Author's response to reviews

Title: Spatial analysis of hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome in China

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Author's response to reviews:

For Reviewer: Arthur Getis

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

The entire manuscript is filled with grammatical errors common to Asian scholars who have not had their manuscripts proof-read by native English speakers.

We have native English speaking colleagues help us with this. Grammatical errors and wrong use of terms have been corrected and missing labels on figures were added.

Furthermore, the manuscript formatting has been revised according to Manuscript formatting checklist.

For Reviewer: Gholamreza Darai

1. The data presented in this study are not new and are not of general interest.
Firstly, understanding the spatial patterns of infectious diseases can provide insight as to their causes and controls. Geographic information systems (GIS) and related technologies like remote sensing (RS) offer new opportunities for rapid assessment of endemic areas, provision of reliable estimates of populations at risk, prediction of disease distributions, and they are increasingly used to analyze geographical distribution of diseases as well as relationships between pathogenic factors and their geographic environments. For the sake of the serious disease of HFRS in Mainland China and analyses at county level (in the smaller spatial unit as county level comprised with previous studies in the unit of province) by GIS and GIS-based spatial analysis methods, this study is of general interest for the prevention and control of HFRS.

In addition, the data used in the study include the number of HFRS cases at each county (sum up to more than 2380 counties in Mainland China) for five years in Mainland China, and it is credible for the result in terms of the study area of the whole Mainland China and it is new for the analyses at county level with the spatial scan statistics method which is one of hotspots for spatial epidemiology and GIS.

2. Language, grammar and spelling need attention.

We have had native English speaking colleagues help us with this.