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The Relationship Between PM_{2.5} and the Action Spectrum of Ultraviolet Radiation for Vitamin D Production Based on a Manikin Model

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ABSTRACT Objectives: Fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) is the principal air pollutant and poses a serious threat to public health. This study explored the effects of PM_{2.5} on the action spectrum of ultraviolet radiation for vitamin D production (UV_{vitD}) received by manikin surfaces. Methods: Multi-inclination angle ultraviolet radiation monitoring was conducted with different concentrations of PM_{2.5}. Combining monitoring data with the PM_{2.5} concentration, solar elevation angle (SEA), and inclination angle, a UV_{vitD} exposure model for human body multi-inclined surfaces was constructed through a multiple linear regression analysis. A 3D manikin model was used to examine the PM_{2.5} effects on UV_{vitD} received by the manikin surface. Results: When PM_{2.5} concentrations ranged from 35 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ to 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (average concentration of PM_{2.5} in this range: 62 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), the UV_{vitD} received by the whole body was reduced by approximately 8.45% to 19.82% compared with the UV_{vitD} received when PM_{2.5} concentrations ranged from 6 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ to 35 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (average concentration of PM_{2.5} in this range: 17 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) with SEAs between 30° and 50°. Moreover, the UV_{vitD} dose was reduced by 11.82% in the above comparisons. When further comparing PM_{2.5} concentrations from 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ to 161 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (average concentration of PM_{2.5} in this range: 132 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) with those from 6 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ to 35 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (average concentration of PM_{2.5} in this range: 17 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), the UV_{vitD} received by the whole body was reduced by approximately 21.6% to 50.64% at SEAs between 30° and 50°. The UV_{vitD} dose was reduced by 30.2%. Conclusions: The occurrence of PM_{2.5} obviously reduced the UV_{vitD} received by the manikin surface.

INDEX TERMS PM_{2.5}, ultraviolet radiation, manikin model, inclination angle, Vitamin D.

I. INTRODUCTION

Vitamin D insufficiency or deficiency is observed in humans globally [1], [2], and it has been estimated that nearly 1 billion individuals have vitamin D insufficiency or deficiency [3], [4]. Children, pregnant women, and the elderly are vulnerable groups because they need more vitamin D than other healthy adults [5]–[10]. Vitamin D deficiency makes these high-risk individuals more prone to various diseases, such as rickets, pregnancy complications, and osteoporosis [11]–[13]. Moreover, vitamin D deficiency is also

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related to increased morbidity and mortality from cardiovascular diseases [14], diabetes [15], [16], and some cancers, such as breast cancer, colorectal cancer, and pancreatic cancer [17]–[20]. It is well documented that 90% of vitamin D required by the human body is synthesized by ultraviolet radiation [21], [22]. However, some studies have indicated that air pollution could reduce the ultraviolet radiation intensity [23], which results in a negative effect on vitamin D synthesis [24], [25].

Air pollution, as one of the most important environmental risk factors, seriously affects human health. In 2012, more than 3.7 million people died prematurely from air pollution [26]. Multiple studies indicate that both long- and

short-term exposure to particulate matter (PM) is associated with the increased morbidity and mortality of chronic diseases, such as respiratory and cardiovascular diseases [27]–[30]. Fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) is considered the most dangerous among all PM [31] and can penetrate deep into human lungs and even into the blood because of its small size [32], [33]. A 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ increase in exposure to PM_{2.5} is associated with an 11% increase in cardiovascular mortality [34]. Exposure to PM_{2.5} is also associated with an increased risk of hypertension [35]. Therefore, air pollution not only directly harms human health but also reduces vitamin D synthesis by decreasing ultraviolet radiation intensity. This harmful double impact of air pollution deserves significant attention.

Latitude and season influence the production of vitamin D₃ in human skin, and vitamin D₃ is converted from 7-dehydrocholesterol in the skin after UV radiation and thermal processing, which further affects the vitamin D status in the human body [36]–[38]. 25(OH)D (the main storage form of vitamin D in the human body) levels decrease with increasing latitude [39]. The National Diet and Nutrition Survey even indicated that in areas higher than 40° N latitude, the synthesis of vitamin D in the skin from October to March was reduced due to insufficient UV radiation [40]. In addition to the effects of latitude and season on vitamin D, air pollution is found to indirectly inhibit vitamin D synthesis by directly reducing ultraviolet radiation. Therefore, air pollution has a significant impact on public health, especially for high-risk groups living in middle and high latitudes who are prone to vitamin D deficiency.

The associations between the action spectrum of ultraviolet radiation for vitamin D production (UV_{vitD}) and PM_{2.5}, the solar elevation angle (SEA), and the inclination angle were examined using a homemade multiangle UV monitoring model and multiple linear regression analysis. Moreover, a 3D manikin model was also used to assess the impact of PM_{2.5} on the UV_{vitD} received by the manikin surface. This work presents the most comprehensive study of the relationship between PM_{2.5} and UV_{vitD} to date, and it aims to draw more attention to the risks of PM_{2.5}, especially among groups vulnerable to vitamin D deficiency.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

A. EXPERIMENTAL INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT CALIBRATION

A homemade multiangle UV monitoring model was used for data collection in this study. A computer-controlled dual-channel miniature fiber optic spectrometer was used to measure the UV intensities. Each spectrometer had two detectors that were placed on a tripod at a height of approximately 1 m. The tripod head could rotate vertically. A shelf was fixed on the tripod head, and the detectors were placed in front of the shelf. We also used these experimental instruments in a previous study [41].

A fiber optic spectrometer (AvaSpec-2048x14-2-USB2, Netherlands) with high-UV sensitivity and high-quantum efficiency was used to measure UV irradiance. The spectrometer design includes a 2048 pixel back-thinned CCD detector array and is based on the AvaBench-75 symmetrical Czerny-Turner. The signal-to-noise ratio is 500 dB, and the stray light is less than 0.1%. A USB2 interface with ultrafast data sampling of 450 spectra per second and a data transfer speed of 2.24 ms was used. The detector accepts light from a 180° solid angle, and it has a cosine corrector (CC-UV/VIS) with an effective area of 3.9 mm. For absolute irradiance measurements, the spectrometer was radiometrically calibrated over a range from 200 nm to 400 nm. Calibration was performed by the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) before the experiment.

B. MONITORING LOCATIONS AND METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS

The monitoring locations were five similar roofs of four- to five-story buildings located in five cities in China. The background was pavement, and the reflectivity was 0.08 and 0.05 for the UVA and UVB bands, respectively. The monitoring days were from May 14, 2015, to July 1, 2018, during which the maximum SEA was 82.43°. The measurement time was from 7:00 to 18:00 China Standard Time (CST) each day. Seventeen days were chosen as the best monitoring dates and are shown in Table 1.

C. MONITORING METHOD

Detector measurements were obtained at inclination angles from 0° to 180° in intervals of 10° in the direction facing the sun (Fig. 1). We detected the UV irradiation intensity 19 times in 1.5 minutes. The measurement interval was 1 h. This study used an inclination angle of 0° to 90° facing the sun and 90° to 180° facing away from the sun. The UV_{vitD} at each inclination angle was calculated by the following equation:

$$UV_{\text{vitD}} = \sum_{UV} S(\lambda)A(\lambda)d(\lambda)$$

where $S(\lambda)$ is the measured spectral irradiance, $A(\lambda)$ is the vitamin D effective action spectrum (300 nm to 330 nm), and $d(\lambda)$ is the wavelength increment of the spectral data (1 nm in this study).

D. STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

The Air Quality Index (AQI) is a dimensionless index that quantitatively describes air quality in China. The larger the AQI value is, the more serious the air pollution and the greater the health hazard to the human body. The AQI also specifies the IAQI (individual air quality index) for individual pollutants. The main pollutants involved in air quality assessment include PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀, SO₂, NO₂, CO, and O₃. The AQI is the maximum value of all IAQIs. When the AQI is above 50, the pollutant with the largest IAQI value is the primary pollutant.

The air pollution data from the monitoring days were collected from the China Air Quality Online Monitoring and

TABLE 1. Main monitoring days and locations.

Location (Nearest Monitoring Point)	Province	Latitude (°N)	Longitude (°E)	Altitude (m)	Total Ozone Column (DU)	Main Monitoring Day
Sanya (Hexi Sub Station)	Hainan	18.4	109.8	7.0	288.1	14 May 2015
Shaoxing (Chengdong Development Committee)	Zhejiang	30.0	120.6	12.0	279.5	16 October 2015
Shaoxing (Chengdong Development Committee)	Zhejiang	30.0	120.6	12.0	255.7	26 October 2015
Lhasa (Barkhor Street)	Xizang	29.7	91.1	3660.0	272.6	16 May 2016
Lhasa (Barkhor Street)	Xizang	29.7	91.1	3660.0	274.6	17 May 2016
Shenyang (Jingshen Street)	Liaoning	42.0	123.5	51.0	287.1	14 July 2016
Shenyang (Jingshen Street)	Liaoning	42.0	123.5	51.0	287.1	25 October 2016
Fuxin (Dongyuan)	Liaoning	42.0	121.7	146.0	308.5	17 November 2016
Shenyang (Jingshen Street)	Liaoning	42.0	123.5	51.0	294.0	31 October 2017
Shenyang (Jingshen Street)	Liaoning	42.0	123.5	51.0	298.6	01 November 2017
Shenyang (Jingshen Street)	Liaoning	42.0	123.5	51.0	350.6	03 November 2017
Shenyang (Jingshen Street)	Liaoning	42.0	123.5	51.0	Missing Value	05 November 2017
Shenyang (Jingshen Street)	Liaoning	42.0	123.5	51.0	Missing Value	22 March 2018
Sanya (Hexi Sub Station)	Hainan	18.4	109.8	7.0	292.8	03 May 2018
Sanya (Hexi Sub Station)	Hainan	18.4	109.8	7.0	Missing Value	04 May 2018
Fuxin (Dongyuan)	Liaoning	42.0	121.7	146.0	351.4	29 June 2018
Fuxin (Dongyuan)	Liaoning	42.0	121.7	146.0	333.4	01 July 2018

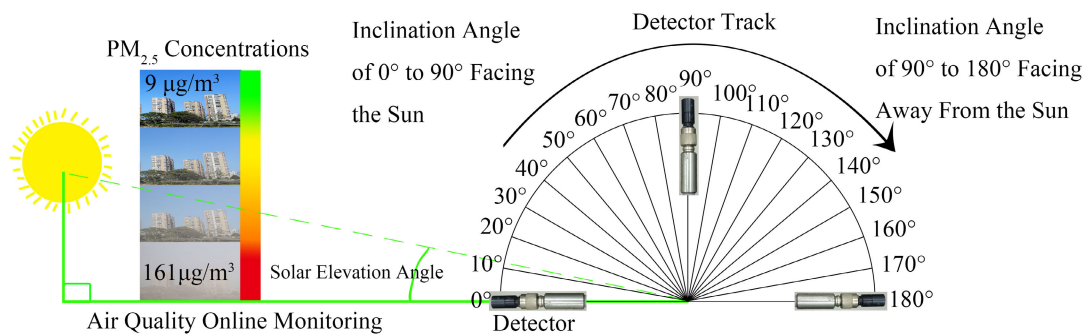


FIGURE 1. Multi-inclination angle ultraviolet radiation monitoring with different concentrations of PM_{2.5}. PM_{2.5} is fine particulate matter.

Analysis Platform (<https://www.aqistudy.cn/>). Six pollutants were included and averaged within 1 h in this study: PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, SO₂, NO₂, CO, and O₃. According to the Chinese air quality classification standard, this study defines PM_{2.5} ≤ 35 µg/m³ as clean and PM_{2.5} > 35 µg/m³ as pollution. Lhasa is located at high altitude where the air quality is always good; therefore, the data from Lhasa were considered as a separate group. The UV measurement data were divided into six groups by PM_{2.5}: a) SEA ≤ 30° and monitoring

location in Lhasa; b) SEA ≤ 30° and PM_{2.5} ≤ 35 µg/m³; c) SEA ≤ 30° and PM_{2.5} > 35 µg/m³; d) 30° < SEA ≤ 50° and monitoring location in Lhasa; e) 30° < SEA ≤ 50° and PM_{2.5} ≤ 35 µg/m³; and f) 30° < SEA ≤ 50° and PM_{2.5} > 35 µg/m³. Groups a) and d) were the high-latitude control groups, groups b) and e) were the clean atmosphere control groups, and groups c) and f) were the polluted atmosphere exposure groups. The monitoring data of each group were described using means and SDs. Bivariate correlation

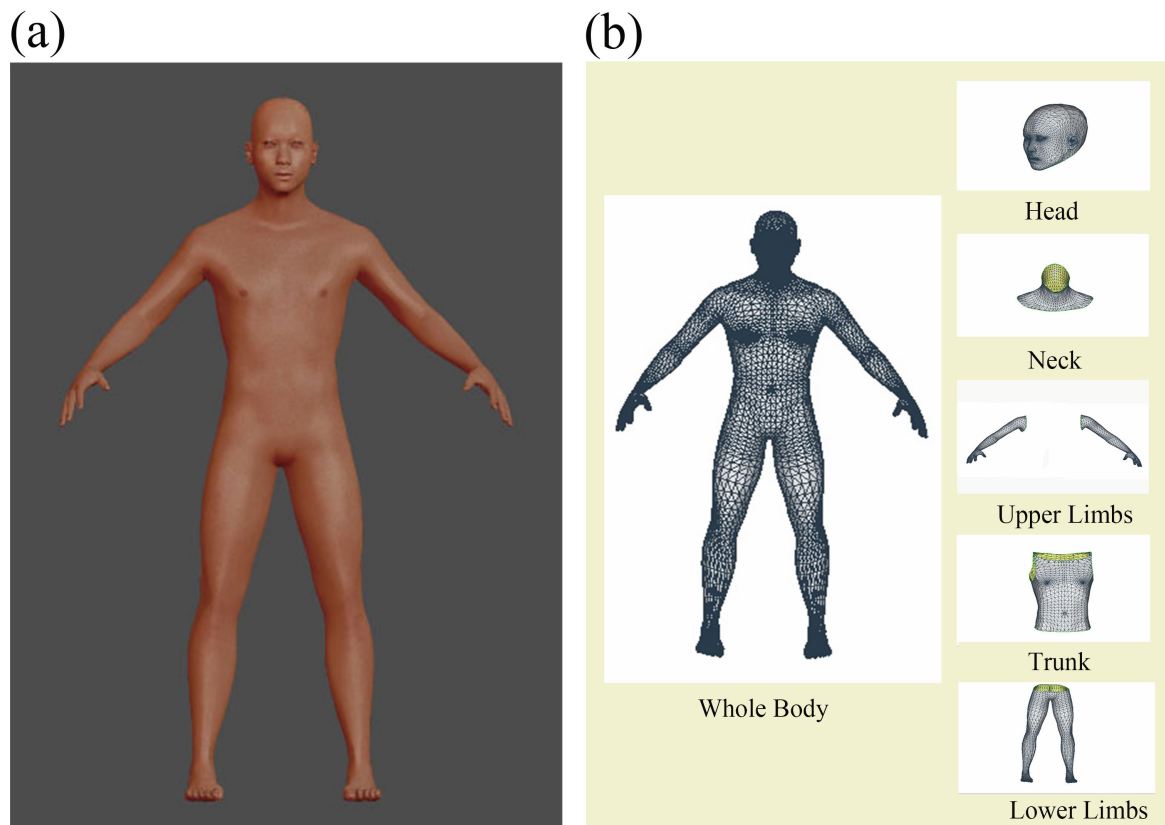


FIGURE 2. 3D manikin model. (a) MakeHuman Software; (b) MeshLab software.

analysis was conducted to explore the relationships between AQI and the other pollutants. All statistical analyses were performed using IBM SPSS statistical software [version 22]. P values < 0.05 were considered statistically significant for all analyses.

E. CONSTRUCTION OF UV_{vitD} EXPOSURE MODEL OF MULTI-INCLINED SURFACES OF THE HUMAN BODY

The UV monitoring data ($n = 2880$) from 2015 to 2018 and the corresponding ambient air pollutant data were included in the analysis, among which 1360 data points were obtained facing the sun and 1520 were obtained facing away from the sun. The SEAs on the chosen monitoring days varied from 20.41° to 82.43° , and the concentrations of PM_{2.5} on the chosen monitoring days varied from $6 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ to $161 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. We used the same method to construct a UV_{vitD} exposure model of multi-inclined surfaces of the human body in all study locations except Lhasa, including conditions facing toward the sun (model I) and facing away from the sun (model II). We used UV_{vitD} and its corresponding SEA, PM_{2.5}, and the inclination angle as set data. Then, data in all the groups were sorted by PM_{2.5} from small to large. These values were selected from the first set of data, and group data were selected at two set data intervals. Finally, the selected 1/3 of the data was used to verify the rationality of the model,

and the remaining 2/3 of the data was used for modeling. To reflect the relationship between the incident radiation and the inclination surface, we used the cosine between the SEA and the inclination angle. We used UV_{vitD} as the dependent variable, and SEA, PM_{2.5}, and the cosine between the SEA and the inclination angle ($\cos\alpha$) as independent variables for performing the multiple linear regression analysis. Finally, we performed variance analysis on simulated and measured values and judged the rationality of the model according to the p values. All statistical analyses were performed using IBM SPSS statistical software [version 22]. P values < 0.05 were considered statistically significant for all analyses.

F. CALCULATION OF THE AREAS AND INCLINATION ANGLES OF ALL INCLINED SURFACES ON THE 3D MANIKIN MODEL

A 3D virtual manikin of Asian descent and medium build with a standing posture and neutral gender at 173.31 cm tall was selected with MakeHuman Software [version 1.0.2]. The eye, hair, teeth, eyebrows, eyelashes, and tongue structures were excluded because this study focused only on the manikin surface (Fig. 2a). The manikin was divided into five parts by MeshLab software [version 1.3.3] according to human anatomy, including the head, neck, upper limbs (including the arms, axillae, and shoulders), trunk (including the chest

TABLE 2. Surface area of various parts of the manikin model.

	Area (m ²)	Area Percent (%)
Head Front	0.06	3.78
Head Back	0.05	3.09
Neck Front	0.04	2.33
Neck Back	0.04	2.12
Trunk Front	0.18	10.73
Trunk Back	0.17	9.87
Upper Limbs Front	0.18	10.54
Upper Limbs Back	0.18	10.79
Lower Limbs Front	0.48	27.98
Lower Limbs Back	0.32	18.76
Whole Body	1.70	100.00

and abdomen), and lower limbs (including the buttocks, legs, and feet) (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_body), with redundant structures inside the manikin deleted. Every part of the manikin was further divided into front and back sections. Then, the manikin was adjusted to appear composed of multiple triangular meshes with an inclined angle to the horizontal plane (Fig. 2b). Then, the three-dimensional coordinates of the vertices of each triangle mesh were used as output. Finally, the area and inclination angle of each triangle mesh was calculated according to the three-dimensional coordinates of the vertex of the manikin (Table 2).

G. CALCULATION OF UV_{vitD} INTENSITY AND UV_{vitD} DOSE RECEIVED BY THE MANIKIN SURFACE

In this study, the maximum SEA in the monitoring locations during periods of pollution was 50.1°. The PM_{2.5} concentrations during the monitoring period were categorized into three groups: 6 μg/m³ to 35 μg/m³, 35 μg/m³ to 100 μg/m³, and 100 μg/m³ to 161 μg/m³. The mean values of the above concentration ranges were 17 μg/m³, 62 μg/m³, and 132 μg/m³, respectively. This study simulated the UV_{vitD} intensity received by the manikin surface under three different SEAs and PM_{2.5} concentrations: the SEAs were 30°, 40°, and 50°, and the PM_{2.5} values were 17 μg/m³, 62 μg/m³, and 132 μg/m³. The areas and inclination angles in Method F were combined with the UV_{vitD} exposure model of multi-inclined surfaces of the human body in Method E to calculate the UV_{vitD} received by the whole manikin and each part of the manikin. The formula was as follows:

$$E = \sum_{i=1}^n E_i \times S_i$$

where E is the UV_{vitD} received by the manikin (W), i is the number of triangle meshes included in the manikin, E_i is the UV_{vitD} intensity per unit area received by the i-th triangle mesh (W/m²), and S_i is the area of the i-th triangle mesh (m²).

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (<http://www.srrb.noaa.gov/highlights/sunrise/azel.html>), the duration from 30° to 50° SEAs at 30° N, 40° N, and 50° N latitude in January to April and September to December was calculated. Then, the UV_{vitD} dose received by the manikin surface was calculated using the following equation:

$$D = E \times T$$

where D is the UV_{vitD} dose received by the manikin surface (J), E is the UV_{vitD} intensity received by the manikin surface (W), and T is the duration from 30° to 50° SEAs (s).

III. RESULTS

A. AIR POLLUTANT EXPOSURE

The values of PM_{2.5} in the polluted atmosphere group were greater than those in the clean atmosphere group (Table 3). The average ambient PM_{2.5} levels for the clean and polluted atmosphere were 16.18 ± 8.69 and 90.44 ± 38.13, respectively, when the SEAs were below 30°. The PM_{2.5} value in the polluted atmosphere group was 5.59-fold that the clean atmosphere group. When the SEAs were between 30° and 50°, these values were 14.57 ± 8.29 and 73.94 ± 34.28, respectively. The PM_{2.5} value in the polluted atmosphere group was 5.07-fold higher than that of the clean atmosphere group.

The correlations between the AQI and other pollutants are shown in Table 4. The correlation coefficient between the PM_{2.5} level and AQI was the highest. The China Air Quality Online Monitoring and Analysis Platform also showed that PM_{2.5} was the main pollutant. Therefore, this study focused on the effect of PM_{2.5} on UV radiation intensity.

B. AMBIENT UV RADIATION INTENSITY OF CLEAN AND POLLUTED GROUPS

Cumulative UV_{vitD} values from 0° to 90° inclination angles were higher in Lhasa than in other groups due to the higher altitude. When grouping based on PM_{2.5}, the UV_{vitD} values of the clean atmosphere group were higher than those in the polluted atmosphere group and the values facing the sun were higher than those facing away from the sun (Fig. 3). When the SEAs were below 30°, the UV_{vitD} intensity in the polluted atmosphere group was reduced by 30.28% and 27.94% relative to the clean group in the direction of facing the sun and facing away from the sun, respectively. When the SEAs were between 30° and 50°, the UV_{vitD} intensity in the polluted atmosphere group was reduced by 31.75% and 32.3% relative to the clean group in the direction of facing the sun and facing away from the sun, respectively.

C. UV_{vitD} INTENSITY LEVELS OF CLEAN AND POLLUTED GROUPS RECEIVED UNDER DIFFERENT INCLINATION ANGLES

The changes in UV_{vitD} intensity with inclination angle at different SEAs are shown in Fig. 4. At all inclination angles,

TABLE 3. Means and standard deviations of the air pollutant variables used to analyze air pollution exposure by PM_{2.5} (Mean ± SD).

Pollutants	Lhasa	PM _{2.5} ≤ 35 μg/m ³ *	PM _{2.5} > 35 μg/m ³ *
SEA ≤ 30°			
N	100	220	250
AQI	46.20 ± 4.77	36.41 ± 12.98	121.60 ± 48.28
PM _{2.5} (μg/m ³)	18.70 ± 2.25	16.18 ± 8.69	90.44 ± 38.13
PM ₁₀ (μg/m ³)	35.80 ± 15.79	33.77 ± 18.64	136.16 ± 52.86
SO ₂ (μg/m ³)	7.60 ± 1.21	9.68 ± 11.10	77.52 ± 60.56
NO ₂ (μg/m ³)	13.70 ± 4.56	20.45 ± 15.82	51.44 ± 16.56
CO (mg/m ³)	0.46 ± 0.07	0.55 ± 0.34	1.31 ± 0.51
O ₃ (μg/m ³)	144.90 ± 14.48	56.32 ± 34.40	48.56 ± 48.15
30° < SEA ≤ 50°			
N	200	460	650
AQI	46.80 ± 5.71	33.98 ± 12.06	104.46 ± 42.65
PM _{2.5} (μg/m ³)	18.65 ± 5.30	14.57 ± 8.29	73.94 ± 34.28
PM ₁₀ (μg/m ³)	36.75 ± 14.72	30.15 ± 15.15	116.52 ± 51.62
SO ₂ (μg/m ³)	7.40 ± 1.02	7.59 ± 13.30	48.15 ± 28.18
NO ₂ (μg/m ³)	13.95 ± 4.26	13.52 ± 8.87	52.26 ± 20.68
CO (mg/m ³)	0.52 ± 0.17	0.45 ± 0.15	1.17 ± 0.44
O ₃ (μg/m ³)	141.40 ± 15.00	63.70 ± 36.94	63.91 ± 33.85

Notes: *All locations except Lhasa. The average SEAs for groups a-f were 26.28, 26.67, 25.68, 41.13, 38.82, and 37.7 by PM_{2.5}. SEA is the solar elevation angle. AQI is the air quality index.

TABLE 4. Correlations between different pollutants and the AQI.

	AQI	PM _{2.5} (μg/m ³)	PM ₁₀ (μg/m ³)	SO ₂ (μg/m ³)	NO ₂ (μg/m ³)	CO (mg/m ³)	O ₃ (μg/m ³)
AQI	1	0.965**	0.958**	0.799**	0.878**	0.824**	-0.241**
PM _{2.5} (μg/m ³)	0.965**	1	0.932**	0.815**	0.884**	0.829**	-0.348**
PM ₁₀ (μg/m ³)	0.958**	0.932**	1	0.794**	0.892**	0.826**	-0.295**
SO ₂ (μg/m ³)	0.799**	0.815**	0.794**	1	0.778**	0.652**	-0.292**
NO ₂ (μg/m ³)	0.878**	0.884**	0.892**	0.778**	1	0.854**	-0.347**
CO (mg/m ³)	0.824**	0.829**	0.826**	0.652**	0.854**	1	-0.455**
O ₃ (μg/m ³)	-0.241**	-0.348**	-0.295**	-0.292**	-0.347**	-0.455**	1

Note: **p < 0.01, correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed). AQI is the air quality index.

UV_{vitD} intensity was much higher in the clean atmosphere group than in the polluted atmosphere group. When SEAs were below 50° and facing the sun, the UV_{vitD} intensity was parabolic with the change in the inclination angle (Fig. 4a). The maximum reduction occurred when the inclination angle was 40° to 70°, and the maximum reduction was 66% due to the 74 μg/m³ increase in the concentration of PM_{2.5}. When SEAs were below 50° and facing away from the sun, UV_{vitD} intensity increased with an increasing inclination angle (Fig. 4b). The maximum reduction occurred when the inclination angle was 60° to 90°, and the maximum reduction was 70% due to the 50.25 μg/m³ increase in the concentration of PM_{2.5}.

D. UV_{vitD} EXPOSURE MODEL WITH MULTI-INCLINED SURFACES ON THE HUMAN BODY

In the multiple linear regression analysis results, the adjusted R² values of model I (facing the sun) and model II (facing away from the sun) were 0.828 and 0.776, respectively, and collinearity was not observed between variables. The p values of the variance analysis of the two models between the simulated and measured values were 0.727 and 0.858, respectively, and a significant difference was not observed. The UV_{vitD} intensity increased with increasing SEAs and cosα, and the UV_{vitD} intensity decreased with increasing PM_{2.5} values. When facing the sun, SEA had the strongest effect on UV_{vitD} intensity, followed by cosα and PM_{2.5}. When facing

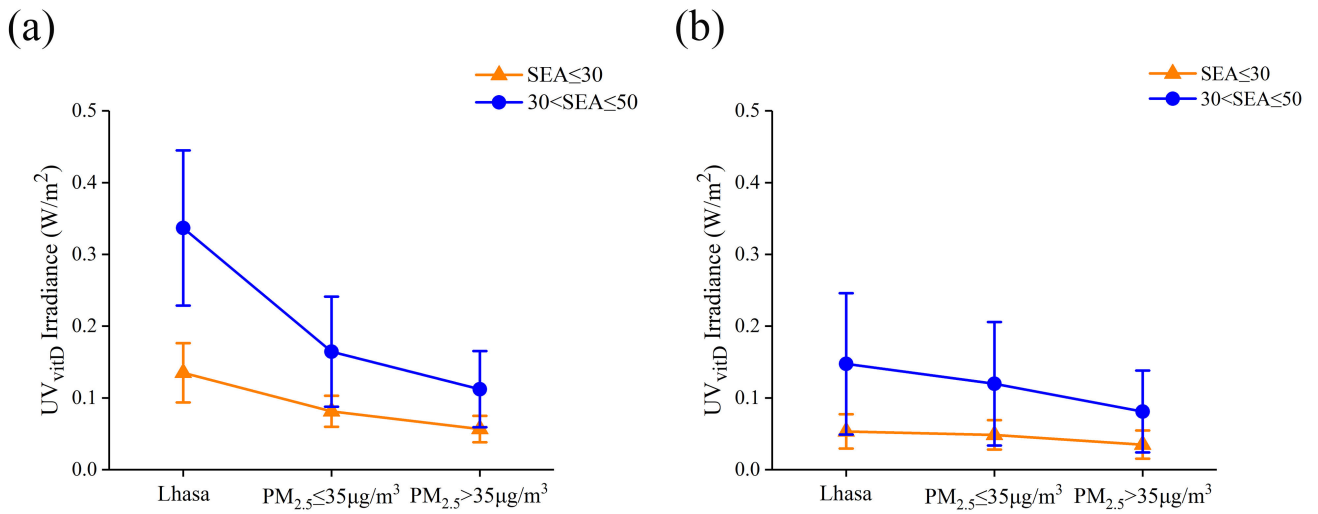


FIGURE 3. Changes in the intensity of UV_{vitD} in the different groups grouped by $PM_{2.5}$. $PM_{2.5}$ is fine particulate matter. UV_{vitD} is the action spectrum of ultraviolet radiation for vitamin D production. The data for each group are shown as the mean and standard deviation. Lhasa is located at high altitude where the air quality is generally good; therefore, the data from the Lhasa area form a separate group. The UV_{vitD} data for $PM_{2.5} \leq 35 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, $PM_{2.5} > 35 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ excluded the data from Lhasa. (a) Ultraviolet radiation monitoring data in the direction facing the sun; (b) ultraviolet radiation monitoring data in the direction facing away from the sun.

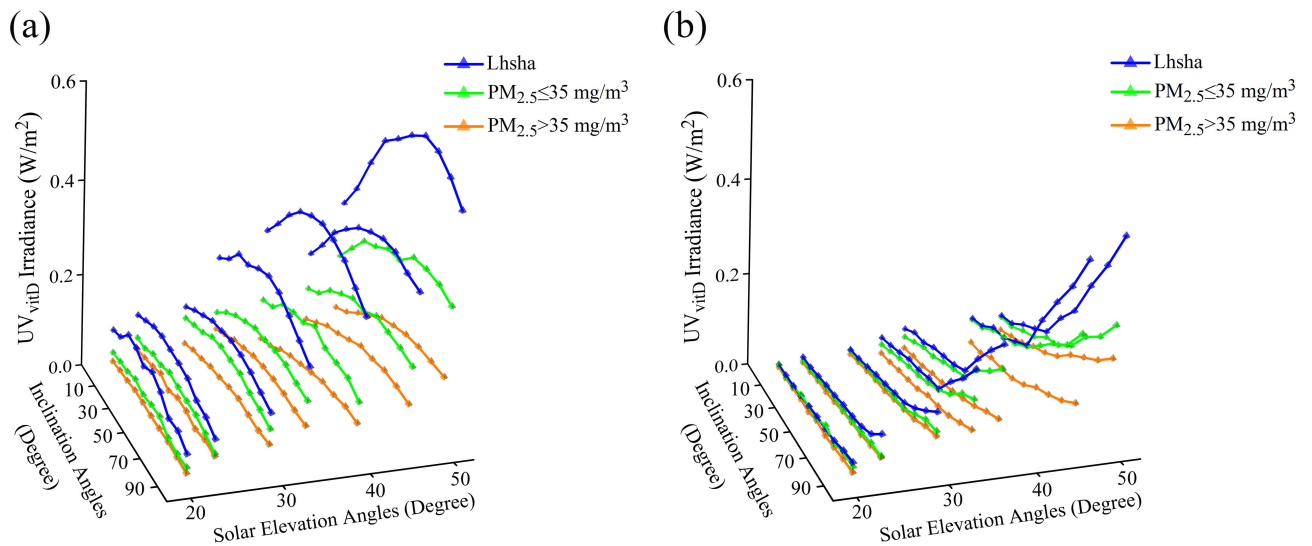


FIGURE 4. Changes in the UV_{vitD} intensity with inclination angle at different SEAs in Lhasa, $PM_{2.5} \leq 35 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, and $PM_{2.5} > 35 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ groups. $PM_{2.5}$ is fine particulate matter. UV_{vitD} is the action spectrum of ultraviolet radiation for vitamin D production. Lhasa is located at high altitudes where the air quality is generally good; therefore, the data from the Lhasa area are a separate group. The UV_{vitD} data for $PM_{2.5} \leq 35 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, $PM_{2.5} > 35 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ excluded the data of Lhasa. (a) Ultraviolet radiation monitoring data in the direction facing the sun; (b) ultraviolet radiation monitoring data in the direction facing away from the sun.

away from the sun, $\cos\alpha$ had the strongest effect on UV_{vitD} intensity, followed by SEA and $PM_{2.5}$. Compared with values obtained facing away from the sun, the SEA and $PM_{2.5}$ had a stronger effect on UV_{vitD} intensity when facing the sun while $\cos\alpha$ was the opposite (Table 5).

E. UV_{vitD} INTENSITY RECEIVED BY THE MANIKIN SURFACE UNDER DIFFERENT CONCENTRATIONS OF $PM_{2.5}$

The UV_{vitD} intensity levels received by different parts of the manikin surface differed (Fig. 5) and were ordered from

whole body > lower limbs > upper limbs > trunk > head > neck. The UV_{vitD} intensity increased with increasing SEAs and decreased with increasing $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations (Fig. 6). When $PM_{2.5}$ was $62 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, the UV_{vitD} intensity received by the head, neck, trunk, upper limbs, lower limbs, and whole body were reduced by 0.0023 W, 0.0015 W, 0.0068 W, 0.0069 W, 0.0155 W, and 0.033 W, respectively, compared with $PM_{2.5}$, which was $17 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ at SEAs between 30° and 50° . The UV_{vitD} intensity received by whole body was reduced by 8.45% to 19.82%. When $PM_{2.5}$ was $132 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$,

TABLE 5. Results of the multiple linear regression analysis.

	B	Beta	Sig.	VIF
Facing the sun				
Constant	-21.534		0	
SEA	0.635	0.841	0	1.161
cos α	16.882	0.232	0	1.003
PM _{2.5}	-0.052	-0.172	0	1.159
Model I	UV _{vitD} = -21.534 + 0.635 * SEA + 16.882 * cos α - 0.052 * PM _{2.5}			
Facing away from the sun				
Constant	-1.031		0	
SEA	0.345	0.484	0	1.358
cos α	11.272	0.511	0	1.252
PM _{2.5}	-0.033	-0.110	0	1.103
Model II	UV _{vitD} = -1.031 + 0.345 * SEA + 11.272 * cos α - 0.033 * PM _{2.5}			

Notes: B is a nonstandardized coefficient. Beta is the standard coefficient. Sig. is significance (p value); Sig. < 0.05 means that the variables are statistically significant. VIF is the variance inflation factor; VIF between 1 and 10 means there is no multicollinearity. SEA is the solar elevation angle. cos α is the angle formed between the SEA and the inclination angle. UV_{vitD} is the action spectrum of ultraviolet radiation for vitamin D production.

the UV_{vitD} intensity received by the head, neck, trunk, upper limbs, lower limbs, and whole body were reduced by 0.0058 W, 0.0037 W, 0.0173 W, 0.0177 W, 0.0397 W, and 0.0842 W, respectively, compared with PM_{2.5}, which was 17 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ at SEAs between 30° and 50°. The UV_{vitD} intensity received by whole body was reduced by 21.6% to 50.64%.

F. EFFECT OF PM_{2.5} ON THE SEA OF EXPOSURE, UV_{vitD} DOSE RECEIVED BY THE MANIKIN SURFACE, AND EXPOSURE TIME

When the PM_{2.5} values were 62 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and 132 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and the SEA was between 30° and 50°, the SEA needed to increase by 3.88° and 9.93°, respectively, to achieve a UV_{vitD} intensity at the manikin surface that was equal to the PM_{2.5} value (17 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) (Fig. 7).

At higher latitudes, the days that the SEA can reach 30° to 50° and the human body can receive UV_{vitD} doses in the range of 30° to 50° SEA are reduced. The total dose of UV_{vitD} that the manikin received throughout the year also decreased with increasing latitudes (Fig. 8). At 30° N latitude, the SEA could reach 30° every day of the year (Fig. 8a). At 40° N latitude, the maximum SEA was less than 30° in the two periods of January 1 to January 20 and November 22 to December 31 (Fig. 8b). At 50° N latitude, the maximum SEA was less than 30° in the two periods of January 1 to February 22 and October 20 to December 31 (Fig. 8c). When SEAs were from 30° to 50° and PM_{2.5} increased from 17 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ to 62 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and 132 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, the monthly UV_{vitD} dose received by the manikin surface could be reduced by at least 11466.72 J and 29303.84 J and the minimum daily reduction was 382.22 J and 976.79 J at 30° N latitude, respectively; the minimum monthly reduction was 2212.67 J and 5654.6 J and the minimum daily reduction was 71.38 J and 182.41 J at 40° N latitude, respectively; and the minimum monthly reduction was

1180.48 J and 3016.79 J and the minimum daily reduction was 42.16 J and 107.74 J at 50° N latitude, respectively. When the PM_{2.5} value increased from 17 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ to 62 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and 132 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, the UV_{vitD} dose was reduced by 11.82% and 30.2%, respectively. The UV_{vitD} dose increased with increasing latitudes as shown in Fig. 8. This increase was due to our study evaluating only the duration during which the SEA was in the range of 30° to 50°. In fact, the lower the latitude, the longer the duration of high SEAs on the same day and the greater the dose of UV_{vitD} received.

To achieve an equivalent UV_{vitD} dose received by the manikin, greater PM_{2.5} concentrations required more exposure time (Fig. 9). When the SEAs were 30° to 50°, for the manikin to receive the same UV_{vitD} dose at 30° N latitude, the PM_{2.5} had to increase from 17 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ to 62 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and 132 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, and the exposure time had to increase by at least 19.95 h and 41.81 h per month and 0.43 h and 1.39 h per day, respectively (Fig. 9a); at 40° N latitude, the exposure time had to increase by at least 2.5 h and 8.07 h per month and 0.08 h and 0.26 h per day, respectively (Fig. 9b); and at 50° N latitude, the exposure time had to increase by at least 1.33 h and 4.3 h per month and 0.05 h and 0.15 h per day, respectively (Fig. 9c). To receive the same UV_{vitD} dose, when PM_{2.5} value increased from 17 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ to 62 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and 132 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, the exposure time needed to increase by 11.82% and 30.2%, respectively.

IV. DISCUSSION

To the best of our knowledge, this is the first analysis of the associations between PM_{2.5} and the UV_{vitD} intensity received by manikin surfaces based on a homemade multiangle UV monitoring model and 3D manikin model. These results showed that the UV_{vitD} intensity received by the manikin surface decreased with increasing PM_{2.5} concentrations. When

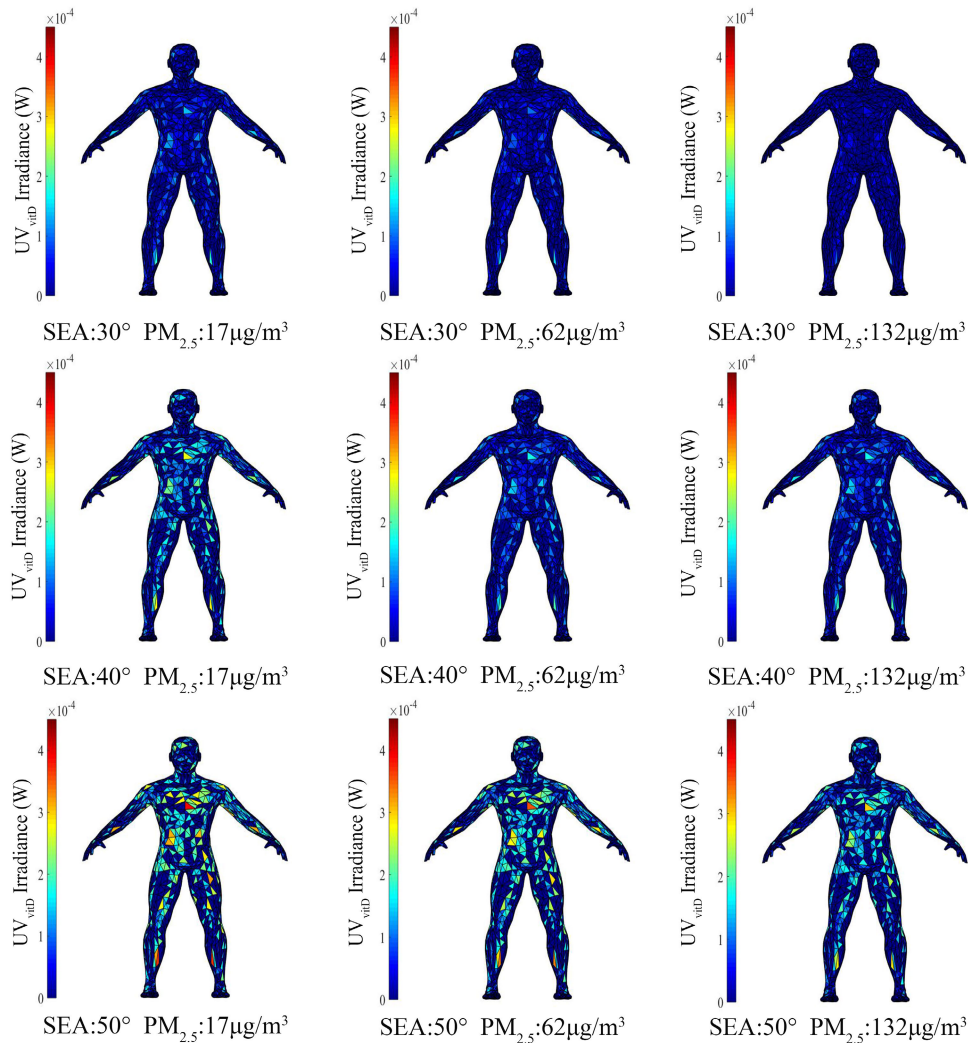


FIGURE 5. UV_{vitD} intensity received by different triangle meshes of the manikin at different SEAs and $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations. $PM_{2.5}$ is fine particulate matter. UV_{vitD} is the action spectrum of ultraviolet radiation for vitamin D production. SEA is the solar elevation angle.

the $PM_{2.5}$ concentration was $62 \mu g/m^3$, the UV_{vitD} intensity received by the whole body was reduced by between 8.45% and 19.82% compared with that when the $PM_{2.5}$ concentration was $17 \mu g/m^3$ at SEAs between 30° and 50° . Moreover, UV_{vitD} dose showed a reduction of 11.82% in the above comparisons. When the $PM_{2.5}$ concentration was $132 \mu g/m^3$, the UV_{vitD} intensity received by the whole body was reduced from 21.6% to 50.64% compared with a $PM_{2.5}$ concentration of $17 \mu g/m^3$ at SEAs between 30° and 50° . Moreover, the UV_{vitD} dose showed a reduction of 30.2%.

Previous studies have explored whether air pollution could reduce the intensity of ambient UV radiation to some extent [42], [43]. Furthermore, the exposure to UV radiation at various inclination angles represents an important basis for the assessment of the UV radiation intensity received by human skin. Baczynska *et al.* and Oppenrieder *et al.* demonstrated that the intensity of UV radiation at different

inclination angles is different [44], [45], which was consistent with our study.

Previous studies used multiple linear regression analysis to study the relationship between UV radiation and various influencing factors. H. Lee *et al.* used multiple linear regression analysis to study UV radiation with clouds, aerosols and ozone and described the surface solar irradiance in Seoul [46]. H.K. Cho *et al.* studied the effects of cloud, temperature and specific humidity on longwave irradiance by using multiple linear regression methods using measurements at the Antarctic Peninsula [47]. Our monitoring background included monitoring the ultraviolet radiation intensity received by different inclines under sunny weather with different SEA and $PM_{2.5}$ conditions. The SEA was a major factor influencing the intensity of ambient UV_{vitD} radiation. The inclination angle was only effective when the SEA was present. To reflect the relationship between the incident radiation and the surface

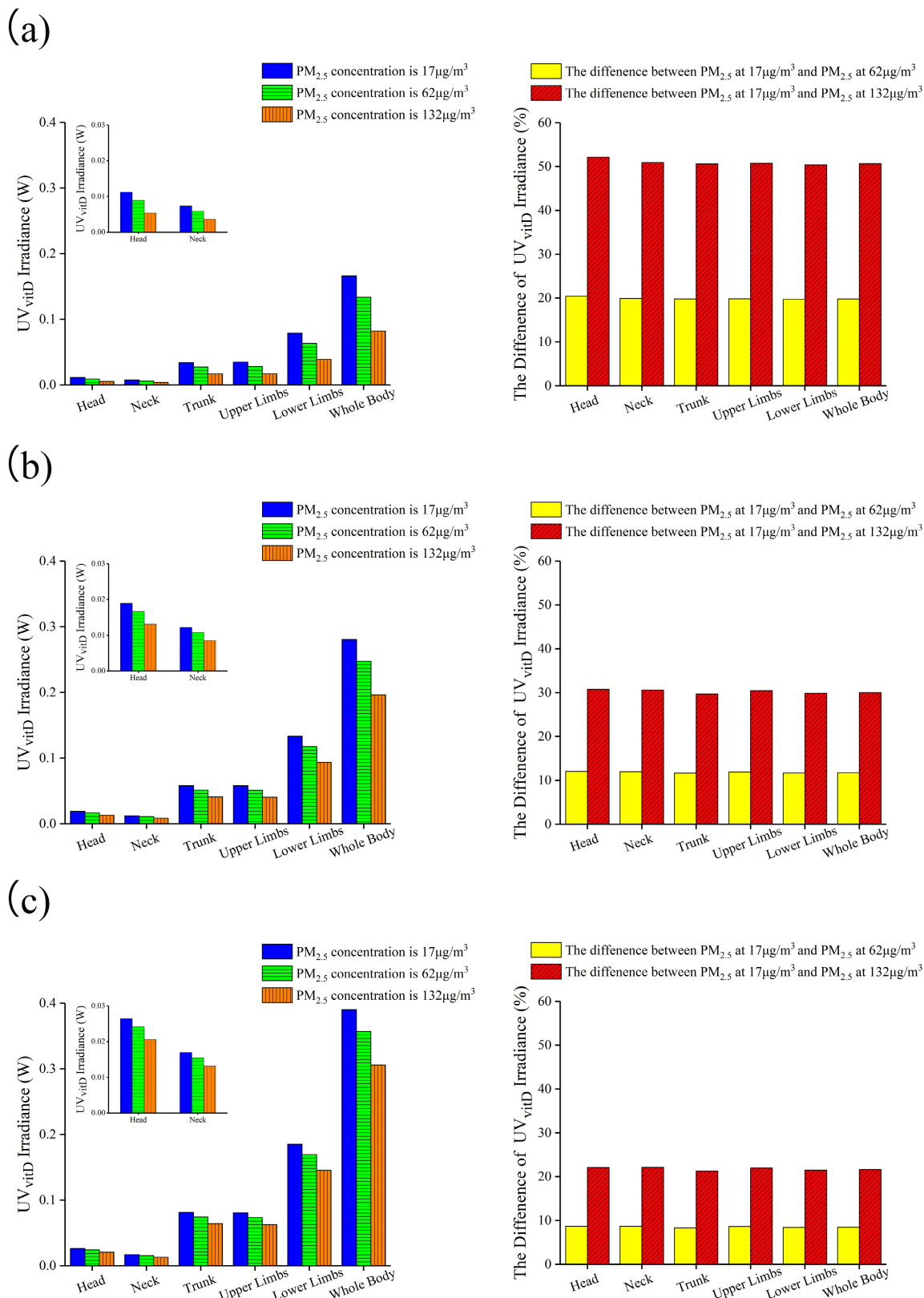


FIGURE 6. Change in UV_{vitD} intensity received by various parts of the manikin with different PM_{2.5} concentrations at different SEAs and the difference in UV_{vitD} intensity under different PM_{2.5} concentrations. (a) The SEA was 30°; (b) the SEA was 40°; (c) the SEA was 50°. PM_{2.5} is fine particulate matter. UV_{vitD} is the action spectrum of ultraviolet radiation for vitamin D production. SEA is the solar elevation angle. The difference in UV_{vitD} irradiance is expressed as a percent, which was calculated by dividing the difference value by the UV_{vitD} intensity when the PM_{2.5} concentration was 17 µg/m³.

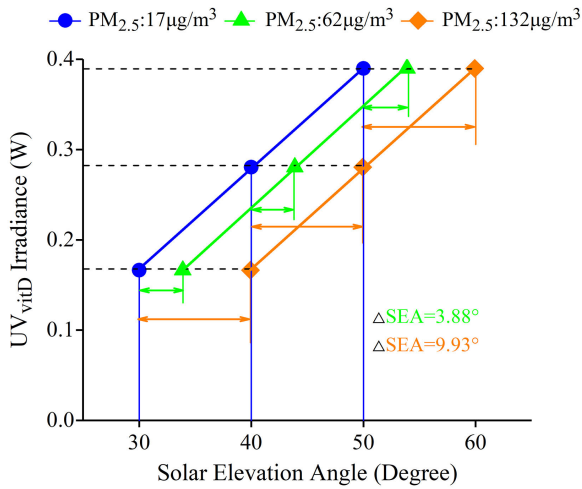


FIGURE 7. Changes in the UV_{vitD} intensity received by the manikin surface with various SEAs under different $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations. $PM_{2.5}$ is fine particulate matter. UV_{vitD} is the action spectrum of ultraviolet radiation for vitamin D production. SEA is the solar elevation angle.

inclination, we used the cosine between the angle of incidence and the surface of the body. Therefore, this study included the SEA, the cosine of the angle formed between the SEA and the inclination angle ($\cos\alpha$), and $PM_{2.5}$ as independent variables. To evaluate the change of UV_{vitD} intensity under the combined effects of SEA, inclination and $PM_{2.5}$ factors, a multiple linear regression analysis was performed. Compared with facing away from the sun, direct light was received when facing the sun; therefore, the UV intensity received by the inclined surface was greatly affected by the SEA. While facing away from the sun, the inclined surface received diffuse scattered light, which might explain why the weight of $\cos\alpha$ was greater than that of the SEA. Although the coefficient of $PM_{2.5}$ in the regression model formula was smaller, its standard coefficient Beta value was not small, which indicated that $PM_{2.5}$ has a certain effect on the UV_{vitD} intensity.

Finally, Schrempf et al. used the 3D geometry of the human body to evaluate the association between melanoma prevalence and altitude [48]. C. Backes et al. used a well-defined 3-dimensional head morphology and 4 hat styles to explore the sun protection effect of hats under different exposure conditions by predicting UVR exposure doses on different facial anatomies [49]. D. Vernez et al. developed a model simulating human exposure to solar UV to assess outdoor occupational and recreational UV exposures [50]. In this study, we used a manikin with standing posture as the standard state. This posture is consistent with the anatomical position in medicine and represents a common posture when people are outdoors. The exposure state of the manikin model we set was facing the sun and undressed, and all parts could be exposed to the sun. Although external influencing factors were excluded, the human body will also be affected by its own shadow effect (e.g., shadow of the face on the neck). The purpose of this study was to explore the effect of $PM_{2.5}$ on UV_{vitD} received by the manikin model when all parts of the manikin model

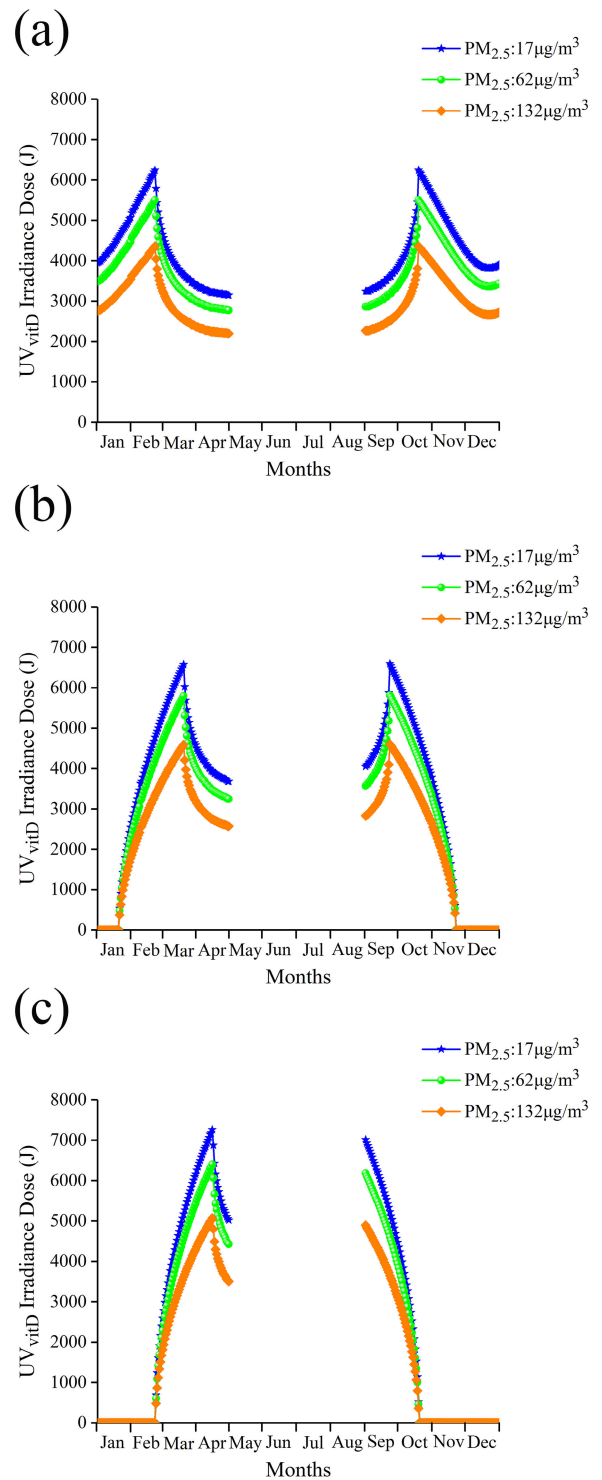


FIGURE 8. Changes in the UV_{vitD} dose received by the manikin surface by month at different latitudes under different $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations. (a) Latitude was 30° north; (b) latitude was 40° north; (c) latitude was 50° north. $PM_{2.5}$ is fine particulate matter. UV_{vitD} is the action spectrum of ultraviolet radiation for vitamin D production. SEA is the solar elevation angle.

could receive sunlight. We first used a 3D human model to evaluate the relationship between $PM_{2.5}$ and UV_{vitD} received on the surface of the human model.

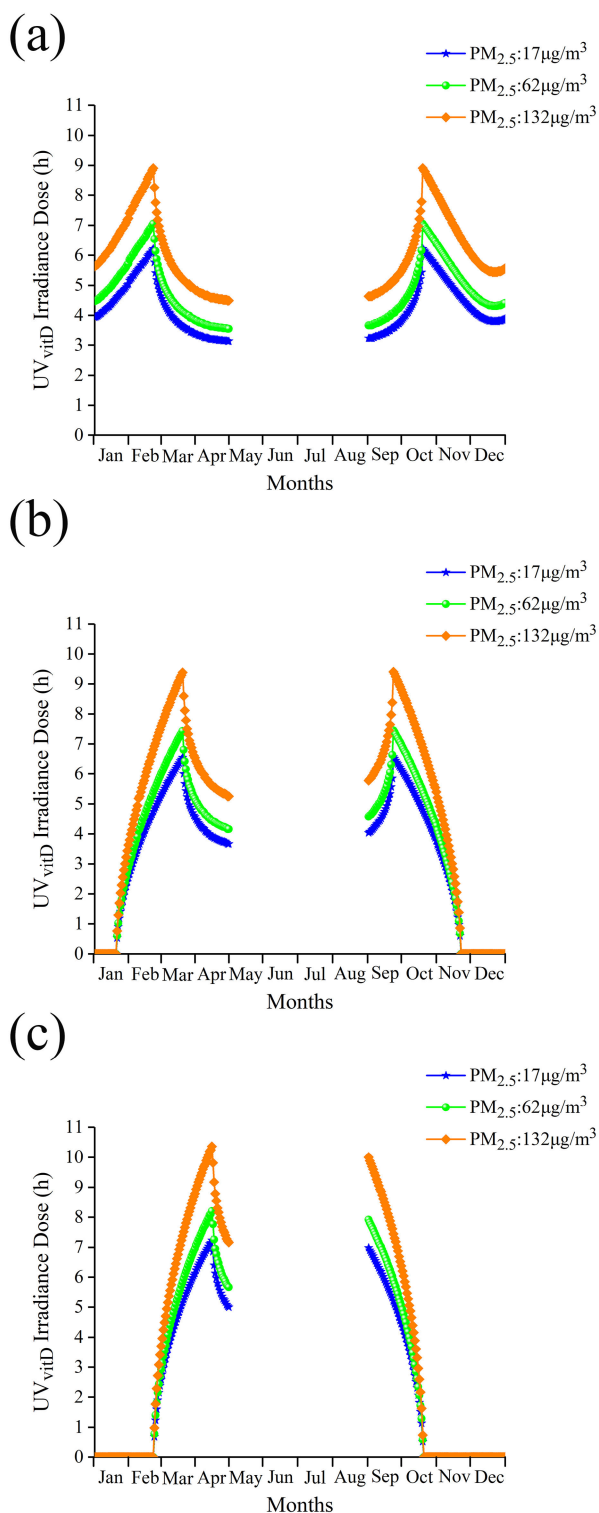


FIGURE 9. Changes in the exposure time required by the manikin surface by month at different latitudes under different PM_{2.5} concentrations. (a) Latitude was 30° north; (b) latitude was 40° north; (c) latitude was 50° north. PM_{2.5} is fine particulate matter. UV_{vitD} is the action spectrum of ultraviolet radiation for vitamin D production. SEA is the solar elevation angle. T = D/E; D was UV_{vitD} dose, E was UV_{vitD} intensity, D indicates that the concentration of PM_{2.5} was 17 µg/m³.

This study was conducted under the condition that other exposure conditions of the manikin model were the same and only PM_{2.5} was varied. The purpose was only to explore the effect of PM_{2.5} on the UV_{vitD} intensity received by the manikin. In fact, the intensity of UV radiation received by the human body can also be affected by many factors, such as weather, exposure time outdoor, and protective clothing [51]–[56]. These factors could also cause vitamin D deficiency in the body. However, our study suggested that PM_{2.5} could not only cause respiratory system and cardiovascular system diseases of the human but might also lead to vitamin D deficiency by reducing the UV_{vitD} intensity received by the human body.

In this study, the effect of PM_{2.5} on the UV_{vitD} intensity received by the manikin surface was explored on the basis of multi-inclination angle ultraviolet radiation monitoring under different PM_{2.5} concentrations. As one of the primary pollutants causing air pollution, PM_{2.5} is highly correlated with the AQI, and it also greatly affects the degree of vitamin D3 synthesis in human skin. Thus, this study mainly explored the associations between PM_{2.5} and the UV_{vitD} intensity received by the manikin surface. Moreover, the UV radiation intensity received by the human body was reflected by the UV radiation intensity at different inclination angles. This homemade multiangle ultraviolet radiation monitoring model was also applied in our previous study [41]. After monitoring the ultraviolet radiation intensity received under different inclination angles under different concentrations of PM_{2.5}, multiple linear regression modeling was performed to better reflect the relationship between UV_{vitD} and the SEA, PM_{2.5}, and inclination angle. Finally, the UV_{vitD} received by the manikin surface was calculated through the above multiple linear regression formula combined with the surface area and inclination angles of each inclined surface of the manikin.

The phenomenon of PM_{2.5} reducing the UV_{vitD} intensity received by the manikin surface can be attributed to the following reasons. Some studies have shown that PM_{2.5} can absorb ultraviolet light in the atmosphere. Lan et al. analyzed the light absorption coefficient of the main chemical compositions of PM_{2.5} and found that the effect of the black carbon mixing state could not be ignored, and this absorption of light accounts for 37.7% of the total PM [57]. J. Mok et al. found that brown carbon absorbs a significant amount of light in the ultraviolet band [58]. In addition, Zhang et al. indicated that the absorption of light by PM_{2.5} water extract increased significantly from the visible range to the ultraviolet range [59]. Moreover, other studies have shown that PM_{2.5} could scatter ultraviolet light. When the ultraviolet light reaches the surface of PM, the direction of propagation is changed and the light is scattered in all directions to further reduce the quality and quantity of ultraviolet radiation reaching the surface of the Earth [42], [60], [61]. Although the UV radiation reaching the surface of the Earth is mainly composed of UVA (≥95%) [62], UVB is more susceptible

to interference by PM_{2.5} due to its shorter wavelength. Moreover, UVB corresponds to the main wavelength that promotes the synthesis of vitamin D in human skin [63]. Therefore, PM_{2.5} might indirectly reduce the UV_{vitD} by absorbing and scattering ultraviolet radiation.

It is well known that children, pregnant women, and elderly people are considered high-risk groups for vitamin D deficiency. These groups usually require more vitamin D than other healthy adults. For example, due to a crucial period of bone growth and development, the daily vitamin D need for children is 800 IU/d in winter [64], whereas the recommended vitamin D intake for adults is 600 IU/d. Furthermore, pregnancy requires more vitamin D to maintain maternal and fetal health [65], [66], although the precise dose of vitamin D required during pregnancy is unclear. For pregnant women, there are numerous differing recommended vitamin D doses, such as 1000 IU/d, 1500-2000 IU/d, 5000 IU/week, and a single dose of 200,000 IU or higher [67]–[70]. For the elderly, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) suggested in 2011 that the recommended vitamin D dose was 800 IU/d (> 70 years), because bone loss is accelerated and the ability to synthesize vitamin D is also reduced with age [1], [71].

A.R. Webb et al. indicated that the vitamin D requirements in the human body are mostly met through skin exposure to sunlight [21]. However, an obvious seasonal cycle of serum 25(OH)D concentrations was observed in populations at mid-high latitudes [72]–[74]. A.R. Webb et al. also reported that the average concentration was lowest in February and highest in September [75]. The UVB irradiance reaching the surface of the Earth is also related to latitude. The greater the latitude, the greater the distance from the equator, the more UVB radiation that is absorbed by the ozone layer, and the less UVB that reaches the Earth's surface [76]. Moreover, the actual sunlight absorbed by human skin is decreased because people generally wear more clothing in winter. Thus, the effective amount of vitamin D₃ produced by human skin was very small in winter for people living in middle and high latitudes; and it is therefore necessary to increase the supplementation and storage of vitamin D in the spring and autumn for these people [77]–[79], particularly for children, pregnant women, and the elderly, who have greater vitamin D requirements than other healthy adults.

PM_{2.5} pollution mostly occurs in winter because of straw burning. In this study, we found that PM_{2.5} obviously reduced the UV_{vitD} dose received by the manikin surface. If air pollution occurs in certain seasons and areas, such as in China [80], people are more likely to have vitamin D deficiency. Additionally, previous studies also reported that PM_{2.5} could directly cause many chronic diseases, such as respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, to which children, pregnant women, and elderly individuals are more susceptible [81]–[83]. The doubly harmful effects of PM_{2.5} deserve our attention.

This study has several limitations. One limitation is that due to the limitations of the monitoring conditions, the highest SEA and PM_{2.5} concentration in the monitoring locations during the polluted periods were 50.1° and

161 μg/m³, respectively. We failed to obtain UV radiation data in polluted atmospheres at higher SEAs and with higher concentrations of PM_{2.5}. Thus, the UV_{vitD} exposure models of multi-inclination angles of the human body cannot be applied to environments with higher PM_{2.5} concentrations. However, if the PM_{2.5} concentration is higher, the harmful effects will be increased. The second limitation was that our UV radiation monitoring was performed in cloudless weather; therefore, the UV_{vitD} exposure models of multi-inclination angles of the human body might not be applicable to cloudy conditions. The third limitation is that our study was conducted under the premise that the manikin was facing the sun and all parts were fully exposed to the sun; thus, we did not consider shading effects (e.g., shadow of the face on the neck). In addition, this study used the manikin to analyze the effect of PM_{2.5} on the UV_{vitD} intensity. However, it was also affected by other factors, such as the exposure time outdoors or protective clothing. These factors will be studied in the future.

V. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the presence of PM_{2.5} can significantly reduce the UV_{vitD} received by the manikin surface.

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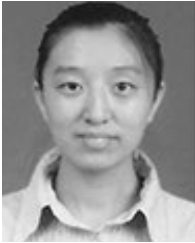
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