Non-Gaussian data assimilation of satellite-based Leaf Area Index observations with an individual-based dynamic global vegetation model

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Abstract. We developed a data assimilation system based on a particle filter approach with the Spatially Explicit Individual-Based Dynamic Global Vegetation Model (SEIB-DGVM). We first performed an idealized observing system simulation experiment to evaluate the impact of assimilating the leaf area index (LAI) data every 4 days, simulating the satellite-based LAI. Although we assimilated only LAI as a whole, the forest and grass LAIs were estimated separately with high accuracy. Uncertain model parameters and other state variables were also estimated accurately. Therefore, we extended the experiment to the real world using the real Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) LAI data, and obtained promising results.

1 Introduction

The terrestrial biosphere is an important part of the Earth System Model (ESM) to simulate the carbon and water cycles. However, terrestrial biosphere models tend to have large uncertainties, for example, in phenology (Richardson et al., 2012; Murray-Tortarolo et al., 2013) and in spatial distributions of plant species (Cheaib et al., 2012). Recently, data assimilation (DA) methods which incorporate observation data into models have been applied to terrestrial biosphere models to reduce the uncertainties in the state variables and model parameters (Luo et al., 2011; Peng et al., 2011). Previous studies have successfully applied the ensemble Kalman filter (e.g., Evensen, 2003; Williams et al., 2005; Quaife et al., 2008; Stöckli et al., 2011) or adjoint method (e.g., Kaminski et al., 2013; Kato et al., 2013) to the *static* vegetation models, but studies with the *dynamic* global vegetation models (DGVMs) are still limited (Luo et al., 2011; Peng et al., 2011), although Hartig et al. (2012) pointed out the importance.

The *static* vegetation models are time-independent and do not include the vegetation succession process (Peng, 2000). Alternatively, DGVMs include the vegetation succession process and can simulate carbon and water cycle changes linking to the vegetation shift under the changing climate. Especially, *individual-based* DGVMs simulate local interactions among individual plants such as competitions for light and water, so that the model can simulate the vegetation succession more

explicitly (Smith et al., 2001; Sato et al. 2007). Garetta et al. (2010) pioneered to apply DA to an *individual-based* DGVM for paleoclimate, but no study has been published thus far to assimilate fine time-scale data from satellites and ground stations using an *individual-based* DGVM. If the initial vegetation structure and the model parameters of an *individual-based* DGVM are estimated more accurately by assimilating the fine time-scale data, the uncertainties of the simulated future vegetation would be greatly reduced.

This study explores to assimilate frequent satellite-based Leaf Area Index (LAI) data with an *individual-based* DGVM known as the SEIB-DGVM, standing for Spatially Explicit Individual-Based DGVM (Sato et al., 2007). We developed a non-Gaussian ensemble DA system with the SEIB-DGVM based on a particle filter approach. Although the particle filter is an existing, well-known approach, this is the first attempt to apply it to an *individual-based* DGVM with frequent LAI data. Therefore, we focus on the methodological development in this study and perform a series of numerical experiments at a single location with only a couple of plant functional types (PFTs) as the first step. It would be numerically straightforward to extend it to the global scale in the future studies, since the local-scale experiments can be performed in parallel for different locations. In the present study, we first perform idealized simulation experiments to investigate how well we can estimate the model parameters associated with phenology by assimilating the LAI data every 4 days, simulating the satellite-based LAI product from the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) aboard the Terra and Aqua spacecraft. We also investigate to what extent assimilating the LAI data could improve the estimates of the state variables such as GPP (Gross Primary Production), RE (Ecosystem Respiration), NEE (Net Ecosystem Exchange), and biomass, the most fundamental variables for carbon cycle and vegetation states. Sensitivities to the filter settings such as the random perturbation sizes and particle sizes are also investigated. Following the idealized experiments, we perform an experiment using the real MODIS LAI observation data to see how well the proposed approach performs in the real world.

2 Methods

2.1 SEIB-DGVM

The SEIB-DGVM simulates establishment, growth, and decay of the individuals of prescribed PFTs within a spatially explicit virtual forest (Sato et al., 2007), forced by climate conditions such as air temperature, soil temperature, cloudiness, precipitation, humidity, and winds. We used version 2.71 (Sato and Ise, 2012) but with minimal modifications for DA. The model simulates daily states, but the original model outputs were only once per year. Outputs are needed for DA every once in 4 days, so that we modified the model code to output the model states every 4 days. In addition, the original model code assumed running for many years continuously, and the initial seed for the random number generator was fixed. Since in this study we stop the model every 4 days, and the same seed is repeated every time when we start the model. Therefore, we modified the model code to randomly generate the seed for the random number generator every time when we initiate the model. Other modifications are summarized in Appendix.

Among the various model outputs ranging from individual tree height to soil water content (Sato et al., 2007, with updated information available from the package of version 2.71), we focus on LAI because it is a key to the vegetation model, and because previous studies show a promise in assimilating satellite-based LAI data with a *static* vegetation model (Stöckli et al., 2011) and a *non-individual-based* DGVM (Demarty et al., 2007). We extend the previous studies to assimilate
5   the LAI data with the *individual-based* DGVM.

2.2 Particle filter-based DA

Individual-based DGVMs include highly nonlinear processes such as occasional establishment and death of individual plants. These processes produce and eliminate state variables, and the phase space changes time to time. DA methods that have been used in geophysical applications usually assume that the state variables are defined uniquely for the given
10   dynamical system and that the phase space dimension stays the same. The widely-used ensemble Kalman filter, for example, finds the best linear combination of the ensemble with optimal fit to the observations, but it is not trivial to define a linear combination or even the ensemble mean for the variables missing in some ensemble members. Therefore, it would not be trivial to apply the widely-used DA methods to *individual-based* DGVMs.

Alternatively, particle filters run independent parallel simulations or particles and represent the probability density
15   function (PDF) explicitly by assigning probability to each particle. Therefore, particle filters can handle non-Gaussianity and nonlinearity explicitly, and can be applied to the *individual-based* DGVMs in a straightforward manner (e.g., Garetta et al., 2010) even though the phase space dimension is different for each particle.

Here we adopt an efficient particle filter approach known as the Sequential Importance Resampling (SIR, Fig. 1) (Gordon et al., 1993). First, n parallel simulations are performed, and each simulation is considered as a particle representing the true
20   state of the system with equal probability. Next, likelihood $l_t^{(i)}$ is calculated for each particle using the Gaussian likelihood function:

$$l_t^{(i)} = \mathrm{p}(y_t|x_{t|t-1}^{(i)}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\cdot\sigma^2}}\exp\left\{-\frac{(y_t-x_{t|t-1}^{(i)})^2}{2\cdot\sigma^2}\right\} \quad for\ i = 1,\dots,n. \qquad (1)$$

Here, $x_{t|t-1}^{(i)}$ denotes the simulated LAI of the *i*th particle at time t from the previous time step t-1, y_t the observed LAI at time t, and σ the observation error standard deviation. Since the prior probability is uniform, Bayes' rule gives that the
25   posterior probability of the *i*th particle is proportional to $l_t^{(i)}$, i.e., the particles closer to the observation have more probability. Next, we resample the particles, so that each particle has equal probability. The particles with more probability (larger $l_t^{(i)}$) are duplicated, and the particles with less probability (smaller $l_t^{(i)}$) are removed. If n is sufficiently large, we can evaluate the posterior PDF accurately. Each resampled particle represents the true state of the system with equal probability and acts as the initial particle for the next time step. This Bayesian framework is repeated.

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2.3 OSSE and the real-world experiment

We first perform a series of idealized Observing System Simulation Experiments (OSSEs). The OSSE (e.g., Atlas, 1997) is a widely-used approach in meteorological DA to test the general performance of a DA system and to evaluate the impact of specific observing systems. OSSE has the nature run, which is usually generated by running a simulation for a certain period. Observation data are simulated from the nature run by applying the observation operator, i.e., converting the model variables to the observed variables. Here, we add artificial random noise to simulate the observation error. DA experiments are initiated from the state independent of the nature run, and the simulated observations are assimilated. The resulting analyses and subsequent forecasts are compared with the nature run to evaluate the performance of DA. Once an OSSE is done, it is straightforward to extend the OSSE to the real world by simply replacing the simulated observations with the real-world observations.

3 OSSE

3.1 Experimental design

To generate the nature run, the SEIB-DGVM was initialized with the bare ground (i.e., no plant at the beginning) and was run for 107 years using the climate forcing data from year 2001 to 2010 available at the SEIB-DGVM webpage (http://seib-dgvm.com/). Here, the 10-year forcing data are repeated for the 107-year simulation, and the last 7 years from year 101 to 107 use the actual climate forcing of 2001 to 2007, so that we call year 101 to 107 to be 2001 to 2007. The daily climate data were generated by the procedure of Sato and Ise (2012) with updated information available at the SEIB-DGVM webpage, based on the monthly Climate Research Unit observation-based data (CRU-TS3.22 0.5-degree monthly climate time series) (Harris et al., 2014) and the daily data from the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP)/National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) reanalysis (Kalnay et al., 1996). We chose the study area at one of the AsiaFlux sites, the Siberia Yakutsk Larch forest site at Spasskaya Pad, the middle basin of River Lena (62º 15' 18" N, 129º 14' 29" E). The observed climate data at this site were not directly used in this study, but these data may have been included in the NCEP/NCAR reanalysis. Field observed carbon flux data are available as the ground truth to verify the DA results at this site. Forced by the climate data, the SEIB-DGVM simulates the vegetation shifts from the bare ground to a grassland, and then to a forest. The two PFTs, the boreal deciduous needle leaved trees and C3 grass, are the dominant PFTs in this study area. Therefore, we do not consider the other PFTs in this study following Sato et al. (2010). We call these two PFTs simply "forest" and "grass".

The nature run (Fig. 2 a) was performed with the "true" parameter values Pmax = 15 $\mu molCO_2$ m^{-2} s^{-1} and Dor = 230 DOY (day of year) for forest and Pmax = 9 $\mu molCO_2$ m^{-2} s^{-1} and Dor = 270 DOY for grass, where Pmax and Dor stand for the maximum photosynthesis rate and the start date of the dormancy, respectively (Fig. 2 b). Hereafter we omit the units for Pmax ($\mu molCO_2$ m^{-2} s^{-1}) and Dor (DOY) for simplicity. The LAI observations for the last 4 years from year 2004 to 2007

were created by adding independent Gaussian random noise to the LAI values from the nature run (Fig. 2 a) every 4 days, simulating the MODIS LAI product. Here, the observation error standard deviation was given by 10 % of the nature run LAI value. The observed LAI < 0.5 were not used for DA because the MODIS data for the real-world experiment did not include LAI < 0.5. There are too few data with real MODIS LAI < 0.5, and we assign the missing value in preprocessing. Since the

5   LAI is observed only when 0.5 or larger, the LAI observation exists only in the summer season.

Next, 8000 particles (parallel simulations) were generated with uniformly perturbed parameters: Pmax = [0, 60] for forest, Pmax = [0, 15] for grass, Dor = [200, 300] for both. Here, [*a*, *b*] denotes random draws from the uniform distribution between *a* and *b*. These initial perturbation sizes are based on the previous studies (Kolari et., 2006; Zeng et al., 2011; Zhao et al., 2015; Takagi et al., 2015). We ran 8000 parallel simulations for 103 years for spin-up from the bare ground using the

10   same climate forcing data as the nature run. In the course of the vegetation succession, these randomly perturbed parameter sets result in a variety of LAI simulations (Fig. 2 b).

The 8000 particles at the end of the 103-year spin-up runs are used as the initial conditions for DA. The simulated LAI observations are assimilated every 4 days. The nature run and particle filter use the same climate forcing data, so that the difference comes from the model parameter values. The particles continue to be the free runs until the first LAI observation

15   is assimilated in the summer season. The state variables and model parameters are estimated together at DA, and the model systematic errors associated with the model parameters are corrected by DA with parameter estimation. No explicit bias correction is applied. To avoid the exact duplications after resampling, the model parameters Pmax and Dor are randomly perturbed for the duplicated particles. Here, random draws [-4, 4] are added to Pmax for forest and to Dor for both forest and grass, and [-1, 1] are added to Pmax for grass because the initial Pmax perturbation size for grass is a quarter of that of forest.

20   In case that these perturbed parameters exceed the corresponding initial parameter range, the excess value was bounced back from the limits. To assess the impact of DA, we also perform an experiment without DA ("NODA" hereafter), and compare to the experiment with DA ("TEST" hereafter).

3.2 Results

25   Figure 3 shows the time series of LAI for NODA (left) and TEST (right). The observations (Fig. 3 a, blue dots with error bars) cannot distinguish the forest and grass, but the model simulates LAIs for forest and grass separately (Fig. 3 b, c). Although the particles without DA are widely spread (left, gray areas), DA makes the particles much narrower (right) and consistent with the nature run (red curves). With DA, the median of the particles for forest is almost identical to the nature run for the entire 4 years (Fig. 3 b, right). As for grass, the median of the particles is also very close to the nature run with

30   DA, but in the first three years the dormancy period is delayed (Fig. 3 c, right).

The model parameters are estimated accurately (Fig. 4). There is no direct observation of these parameters, so that the estimations are purely due to DA of the LAI observations. Although the particles of the NODA experiment are uniformly distributed (Fig. 4, left), DA makes the particles close to the true parameters (Fig. 4, right). Since we assimilated the LAI

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only when 0.5 or larger, DA has an impact only in the summer season when the leaves grow. It takes 1-4 years until the true values fall within the quartiles of the particles. The Pmax estimates for both forest and grass show occasional jumps, but tend to stay around the true values (Fig. 4 a, b). Dor for forest seems the most accurate and stable after the dormancy period of the first year (Fig. 4 c). Dor for grass takes the longest; the estimation is not accurate until the dormancy of the fourth year (Fig.

5   4 d). This may be related to the previous results showing the erroneous estimates of the grass LAI near the dormancy period in the first 3 years (Fig. 3 c). The systematic errors in NODA come from the uncertain parameter settings. TEST can estimate the parameters through DA, and can reduce the systematic errors. This is different from the bias-correction strategy of the first guess.

Other model variables such as GPP, RE, NEE and biomass show large improvements (Fig. 5). Although the particles of

10   the NODA experiment are widely spread, DA with only LAI observations greatly reduces the uncertainties for the four variables, and the estimations are generally reasonable.

4 Sensitivity experiments for OSSE

4.1 Sensitivity to the nature run

15   To investigate the sensitivity to the choice of the nature run, we performed two additional OSSEs, which we call "OSSE2" and "OSSE3", by generating different nature runs with different parameter sets (Table 1). The random numbers for the observation errors are also different. The other settings follow the TEST experiment.

The results show that both OSSE2 and OSSE3 perform well in general. Namely, the LAI and parameters are estimated generally well (Fig. 6). We find the main difference between OSSE2 and OSSE3 in the parameters for grass (Fig. 6 c, e).

20   OSSE3 shows significantly larger uncertainties for the parameters for grass. In OSSE2, the Pmax value for grass is larger and produces more grass LAI. Since grass starts to grow earlier and stays longer than forest, it is critical to have LAI observations near the emerging and falling periods for estimating the grass parameters. Due to the larger Pmax value for grass in OSSE2, LAI can be observed with the observing threshold of LAI = 0.5 near the emerging and falling periods. By contrast, in OSSE3, the Pmax value for grass is smaller, and the small grass LAI < 0.5 cannot be observed. We can see this

25   in the LAI time series (Fig. 6 a, right) near the tails in the spring and fall seasons every year. The uncertainties of LAI are not reduced year by year, corresponding to the large uncertainties of the grass parameters. In the summer, LAI becomes larger mostly due to forest, so that the forest parameters can be estimated well.

4.2 Sensitivity to the initial perturbation size

30   Here we investigate the sensitivity to the initial perturbation sizes with particle sizes ranging from 1000 to 16000. Table 2 shows the three initial perturbation settings: small, moderate and large. For the TEST experiment, the moderate initial

perturbation sizes were used. We perform additional sensitivity experiments with the small and large initial perturbation sizes. Except for the initial perturbation sizes and the particle size, the experiments follow the TEST experiment.

Tables 3 show the mean absolute errors (MAE) and the widths of the 1-99% quantiles, respectively, averaged over a year in 2007. We consider that the filter diverges when the MAE is larger than the half width of the 1-99 % quantiles, as shown by gray shades in the tables. The results show that the filter diverges for biomass in 10 out of 15 experiments. The 5 experiments that do not diverge are (4000; small), (8000; small), (16000; small), (8000; moderate) = TEST, and (16000; moderate), where (;) denotes (particle size; initial perturbation sizes). (1000; large) causes filter divergence for most variables and parameters. (2000; large) shows filter divergence for Dor for grass in addition to biomass. Sampling a wider interval with a smaller particle size generally reduces the particle density, or the effective number of the particles, so that the results seem to be reasonable.

4.3 Sensitivity to the resampling perturbation size

Here we investigate the sensitivity to the resampling perturbation sizes with particle sizes ranging from 500 to 16000, in a similar way as the previous subsection. Table 4 shows the three resampling perturbation settings: small, moderate, and large. For the TEST experiment, the moderate resampling perturbation sizes were used.

Tables 5 show similar tables as Tables 3 but for the sensitivity to the resampling perturbation sizes. We use the similar notation of (;) denoting (particle size; resampling perturbation setting). The results show that the filter diverges for biomass in 13 out of 18 experiments. The 5 experiments that do not diverge are (4000; large), (8000; moderate) = TEST, (8000; large), (16000; moderate), and (16000; large). (500; small) is most unstable, with more variable and parameter showing filter divergence. Resampling perturbations act as variance inflation in the ensemble filters (e.g., Anderson and Anderson 1999). It is known that variance inflation generally stabilizes the filter, and the results obtained here seem to be consistent.

5 Real-world experiment

5.1 Experimental settings

Here the OSSE is extended to the real world by replacing the simulated observations with the real observations. The sensitivity results in the previous section showed that the settings used for the TEST experiment provided stable filter performance; therefore, we follow the TEST experiment here with the moderate initial and resampling perturbation sizes and with 8000 particles.

Since the OSSE used the actual climate forcing in 2004 to 2007, we used the quality-controlled MODIS LAI product of MCD15A3 for those years with flagged as "good quality", "Terra or Aqua", "detectors apparently fine for up to 50 %", "significant clouds not present", and "main method used with or without saturation". We took the median of the LAI observations in the 10-km radius from the study site (62º 15' 18" N, 129º 14' 29" E). There are a number of missing data in

the quality-controlled MODIS data. Therefore, if the number of the data in the 10-km radius is less than 300, we set these data as the missing data for DA. Since the MODIS data resolution is 1 km, the 10-km radius area contains about 314 data. The observation error standard deviations are assigned to each LAI datum in the original MODIS product (Knyazikhin et al., 1999). We rely on the estimate of the observation error standard deviations, and took the median of the error standard deviations in the same way as getting the LAI data. The observation error standard deviation is used in the particle filter when computing the likelihood function (Eq. 1).

The model-simulated NEE was validated with the field observation data at this AsiaFlux site (Ohta et al., 2001; 2008; 2014). The data was quality controlled by the steady-state test as indicated by the quality flag 0. Although the model simulates daily-average NEE, the field observation data represent instantaneous NEE every 30 minutes. The observation data are missing frequently, and it is not trivial to derive daily averages. Therefore, the raw data are compared with the DA results directly. This allows only a rough verification about whether or not the simulated NEE is in a reasonable range, but this is the only possible verification with an independent source.

5.2 Results

Figures 7, 8, and 9 show similar time series to Figs. 3, 4, and 5, respectively, but with the real MODIS LAI observations. Although the particles of the NODA experiments are widely spread, DA makes the particles much narrower (right) for all variables and parameters. With DA, the median of LAI is very close to the observations, within the range of the observation error standard deviations (Fig. 7 a). The grass and forest LAIs are estimated separately (Fig. 7 b, c), but there is no direct observation or other verification truth to compare with. This is similar to the model parameters (Fig. 8) and other model variables (Fig. 9) except for NEE, for which direct field observation data are available. As in the OSSE results, the range of uncertainties for NEE is reduced significantly by DA (Fig. 9 c). Since the field observations are made instantaneously every 30 minutes, the observation values (red) appear to have a wider range. However, the SEIB-DGVM simulates only daily-average NEE, and it is not straightforward to compare the outputs from SEIB-DGVM with the field observations. We still find that the median of NEE becomes closer to the observations, particularly near the dormancy period. The simulated NEE generally stays within the reasonable range compared with the field observations. In general, the particle filter shows promising results with the real MODIS LAI data.

6 Conclusion

We assimilated the satellite-based MODIS LAI data using a non-Gaussian ensemble DA system with the SEIB-DGVM based on the SIR particle filter approach. To the best of the authors' knowledge, this is the first study to assimilate the fine time-scale satellite data with an *individual-based* DGVM. We found that DA performed generally well both for OSSE and

real-world experiment, so that the uncertainties of the state variables and model parameters were greatly reduced. Additional sensitivity experiments for OSSE revealed general robustness but some sensitivities to the nature run, initial and resampling perturbation sizes, and particle size, particularly for biomass.

Although we assimilated only LAI as a whole, the forest and grass LAIs were estimated separately. This suggests that the satellite-based DA reduce the uncertainties in the initial vegetation structure of the *individual-based* DGVM toward the simulation of the future vegetation change. Another notable results include that the model parameters of the *individual-based* DGVM were estimated successfully, and that the uncertainties in the unobserved model variables relevant to carbon cycle and vegetation states were also reduced significantly. Similarly to the previous studies with a *static* vegetation model (Stöckli et al., 2011) and a *non-individual-based* DGVM (Demarty et al., 2007), the results in the present study also suggest that LAI be the key to DA for phenology and carbon dynamics.

As a potential limitation, it is important to note that we have made strong assumptions in OSSE. For example, the only source of model imperfections was the model parameter uncertainties of the four parameters. It was also assumed that the observation error statistics were perfectly known. These conditions would have never been met in the real-world experiment.

As the first step, this study focused on the methodological development of the data assimilation system with SEIB-DGVM and estimated only four parameters of two PFTs using LAI observations at a single location. As a next step, more parameters and distributions of more diverse PFTs should be considered at different locations. Local-scale experiments can be performed in parallel for different locations since the satellite-based LAI observations are available globally. The simulation with the initial states and parameter sets obtained from the SEIB-DGVM-based DA system would be expected to improve the estimates of the carbon cycle changes over the globe.

Appendix: List of modifications to SEIB-DGVM ver.2.71.

without asterisk: modifications in this study, * Sato, personal communications, 2014, ** Sato et., al 2016

Modification to main.f90	
SUBROUTINE main_loop	
Intialize variables: parameters (Pmax for forest and grass, Dor for forest and grass) are read here.	
Wild fire subroutines: Fire function was excluded.	
Modification to metabolic.f90	
SUBROUTINE photosynthesis_condition:	
ce_water (no dimension, the minimum value): limitation on photosynthesis via soil water:	
x = min(1.0 , max(0.001, stat_water(p))) → x = min(1.0 , max(0.1, stat_water(p)))	
SUBROUTINE leaf_season:	
Days_leaf_shed (days): day length required for full leaf drop → from 14 to 30	
Days_release_larch (days): days required for full release of stock energy for larch → from 7 to 60	
Checker (Foliage → Domance)	
case (1) : if (x < 7.0) flag(p)=.true. → if (doy >= Dor_f) flag(p)=.true. (doy: day of the year, Dor_f: Dor for forest)	
case (5:6) : if (y > 0.01) flag(p)=.false. → if (doy >= Dor_g) flag(p)=.true. (doy: day of the year, Dor_g: Dor for grass)	
if (dfl_leaf_onset(p) → Days_foliation_min) flag(p)=.false. → comment out	
Checker (Dormance → Foliage)	
case (1) : if (x >= 65.0) flag(p) =.true. → if (doy>=110) flag(p) = .true (doy: day of the year)	
case (5:6) : if (y <= 0.01) flag(p) = .false. → if (doy>=110) flag(p) = .true (doy: day of the year)	
Gradual release of stock energy : (for bug fix)	
IF (dfl_leaf_onset(p) >= day_length_release) cycle →IF (dfl_leaf_onset(p) >= (day_length_release-1)) cycle	
SUBROUTINE maintenance_resp:	
Herbaceous PFTs Source 1: (for bug fix)	
mass_combust = mass_combust + mass_required → mass_combust = mass_combust + mass_required * x	
npp(p) = npp(p) - mass_required → npp(p) = npp(p) - mass_required * x	
SUBROUTINE growth_wood:	
Delay_from_foliation (days): delay of stem growth and reproduction process after foliation → from 21 to 0	
Modification to parameter.txt	
TO_f (times / year): turn over time for foliage (Grass)	from 0.50 to 3.19 **
TO_r (times / year): turn over time for root (Forest). We set the same value as the other boreal forest PFTs.	from 0.16 to 0.42
ALM1 (m^2 / m):Allometry index of LA vs dbh of sapwood (Forest)	from 6000 to 0 **
ALM3 (g dm / m^3): Allometry index of trunk mass (Forest)	from 0 to 700000 **
FR_ratio (g dm / g dm): ratio of leaf mass vs root mass (Forest)	from 0.17 to 0.35 **
FR_ratio (g dm / g dm): ratio of leaf mass vs root mass (Grass)	from 0.33 to 0.10 *
SLA (one sided m^2 / g dm): specific leaf area (Forest)	from 0.014 to 0.010 **
SLA (one sided m^2 / g dm): specific leaf area (Grass)	from 0.015 to 0.020 **
Topt0 (°C): optimum temperature (Forest)	from 20.0 to 21.0 **
Tmin (°C): minimum temperature (Forest). We set the same value as the other boreal forest PFTs.	from 5.0 to -4.0
Tmax (°C): maximum temperature (Forest)	from 35.0 to 38.0**
GS_b2 (no dimension): parameters of stomatal conductance (Grass)	from 3.0 to 5.0 *
M1 (no dimension): asymptotic maximum mortality rate (Forest)	from 0.003 to 0.001 **
TC_min (°C): minimum coldest month temperature for persisting (Forest and Grass)	from -1000.0 to -45.0 **
GDD_min (5 °C base): minimum degree-day sum for establishment (Forest)	from 350 to 250 **
Est_scenario: Scenario for establishment for forest. Only specified woody PFT was set to establish.	
Est_pft_OnOff: Establish switch for forest. Only boreal deciduous needle leaved tree was set to establish.	

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Acknowledgements

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Table 1. Parameter settings for TEST, OSSE2 and OSSE3.

OSSEs	Pmax for forest	Pmax for grass	Dor for forest	Dor for grass
TEST	15	9	230	270
OSSE2	20	12	220	260
OSSE3	25	7	210	280

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Table 2. Initial perturbation settings.

Initial perturbation sizes	Pmax for forest	Pmax for grass	Dor for forest	Dor for grass
Small	[0, 20]	[0, 10]	[200, 250]	[250, 300]
Moderate	[0, 60]	[0, 15]	[200, 300]	[200, 300]
Large	[0, 120]	[0, 30]	[150, 350]	[150, 350]

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Table 3. Results for the sensitivity experiments on the initial perturbation size: (a) mean absolute error (MAE) and (b) the widths of the 1-99% quantiles, averaged over a year in 2007. Gray shades show the filter divergence. Bold letters show the TEST experiment (8000 particles with moderate initial perturbations).

(a)

Particle sizes	Initial perturbation sizes	Pmax for forest	Pmax for grass	Dor for forest	Dor for grass	LAI (m²/m²)	Biomass (MgC/ha)	GPP (MgC/ha/day)	RE (MgC/ha/day)	NEE (MgC/ha/day)
	SMALL	0.76	0.75	0.43	3.68	0.03	2.46	0.003	0.001	0.002
1000	MODERATE	3.49	1.59	0.64	0.85	0.02	4.75	0.003	0.001	0.003
	LARGE	9.18	0.59	33.41	35.70	0.10	0.21	0.007	0.002	0.006
	SMALL	0.66	0.52	0.51	3.83	0.03	1.36	0.003	0.001	0.002
2000	MODERATE	3.49	2.05	0.71	3.11	0.04	3.29	0.003	0.001	0.002
	LARGE	3.30	1.21	1.01	59.52	0.10	9.22	0.003	0.002	0.003
	SMALL	0.97	0.26	0.79	2.38	0.03	1.16	0.002	0.001	0.002
4000	MODERATE	3.55	1.20	0.63	3.02	0.03	2.80	0.003	0.002	0.003
	LARGE	3.46	0.69	1.23	2.46	0.03	0.39	0.003	0.002	0.003
	SMALL	0.69	0.30	0.78	2.30	0.03	0.24	0.002	0.001	0.002
8000	**MODERATE**	**2.88**	**1.10**	**0.73**	**7.83**	**0.03**	**3.72**	**0.003**	**0.001**	**0.003**
	LARGE	3.36	0.99	1.18	3.20	0.04	1.60	0.003	0.001	0.003
	SMALL	2.92	1.01	0.72	6.91	0.03	0.80	0.003	0.001	0.003
16000	MODERATE	3.22	1.13	0.65	2.16	0.03	3.08	0.003	0.001	0.003
	LARGE	3.02	1.03	0.39	6.26	0.03	1.72	0.003	0.001	0.002

(b)

Particle sizes	Initial perturbation sizes	Pmax for forest	Pmax for grass	Dor for forest	Dor for grass	LAI (m²/m²)	Biomass (MgC/ha)	GPP (MgC/ha/day)	RE (MgC/ha/day)	NEE (MgC/ha/day)
	SMALL	14.93	5.10	23.44	28.26	0.17	4.63	0.013	0.005	0.012
1000	MODERATE	24.18	8.02	23.60	26.80	0.18	0.42	0.017	0.006	0.014
	LARGE	17.92	7.47	19.61	26.97	0.11	0.29	0.010	0.005	0.009
	SMALL	16.68	5.36	27.77	30.34	0.18	0.93	0.014	0.005	0.012
2000	MODERATE	24.08	9.05	26.24	29.50	0.20	0.63	0.018	0.007	0.015
	LARGE	27.30	9.23	25.97	54.89	0.24	0.62	0.017	0.006	0.014
	SMALL	15.72	4.60	24.18	28.76	0.14	4.89	0.012	0.005	0.011
4000	MODERATE	27.11	8.62	27.73	28.68	0.20	0.70	0.018	0.007	0.015
	LARGE	27.07	8.12	27.59	29.29	0.19	0.60	0.016	0.006	0.014
	SMALL	16.02	4.50	25.38	30.14	0.15	7.27	0.012	0.005	0.011
8000	**MODERATE**	**28.32**	**9.29**	**26.23**	**33.99**	**0.20**	**11.40**	**0.017**	**0.008**	**0.015**
	LARGE	27.47	9.37	26.60	31.75	0.21	0.71	0.017	0.007	0.014
	SMALL	27.66	9.28	27.18	48.79	0.22	8.44	0.017	0.007	0.015
16000	MODERATE	28.47	8.85	27.86	31.91	0.21	6.53	0.017	0.008	0.015
	LARGE	28.76	8.93	25.77	47.88	0.21	2.08	0.017	0.006	0.014

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Table 4. Resampling perturbation settings.

Resampling perturbation sizes	Pmax for forest	Pmax for grass	Dor for forest	Dor for grass
Small	[-2, 2]	[-0.5, 0.5]	[-2, 2]	[-2, 2]
Moderate	[-4, 4]	[-1, 1]	[-4, 4]	[-4, 4]
Large	[-8, 8]	[-2, 2]	[-8, 8]	[-8, 8]

Table 5. Similar to Table 3, but for the sensitivity experiments on the resampling perturbation sizes.

(a)

Particle sizes	Resampling perturbation sizes	Pmax for forest	Pmax for grass	Dor for forest	Dor for grass	LAI (m²/m²)	Biomass (MgC/ha)	GPP (MgC/ha/day)	RE (MgC/ha/day)	NEE (MgC/ha/day)
	SMALL	2.59	1.68	1.74	15.74	0.08	1.47	0.003	0.001	0.002
500	MODERATE	2.28	0.66	1.34	5.57	0.03	1.43	0.003	0.001	0.003
	LARGE	10.13	1.25	2.55	5.29	0.04	0.35	0.004	0.002	0.003
	SMALL	0.80	0.58	1.09	1.41	0.02	4.62	0.002	0.002	0.003
1000	MODERATE	3.49	1.59	0.64	0.85	0.02	4.75	0.003	0.001	0.003
	LARGE	5.00	2.17	2.78	8.56	0.04	4.78	0.004	0.002	0.004
	SMALL	1.84	0.42	0.47	7.94	0.02	0.59	0.002	0.001	0.002
2000	MODERATE	3.49	2.05	0.71	3.11	0.04	3.29	0.003	0.001	0.002
	LARGE	6.84	1.26	2.60	4.26	0.05	0.79	0.004	0.002	0.003
	SMALL	1.41	0.67	0.56	0.36	0.02	2.94	0.002	0.002	0.002
4000	MODERATE	3.55	1.20	0.63	3.02	0.03	2.80	0.003	0.002	0.003
	LARGE	6.74	1.17	1.66	6.94	0.05	2.15	0.004	0.002	0.003
	SMALL	1.23	0.37	0.61	0.71	0.02	3.20	0.002	0.001	0.002
8000	**MODERATE**	**2.88**	**1.10**	**0.73**	**7.83**	**0.03**	**3.72**	**0.003**	**0.001**	**0.003**
	LARGE	7.78	1.56	1.26	7.46	0.05	3.44	0.004	0.002	0.003
	SMALL	1.46	0.45	0.77	1.70	0.02	3.15	0.002	0.001	0.002
16000	MODERATE	3.22	1.13	0.65	2.16	0.03	3.08	0.003	0.001	0.003
	LARGE	5.67	1.71	1.50	6.07	0.05	1.36	0.004	0.002	0.003

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(b)

| Particle sizes	Resampling perturbation sizes	Pmax for forest	Pmax for grass	Dor for forest	Dor for grass	LAI (m²/m²)	Biomass (MgC/ha)	GPP (MgC/ha/day)	RE (MgC/ha/day)	NEE (MgC/ha/day)
	SMALL	12.41	3.98	11.29	18.21	0.13	0.37	0.012	0.004	0.010
500	MODERATE	25.82	7.47	23.68	31.83	0.18	0.44	0.015	0.006	0.013
	LARGE	47.51	11.38	52.32	40.18	0.24	0.70	0.022	0.008	0.018
	SMALL	14.31	4.17	13.85	16.57	0.14	0.46	0.010	0.004	0.009
1000	MODERATE	24.18	8.02	23.60	26.80	0.18	0.42	0.017	0.006	0.014
	LARGE	44.68	11.57	53.50	45.94	0.24	0.60	0.022	0.009	0.018
	SMALL	14.10	4.40	12.69	31.61	0.16	0.46	0.010	0.004	0.009
2000	MODERATE	24.08	9.05	26.24	29.50	0.20	0.63	0.018	0.007	0.015
	LARGE	46.88	12.23	49.80	46.06	0.25	0.82	0.023	0.009	0.018
	SMALL	14.27	5.03	13.62	15.53	0.14	0.51	0.011	0.004	0.009
4000	MODERATE	27.11	8.62	27.73	28.68	0.20	0.70	0.018	0.007	0.015
	LARGE	43.99	12.93	50.11	45.44	0.25	6.28	0.023	0.010	0.019
	SMALL	15.30	5.07	13.78	16.72	0.15	0.67	0.011	0.004	0.009
8000	**MODERATE**	**28.32**	**9.29**	**26.23**	**33.99**	**0.20**	**11.4**	**0.017**	**0.008**	**0.015**
	LARGE	45.92	12.70	53.92	44.86	0.25	8.39	0.024	0.010	0.020
	SMALL	15.36	5.33	13.70	23.18	0.15	2.13	0.011	0.004	0.010
16000	MODERATE	28.47	8.85	27.86	31.91	0.21	6.53	0.017	0.008	0.015
	LARGE	44.05	12.27	52.21	46.10	0.25	7.76	0.024	0.010	0.019
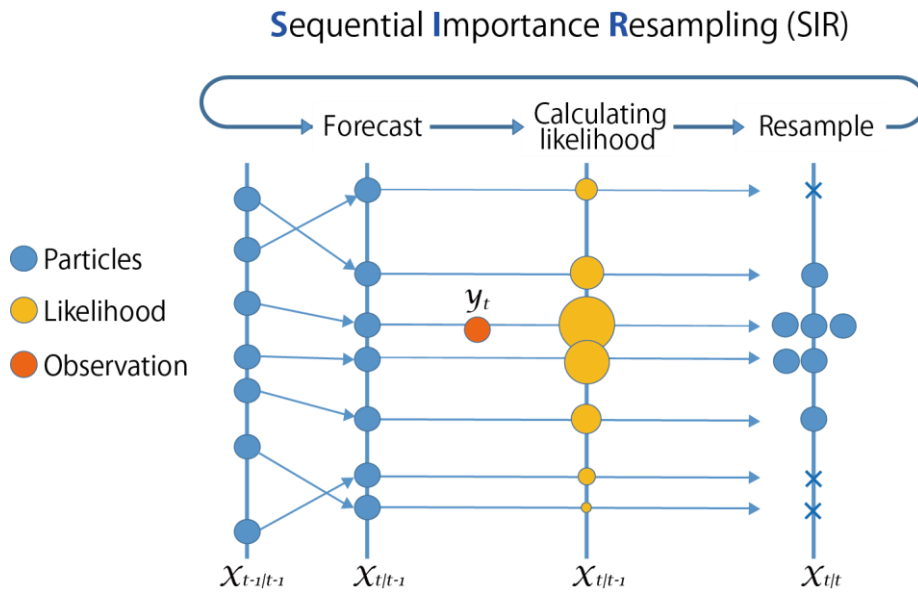
Figure 1. Schematic showing the SIR particle filter method. The size of the circles corresponds to the assigned probability.
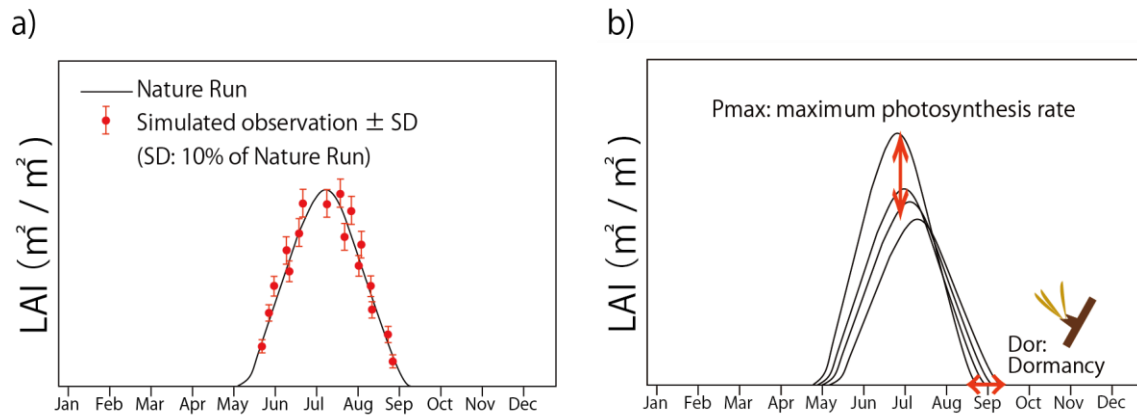
a)

b)

Figure 2. Schematic illustrations of the nature run, observations, and model parameter sensitivities. a) Time series of LAI (m^2 m^{-2}) for the nature run (black), simulated observations (red dots) and their error standard deviations (SD, red error bars). b) Time series of LAI with different Pmax and Dor values. The perturbed parameters (Pmax and Dor for forest and grass) cause differences between the particles.

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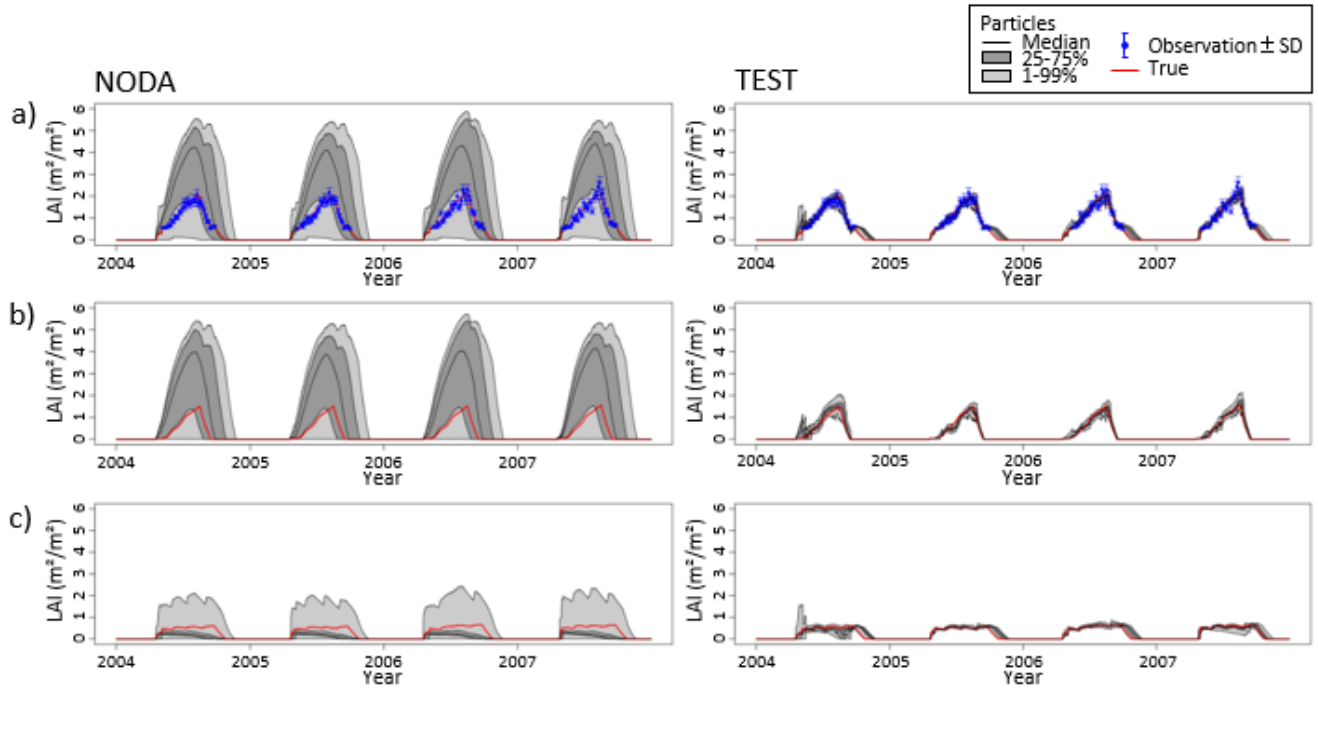
Figure 3. Time series of LAI for a) forest + grass, b) forest, and c) grass for NODA (left) and TEST (right). Dark and light
10   gray areas indicate the quartiles and 1-99 % quantiles of the particles as shown in legend. Thick black curves indicate the
medians. Blue dots with error bars indicate the observations and their error standard deviations, and red lines indicate the
nature run.
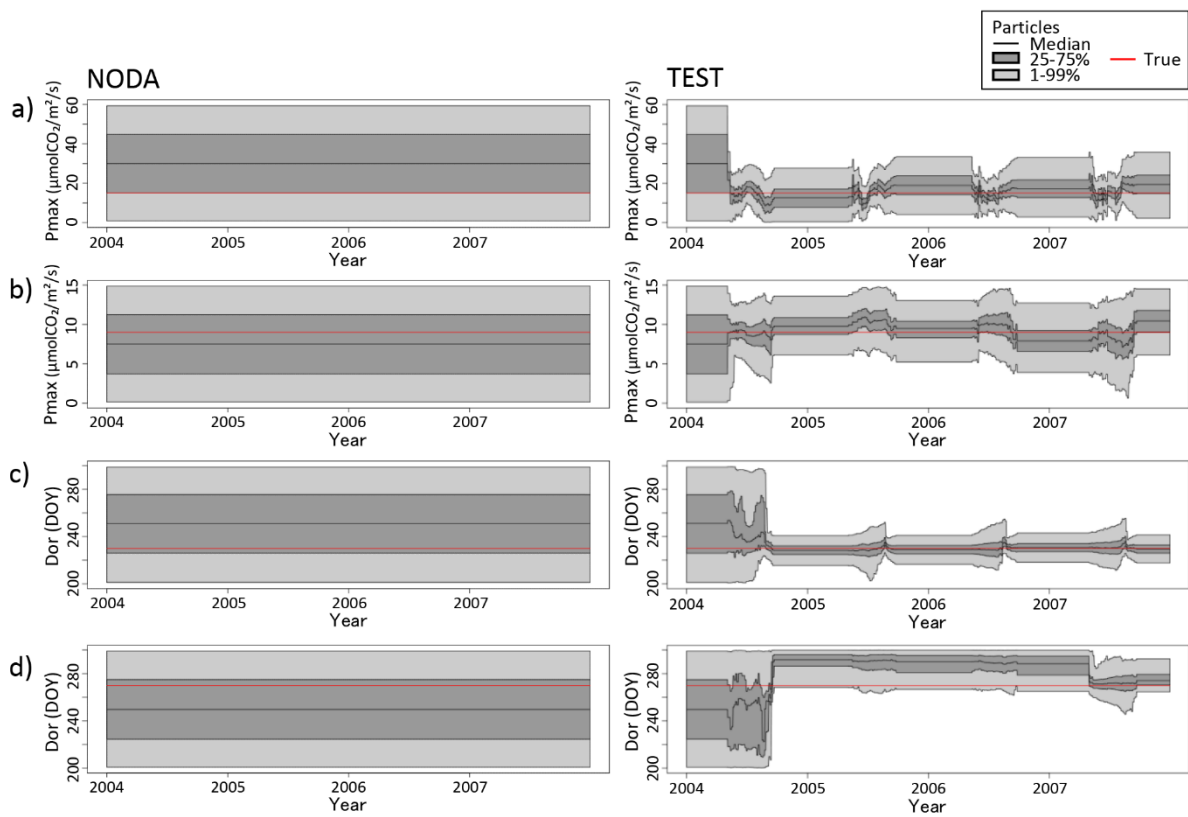
Figure 4. Similar to Fig. 3., but for the model parameters: a) Pmax for forest, b) Pmax for grass, c) Dor for forest, d) Dor for grass. There is no observation for these parameters.
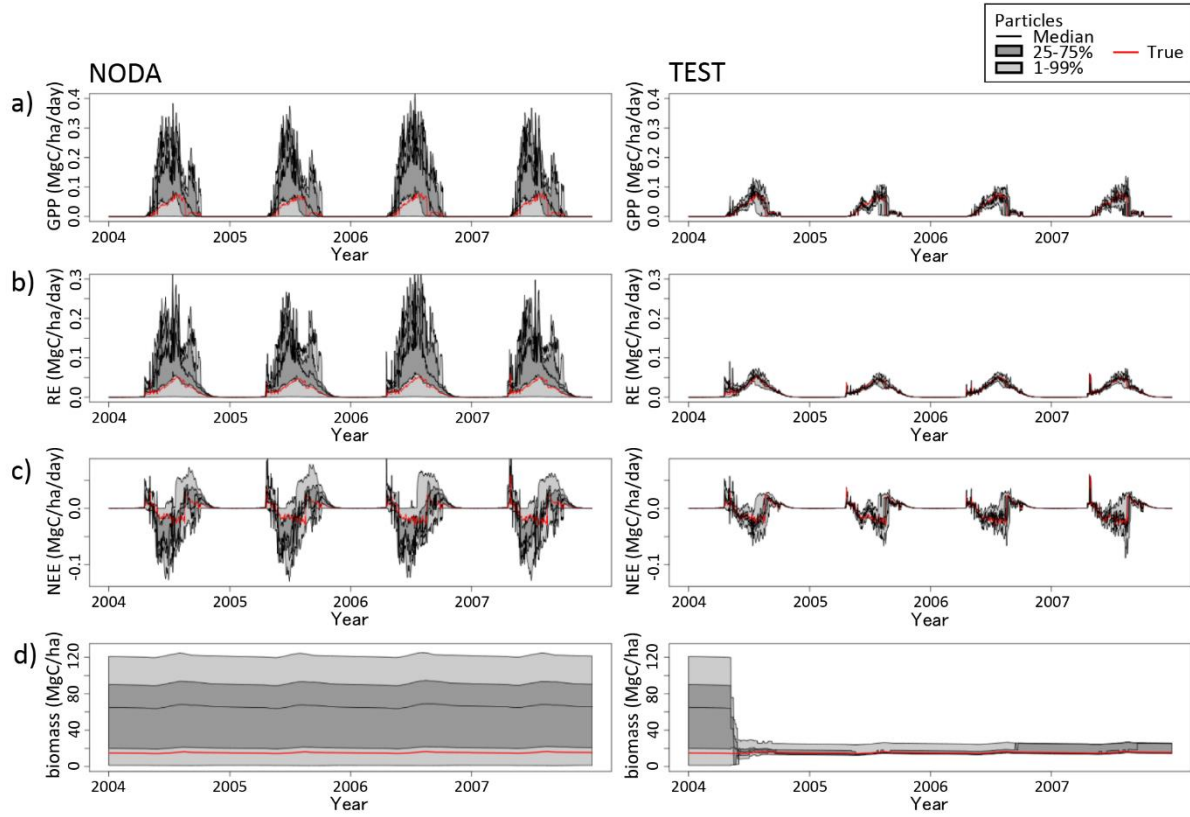
Figure 5. Similar to Figs. 3 and 4, but for unobserved model variables: a) GPP, b) RE, c) NEE, and d) biomass.
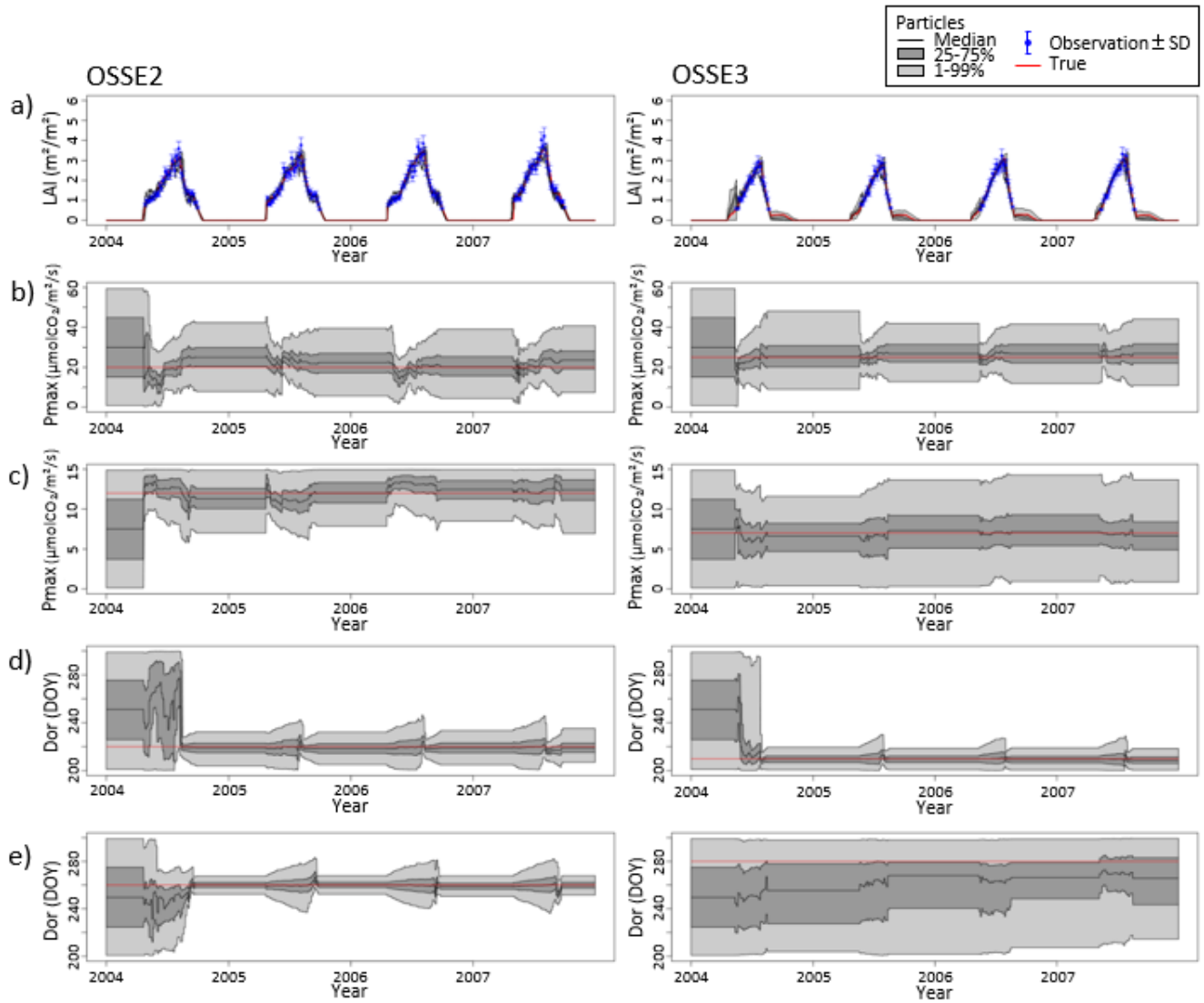
Figure 6. Similar to Figs. 3 and 4, but for OSSE2 (left) and OSSE3 (right). a) Time series of LAI for forest + grass, b) Pmax for forest, c) Pmax for grass, d) Dor for forest, e) Dor for grass.
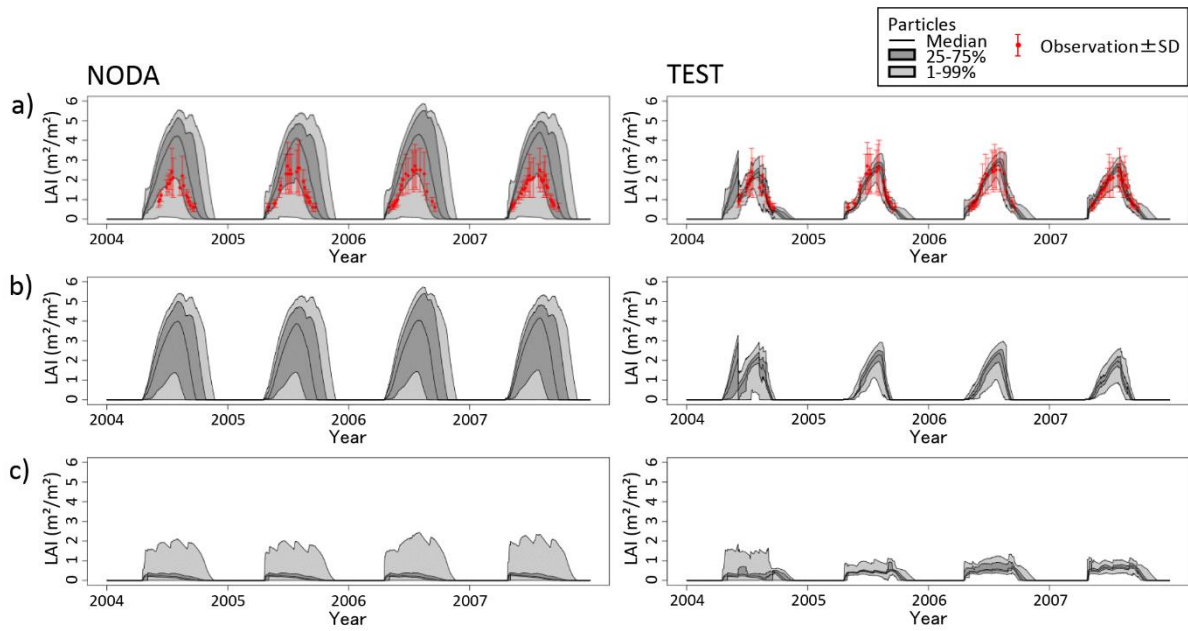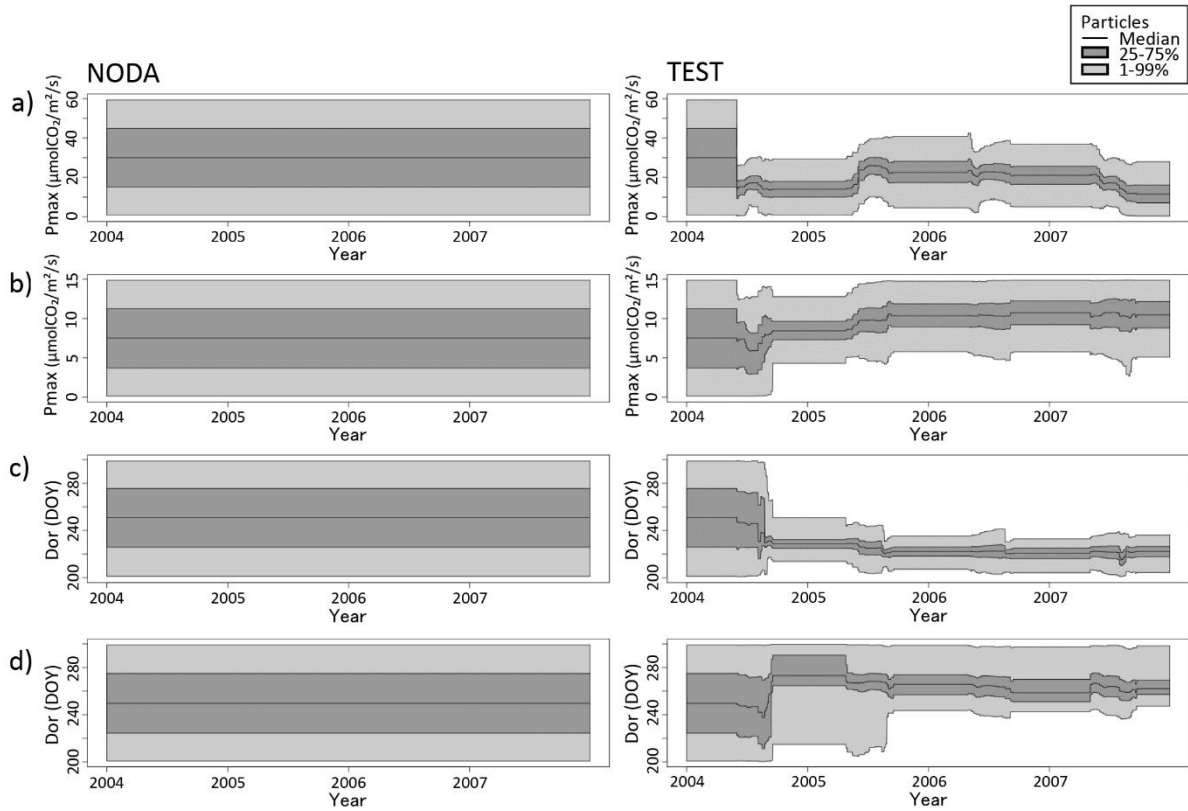
Figure 7. Similar to Fig. 3, showing LAI for a) forest + grass, b) forest, and c) grass, but for the real-world experiment. Red dots with error bars indicate the observations and their error standard deviations

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5 **Figure 8.** Similar to Fig. 4, showing the model parameters: a) Pmax for forest, b) Pmax for grass, c) Dor for forest, d) Dor for grass, but for the real-world experiment.
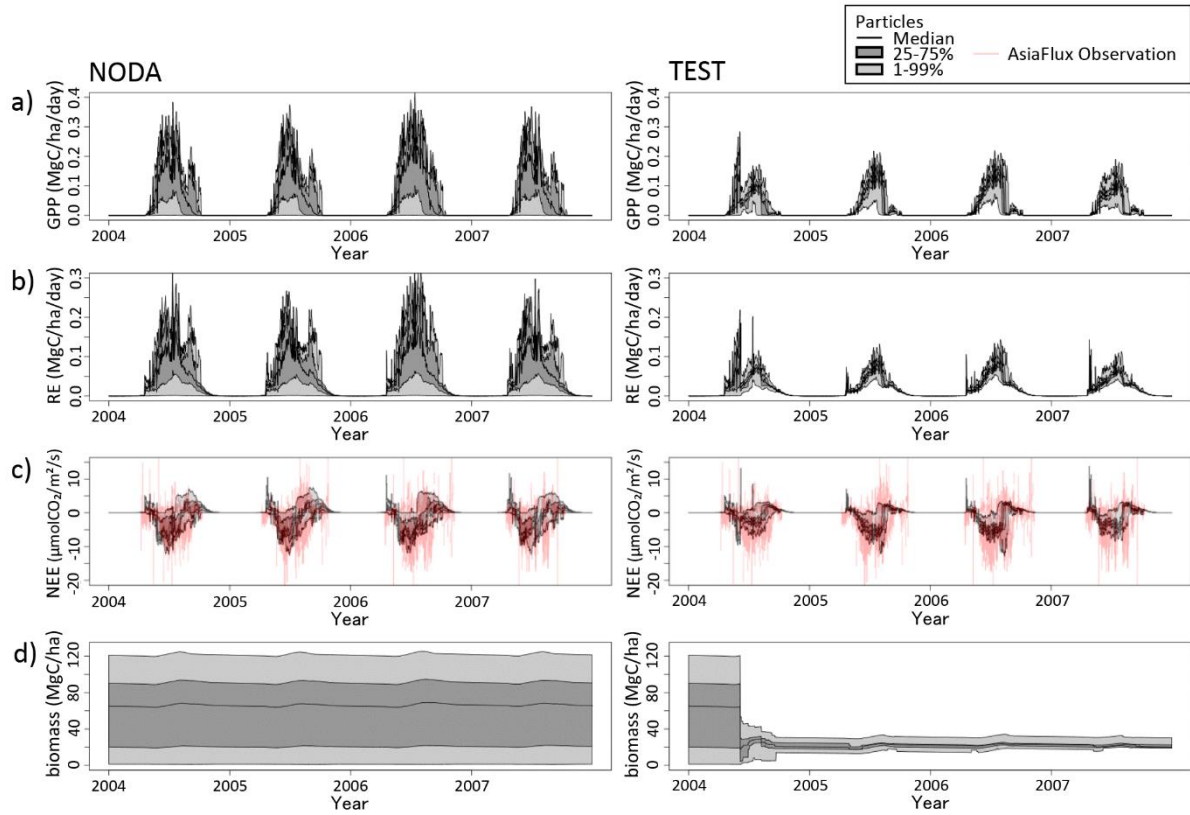
Figure 9. Similar to Fig. 5, showing the unobserved model variables: a) GPP, b) RE, c) NEE, d) biomass, but for the real-world experiment. Red lines indicate the direct field observations made instantaneously every 30 minutes at the AsiaFlux site, while the model simulates only the daily averages.