



1 **Impacts of Global Wildfire Aerosols on Direct Radiative, Cloud and**  
2 **Surface-Albedo Effects Simulated with CAM5**

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30 **Abstract**

31 Aerosols from wild-land fires could significantly perturb the global radiation  
32 balance and induce the climate change. In this study, the Community Atmospheric  
33 Model version 5 (CAM5) with prescribed daily fire aerosol emissions is used to  
34 investigate the spatial and seasonal characteristics of radiative effects (REs) of  
35 wildfire aerosols including black carbon (BC) and particulate organic matter (POM).  
36 The global annual mean direct radiative effect (DRE) of all fire aerosols is  $0.155 \pm$   
37  $0.01 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ , mainly due to the absorption of fire BC ( $0.25 \pm 0.01 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ), while fire  
38 POM induces a small overall effect ( $-0.05$  to  $0.04 \pm 0.01 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ). Strong positive DRE  
39 is found in the Arctic and in the oceanic regions west of South Africa and South  
40 America as a result of amplified absorption of fire BC above low-level clouds, in  
41 general agreement with satellite observations. The global annual mean cloud radiative  
42 effects (CRE) due to all fire aerosols is  $-0.70 \pm 0.05 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ , resulting mainly from the  
43 fire POM indirect effect ( $-0.59 \pm 0.03 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ). The large cloud liquid water path over  
44 land areas of the Arctic favors the strong fire aerosol indirect effect (up to  $-15 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ )  
45 during the Arctic summer. Significant surface cooling, precipitation reduction and  
46 low-level cloud amount increase are also found in the Arctic summer as a result of the  
47 fire aerosol indirect effect. The global annual mean surface albedo effect (SAE) over  
48 land areas ( $0.03 \pm 0.10 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ) is mainly due to the fire BC-in-snow effect ( $0.02 \text{ W}$   
49  $\text{m}^{-2}$ ) with the maximum albedo effect occurring in spring ( $0.12 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ) when snow  
50 starts to melt.

51



## 52 1. Introduction

53 Wildfires or biomass burning of living and dead vegetation are an integral  
54 component of the Earth system, and have significant impacts on the carbon cycle  
55 [Ciais *et al.*, 2013] and the climate [Bowman *et al.*, 2009; Keywood *et al.*, 2011; Liu *et*  
56 *al.*, 2014; Sommers *et al.*, 2014]. On one hand, wildfires can perturb the climate  
57 system by emitting greenhouse gases and aerosols [Kaiser *et al.*, 2012; Wiedinmyer *et*  
58 *al.*, 2011]. On the other hand, climate states and variabilities can play a critical role in  
59 determining the occurrence frequency and intensity of wildfires [Marlon *et al.*, 2009;  
60 *van der Werf et al.*, 2008; Westerling *et al.*, 2006]. However, there are still large  
61 unknowns regarding the feedback mechanisms between wildfire and climate  
62 interactions, and more investigations are needed in order to predict the future wildfire  
63 events and their climatic impacts [Carslaw *et al.*, 2010; Liu *et al.*, 2014]

64 Particles emitted from wildfires can exert significant perturbations to the climate  
65 system by scattering and absorbing the solar radiation in the atmosphere (i.e., direct  
66 effect) [Carslaw *et al.*, 2010] and by changing the surface albedo when they are  
67 deposited on the snow and ice (i.e., surface albedo effect) [Flanner *et al.*, 2007; Quinn  
68 *et al.*, 2008; Randerson *et al.*, 2006; Qian *et al.*, 2011, 2015]. In addition, wildfire or  
69 smoke particles can modify the cloud properties, precipitation efficiency, and the  
70 hydrological cycle by changing the atmospheric thermal structure (i.e., semi-direct  
71 effect) [Koch and Del Genio, 2010; Andreae *et al.*, 2004b] or acting as cloud  
72 condensation nuclei (CCN) (i.e., indirect effect) [Andreae and Rosenfeld, 2008; Qian  
73 *et al.*, 2009; Lu and Sokolik, 2013].



74 The radiative effect (RE) [Boucher and Tanre, 2000] and radiative forcing (RF)  
75 [Forster *et al.*, 2007; Myhre *et al.*, 2013a] are typical metrics used to assess and  
76 compare anthropogenic and natural drivers of the climate change. RE represents the  
77 instantaneous radiative impact of all atmospheric particles from both anthropogenic  
78 and natural sources [Heald *et al.*, 2014]. RF is calculated as the change of RE from  
79 pre-industrial (e.g., year 1850) to present-day (e.g., year 2000) [Heald *et al.*, 2014;  
80 Liu *et al.*, 2007], based on the aerosol and precursor gas emissions in the  
81 pre-industrial and present-day times [Dentener *et al.*, 2006; Lamarque *et al.*, 2010].

82 The direct radiative forcing (DRF) or forcing due to  
83 Aerosol-Radiation-Interaction (ARI) of biomass burning aerosols has been estimated  
84 since the IPCC second Assessment Report (AR2). In the IPCC second and third  
85 Assessment Reports (AR2 and AR3), the DRF of biomass burning aerosols is about  
86  $-0.40 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  (ranging from  $-0.60$  to  $-0.07 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ) [Houghton, 1996; McCarthy, 2001].  
87 In the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report (AR4), it is estimated to be about  $0.03 \text{ W m}^{-2}$   
88 (ranging from  $-0.09$  to  $0.15 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ) [Forster *et al.*, 2007]. The more positive forcing  
89 in the IPCC AR4 results from the improved representation of absorption properties of  
90 biomass burning aerosols and the consideration of effects of low-level clouds on the  
91 absorption of above-cloud biomass burning aerosols in the global models. Based on  
92 the Aerosol Comparisons between Observations and Models (AeroCom) Phase II  
93 simulations [Bond *et al.*, 2013; Myhre *et al.*, 2013b], the DRF of biomass burning  
94 aerosols in the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) is estimated to be  $0.0 \text{ W m}^{-2}$   
95 (ranging from  $-0.20$  to  $0.20 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ), and the DRFs of biomass burning black carbon



96 (BC) and primary organic matter (POM) are of the opposite sign (i.e., 0.10 and -0.10  
97  $\text{W m}^{-2}$ , respectively).

98 There are also many studies that estimated the direct radiative effect (DRE) of  
99 biomass burning aerosols by comparing the simulation with fire emissions against the  
100 simulation with no fire emissions. For example, using the NCAR Community  
101 Atmosphere Model version 4 (CAM4) with a bulk aerosol module, *Tosca et al.* [2013]  
102 reported that the top-of-atmosphere (TOA) DRE from global biomass burning  
103 aerosols is  $0.18 \pm 0.10 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  averaged for the period of 1997-2009. *Ward et al.* [2012]  
104 estimated the DRE from biomass burning aerosols in the pre-industrial (for the year  
105 1850), present-day (for the year 2000), and future time periods (for the year 2100),  
106 and found that the biomass burning aerosol DRE for the year 2000 is  $0.13 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  and  
107  $-0.27 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  in all-sky and clear-sky conditions, respectively.

108 The cloud radiative effect (CRE) or effect due to Aerosol-Cloud-Interaction (ACI)  
109 of biomass burning aerosols can be comparable to or even larger than the DRE [*Liu et*  
110 *al.*, 2014]. The CRE of biomass burning aerosols was reported to be  $-1.16 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  for  
111 the present day in *Chuang et al.* [2002]. With a global aerosol-climate model, the  
112 CRE of biomass burning aerosols was estimated to range from  $-1.74$  to  $-1.00 \text{ W m}^{-2}$   
113 for the year 2000 in *Ward et al.* [2012]. The semi-direct radiative effect of biomass  
114 burning aerosols is not independently assessed in IPCC reports. The magnitude was  
115 reported to be about  $7.0 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  in the Southern American biomass burning regions by  
116 examining the radiative flux difference with and without the biomass burning aerosol  
117 effect on clouds [*Liu*, 2005].



118           The radiative forcing or effect of BC from wildfires and other sources on snow  
119   and ice has been estimated in previous studies. For biomass burning emissions with a  
120   strong (1998) and weak (2001) boreal fire year, RE of fire BC-in-snow was estimated  
121   to be 0.011 and 0.006 W m<sup>-2</sup>, respectively [Flanner *et al.*, 2007]. Randerson *et al.*  
122   [2006] reported that BC from a boreal forest fire deposited on snow and sea ice  
123   introduced a global annual mean RE of 8±5 W per m<sup>2</sup> of burned area in the first year  
124   when the fire happened. A summary of BC-in-snow forcing/effect can be found in  
125   Bond *et al.* [2013]. They reported that the present-day RE of fire BC-in-snow ranges  
126   from 0.006 to 0.02 W m<sup>-2</sup> based on previous studies [Jacobson, 2004; Rypdal *et al.*,  
127   2009; Skeie *et al.*, 2011; Hansen *et al.*, 2005; Flanner *et al.*, 2007, 2009; Koch *et al.*,  
128   2009].

129           Biomass burning aerosols can have significant impacts on global and regional  
130   precipitation and atmospheric circulation. With the change of fire emissions from year  
131   1860 to 2000, Jones *et al.* [2007] found that biomass burning aerosols decrease the  
132   global near-surface air temperature by about 0.25°C, when considering the feedbacks  
133   of sea surface temperature (SST) in the model. As shown in Tosca *et al.* [2013], the  
134   direct and semi-direct effects of biomass burning aerosols reduce the precipitation  
135   near the equator and weaken the Hadley circulation. With a regional climate model,  
136   Zhang *et al.* [2009] found that biomass burning aerosols may warm and stabilize the  
137   lower troposphere and thus re-enforce the dry season rainfall pattern in the Southern  
138   Amazonia. The absorption of shortwave radiation by biomass burning BC could  
139   increase the vertical stratification and inhibit both the cloud formation and



140 precipitation [Ackerman *et al.*, 2000; Tosca *et al.*, 2014]. In contrast, biomass burning  
141 aerosols could invigorate the convective clouds [Andreae *et al.*, 2004a; Koren *et al.*,  
142 2005] through suppressing warm rain processes in the convection, and enhance the  
143 latent heat release at higher levels [Andreae and Rosenfeld, 2008].

144 In this study, we estimate the present day (from year 2003 to 2011) wildfire  
145 (biomass burning) aerosol REs (DRE, CRE and SAE) using the NCAR Community  
146 Atmosphere Model version 5.3 (CAM5) with the four-mode version of the modal  
147 aerosol module (MAM4). We use two methods to calculate the DRE of biomass  
148 burning aerosols (total, BC-only, and POM-only). The spatial and seasonal  
149 characteristics of biomass burning aerosol REs, and the impacts on the global  
150 precipitation and temperature are discussed. Compared to earlier studies of biomass  
151 burning aerosol REs [Tosca *et al.*, 2013; Ward *et al.*, 2012], a number of  
152 improvements are made in this study, which include (1) a higher model horizontal  
153 resolution at  $0.9^\circ$  by  $1.25^\circ$  versus  $1.9^\circ$  by  $2.5^\circ$ , (2) the latest CAM5 model with  
154 MAM4, (3) daily instead of monthly fire emissions, and (4) a new methodology to  
155 more accurately diagnose the REs of biomass burning aerosols under the cloudy-sky  
156 condition.

157 The paper is organized as follows. Section 2 introduces the model and  
158 experiments. Section 3 describes the methods to diagnose the biomass burning aerosol  
159 REs. Section 4 presents the model results of biomass burning aerosol REs, and  
160 impacts on global and regional surface temperature and precipitation. Conclusions  
161 and discussion are given in Section 5.



162

## 163 **2. Model, Experiment Design and Aerosol Radiative Effect Method**

### 164 2.1 Model

165 In our study, we use the Community Earth System Model (CESM) version 1.2,  
166 with the Community Atmosphere Model version 5.3 (CAM5.3) [Neale *et al.*, 2010]  
167 coupled with the Community Land Model version 4 (CLM4) [Oleson *et al.*, 2010].  
168 The SNow, ICe, and Aerosol Radiative model (SNICAR) [Flanner and Zender, 2005]  
169 is turned on in the simulations to diagnose the biomass burning BC-in-snow effect.  
170 CAM5 includes several major updates in its physics parameterizations compared to  
171 previous CAM versions. A two-moment stratiform cloud microphysics scheme is  
172 included in CAM5 to predict both the mass and number mixing ratios of cloud liquid  
173 and cloud ice [Morrison and Gettelman, 2008]. MAM4, which was updated from the  
174 three-mode version of the Modal Aerosol Model (MAM3) [Liu *et al.*, 2012], includes  
175 aerosol mass and number mixing ratios in four lognormal modes: Aitken,  
176 accumulation, coarse, and primary carbon mode [Liu *et al.*, 2016]. The primary  
177 carbon mode is included to improve the treatment of microphysical ageing of BC and  
178 POM, compared to MAM3. MAM4 significantly increases (and improves) the  
179 near-surface BC concentrations in the Arctic with only a slight increase (~10%) in the  
180 computational time [Liu *et al.*, 2016].

181

### 182 2.2 Experiment design

183 CAM5 was run with the finite volume dynamics core in a resolution of 0.9°  
184 latitude by 1.25° longitude and 30 vertical levels. The model was run for the time



185 period of year 2003 to 2011 (i.e., for 9 years) with prescribed monthly sea surface  
186 temperatures and sea ice. The year 2003 was run twice and the first year simulation  
187 was used as a model spin-up. Global Fire Emissions Database version 3.1 (GFED 3.1)  
188 daily emissions [Giglio *et al.*, 2013] for BC, POM and sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) from 2003  
189 to 2011 are prescribed, and the vertical distribution of fire emissions is based on the  
190 AeroCom protocol [Dentener *et al.*, 2006]. Anthropogenic aerosol and precursor gas  
191 emissions are from the IPCC AR5 dataset [Lamarque *et al.*, 2010]. We performed our  
192 control experiment (FIRE) with the GFED fire emissions turned on and a sensitivity  
193 experiment (NOFIRE) with the fire emissions turned off. Differences between FIRE  
194 and NOFIRE experiments are used to calculate the REs and climate effects of  
195 biomass burning aerosols. Two additional experiments (NOFIREBC and  
196 NOFIREPOM) were performed with fire BC and POM emissions turned off,  
197 respectively. Differences between the control (FIRE) and these two experiments  
198 represent the contribution from biomass burning BC and POM, respectively. Other  
199 forcings (e.g., SST, greenhouse gases) of all these experiments are kept the same. We  
200 performed ten ensemble members for each of these experiments. Furthermore, we  
201 performed the other experiment (FIRE\_BBFFBF) using the modified CAM5 model  
202 that separately predicts the BC and POM from biomass burning (BB), fossil fuel (FF)  
203 and biofuel (BF) sources, while other model features are kept the same as the FIRE  
204 experiment. A summary of all the experiments in this study can be found in Table 1.

205

206 2.3 Methods of calculating fire aerosol radiative effects



207 The REs of all fire aerosols, fire BC, and fire POM are calculated from the  
 208 differences of TOA shortwave fluxes ( $\Delta F$ ) between the FIRE experiment and the  
 209 three other experiments (NOFIRE, NOFIREBC and NOFIREPOM), respectively.

$$210 \quad \Delta F_{\text{fire aero}} = F_{\text{fire}} - F_{\text{nofire}} \quad (1)$$

$$211 \quad \Delta F_{\text{fire bc}} = F_{\text{fire}} - F_{\text{nofirebc}} \quad (2)$$

$$212 \quad \Delta F_{\text{fire pom}} = F_{\text{fire}} - F_{\text{nofirepom}} \quad (3)$$

213 The total TOA shortwave flux change can be broken into the aerosol direct  
 214 radiative effect (DRE, i.e., radiative effect from aerosol-radiation interactions), the  
 215 aerosol induced cloud radiative effect (CRE, i.e., radiative effect from aerosol-cloud  
 216 interactions), and the surface albedo effect (SAE, i.e., radiative effect from  
 217 aerosol-surface albedo interactions). The aerosol induced CRE results from both the  
 218 aerosol indirect effect on clouds via acting as CCN and the aerosol semi-direct effect  
 219 on clouds via affecting the atmospheric states due to absorbing aerosols. We adopt the  
 220 method of *Ghan* [2013] to separate the DRE, CRE, and SAE from the total effects of  
 221 all fire aerosols, fire BC and fire POM, respectively. The method is summarized as  
 222 follows.  $F_{\text{clean}}$  is the radiative flux at TOA calculated from a diagnostic radiation call  
 223 in the same control simulations, but neglecting the scattering and absorption of solar  
 224 radiation by aerosols.  $F_{\text{clean,clear}}$  is the clear-sky radiative flux at TOA calculated from  
 225 the same diagnostic radiation call, but neglecting scattering and absorption by both  
 226 clouds and aerosols.

$$227 \quad \Delta F = \underbrace{\Delta(F - F_{\text{clean}})}_{\text{(DRE)}} + \underbrace{\Delta(F_{\text{clean}} - F_{\text{clean,clear}})}_{\text{(CRE)}} + \underbrace{\Delta F_{\text{clean,clear}}}_{\text{(SAE)}} \quad (4)$$

228



229 In the method above, CRE includes both aerosol indirect and semi-direct effects.  
230 The fire BC has a much weaker indirect effect due to its lower mass burden and lower  
231 hygroscopicity compared to fire POM [Koch *et al.*, 2011]. Thus the fire aerosol  
232 semi-direct effect can be approximately estimated by the CRE of fire BC. The fire  
233 aerosol indirect effect can be estimated as the difference of fire aerosol CRE and  
234 semi-direct effect.

235 We undertake another method to estimate the fire aerosol DRE from the  
236 experiment (FIRE\_BBFFBF). With explicit predictions of fire POM and fire BC in  
237 FIRE\_BBFFBF, the DREs of fire BC and fire POM are estimated by two diagnostic  
238 radiation calls, neglecting the scattering and absorption of solar radiation of fire BC  
239 and fire POM, respectively. This method is named as BBFFBF, and the DREs of fire  
240 BC and fire POM will be compared with those from the method of *Ghan* [2013]. The  
241 fire BC-in-snow effect is calculated from SNICAR, and compared with the SAE  
242 estimated from *Ghan* [2013].

243

### 244 **3. Results**

#### 245 3.1 Simulation of biomass burning aerosols

246 The biomass burning BC and POM from forest and grass fires are significant  
247 contributors to the total BC and POM emissions. Figure 1 shows the seasonal  
248 variation of GFED fire emissions in the global, tropical (25°S to 25°N), and Arctic  
249 (60°N to 90°N) regions. Global fire emission is the largest during the boreal summer  
250 as well as in the boreal autumn (September/October), when it is the fire season in the



251 tropical regions of the Southern Hemisphere (SH). The tropical fire emission  
252 contributes the most to the annual global fire emission (80% for BC and 85% for OC,  
253 respectively), compared to other regions. Arctic is the other important fire region,  
254 where the emission maximum is found during the summer. In summer, the OC  
255 emission in the Arctic regions is about 50% of that in the tropical region. The BC  
256 emission in the Arctic is much smaller than that of the tropical regions even in the  
257 summer fire season. The dominant fire type in the SH topics is deforestation, savanna  
258 and grassland fires, while that in the Arctic is the forest fires. The OC to BC ratio  
259 (OC/BC) of forest fires is almost three times higher than that of deforestation, savanna  
260 and grassland fires [*van der Werf et al.*, 2010].

261 Figure 2 shows the latitudinal and longitudinal distributions of vertically  
262 integrated concentrations (column burdens) of BC and POM from BB, FF, and BF  
263 sources based on the FIRE\_BBFFBF experiment. The BC and POM from BB source  
264 are mainly distributed in the tropical and sub-tropical regions (South Africa, South  
265 America and Southeast Asia) and in the mid- to high latitudes (North of 45°N) of the  
266 Northern Hemisphere (NH) (Northeast Asia, Alaska and Canada). The largest column  
267 burdens of biomass burning aerosols are located in South Africa and adjacent oceanic  
268 areas (1.5 and 20 mg m<sup>-2</sup> for BC and POM, respectively). The biomass burning  
269 aerosols are important aerosol species in the Arctic regions, and contribute up to 53%  
270 and 86% to the total burden of BC and POM in the Arctic (from 60° N to 90°N),  
271 respectively. In comparison, the maximum column burdens of fossil fuel BC and  
272 POM are found in East Asia, South Asia, Western Europe and North America. The



273 maximum column burdens of biofuel BC and POM occur in East Asia, South Asia  
274 and Central Africa. The biofuel and fossil fuel sources are dominant contributors to  
275 BC and POM in East Asia and South Asia. In other regions of the world, biomass  
276 burning is the primary source of BC and POM. Globally, the biomass burning  
277 contributes 41% and 70% to the total burdens of BC and POM, respectively. Biomass  
278 burning can also emit SO<sub>2</sub>. However, it only contributes ~3% to the total global  
279 sulfate burden (figure not shown), so only radiative effects of biomass burning POM  
280 and BC are discussed in this study.

281 The simulated aerosol optical depth (AOD) and single scattering albedo (SSA)  
282 are validated with observations from the AErosol RObotic NETwork (AERONET,  
283 <http://aeronet.gsfc.nasa.gov>) at sites significantly affected by biomass burning  
284 activities in South Africa, South America and the Arctic regions. The AERONET  
285 AOD and SSA data are averaged for the years from 2003 to 2011 to match the  
286 simulation period. We note that *Tosca et al.* [2013] and *Ward et al.* [2012] applied  
287 scaling factors (from 1 to 3 varying by regions) to fire emissions to improve modeled  
288 AOD magnitudes. In South Africa, modeled monthly AOD agrees with observations  
289 within a factor of 2 for the three sites (Figure 3a-3c). The underestimation of AOD is  
290 found in the tropical site (Mongu) (Figure 3a) during autumn (the fire season). The  
291 simulated AOD in the two other sites (Skukuza and Ascension Island) is generally  
292 consistent with observations in both the magnitude and seasonal trend. The simulated  
293 SSA in South Africa ranges between 0.75 and 0.95 and generally matches the  
294 observed SSA magnitude and trend in the two land sites (Mongu and Skukuza)



295 (Figure 4a-4b). However, an overestimation of SSA is found in the oceanic site  
296 (Ascension Island) (Figure 4c). The reason for this overestimation of SSA and thus  
297 the underestimation of absorption AOD (AAOD) is unclear and could be due to that  
298 the model has not treated the absorption enhancement of aged fire BC during its  
299 transport.

300 The simulated AOD in South America is generally consistent with observations  
301 within a factor of 2 (Figure 3d-3f). The seasonal variation of simulated AOD  
302 generally matches the observations. The underestimation of AOD in Alta Floresta and  
303 Cuiaba-Miranda is most obvious in September and October (the fire season), which  
304 may be attributed to the underestimation of fire emissions. The simulated SSA in  
305 South America ranges mostly between 0.87–0.95 and matches the observations  
306 reasonably well (Figure 4d-4f).

307 In the Arctic, small AOD (less than 0.3) and large SSA (larger than 0.9) are  
308 observed for the three sites. The large SSA in the fire season (summer) is consistent  
309 with the high OC/BC ratio of fire emissions in the Arctic (Figure 1). The model  
310 significantly underestimates the observed AOD in the Arctic in both fire and non-fire  
311 seasons. The underestimation of AOD can be due to (1) the underestimation of fire  
312 emissions in the NH high latitudes [e.g., *Stohl et al.*, 2013] and/or fossil fuel  
313 emissions in Asia [e.g., *Cohen and Wang*, 2014], (2) the excessive scavenging of  
314 aerosols during their transport from the NH mid-latitude industrial regions by  
315 liquid-phase clouds [*Wang et al.*, 2013], and (3) the coarse horizontal resolution  
316 (~100 km) of the model [*Ma et al.*, 2014]. Although MAM4 increases the column



317 burdens of POM and BC by up to 40 % in many remote regions compared to MAM3,  
318 it still underestimates the surface BC concentrations in the Arctic [Liu *et al.*, 2016].  
319 The modeled SSA in the Arctic is lower than observations, which implies that the  
320 simulation of AAOD is better than that of AOD and the underestimation of  
321 non-absorbing aerosols (e.g., sulfate) in the Arctic may be more severe than that of  
322 BC.

323

## 324 3.2 Direct radiative effect

325 The annual mean DREs of all fire aerosols (including BC, POM and sulfate), fire  
326 BC and POM, estimated with the method of BBFFBF and with the method of *Ghan*  
327 [2013] are shown in Figure 5, respectively. The fire sulfate is not included in the  
328 calculation of DRE of all fire aerosols with the method of BBFFBF. Its effect is minor  
329 since the global annual mean burden of fire sulfate ( $0.09 \text{ mg m}^{-2}$ ) is much smaller than  
330 that of fire POM ( $1.25 \text{ mg m}^{-2}$ ), both of which are light-scattering. The DRE of all fire  
331 aerosols from the two methods agree with each other very well. The global annual  
332 mean DRE of all fire aerosols is positive ( $0.155 \pm 0.01 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ), which indicates a  
333 warming effect from all fire aerosols. The DRE is positive on the globe except in  
334 some land areas (e.g., South Africa, South America, Great Lakes, North Canada, and  
335 East Siberia). The maximum positive DRE is located in ocean areas west of South  
336 Africa ( $\sim 5.0 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ) and South America ( $\sim 1.5 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ). The positive DRE up to  $1 \text{ W}$   
337  $\text{m}^{-2}$  is found in the Arctic ( $60^\circ\text{N}$  to  $90^\circ\text{N}$ ). The different signs of DRE between land  
338 and ocean areas of South Africa and South America result from the differences in



339 cloud fraction and cloud liquid water path (LWP) between land and ocean regions. In  
340 the fire season (August-September-October) of the tropical regions, cloud fraction and  
341 cloud LWP over the land areas (10% and  $20 \text{ g m}^{-2}$ , respectively) are much smaller  
342 than those over the adjacent ocean areas (70% and  $70 \text{ g m}^{-2}$ , respectively). The  
343 biomass burning aerosols are transported above the low-level stratocumulus clouds,  
344 and their absorption is amplified by these clouds [Abel *et al.*, 2005]. A comparison of  
345 modeled DRE in autumn (September-October-November) over the South Atlantic  
346 Ocean with satellite observations is shown in Figure 6. The observed above-cloud  
347 aerosol DRE is calculated with the method of Zhang *et al.* [2014] using the  
348 Aqua/MODIS and Terra/MODIS products, respectively. The observed above-cloud  
349 aerosol DRE over southeastern Atlantic Ocean is  $3\text{-}12 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ , with higher values near  
350 the coasts. The simulated DRE agrees better with Terra/MODIS observed DRE than  
351 with Aqua/MODIS in both the magnitude and spatial pattern.

352 The seasonal variation of DRE of all fire aerosols is shown in Figure 7. The DRE  
353 has a maximum ( $1.13 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ) in the boreal summer (June-July-August, JJA) over the  
354 NH high latitudes. The maximum positive DRE in the tropical regions occurs in the  
355 summer and autumn (September, October and November, SON) during the fire  
356 season of South Africa and South America. The DRE reaches a positive maximum in  
357 Southeast Asia during the fire season in March, April and May (MAM).

358 The DRE of fire BC is shown in Figure 5c-5d. The fire BC DRE calculated from  
359 the two methods are similar in magnitudes and spatial patterns, and there are much  
360 less noises from the BBFFBF method. The global annual mean fire BC DRE is about



361  $0.25 \pm 0.01 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  and positive over the globe (the regions with negative values in  
362 Figure 5d are in general not statistically significant). Unlike all fire aerosols, fire BC  
363 generates a positive forcing in the land regions of South Africa and South America,  
364 and the amplification effect of low-level clouds on fire BC positive forcing can be  
365 clearly seen in South Africa and adjacent Atlantic Ocean.

366 The global annual mean DRE of fire POM from the two methods somewhat  
367 differs from each other (Figure 5e-5f). The BBFFBF method gives a small negative  
368 value ( $-0.05 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ), while the *Ghan* [2013] method shows a small positive value  
369 ( $0.04 \pm 0.01 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ). The difference is mainly in the Arctic regions where the positive  
370 forcing from *Ghan* [2013] is larger than that from the BBFFBF method. This is  
371 because the removal of fire POM emissions in the NOFIREPOM experiment affects  
372 the burden of co-emitted fire BC, causing the decrease of BC burden in the Arctic (by  
373  $\sim 0.05 \text{ mg m}^{-2}$ ) compared to the FIRE experiment. Thus, it should be careful in using  
374 the *Ghan* [2013] method to diagnose the radiative forcing of a single component  
375 within co-emitted aerosols. The DRE of fire POM is negative in most of the global  
376 regions. However, positive forcing can be found over oceanic regions west of South  
377 Africa and South America, North Pacific Ocean and the Polar regions where large  
378 amount of low-level clouds, sea ice or land ice exist. The multiple scatterings between  
379 the above-cloud fire POM and low-level clouds or between the fire POM and the  
380 Earth's bright surface with high albedos could reduce the amount of solar radiation  
381 reflected by these low-level clouds and bright surface in the case without the fire  
382 POM. With the BBFFBF method the sum of DRE from fire POM and fire BC (i.e.,



383  $0.20 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ) is larger than that of all fire aerosols ( $0.15 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ). It reflects the  
384 nonlinear interactions among different aerosol components [Ghan et al., 2012]. The  
385 nonlinearity is stronger with the Ghan [2013] method. The reason is that removing the  
386 emission of one species (e.g., fire POM in the NOFIREPOM experiment) can affect  
387 the burden of other co-emitted species (e.g., fire BC).

388

## 389 3.3 Cloud radiative effect

390 The annual mean CREs due to all fire aerosols, fire BC, and fire POM are shown  
391 in Figure 8. The CRE diagnosed with the Ghan [2013] method includes both aerosol  
392 indirect and semi-direct effects. The fire aerosol semi-direct effect (to be discussed  
393 below) is much smaller ( $-0.04 \pm 0.03 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  on the global mean) than the indirect  
394 effect, and the CRE is mostly from the fire aerosol indirect effect. The global annual  
395 mean CRE of all fire aerosols is  $-0.70 \pm 0.05 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ . In the tropical regions, the strong  
396 negative CRE is located in the adjacent ocean areas of South Africa, South America  
397 and Australia, with the maximum CRE of  $-8.0 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  over the South Atlantic Ocean.  
398 The strong negative fire aerosol CRE also occurs in the Arctic ( $60^\circ\text{N}$  to  $90^\circ\text{N}$ ). The  
399 CRE in East Siberia, Alaska and Canada is as large as  $-6.0 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ .

400 The fire BC has a weak indirect effect by acting as CCN, but can reduce the cloud  
401 amount through its semi-direct effect. The CRE of fire BC (Figure 8b) can  
402 approximate the fire BC semi-direct effect with a small global annual mean value of  
403  $-0.04 \pm 0.03 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ . However, stronger positive effect can be found in the western  
404 Pacific ( $3.0 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ) and Arctic regions ( $1.0 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ). The global annual mean CRE of



405 fire POM is  $-0.59 \pm 0.03 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  (Figure 8c), and dominates the cloud effect of all fire  
406 aerosols. The sum of CRE from fire BC and POM ( $-0.62 \pm 0.03 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ) is smaller  
407 than that of all fire aerosols ( $-0.70 \pm 0.05 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ) due to the non-linear interactions of  
408 fire BC and fire POM as well as the negative CRE of fire sulfate.

409 The seasonal variation of all fire aerosol CRE is shown in Figure 9. The  
410 maximum of fire aerosol CRE is in the boreal summer (i.e., the fire season in NH)  
411 located in the NH high latitudes ( $60^\circ\text{N}$  to  $90^\circ\text{N}$ ). The largest summer CRE is found in  
412 the land areas and is as large as  $-15 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ . The fire aerosol CRE in the tropical  
413 regions is most significant in the boreal summer (up to  $-15 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ) and autumn (up to  
414  $-10 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ) over the ocean areas. The different spatial distributions of fire aerosol  
415 CRE in the NH high latitudes and in the tropics result from the difference in cloud  
416 distributions between the two regions. During the fire season the cloud LWP over the  
417 land areas in the NH mid- and high latitudes is three times larger than that over the  
418 ocean areas in the tropics. Larger cloud LWP favors the stronger CRE. Like the fire  
419 aerosol DRE, the smallest fire aerosol CRE occurs in the boreal spring.

420 Seasonal variations of zonal mean fire aerosol DRE, CRE, cloud LWP, low-level  
421 cloud amount, and vertically-integrated (burden) concentrations of fire POM and fire  
422 BC are shown in Figure 10. The seasonal variation of fire BC and fire POM burdens  
423 is largest in the SH low latitudes (from  $30^\circ\text{S}$  to  $0^\circ\text{N}$ ) and NH mid- and high latitudes  
424 ( $50^\circ\text{N}$  to  $90^\circ\text{N}$ ). Distinct features of these two areas can also be noticed that the  
425 maximum fire BC burden in NH ( $0.3 \text{ mg m}^{-2}$ ) is much lower than that in SH ( $0.8 \text{ mg}$   
426  $\text{m}^{-2}$ ), while the maximum POM burdens in these two areas are comparable.



427 Interestingly, the DRE is larger in the NH summer than that in the SH autumn  
428 although the fire BC burden is much lower in the NH summer. It is mainly due to the  
429 larger amount of low clouds in the NH high latitudes, which enhances the absorption  
430 of fire BC. The maximum DRE in the NH summer is found near the North Pole  
431 (70 °N to 90 °N), and not around 60 °N where the fire aerosol burden is highest. The  
432 CRE of fire aerosols is about 3 times larger in the NH summer than that in the SH  
433 autumn, although the burden of fire POM in NH is comparable to that in SH. The  
434 larger cloud LWP in the NH summer around 40-60°N and higher fire OC/BC ratios  
435 favor the stronger CRE there.

436

#### 437 3.4 Surface snow albedo effect

438 Here we compare the modeled BC-in-snow (BCS) concentrations with  
439 observation data collected from multiple field campaigns over the Arctic [*Doherty et*  
440 *al.*, 2010] and Northern China [*Wang et al.*, 2013; *Qian et al.*, 2014]. Figure 11a  
441 shows the simulated (from FIRE and NOFIRE experiments) and observed BCS  
442 concentrations as a function of latitude. The range of observed BCS concentrations is  
443 between 1 and 200 ng g<sup>-1</sup> in the Arctic and between 50 and 2000 ng g<sup>-1</sup> in Northern  
444 China, respectively. Both FIRE and NOFIRE experiments capture the meridional  
445 gradient in BCS concentrations between the mid-latitudes (Northern China) and high  
446 latitudes (Arctic). The mean and median concentrations of BCS are both  
447 overestimated in Northern China, implying the high biases from the anthropogenic  
448 emissions and/or model physics (Figure 11b). The mean and median BCS



449 concentrations from the FIRE experiment agree better with observations than those  
450 from the NOFIRE experiment in the Arctic (Figure 11b). This suggests that fire  
451 emissions are important for BCS concentrations in the Arctic.

452 The annual mean SAE of all fire aerosols diagnosed from *Ghan* [2013] and the  
453 fire BCS effect diagnosed from SNICAR are shown in Figure 12. The global annual  
454 mean SAE ( $0.03 \pm 0.10 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ) is much smaller compared to the DRE and CRE. The  
455 SAE over land is maximum in spring ( $0.12 \pm 0.27 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ) and winter ( $0.06 \pm 0.16 \text{ W}$   
456  $\text{m}^{-2}$ ). The SAE over land in summer and autumn is very small (less than  $0.01 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ).  
457 We note that the mean SAE calculated with *Ghan* [2013] is much smaller than the  
458 standard deviation resulted from the internal variability.

459 The annual mean fire BCS effect calculated from SNICAR is shown in Figure  
460 12b and 12c. The spatial distribution of the fire BCS effect is similar to the fire SAE,  
461 implying that the fire SAE has a significant contribution from the fire BCS effect.  
462 Averaged when only snow is present, the fire BCS effect is larger ( $0.048 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ). The  
463 global mean fire BCS effect (with the presence of snow) can be as large as  $0.06 \text{ W m}^{-2}$   
464 in spring, and the maximum effect (up to  $1 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ) is located in the Arctic regions  
465 (East Siberia, Alaska and Greenland, figure not shown). The positive SAE in Siberia,  
466 North America and Canada can be a result of BCS effect. However, the SAE in these  
467 regions is larger than the BCS forcing especially in spring. The snow melting and  
468 snow depth change due to the BCS warming may induce a larger positive SAE than  
469 the albedo change due to BCS itself. The negative SAE over land is a result of the  
470 snow depth change caused by fire aerosols.



471

472 3.5 Fire aerosol effects on shortwave radiation, global temperature and precipitation

473 Here, we show the annual mean net shortwave flux change at TOA (i.e., total  
474 radiative effect), in the atmosphere and at surface, and changes in surface air  
475 temperature, convective and large-scale precipitation due to all fire aerosols in Figure  
476 13 and Table 2. The global mean net shortwave flux change at TOA due to all fire  
477 aerosols is  $-0.55 \pm 0.07 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ , which indicates that fire aerosols lead to the reduction  
478 of shortwave flux into the Earth's system. The zonal mean TOA shortwave flux  
479 reduction in the Arctic regions ( $-1.35 \pm 1.03 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ) is much larger than that in the  
480 tropical regions ( $-0.66 \pm 0.09 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ). The cooling at TOA is mostly from fire aerosol  
481 CRE. The maximum negative RE is located in the land areas of the Arctic and ocean  
482 areas of the tropics. Although the global mean total radiative effect is negative,  
483 positive effect is found in some land areas (e.g., Africa, Greenland).

484 The shortwave flux change in the atmosphere of the tropical regions is much  
485 larger than that of the Arctic regions. It is because BC burden in the tropics ( $0.17 \text{ mg}$   
486  $\text{m}^{-2}$ ) is larger than that in the Arctic ( $0.09 \text{ mg m}^{-2}$ ). Strong absorption ( $\sim 8 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ) in  
487 the atmosphere is found in the land areas of South Africa and South America and in  
488 the Southeast Atlantic. The surface shortwave flux change in the Arctic is mostly  
489 from the TOA shortwave flux reduction due to the fire aerosol CRE, while the surface  
490 shortwave flux change in the tropics is mostly due to the fire BC absorption in the  
491 atmosphere.

492 The fire aerosols lead to the reduction of the global mean surface air temperature



493 ( $T_s$ ) by  $0.03 \pm 0.03$  K, consistent with the reduction of shortwave fluxes at TOA and at  
494 surface. The largest surface cooling is found in the Arctic and tropical regions by up  
495 to 0.6 K. The cooling of the Arctic is related to the strong fire aerosol CRE, while the  
496 cooling in the tropics is mainly from the surface shortwave flux reduction due to the  
497 fire BC absorption. The  $T_s$  change in the ocean areas is very small since the SST is  
498 prescribed in our simulations.

499 The global mean total precipitation is reduced by  $0.010 \pm 0.002$  mm day<sup>-1</sup> due to  
500 all fire aerosols (Table 2). Unlike the  $T_s$  change, the precipitation reduction in the  
501 tropics (0.016 mm day<sup>-1</sup>) is much larger than that in the Arctic (0.001 mm day<sup>-1</sup>). The  
502 reduction in the tropics is mainly from the large-scale precipitation decrease (0.015  
503 mm day<sup>-1</sup>). The net change in the convective precipitation is very small in the tropics  
504 (0.001 mm day<sup>-1</sup>), as the convective precipitation is significantly decreased near the  
505 equator and increased in the regions away from the equator, consistent with the results  
506 of *Tosca et al.* [2013]. The shortwave flux reduction at surface leads to a stabilization  
507 of the atmospheric boundary layer and a suppression of the convection near the  
508 equator. The strong atmospheric absorption by fire BC leads to the reduction of  
509 low-level clouds and large-scale precipitation in the tropics. Both effects lead to a  
510 significant reduction of total precipitation near the equator. The precipitation decrease  
511 in the NH high latitudes is mainly from the reduction of convective precipitation.

512 Figure 14 shows the changes of  $T_s$ , total precipitation, cloud LWP, and low-level  
513 cloud cover in the summer due to all fire aerosols. The  $T_s$  is reduced by more than 1 K  
514 in most of land areas around 60°N. The maximum cooling (larger than 1.5 K) is found



515 in East Siberia, Alaska and Canada. A decrease of total precipitation (by about 0.2  
516 mm day<sup>-1</sup>) is found in these regions. Accompanying the surface cooling and  
517 precipitation reduction, a significant increase of cloud LWP and low-level cloud cover  
518 is found there. This is a result of the indirect effect of fire aerosols in the land areas of  
519 the Arctic (60°N to 90°N). The fire POM leads to the reduction of cloud droplet effect  
520 radius and the increase of cloud droplet number concentration, consistent with  
521 observed fire effects on clouds in Canada and the United States [*Peng et al.*, 2002].

522

#### 523 4. Discussion and Conclusions

524 In our study, the fire aerosol radiative effect (RE) is calculated with CESM. The  
525 method from *Ghan* [2013] is used to diagnose the DRE, CRE and SAE of fire  
526 aerosols. Additional experiment with CESM which tracks the wildfire BC and POM  
527 separately from fossil fuel and biofuel sources is performed to diagnose the fire  
528 aerosol DRE and fire BC-in-snow effect for comparisons with the *Ghan* [2013]  
529 method.

530 The BC and POM burdens from wildfires are largest in the tropical regions  
531 (South Africa, South America and Southeast Asia) and in the NH mid- to high  
532 latitudes (North of 45°N) (Northeast Asia, Alaska and Canada). Fire aerosols  
533 contribute 41% and 70% to the global burden of BC and POM, respectively. When  
534 comparing with the AERONET AOD and SSA data, modeled monthly AOD agrees  
535 with observations within a factor of 2 for most of the South African and South  
536 American sites. The model underestimation of AOD is found in the South American



537 sites near fire source regions, which is most obvious in the fire season (September and  
538 October). The model underestimates the observed AOD in the Arctic regions in both  
539 fire and non-fire seasons. The modeled SSA in South Africa and South America is  
540 generally in agreement with observations, while the modeled SSA in the Arctic is  
541 lower.

542 The annual mean DRE of all fire aerosols is  $0.155 \pm 0.01 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  and positive over  
543 most areas except in some land areas (e.g., South Africa, North Canada, and East  
544 Siberia). The annual maximum DRE is found in the oceanic areas west of South  
545 Africa ( $5 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ) and South America ( $1.5 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ). The positive DRE over the land  
546 regions of South Africa and South America is smaller, although the fire aerosol  
547 burdens are higher. It is because the larger amount of low-level clouds in the oceanic  
548 areas reflects the solar radiation back to the space for more absorption by fire BC  
549 above clouds, and thus generates a larger positive DRE at TOA. The annual mean  
550 DRE of fire BC is about  $0.25 \pm 0.01 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  and positive over the globe. Fire POM  
551 induces a weak negative DRE globally ( $-0.05 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ) with the BBFFBF method and a  
552 small positive value ( $0.04 \pm 0.01 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ) with the *Ghan* [2013] method. The positive  
553 DRE of fire POM is found over oceanic areas west of South Africa and South  
554 America, North Pacific, and polar regions where the low-level cloud coverage is large  
555 or the surface albedo is higher. The maximum DRE in the Arctic regions occurs in the  
556 summer ( $0.35 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ), while the DRE in the tropical regions reaches its maximum in  
557 the autumn.

558 The global annual mean CRE of all fire aerosols is  $-0.70 \pm 0.05 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  and the



559 maximum forcing is located in the ocean areas west of South Africa and South  
560 America and land areas of the NH high latitudes. The maximum fire aerosol CRE  
561 occurs in the NH high latitudes in the boreal summer, which results from the large  
562 cloud LWP over the land areas and the large fire OC to BC ratio. Associated with the  
563 strong indirect effects of fire aerosols in the Arctic summer, significant surface  
564 cooling, precipitation reduction, and low-level cloud cover increase are found in these  
565 regions.

566 Modeled BCS concentrations from the FIRE experiment are evaluated against  
567 observations in Northern China and in the Arctic, and generally agree with the  
568 observations for the mean and median values in the Arctic regions. The high bias of  
569 modeled BCS concentrations in Northern China may not result from the fire BC  
570 because differences in BCS concentrations between FIRE and NOFIRE experiments  
571 are very small in North China. The global annual mean SAE is  $0.03 \pm 0.10 \text{ W m}^{-2}$   
572 with the maximum effect in spring ( $0.12 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ). The SAE is mainly due to the effect  
573 of fire BC deposit on snow ( $0.02 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ) diagnosed from SNICAR with the maximum  
574 effect as large as  $0.06 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  (when snow is present) in spring.

575 The fire aerosols reduce the global mean surface air temperature ( $T_s$ ) by  $0.03 \pm$   
576  $0.03 \text{ K}$  and precipitation by  $0.01 \pm 0.002 \text{ mm day}^{-1}$ . The maximum cooling ( $\sim 1 \text{ K}$ ) due  
577 to fire aerosols occurs around  $60^\circ\text{N}$  in summer, and a suppression of precipitation  
578 ( $\sim 0.1 \text{ mm day}^{-1}$ ) is also found there. The strong cooling is a result of the strong  
579 indirect effects ( $-15 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ) in the land areas of the Arctic regions ( $60^\circ\text{N}$  to  $90^\circ\text{N}$ ).

580 In our study, the global radiative effect of fire aerosols is estimated from



581 simulations performed with the 4-mode version Modal aerosol module (MAM4) [Liu  
582 *et al.*, 2016], daily fire emissions with prescribed vertical emission profiles, and  
583 higher model resolution ( $0.9^\circ$  by  $1.25^\circ$ ) compared to earlier modeling studies of fire  
584 aerosols [Tosca *et al.*, 2013; Ward *et al.*, 2012]. In their studies, the GFED fire  
585 aerosol emissions were increased by a factor of 1-3 depending on regions to match the  
586 observed AOD. In our study, we do not apply the scaling factor to the fire aerosol  
587 emissions. Our global annual mean DRE of fire aerosols ( $0.155 \pm 0.01 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ) is,  
588 however, close to  $0.18 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  in Tosca *et al.* [2013] and  $0.13 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  in Ward *et al.*  
589 [2012]. The similar fire aerosol DRE from our study but with smaller fire emissions  
590 than these previous studies can result from (1) the use of MAM4 in our study which  
591 more realistically represents the external/internal mixing of BC with other soluble  
592 aerosol species; (2) the more accurate estimation of DRE of fire aerosols in the  
593 presence of low-level clouds with the method of Ghan [2013]; and (3) the inclusion of  
594 vertical emissions of fire aerosols, which allows more efficient transport of fire  
595 aerosols from sources. The CRE due to fire aerosols in our study ( $-0.70 \pm 0.05 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ )  
596 is smaller than  $-1.64 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  in Ward *et al.* [2012] due to the lower fire POM emissions  
597 used in this study compared to Ward *et al.* [2012]. We note that the model still  
598 underestimates observed AODs (mostly within a factor of 2) at the sites  
599 predominantly influenced by biomass burning aerosols during the fire season, which  
600 implies that the fire aerosol radiative forcing can be stronger than estimated in this  
601 study.  
602



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616

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Table 1. Numerical experiments and associated fire aerosol emissions in each experiment.

Experiment	Ensembles	Fire BC	Fire POM	Fire SO <sub>2</sub>
FIRE	10	On	On	On
NOFIRE	10	Off	Off	Off
NOFIREBC	10	Off	On	On
NOFIREPOM	10	On	Off	On
FIRE_BBFFBF	1	On	On	On



Table 2. Global, tropics (25°S to 25°N) and Arctic (60°N to 90°N) annual mean fire aerosol (POM and BC) burdens ( $\text{mg m}^{-2}$ ), fire aerosol AOD, total fire aerosol radiative effect (RE) at TOA ( $\text{W m}^{-2}$ ), direct radiative effect (DRE,  $\text{W m}^{-2}$ ), cloud radiative effect (CRE,  $\text{W m}^{-2}$ ), and surface albedo effect (SAE,  $\text{W m}^{-2}$ ), and changes in shortwave and longwave cloud forcings ( $\text{W m}^{-2}$ ), cloud liquid water path (LWP) ( $\text{g m}^{-2}$ ), low-level cloud cover (%), net solar fluxes at surface and in the atmosphere ( $\text{W m}^{-2}$ ), surface air temperature (K), and precipitation (total, convective, and large-scale) ( $\text{mm day}^{-1}$ ) due to all fire aerosols. Standard deviations about the 10-ensemble means are included.

	Global	Tropics (25°S to 25°N)	Arctic (60°N to 90°N)
Fire POM burden	$1.25 \pm 0.01$	$1.87 \pm 0.01$	$1.70 \pm 0.08$
Fire BC burden	$0.106 \pm 0.001$	$0.17 \pm 0.001$	$0.09 \pm 0.004$
Fire aerosol optical depth	$0.008 \pm 0.001$	$0.012 \pm 0.001$	$0.007 \pm 0.0004$
Total radiative effect (RE)	$-0.55 \pm 0.07$	$-0.66 \pm 0.09$	$-1.35 \pm 1.03$
Direct radiative effect (DRE)	$0.155 \pm 0.01$	$0.172 \pm 0.017$	$0.428 \pm 0.028$
Cloud radiative effect (CRE)	$-0.70 \pm 0.05$	$-0.82 \pm 0.09$	$-1.38 \pm 0.23$
Surface albedo effect (over land)	$0.03 \pm 0.10$	$-0.04 \pm 0.06$	$0.09 \pm 0.80$
Shortwave cloud forcing	$-0.43 \pm 0.05$	$-0.45 \pm 0.08$	$-1.18 \pm 0.22$
Longwave cloud forcing	$-0.26 \pm 0.04$	$-0.35 \pm 0.07$	$-0.04 \pm 0.17$
Cloud liquid water path	$1.62 \pm 0.01$	$1.95 \pm 0.13$	$2.59 \pm 0.25$
Low-level cloud cover	$0.012 \pm 0.06$	$-0.055 \pm 0.05$	$0.46 \pm 0.45$
Net solar flux at surface	$-1.38 \pm 0.05$	$-1.91 \pm 0.12$	$-2.27 \pm 1.04$
Net solar flux in the atmosphere	$0.83 \pm 0.03$	$1.25 \pm 0.04$	$0.92 \pm 0.05$
Surface air temperature	$-0.03 \pm 0.03$	$-0.024 \pm 0.011$	$-0.15 \pm 0.2$
Total precipitation rate	$-0.010 \pm 0.002$	$-0.016 \pm 0.01$	$-0.001 \pm 0.02$
Convective precipitation rate	$-0.003 \pm 0.002$	$-0.001 \pm 0.009$	$-0.005 \pm 0.003$
Large-scale precipitation rate	$-0.007 \pm 0.002$	$-0.015 \pm 0.003$	$0.004 \pm 0.019$

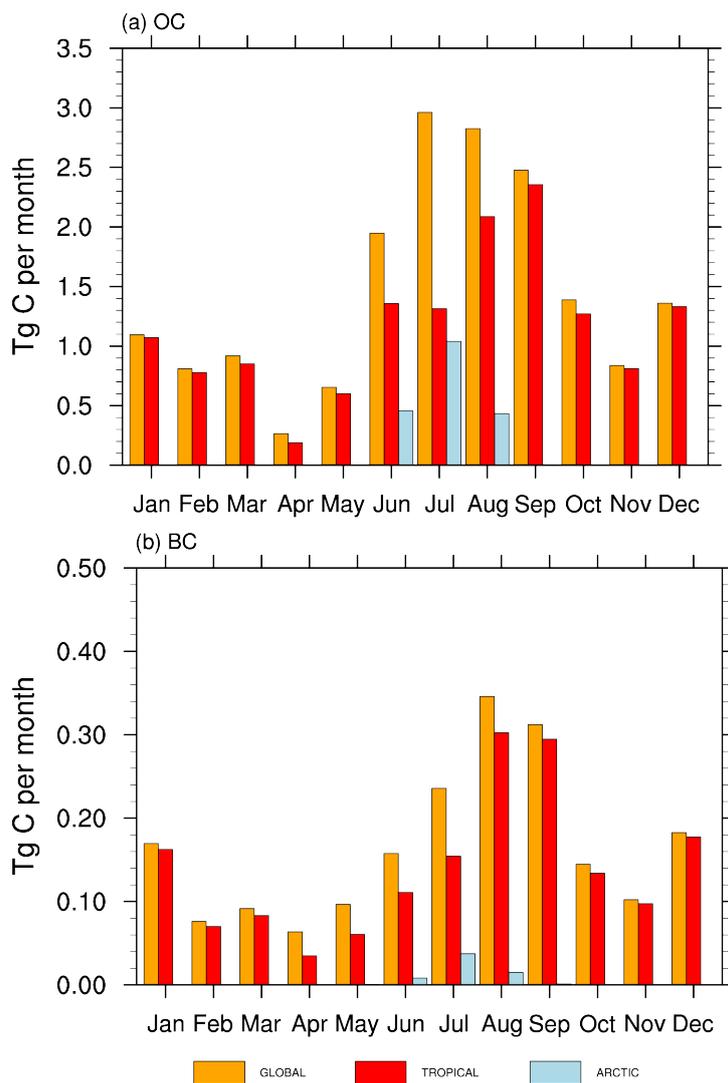


Figure 1. Seasonal variation of GFED monthly fire (a) organic carbon (OC) and (b) black carbon (BC) emissions ( $\text{Tg C month}^{-1}$ ) averaged for the period of year 2003 to 2011 in the global, tropical ( $25^{\circ}\text{S}$  to  $25^{\circ}\text{N}$ ) and Arctic ( $60^{\circ}\text{N}$  to  $90^{\circ}\text{N}$ ) regions.

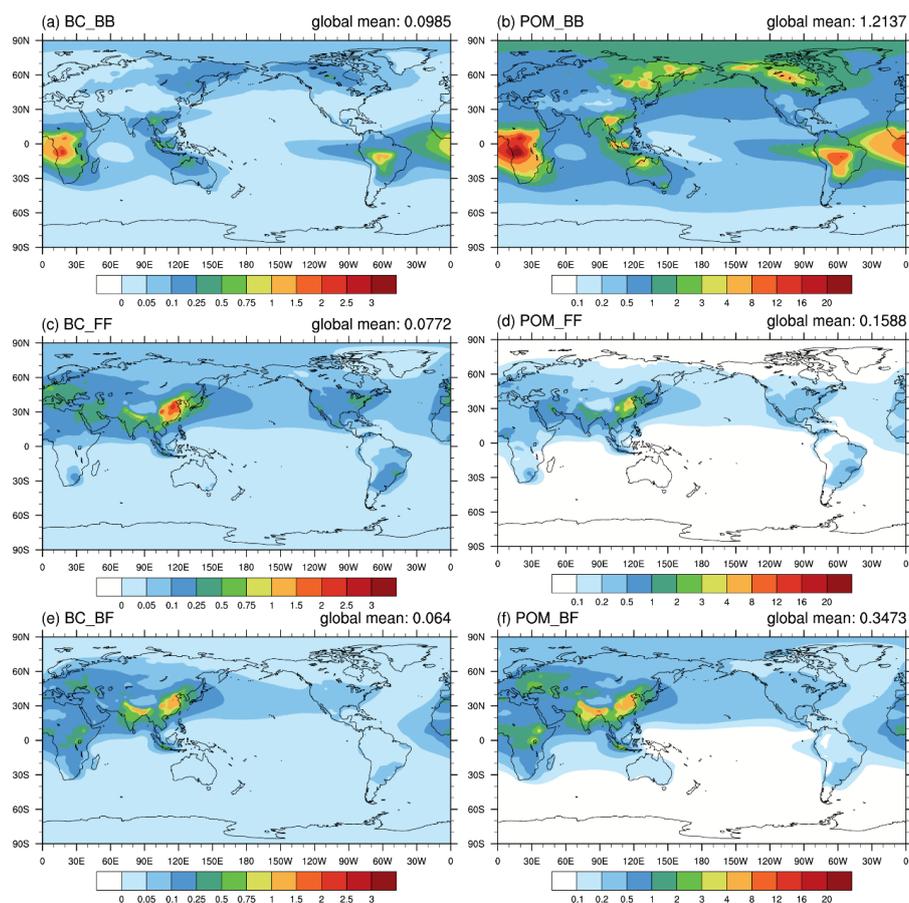


Figure 2. Annual mean (for year 2003-2011) vertically integrated concentrations (units:  $\text{mg m}^{-2}$ ) of BC (left) and POM (right) from biomass burning (BB) (upper panel), FF (fossil fuel) (middle panel), and biofuel (BF) (lower panel).

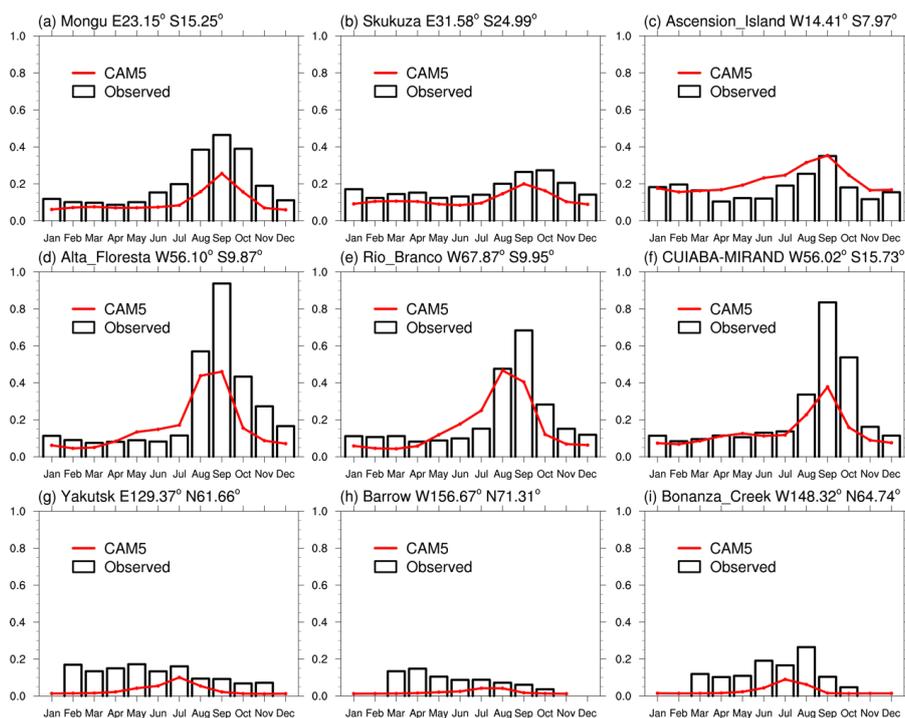


Figure 3. Comparison of modeled seasonal variations of aerosol optical depth (AOD) for the period of 2003-2011 with observations for the same period from the AERONET sites.

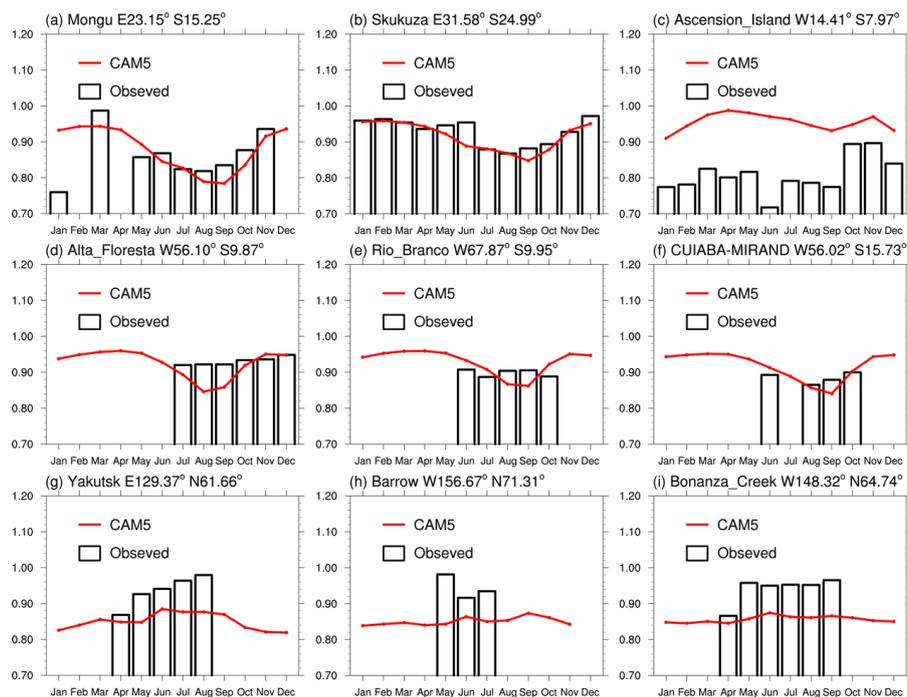


Figure 4. Same as Figure 3, but for the comparison of single scattering albedo (SSA) at 550 nm.

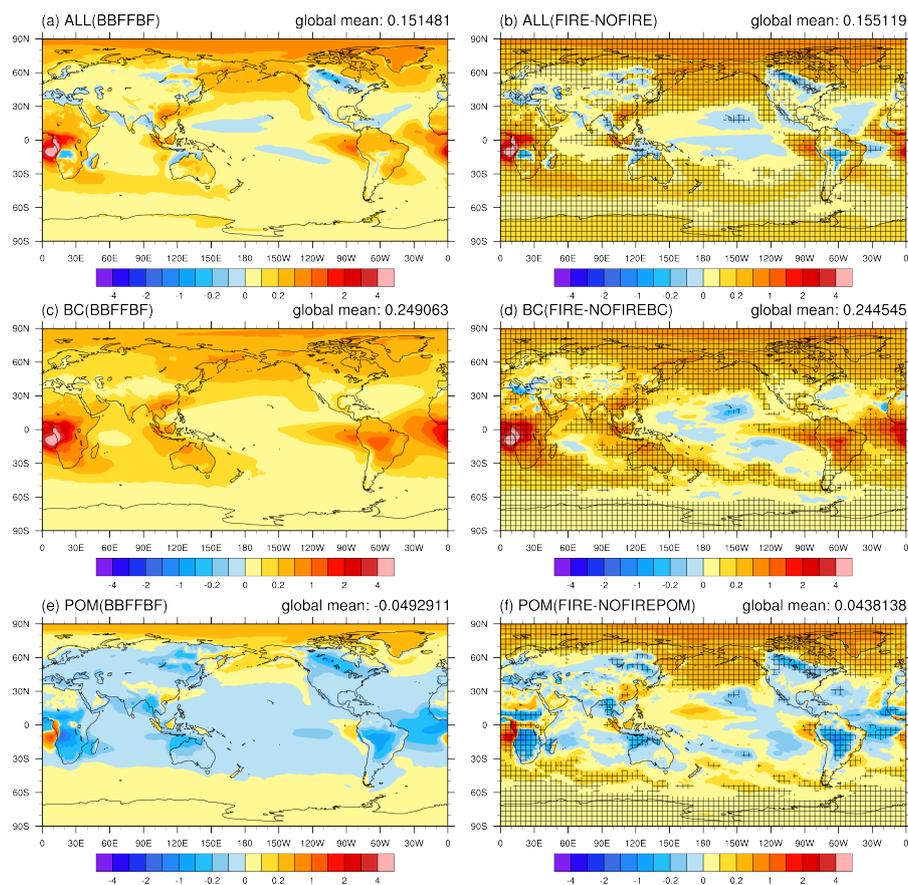


Figure 5. Annual mean direct radiative effect (DRE) ( $\text{W m}^{-2}$ ) averaged over the period of 2003–2011 due to (a) all fire aerosols, (c) fire BC, and (e) fire POM estimated with the method of BBFFBF (left panels), and with the method of Ghan [2013] ((b), (d), and (f) in the right panels). The plus signs in Figure 5(b), (d) and (f) denote the regions where the radiative effect is statistically significant at the 0.05 level.

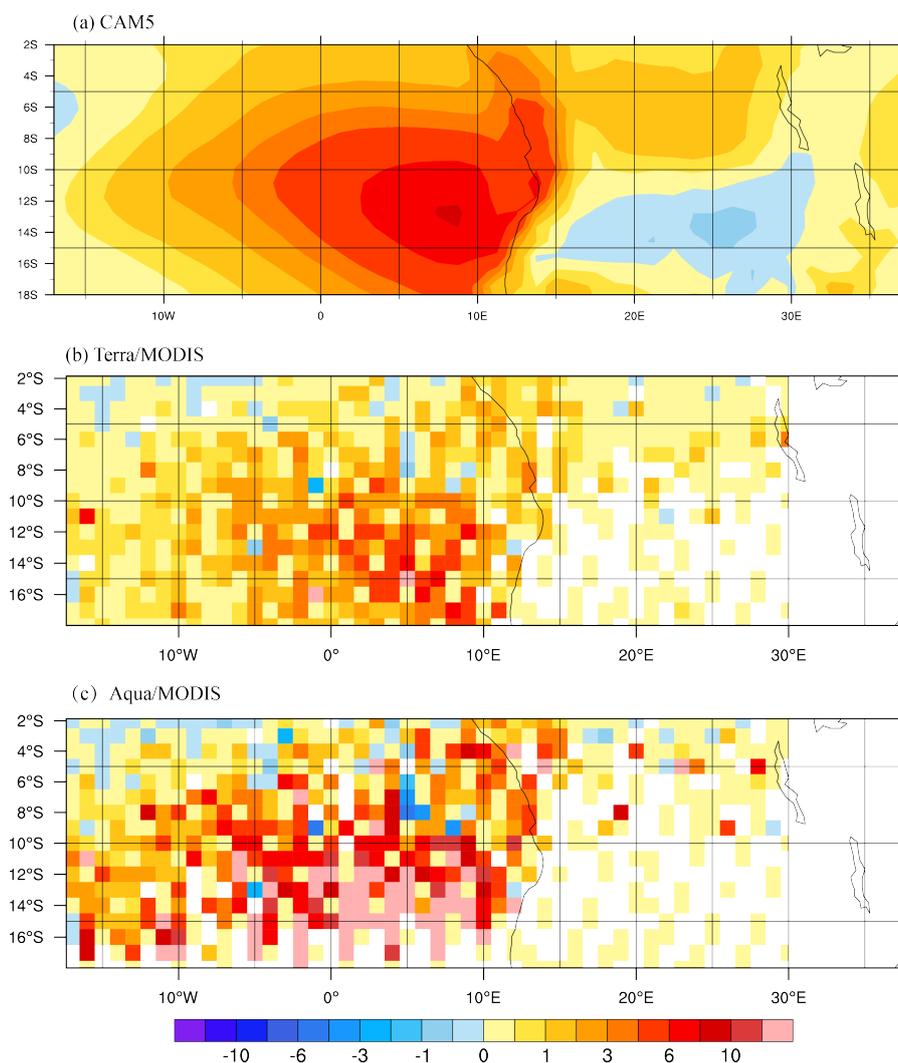


Figure 6. (a) September-October-November (SON) mean fire aerosol direct radiative effect (DRE) ( $\text{W m}^{-2}$ ) for the period of 2003-2011 over the Southeast Atlantic Ocean due to all fire aerosols. (b) and (c) are the same as (a), but for the above-cloud aerosol DRE for the period of 2007-2011 estimated using Aqua/MODIS and Terra/MODIS products [Zhang *et al.*, 2014], respectively.

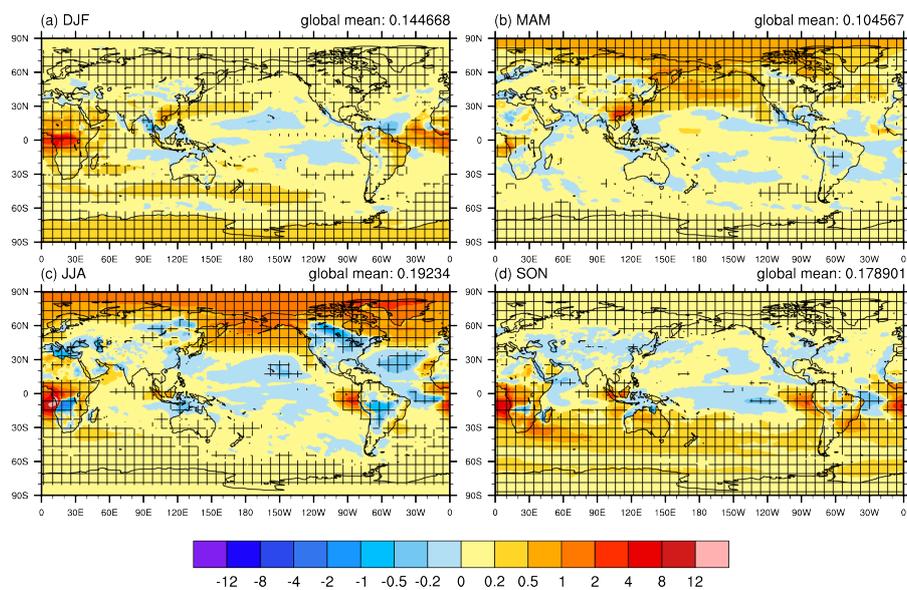


Figure 7. Direct radiative effect (DRE) ( $\text{W m}^{-2}$ ) for the period of 2003-2011 due to all fire aerosols for (a) December-January-February (DJF), (b) March-April-May (MAM), (c) June-July-August (JJA), and (d) September-October-November (SON). The plus signs denote the regions where the DRE is statistically significant at the 0.05 level.

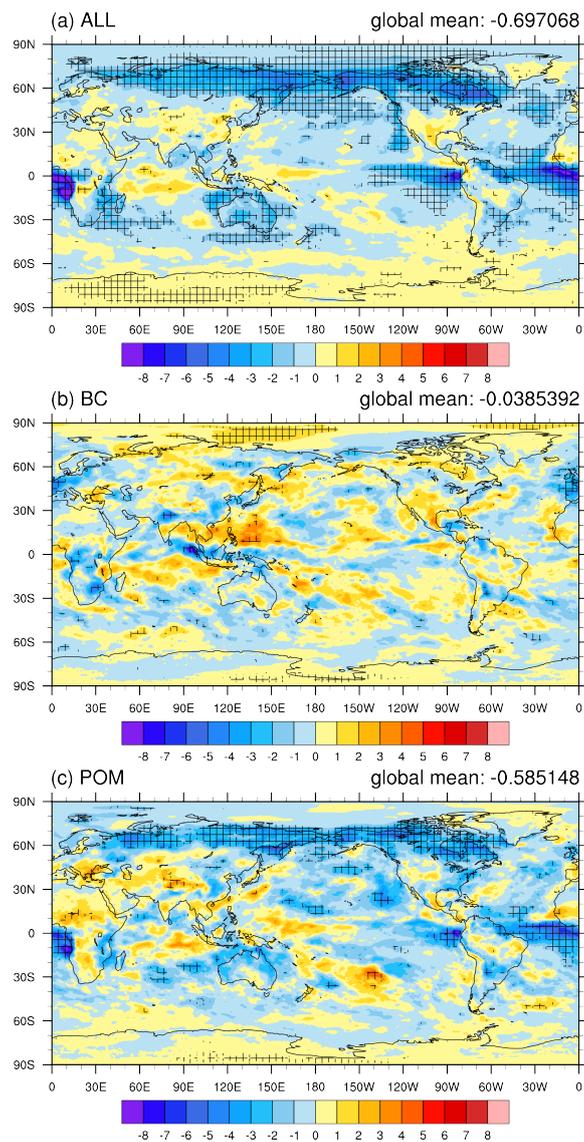


Figure 8. Annual mean cloud radiative effect (CRE) ( $\text{W m}^{-2}$ ) averaged over the period of 2003-2011 due to (a) all fire aerosols, (b) fire BC, and (c) fire POM. The plus signs denote the regions where the radiative effect is statistically significant at the 0.1 level.

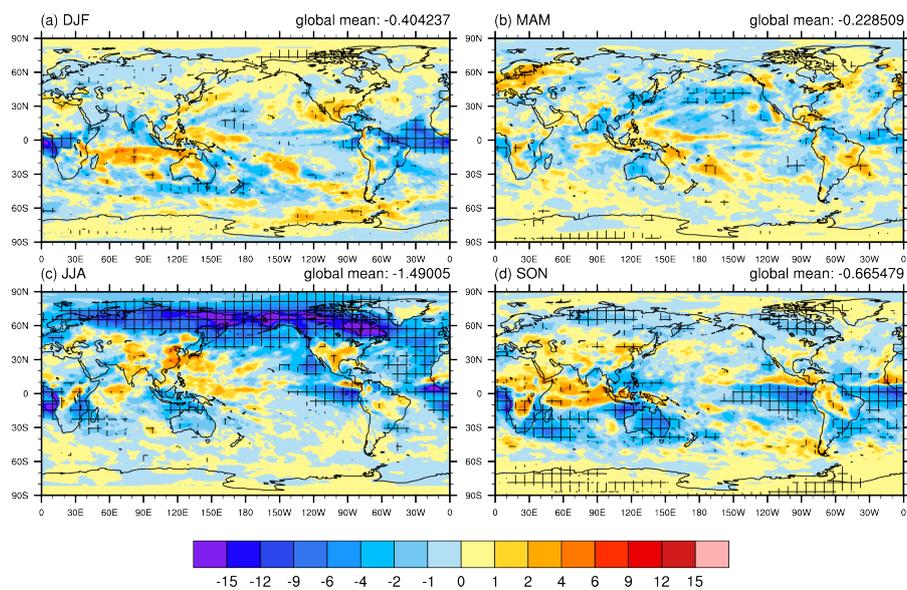


Figure 9. Seasonal variation of cloud radiative effect (CRE) ( $\text{W m}^{-2}$ ) due to all fire aerosols for the period of 2003-2011 for (a) December-January-February (DJF), (b) March-April-May (MAM), (c) June-July-August (JJA), and (d) September-October-November (SON). The plus signs denote the regions where the CRE is statistically significant at the 0.05 level.

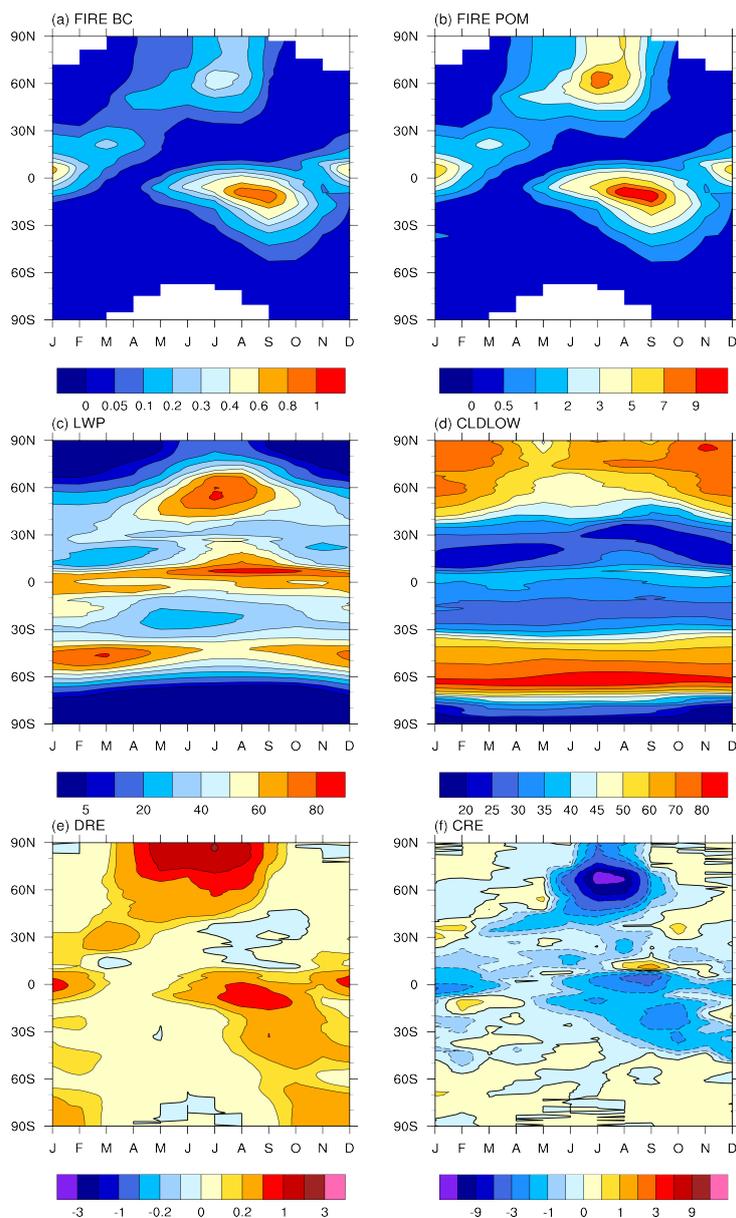


Figure 10. Month-latitude cross sections of zonal mean and monthly (a) vertically-integrated concentrations ( $\text{mg m}^{-2}$ ) of fire BC and (b) fire POM, (c) cloud liquid water path (LWP, in  $\text{g m}^{-2}$ ), (d) low-level cloud cover (CLDLOW, in %), (e) DRE ( $\text{W m}^{-2}$ ), and (f) CRE ( $\text{W m}^{-2}$ ) of fire aerosols.

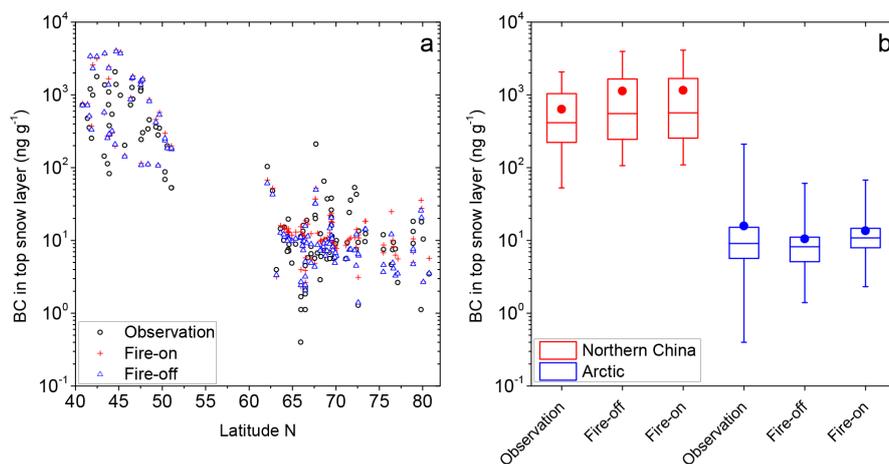


Figure 11. Evaluation of CAM5 simulated black carbon (BC) concentration for the period of 2003-2011 (in  $\text{ng g}^{-1}$ ) in the top snow layer against observations in the Arctic (*Doherty et al.*, 2010) and Northern China (*Wang et al.*, 2013b). The top snow layer ranges in thickness from 1 to 3 cm. Configuration of the two CAM5 simulations (FIRE and NOFIRE) is summarized in Table 1. Panel (a) shows the comparisons at different latitudes. The box and whisker plot in panel (b) shows the minimum and maximum value with the bar, the 25th and 75th percentiles with the box, the 50th percentile (i.e., median) by the bar within the box, and the mean value with the dot.

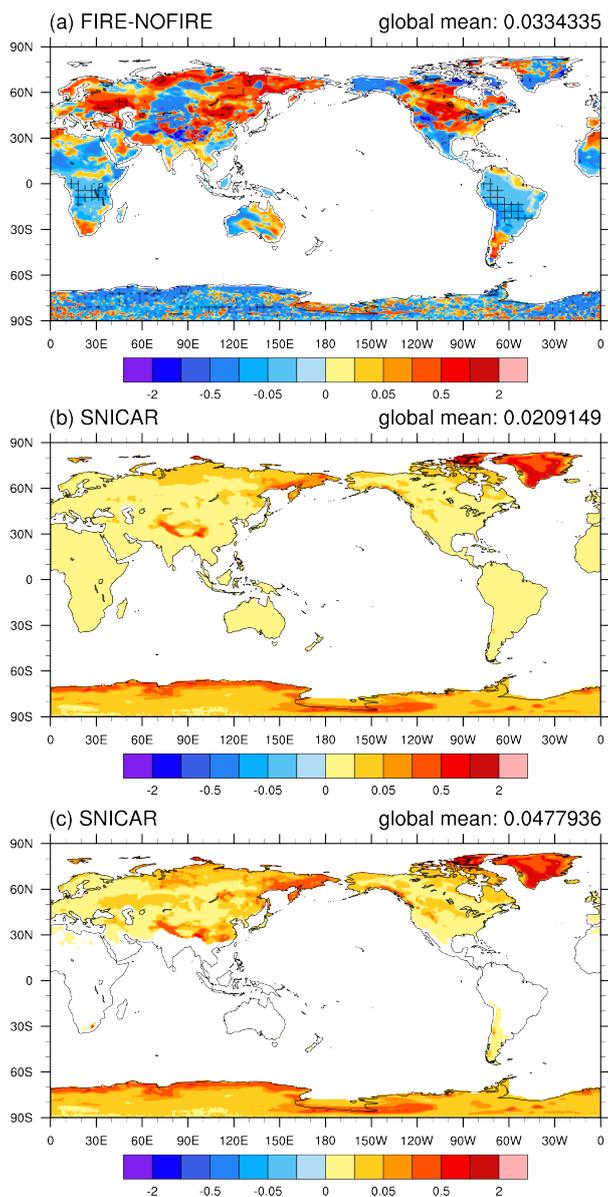


Figure 12. (a) Annual mean surface albedo effect (SAE,  $\text{W m}^{-2}$ ) averaged over the period of 2003-2011 of all fire aerosols over land regions, and annual mean surface effect of fire BC-in-snow calculated from SNICAR averaged (b) over all times and (c) only when snow is present. The plus signs in (a) denote the regions where the radiative effect is statistically significant at the 0.1 level.

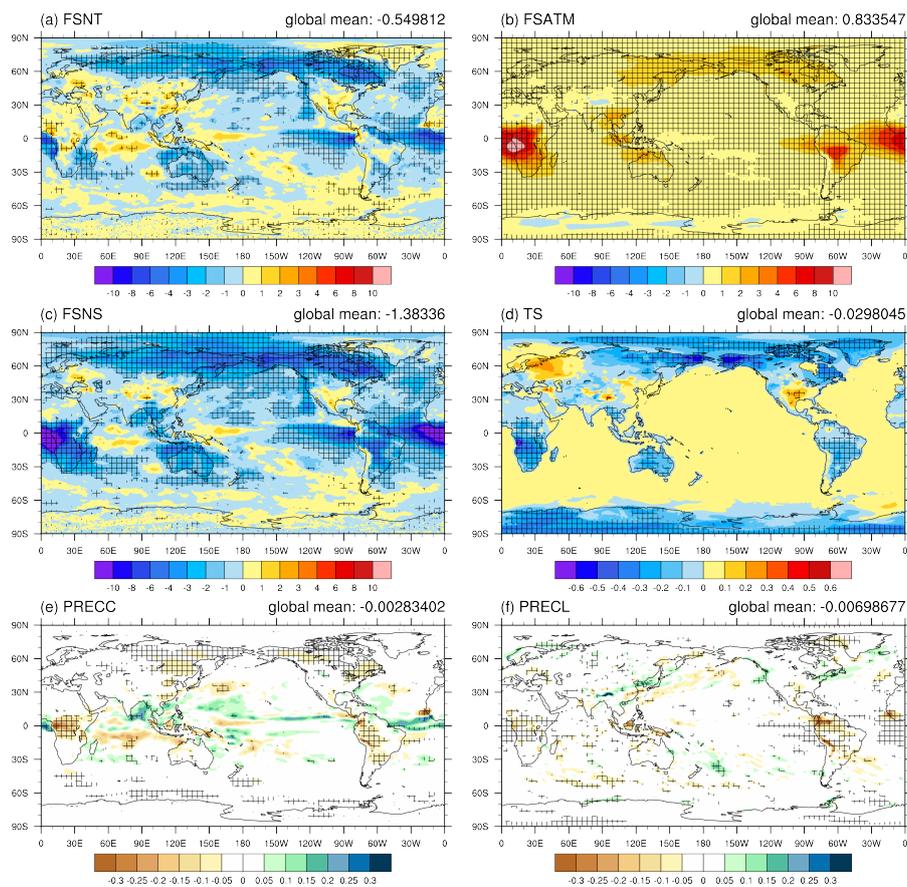


Figure 13. Annual mean net shortwave flux changes ( $\text{W m}^{-2}$ ) over the period of 2003-2011 (a) at top of the atmosphere, (b) in the atmosphere, (c) at surface, and changes of (d) surface air temperature (K), (e) convective precipitation ( $\text{mm d}^{-1}$ ), and (f) large-scale precipitation ( $\text{mm d}^{-1}$ ) due to all fire aerosols. The plus signs denote the regions where the change is statistically significant at the 0.1 level.

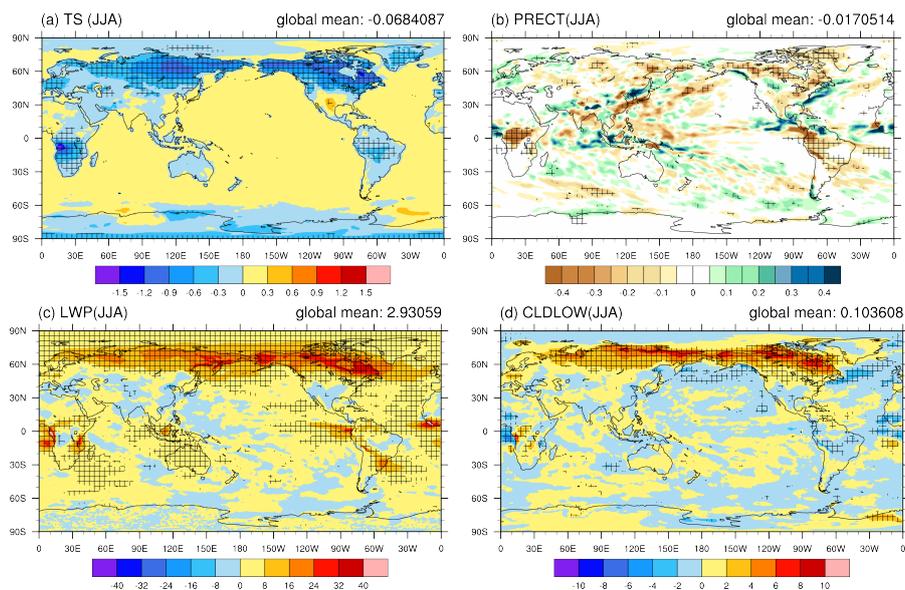


Figure 14. Changes in (a) surface air temperature (K), (b) total precipitation (mm d<sup>-1</sup>), (c) cloud liquid water path (g m<sup>-2</sup>), and (d) low-level cloud cover (%) due to all fire aerosols in the boreal summer (JJA) averaged for the period of 2003-2011. The plus signs denote the regions where the change is statistically significant at the 0.1 level.