

1 **Relationships between photosynthesis and formaldehyde as a probe of**
2 **isoprene emission**

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1 **Abstract**

2

3 Atmospheric oxidation of isoprene emission from land plants affects radiative forcing of global
4 climate change. There is an urgent need to understand the factors that control isoprene emission
5 variability on large spatiotemporal scales but such direct observations of isoprene emission do
6 not exist. Two readily available global-scale long-term observational-based datasets hold
7 information about surface isoprene activity: gross primary productivity (GPP) and tropospheric
8 formaldehyde column variability (HCHO_v). We analyze multi-year seasonal linear correlations
9 between observed GPP and HCHO_v. The observed GPP-HCHO_v correlation patterns are used to
10 evaluate a global Earth system model that embeds three alternative leaf-level isoprene emission
11 algorithms. GPP and HCHO_v are decoupled in the summertime southeast US ($r=-0.03$). In the
12 Amazon, GPP-HCHO_v are weakly correlated in March-April-May (MAM), correlated in June-
13 July-August (JJA) and weakly anti-correlated in September-October-November (SON). Isoprene
14 emission algorithms that include soil moisture dependence demonstrate greater skill in
15 reproducing the observed interannual seasonal GPP-HCHO_v correlations in the southeast US and
16 the Amazon. In isoprene emission models that include soil moisture dependence, isoprene
17 emission is correlated with photosynthesis and anti-correlated with HCHO_v. In an isoprene
18 emission model without soil moisture dependence, isoprene emission is anti-correlated with
19 photosynthesis and correlated with HCHO_v. Long-term monitoring of isoprene emission, soil
20 moisture and meteorology is required in water-limited ecosystems to improve understanding of
21 the factors controlling isoprene emission and its representation in global Earth system models.

22

23

1 **1. Introduction**

2

3 Isoprene emission, a by-product of photosynthesis, is fundamental in global chemistry-climate
4 interactions. The global annual source strength is estimated at 0.5 Pg C per year (Guenther et al.,
5 2006), which is of comparable magnitude to the present day total (anthropogenic and biogenic)
6 annual source of methane (CH₄) (Kirschke et al., 2013), and the net carbon dioxide (CO₂)
7 emission from land use change (Ciais et al., 2013). Isoprene emission rate depends upon
8 ecosystem type, photosynthesis, temperature, and atmospheric CO₂, and is therefore sensitive to
9 changes in land cover and climate (Monson et al., 2007). In contrast to CH₄ and CO₂, isoprene is
10 highly reactive in the atmosphere with a lifetime of around only half an hour in the boundary
11 layer. The atmospheric photo-oxidation of isoprene regulates the global budgets and variability
12 of the major short-lived climate pollutants: tropospheric ozone (O₃), CH₄ and secondary organic
13 aerosol (Arneth et al., 2010; Carslaw et al., 2010). Large-scale perturbations to isoprene emission
14 influence global climate change (Scott et al., 2014; Unger, 2014a). In Earth's history, plant
15 isoprene emission is recognized as an important terrestrial biogeochemical feedback that
16 influences the global climate sensitivity (Beerling et al., 2007, 2011; Unger and Yue, 2014).
17 Emerging research begins to quantify isoprene's role as an anthropogenic climate forcing
18 mechanism (Heald and Spracklen, 2015; Unger, 2014b). While short-term (hours to days)
19 weather-related fluctuations in isoprene emission in the temperate zone are well understood
20 (Guenther et al., 1995, 1991), many open questions remain as to the long-term (months to years)
21 factors controlling isoprene emission. A complete understanding of isoprene emission on large
22 spatiotemporal scales is imperative to allow reliable projections of future air quality and global

1 climate change, and to discern quantitatively the real-world effectiveness of mitigation strategies
2 involving the short-lived climate pollutants.

3

4 Two readily available global observational-based datasets do hold information about isoprene
5 emission variability: (i) gross primary productivity (GPP) and (ii) satellite tropospheric
6 formaldehyde (HCHO) columns. GPP is the total amount of CO₂ removed from the atmosphere
7 by plant photosynthesis. Isotopic labeling studies have shown that 70-90% of isoprene
8 production is directly linked to photosynthesis that provides energy and precursors for isoprene
9 biosynthesis in the chloroplast (Affek and Yakir, 2003; Delwiche and Sharkey, 1993; Karl et al.,
10 2002). Precipitation controls photosynthesis in more than 40% of vegetated land (Beer et al.,
11 2010). HCHO is a high-yield product of isoprene oxidation and has a lifetime of only a few
12 hours against photolysis and oxidation by the hydroxyl radical (OH) during the day. Other
13 HCHO sources include oxidation from CH₄, which provides a slowly varying background of
14 HCHO, oxidation from other volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and direct emission from
15 fires. Precipitation might affect HCHO indirectly by removing reactive carbon, nitrogen oxides
16 and oxidants, thus dampening atmospheric photochemistry. Since isoprene emission frequently
17 dominates the non-methane VOC budget over continental land, HCHO columns have been used
18 as a direct proxy for inferring isoprene emissions (Barkley et al., 2008; Barkley et al., 2013; Fu
19 et al., 2007; Millet et al., 2008; Palmer et al., 2003, 2006).

20

21 Neither GPP nor HCHO columns offer a perfect indicator of isoprene emission variability. In the
22 case of GPP, incomplete coupling between isoprene emission and photosynthesis occurs due to
23 the different temperature optimums of the processes, response to short-term drought and elevated

1 atmospheric CO₂, and onset time in the deciduous biome (Harrison et al., 2013). The optimal
2 temperature for photosynthesis is around 25°C while isoprene emission has a higher thermal
3 optimum of 35-40°C. In the case of HCHO columns, limitations in use as a direct proxy for
4 isoprene include: (1) uncertainties associated with the HCHO vertical column retrieval (Barkley
5 et al., 2012; Hewson et al., 2013), (2) distinguishing the component of the HCHO column
6 produced solely from isoprene oxidation, and (3) uncertainties in isoprene oxidation chemistry.

7
8 Isoprene provides an intrinsic linkage between GPP and atmospheric HCHO. A recent study
9 found a strong intra-seasonal correlation between satellite HCHO columns and canopy
10 temperature but a weak correlation or even anti-correlation with GPP in 22 regions selected to
11 minimize interference from fires (Foster et al., 2014). In that study, HCHO columns were
12 assumed to be a direct proxy for surface isoprene emission. Soil moisture availability was not
13 explicitly considered as a driving variable even though water availability and canopy temperature
14 are tightly coupled through stomatal conductance and the canopy energy balance. Accounting for
15 soil moisture dependence of isoprene emission decreases the global source strength by 25-30%
16 (Muller et al., 2008; Unger et al., 2013).

17
18 Here, we investigate the multi-year (2005-2011) seasonal relationships between global
19 observational datasets of FLUXNET-derived GPP and fire-screened satellite HCHO columns as
20 a probe of isoprene emission on longer seasonal to interannual temporal scales. We assume that
21 observed GPP and HCHO columns hold quantitative information about isoprene emission
22 variability, but we do not assume that either is a direct proxy. The study proceeds in three steps.
23 First, we calculate the covariance of the observational-based GPP and satellite HCHO columns

1 with key meteorological variables. Then, we compute the linear correlation between GPP and
2 HCHO observations. Finally, we use the observed GPP-HCHO relationships to evaluate a global
3 Earth system model that incorporates three alternative isoprene emission algorithms. The models
4 are used to interpret the observed GPP-HCHO relationships. We focus our discussion on the
5 major isoprene emitting source regions: the southeastern US [31 to 35°N; -94 to -79°E] and the
6 Amazon [-15°S to 3°N, -76° to -54°E].

7 8 **2. Methods**

9 10 **2.1 Observational and reanalysis datasets**

11
12 In this study we apply datasets of observational-derived GPP, satellite-based tropospheric HCHO
13 columns and meteorology reanalysis. The monthly-mean global GPP dataset is generated using
14 data orientated diagnostic upscaling of site-level derived GPP from FLUXNET (Beer et al.,
15 2010; Bonan et al., 2011; Jung et al., 2011) and is available for years 1982-2011 with native
16 resolution of $0.5^\circ \times 0.5^\circ$ latitude by longitude. The main steps of the upscaling procedure are
17 processing FLUXNET observational data and calculating GPP for each site, training model-tree-
18 ensembles (MTEs) for each GPP using site-level explanatory variables, and applying the
19 established MTEs using global gridded dataset of the same explanatory variables to obtain the
20 global GPP estimates (Jung et al., 2011). Twenty-nine explanatory variables are used to train the
21 MTE, including the fraction of absorbed photosynthetically active radiation (fAPAR),
22 precipitation, temperature and other climate and land cover data (Jung et al., 2011). The
23 uncertainties are mainly from but not limited to (1) measurement of eddy covariance fluxes

1 (Lasslop et al., 2008; Richardson et al., 2006), (2) the choice of explanatory variables (Jung et
2 al., 2011), (3) gap filling and extrapolation to different environmental domains and temporal
3 periods (Jung et al., 2009), (4) global gridded explanatory variables (Hicke, 2005; Zhao et al.,
4 2006). The derived GPP in tropical and subtropical regions is less well constrained with
5 observations and has larger uncertainties compared to the mid-latitudes (Beer et al., 2010; Jung
6 et al., 2011).

7
8 The fire-screened monthly mean tropospheric HCHO vertical columns are retrieved by the
9 Ozone Monitoring Instrument (OMI) over 2005-2013. We compute the fire-screened
10 tropospheric HCHO vertical columns from retrieved slant columns provided in the official
11 NASA OMI product (González Abad et al., 2015), in a three-step process. First, we apply our
12 own reference sector correction to normalize the HCHO columns, on a daily basis. This is a
13 standard technique used in many studies to remove retrieval biases (e.g., Barkley et al., 2013;
14 González Abad et al., 2015; Marais et al., 2012). Here we compute the median OMI slant
15 columns (Ω_{SM}) in 1° latitude bins over the remote Pacific Ocean (140-160°W), and subtract this
16 latitudinal bias from all retrieved slant columns (Ω_S). We then re-normalize the vertical columns
17 (Ω_V) by adding a model HCHO latitudinal background (Ω_{VB}), provided by the NASA ModelE2-
18 YIBs simulation (described in Section 2.2), as follows:

$$20 \quad \Omega_V = \frac{\Omega_S - \Omega_{SM}}{AMF} + \Omega_{VB} \quad (1)$$

21
22 where AMF is the air mass factor, defined as the ratio of the slant and vertical columns. Second,
23 we generate AMF look-up tables using monthly averaged HCHO profiles from the global earth

1 system model NASA ModelE2-YIBs (three sub-versions, as described in Section 2.2),
2 appropriate to the OMI's overpass time. The AMF calculation is the same as that described in
3 Barkley et al. (2013), with the exception that no aerosol correction is applied as model aerosol
4 optical depth (AOD) profiles were not available. Third, we then apply the AMFs to the corrected
5 slant columns, using Eq. (1), and average the resulting vertical columns onto a generic global
6 $0.5^\circ \times 0.5^\circ$ latitude-longitude grid. We additionally filter the OMI data, excluding scenes with
7 $\geq 40\%$ cloud cover and that do not meet standard quality checks (González Abad et al., 2015);
8 observations affected by the documented OMI row anomaly are also discarded. To remove
9 biomass burning contamination from the data, we adopt the method devised by Barkley et al.,
10 (2013) which excludes fire-affected scenes using Advanced Along-Track Scanning Radiometer
11 (AATSR) and Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) active burning
12 detections. Individual observations are discarded if a fire occurs in the 0.5° grid-cell in which it
13 falls, or those immediately adjacent (within ± 2 grid-cells), of both the current or preceding day.
14 The uncertainties on the gridded OMI vertical columns, mainly due to cloud contamination, the a
15 priori modeled isoprene emissions and the HCHO vertical column retrieval, are estimated at 5-
16 20% (Barkley et al, 2013). To ensure consistency in our satellite-model comparisons, the
17 reference correction and AMFs are recomputed using HCHO profiles from the appropriate model
18 simulation. In our subsequent analysis, we use the HCHO column variability (HCHOv), which is
19 defined as the anomaly between local and zonal mean of the gridded fire-screened HCHO
20 tropospheric column concentrations for each month, to explore its climatic covariance and
21 relationship with GPP, and compare against the NASA ModelE2-YIBs output. There are two
22 main limitations in using HCHOv as a proxy for isoprene emission: (1) HCHO from CH_4
23 oxidation is not strictly zonally uniform, thus HCHOv does not purely represent the influence of

1 the non-methane VOCs; (2) HCHO_v is dominated by isoprene emission but their relationship is
2 smeared by other VOCs such as biogenic terpenes and anthropogenic VOCs.

3

4 We use monthly-mean meteorological variables, including surface skin temperature (T_s),
5 downward short wave radiation (SW), photosynthetically active radiation (PAR), and
6 precipitation (P), from the NASA Modern Era Retrospective-Analysis for Research and
7 Applications (MERRA) (Rienecker et al., 2011). The spatial resolution of the MERRA data is
8 $0.5^\circ \times 0.667^\circ$ latitude by longitude and the temporal availability is 1979 to present.

9

10 All of the monthly average observational datasets are linearly interpolated to $2.0^\circ \times 2.5^\circ$ latitude
11 by longitude spatial resolution.

12

13 **2.2 Global Earth system model (NASA ModelE2-YIBs)**

14

15 This study applies the NASA GISS ModelE2 global chemistry-climate model at $2^\circ \times 2.5^\circ$ latitude
16 by longitude horizontal resolution with 40-vertical layers extending to 0.1 hPa (Schmidt et al.,
17 2014). The Yale Interactive Terrestrial Biosphere Model (YIBs) is embedded inside NASA
18 ModelE2 in a framework known as NASA ModelE2-YIBs. The global climate model provides
19 the meteorological drivers for the vegetation biophysics. The land-surface hydrology submodel
20 provides soil characteristics to the vegetation physiology in each grid cell. The model framework
21 fully integrates the land biosphere-oxidant-aerosol system such that these components interact
22 with each other and with the physics of the climate model at the 30-minute integration time step.
23 The atmospheric composition model has been well tested against observations and compared

1 with other models e.g. (Koch et al., 2010; Myhre et al., 2013; Shindell et al., 2013a, 2013b;
2 Stevenson et al., 2013).

3
4 The vegetation is described using eight plant functional types (PFTs): tundra, C3 and C4
5 grassland, shrub, deciduous, tropical rainforest, evergreen, and crop. Present-day vegetation
6 cover fractions are derived from Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS)
7 satellite data as used in the Community Land Model and converted to the eight PFTs here
8 (Lawrence and Chase, 2007). Gridded spatially-varying PFT-specific leaf area index (LAI) is
9 derived from Advanced Very High Resolution Radiometer (AVHRR) satellite data and linearly
10 interpolated into daily values (Lawrence and Chase, 2007).

11
12 The canopy biophysical fluxes are computed using the well established Farquhar leaf model of
13 photosynthesis (von Caemmerer and Farquhar, 1981; Farquhar et al., 1980) and the stomatal
14 conductance model of Ball and Berry (Ball et al., 1987). The model vertically stratifies each
15 canopy into an adaptive number of layers (typically 2-16) that distinguish LAI profiles for sunlit
16 and shaded leaves (Friend and Kiang, 2005).

17

18 **2.2.1 Isoprene emission algorithms**

19

20 NASA ModelE2-YIBs incorporates two conceptually different leaf-level isoprene emission
21 algorithms that are embedded within the exact same host simulation framework: (1) Y-PS:
22 isoprene emission is calculated as a function of electron transport-limited photosynthesis,
23 intercellular and atmospheric CO₂ and canopy temperature (Unger et al., 2013) and (2) Y-

1 MEGAN: isoprene emission is calculated using empirical functions of canopy temperature and
 2 light commonly applied in The Model of Emissions of Gases and Aerosols from Nature
 3 (MEGAN) (Guenther et al., 1995). MEGAN is the most widely used system for estimating
 4 isoprene emissions from terrestrial ecosystems (Guenther et al., 2012). We test a third isoprene
 5 emission algorithm identical to Y-MEGAN but with an additional empirical multiplier to account
 6 for soil moisture availability (Y-MEGAN-SM).

7

8 In Y-PS, leaf-level isoprene emission is modeled as follows:

9

$$10 \quad I_{emis} = \varepsilon \cdot J_e \cdot \delta \cdot \tau \quad (2)$$

11

12 where ε is the PFT-specific isoprene emission potential in units of fraction of electrons available
 13 for isoprene synthesis. J_e is the electron transport limited photosynthesis rate in units of $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2}$
 14 $[\text{leaf}] \text{ s}^{-1}$. J_e is a linear function of the incident photosynthetically active radiation (PAR) and the
 15 internal leaf CO_2 concentration (C_i):

16

$$17 \quad J_e = a_{leaf} \cdot PAR \cdot \alpha_{qe} \cdot \frac{C_i - \Gamma^*}{C_i + 2\Gamma^*} \quad (3)$$

18

19 where a_{leaf} is the leaf specific light absorptance, α_{qe} is the intrinsic quantum efficiency for
 20 photosynthetic CO_2 uptake in photosystem II (a product of the fraction of absorbed light that
 21 reaches photosystem II and the CO_2 per absorbed photon), and Γ^* is the CO_2 concentration
 22 compensation point in the absence of non-photorespiratory respiration (Collatz et al., 1991).

23

1 The δ term in equation (2) translates the electron flux into isoprene equivalents given by
2 equation (4) detailed in (Niinemets et al., 1999; Pacifico et al., 2011):

3

$$4 \quad \delta = \frac{C_i - \Gamma^*}{6(4.67C_i + 9.33\Gamma^*)} \quad (4)$$

5

6 The temperature relationship (τ) in the algorithm accounts for the difference in temperature
7 optimum between photosynthesis and isoprene synthase:

8

$$9 \quad \tau = \exp[0.1(T - T_{ref})] \quad (5)$$

10

11 where T is leaf temperature in °C and T_{ref} is the leaf temperature under standard conditions (30°
12 C).

13

14 In Y-MEGAN, leaf-level isoprene emission is modeled following:

15

$$16 \quad I_{emis} = E \cdot C_T \cdot C_L \quad (6)$$

17

18 where E is the PFT-specific isoprene emission potential in units of $\mu\text{molC m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$; C_T and C_L are
19 defined as follows:

20

$$21 \quad C_T = \frac{\exp\left(\frac{C_{T1}(T_K - T_{Ks})}{RT_{Ks}T_K}\right)}{1 + \exp\left(\frac{C_{T2}(T_K - T_M)}{RT_{Ks}T_K}\right)} \quad (7)$$

22

1 and:

2

$$3 \quad C_L = \frac{\alpha C_{L1} PAR}{\sqrt{1 + \alpha^2 (PAR)^2}} \quad (8)$$

4

5 T_K is the leaf temperature in Kelvin, T_{Ks} is the leaf temperature at standard conditions (=303 K),

6 R is the ideal gas constant (=8.314 J K⁻¹ mol⁻¹); C_{T1} (=95,000 J mol⁻¹), C_{T2} (=230,000 J mol⁻¹),

7 T_M (=314 K), α (=0.0027) and C_{L1} (=1.066) are empirical coefficients.

8

9 Y-PS and Y-MEGAN use identical PFT-specific isoprene emission potentials converted to the
10 relevant units for ϵ (unitless) and E ($\mu\text{molC m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$), presented here in units of $\mu\text{gC g}^{-1} \text{h}^{-1}$:

11 tundra=0, C3 grassland=16, C4 grassland=0, shrub=16, deciduous=45, tropical rainforest=24,

12 evergreen=8, and crop=0 (Guenther, 2007; Lathiere et al., 2006). An additional multiplier to

13 account for the long-term atmospheric CO₂-sensitivity of isoprene emission is applied to both

14 isoprene models that is normalized to 1.0 for the present-day atmospheric CO₂ levels used in this

15 study (Arneth et al., 2007).

16

17 Y-MEGAN-SM is identical to Y-MEGAN but includes an additional multiplier to account for

18 soil moisture availability following the approach used in the coupled photosynthesis-stomatal

19 conductance vegetation biophysics submodel. The multiplier value is between 0 and 1 and

20 reflects the relationship between soil water amount and the extent of stomatal closure ranging

21 from no water stress to the soil moisture stress onset point (s^*) through to the wilting point (s_{wilt})

22 (Porporato et al., 2001). The multiplier value is reduced linearly between the PFT-specific values

1 of s^* and s_{wilt} based on the climate model's soil water volumetric saturation in six soil layers.
2 Values of s^* and s_{wilt} are documented in Unger et al. (2013).
3
4 The leaf-level isoprene emissions in each isoprene scheme are upscaled to the canopy level using
5 the YIBs canopy vertical stratification and integration scheme (Unger et al., 2013). The canopy
6 level isoprene fluxes are passed to the model's atmosphere through the land-surface scheme on
7 the 30-minute integration time step of the global climate model. Thus, the three isoprene
8 emission algorithms 'see' the exact same PFT-specific isoprene emission potentials (basal rates),
9 vegetation input data and meteorology, and apply the exact same upscaling from leaf to canopy.
10 In Y-PS, the light dependence occurs through the linkage to photosynthesis; in Y-MEGAN and
11 Y-MEGAN-SM, isoprene emission is directly related to PAR. All three models are directly
12 linked to canopy temperature. In Y-PS, soil moisture dependence occurs through the linkage to
13 photosynthesis; Y-MEGAN has no direct soil moisture dependence but captures indirect effects
14 through canopy temperature changes; and Y-MEGAN-SM has soil moisture dependence through
15 the additional empirical multiplier.

16

17 **2.2.2 Simulations**

18

19 We perform three NASA ModelE2-YIBs simulations representative of present day (2000s)
20 climatology for each of the isoprene emission schemes (Y-PS; Y-MEGAN; Y-MEGAN-SM).
21 Decadal average (1996-2005) monthly-varying sea surface temperature and sea ice climatology
22 from the HadSST2 dataset provide the physical climatic boundary conditions for the simulations
23 (Rayner et al., 2006). The present day anthropogenic trace gas and aerosol emissions are

1 prescribed to year 2000 values from the inventory developed for IPCC AR5 (Lamarque et al.,
2 2010). Atmospheric levels of long-lived greenhouse gases are prescribed to $\text{CO}_2 = 370$ ppmv,
3 $\text{CH}_4 = 1733$ ppbv in Southern Hemisphere (SH) and 1814 ppbv in Northern Hemisphere (NH),
4 $\text{N}_2\text{O} = 316$ ppbv. Integrations of eleven model years are completed for all control and sensitivity
5 simulations; the first two years of the simulations are discarded as spin-up and the remaining
6 nine years are used for analyses.

7 **3. Results**

9
10 The goal of this work is to investigate the large-scale observationally-derived climatic covariance
11 and correlations in the photosynthesis-HCHO system, and to assess the models' ability to
12 reproduce these observationally-derived biosphere-atmosphere system sensitivities and to expose
13 the implications for isoprene emission. Therefore, instead of direct comparison between
14 simulated and observed GPP and HCHO columns, we conduct a multiple linear regression
15 (MLR) analysis in Section 3.1 and a correlation analysis in Section 3.2, and use the observed
16 climatic covariance and correlations to evaluate the NASA ModelE2-YIBs model embedded
17 with three isoprene algorithms. The direct comparison results are included in the supplementary
18 materials for reference: simulated and FLUXNET-derived GPP are of comparable absolute
19 amounts (Figure S1); while simulated tropospheric HCHO columns are considerably higher than
20 that obtained from the OMI retrieval by about a factor of 2 (Figure S2), which is likely due to the
21 large uncertainties in the models as well as the satellite retrieval. In the following analysis, we
22 apply a minimum threshold for GPP (monthly mean GPP > 0.01 g[C] m⁻² day⁻¹) to avoid

1 inclusion of meaningless noise, especially in boreal winter (December-January-February) when
2 most NH regions have very low GPP and isoprene emissions.”
3
4 Using the exact same vegetation input data, meteorology and PFT-specific basal rates, the three
5 isoprene algorithms give substantially different annual global isoprene emission strengths: 382
6 Tg[C] year⁻¹ for Y-PS, 452 Tg[C] year⁻¹ for Y-MEGAN and 263 Tg[C] year⁻¹ for Y-MEGAN-
7 SM. As shown in Fig. 1 (left column), isoprene emission in Y-MEGAN is lower in NH mid-
8 latitudes than Y-PS, and is stronger in the tropics. Y-MEGAN-SM has lower isoprene flux than
9 Y-MEGAN, especially in the dry subtropics in South America, Africa and Australia. Yet, the
10 three OMI HCHO column datasets that use different AMFs for the three isoprene models show
11 similar distribution (Fig. 1, right column). Further analysis of OMI HCHO column datasets,
12 including the MLR of HCHO_v with meteorological variables in Section 3.1 and the observation
13 correlation between GPP and HCHO_v in Section 3.2, show no difference among the three HCHO
14 datasets. Therefore, in the following analyses, results shown are based on OMI-HCHO processed
15 using Y-PS AMFs.

16

17 **3.1 Meteorological drivers of GPP and HCHO_v**

18

19 The regionally averaged meteorological variables T_s , PAR, SW and P for the period 2005-2011
20 from MERRA reanalysis and the climate model NASA ModelE2-YIBs are summarized in Table
21 1. In MERRA, the average T_s values for March-April-May (MAM), June-July-August (JJA) and
22 September-October-November (SON) in key regions are (in °C): 18.0±0.8, 26.8±0.5, 18.6±0.8
23 (southeast US); 23.5±0.5, 23.7±0.4, 25.3±0.6 (Amazon). Seasonal average T_s in southeast US in

1 JJA and in the Amazon in SON slightly exceed the photosynthetic thermal optimum (25°C). No
2 vegetated region on the planet has a seasonal average T_s that exceeds the thermal optimum of
3 isoprene emission (35-40°C).

4
5 We perform a multiple linear regression analysis of FLUXNET-derived GPP and OMI-retrieved
6 HCHO_v against major meteorological variables to examine their climatic covariance and to
7 determine the most important meteorological drivers in different regions and different seasons.
8 Figure 2 shows the MLR results for monthly mean GPP (1982-2011) and HCHO_v (2005-2013)
9 in three seasons (MAM, JJA, SON) against T_s , PAR (SW for HCHO_v), and P. MLR of GPP and
10 HCHO_v using 2005-2011 data (the overlapped time range) yield very similar results. A
11 provocative implication is that the effects of decadal climate change (e.g. the rapid global rise in
12 atmospheric CO₂ since 1982) do not appear to influence GPP's and HCHO_v's seasonal climatic
13 covariance in the contemporary period. The computed standardized partial regression
14 coefficients (β -coefficients) represent the rate of change in the dependent variable for a unit
15 change in the independent variable with all other independent variables held constant. The
16 coefficients have been standardized in units of standard deviation, thus they can be directly
17 compared with each other to determine the relative importance of the different driving variables.
18 The standardized partial regression coefficients of GPP and HCHO_v associated with T_s , PAR
19 (SW for HCHO_v) and P are denoted by GPP_ β _T_s, GPP_ β _PAR, GPP_ β _P and HCHO_v_ β _T_s,
20 HCHO_v_ β _SW, HCHO_v_ β _P. GPP β -coefficients are statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) over
21 most vegetated regions of the planet. HCHO_v β -coefficients are not significant to 95%
22 confidence level anywhere on the planet. It is not surprising that the FLUXNET-derived GPP
23 climatic covariance results have high statistical significance values because this product is an

1 empirically upscaled dataset based on machine learning techniques (see Section 2.1) using a
2 large set of climatic and land cover explanatory variables, and the driving variables T_s , PAR and
3 P used to determine the MLR in this study are an important subset of the original explanatory
4 variables. In contrast, remotely-sensed HCHO columns are relatively noisy due to the satellite
5 retrieval method (Palmer et al., 2001; De Smedt et al., 2008). Other reasons for the differences in
6 statistical significance include: satellite-based HCHO columns have many missing values due to
7 product quality control (e.g. contamination by clouds) and the biomass burning removal (see
8 Section 2.1); the GPP dataset has a longer record (1982-2011) than the HCHO dataset (2005-
9 2013); unlike GPP which has a simple near-parabolic relationship with T_s , HCHO dependence
10 on T_s is more complex. For instance, increasing T_s promotes isoprene emission and oxidation to
11 HCHO, but also accelerates the chemical destruction of HCHO (see supplementary and Fig. S4).

12
13 The regionally averaged β -coefficients over southeast US [31 to 35°N; -94 to -79°E] and the
14 Amazon [-15 to 3°N; -76 to -54°E] are summarized in Table 2. GPP is strongly positively related
15 to T_s in the NH springtime and summertime high-latitudes (Fig. 2). In NH mid-latitudes in
16 summer, where T_s values approach and/or exceed the photosynthetic thermal optimum,
17 sensitivity to T_s decreases dramatically. In the southeast US, $GPP_{\beta_{T_s}}$ drops from 0.58 in
18 spring to 0.03 in summer. In NH subtropical and semi-arid regions, there is a marked
19 anticorrelation with T_s in the NH summer ($GPP_{\beta_{T_s}} < -0.3$). In contrast, HCHOv is generally
20 positively correlated with T_s across all continents and seasons. The averaged $HCHOv_{\beta_{T_s}}$
21 values in the southeast US are 0.36, 0.31 and 0.53 in MAM, JJA and SON. In the Amazon, the
22 temperature dependence of both GPP and HCHOv are positive but weak.

23

1 GPP has a strong positive relationship with PAR in NH mid-latitudes (especially in SON) and in
2 tropical continents in all seasons (Fig. 2). The spatial pattern of HCHO_v dependence on SW is
3 extremely patchy because HCHO can be both formed and destroyed by photolysis. In the
4 southeast US, GPP_β_PAR are 0.44, 0.41, 0.51 in MAM, JJA and SON, whereas
5 HCHO_v_β_SW are -0.02, 0.16 and -0.18; the Amazon also shows relatively strong positive light
6 dependence of GPP (0.46, 0.57, 0.17). In the Amazon, HCHO_v displays no apparent relationship
7 with SW in MAM and SON but a positive relationship in JJA (0.00, 0.31, 0.01).

8
9 The relationship between GPP and precipitation is always positive over heavily vegetated
10 regions. GPP_β_P values tend to be weaker than GPP_β_T_s and GPP_β_PAR values in the NH
11 middle to high latitudes, but much stronger in the tropical rainforest regions in MAM and SON.
12 In the tropics, precipitation stimulates GPP significantly in MAM and SON (GPP_β_P=0.70 in
13 MAM and 0.50 in SON). In contrast, there is no detectable relationship between precipitation
14 and HCHO_v in this region in MAM and JJA, but a strong anti-correlation in SON. Precipitation
15 dampens local photochemistry by removing reactive carbon, nitrogen compounds and oxidants.
16 Although wet deposition is not a major sink for HCHO due to the relatively low Henry's Law
17 coefficient, previous studies have found an anti-correlation with precipitation in highly polluted
18 regions (Báez et al., 1993).

19

20 **3.2 Observed GPP-HCHO_v correlation**

21

22 Figure 3 shows the Pearson's correlation coefficient (r) between monthly mean observational
23 GPP and HCHO_v for each season calculated using the 2005-2011 data. We show results where

1 FLUXNET-GPP is greater than $0.01 \text{ g[C] m}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1}$ for the latitude range -50°S to $+50^{\circ}\text{N}$ (except
2 in boreal summer) because the satellite HCHO columns have known large biases in high-
3 latitudes under limited-light conditions (De Smedt et al., 2008; Wittrock et al., 1997). The
4 observed GPP-HCHOv correlation varies strongly with latitude and season. Regionally averaged
5 seasonal correlation values for the southeast US and the Amazon are shown in Table 3. The
6 southeast US shows a significant GPP-HCHOv coupling in transition seasons ($r=0.24$ in boreal
7 spring and $r=0.25$ in fall, $p<0.05$), which is likely driven by their covariance with temperature. In
8 boreal summer, this positive correlation signal moves northward to NH high-latitudes where
9 boreal forests emit terpenoids. GPP and HCHOv in the summertime southeast US are almost
10 decoupled with a very weak anti-correlation signal ($r=-0.03$). Similar decoupling or weak anti-
11 correlation occurs in the tropics all the year round except in the Amazon in JJA ($r=0.33$).

12

13 **3.3 Model GPP-HCHOv correlation**

14

15 We examine the simulated GPP-HCHOv correlations in NASA ModelE2-YIBs for the three
16 isoprene emission algorithms: Y-PS, Y-MEGAN and Y-MEGAN-SM. Overall, the simulated
17 GPP-HCHOv r values are stronger than the observed values everywhere on the planet.
18 Generally, overestimates of GPP-HCHOv r values in the models may be due to over-simplified
19 parameterizations of biogeochemical processes and photochemical oxidation mechanisms,
20 missing, possibly important but highly uncertain, processes in the models, for instance nutrient
21 availability, and the use of generic PFT-specific isoprene emission potentials. The three models
22 successfully reproduce the GPP-HCHOv correlation pattern in the NH temperate spring and fall
23 transition seasons that is likely driven by covariance with temperature (Fig. 4(a)). They broadly

1 capture the observed GPP-HCHOv spatial patterns in the tropics in MAM and SON, but not in
2 JJA. The models' overestimate of the positive correlation in southeast US in spring and fall may
3 be because the algorithms do not include the delayed onset in spring or earlier shutdown of
4 isoprene emission before senescence. Regionally averaged model correlation results for the
5 southeast US and the Amazon are compared with the observational results in Table 3. In contrast
6 to the observed GPP-HCHOv decoupling (no correlation) in the summertime southeast US, the
7 models simulate anti-correlation but to different extents: $r=-0.19$ (Y-PS); $r=-0.62$ (Y-MEGAN);
8 $r=-0.37$ (Y-MEGAN-SM). In the Amazon, Y-PS and Y-MEGAN-SM reproduce the observed
9 GPP-HCHOv correlations in MAM and SON but are unable to reproduce the observed strong
10 positive correlation there in JJA. Y-MEGAN fails to reproduce the seasonal observed GPP-
11 HCHOv correlations in the Amazon; for this model, GPP-HCHOv are anti-correlated in JJA ($r=-$
12 0.08) where observed GPP-HCHOv $r=0.33$; and strongly anti-correlated in SON ($r=-0.51$) where
13 observed GPP-HCHOv $r=-0.09$. In the Amazon in JJA, GPP is strongly related to PAR; similarly
14 HCHOv is related to SW (Section 3.1).

15
16 Poor performance of all models in Amazon JJA may be due to the global climate model's
17 simulation of meteorology. Simulated T_s ($26.4\pm 0.3^\circ\text{C}$) in the Amazon JJA is $2\sim 3^\circ\text{C}$ higher than
18 the MERRA T_s ($23.7\pm 0.4^\circ\text{C}$) and exceeds the GPP thermal optimum (25°C). This temperature
19 overestimation likely contributes to the non-real decoupling or weak anti-correlation between
20 GPP and HCHOv in the three models.

21
22 To probe the underlying causes of the GPP-HCHOv relationships, we examine the model
23 correlations between isoprene emission (ISOPe) and GPP, and between ISOPe and HCHOv

1 shown in Fig. 4(b) and (c). Regionally averaged values for the southeast US and the Amazon are
2 compared in Table 3. It is apparent that the GPP-HCHO_v relationships are driven by different
3 underlying causes contingent upon whether the isoprene emission algorithm includes soil
4 moisture dependence. Focusing on southeast US, Y-PS indicates linear coupling between GPP
5 and ISOPe ($r=0.94\pm 0.07$), and only a weak or even anti-correlation between ISOPe and HCHO_v
6 in summertime southeast US ($r=-0.03\pm 0.31$). In contrast, Y-MEGAN indicates strong coupling
7 between ISOPe and HCHO_v ($r=0.73\pm 0.09$), but anti-correlation between GPP and ISOPe in the
8 summer ($r=-0.39\pm 0.23$).

9
10 In Y-PS, anti-correlation between GPP and HCHO_v is determined by the anti-correlation
11 between ISOPe and HCHO_v. On interannual seasonal time scales, precipitation positively
12 stimulates GPP but has no direct impact on HCHO_v, which is predominantly controlled by
13 temperature (see Supplement). Precipitation may dampen photochemistry by limiting OH and
14 O(¹D) concentration, thus may have an indirect impact on both formation and destruction of
15 HCHO. Photochemical production and loss of HCHO strongly depend on temperature and light
16 independent of isoprene emission (e.g. Seinfeld and Pandis, (2006); Fig. 2(b); Fig. S4). New
17 research is showing that HCHO column variation reflects variation of OH production rather than
18 isoprene emission variability, especially in low OH regions (Dr. L. Valin, Columbia University,
19 personal communication). Furthermore, HCHO may be influenced by emission and oxidation of
20 non-isoprene VOCs. In Y-MEGAN, the anti-correlation between GPP and ISOPe drives the
21 GPP-HCHO_v anti-correlation in this model under conditions when the thermal optimum of
22 photosynthesis has been exceeded. Y-MEGAN-SM displays more Y-PS-like behavior, a
23 correlation between GPP and ISOPe, but anti-correlation between ISOPe and HCHO_v in

1 summertime southeast US and in MAM and SON in the Amazon. Since the only difference
2 between Y-MEGAN-SM and Y-MEGAN is the soil moisture dependence of isoprene emission,
3 this result suggests the importance of water availability as a control on the photosynthesis-
4 ISOPe-HCHO system: all the three processes are strongly influenced by temperature, but the
5 dependence on soil moisture determines the summertime covariance of photosynthesis and
6 isoprene variability, which can over-ride their anti-correlation due to different thermal optima.
7 The relative lack of sensitivity of HCHOv to water availability and precipitation leads to weaker
8 correlation or even anti-correlation behavior between ISOPe and HCHOv.

9

10 **4. Discussion and conclusions**

11

12 We find that all three models reproduce the observed NH mid-latitude GPP-HCHOv strong
13 correlation in spring and fall, but predict anti-correlation in summer when the observations
14 suggest decoupling. The underlying causes for the predicted relationships are isoprene-
15 algorithm-dependent. In the isoprene algorithms that account for soil moisture dependence (Y-PS
16 and Y-MEGAN-SM), interannual seasonal isoprene emission variability is tightly linked to
17 photosynthesis but anti-correlated with HCHO variability; the dependence on soil moisture
18 determines the summertime covariance of isoprene emission and photosynthesis, which override
19 their opposite response to high temperature. While in Y-MEGAN, isoprene emission is anti-
20 correlated with photosynthesis at high temperatures due to their different thermal optima, and is
21 strongly correlated with HCHO variability. These results suggest water availability could be an
22 important driver of isoprene emission on intraseasonal to interannual time scales.

23

1 Multiple field experiments have studied the isoprene response to water deficit conditions on
2 different time scales. Short-time mild drought stress on a time scale of a few days affects
3 stomatal conductance and thus the rate of photosynthesis, while does not essentially diminish
4 isoprene emission because photosynthetic electron transport is not inhibited (Fall and Monson,
5 1992; Niinemets, 2010). Several studies found increases in isoprene emission during the initial
6 stages of mild drought conditions (e.g. Brillì et al., 2007; Pegoraro et al., 2004; Sharkey and
7 Loreto, 1993). Severe drought or prolonged moderate drought conditions on time scales of weeks
8 do result in significant reductions in isoprene emission that are presumably due to decreased leaf
9 carbon availability following sustained reductions in photosynthetic rate (e.g. Brüggemann and
10 Schnitzler, 2002; Funk et al., 2005; Sharkey and Loreto, 1993). Therefore, on the short time
11 scales of a few days, there is a lag between isoprene emission and photosynthetic rate in response
12 to water stress. On longer time scales (weeks to months), isoprene emission is tightly coupled
13 with photosynthesis, both of which are limited by soil moisture deficit. Recent studies have
14 shown the importance of water availability on photosynthesis on interannual scales: Jung et al.
15 (2011) suggest the interannual variability of GPP in semi-arid to semi-humid regions is more
16 sensitive to precipitation rather than temperature; Beer et al. (2010) find that GPP over 40% of
17 the vegetated land is associated with precipitation. Therefore, despite the current lack of direct
18 observations to constrain the soil moisture impact on the interannual variability of isoprene
19 emission, we argue that water availability is likely to be a critical factor regulating isoprene
20 emission on longer times.

21

22 This research raises more questions about long-term isoprene emission variability than it
23 answers. Ground truthing of the findings is impeded by the lack of long-term isoprene emission

1 flux tower and meteorology measurements in water-limited ecosystems. However, our results do
2 suggest that water availability may be an important driver of vegetation-chemistry-climate
3 interactions under future global change. A corollary is that on longer time scales (seasonal,
4 annual, decadal), GPP may be a more reliable indicator of surface isoprene emission than
5 HCHO_v. The soil moisture dependence of isoprene emission warrants further research. Long-
6 term direct measurements of isoprene emission co-located with meteorological monitoring are
7 essential to provide more information on the extent of water dependence of isoprene. Global
8 Earth system models used to study long-term changes in isoprene emission should include soil
9 moisture dependence. Currently, soil moisture is poorly represented in land-surface and climate
10 models (Koster et al., 2009). The recent launch of the NASA Soil Moisture Active Passive
11 instrument will produce global maps of soil moisture and was designed to help improve
12 understanding of carbon and water cycles. Inadvertently, this dataset may also help improve
13 understanding of isoprene emission and atmospheric chemistry.

14

15 **Author contribution**

16

17 N. U. and Y. Z. designed this study and developed the model code. Y. Z. performed the
18 simulations and analysis. M. P. B. processed the satellite-based formaldehyde data. X. Y.
19 contributed to the model development. Y. Z., N. U. and M. P. B. wrote the manuscript.

20

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22

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4

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- 14
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1 **Table 1.** Regionally averaged meteorological variables with standard deviation from MERRA
 2 reanalysis and NASA ModelE2-YIBs in the southeast US and the Amazon.

3

Southeast US					
		T_s (°C)	PAR (W m⁻²)	SW (W m⁻²)	P (mm day⁻¹)
MERRA	MAM	18.0 ± 0.8	110.1 ± 3.4	250.0 ± 8.3	2.6 ± 0.7
	JJA	26.8 ± 0.5	108.5 ± 3.7	237.8 ± 9.0	4.8 ± 0.5
	SON	18.6 ± 0.8	80.7 ± 4.3	182.3 ± 10.5	2.8 ± 0.7
Amazon					
ModelE2- YIBs	MAM	18.6 ± 0.8	106.8 ± 2.3	237.4 ± 5.0	4.2 ± 0.5
	JJA	26.8 ± 0.4	118.7 ± 1.5	263.7 ± 3.4	4.5 ± 0.6
	SON	20.5 ± 1.3	82.1 ± 1.9	182.4 ± 4.2	2.3 ± 0.7
Amazon					
MERRA	MAM	23.5 ± 0.5	89.9 ± 2.7	193.4 ± 6.0	7.9 ± 0.4
	JJA	23.7 ± 0.4	99.4 ± 3.1	219.9 ± 7.6	3.5 ± 0.5
	SON	25.3 ± 0.6	103.3 ± 4.2	226.0 ± 9.7	4.9 ± 0.6
Amazon					
ModelE2- YIBs	MAM	26.4 ± 0.2	100.3 ± 0.8	222.8 ± 1.7	6.0 ± 0.3
	JJA	26.4 ± 0.3	94.0 ± 0.9	208.9 ± 2.1	2.2 ± 0.2
	SON	28.6 ± 0.4	102.6 ± 1.0	228.1 ± 2.1	3.3 ± 0.3

4

1 **Table 2.** Regionally averaged MLR β -coefficients with standard deviation for GPP and HCHOv
2 in the southeast US, defined as [31 to 35°N; -94 to -79°E] and the Amazon defined as [-15°S to
3 3°N, -76° to -54°E]. The covariance of GPP with T_s , PAR and precipitation (P) are denoted as
4 GPP_ β _ T_s , GPP_ β _ PAR , GPP_ β _ P ; the covariance of HCHOv with T_s , SW and precipitation
5 (P) are denoted as HCHOv_ β _ T_s , HCHOv_ β _ SW , HCHOv_ β _ P . In MLR of OMI-HCHOv (a),
6 (b) and (c), the OMI-HCHO columns are processed using model Y-PS, Y-MEGAN and Y-
7 MEGAN-SM, respectively.
8

Southeast US			
MLR of FLUXNET-GPP: 1982-2011			
	GPP_ β _ T_s	GPP_ β _ PAR	GPP_ β _ P
MAM	0.58 \pm 0.11	0.44 \pm 0.10	0.19 \pm 0.05
JJA	0.03 \pm 0.25	0.41 \pm 0.52	0.35 \pm 0.30
SON	0.41 \pm 0.13	0.51 \pm 0.10	0.18 \pm 0.08
MLR of OMI-HCHOv: 2005-2013			
	HCHOv_ β _ T_s	HCHOv_ β _ SW	HCHOv_ β _ P
MAM	(a) 0.36 \pm 0.34	(a) -0.02 \pm 0.32	(a) 0.05 \pm 0.35
	(b) 0.36 \pm 0.33	(b) -0.02 \pm 0.31	(b) 0.05 \pm 0.35
	(c) 0.36 \pm 0.33	(c) -0.02 \pm 0.31	(c) 0.04 \pm 0.35
JJA	(a) 0.31 \pm 0.22	(a) 0.16 \pm 0.38	(a) 0.26 \pm 0.51
	(b) 0.31 \pm 0.22	(b) 0.17 \pm 0.38	(b) 0.26 \pm 0.51
	(c) 0.31 \pm 0.22	(c) 0.17 \pm 0.38	(c) 0.26 \pm 0.51

SON	(a) 0.53 ± 0.77	(a) -0.18 ± 0.67	(a) -0.02 ± 0.37
	(b) 0.51 ± 0.77	(b) -0.16 ± 0.66	(b) -0.01 ± 0.37
	(c) 0.52 ± 0.77	(c) -0.17 ± 0.66	(c) -0.01 ± 0.37
Amazon			
MLR of FLUXNET-GPP: 1982-2011			
	GPP_β_T _s	GPP_β_PAR	GPP_β_P
MAM	0.11 ± 0.17	0.46 ± 0.32	0.70 ± 0.40
JJA	0.14 ± 0.20	0.57 ± 0.54	0.27 ± 0.39
SON	0.24 ± 0.19	0.17 ± 0.50	0.50 ± 0.53
MLR of OMI-HCHOv: 2005-2013			
	HCHOv_β_T _s	HCHOv_β_SW	HCHOv_β_P
MAM	(a) 0.16 ± 0.27	(a) 0.00 ± 0.27	(a) -0.04 ± 0.29
	(b) 0.16 ± 0.27	(b) 0.00 ± 0.27	(b) -0.05 ± 0.29
	(c) 0.16 ± 0.27	(c) 0.00 ± 0.27	(c) -0.05 ± 0.29
JJA	(a) 0.18 ± 0.33	(a) 0.31 ± 0.54	(a) 0.03 ± 0.47
	(b) 0.18 ± 0.33	(b) 0.31 ± 0.54	(b) 0.03 ± 0.47
	(c) 0.18 ± 0.33	(c) 0.31 ± 0.53	(c) 0.03 ± 0.47
SON	(a) 0.03 ± 0.46	(a) 0.01 ± 0.52	(a) -0.31 ± 0.56
	(b) 0.04 ± 0.46	(b) 0.01 ± 0.52	(b) -0.31 ± 0.56
	(c) 0.03 ± 0.46	(c) 0.01 ± 0.52	(c) -0.31 ± 0.56

1 **Table 3.** Summary of regionally averaged observational and simulated seasonal correlation
 2 coefficients in the southeast US and the Amazon. In observational GPP-HCHOv (a), (b) and (c),
 3 the OMI-HCHO columns are processed using model Y-PS, Y-MEGAN and Y-MEGAN-SM,
 4 respectively.

5

Southeast US				
		GPP-HCHOv	GPP-ISOPe	ISOPe-HCHOv
Observation	MAM	(a) 0.24 ± 0.10	-	-
		(b) 0.24 ± 0.10		
		(c) 0.24 ± 0.10		
	JJA	(a) -0.03 ± 0.10	-	-
		(b) -0.03 ± 0.11		
		(c) -0.03 ± 0.10		
SON	(a) 0.25 ± 0.10	-	-	
	(b) 0.26 ± 0.10			
	(c) 0.26 ± 0.10			
Y-PS				
Y-PS	MAM	0.86 ± 0.16	0.98 ± 0.01	0.88 ± 0.14
	JJA	-0.19 ± 0.30	0.94 ± 0.07	-0.03 ± 0.31
	SON	0.68 ± 0.22	0.97 ± 0.01	0.71 ± 0.20
Y-MEGAN				
Y-MEGAN	MAM	0.77 ± 0.22	0.86 ± 0.14	0.97 ± 0.02
	JJA	-0.62 ± 0.19	-0.39 ± 0.23	0.73 ± 0.09

	SON	0.52 ± 0.26	0.69 ± 0.17	0.94 ± 0.05
Y-MEGAN- SM	MAM	0.81 ± 0.19	0.95 ± 0.02	0.91 ± 0.11
	JJA	-0.37 ± 0.22	0.79 ± 0.19	0.08 ± 0.35
	SON	0.61 ± 0.23	0.92 ± 0.02	0.80 ± 0.16
Amazon				
		GPP-HCHOv	GPP-ISOPe	ISOPe-HCHOv
Observation	MAM	(a) 0.11 ± 0.19		
		(b) 0.11 ± 0.20	-	-
		(c) 0.11 ± 0.20		
	JJA	(a) 0.33 ± 0.30		
		(b) 0.33 ± 0.30	-	-
		(c) 0.33 ± 0.30		
SON	(a) -0.09 ± 0.20			
	(b) -0.09 ± 0.20	-	-	
	(c) -0.09 ± 0.20			
Y-PS	MAM	0.34 ± 0.35	0.79 ± 0.25	0.36 ± 0.31
	JJA	0.05 ± 0.46	0.84 ± 0.84	0.10 ± 0.49
	SON	-0.14 ± 0.49	0.87 ± 0.87	-0.11 ± 0.44
Y-MEGAN	MAM	0.02 ± 0.49	0.07 ± 0.54	0.31 ± 0.31
	JJA	-0.08 ± 0.51	-0.03 ± 0.62	0.62 ± 0.29

	SON	-0.51 ± 0.41	-0.46 ± 0.51	0.49 ± 0.31
Y-MEGAN- SM	MAM	0.10 ± 0.45	0.52 ± 0.42	0.14 ± 0.40
	JJA	-0.01 ± 0.49	0.45 ± 0.37	0.17 ± 0.42
	SON	-0.39 ± 0.42	0.49 ± 0.44	-0.13 ± 0.49

1

1 **Figure captions**

2 **Figure 1.** Left column: simulated annual mean isoprene flux ($\text{mg[C] m}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1}$) in model Y-PS,
3 Y-MEGAN and Y-MEGAN-SM. Right column: satellite-based HCHO columns ($\times 10^{15}$
4 molecules cm^{-2}) from OMI processed using air-mass-factors from model Y-PS, Y-MEGAN and
5 Y-MEGAN-SM.

6
7 **Figure 2(a).** The covariance of FLUXNET-GPP with monthly mean surface temperature (T_s),
8 photosynthetically active radiation (PAR) and precipitation (P) in MAM (top), JJA (middle) and
9 SON (bottom) from the MLR analysis. MLR is calculated using monthly mean data in 1982-
10 2011. Significant regions ($p < 0.05$) are shown with dotted shading.

11
12 **Figure 2(b).** The covariance of OMI-HCHO_v with monthly mean surface temperature (T_s),
13 downward shortwave radiation (SW) and precipitation (P) in MAM (top), JJA (middle) and SON
14 (bottom) from the MLR analysis. MLR is calculated using monthly mean data in 2005-2013.
15 Significant regions ($p < 0.05$) are shown with dotted shading.

16
17 **Figure 3.** Observed correlation between monthly mean FLUXNET-GPP and OMI-HCHO_v in
18 four seasons: MAM, JJA, SON and DJF. Significant regions ($p < 0.05$) are shown with dotted
19 shading.

20
21 **Figure 4.** Simulated correlation between monthly mean (a) GPP and HCHO_v, (b) GPP and
22 ISOPe, (c) ISOPe and HCHO_v in MAM, JJA and SON using three isoprene algorithms: Y-PS,
23 Y-MEGAN, Y-MEGAN-SM. Significant regions ($p < 0.05$) are shown with dotted shading.

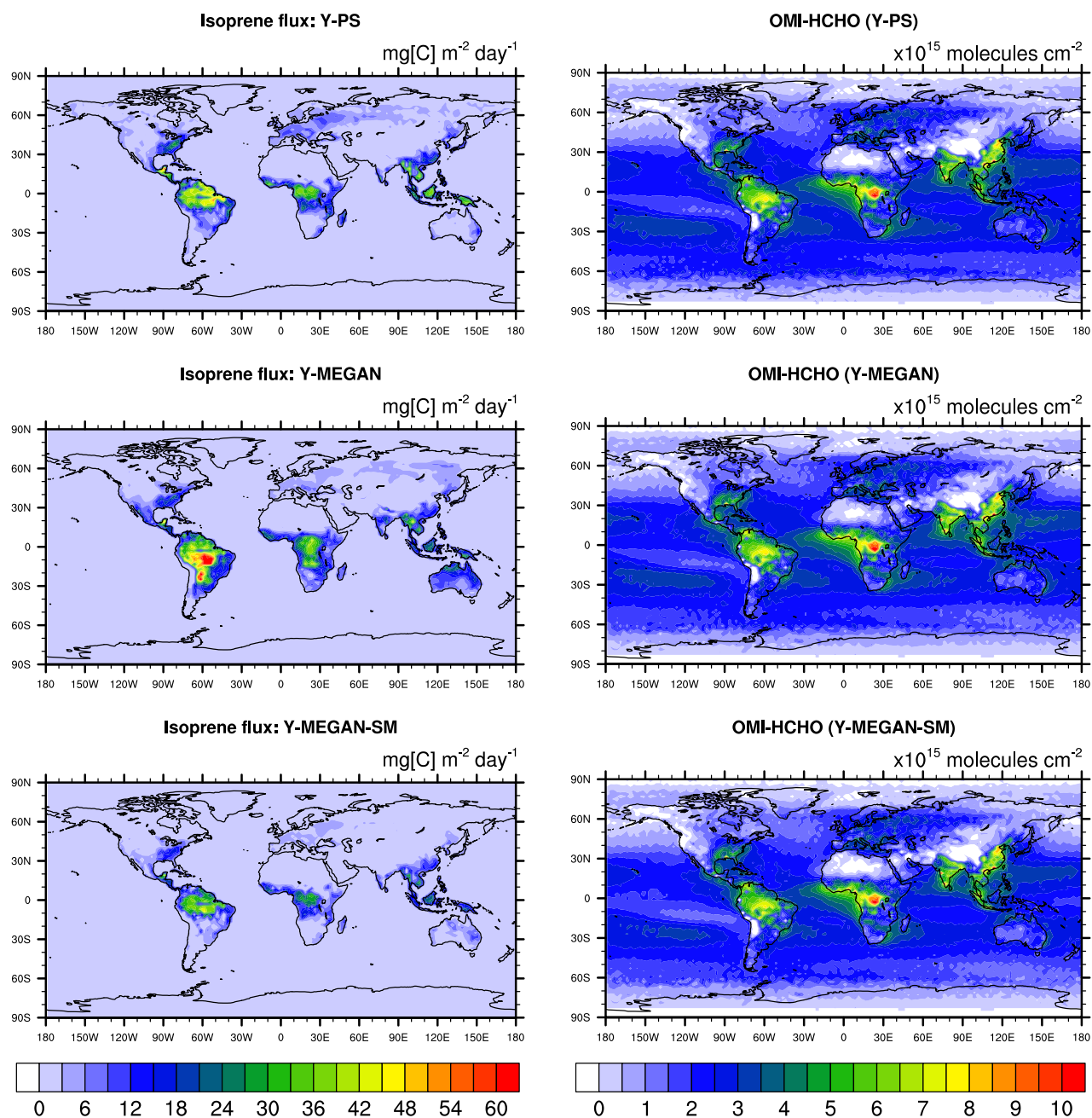


Figure 1. Left column: simulated annual mean isoprene flux ($\text{mg}[\text{C}] \text{m}^{-2} \text{day}^{-1}$) in model Y-PS, Y-MEGAN and Y-MEGAN-SM. Right column: satellite-based HCHO columns ($\times 10^{15} \text{molecules cm}^{-2}$) from OMI processed using air-mass-factors of model Y-PS, Y-MEGAN and Y-MEGAN-SM.

(a) MLR of FLUXNET-GPP 1982-2011

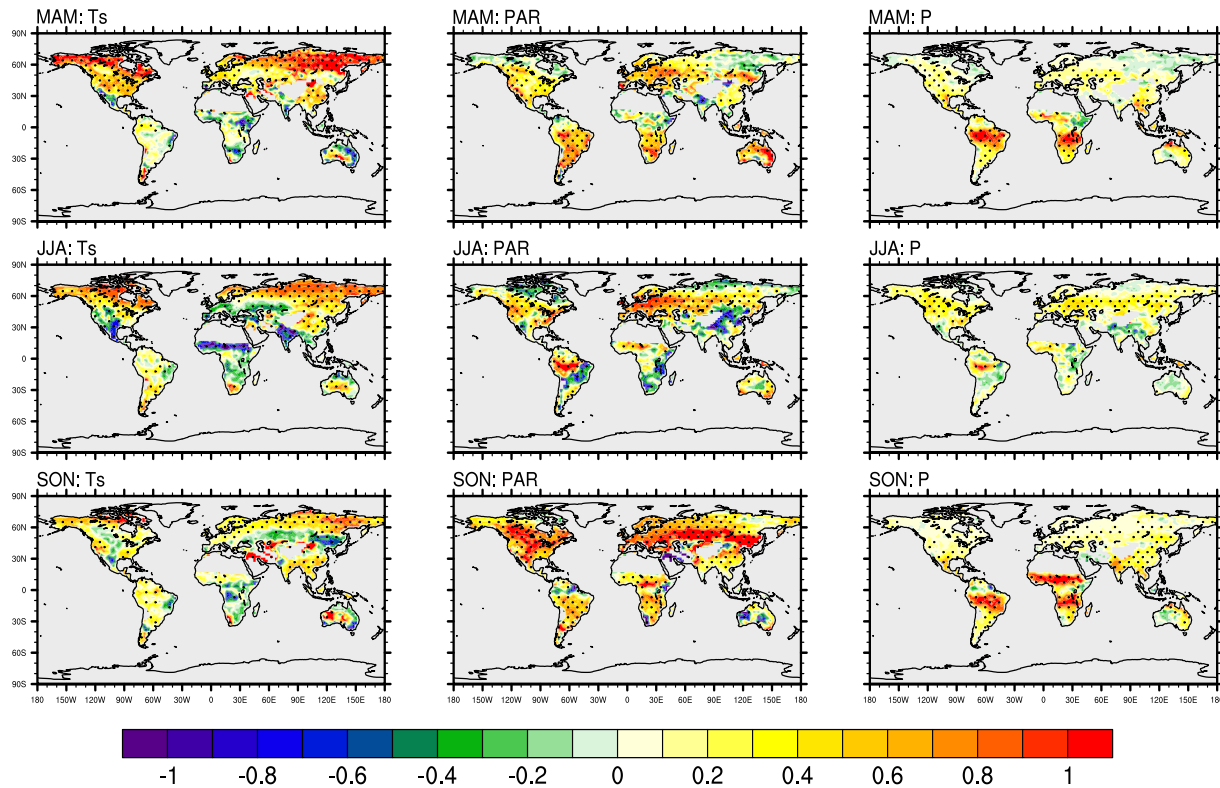


Figure 2(a). The covariance of FLUXNET-GPP with monthly mean surface temperature (T_s), photosynthetically active radiation (PAR) and precipitation (P) in MAM (top), JJA (middle) and SON (bottom) from the MLR analysis. MLR is calculated using monthly mean data in 1982-2011. Significant regions ($p < 0.05$) are shown with dotted shading.

(b) MLR of OMI-HCHO_v 2005-2013

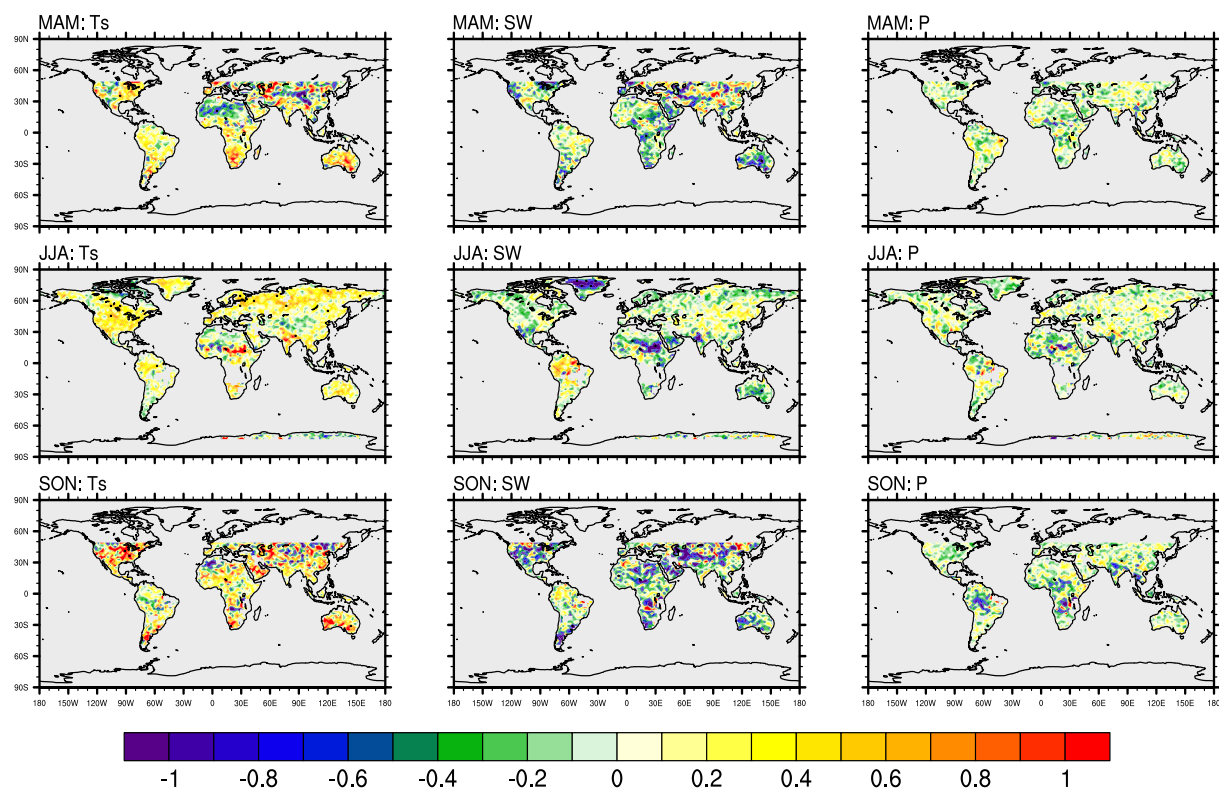


Figure 2(b). The covariance of OMI-HCHO_v with monthly mean surface temperature (T_s), downward shortwave radiation (SW) and precipitation (P) in MAM (top), JJA (middle) and SON (bottom) from the MLR analysis. MLR is calculated using monthly mean data in 2005-2013. Significant regions ($p < 0.05$) are shown with dotted shading.

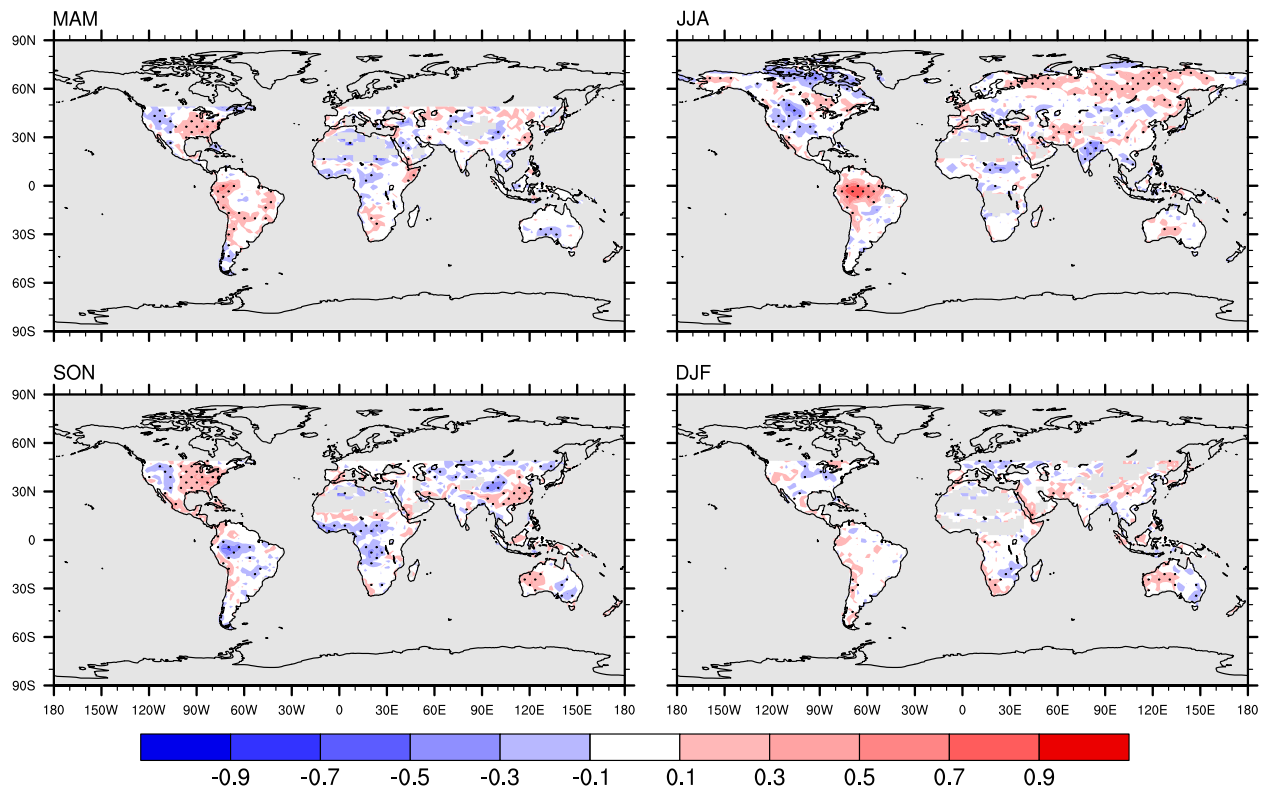


Figure 3. Observed correlation between monthly mean FLUXNET-GPP and OMI-HCHOv in four seasons: MAM, JJA, SON and DJF. Significant regions ($p < 0.05$) are shown with dotted shading.

(a) Model GPP-HCHO_v correlation

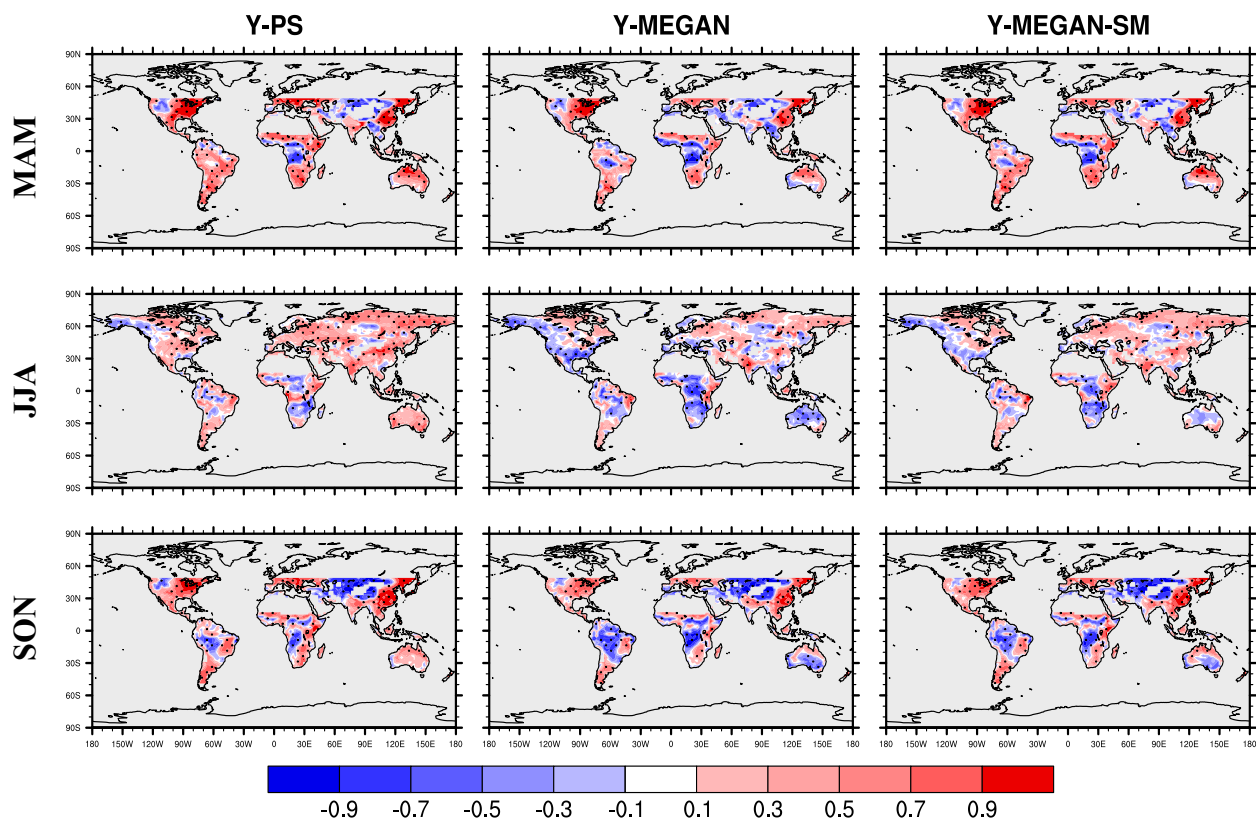


Figure 4. Simulated correlation between monthly mean (a) GPP and HCHO_v, (b) GPP and ISOPe, (c) ISOPe and HCHO_v in MAM, JJA and SON using three isoprene algorithms: Y-PS, Y-MEGAN, Y-MEGAN-SM. Significant regions ($p < 0.05$) are shown with dotted shading.

(b) Model GPP-ISOPe correlation

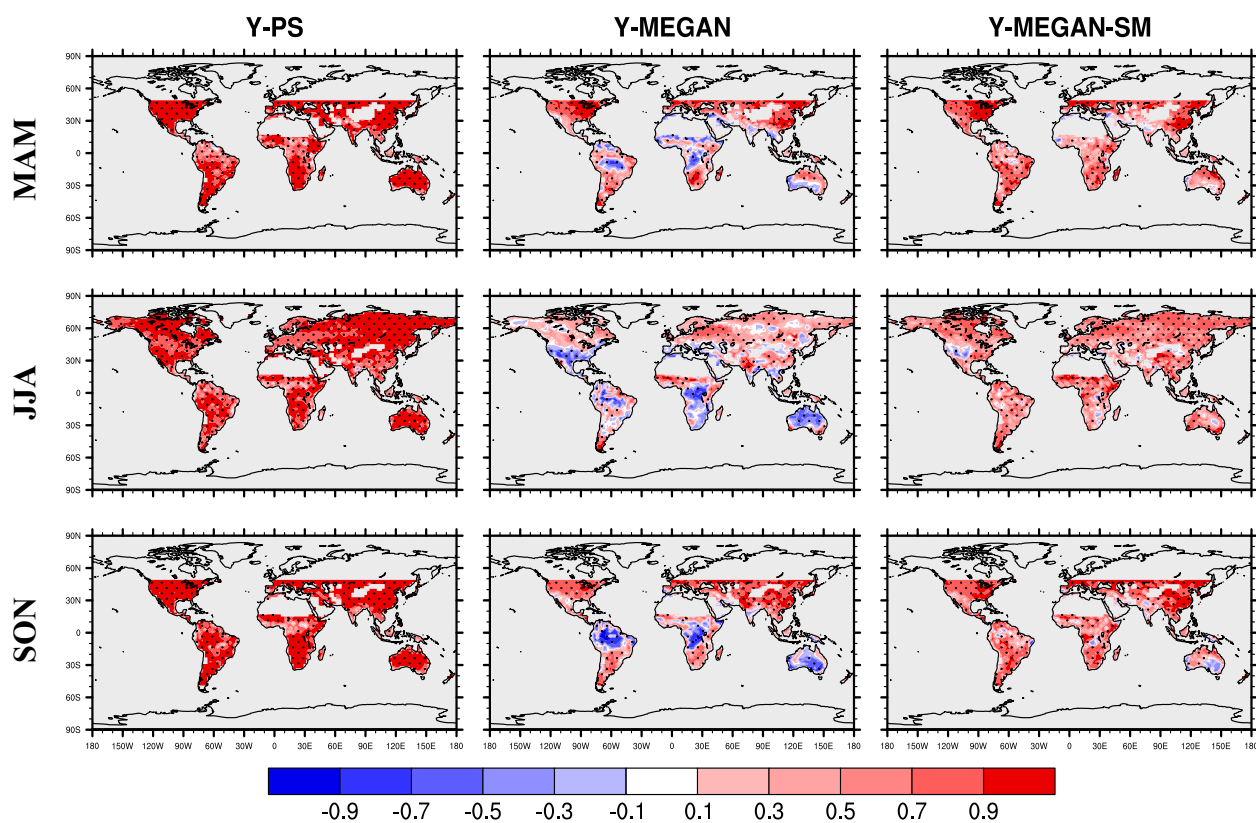


Figure 4. Simulated correlation between monthly mean (a) GPP and HCHO_v, (b) GPP and ISOPe, (c) ISOPe and HCHO_v in MAM, JJA and SON using three isoprene algorithms: Y-PS, Y-MEGAN, Y-MEGAN-SM. Significant regions ($p < 0.05$) are shown with dotted shading.

(c) Model ISOPe-HCHOv correlation

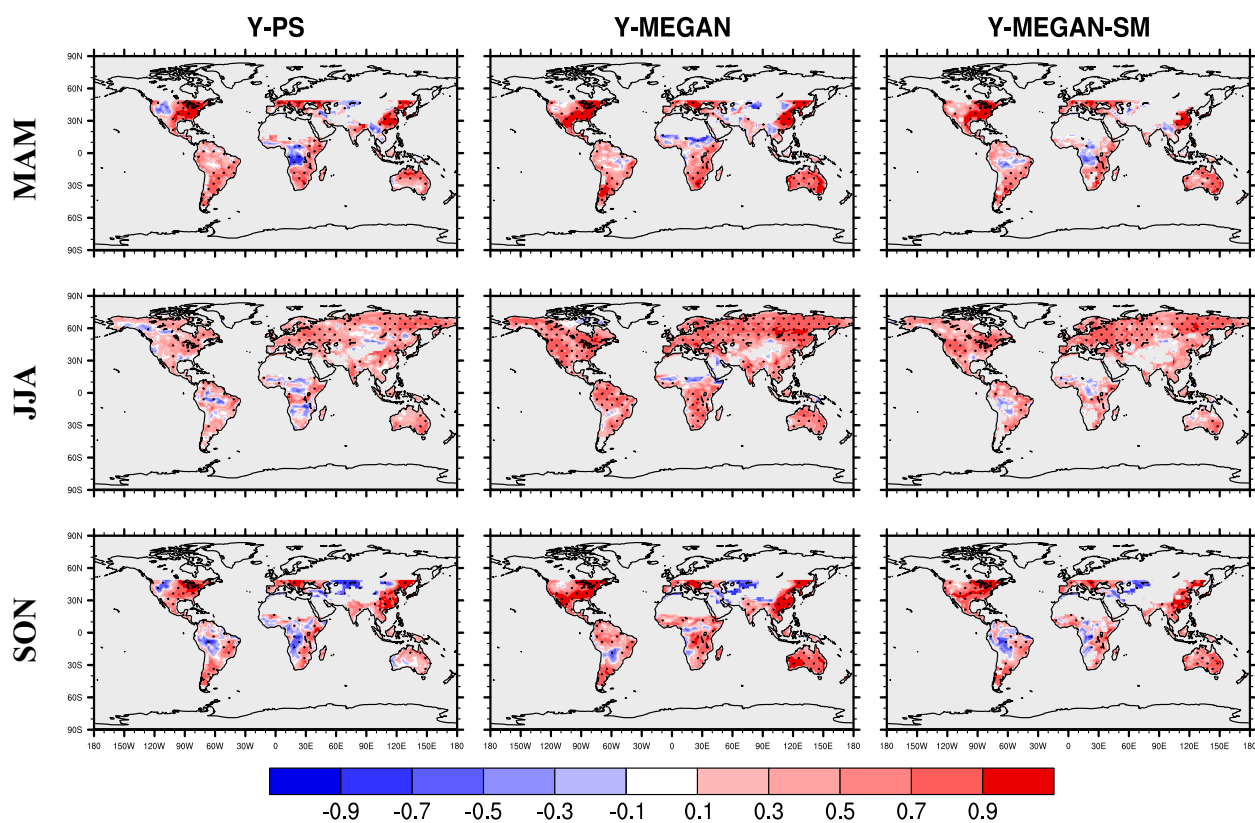


Figure 4. Simulated correlation between monthly mean (a) GPP and HCHOv, (b) GPP and ISOPe, (c) ISOPe and HCHOv in MAM, JJA and SON using three isoprene algorithms: Y-PS, Y-MEGAN, Y-MEGAN-SM. Significant regions ($p < 0.05$) are shown with dotted shading.