
##
    Mean
                    Mean
                                    Mean
                                                     Mean
##
    3rd Qu.:5.000
                    3rd Qu.:23.0
                                    3rd Qu.:17.25
                                                     3rd Qu.: 59.00
##
    Max.
           :6.000
                    Max.
                            :31.0
                                    Max.
                                            :23.00
                                                     Max.
                                                            : 188.00
##
##
       Unit
                 Duration
                                 QC.Name
    \mu g/m^3:4344
##
                 1 Hr:4344
                              Missing: 73
##
                              Valid :4271
##
##
##
##
##
```

summary(shanghai 2012)

```
##
                                             Date..LST.
          Site
                    Parameter
                                                                Year
##
    Shanghai:8784
                    PM2.5:8784
                                  2012-03-11 03:00:
                                                           Min.
                                                                  :2012
##
                                  2012-01-01 00:00:
                                                           1st Qu.:2012
##
                                  2012-01-01 01:00:
                                                           Median:2012
##
                                  2012-01-01 02:00:
                                                           Mean
                                                                  :2012
##
                                  2012-01-01 03:00:
                                                      1
                                                           3rd Qu.:2012
##
                                  2012-01-01 04:00:
                                                           Max.
                                                                  :2012
                                                      1
                                  (Other)
##
                                                  :8777
##
                                                           Value
        Month
                          Day
                                           Hour
         : 1.000
                     Min. : 1.00
                                      Min. : 0.00
                                                              :-999.00
##
   Min.
                                                      Min.
##
    1st Qu.: 4.000
                     1st Qu.: 8.00
                                      1st Qu.: 5.75
                                                      1st Qu.: 23.00
##
    Median : 7.000
                     Median :16.00
                                      Median :11.50
                                                      Median: 40.00
                                                                 17.21
##
    Mean
         : 6.514
                           :15.76
                                            :11.50
                                                      Mean
                     Mean
                                      Mean
##
    3rd Qu.:10.000
                     3rd Qu.:23.00
                                      3rd Qu.:17.25
                                                      3rd Qu.:
                                                                 65.00
##
    Max.
         :12.000
                     Max.
                             :31.00
                                      Max.
                                             :23.00
                                                              : 650.00
                                                      Max.
##
##
       Unit
                                 QC.Name
                 Duration
   \mu g/m^3:8784
                 1 Hr:8784
                             Missing:
                                         5
```

Histogram of PM2.5 concentration in Shanghai, 2017

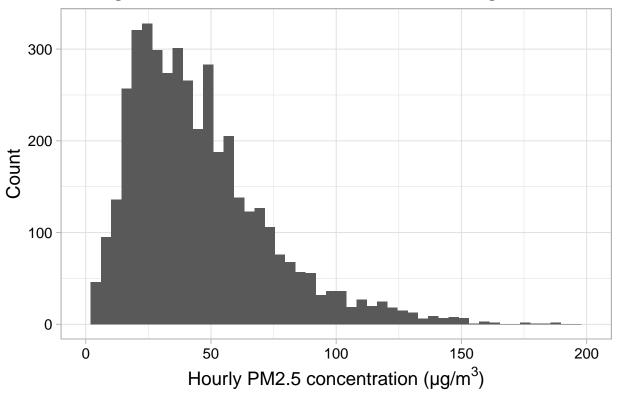


Figure 1: Histogram of PM2.5 concentration in Shanghai, 2017

```
## Valid :8779
##
##
##
##
##
```

Figure 1 shows how PM2.5 concentrations spread over the range of values

Figure 3 Compares the mean PM2.5 concentrations of 2012 and 2017

```
#combine Shanghai data into one dataframe
Shanghai12to17 <- do.call("rbind", list(shanghai_2012, shanghai_2013, shanghai_2014, shanghai12to17 <- do.call("rbind", list(shanghai_2012, shanghai_2013, shanghai_2014, shanghai12to17 processed <- Shanghai12to17 %>%
    filter(QC.Name == "Valid" & Value >=0)%>%
        group_by(Year,Month, Day)%>%
        summarise(Daily_Mean_PM25 = mean(Value))
```

Scatterplot of PM2.5 concentration in Shanghai, 2017

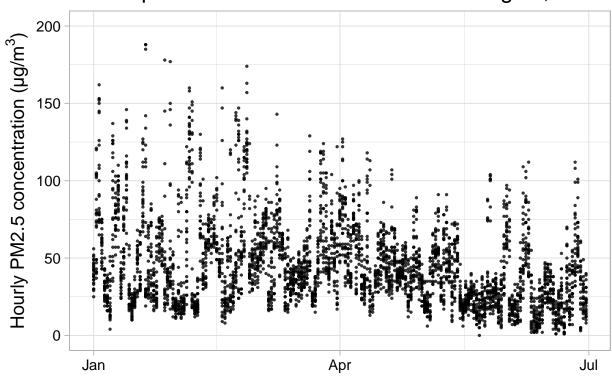


Figure 2: Scatterplot of PM2.5 concentration in Shanghai, 2017

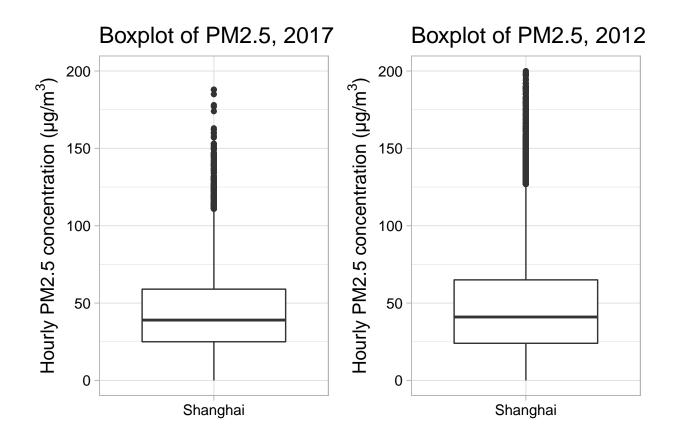


Figure 3: Boxplot of PM2.5 concentration in Shanghai, 2017 and 2012

```
#Create Date
  Shanghai12to17 Processed $Date <- as.Date(with(Shanghai12to17 Processed, paste(Year, Mo
#Rearrange columns
  Shanghai12to17_Processed <- Shanghai12to17_Processed[,c(5,1,2,3,4)]
#Assign coordinates to each site
Beijing_2017$Latitude <- 39.95</pre>
  Beijing_2017$Longitude <- 116.47
Chengdu_2017$Latitude <- 30.63
  Chengdu_2017$Longitude <- 104.07
Guangzhou_2017$Latitude <- 23.12</pre>
  Guangzhou 2017$Longitude <- 113.32
Shenyang_2017$Latitude <- 41.78
  Shenyang 2017$Longitude <-123.42
shanghai_2017$Latitude <- 31.21
  shanghai_2017$Longitude <- 121.44
#Combine data for all sites into one dataframe
All_Sites_2017 <- do.call("rbind", list(shanghai_2017, Shenyang_2017, Guangzhou_2017, Ch
#Filter out missing value and calculate daily average PM2.5 concentrations
All_Sites_2017_Processed <- All_Sites_2017 %>%
  filter(QC.Name == "Valid" & Value >=0)%>%
  group_by(Site, Year, Month, Day, Latitude, Longitude)%>%
  summarise(Daily_Mean_PM25 = mean(Value))
All_Sites_2017_avg <- All_Sites_2017_Processed %>%
  group_by(Site, Latitude, Longitude) %>%
  summarise(meanPM25 = mean(Daily Mean PM25),
            maxPM25 = max(Daily_Mean_PM25))
#Create a simplified function to convert PM2.5 concentration to AQI
Concentration_to_AQI <- function(C){</pre>
  if (C \le 55.4){
    as.integer((C-35.5)*(150-101)/(55.4-35.5)+101)
  } else{
    if (C \le 150.4){
      as.integer((C-55.5)*(200-151)/(150.4-55.5)+151)
    }
  }
```

```
All_Sites_2017_avg <- mutate(All_Sites_2017_avg, AQI = Concentration_to_AQI(meanPM25))</pre>
```

4 Analysis

```
mk.test(Shanghai12to17 Processed$Daily Mean PM25)
##
   Mann-Kendall trend test
##
##
         Shanghai12to17_Processed$Daily_Mean_PM25
## z = -4.6494, n = 1995, p-value = 3.329e-06
## alternative hypothesis: true S is not equal to 0
## sample estimates:
##
               S
                          varS
                                         tau
## -1.381510e+05 8.829007e+08 -6.947051e-02
#Run a Pettitt's Test to check if there are changing points
pettitt.test(Shanghai12to17 Processed$Daily Mean PM25)
##
   Pettitt's test for single change-point detection
##
## data: Shanghai12to17_Processed$Daily_Mean_PM25
## U* = 145860, p-value = 2.103e-07
## alternative hypothesis: two.sided
## sample estimates:
## probable change point at time K
##
                              1597
mk.test(Shanghai12to17 Processed$Daily Mean PM25[1:1597])
##
  Mann-Kendall trend test
##
##
## data: Shanghai12to17_Processed$Daily_Mean_PM25[1:1597]
## z = -0.1021, n = 1597, p-value = 0.9187
## alternative hypothesis: true S is not equal to 0
## sample estimates:
##
                        varS
                                      tau
## -2.17400e+03 4.52980e+08 -1.70621e-03
mk.test(Shanghai12to17 Processed$Daily Mean PM25[1598:1995])
##
   Mann-Kendall trend test
##
##
          Shanghai12to17 Processed$Daily Mean PM25[1598:1995]
```

#run a Mann-Kendall test on the PM2.5 concentration in Shanghai from 2012 to 2017

```
## z = 3.7256, n = 398, p-value = 0.0001948
## alternative hypothesis: true S is not equal to 0
## sample estimates:
##
              S
                        varS
## 9.880000e+03 7.031225e+06 1.250910e-01
# Is there a second change point?
pettitt.test(Shanghai12to17 Processed$Daily Mean PM25[1598:1995])
##
   Pettitt's test for single change-point detection
##
         Shanghai12to17 Processed$Daily Mean PM25[1598:1995]
## data:
## U* = 19508, p-value = 4.084e-16
## alternative hypothesis: two.sided
## sample estimates:
## probable change point at time K
##
                               158
# Run another Mann-Kendall for the second change point
mk.test(Shanghai12to17 Processed$Daily Mean PM25[1598:1755])
##
##
   Mann-Kendall trend test
##
## data: Shanghai12to17 Processed$Daily Mean PM25[1598:1755]
## z = -4.5497, n = 158, p-value = 5.373e-06
## alternative hypothesis: true S is not equal to 0
## sample estimates:
                          varS
                                         tau
## -3.027000e+03 4.423650e+05 -2.441326e-01
mk.test(Shanghai12to17_Processed$Daily_Mean_PM25[1756:1995])
##
   Mann-Kendall trend test
##
##
## data: Shanghai12to17_Processed$Daily_Mean_PM25[1756:1995]
## z = -5.3089, n = 240, p-value = 1.103e-07
## alternative hypothesis: true S is not equal to 0
## sample estimates:
##
               S
                          varS
                                         tau
## -6.601000e+03 1.545518e+06 -2.302206e-01
pettitt.test(Shanghai12to17 Processed$Daily Mean PM25[1598:1755])
##
## Pettitt's test for single change-point detection
```

```
##
## data: Shanghai12to17 Processed$Daily Mean PM25[1598:1755]
## U* = 3356, p-value = 8.076e-08
## alternative hypothesis: two.sided
## sample estimates:
## probable change point at time K
mk.test(Shanghai12to17_Processed$Daily_Mean_PM25[1598:1662])
##
##
   Mann-Kendall trend test
##
## data: Shanghai12to17 Processed$Daily Mean PM25[1598:1662]
## z = 0.40196, n = 65, p-value = 0.6877
## alternative hypothesis: true S is not equal to 0
## sample estimates:
##
              S
                        varS
                                      tau
## 7.200000e+01 3.120000e+04 3.461538e-02
mk.test(Shanghai12to17_Processed$Daily_Mean_PM25[1663:1755])
##
   Mann-Kendall trend test
##
##
## data: Shanghai12to17_Processed$Daily_Mean_PM25[1663:1755]
## z = 0.84963, n = 93, p-value = 0.3955
## alternative hypothesis: true S is not equal to 0
## sample estimates:
##
## 2.570000e+02 9.078567e+04 6.009588e-02
pettitt.test(Shanghai12to17 Processed$Daily Mean PM25[1756:1995])
##
## Pettitt's test for single change-point detection
## data: Shanghai12to17_Processed$Daily_Mean_PM25[1756:1995]
## U* = 6169, p-value = 1.436e-07
## alternative hypothesis: two.sided
## sample estimates:
## probable change point at time K
##
                               170
mk.test(Shanghai12to17 Processed$Daily Mean PM25[1756:1925])
##
   Mann-Kendall trend test
```

```
##
## data: Shanghai12to17 Processed$Daily Mean PM25[1756:1925]
## z = 0.014824, n = 170, p-value = 0.9882
## alternative hypothesis: true S is not equal to 0
## sample estimates:
##
             S
                       varS
                                     tau
## 1.200000e+01 5.506513e+05 8.355673e-04
mk.test(Shanghai12to17_Processed$Daily_Mean_PM25[1926:1995])
##
##
   Mann-Kendall trend test
##
         Shanghai12to17_Processed$Daily_Mean_PM25[1926:1995]
## z = -2.2459, n = 70, p-value = 0.02471
## alternative hypothesis: true S is not equal to 0
## sample estimates:
##
              S
                         varS
                                        tau
   -444.0000000 38905.3333333
##
                                 -0.1839652
According to the first Mann-Kendall Test, p-value < 0.0001, S = -1.38e+05 so there is a
decreasing trend in PM2.5 concentrations in Shanghai from 2012 to 2017
Shanghai12to17_Monthly <- Shanghai12to17_Processed %>%
  group_by(Year, Month)%>%
  summarise(Monthly Mean PM25 = mean(Daily Mean PM25))
Shanghai12to17_Monthly$Date <- as.Date(with(Shanghai12to17_Monthly, paste(Year, Month,"
# Create a time series object
Shanghai12to17_timeseries <- ts(Shanghai12to17_Monthly$Monthly_Mean_PM25,
                               start = c(2012, 1), frequency = 12)
Shanghai12to17 timeseries
##
              Jan
                       Feb
                                 Mar
                                           Apr
                                                     May
                                                               Jun
                                                                         Jul
## 2012 64.39169 53.10445 67.14090
                                      54.95019 55.70430 40.16078 26.55297
## 2013 101.46242 64.25839 64.96774
                                      61.61860 53.23069 44.33886 32.14922
## 2014 72.61396 52.32508 54.39317
                                      51.65912 61.19360 42.12621
                                                                    35.17865
## 2015 84.64382 66.46796 50.98786 52.40304 40.98860 36.55009 35.35663
## 2016 72.58816 57.58583 55.78133 56.02394 48.52583 35.32621
                                                                    34.72419
## 2017 52.58442 56.67838 51.04167
                                      49.21948 32.92391
                                                          30.73789
##
             Aug
                       Sep
                                 Oct
                                           Nov
                                                     Dec
## 2012 16.12474 44.06365 55.51799 67.04937 64.37512
## 2013 26.45089 27.97110 36.20997
                                      79.18295 122.15358
## 2014 29.41896 29.09568 38.79696 53.27199 74.75655
## 2015 35.41667 28.07370 38.43414 55.90320 82.21746
## 2016 20.21237 28.34902 20.96657 50.00350 64.36563
```

2017

```
# Run a Seasonal Mann-Kendall test
Shanghai.smktest <- smk.test(Shanghai12to17 timeseries)</pre>
Shanghai.smktest
##
## Seasonal Mann-Kendall trend test (Hirsch-Slack test)
##
## data:
         Shanghai12to17 timeseries
## z = -2.6169, p-value = 0.008873
## alternative hypothesis: true S is not equal to 0
## sample estimates:
##
     S varS
   -44 270
##
summary(Shanghai.smktest)
##
##
   Seasonal Mann-Kendall trend test (Hirsch-Slack test)
##
## data: Shanghai12to17 timeseries
## alternative hypothesis: two.sided
##
## Statistics for individual seasons
##
## HO
##
                       S varS
                                          z Pr(>|z|)
                                 tau
## Season 1: S = 0 -5 28.3 -0.333 -0.751 0.452370
              S = 0 1 28.3 0.067 0.000 1.000000
## Season 2:
## Season 3:
            S = 0
                      -9 28.3 -0.600 -1.503 0.132855
## Season 4:
            S = 0
                      -5 28.3 -0.333 -0.751 0.452370
## Season 5:
              S = 0
                      -9 28.3 -0.600 -1.503 0.132855
## Season 6:
              S = 0 -11 28.3 -0.733 -1.879 0.060289
## Season 7:
            S = 0 6 16.7 0.600 1.225 0.220671
## Season 8:
            S = 0 4 16.7 0.400 0.735 0.462433
## Season 9:
              S = 0
                      -2 16.7 -0.200 -0.245 0.806496
## Season 10: S = 0 -6 16.7 -0.600 -1.225 0.220671
## Season 11: S = 0 -6 16.7 -0.600 -1.225 0.220671
               S = 0 -2 16.7 -0.200 -0.245 0.806496
## Season 12:
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
#See if there is a change point.
pettitt.test(Shanghai12to17 timeseries)
```

##

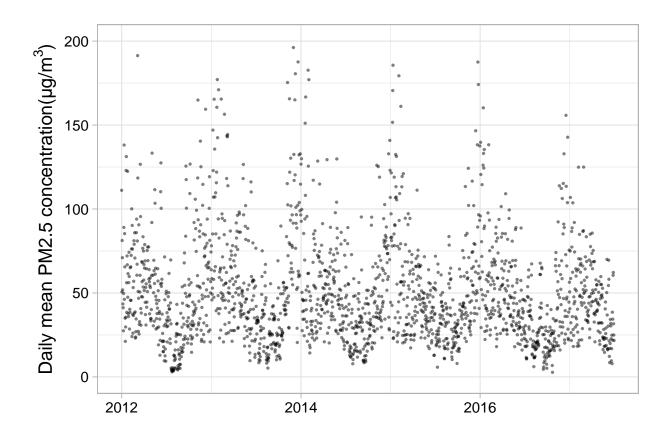


Figure 4: Initial visualization of Shanghai PM2.5 concentration from 2012 to 2017

```
## Pettitt's test for single change-point detection
##
## data: Shanghai12to17_timeseries
## U* = 296, p-value = 0.3302
## alternative hypothesis: two.sided
## sample estimates:
## probable change point at time K
##
```

The changing points in figure 5 seem to be due to the seasonal variations, so I decide to look at the monthly variation of PM2.5 concentration to see if there exists seasonality

Figure 6 shows that the PM2.5 concentraions do vary a lot over months. Generally the concentrations peak in Winter and reach lowest in Summer. Therefore, I decide to run a Seasonal Mann-Kendall test to reduce to effect of seasonal trends that obscure the overall direction of the trend

Figure 7 shows the average PM2.5 concentration in 5 cities in China in 2017. The larger the circle, the higher the concentration. In the HTML format, the exact AQI value will pop up if the circle is clicked, but this function is not available in the PDF format.

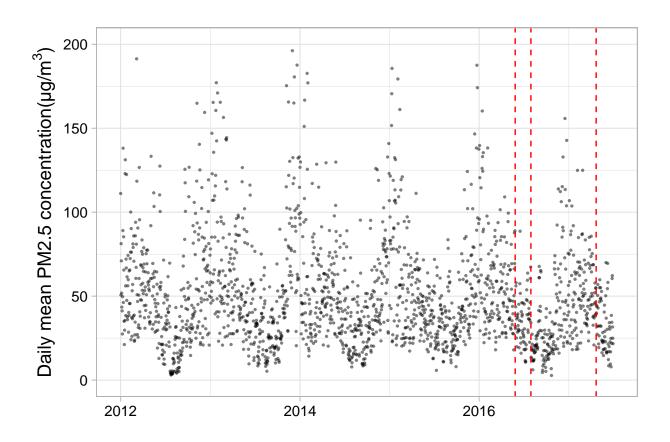


Figure 5: Shanghai PM2.5 concentration from 2012 to 2017 with changing points

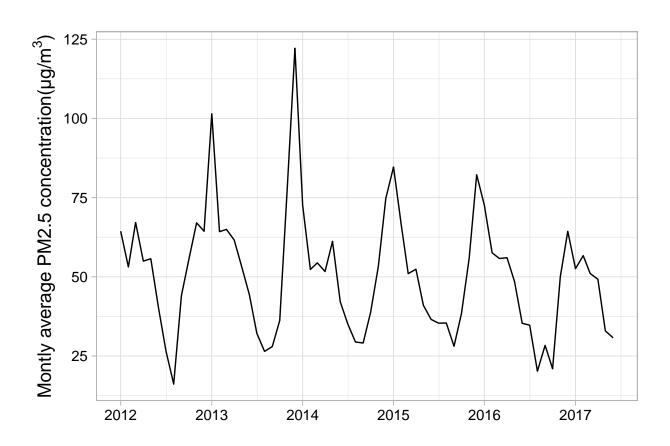


Figure 6: Shanghai Monthly average PM2.5 concentration from 2012 to 2017



Figure 7: PM2.5 levels at 5 U.S. Consulates in China

5 Summary and Conclusions

Pronounced seasonal variation is observed in PM2.5 concentrations in Shanghai, with the highest concentrations typically observed in the winter and the lowest concentrations generally found in the summer. From 2012 to 2017, there existed a decreasing trend in PM2.5 concentrations in Shanghai(Seasonal Mann-Kendall test, p-value = 0.008873, S = -44). China's government has made some progress to improve air quality. However, the 2017 average AQI in Shanghai was 125, which falls into the "unhealthy for sensitive groups" range.

As for other 4 cities, Beijing and Chengdu showed highest PM2.5 concentration in 2017, with the AQI level reaching 158. Guangzhou showed lowest AQI in 2017, which is 114; the 2017 average AQI in Shenyang was 153, also within the unhealthy range. Transportation and Coal combustion are two major sources of PM2.5 in China. Transportation contributes a lot to the PM2.5 concentration in Beijing and Chengdu. These two cities rank first and second in terms of car ownership in China.