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LEMONTREE
Land Ecosystem Models
based On New Theory,
observations and
Experiments

Implementing the acclimation of photosynthesis and leaf respiration in the Noah-MP land surface model

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LPICEA | Lab of Plant Interactions:
Climate, Ecosystem & Atmosphere
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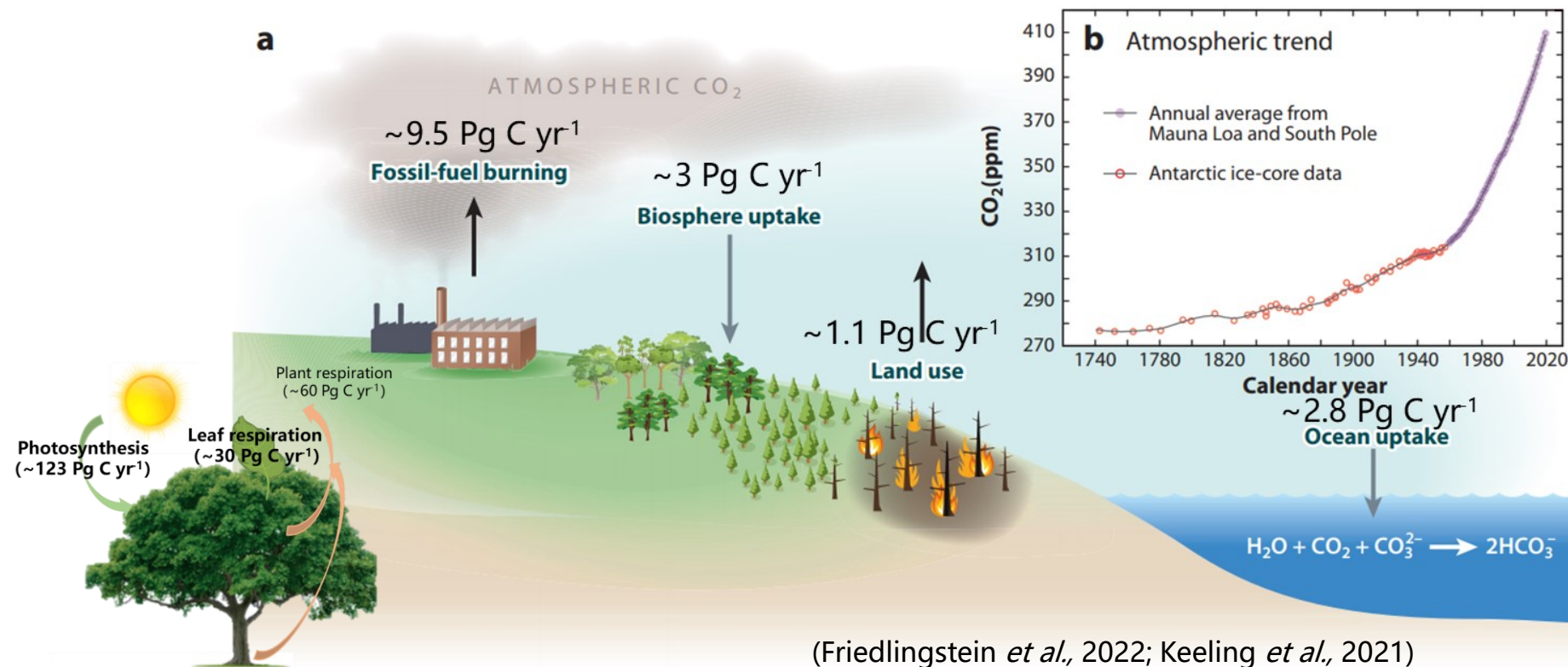




Background

Realistic simulation of leaf photosynthetic and respiratory processes is needed for accurate prediction of the global carbon cycle.

- Plant leaves absorb CO₂ through **photosynthesis** (123 PgC yr⁻¹, globally).
- About a quarter CO₂ absorption (30 PgC yr⁻¹) was released to the atmosphere by **leaf respiration**.
- Changes in leaf respiration and photosynthesis would significantly modify the **global carbon balance**.

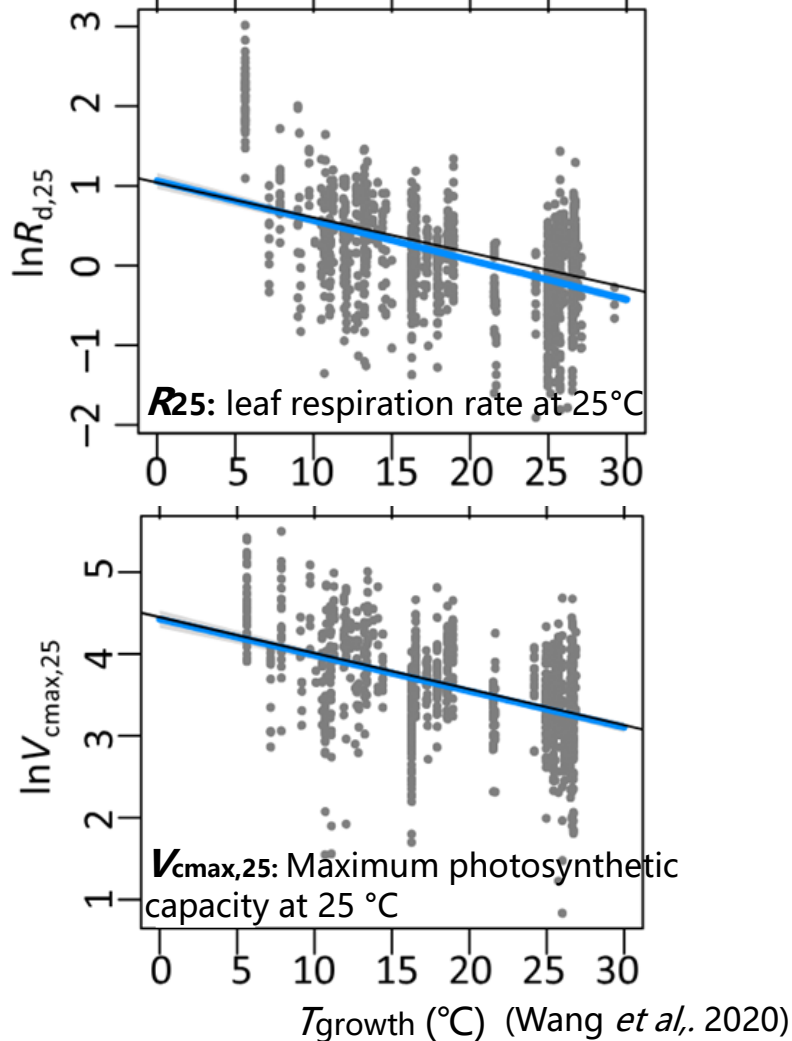




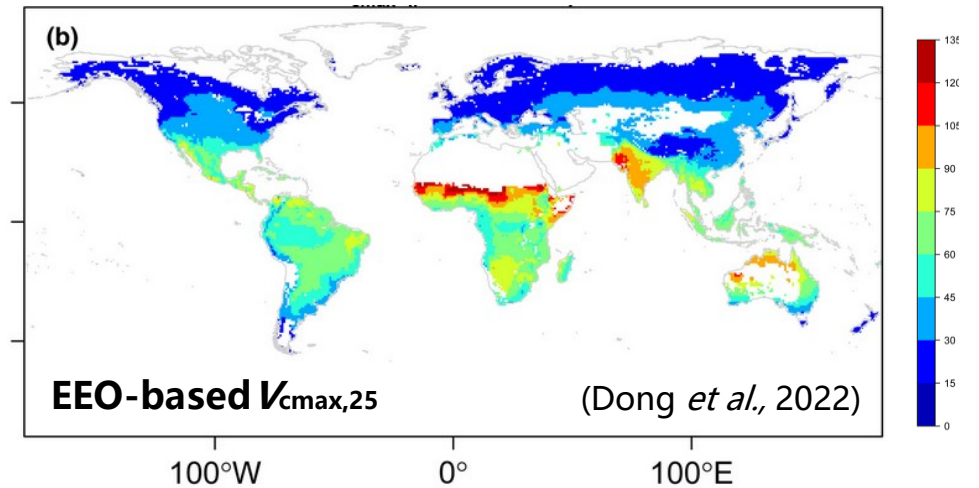
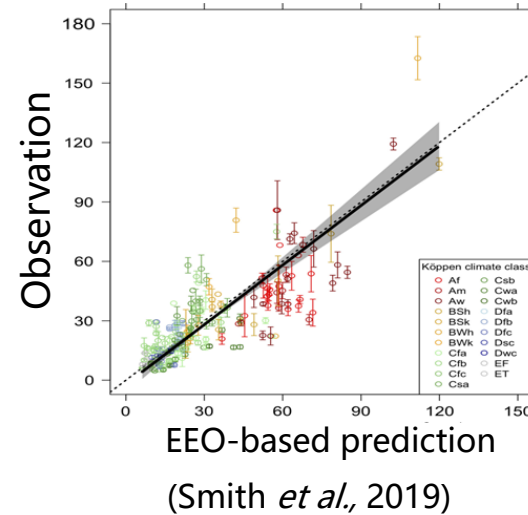
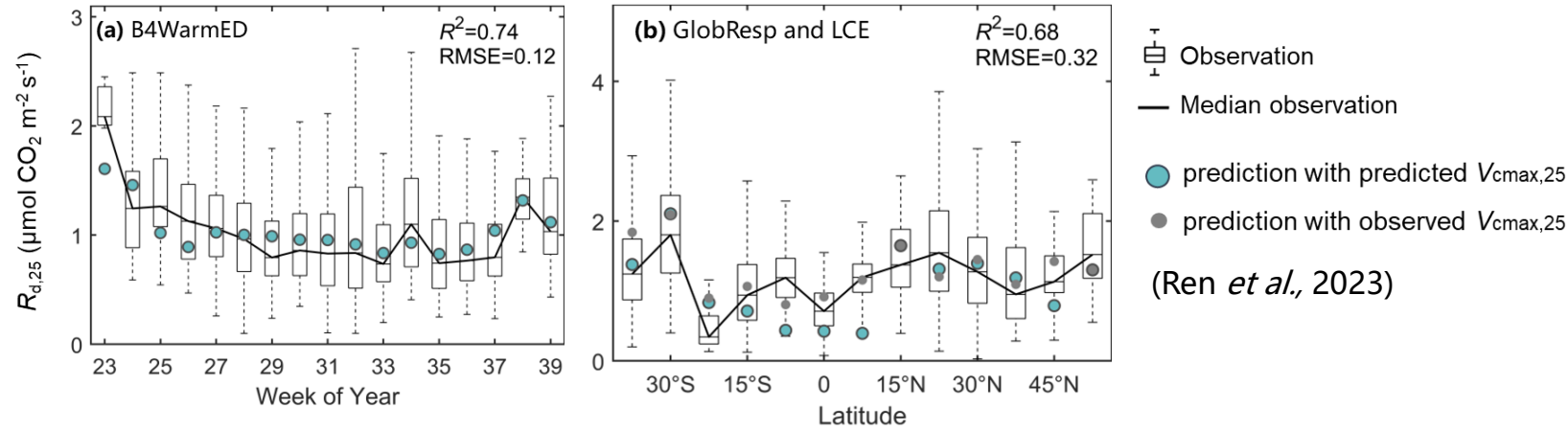
Background

Plant photosynthesis and respiration acclimate to long-term environmental changes by adjusting photosynthetic and respiratory traits with increasingly well-understood principles.

Evidence of acclimation



Eco-Evolutionary Optimality-based predictions

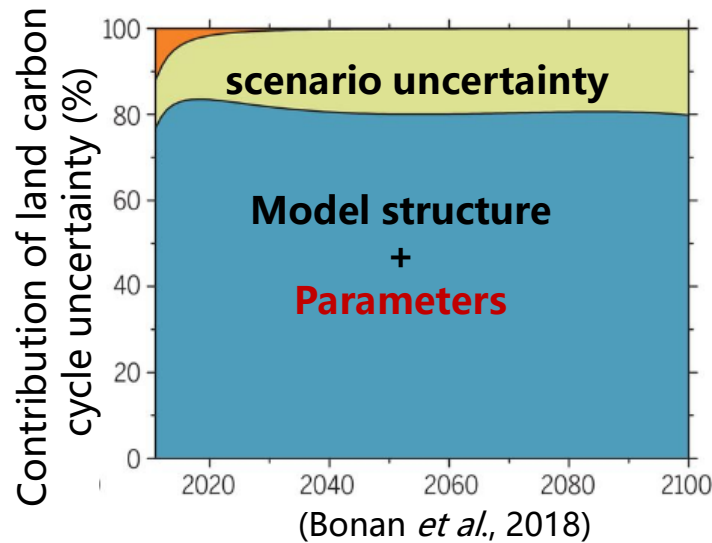
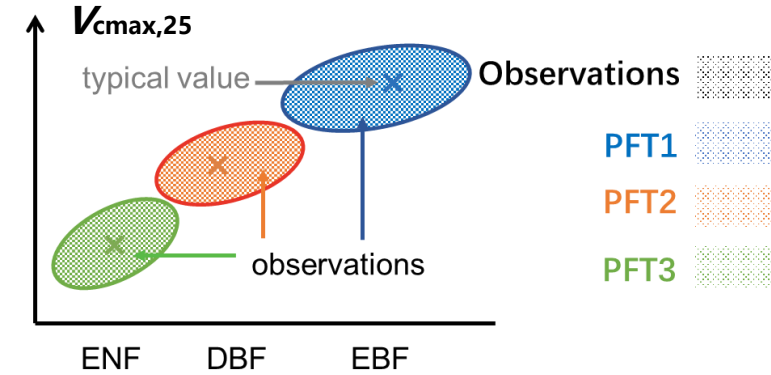




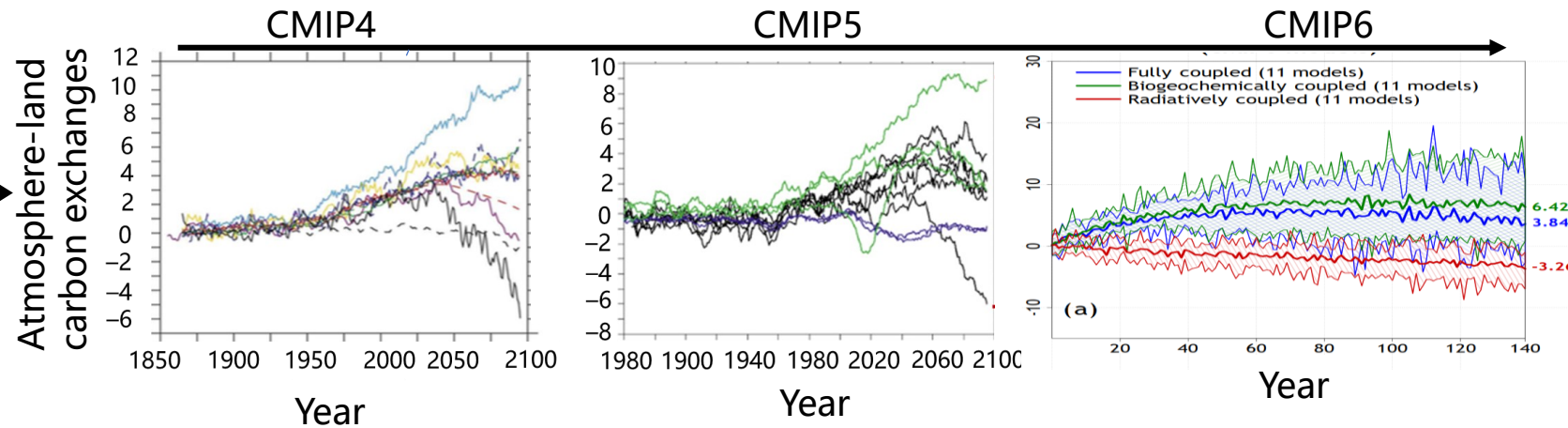
Background

However, acclimation is still not routinely considered in land surface models (LSMs).

- LSMs conventionally assumed a **constant** R_{25} and $V_{\text{cmax},25}$ by **plant functional types (PFTs)**.
- Calibration of PFT-dependent parameters together with model structures results in **disagreement among LSMs** in projections of the carbon cycle at regional or global scales.



Huge uncertainty!



(Friedlingstein *et al.*, 2006, 2014; Arora *et al.*, 2020)



Contents

This study implemented EEO-based schemes representing the acclimation of photosynthesis and leaf respiration in the Noah MP LSM.

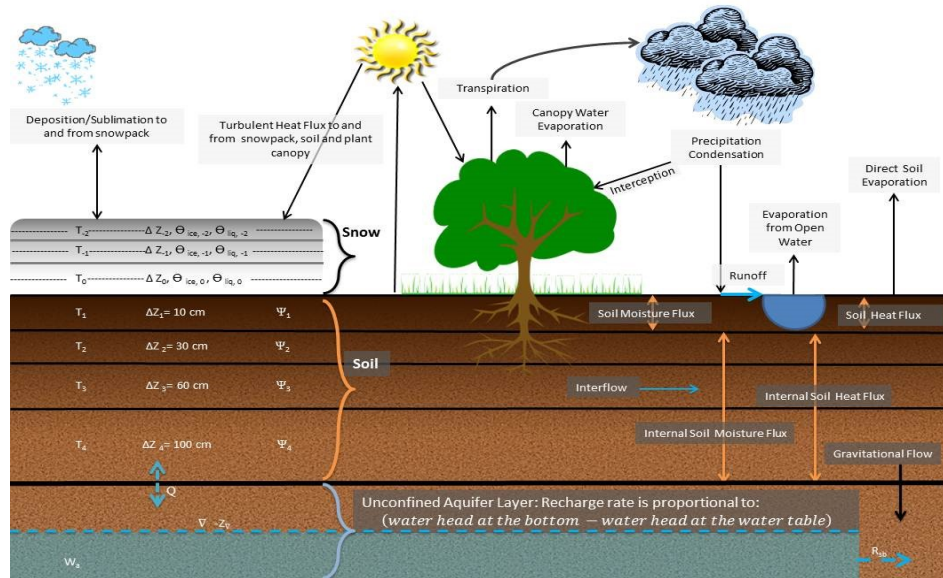


- **Model development:**
model description, experimental design, the forcing and benchmark data
- **Evaluation:**
traits variations, carbon flux variations



Model description

Land surface model: Noah-MP

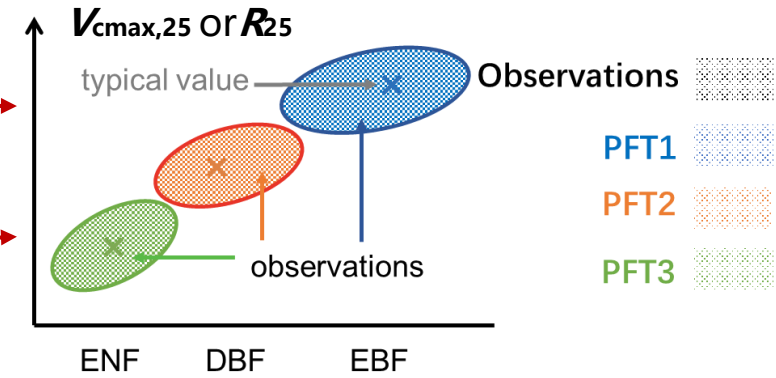


The framework of the land surface model Noah-MP

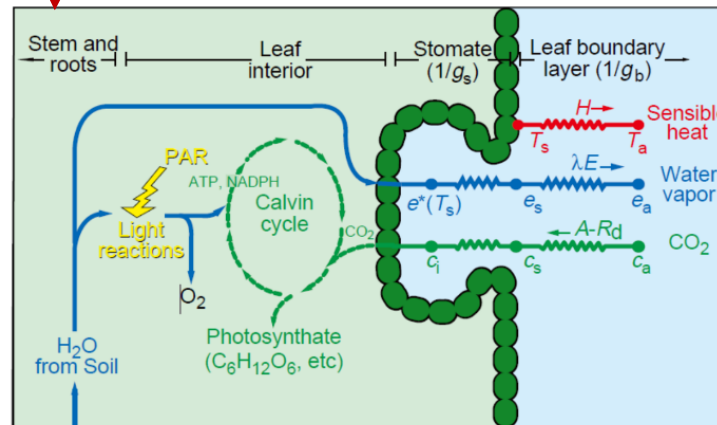
$$GPP = \min(A_C, A_J)$$

$$A_C = \begin{cases} V_{cmax} \cdot \frac{c_i - \Gamma^*}{c_i + K}, & \text{C3 plant} \\ V_{cmax}, & \text{C4 plant} \end{cases}$$

$$A_J = \begin{cases} \frac{J}{4} \cdot \frac{c_i - \Gamma^*}{c_i + 2\Gamma^*}, & \text{C3 plant} \\ \frac{J}{4}, & \text{C4 plant} \end{cases}$$



$$R_{canopy} = R_{25} \cdot f_r(T) \cdot LAI$$



Numerical iteration via Ball-Berry model



Model description

□ $GPP = \min(A_C, A_J)$

$$A_C = \begin{cases} V_{cmax} \cdot \frac{c_i - \Gamma^*}{c_i + K}, & C3 \text{ plant} \\ V_{cmax}, & C4 \text{ plant} \end{cases}$$

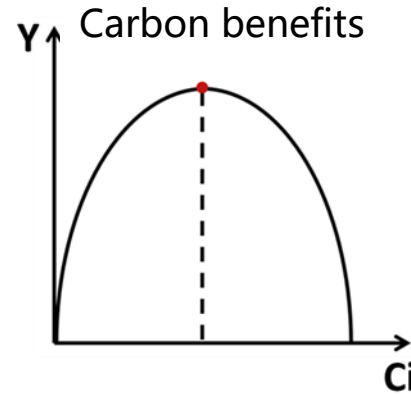
$$A_J = \begin{cases} \frac{J}{4} \cdot \frac{c_i - \Gamma^*}{c_i + 2\Gamma^*}, & C3 \text{ plant} \\ \frac{J}{4}, & C4 \text{ plant} \end{cases}$$

□ $R_{canopy} = R_{25} \cdot f_r(T) \cdot LAI$

	Standard Noah-MP scheme	EEO-based scheme
c_i	Numerical iteration	Least-cost hypothesis
$V_{cmax,25}$	PFT parameters	Coordination hypothesis
$J_{max,25}$	Infinity	Coordination hypothesis
R_{25}	PFT parameters	R-Vcmax coupling

EEO-based scheme

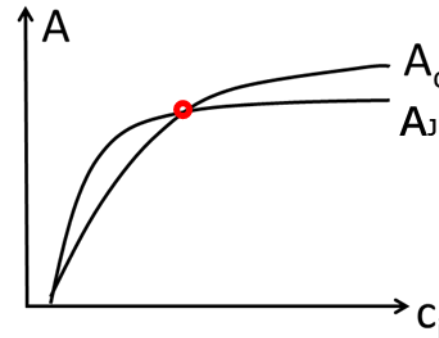
Least-cost hypothesis



$$c_i = \frac{\xi c_a + \Gamma^* \sqrt{VPD}}{\xi + \sqrt{VPD}}$$

$$\xi = \sqrt{\frac{\gamma(K + \Gamma^*)}{1.6\eta^*}}$$

Coordination : $A = A_J = A_C$



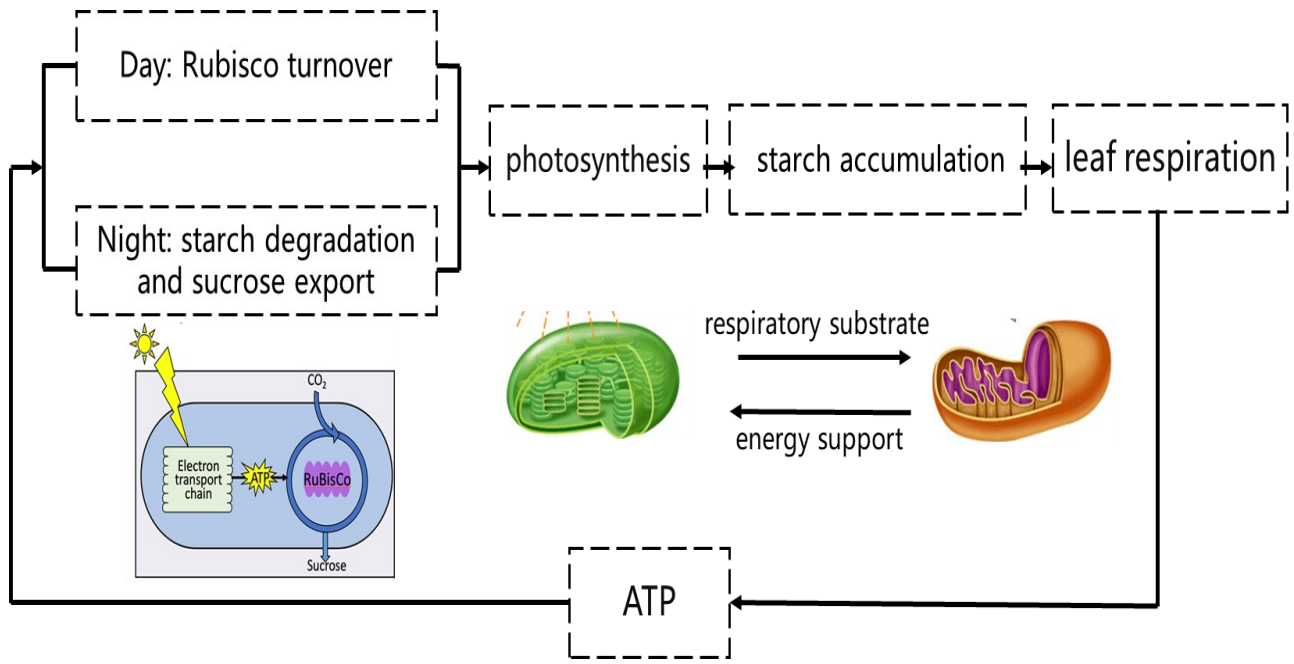
$$V_{cmax,opt} = \varphi_0 I_{abs} [(c_i + K)/(c_i + 2\Gamma^*)] \sqrt{\left\{ 1 - \left[c^* \frac{(c_i + 2\Gamma^*)}{(c_i - \Gamma^*)} \right]^{2/3} \right\}}$$

$$J_{max,opt} = 4\varphi_0 I_{abs} \beta / \sqrt{1 / \left\{ 1 - \left[c^* \frac{(c_i + 2\Gamma^*)}{(c_i - \Gamma^*)} \right]^{2/3} \right\} - 1}$$



Model description: New hypothesis of leaf respiration acclimation

R and carboxylation capacity (V_{cmax}) at 25°C ($R_{25}, V_{cmax,25}$) are coordinated, so that R_{25} variations support $V_{cmax,25}$ at a level allowing full light use; with $V_{cmax,25}$ reflecting daytime conditions (for photosynthesis), and the ratio of R_{25} to $V_{cmax,25}$ reflecting night-time conditions (for starch degradation and sucrose export).



R_d and V_{cmax} are coordinated

$$b = \frac{R}{V_{cmax}} = \frac{R_{25} \cdot f_r(T_{night})}{V_{cmax,25} \cdot f_v(T_{midday})}$$

$$R_{25} = b \frac{f_v(T_{midday})}{f_r(T_{night})} V_{cmax,25}$$

where $f_v(T_{midday}) = \exp \left[(\Delta H_a/R) \left(\frac{1}{298.15} - \frac{1}{T_{midday} + 273.15} \right) \right]$

$$f_r(T_{night}) = \exp(0.1012(T_{night} - 25) - 0.0005(T_{night}^2 - 25^2))$$



Model description: New hypothesis of leaf respiration acclimation

- R_{25} is jointly controlled by V_{cmax} and T_{night}

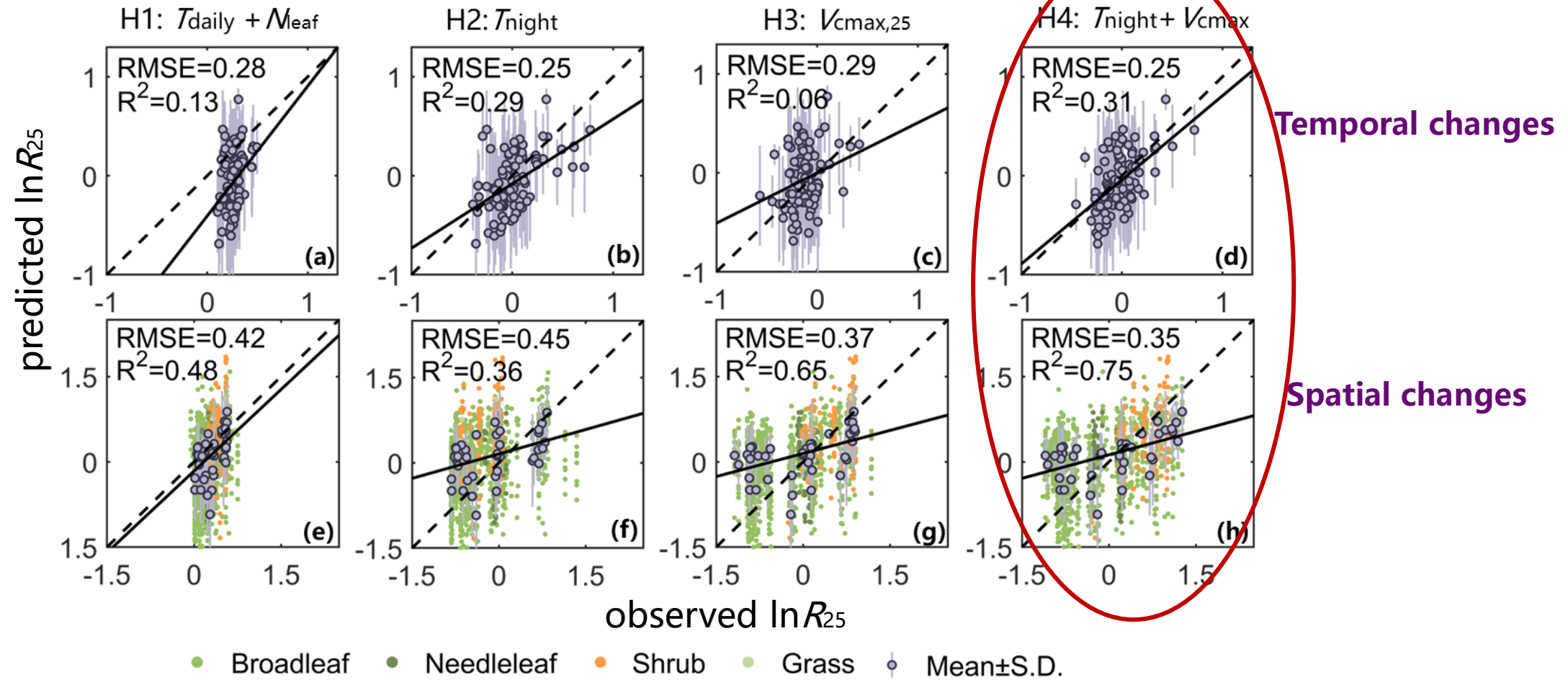


Fig. Scatter plots of natural-log transformed $R_{d,25}$ between observation and prediction at their highest R^2 by four hypotheses



Model description: New hypothesis of leaf respiration acclimation

- The acclimation time scale of R_{25} is about 15 days (consistent with $V_{cmax,25}$).

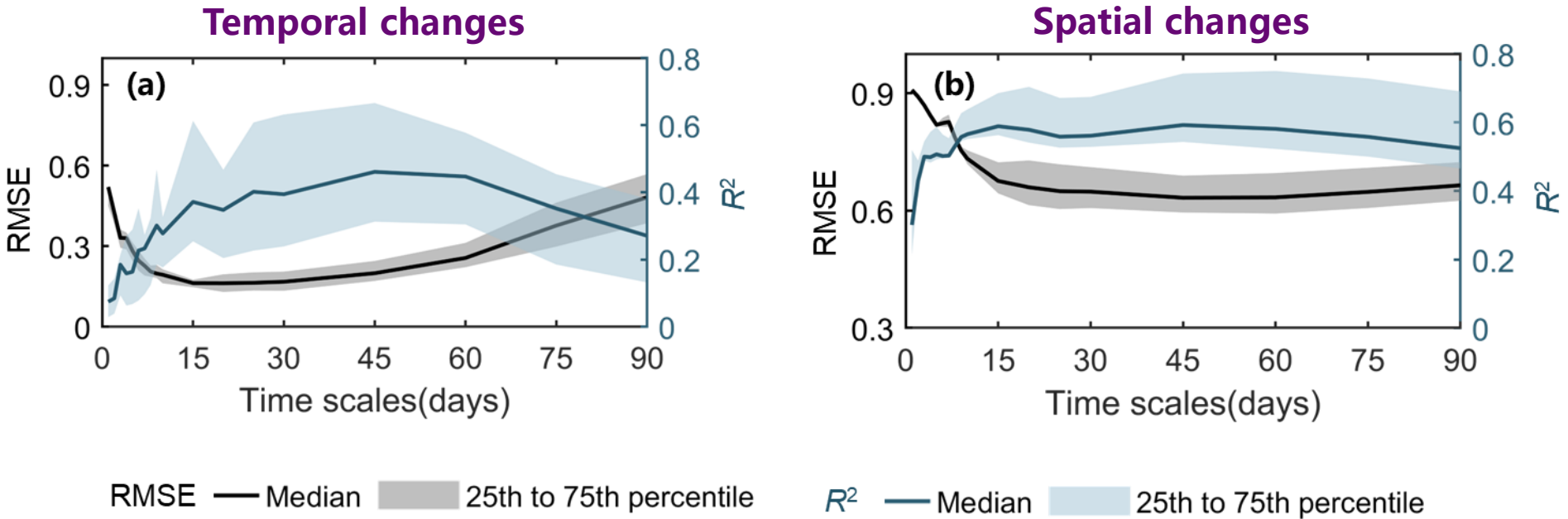


Fig. Estimating the acclimation time scale of leaf respiration (a-b)).



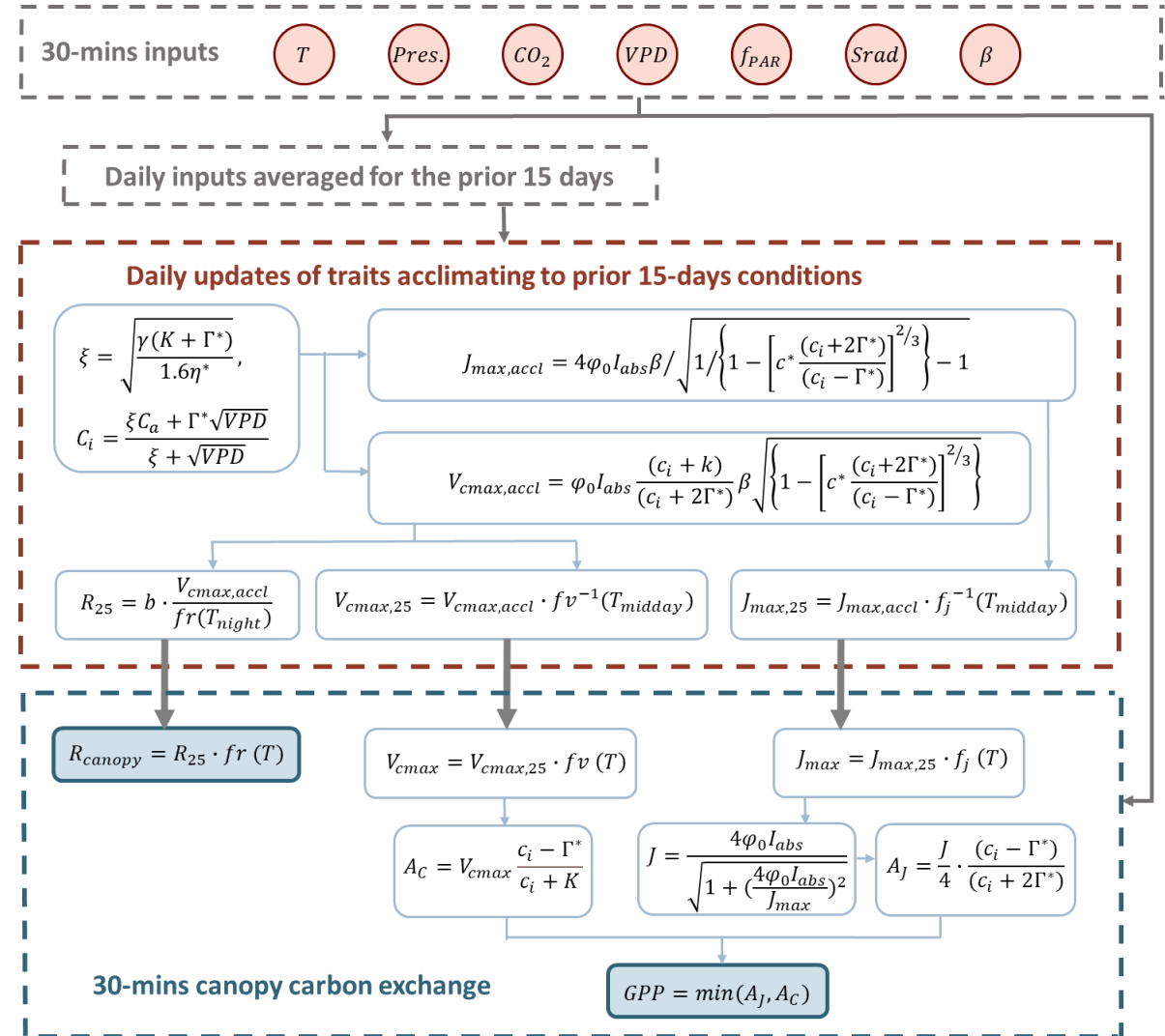
Model description

EEO-based scheme:

- ✓ less parameters (12 PFT-dependent → 3 PFT-independent)
- ✓ less computationally demanding (No numerical iteration)

	Standard Noah-MP scheme	EEO-based scheme
c_i	Numerical iteration	Least-cost hypothesis
$V_{cmax,25}$	PFT parameters	Coordination hypothesis
$J_{max,25}$	Infinity	Coordination hypothesis
R_{25}	PFT parameters	R-Vcmax coupling

Flowchart of the trait-acclimation scheme incorporated in Noah MP





Experimental design

Two sets of model experiments:

- a. The standard Noah MP scheme
- b. The new EEO-based scheme

Simulation design:

- Time step: half hour
- Spin up: one loop
- Simulation sites:
FLUXNET2015 sites; field trait-measurement sites
- Simulation periods: over 1200 site years
- Forcing: observed or WFDE5-based climate forcings
+ satellite LAI + observed atmospheric CO₂

Module options used in the two experiments

Modules	EEO scheme	Standard scheme
GPP and R_{canopy} (canopy carbon flux)	Trait acclimation	Static PFT-dependent (Ball-Berry module)
Dynamic vegetation		Use LAI input
Soil moisture limitation		Noah
Runoff and ground water		TOPMODEL with groundwater
Surface layer drag coefficient		Monin-Obukhov similarity theory
Supercooled liquid water		No iteration
Frozen soil permeability		Linear effects
Radiation transfer		Two-stream applied to vegetated fraction
Ground snow surface albedo		CLASS
Snow-rain partitioning		Jordan, 1991
Lower boundary condition of soil temperature		TBOT at ZBOT (8m) read from a file
Snow/soil temperature time scheme		Semi-implicit
Surface resistance to evaporation/sublimation		Sakaguchi & Zeng, 2009
Glacier		Phase change
Defining soil properties		Use dominant soil texture input



Benchmark data

Trait ($V_{cmax,25}$ and R_{25}):

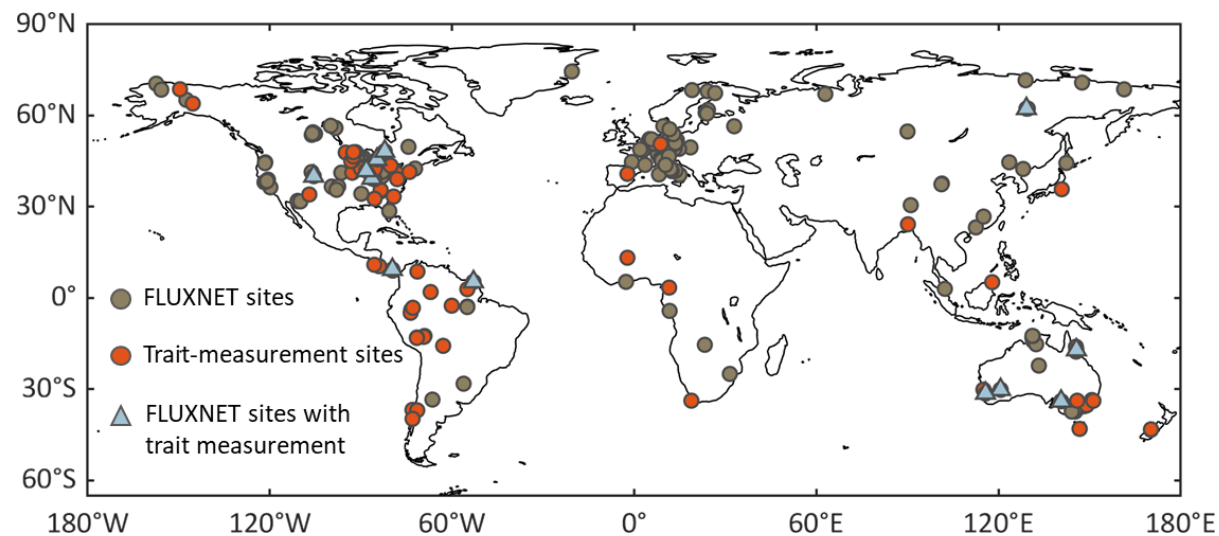
- extensive global field measurement (LCE: Smith & Dukes 2017; GlobResp: Atkin *et al.*, 2015)
- a five-year warming experiment (B4WarmED: Reich *et al.*, 2021)

more than 2000 paired measurements at 53 sites globally

Carbon flux:

- GPP: 168 FLUXNET sites covering 12 PFTs, 1200 site-years observations
- R_{canopy} : upscaled from single leaf measurement of R_{25} to canopy level ($R_{canopy} = LAI \cdot R_{25} \cdot f_r(T)$)

Locations of the 53 trait-measurement sites and the 168 FLUXNET sites



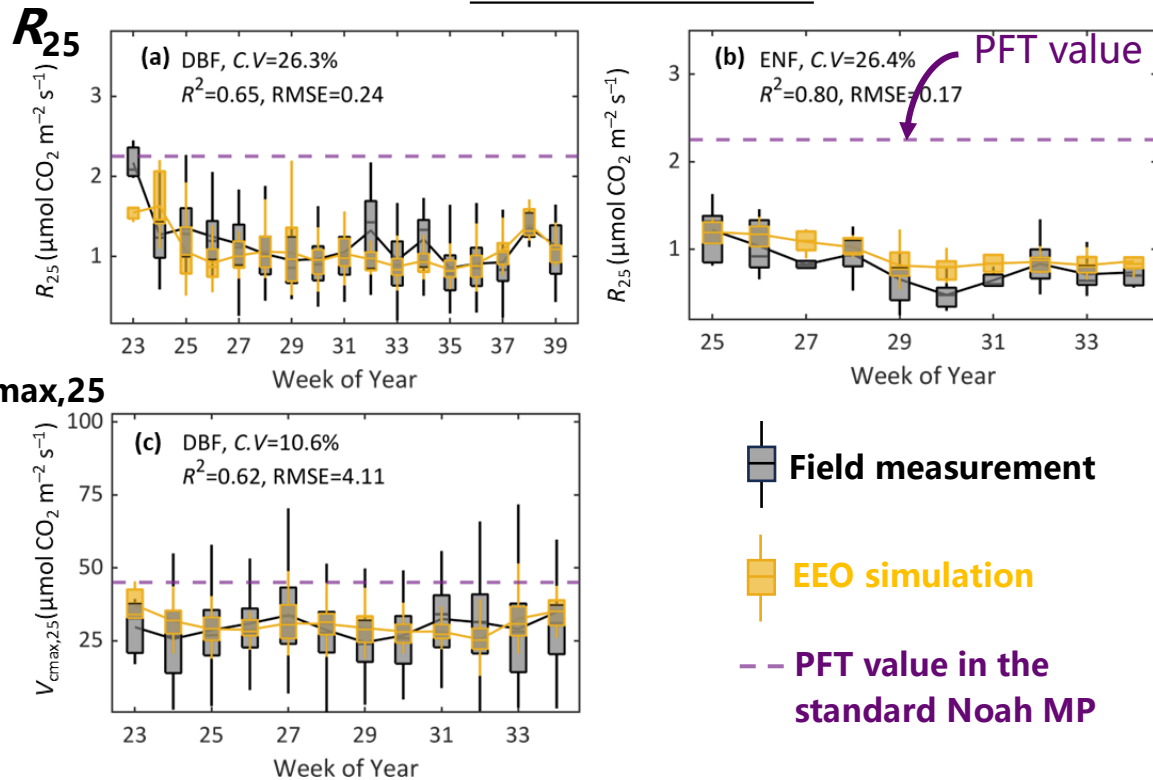


Result 1: Simulation of Trait Variations

Observed $V_{cmax,25}$ and R_{25} displayed substantial variability temporally and spatially within each PFT.

- The standard scheme with constant parameter values cannot be expected to reproduce the observed seasonal variability
- The new EEO-based scheme reasonably well captured both seasonal and latitudinal variation (R^2 of 0.7 for R_{25} and 0.6 for $V_{cmax,25}$)

Seasonal variation



Spatial variation

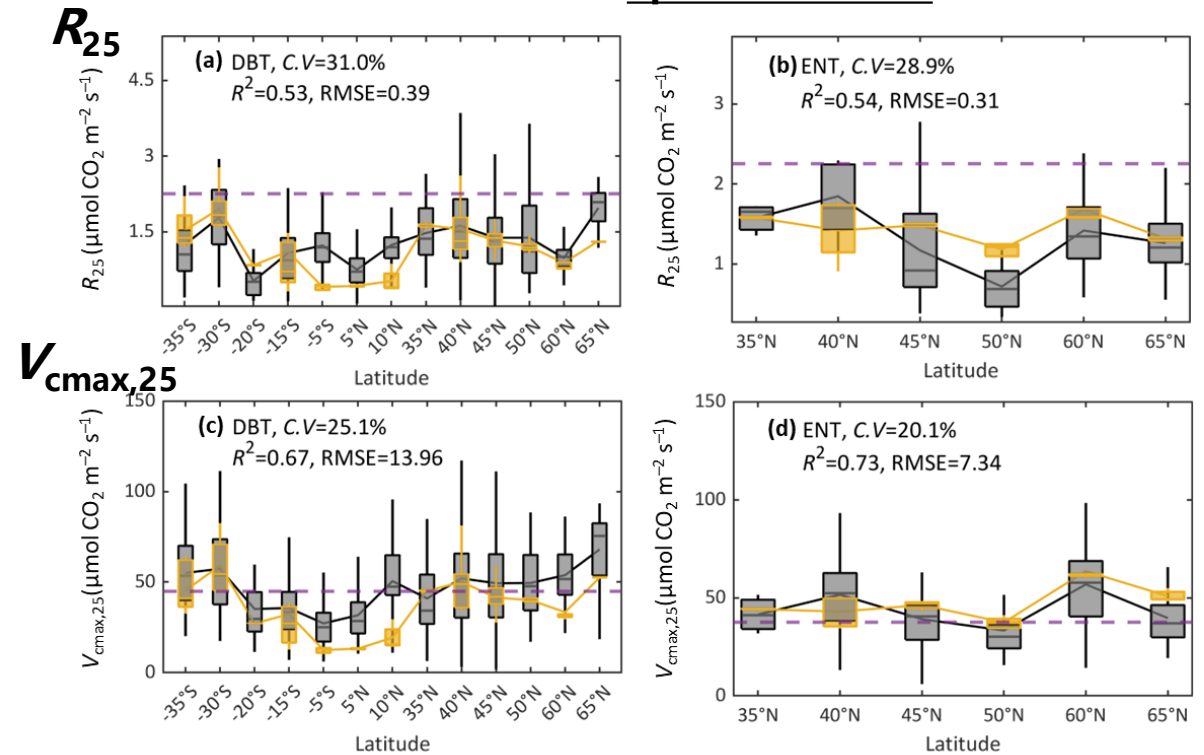


Figure Variations in R_{25} and $V_{cmax,25}$ for the specific PFT



Result 2: Evaluation of Carbon Flux Variations-GPP

- EEO-based scheme successfully reproduced the variations in half-hourly GPP at the 12 FLUXNET sites (higher median R^2 : 0.86 (standard scheme) to 0.94 (EEO-based scheme); lower median RMSE: 3.6 to $2.4 \mu\text{mol CO}_2 \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$)

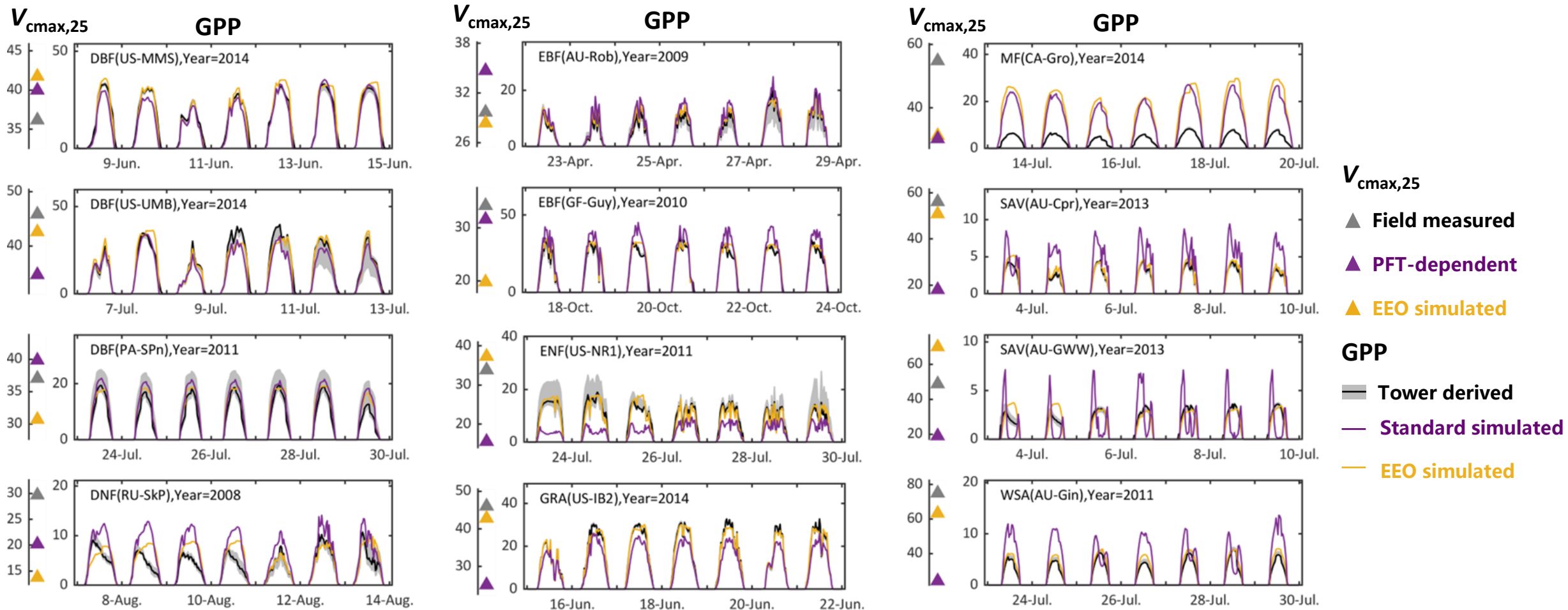


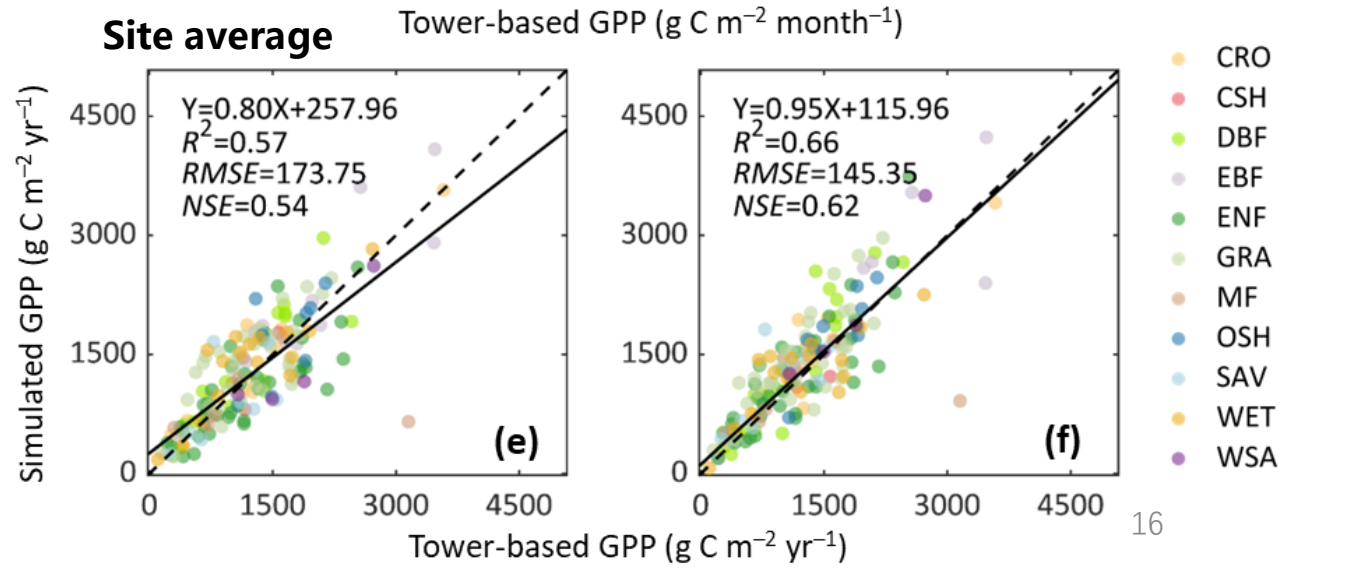
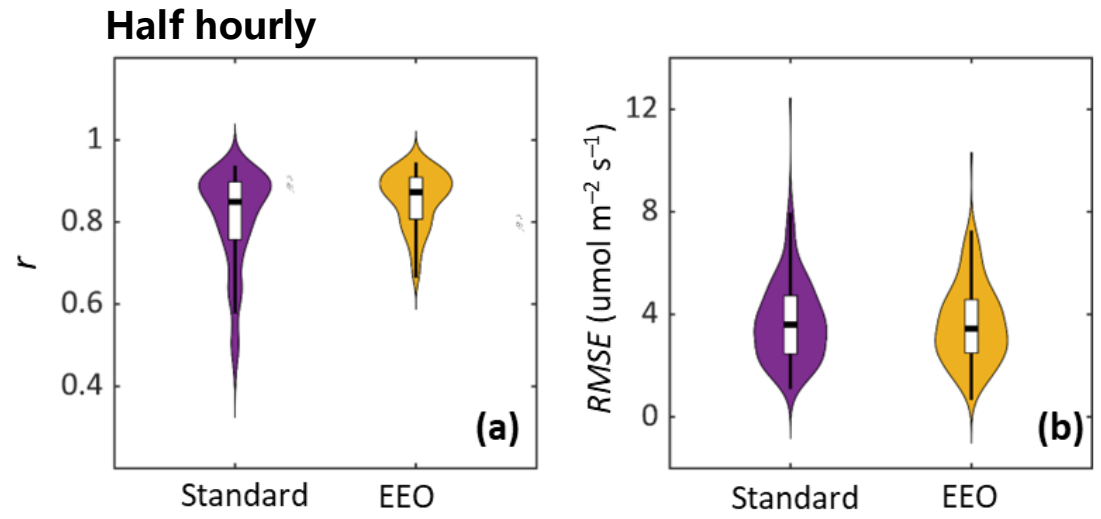
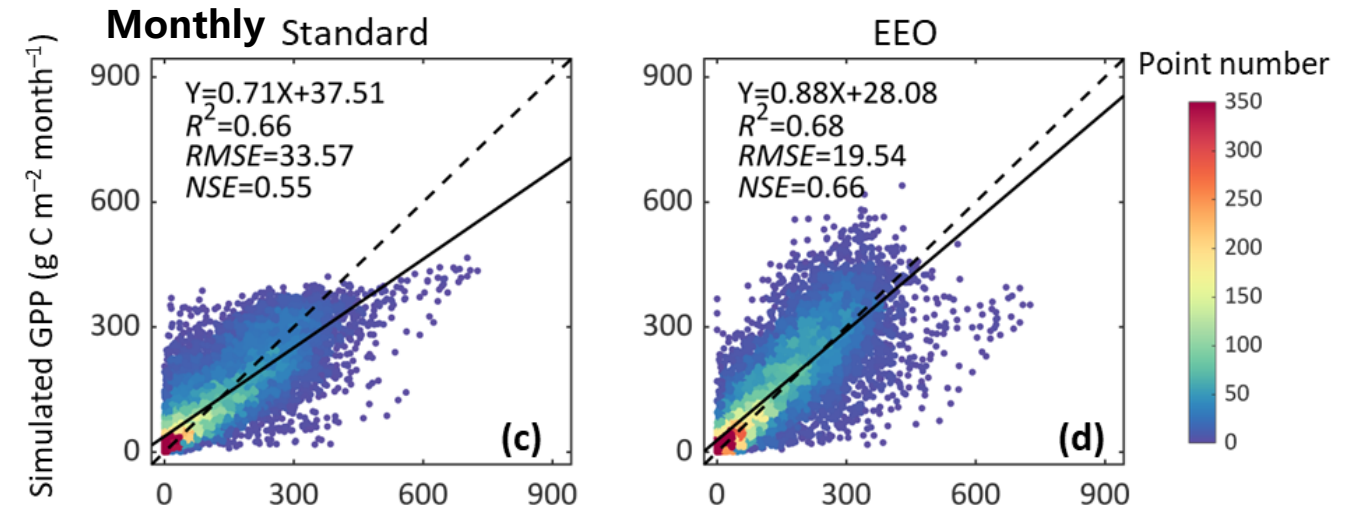
Figure Half-hourly GPP at 12 FLUXNET sites at which field trait were measured.



Result 2: Evaluation of Carbon Flux Variations-GPP

Across all the FLUXNET2015 sites, the EEO-based scheme performed better than the standard scheme in predicting GPP variations at the half-hourly, monthly, and annual scales.

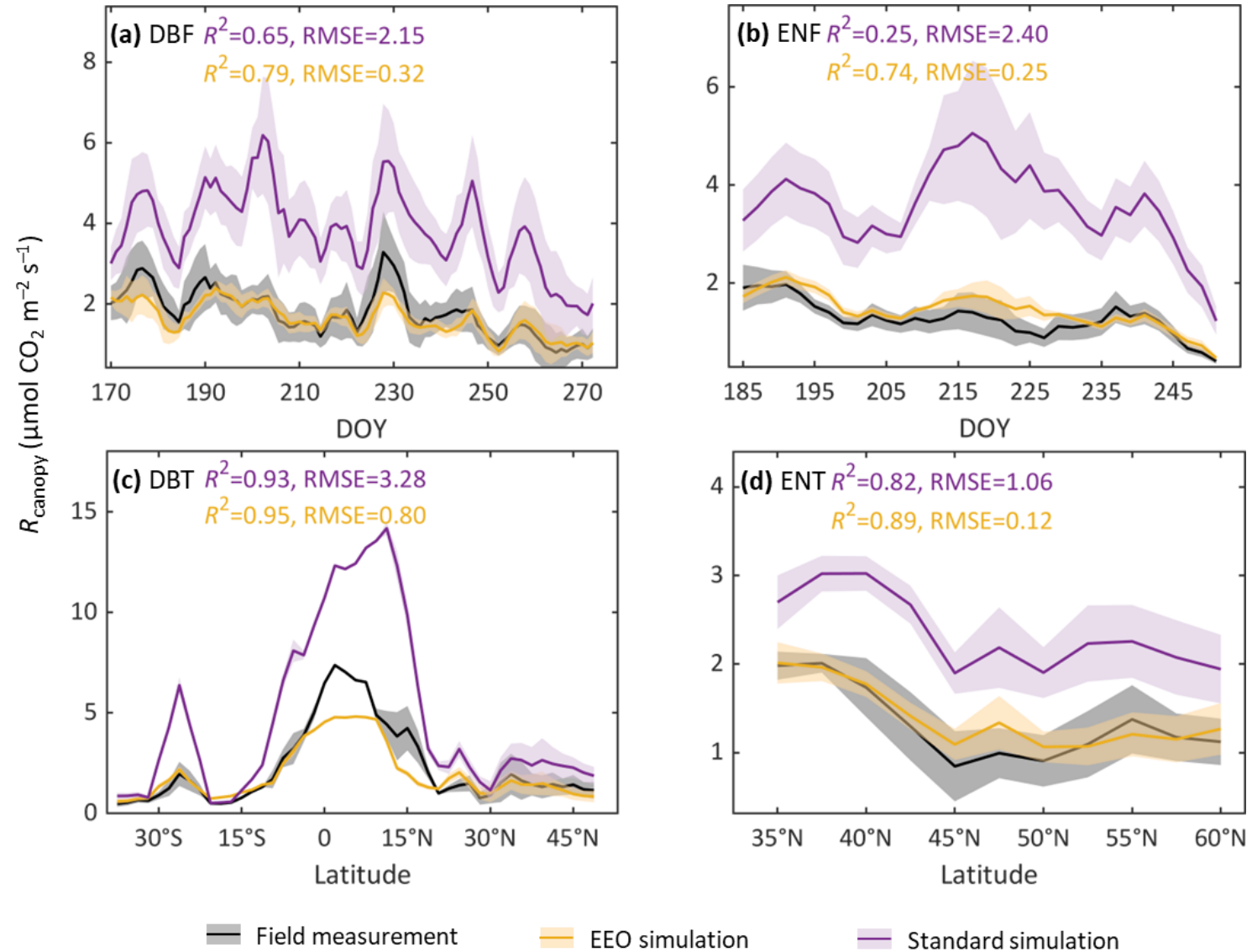
- Improve the underestimation (10.1% → 2.4%)
- Higher accuracy (R^2 : 0.57 → 0.66; RMSE: 33.6 to 19.6 $\mu\text{mol CO}_2 \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ month}^{-1}$)





Result 2: Evaluation of Carbon Flux Variations- R_{canopy}

- Standard scheme produced an excessive CO_2 release from leaf respiration, and overestimated measured R_{canopy} by more than twice.
- EEO-based scheme produced a more accurate R_{canopy} with a maximum bias of 10%.

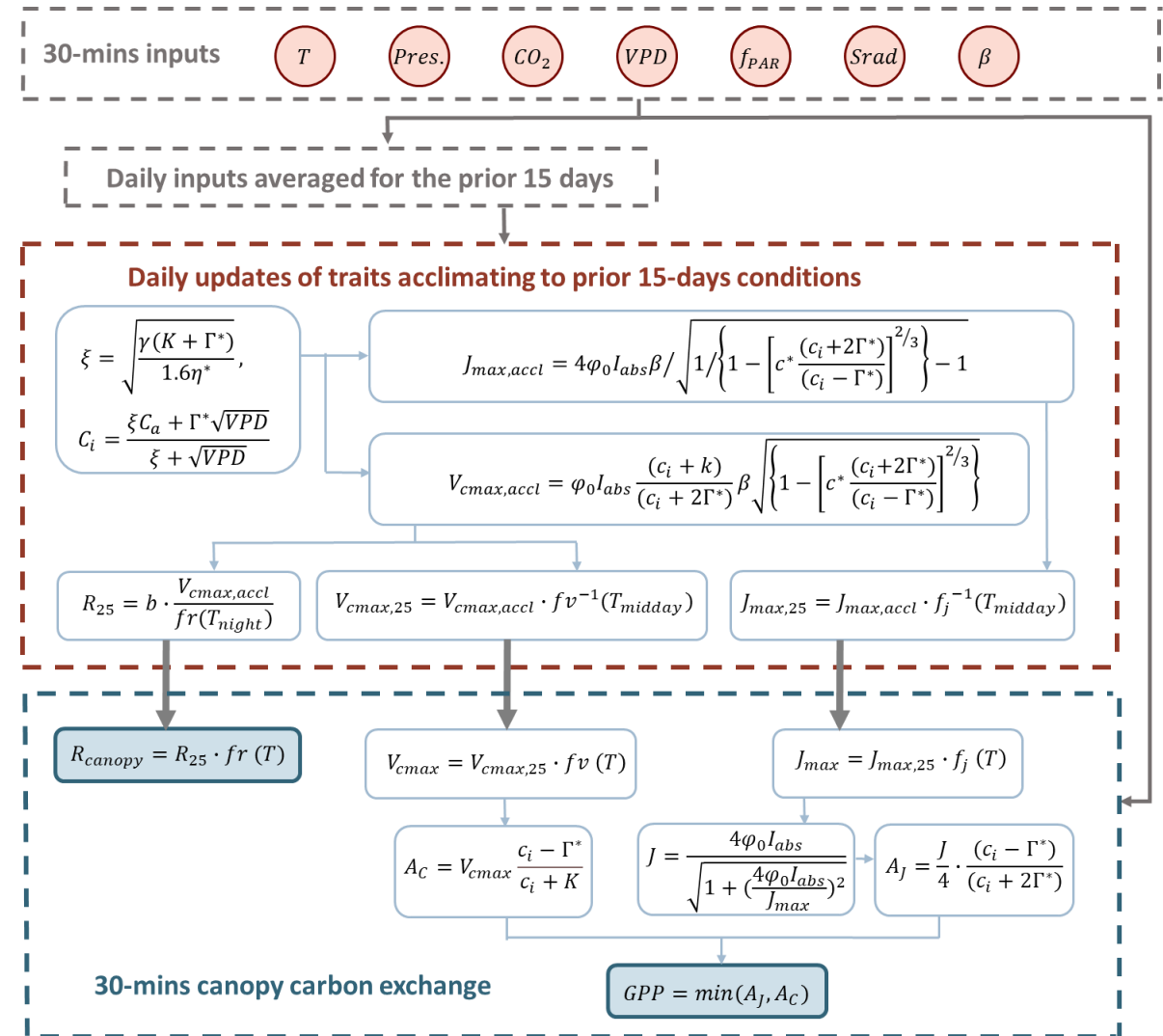




Take home messages

- The EEO-based scheme produces more realistic simulations of GPP and R_{canopy} , which are underestimated and overestimated respectively in the standard scheme.
 → result in less net CO₂ uptake by land ecosystems using the standard scheme.
- The EEO-based scheme captures most of the variation of photosynthetic and respiratory traits across different locations and over time.
- The EEO-based scheme has fewer parameters than the standard one and is simple to implement. The new scheme is also less computationally demanding as it avoids the need for iterative solutions.

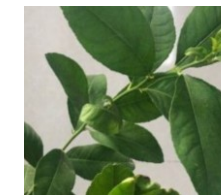
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Thanks for your attention!

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