

Response to Referee #1

"Direct radiative effect of carbonaceous aerosols from crop residue burning during the summer harvest season in East China (acp-2016-759) "

General Comments This paper uses the WRF-Chem model to derive estimates of direct radiative effects (DRE) over a region of Eastern China heavily affected by agricultural burning emissions, for the period June 2013. Model output is evaluated against some in-situ surface measurements over the period and MODIS satellite AOD products. The parameterisation of Saleh et al., 2014 is used to estimate the impact of including an absorbing portion of organic aerosol from biomass burning sources (brown carbon, BrC) on the DRE. Sensitivity simulations are carried out without biomass burning emissions, without the absorbing BrC component of OA, To my knowledge, this is the first study that includes an estimate of the radiative impact of BrC in WRF-Chem, an important first step in understanding the impacts of this currently highly uncertain but potentially important aspect of OA. For that reason, I think it would be suitable for publication with appropriate changes. However, a key issue I have with this paper is how the direct radiative effects are calculated. The authors do not have aerosol-cloud interactions, so there should be no indirect effects. However, the absorbing aerosol will still absorb radiation and affect cloud formation and dynamics (the semi-direct effect). What the authors currently describe as the DRE is really the sum of the DRE and SDRE. This issue needs to be appropriately tackled before the paper is suitable for publication. The paper is mostly well written, although the authors need to cite some more work from the field, and some improvements to English and structure of results section are needed to improve clarity (see details below). In addition, while uncertainties are discussed, there is no attempt to quantify them and there is no discussion of the statistical significance of their results (although I acknowledge it can be challenging to reach statistical significance over time short periods).

Specific Comments 1. Ln. 26: Here and elsewhere, the authors say BrC and BC introduced 'significant positive DREs', but do not calculate the statistical significance of these results. Unless the authors can prove this effect is statistically significant, I suggest avoiding use of the word "significant", as it commonly implies statistical significance in scientific writing.

Response: Accepted. We rewrote the description. Please see line 34–39.

Revision in Lines 34–39 on Page 2: "On average, the simulations showed that the crop residue burning introduced a net positive DRE of $+0.14 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ at TOA

throughout East China, with BC from this source as the main heating contributor ($+0.79 \text{ W m}^{-2}$). The OA DRE from crop burning (-0.22 W m^{-2}) was a combined effect of the positive DRE of absorption ($+0.21 \text{ W m}^{-2}$) and a stronger negative DRE of scattering (-0.43 W m^{-2})."

2. Introduction: There are no references to any studies that have used WRF-Chem papers in the introduction. This is a severe oversight. The authors should discuss some other papers which use WRF-Chem to estimate the DRE and other radiative effects of aerosol from biomass burning or other sources.

Response: Accepted. We added discussions about some other papers investigating the DRE of aerosol from biomass burning (Archer-Nicholls et al., 2016) and other resources (Huang et al., 2015; Zhao et al., 2013) in different regions with WRF-Chem. Please see lines 123–131.

Revision in Lines 123–131 on Pages 6–7: "WRF-Chem contains the physics to simulate the aerosol DRE, but need extra radiation diagnostics to distinguish the DRE from other aerosol-radiation-cloud interactions. Both Huang et al. (2015) and Zhao et al. (2013) calculated the aerosol DRE in WRF-Chem by performing calculations of aerosol optical properties and radiative transfer multiple times with and without one aerosol component and its associated water. Following Ghan et al. (2012), Archer-Nicholls et al. (2016) calculated the DRE due to biomass burning aerosols in WRF-Chem by using double calls to the radiation driver to derive extra diagnostic variables with the refractive index of all aerosol species set to zero."

3. Ln. 66-67: The meaning of the sentence beginning "Off-line models with discrepancies: : :" is unclear in the context of the paragraph. Are the authors saying the previously cited articles use offline models? If so, please make this explicit. They should then describe how this can be improved with online models (e.g. WRF-chem), with appropriate references backing up this statement.

Response: Accepted. We reworded. Please see lines 115–123.

Revision in Lines 115–123 on Pages 6: "The offline models used in the previous studies investigating warming due to OA absorption (e.g., GEOS-Chem) probably have induced errors from the inconsistencies in space, time and physical parameterizations between the separated atmospheric meteorological and chemical transport components. These errors could be circumvented in online models by integrating the chemical modeling into the meteorology simulation. Online models, such as the Weather Research and Forecasting Model coupled with Chemistry (WRF-Chem) (Fast et al., 2006; Grell et al., 2005), could provide further insight to aerosol-cloud-radiation feedbacks, which are crucial for understanding climate change (Zhang, 2008), but ignored in offline models."

4. Ln 109-112. The Authors are using an incorrect definition of DRE here. The authors correctly state that only having direct radiative feedbacks and not aerosol-cloud interactions, there is no indirect effect in their simulations. However, by using an online model, the radiative impacts of absorbing aerosol will impact cloud formation, circulation and distribution in the model (i.e. there are semi-direct effects going on, indeed this is the advantage of using an online model over an offline one). Therefore, by evaluating all-sky TOA radiative fluxes, the authors are really presenting the combination of direct and semi-direct effects. A rough estimate of just the DRE can be calculated comparing the TOA clear-sky radiative fluxes between scenarios. A more rigorous calculation of direct (and semi-direct) would need double-radiation calls, with additional fluxes calculated without aerosol radiative interactions. Please see for example Ghan et al., 2012 and Archer-Nicholls et al., 2016 for further discussion on this.

Response: Accepted. We have adopted the rigorous calculation method to diagnose DRE by adding double-radiation calls to radiation drivers, following the radiation diagnostic module of Ghan et al. (2012) and Archer-Nicholls et al. (2016). All the DREs were updated and the description of this radiation diagnostic module could be seen in lines 167–182.

Revision in Lines 167–182 on Pages 8–9: “To distinguish the aerosol effect on radiation budget directly by absorbing and scattering from other aerosol-radiation-cloud interactions, we added diagnostic calls to the radiation driver, following Archer-Nicholls et al. (2016) and Ghan et al. (2012). “Clean-sky” diagnostic variables (e.g. SW_{cln}), defined as what the net radiative fluxes at the top and bottom of the atmosphere would be if there were no aerosol in the column, were calculated by calling the radiation driver with the complex refractive index of all aerosol species set to zero. Thus, the clean-sky variables include the radiation scattering and absorbing effects of clouds, but ignore all aerosol radiation scattering and absorption. The DRE of all the aerosol species (ADRE) at the top of atmosphere (TOA) can be diagnosed by the difference of all-sky (including all the aerosol-radiation-cloud interactions) and clean-sky short wave irradiances at TOA:

$$\text{ADRE} = (SW_{\text{TOA}}^{\downarrow} - SW_{\text{TOA}}^{\uparrow}) - (SW_{\text{TOA,cln}}^{\downarrow} - SW_{\text{TOA,cln}}^{\uparrow}) \quad (1)$$

Where $SW_{\text{TOA}}^{\downarrow}$ and $SW_{\text{TOA}}^{\uparrow}$ represent the short wave radiation fluxes in down and up direction at TOA, respectively. The DRE estimates of crop residue burning and the related carbonaceous aerosols were then determined from the ADRE differences between scenarios (further explained in section 2.4)”

5. Ln 123-128. This is phrased confusingly by first saying the refractive index of OA is 0, then immediately saying how the refractive index of OA is parameterized. I would suggest rephrasing as: “For each bin, the complex refractive index of the shell was derived by volume averaging that of every shell species (Barnard et al., 2010). By

default, the imaginary refractive index of OA is zero. In this study, we adopted the Saleh et al. (2014) parameterization: : :”

Response: Accepted. Please see lines 192–194.

Revision in Lines 192–194 on Pages 9: “For each bin, the complex refractive index of the shell was derived by volume averaging that of all non-BC species (Barnard et al., 2010). By default, the imaginary refractive index of OA in WRF-Chem is zero.”

6. Can the authors comment on how the Saleh parameterisation was developed, what its appropriate uses are, and how it has been used previously and tested? E.g. what data sources were used to derive it, from what emissions sources. This would help understanding of uncertainties associated with the Saleh et al., 2014 parameterisation for those not familiar with it.

Response: Accepted. Saleh’s parameterization was derived from smog chamber experiments with different biofuels. It can be used to character the effective absorptivity of organic aerosols emitted from biomass and biofuel burning. This parameterization has been used to simulate DRE of BrC from biomass or biofuel burning emissions globally in several studies (Kodros et al., 2016; Kodros et al., 2015; Saleh et al., 2015). Please see lines 106–110 and 194–201.

Revision in Lines 106–110 on Pages 5: “Recently, Saleh et al. (2014) proposed that the absorptivity of OA from biomass burning, both fresh and aged, could be parameterized as a function of the BC-to-OA ratio. This parameterization has been used to simulate the DRE of OA absorption from biomass or biofuel burning emissions globally in several studies (Kodros et al., 2015; Saleh et al., 2015; Kodros et al., 2016).”

Revision in Lines 194–201 on Pages 10: “In this study, we adopted the Saleh et al. (2014) parameterization to calculate the OA absorptivity, based on smog chamber experiments for both fresh and chemically aged emissions from globally important fuels to characterize the effective absorptivity of organic aerosols as a function of the ratio of BC to OA. This parameterization has been incorporated into the 3-D global chemical transport model GEOS-Chem to calculate global direct radiative effect of carbonaceous aerosols emitted from biomass/biofuel burning (Saleh et al., 2015; Kodros et al., 2016; Kodros et al., 2015).”

7. The authors switch between OC and OA a lot. Do they multiply OC from emissions/model output by a factor to give total OA? If so, please give the factor.

Response: Accepted. The conversion relation between OC and OA was added in lines 226–230.

Revision in Lines 226–230 on Pages 11: “Note that when input into WRF-Chem, the OA emissions were calculated by multiplying OC emissions by a factor of 1.4 to account for the associated hydrogen and oxygen mass making up total OA. The simulated primary and secondary OC concentrations were calculated by dividing the simulated OA fields by factors of 1.4 and 1.8, respectively (Gilardoni et al., 2009).”

8. Section 2.2: Can the authors comment on how their emission inventory compares to other more commonly used biomass burning inventories over the region, in total mass emissions for OC and BC.

Response: Accepted. The emissions in this study were compared with GFEDv4.1 data (<http://www.globalfiredata.org/index.html>). Please see the lines 214–219 in the revised paper.

Revision in Lines 214–219 on Pages 11: “The total BC and OC emissions in this study were 4.3 Gg and 15.9 Gg during the month of June, 2013, close to the results by using agricultural statistics data (Huang et al., 2012), but almost ten times higher than those in GFEDv4.1 data (0.42 Gg and 1.32 Gg for BC and OC, respectively) (Randerson et al., 2012).”

9. Ln 210-14. It is not clear whether the fluctuations described are about the measurements or model. Please explicitly describe the observations first, then how the model behaves in comparison. Please give some statistical measure of the model skill against these observations, as was done for the meteorological data.

Response: Accepted. We have rewritten this part. Please see lines 299–307. The scatter plots of observations and modeling results of BC and OC with the calculated normalized mean bias and correlation coefficient have also been added in Fig. 3.

Revision in Lines 299–307 on Pages 14–15: “At the Suixi site, BC and OC surface concentration observations fluctuated smoothly with values $< 10 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ and $20 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ in early June, respectively, and then began to increase on the night of 12 June, reaching peaks on the night of 13–15 June night with mean values of $55.3 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ and $157.9 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$, respectively (Fig. 3a and 3b). The peak value of observed OC was about three times that of observed BC, close to the BC-to-OC ratio of crop residue burning emissions used in model (0.27, in section 2.2), indicating that the dominant source of carbonaceous aerosols pollution was local biomass burning. WRF-Chem well-reproduced the carbonaceous aerosols concentrations fluctuating trends (Fig. 3a and 3b), with the correlation coefficient of 0.74 (Fig. 3c and 3d).”

Revision in Fig. 3c and 3d:

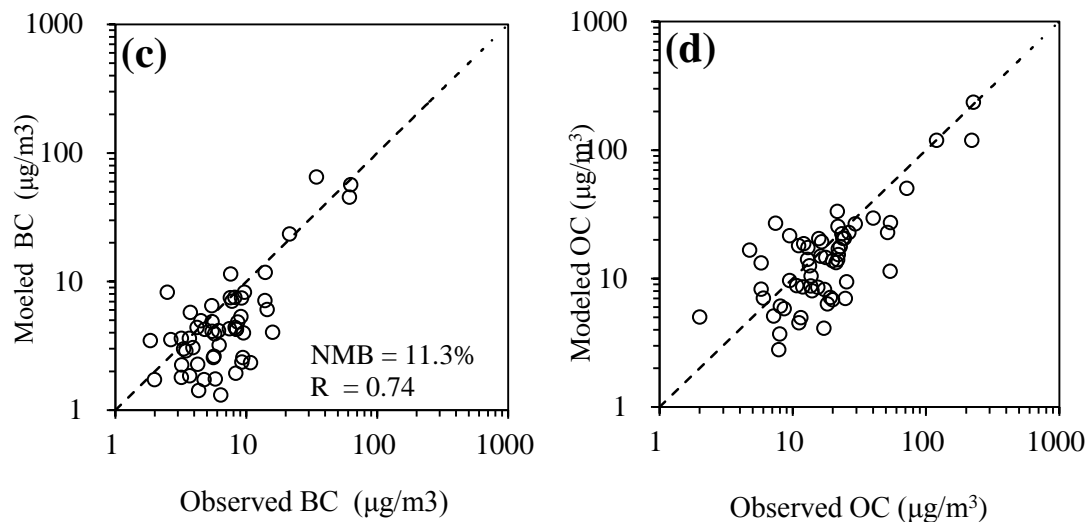


Figure 3. Scatterplots of simulated (c) BC and (d) OC mass concentrations ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$) and corresponding observed values. NMB and R represent normalized mean bias and correlation coefficient, respectively.

10. Ln 234-239. What diurnal profile do the fire emissions have in your model? Are you saying the emissions from the fires are greater at night than during the day? I would expect the high surface concentrations at night are almost entirely due to the collapse of the nighttime boundary layer.

Response: Accepted. The crop fire emissions diurnal profile was on basis of our previous peasant household survey results and on-the-spot inspection in East China, which showed that the field burning of crop residue mainly happened in the evening. At present, crop burning is forbidden in many areas of China, including in Anhui province. Wheat residues are burned when police supervision is lax, which is mainly during the nighttime (Li et al., 2014). In addition to the intensive emissions of crop fire, weaker boundary layer mixing during the nighttime might also be a contributing factor to the higher carbonaceous aerosols concentrations. Please see lines 218–219.

Revision in Lines 218–219 on Pages 11: “The diurnal allocation of the emissions was based on previous household surveys (Fig. S1, more detail could be found in the Supplement).”

Revision in Fig. S1 in the Supplement:

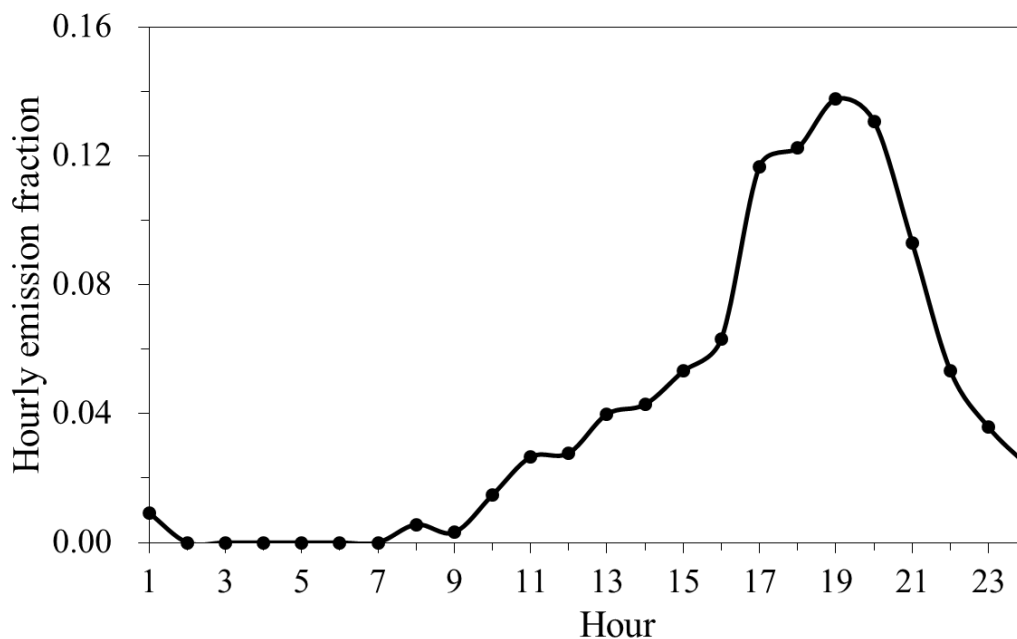


Figure S1. The diurnal profile of crop-burning emissions in East China. The diurnal profile was derived from the results of household surveys in the countryside of East China in the summer of 2013. Face-to-face surveys were made in five counties (Dongping, Lixin, Shangqiu, Xiantao and Dongping) in four Provinces (Shandong, Anhui, Hubei and Henan), where crop residue burning was intensive. Through interviews with about 1500 farmer families, information on farming method including in-field crop burning was collected. The frequencies of firing time and fire durations were calculated for the diurnal profile of crop-burning emissions. The crop fires were also recorded during the observations at Suixi.

11. Ln. 267-8. Much higher than what previous DRE estimate? Please give hard numbers and references of previous estimates for this.

Response: Accepted. We rewrote this passage. Please see lines 364–370.

Revision in Lines 364–370 on Pages 18: “Calculated as the ADRE difference between the BASE and nCB simulations, a mean positive DRE of $+0.14 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ was introduced by crop residue burning at TOA in East China during the summer harvest (Table 4). This is higher than previous cooling-to-neutral DRE estimations of open biomass burning (Archer-Nicholls et al., 2016; Abel et al., 2005; Chung et al., 2012; Myhre et al., 2013; Sakaeda et al., 2011), which might be mainly attributed to the incorporation of the OA absorptivity scheme of Saleh et al. (2014) in this study (Kodros et al., 2016; Kodros et al., 2015; Saleh et al., 2015).”

12. Section 3.2: are the radiative effects calculated over the whole month of June? Over the whole of the inner domain? Please be specific., these results really are just for a specific time and place and should not be interpreted as typical effects for the

region. When comparing with results from other studies, are the comparisons over the same region over similar timeframes?

Response: Accepted. The radiative effects are calculated over East China (inner domain) during the summer harvest, which was defined as the period of 1–21 June in section 3.1. Because about 97% of the fire counts occurred from 1–21 June, while the fire counts decreased to < 200 per day after 21 Jun. Please see lines 288–290.

As there are limited studies regarding the direct radiative effects by crop residue burning, comparisons are conducted between our result ($+0.14 \text{ W m}^{-2}$) over East China and other DRE of open biomass burning in other regions, which were all cooling-to-neutral (Sakaeda et al., 2011; Abel et al., 2005; Archer-Nicholls et al., 2016; Chung et al., 2012; Myhre et al., 2013). When comparing BC radiative effects, we chose the results in summer over East China (referred from the map) in Li et al. (2016) and Gao et al. (2014). Please see lines 364–368 and 380–395.

Revision in Lines 288–290 on Pages 14: “Approximately 97% of the fire counts occurred from 1–21 June, while the fire counts decreased to < 200 per day thereafter. Throughout the rest of this study, we focus on the summer harvest period from 1–21 June.”

Revision in Lines 364–368 on Pages 18: “Calculated as the ADRE difference between the BASE and nCB simulations, a mean positive DRE of $+0.14 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ was introduced by crop residue burning at TOA in East China during the summer harvest (Table 4). This is higher than previous cooling-to-neutral DRE estimations of open biomass burning (Archer-Nicholls et al., 2016; Abel et al., 2005; Chung et al., 2012; Myhre et al., 2013; Sakaeda et al., 2011).”

Revision in Lines 380–395 on Pages 18–19: “This is higher than the DRE estimation from biomass burning BC ($+0.1 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ to $+0.5 \text{ W m}^{-2}$) in East China for the summer of 2010 by Li et al. (2016), which used an offline model with a coarse resolution. The emission inventories they used might have also underestimated BC emissions from open biomass burning, especially during the harvest season or in the burning zone, due to the traditional estimation methods and spatial allocation rules (Lu et al., 2011). The external mixing state that they assumed would also result in a lower and less accurate DRE than the core-shell treatment (Jacobson, 2001). After dividing the DRE of BC from crop residue burning by the corresponding source contribution to the BC mass concentration (17.6 %), our all-source BC DRE estimate at TOA for the summer harvest of $+4.5 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ was lower than the national all-sky averaged anthropogenic BC DRE for the summer of 2006 ($+5 \text{ W m}^{-2}$) (Huang et al., 2015) and BC DRE in East China for the summer of 2008 ($+5 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ to $+15 \text{ W m}^{-2}$) (Gao et al., 2014). It was worth noting that these previous studies adopted the volume mixing treatment, which would overestimate the BC DRE. Further, the neglect of crop residue burning emissions in Gao et al. (2014) might cause an underestimation.”

13. Ln 408-411. *The authors discuss here that the aerosol will be bringing further effects on PBL, TKE, clouds and precipitation, but no attempt to present these changes is made. These changes will have an effect on the radiative balance (semi-direct effect) and should be documented.*

Response: Yes, the aerosol from crop residue burning would brought semi-direct effect due to its influence on the PBL, TKE and precipitation. A recent study (Huang et al., 2016) has investigated the impact of aerosol-radiation interactions due to crop-residue burning on the summer precipitation in China. Their results can help to understand the semi-direct effect of the crop-residue burning aerosols. As the evaluation of semi-direct aerosol effect remains large uncertainties, we will perform further researches on it in the future. In this study, we focused on the carbonaceous aerosols DRE from crop residue burning using a rigorous diagnosing method.

Technical comments

1. Ln 9. *Remove opening “The”*

Response: Accepted. Please see the line 15.

2. 76-77. *No reference given for WRF-Chem (usually Grell et al., 2005).*

Response: Accepted. Please see the line 121.

3. Ln 70. *Insert space in “Zhang et al., 2008). The previous: : :”*

Response: Accepted. Please see the line 63.

4. Ln 142. *I think the emissions factors for BC and OC are the wrong way round (unless BC emissions are four times that of OC!)*

Response: Accepted. Please see lines 220–221.

Revision in Lines 220–221 on Page 11: “The BC and OC emission factors from crop fires in this study (0.54 g/kg and 1.98 g/kg, respectively) were set specifically for winter wheat residue burning in East China.”

5. Ln 168. *The authors say seven parallel simulations were conducted, but only list 5 in Table 2.*

Response: Accepted. Please see line 253.

5. Ln 208. *Remove the word ‘tightly’, it is redundant in this sentence.*

Response: Accepted. Please see line 292.

Figures and tables: Table 2. and 4. These are missing the scenario with volume mixing instead of core-shell. Please include as well.

Response: We moved the discussion of scenarios with volume mixing to section 3.3, following the other reviewer's suggestion. Because the volume mixing rule is not physical and cannot represent even limiting cases for atmospheric aerosols like core-shell and external mixing morphology. Considering the volume mixing state was still applied in several studies, we decided to use it to quantify the DRE uncertainty of BC mixing state by comparing the results between (BASE-nCB) and (VM_BASE-VM_nCB) (Table S1 and S2). Please see lines 457–461.

Revision in Lines 457–461 on Page 22: “The sensitivity of BC mixing state to crop residue burning DRE was also tested by changing the standard core-shell mixing rule to a volume mixing rule. In the volume mixing treatment, crop residue burning was simulated to produce a mean DRE of $+0.23 \text{ Wm}^{-2}$ during the summer harvest (Table S2), 64% higher than the crop burning DRE in default runs ($+0.14 \text{ Wm}^{-2}$).”

Figure 4. Is 6:00 local time or UTC? Why is this time typical? Please mark on the maps the location of the Suixi site for reference, and make the wind arrows larger and less dense so they are easier to see. Please confirm whether the arrows are surface wind fields.

Response: Accepted. We chose the local time 6:00 as the typical time because the carbonaceous aerosols mass concentration distribution at 6:00 could represent the most serious pollution condition of a day. The mass concentration of carbonaceous aerosols usually increased at night and reached peak values at dawn (5:00–6:00 in local time, GMT+8.0) in crop fire-affected area because of the relatively looser management of crop burning and weaker boundary layer mixing at nighttime. Please see lines 330–335.

We also redrew the Fig. 4, adjusting the wind arrows and site markers and confirming that the arrows represented surface wind fields.

Revision in Lines 330–335 on Page 16: “Carbonaceous aerosol surface concentrations increased rapidly in the evening at around 19:00–20:00 (GMT+8.0) and reached peak values at dawn (5:00–6:00, GMT+8.0), due to the relatively looser management of crop burning and weaker boundary layer mixing at nighttime. After sunrise, the concentrations gradually decreased as the fires slowly extinguished and the surface inversion coupled to layers aloft enhanced vertical mixing (Cao et al., 2009).”

Revision in Fig. 4:

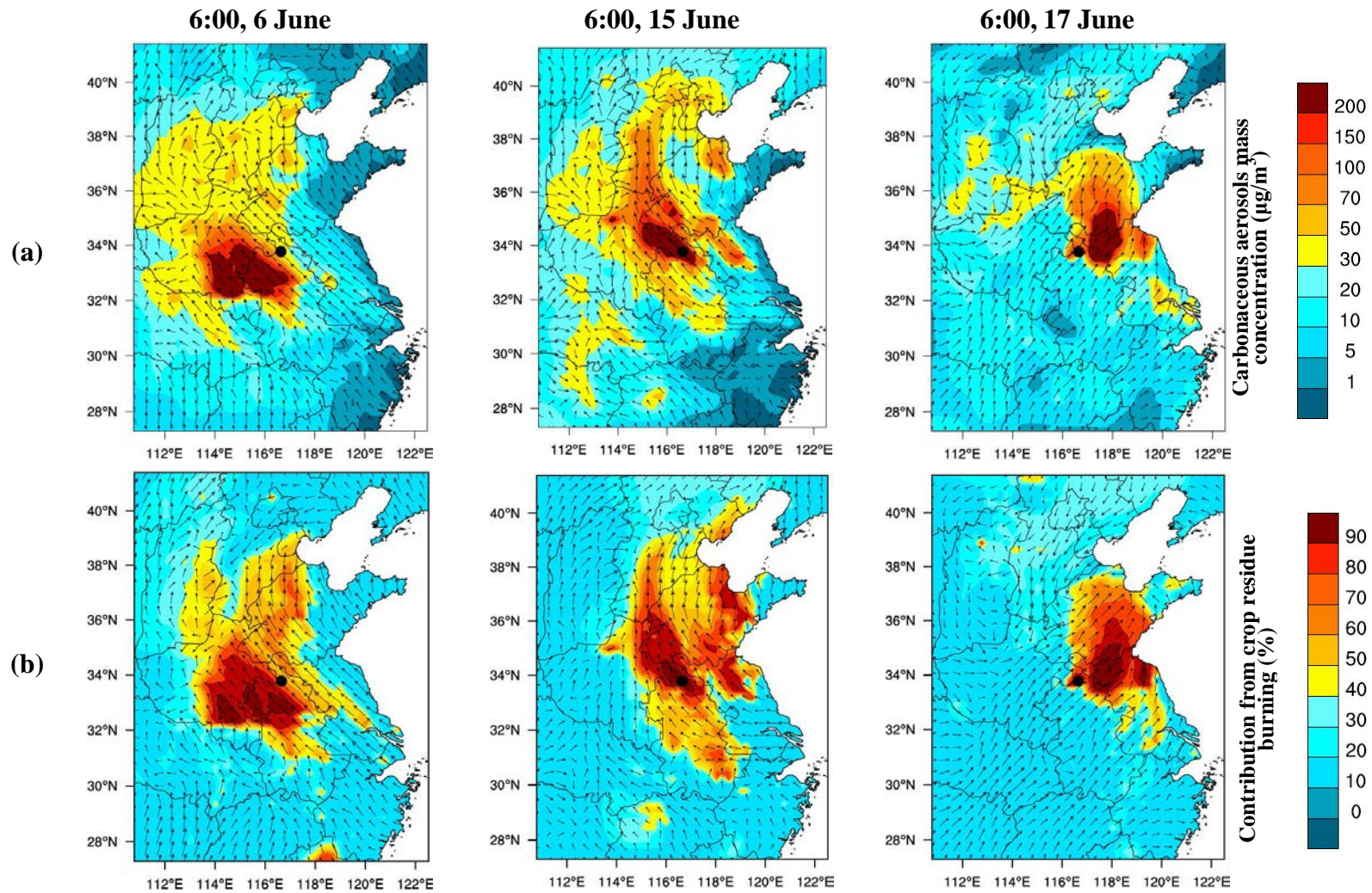


Figure 1. Spatial distributions of (a) carbonaceous aerosols mass concentration ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) at lowest model level (~ 20 m) and (b) its contribution from crop residue burning (%) in the three typical hours (6:00, GMT+8.0) during the summer harvest (1–21 June) in June 2013. The location of the sampling site (Suixi) is indicated by the black dot. The arrows represent the surface (~ 20 m) wind fields.

Figure 6. These are just BASE-NOBCCB and BASE-NOBRC runs? Please also show panels for the other scenarios. Over what timeframe are these calculated? I assume the blue areas in panel a. are due to changes in cloud fields. I would assume if plotting the actual direct effect from BC, or just the clear-sky fluxes, that figure would only have red shading.

Response: Accepted. Spatial distribution of simulated direct radiative effect (DRE) introduced by crop residue burning and crop burning-sourced OA had been added in Fig. 6 in addition to that of BC and BrC. Please see Fig. 6a and 6c. The corresponding discussion could be seen in lines 370–376 and 433–440.

The timeframes were the summer harvest, which was specified as 1–21 June in 2013. Because about 97% of the fire counts occurred from 1–21 June, while the fire counts decreased to < 200 per day after 21 Jun (lines 271–273).

There are no negative values for BC DRE and DRE due to BrC absorption in our revised paper as the new DRE diagnosing method was adopted. Please see Fig. 6b and 6d.

Revision in Lines 370–376 on Page 18: “The spatial distribution of crop residue burning DRE (Fig. 6a) shows similar patterns to that of the mean carbonaceous aerosols concentration, providing further evidences that the carbonaceous aerosols emitted from crop residue burning were the dominant contributors to the DRE. Positive DRE values mainly appeared in the North China Plain and higher ones (more than 0.5 W m^{-2}) were in eastern Henan, southwestern Shandong, northern Jiangsu and northern Anhui Province.”

Revision in Lines 433–440 on Page 21: “Figure 6c and 6d show a negative DRE of OA ($< -0.2 \text{ W m}^{-2}$) and positive DRE of OA absorption ($>0.2 \text{ W m}^{-2}$) over the North China Plain, respectively. Like the spatiotemporally averaged estimates of OA DRE and its absorbing part (-0.22 W m^{-2} and $+0.21 \text{ W m}^{-2}$, respectively), the OA DREs in most grid cells have equal magnitude to the corresponding DRE of its absorption but show opposite sign. This implies that the negative DRE of OA scattering is roughly double the positive DRE of OA absorption in magnitude. The consideration of OA absorption therefore reduced the negative OA DRE estimates from crop burning by half.”

Revision in Fig. 6:

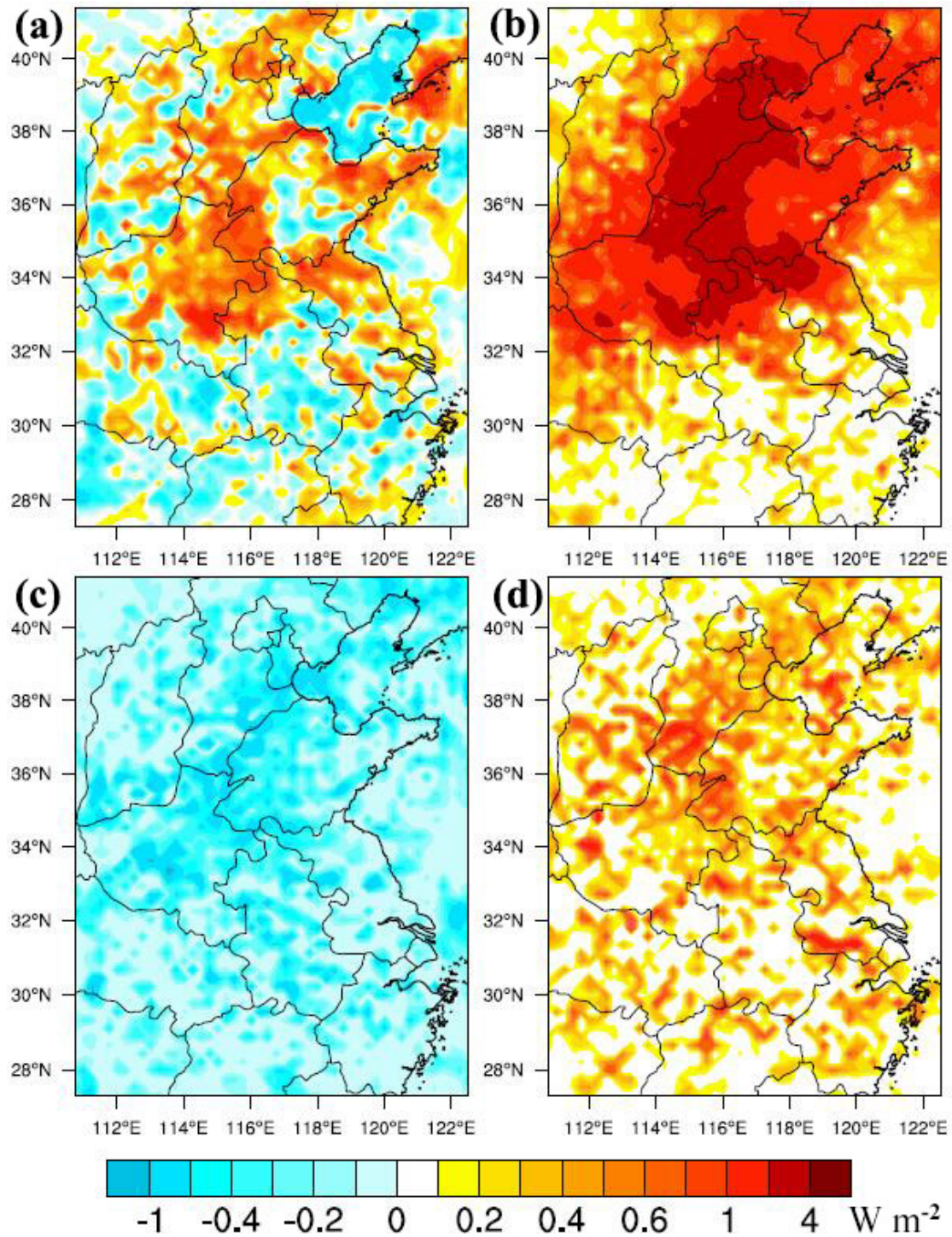


Figure 2. Spatial distribution of simulated direct radiative effect (DRE) introduced by (a) all aerosol from crop residue burning and (b) BC from crop-burning, (c) OA from crop burning, and (d) the absorbing component of OA from crop-burning emissions, calculated from WRF-Chem simulations during the summer harvest (1–21 June).

References:

- Archer-Nicholls, S., Lowe, D., Schultz, D. M., and McFiggans, G.: Aerosol – radiation – cloud interactions in a regional coupled model: the effects of convective parameterisation and resolution, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 16, 5573-5594, doi:10.5194/acp-16-5573-2016, 2016.
- Fast, J. D., Gustafson, W. I., Easter, R. C., Zaveri, R. A., Barnard, J. C., Chapman, E. G., Grell, G. A., and Peckham, S. E.: Evolution of ozone, particulates, and aerosol direct radiative forcing in the vicinity of Houston using a fully coupled meteorology-chemistry-aerosol model, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 111, doi:10.1029/2005JD006721, 2006.
- Ghan, S. J., Liu, X., Easter, R. C., Zaveri, R., Rasch, P. J., Yoon, J. H., and Eaton, B.: Toward a Minimal Representation of Aerosols in Climate Models: Comparative Decomposition of Aerosol Direct, Semidirect, and Indirect Radiative Forcing, *J. Climate*, 25, 6461-6476, doi:10.1175/JCLI-D-11-00650.1, 2012.
- Grell, G. A., Peckham, S. E., Schmitz, R., McKeen, S. A., Frost, G., Skamarock, W. C., and Eder, B.: Fully coupled "online" chemistry within the WRF model, *Atmos. Environ.*, 39, 6957-6975, doi:10.1016/j.atmosenv.2005.04.027, 2005.
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- Zhang, Y.: Online-coupled meteorology and chemistry models: history, current status, and outlook, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 8, 2895-2932, 2008.
- Zhao, C., Ruby Leung, L., Easter, R., Hand, J., and Avise, J.: Characterization of speciated aerosol direct radiative forcing over California, *Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres*, 118, 2372-2388, doi:10.1029/2012JD018364, 2013.

Response to Referee #2

"Direct radiative effect of carbonaceous aerosols from crop residue burning during the summer harvest season in East China (acp-2016-759)"

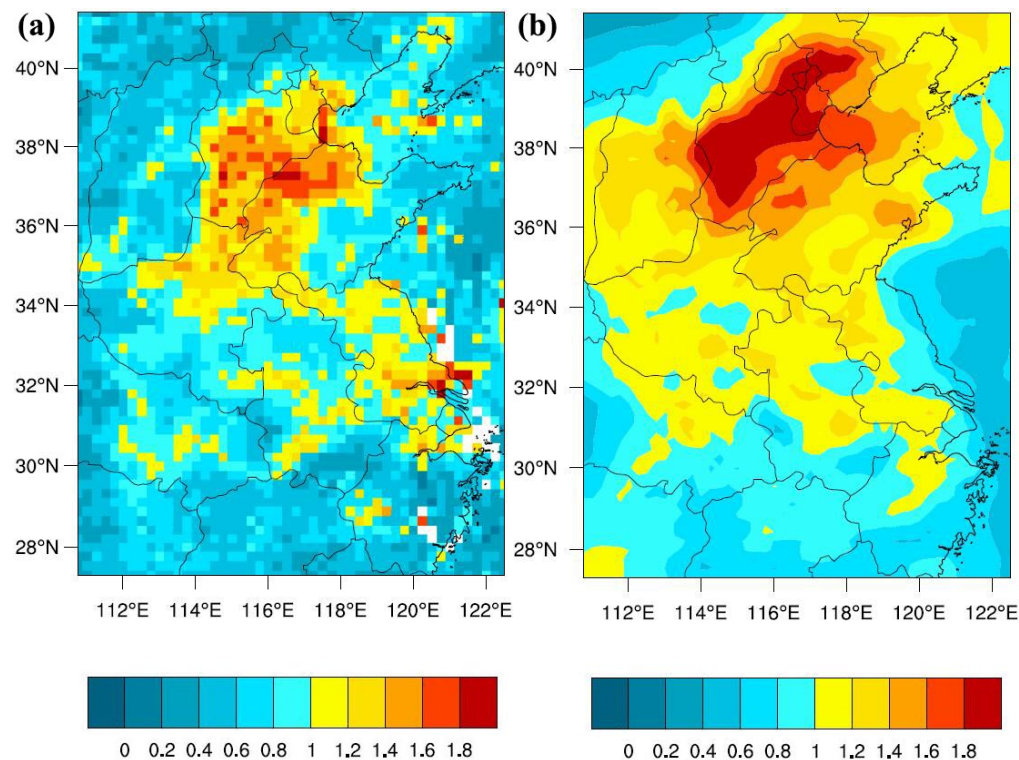
This is a well-written manuscript focusing on the timely subject of DRE of carbonaceous aerosols emitted by crop-residue burning in East China. I believe that the manuscript is suitable for publication in ACP. Below are a few comments:

1. Line 245: AOD calculations. Instead of doing linear interpolation to obtain AOD at 550, it is more appropriate to use a power-law fit – i.e. calculate the Angstrom Exponent from the other wavelengths.

Response: Accepted. We recalculate the AOD and AAOD at 550nm using the power-law fit. Please see lines 341–343, Fig. 5b, 5c and S4.

Revision in Lines 341–343 on Page 16: “We calculated the AOD at 550 nm from that at 400 nm and 600 nm using the ångström exponent, as aerosol optical properties were computed only at four wavelengths in the model (Nordmann et al., 2014).”

Revision in Fig. 5b, 5c and S4:



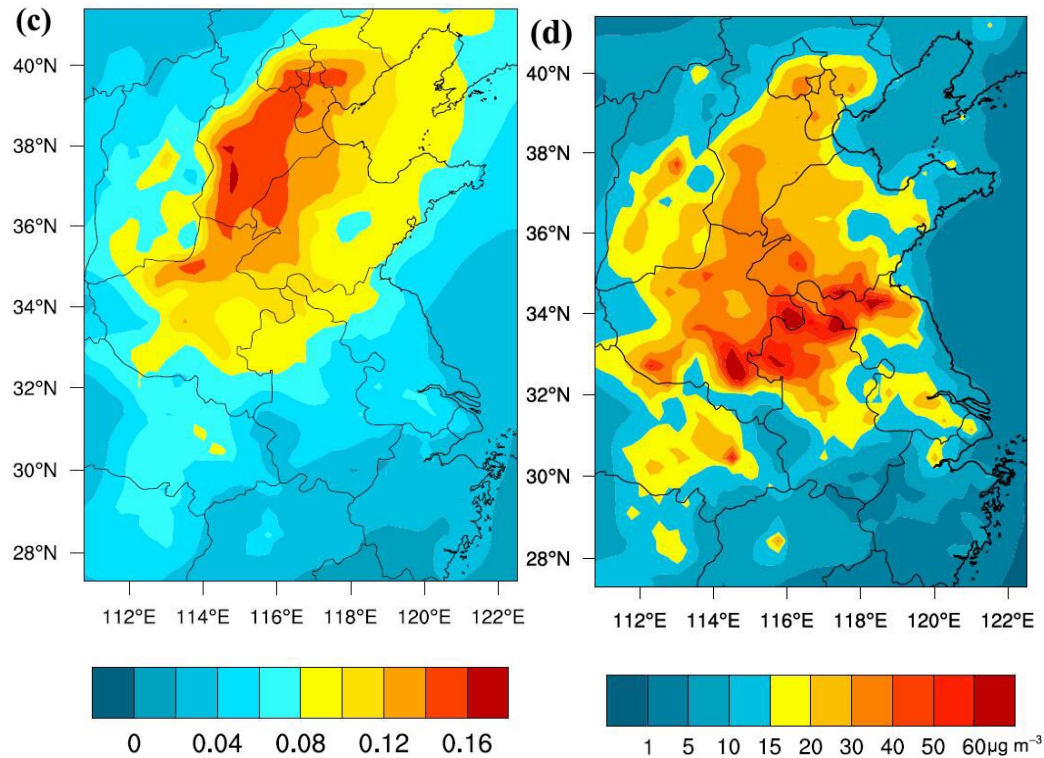


Fig. 1. Spatial distribution of mean (a) 550-nm aerosol optical depth observations from MODIS, (b) 550-nm aerosol optical depth from WRF-Chem, (c) mean absorption aerosol optical depth from WRF-Chem and (d) mean carbonaceous aerosol concentration ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$) at lowest model level (~ 20 m) during the summer harvest (1–21 June). BASE run is shown.

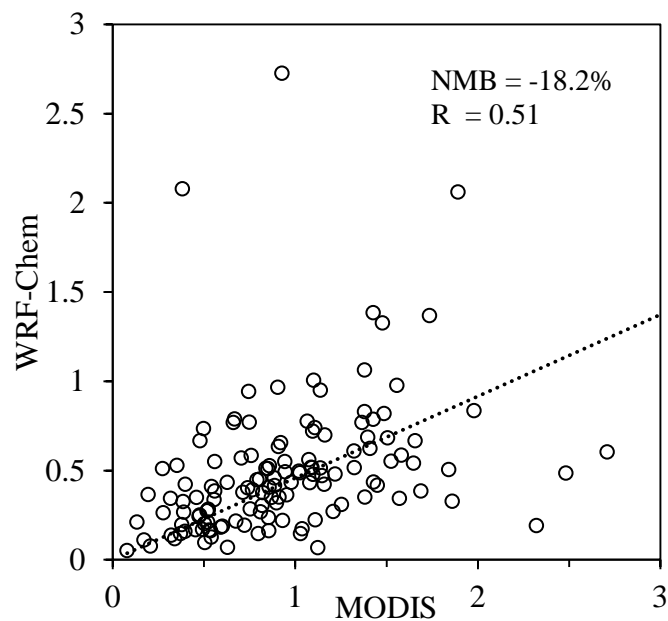


Fig. S4. Scatterplots of simulated hourly AOD and corresponding MODIS AOD at 23 sites in June 2013. Normalized mean bias (NMB) and the correlation coefficient (R)

are given in the scatterplot.

2. Line 314: the cited studies present global maps of DRE due to BrC absorption. It would be informative to compare results not with the global means, but with the DRE in East China from those studies (as could be inferred from the maps). I expect this to actually yield a good comparison.

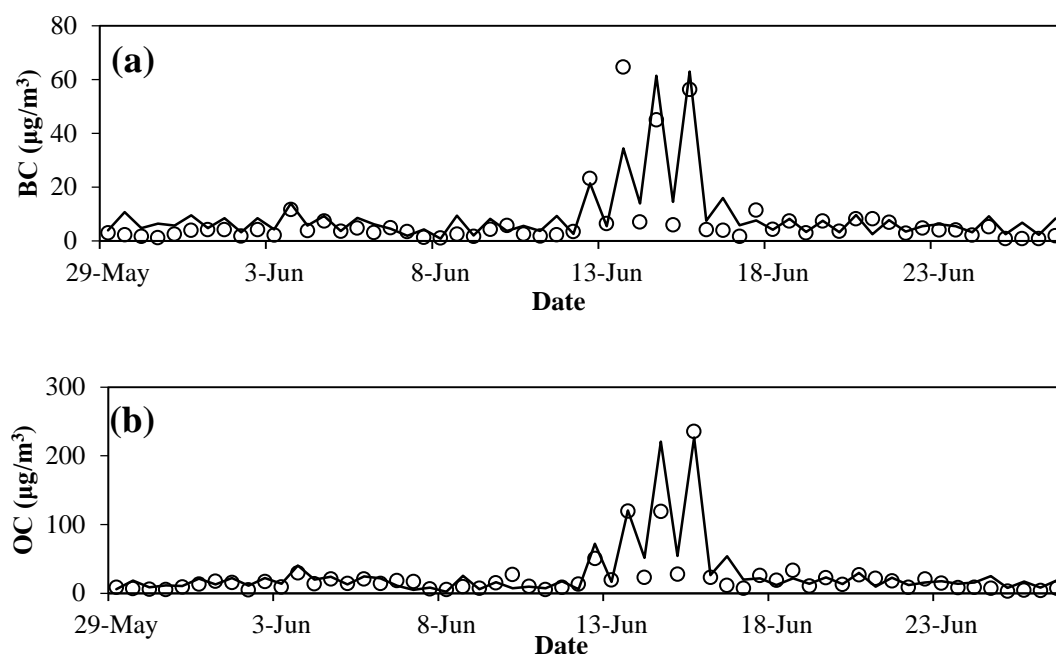
Response: Accepted. We have compared our results with those studies in East China (Park et al., 2010; Feng et al., 2013) and reword that in the revised paper. Please see lines 422–428.

Revision in Lines 422–428 on Page 20: “The DRE of OA absorption during summer harvest in East China in our study was within the global annual mean DRE ranges of OA absorption, of $+0.04$ to $+0.57 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ (Feng et al., 2013; Saleh et al., 2015; Wang et al., 2014), and higher than the estimates in East Asia for the spring of 2011, of $+0.1$ to $+0.2 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ (Park et al., 2010). Feng et al. (2013) estimated an upper limit of annual mean DRE of OA absorption to be $+0.25$ to $+0.5 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ in East China.”

3. Figure 3: It would be useful to also show scatter plots of modeled vs observed with a 1:1 line.

Response: Accepted. The scatter plots of observations and modeling results of BC and OC with the calculated normalized mean bias and correlation coefficient have been added in Fig. 3.

Revision in Fig. 3:



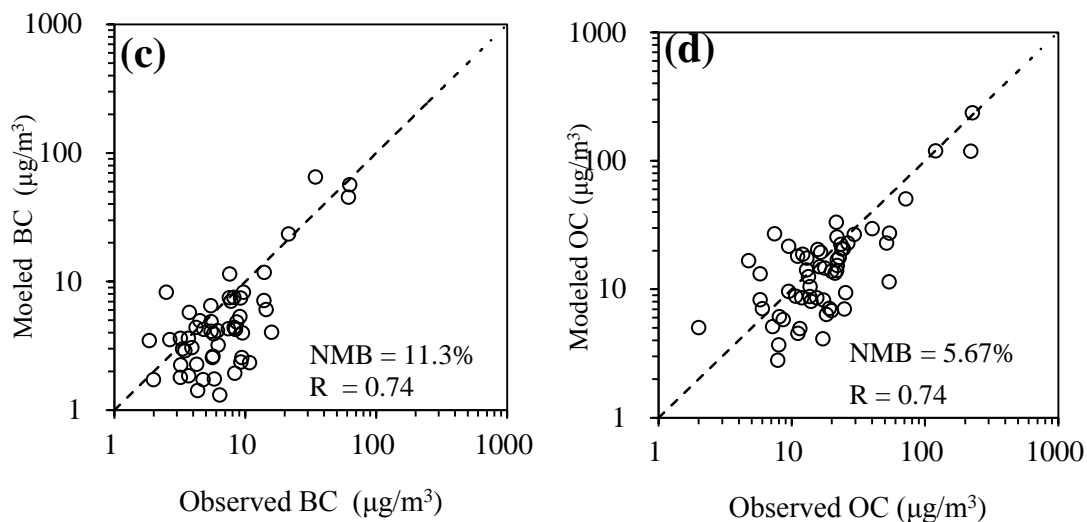


Fig. 2. Time series of the observed (dots) and simulated (line) (a) black carbon (BC) and (b) organic carbon (OC) mass concentrations ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$) at the Suixi site. Scatterplots of simulated (c) BC and (d) OC mass concentrations ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$) and corresponding observed values. NMB and R represent normalized mean bias and correlation coefficient, respectively.

4. Figure 6: Why are there negative values for BC DRE and DRE due to BrC absorption? Those should be strictly positive.

Response: Accepted. There are no negative values for BC DRE and DRE due to BrC absorption in our revised paper, because we have adopted an rigorous calculating method of DRE by adding double-radiation calls to radiation drivers, following the radiation diagnostic module of Ghan et al. (2012) and Archer-Nicholls et al. (2016) et al. (2016). Please see lines 402–410 and 433–440.

Revision in Fig. 6:

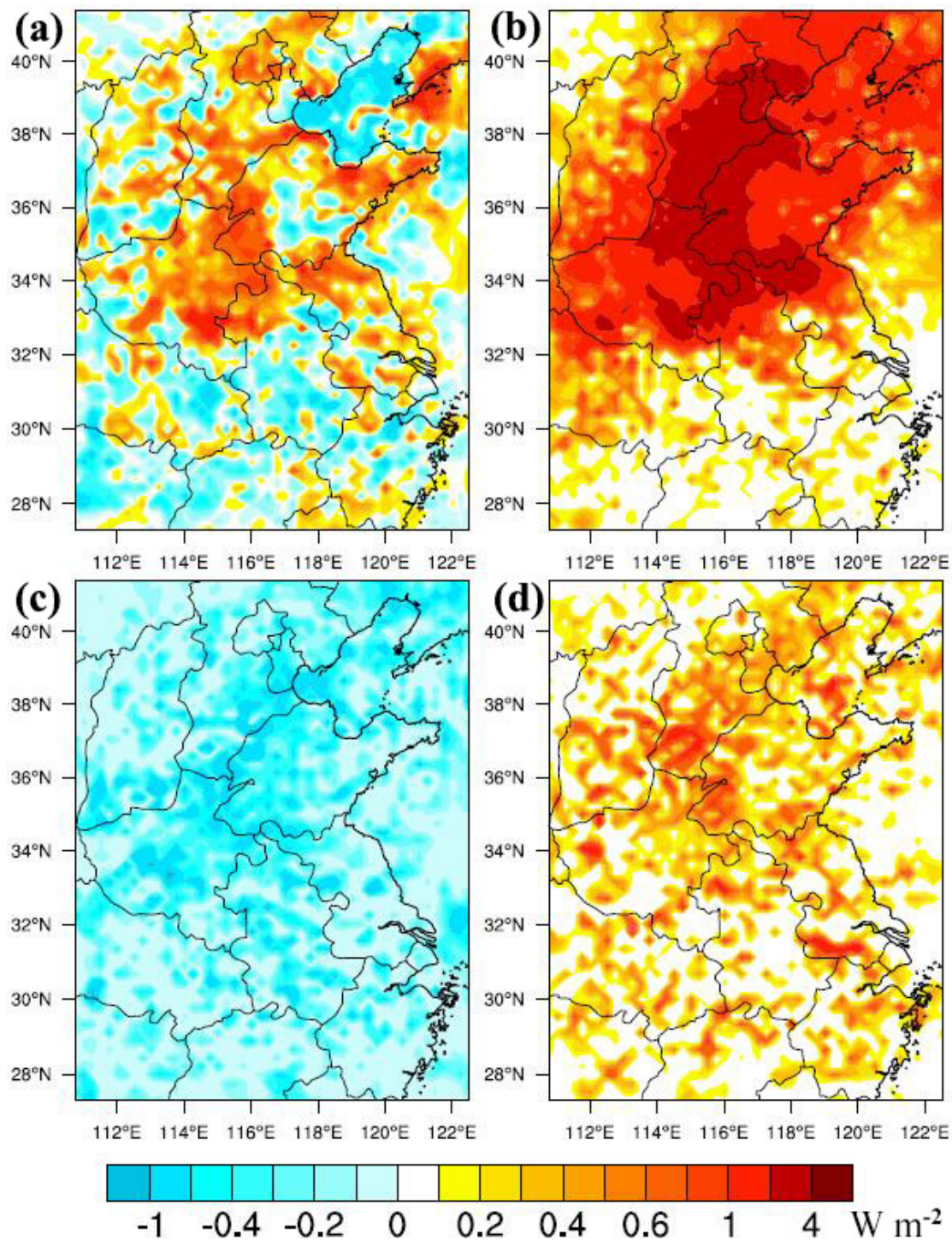


Figure 3. Spatial distribution of simulated direct radiative effect (DRE) introduced by (a) all aerosol from crop residue burning and (b) BC from crop-burning, (c) OA from crop burning, and (d) the absorbing component of OA from crop-burning emissions, calculated from WRF-Chem simulations during the summer harvest (1–21 June).

Revision in Lines 402–410 on Page 19: “Figure 6b illustrates that the high values of BC DRE (above $+2.0 W m^{-2}$) during the summer harvest mainly appeared in the western Shandong, Tianjin Municipality, eastern Henan province, northern Anhui and northern Jiangsu Provinces, similar to the spatial features of $>20 \mu g m^{-3}$ carbonaceous

aerosol mass concentration (Fig. 5d). The hotspot was in the north of the intensive crop fire-affected area (Fig. 2b), as the dominant southeastern wind in June transported carbonaceous aerosol to the north (section 3.1). With the carbonaceous aerosols mass concentration exceeding $30 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$, the junction of Anhui, Shandong, Henan and Hebei Provinces witnessed the highest BC DRE in our domain of over $+3.0 \text{ W m}^{-2}$.”

Revision in Lines 433–440 on Page 21: “Figure 6c and 6d show a negative DRE of OA ($< -0.2 \text{ W m}^{-2}$) and positive DRE of OA absorption ($>0.2 \text{ W m}^{-2}$) over the North China Plain, respectively. Like the spatiotemporally averaged estimates of OA DRE and its absorbing part (-0.22 W m^{-2} and $+0.21 \text{ W m}^{-2}$, respectively), the OA DREs in most grid cells have equal magnitude to the corresponding DRE of its absorption but show opposite sign. This implies that the negative DRE of OA scattering is roughly double the positive DRE of OA absorption in magnitude. The consideration of OA absorption therefore reduced the negative OA DRE estimates from crop burning by half.”

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1 Direct radiative effect of carbonaceous aerosols from crop residue 2 burning during the summer harvest season in East China

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14 Abstract

15 East China experiences extensive crop residue burnings in fields during harvest
16 season. The direct radiative effect (DRE) of carbonaceous aerosols from crop residue
17 burning in June 2013 in East China was investigated using the Weather Research and
18 Forecasting Model coupled with Chemistry (WRF-Chem). Absorption of organic aerosol
19 (OA) in the presence of brown carbon was considered using the parameterization of
20 Saleh et al. (2014), in which the imaginary part of the OA refractive index is a function

21 of wavelength and the ratio of black carbon (BC) and OA. The carbonaceous emissions
22 from crop fires were estimated using the Moderate Resolution Imaging
23 Spectroradiometer (MODIS) fire radiative power product with a localized crop
24 burning-sourced BC-to-organic carbon (OC) ratio emission ratio of 0.27. Evaluation of
25 the model results with *in situ* measurements of particulate matter with aerodynamic
26 diameter less than 2.5 μm ($\text{PM}_{2.5}$) chemical composition, MODIS aerosol optical depth
27 detections and meteorological observations showed that this model was able to reproduce
28 the magnitude, spatial variation and optical characteristics of carbonaceous aerosol
29 pollution. The observed BC and OC peak concentrations at the site in Suixi, Anhui
30 province, during the 2013 wheat burning season reached $55.3 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ and $157.9 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$.
31 WRF-Chem simulations reproduced these trends with a correlation coefficient of 0.74,
32 estimating that crop residue burning contributed 86% and 90% of peak BC and OC,
33 respectively. The simulated hourly DRE from crop residue burning at the top of
34 atmosphere (TOA) reached a maximum of $+22.66 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ at the Suixi site. On average,
35 the simulations showed that the crop residue burning introduced a net positive DRE of
36 $+0.14 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ at TOA throughout East China, with BC from this source as the main
37 heating contributor ($+0.79 \text{ W m}^{-2}$). The OA DRE from crop burning (-0.22 W m^{-2}) was
38 a combined effect of the positive DRE of absorption ($+0.21 \text{ W m}^{-2}$) and a stronger
39 negative DRE of scattering (-0.43 W m^{-2}). Sensitivity tests showed that the DRE of OA
40 absorption strongly depended on the imaginary part of the OA refractive index, the
41 BC-to-OA emission ratio from crop residue burning, and the assumed mixing state of the
42 aerosol, whereby the volume mixing treatment resulted in a higher positive DRE

43 compared to the core-shell treatment. The BC mixing state and associated absorption
44 enhancement during BC aging processes will be investigated in detail in future research.

45 **Keywords:** Carbonaceous aerosols; direct radiative effect; crop residue burning; East
46 China

47 **1. Introduction**

48 Carbonaceous aerosols emitted from biomass burning contributes 42% and 74% of
49 global black carbon (BC) and organic carbon (OC) emissions, respectively (Bond, 2004),
50 playing an important role in the radiation budget system (Chung et al., 2012; Hobbs et al.,
51 1997; Jacobson, 2014). The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth
52 Assessment Report estimated that BC from biomass burning introduced a global mean
53 direct radiative forcing (DRF) of approximately +0.2 (+0.03 to +0.4) W m⁻², while that
54 of organic aerosol (OA) from biomass burning was about the same magnitude with the
55 opposite sign (Bond et al., 2013; Stocker, 2014). DRF is a measure of the change in
56 direct radiative effect (DRE) relative to preindustrial conditions, defined as prior to the
57 year 1750 AD by the IPCC. Precise computing of short term DRE caused by
58 carbonaceous aerosols is essential to accurate estimation of aerosol DRF, and avoids the
59 large uncertainties in estimations of preindustrial carbonaceous aerosol emissions (Bond
60 et al., 2013). DRE could also be a more exhaustive gauge for comparisons between
61 models and observations (Heald et al., 2014).

62 As a large agricultural country, China emits approximately 30–97 Gg BC and 100–
63 463 Gg OC annually from crop residue burning in fields (Lu et al., 2011; Zhang et al.,

2008; Huang et al., 2012; Zhou et al., 2016). During summer harvest season, the contribution of crop residue burning to the total BC and OC emissions can be as high as 16% and 18% in the winter wheat production regions of East China (Anhui, Jiangsu, Henan and Shandong provinces), respectively. Nonagricultural biomass burnings have a negligible contribution on BC and OC emissions during these periods (Song et al., 2009; Song et al., 2010). Emission estimates for crop-residue burning emissions can be derived from public provincial statistical data (Zhou et al., 2016), satellite burned area products (Song et al., 2010) and fire radiative power (FRP) from active fire products (Liu et al., 2015). The commonly used burned area products (e.g., MODIS MCD45A1) generally miss large quantities of field crop residue burnings due to their small size, and the emission estimation method depends on multiple parameters. FRP data shows relatively effective detection of small fires, and the corresponding emission estimation methods use fewer parameters, which further reduces the potential uncertainties in the estimates (Liu et al., 2015). To our knowledge, only one study has focused on the DRE of carbonaceous aerosol from crop-burning sources over China (Li et al., 2016), which only calculated BC DRE using the offline GEOS-Chem model, and used underestimated and coarse open biomass burning emissions (Lu et al., 2011). It is therefore important to better understand the impact of this significant source of carbonaceous aerosol on regional climate in China.

The co-emission of BC with other aerosol components such as OA, nitrates and sulfates results in multiple mixing states, complex morphology and different optical and radiative effects. For biomass burning, rather than homogeneous or external mixing, the

86 morphology of BC cores coated by these co-emitted aerosol species is regarded as more
87 realistic and supported by recent observations and modeling results (Liu et al., 2017;
88 Bauer et al., 2013; Schwarz et al., 2008). This core-shell treatment was believed to
89 amplify BC's absorption through focusing more photons as a lens by a factor of 1.5-2.0
90 (assuming the shell non-absorbing) than the external mixing state (Bond et al., 2006;
91 Schnaiter et al., 2005; Wang et al., 2014) and thus affecting the BC DRE (Jacobson,
92 2001).

93 Aside from the well-established radiative absorption of BC, which is primarily
94 emitted from imperfect combustion sources (Chang et al., 1982), other co-emitted
95 organic carbonaceous aerosol have been found to have an absorptive component closely
96 linked to biomass burning (Kirchstetter et al., 2004; Lack et al., 2012). These are
97 commonly called brown carbon aerosol (Andreae, 1995), and contribute a global positive
98 mean radiative forcing of $+0.1 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ to $+0.25 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ by absorption (Feng et al., 2013).
99 OA radiation absorption is characterized by a strong dependence on wavelength,
100 increasing sharply from shortwave-visible to ultraviolet ranges (Andreae and Gelencsér,
101 2006; Bond, 2001). The light absorption of OA from different sources is also highly
102 variable. For biomass burning, the temperature of the combustion process, moisture
103 content, and fuel type can be factors, complicating the treatment of OA absorption in
104 models (Laskin et al., 2015). Therefore, studies which use constant optical parameters of
105 OA absorption for climate forcing calculations have significant associated uncertainties
106 (Feng et al., 2013; Wang et al., 2014). Recently, Saleh et al. (2014) proposed that the
107 absorptivity of OA from biomass burning, both fresh and aged, could be parameterized as

108 a function of the BC-to-OA ratio. This parameterization has been used to simulate the
109 DRE of OA absorption from biomass or biofuel burning emissions globally in several
110 studies (Kodros et al., 2015; Saleh et al., 2015; Kodros et al., 2016). More recent research
111 has suggested that the increased absorption of biomass burning aerosol particles,
112 interpreted by Saleh et al. (2014) as being due to OA absorptivity, could be interpreted as
113 enhanced BC absorption from the mixing state of the aerosol (Liu et al., 2017). However,
114 we will be using the theoretical framework that Saleh et al (2014) provide for this paper.

115 The offline models used in the previous studies investigating warming due to OA
116 absorption (e.g., GEOS-Chem) probably have induced errors from the inconsistencies in
117 space, time and physical parameterizations between the separated atmospheric
118 meteorological and chemical transport components. These errors could be circumvented
119 in online models by integrating the chemical modeling into the meteorology simulation.
120 Online models, such as the Weather Research and Forecasting Model coupled with
121 Chemistry (WRF-Chem) (Fast et al., 2006; Grell et al., 2005), could provide further
122 insight to aerosol-cloud-radiation feedbacks, which are crucial for understanding climate
123 change (Zhang, 2008), but ignored in offline models. WRF-Chem contains the physics to
124 simulate the aerosol DRE, but need extra radiation diagnostics to distinguish the DRE
125 from other aerosol-radiation-cloud interactions. Both Huang et al. (2015) and Zhao et al.
126 (2013) calculated the aerosol DRE in WRF-Chem by performing calculations of aerosol
127 optical properties and radiative transfer multiple times with and without one aerosol
128 component and its associated water. Following Ghan et al. (2012), Archer-Nicholls et al.
129 (2016) calculated the DRE due to biomass burning aerosols in WRF-Chem by using

130 double calls to the radiation driver to derive extra diagnostic variables with the refractive
131 index of all aerosol species set to zero.

132 In this study, the DRE of carbonaceous aerosol from crop residue burning in East
133 China was quantified using the online Weather Research and Forecasting Model coupled
134 with Chemistry (WRF-Chem), using high-resolution carbonaceous aerosols emissions
135 from crop fires calculated using a fire-radiative product (FRP) method (Liu et al., 2015).
136 Sensitivity to OA absorptivity, and its variation with wavelength and BC-to-OA ratio,
137 were tested using the Saleh et al. (2014) parameterization. Simulations were conducted
138 for the harvest season in June 2013.

139 **2. Methods and Data**

140 2.1. Model Configuration

141 The online coupled meteorology-chemistry model, WRF-Chem version 3.6.1, was
142 used for this study (Grell et al., 2005). Double-nested domains centered at 36.5° N,
143 115.52° E, were set with the coarse domain divided into 51 × 59 grid cells of 75-km
144 horizontal resolution and the fine domain divided into 48 × 63 grid cells of 25-km
145 resolution (Fig. 1). The 25 vertical layers from the ground level to the top pressure level
146 of 50 hPa were used for both domains. The global atmospheric reanalysis data
147 ERA-Interim produced by the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts
148 (ECMWF) was used as the initial meteorological fields and boundary conditions with
149 3-hourly surface parameters and 6-hourly upper-air parameters (Dee et al., 2011). The
150 meteorology fields were initialized at the start of each model run, which covered 36 h

151 with the first 12 h as a spinup. The total simulation time covered the entire month of June,
152 starting from 26 May to minimize the impact from initial conditions, to cover the local
153 harvest season of the main crop (wheat). The physical parameterizations and domain
154 settings used are summarized in Table 1.

155 For gas-phase chemistry, we chose the Model for Ozone and Related chemical
156 Tracers version 4 (MOZART-4) mechanism (Emmons et al., 2010), extended with clearer
157 aromatic compounds and monoterpenes treatments (Knote et al., 2014). The aerosol
158 processes, such as coagulation and thermodynamic equilibrium, were treated using the
159 Model for Simulating Aerosol Interactions and Chemistry (MOSAIC) scheme (Zaveri et
160 al., 2008), in which four discrete size bins were distinguished by dry physical particle
161 diameters (0.039–0.156, 0.156–0.625, 0.625–2.5, and 2.5–10.0 μm). Following Knote et
162 al. (2015), we used the volatility basis set (VBS) scheme to better represent SOA
163 formation through the oxidation of multiple biogenic and anthropogenic volatile organic
164 compounds and subsequent gas-aerosol partitioning of semi-/intermediate volatility
165 organic compounds (SVOC/IVOC). Direct emissions of SVOC/IVOC were not
166 considered in this scheme.

167 To distinguish the aerosol effect on radiation budget directly by absorbing and
168 scattering from other aerosol-radiation-cloud interactions, we added diagnostic calls to
169 the radiation driver, following Archer-Nicholls et al. (2016) and Ghan et al. (2012).
170 “Clean-sky” diagnostic variables (e.g. SW_{cln}), defined as what the net radiative fluxes at
171 the top and bottom of the atmosphere would be if there were no aerosol in the column,
172 were calculated by calling the radiation driver with the complex refractive index of all

173 aerosol species set to zero. Thus, the clean-sky variables include the radiation scattering
174 and absorbing effects of clouds, but ignore all aerosol radiation scattering and absorption.
175 The DRE of all the aerosol species (ADRE) at the top of atmosphere (TOA) can be
176 diagnosed by the difference of all-sky (including all the aerosol-radiation-cloud
177 interactions) and clean-sky short wave irradiances at TOA:

$$178 \quad \text{ADRE} = (SW_{\text{TOA}}^{\downarrow} - SW_{\text{TOA}}^{\uparrow}) - (SW_{\text{TOA,cln}}^{\downarrow} - SW_{\text{TOA,cln}}^{\uparrow}) \quad (1)$$

179 Where $SW_{\text{TOA}}^{\downarrow}$ and $SW_{\text{TOA}}^{\uparrow}$ represent the short wave radiation fluxes in down and
180 up direction at TOA, respectively. The DRE estimates of crop residue burning and the
181 related carbonaceous aerosols were then determined from the ADRE differences between
182 scenarios (further explained in section 2.4). Taking advantage of the multiple scattering
183 capability, and taking computational speed and accuracy into consideration, the rapid
184 radiative transfer model (RRTMG) (Mlawer et al., 1997) was selected to simulate
185 shortwave flux change.

186 Aerosol optical properties, including absorption efficiency, scattering efficiency, and
187 the asymmetry parameter, are necessary for aerosol radiative transfer calculations. In this
188 study, these three parameters were computed by the core/shell Mie theory for each bin
189 (Ackerman and Toon, 1981) and then determined by summation over all size bins (Fast
190 et al., 2006). The spherical core-shell configuration calculates aerosol optical properties
191 by assuming the BC core is coated with a homogeneously mixed shell of other species.
192 For each bin, the complex refractive index of the shell was derived by volume averaging
193 that of all non-BC species (Barnard et al., 2010). By default, the imaginary refractive

194 index of OA in WRF-Chem is zero. In this study, we adopted the Saleh et al. (2014)
 195 parameterization to calculate the OA absorptivity, based on smog chamber experiments
 196 for both fresh and chemically aged emissions from globally important fuels to
 197 characterize the effective absorptivity of organic aerosols as a function of the ratio of BC
 198 to OA. This parameterization has previously been incorporated into the 3-D global
 199 chemical transport model GEOS-Chem to calculate global direct radiative effect of
 200 carbonaceous aerosols emitted from biomass/biofuel burning (Saleh et al., 2015; Kodros
 201 et al., 2016; Kodros et al., 2015). According to the parameterization, the imaginary part
 202 of OA's refractive index, k_{OA} , can be estimated from the ratio of BC to OA from biomass
 203 burning, as follows:

$$204 \quad k_{OA,550} = 0.016 \log_{10} \left(\frac{BC}{OA} \right) + 0.04 \quad (2)$$

$$205 \quad \omega = \frac{0.21}{\left(\frac{BC}{OA} + 0.07 \right)} \quad (3)$$

$$206 \quad k_{OA} = k_{OA,550} \left(\frac{550}{\lambda} \right)^\omega \quad (4)$$

207 Where $k_{OA,550}$ is the imaginary part of OA's refractive index at wavelength (λ) of
 208 550nm and ω is the wavelength dependence of k_{OA} .

209 2.2. Emission Inventory

210 The crop residue burning emissions were derived based on a fire radiative power
 211 (FRP) method (Liu et al., 2015), which reduces uncertainties and captures more crop
 212 fires than the MODIS (Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer) burned area
 213 products (Roy et al., 2008). The daily emissions product based on the FRP method has
 214 1-km horizontal resolution. The total BC and OC emissions in this study were 4.3 Gg and

215 15.9 Gg during the month of June, 2013, close to the results by using agricultural
216 statistics data (Huang et al., 2012), but almost ten times higher than those in GFEDv4.1
217 data (0.42 Gg and 1.32 Gg for BC and OC, respectively) (Randerson et al., 2012). The
218 diurnal allocation of the emissions was based on previous household surveys (Fig. S1,
219 more detail could be found in the Supplement).

220 The BC and OC emission factors from crop fires in this study (0.54 g/kg and 1.98
221 g/kg, respectively) were set specifically for winter wheat residue burning in East China.
222 It was averaged using published emission factors calculated from winter wheat
223 combustion experiments in the field and laboratory (Hays et al., 2005; Li et al., 2007;
224 Dhammapala et al., 2007; Turn et al., 1997). The BC-to-OC ratio from crop burning was
225 0.27, falling within the range of 0.20–0.32 observed during harvest seasons in East China
226 (Li et al., 2014; Yamaji et al., 2010; Yang et al., 2008). Note that when input into
227 WRF-Chem, the OA emissions were calculated by multiplying OC emissions by a factor
228 of 1.4 to account for the associated hydrogen and oxygen mass making up total OA. The
229 simulated primary and secondary OC concentrations were calculated by dividing the
230 simulated OA fields by factors of 1.4 and 1.8, respectively (Gilardoni et al., 2009).

231 The Multi-resolution Emission Inventory for China (MEIC, see www.meicmodel.org)
232 database was applied for China, and the Mosaic Asian Anthropogenic Emission
233 Inventory (MIX, see <http://www.meicmodel.org/dataset-mix.html>) database (Li et al.,
234 2015) was applied for the surrounding countries; providing power plant, industrial,
235 residential, and vehicle emissions. Biogenic emissions were calculated online using
236 MEGAN (Model of Emissions and Gases from Nature) (Guenther, 2006), and dust

237 emissions were not included in our study.

238 2.3. In Situ Measurements and Other Data

239 Particulate matter with aerodynamic diameter below 2.5 μm ($\text{PM}_{2.5}$) chemical
240 components were sampled and analyzed from May 30 to June 27, 2013 at the site
241 ($33^{\circ}54'37''$ N, $116^{\circ}45'46''$ E) in Suixi, Anhui province, China, a location close to vast
242 stretches of wheat fields, the nearest of which was only 1 km away. There were two
243 sampling periods each day: from approximately 7:40 (GMT+8.0) to 18:00 and from
244 18:40 to 7:00 the next morning. BC and OA were measured using a thermal/optical
245 carbon analyzer (Sunset Laboratory, Tigard, OR, USA) with quartz-fiber filters. More
246 complete detail on sampling and analysis can be found in Li et al. (2014).

247 The MODIS Level-2 Atmospheric Aerosol Product (04_L2) data (Collection 6), at a
248 1-km daily resolution for June 2013, was used to evaluate the aerosol optical depth
249 (AOD) simulations, with the Deep Blue algorithms (Hsu et al., 2006) integrated with the
250 existing MODIS algorithm to retrieve AOD over the entire land area, including both dark
251 and bright surfaces.

252 2.4. Numerical Experiments

253 Six parallel simulations were conducted to investigate the DRE of carbonaceous
254 aerosols from crop residue burning as well as the OA absorption (Table 2). The BASE
255 simulation included all emissions, assumed BC cores were coated by shells of all other
256 well-mixed aerosol species for optical calculations, and parameterized the OA absorption
257 based on Saleh et al. (2014). The crop residue burning DRE was estimated by the

258 diagnosed the difference between the BASE and nCB runs. To further compute the DRE
 259 from BC and OA from crop residue burning, we conducted two more parallel simulations
 260 without the corresponding BC and OA emissions (i.e. nBCCB and nOACB, respectively).
 261 Since the parameterization of Saleh et al. (2014) was applicable for the OA from biomass
 262 burning, the DRE calculation of OA absorption from crop residue burning (DRE_{OACB_ABS})
 263 should exclude the absorption of OA from other sources. To evaluate the impact of
 264 radiatively absorbing OA, two simulations (nOAABS and nOACB_nOAABS) were
 265 conducted with the imaginary part of the OA refractive index set to zero. Thus, the direct
 266 radiative effect of absorbing OA from crop residue burning (DRE_{OACB_ABS}) was given
 267 by:

$$268 \quad DRE_{OACB_ABS} = (ADRE_{BASE} - ADRE_{nOAABS}) - (ADRE_{nOACB} - ADRE_{nOACB_nOAABS}) \quad (5)$$

269 **3. Results and Discussion**

270 3.1. Model Evaluation

271 The meteorological fields from the BASE simulation were evaluated by comparison
 272 with temperature and relative humidity at 2 m above ground surface (T2 and RH2,
 273 respectively), and wind speed and direction at 10 m above ground (WS10 and WD10)
 274 measurements from 221 matched land-based stations in East China. Statistical indices
 275 (Table 3), including mean bias (MB), root-mean-square error (RMSE), fractional bias (FB),
 276 fractional error (FE), and index of agreement (IOA), indicated that the model
 277 well-simulated both temporal variations and spatial distributions of the four
 278 meteorological fields. The model well-reproduced the T2 and RH2, with IOAs of 0.92 and

279 0.87, respectively. The statistical indices of T2 had slightly better coincidence than those
280 of RH2, with the RMSE of RH2 reaching 13.93. There was a small underestimation
281 (-0.69%) of RH2, while WS10 was slightly overestimated (0.99 m/s). At three typical
282 sites (Fuyang, Yanzhou, and Xuzhou) corresponding to the three main districts affected by
283 crop fire (mentioned below), the model captured the general temporal trends of T2 and
284 RH2, although the RH2 was slightly underestimated (Fig. S2), which might have led to
285 small differences in certain aerosol physical properties (Chapman et al., 2009; Xia et al.,
286 2007). In general, the simulation results were comparable to the meteorological
287 observations.

288 The temporal variation of fire counts detected by MODIS in East China in June 2013
289 is shown in Fig. 2a. Approximately 97% of the fire counts occurred from 1–21 June, while
290 the fire counts decreased to < 200 per day thereafter. Throughout the rest of this study, we
291 focus on the summer harvest period from 1–21 June. The areas of intense burning moved
292 from inland to coastland and from the south to the north over time in three phases,
293 corresponding to the harvest time regulation and tied to the summer air temperature
294 differences between the marine and continental climate, and low and high latitude. The
295 districts most affected by crop residue fires were the southeastern Henan and central
296 Anhui provinces from 1–8 June, the northern Anhui province from 9–16 June, then the
297 northern Jiangsu and eastern Shandong provinces from 17–21 June (Fig. 2b).

298 As shown in previous studies (Yang et al., 2008; Li et al., 2014), crop residue burning
299 led to the deterioration of local air quality, particularly affecting carbonaceous aerosol
300 surface concentrations. At the Suixi site, BC and OC surface concentration observations

301 fluctuated smoothly with values $< 10 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ and $20 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ in early June, respectively, then
302 began to increase on the night of 12 June, reaching peaks on the nights of 13–15 June with
303 mean values of $55.3 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ and $157.9 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$, respectively (Fig. 3a and 3b). The peak
304 value of observed OC was about three times that of observed BC, close to the BC-to-OC
305 ratio of crop residue burning emissions used in model (0.27, in section 2.2), indicating that
306 the dominant source of carbonaceous aerosols pollution was local biomass burning.
307 WRF-Chem well-reproduced the carbonaceous aerosols concentrations fluctuating trends
308 (Fig. 3a and 3b), with the correlation coefficient of 0.74 (Fig. 3c and 3d). The comparison
309 between BASE and nCB scenarios revealed that crop residue burning contributed 86%
310 and 90% to the BC and OC concentrations respectively during the highest peaks (13–15
311 June). Our simulated carbonaceous aerosols contributions from crop burning (74.7% for
312 BC and 81.2% for OA) at the Suixi site from 12–17 June were consistent with the Positive
313 Matrix Factorization results (74.5% for BC and 75.8% for OA) measured during the same
314 period (Li et al., 2014). Over East China, the simulated crop residue burning contribution
315 to the total OC mass concentration of 37.6% was also in agreement with the previous
316 observed range of 24%– 67.5% from sites in the same district (Fu et al., 2012; Li et al.,
317 2014). The time variations of ammonium, sulfate, and nitrate in $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ were also
318 well-reproduced and had more fluctuation than that of carbonaceous aerosols, indicating
319 weaker correlation with the crop fires (Fig. S3).

320 The Suixi site was almost unaffected by the intensive fire counts in southeastern
321 Henan and central Anhui from 1–8 June, owing to the prevailing southeast wind, which
322 instead transported the pollutants to Henan, Shanxi, and southern Hebei Province (Fig. 4a).

323 The peak values of carbonaceous aerosols at the Suixi site were centralized around 12–16
324 June, corresponding to the high fire counts in Northern Anhui during this period (Fig. 2).
325 Most of the North China Plain witnessed more than $15 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ BC and $30 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ OC due
326 to the local crop residue burning as well as the pollutants carried by the south wind. After
327 17 June, the main burning area moved east to the northern part of Jiangsu province,
328 impacting Shandong province whilst having less influence in Suixi. The main body of
329 carbonaceous aerosol pollution during the summer harvest moved from south to north and
330 from inland to coastal areas (Fig. 4), corresponding to the shifts in fire count distribution.
331 Carbonaceous aerosol surface concentrations increased rapidly in the evening at around
332 19:00–20:00 (GMT+8.0) and reached peak values at dawn (5:00–6:00, GMT+8.0), due to
333 the relatively looser management of crop burning and weaker boundary layer mixing at
334 nighttime. After sunrise, the concentrations gradually decreased as the fires slowly
335 extinguished and the surface inversion coupled to layers aloft enhanced vertical mixing
336 (Cao et al., 2009).

337 The 550-nm AOD detected by MODIS was well-reproduced by WRF-Chem (Fig. 5a
338 and 5b), showing high values (above 1) in the North China Plain and Jinagsu, consistent
339 with the MODIS agricultural fire counts distribution during the summer harvest in Fig. 2.
340 Higher AODs in megacities, including Beijing, Shanghai, and Tianjin, might be
341 attributable to the increased sulfate and ammonium concentrations and scattering in
342 summer (Huang et al., 2015). We calculated the AOD at 550 nm from that at 400 nm and
343 600 nm using the ångström exponent, as aerosol optical properties were computed only at
344 four wavelengths in the model (Nordmann et al., 2014). The MODIS AOD data around 23

345 sites were matched with the simulated AOD by hour, showing a normalized mean
346 deviation (NMD) of -16.1% and a correlation coefficient (R) of 0.52 (Fig. S4). This small
347 underestimation might be partly caused by the underestimation of the summer RH (Yoon
348 and Kim, 2006). Several studies have also noted that the MODIS retrieval AOD showed
349 high bias compared with ground-based measurements such as the Aerosol Robotic
350 Network data (Huang et al., 2015; Myhre et al., 2009; Zhao et al., 2013).

351 Aerosol absorption optical depth (AAOD) is defined as the AOD multiplied by the
352 solar absorption potential (i.e., $1 - \text{single scattering albedo}$), giving a measure of the
353 radiation absorbed by aerosol in the column. Similar patterns can be seen between the
354 spatial distribution of 550-nm AAOD and the carbonaceous aerosols concentration during
355 the summer harvest (Fig. 5c and 5d), especially at the corner of Henan, Anhui, Jiangsu and
356 Shandong provinces. Because of the relatively short atmospheric lifetimes of BC and OA,
357 the highest surface concentrations and high AAOD could be found close to the regions
358 where crop burning was taking place (Bond et al., 2013; Laskin et al., 2015; Zhuang et al.,
359 2011). It is worth noting that we treat all-source OA as absorbing aerosol, thus artificially
360 amplifying the AAOD from anthropogenically emitted OA, particularly around the
361 megacities of Beijing and Tianjin. Additionally, the core-shell mixing assumption might
362 also lead to higher AAOD due to absorption enhancement of BC-contained particles in
363 these megacities than externally mixing state (Liu et al., 2017).

364 3.2. Direct Radiative Effect of Crop Residue Burning

365 Calculated as the ADRE difference between the BASE and nCB simulations, a mean

366 positive DRE of $+0.14 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ was introduced by crop residue burning at TOA in East
367 China during the summer harvest (Table 4). This is higher than previous
368 cooling-to-neutral DRE estimations of open biomass burning (Abel et al., 2005;
369 Archer-Nicholls et al., 2016; Sakaeda et al., 2011; Chung et al., 2012; Myhre et al., 2013),
370 which might be attributed to the incorporation of the OA absorptivity scheme of Saleh et
371 al. (2014) in this study (Kodros et al., 2016; Kodros et al., 2015; Saleh et al., 2015). The
372 spatial distribution of crop residue burning DRE (Fig. 6a) shows similar patterns to that
373 of the mean carbonaceous aerosols concentration, providing further evidences that the
374 carbonaceous aerosols emitted from crop residue burning were the dominant contributors
375 to the DRE. Positive DRE values mainly appeared in the North China Plain and higher
376 ones (more than 0.5 W m^{-2}) were in eastern Henan, southwestern Shandong, northern
377 Jiangsu and northern Anhui Province. At Suixi site, the hourly DRE at TOA from crop
378 residue burning could reach a peak of $+22.66 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ at 13:00 on 15 June (GMT+8.0).

379 The DRE of BC from crop residue burning was calculated to be $+0.79 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ at TOA
380 during the summer harvest based on the difference between the BASE and nBCCB
381 simulations. This is higher than the DRE estimation from biomass burning-sourced BC
382 ($+0.1 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ to $+0.5 \text{ W m}^{-2}$) in East China for the summer of 2010 by Li et al. (2016),
383 which used an offline model with a coarse resolution. The emission inventories they used
384 might have also underestimated BC emissions from open biomass burning, especially
385 during the harvest season or in the burning zone, due to the traditional estimation
386 methods and spatial allocation rules (Lu et al., 2011). The external mixing state that they
387 assumed would also result in a lower and less accurate DRE than the core-shell treatment

388 (Jacobson, 2001). After dividing the DRE of BC from crop residue burning by the
389 corresponding source contribution to the BC mass concentration (17.6 %), our all-source
390 BC DRE estimate at TOA for the summer harvest of $+4.5 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ was lower than the
391 national all-sky averaged anthropogenic BC DRE for the summer of 2006 ($+5 \text{ W m}^{-2}$)
392 (Huang et al., 2015) and BC DRE in East China for the summer of 2008 ($+5 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ to
393 $+15 \text{ W m}^{-2}$) (Gao et al., 2014). It was worth noting that these previous studies adopted
394 the volume mixing treatment, which would overestimate the BC DRE. Further, the
395 neglect of crop residue burning emissions in Gao et al. (2014) might cause an
396 underestimation. Normalized DRE, defined by Boucher and Anderson (1995) (and first
397 used in Feichter et al. (1997)) as the ratio of the forcing to the aerosol mass burden, was
398 calculated to isolate differences in the aerosol column burden from the differences in all
399 other model processes that lead to carbonaceous aerosols radiative forcing (Bond et al.,
400 2013). Our calculated normalized DRE with respect to the BC burden from crop residue
401 burning was $+941.33 \text{ W g}^{-1}$, within the existing estimated global normalized DRF ranges
402 of $+870 \text{ W g}^{-1}$ to $+2730 \text{ W g}^{-1}$ (Bond et al., 2013; Ramanathan and Carmichael, 2008;
403 Schulz et al., 2006). Figure 6b illustrates that the high values of BC DRE (above $+2.0 \text{ W}$
404 m^{-2}) during the summer harvest mainly appeared in the western Shandong, Tianjin
405 Municipality, eastern Henan province, northern Anhui and northern Jiangsu Provinces,
406 similar to the spatial features of $>20 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ carbonaceous aerosol mass concentration
407 (Fig. 5d). The hotspot was in the north of the intensive crop fire-affected area (Fig. 2b),
408 as the dominant southeastern wind in June transported carbonaceous aerosol to the north
409 (section 3.1). With the carbonaceous aerosols mass concentration exceeding $30 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$,

410 the junction of Anhui, Shandong, Henan and Hebei Provinces witnessed the highest BC
411 DRE in our domain of over $+3.0 \text{ W m}^{-2}$. The local DRE in the crop residue burning
412 districts during intense burning periods were higher than spatiotemporally averaged
413 estimates. Taking the Suixi site as an example, the hourly DRE of crop residue
414 burning-sourced BC reached $+63.40 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ on 15 June.

415 By subtracting the ADRE at TOA of nOACB from that of BASE, we obtained an OA
416 DRE from crop residue burning of -0.22 W m^{-2} in East China during the summer harvest.
417 The normalized DRE of OA from crop residue burning, -11.46 W g^{-1} , was of smaller
418 magnitude than existing estimates of -24 W g^{-1} to -198 W g^{-1} (Bond et al., 2013;
419 Ramanathan and Carmichael, 2008; Schulz et al., 2006). This positive discrepancy can be
420 attributed to the consideration of OA absorptivity in this study. The positive DRE of OA
421 absorption from crop residue burning was calculated to be $+0.21 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ according to the
422 ADRE comparison among BASE, nOACB, nOAABS and nOACB_nOAABS scenarios
423 (section 2.4), in contrast to the negative DRE (-0.43 W m^{-2}) of OA scattering. The DRE
424 of OA absorption during summer harvest in East China in our study was within the
425 global annual mean DRE ranges of OA absorption, of $+0.04$ to $+0.57 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ (Feng et al.,
426 2013; Saleh et al., 2015; Wang et al., 2014), and higher than the estimates in East Asia
427 for the spring of 2011, of $+0.1$ to $+0.2 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ (Park et al., 2010). Feng et al. (2013)
428 estimated an upper limit of annual mean DRE of OA absorption to be $+0.25$ to $+0.5 \text{ W}$
429 m^{-2} in East China. The DRE of OA absorption from crop residue burning accounted for
430 21% of the corresponding DRE of carbonaceous aerosols absorption, comparable to the
431 previous OA absorption contribution estimation of 20% derived from AERONET

432 observations at 550nm (Chung et al., 2012), indicating that OA played an important role
433 in radiation absorbing during the summer harvest in East China.

434 Figure 6c and 6d show a negative DRE of OA ($< -0.2 \text{ W m}^{-2}$) and positive DRE of
435 OA absorption ($>0.2 \text{ W m}^{-2}$) over the North China Plain, respectively. Like the
436 spatiotemporally averaged estimates of OA DRE and its absorbing part (-0.22 W m^{-2} and
437 $+0.21 \text{ W m}^{-2}$, respectively), the OA DREs in most grid cells have equal magnitude to the
438 corresponding DRE of its absorption but show opposite sign. This implies that the
439 negative DRE of OA scattering is roughly double the positive DRE of OA absorption in
440 magnitude. The consideration of OA absorption therefore reduced the negative OA DRE
441 estimates from crop burning by half.

442 3.3 Uncertainty

443 The DRE of carbonaceous aerosols were strongly dependent on the optical properties,
444 the uncertainties of which came from various factors, including complex refractive
445 indices, mixing state and the morphologies of the particles. Since this study was the first
446 attempt to use the OA absorptivity parameterization of Saleh et al. (2014) in an online
447 model, sensitivity experiments were conducted to investigate the response of the DRE of
448 OA absorption to the changes in the imaginary part of OA's refractive index (k_{OA}) and the
449 BC-to-OC emission ratio from crop residue burning. With k_{OA} raised by 50%, the DRE
450 of OA absorption from this source increased to $+0.27 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ (Table S2), 29% higher than
451 that ($+0.21 \text{ W m}^{-2}$) from default simulations. When the BC-to-OA ratio was altered to
452 0.18 (Li et al., 2007) and 0.42 (Hays et al., 2005) by changing the BC emission factor

453 from crop residue burning alone with that of OA constant, the DRE of OA absorption
454 was estimated to be $+0.33 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ and $+0.13 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ (Table S2), respectively. These
455 results indicated that the k_{OA} and the BC-to-OC emission ratio were critical for
456 estimating DRE of OA absorption and efforts are still needed to update the BC-to-OC
457 ratio to observations in China. More details about the sensitivity tests are presented in
458 Table S1.

459 The sensitivity of BC mixing state to crop residue burning DRE was also tested by
460 changing the standard core-shell mixing rule to a volume mixing rule. In the volume
461 mixing treatment, crop residue burning was simulated to produce a mean DRE of $+0.23$
462 W m^{-2} during the summer harvest (Table S2), 64% higher than the crop burning DRE in
463 default runs ($+0.14 \text{ W m}^{-2}$). The single-distribution core-shell assumption was believed
464 to be a better approximation of BC DRE (Jacobson, 2001; Bauer et al., 2013; Liu et al.,
465 2017) and more coated particles have been observed in biomass burning aerosol
466 (Schwarz et al., 2008), so the widely-used volume mixing assumption could introduce a
467 discrepancy in DRE. In reality, carbonaceous aerosol mixing conditions are much more
468 various and complicated in time and space than that described in a core-shell approach.
469 For example, Peng et al. (2016) recently reported that BC morphology varied from
470 fractal particles to compact particles during atmospheric aging, and BC in the two
471 distinct stages revealed quite different absorption characteristics and climatic effects.
472 Recent study has indicated the absorption enhancement of BC is determined by the mass
473 ratio of non-BC to BC species in the aerosol as an alternative interpretation to absorption
474 by OA (Liu et al., 2017). If such a setup were used instead of the Saleh et al. (2014)

475 parameterization, it could change the magnitude and distribution of the predicted effects
476 Therefore, the invariant core-shell assumption during aging that we applied might
477 overestimate the DRE of freshly emitted BC. Matsui et al. (2013) also showed that
478 without detailed treatment of mixing state for BC aging processes in the model, the
479 calculated aerosol radiation absorption could be overestimated by 30%–40% in the
480 boundary layer. Hence, it should be very important to consider the variation of mixing
481 state for calculating optical and radiative effects of biomass burning aerosols. The
482 spherical core-shell assumption might also amplify the absorption in cases in which the
483 BC core position is non-central (Adachi et al., 2010). Variations in moisture and
484 temperature conditions also complicate the mixing state of carbonaceous aerosols and the
485 light absorptivity of OA (Liu et al., 2013; Zhang et al., 2013). Moreover, the lack of
486 consideration of atmospheric processing of OA, such as photobleaching (Laskin et al.,
487 2015), and the potential addition of nitrate groups (Jacobson, 1999), leads to further
488 uncertainties.

489 The high-resolution emission inventory based on the MODIS FRP used here may
490 add uncertainties to the carbonaceous aerosol mass concentrations due to uncertainties
491 arising from the MODIS detection resolution, FRP values, and the per-fire-pixel Fire
492 Radiative Energy (FRE) calculating method (Liu et al., 2015). The VBS scheme in this
493 study ignored SOA evolved from semi-/intermediate volatility organic compounds and
494 likely underestimates SOA concentration.

495 **4. Conclusion**

496 The DRE of carbonaceous aerosols from crop residue burning in June 2013 in
497 Eastern China was investigated using WRF-Chem. The OA effective absorptivity
498 parameterization proposed by Saleh et al. (2014) was used. The carbonaceous aerosols
499 emissions from crop fires were estimated based on MODIS FRP products, using a
500 localized BC-to-OC ratio from crop burning of 0.27. *In situ* observations conducted in
501 Suixi, Anhui Province, during the study period were utilized to evaluate the simulation.
502 The WRF-Chem results captured the variation of carbonaceous aerosol concentrations,
503 showing peak pollution during the period from 13–15 June. The BC and OC peak
504 concentrations reached $55.3 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ and $157.9 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$, of which crop residue burning
505 contributed 86% and 90%, respectively, as derived from analyzing coincident model
506 output. The simulation results also reproduced the temperature and relative humidity
507 from ground-based observations and MODIS-detected AODs, although there was a slight
508 overestimation of wind speed. During the summer harvest in East China (1–21 June),
509 similar patterns were found among simulated AAOD, fire counts detected by MODIS,
510 and carbonaceous aerosols concentrations, with higher values in the junction of
511 Shandong, Henan, Anhui, and Jiangsu provinces, confirming that the crop residue
512 burning was the dominant cause for the high AAOD.

513 The hourly estimated DRE from crop residue burning at TOA reached a maximum
514 of $+22.66 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ at the Suixi site. On average, during the harvest period, crop residue
515 burning introduced a positive DRE of $+0.14 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ throughout East China, higher than
516 the cooling-to-neutral DRE estimates of open biomass burning in previous studies. BC
517 was the leading absorptive component in crop residue burning-sourced aerosols and

518 introduced an averaged DRE of $+0.79 \text{ W m}^{-2}$, while OA from crop burning brought
519 about a net negative DRE (-0.22 W m^{-2}) at TOA. The negative DRE of OA scattering
520 (-0.43 W m^{-2}) was roughly twice the magnitude of positive DRE of OA. The
521 consideration of OA absorption therefore reduced the negative OA DRE estimates from
522 crop burning by half, making the net DRE estimates of crop residue burning more
523 positive. Higher absolute values of BC DRE ($> +2.0 \text{ W m}^{-2}$) and OA DRE ($< -0.2 \text{ W m}^{-2}$)
524 from crop residue burning during the harvest season were mainly concentrated in the
525 North China Plain, following a similar spatial distribution to the modeled AAOD.
526 Sensitivity tests showed that the DRE of OA absorption strongly depended on the
527 absorptivity and BC-to-OA ratio from crop residue burning, and that using volume
528 mixing treatment results in a higher positive DRE compared to the core-shell treatment.
529 Several uncertainties remain regarding the estimated DRE in this study, due to the
530 mixing state and morphology of the particles, burning conditions, and emission inventory.
531 Aerosol-radiation interactions due to carbonaceous aerosol from crop residue burning in
532 the summer harvest might bring further effects on planetary boundary layer meteorology,
533 turbulent kinetic energy, clouds and precipitation (Liu et al., 2016; Huang et al., 2016;
534 Wilcox et al., 2016). Continued investigation of the mixing manner and ratio of biomass
535 burning aerosol, their morphology and optical properties, their variation during the
536 atmospheric aging processes, and their further impacts on clouds, transport and regional
537 climate is still required. The BC mixing state and associated absorption enhancement
538 based on coating thickness from BC aging processes will be treated in detail in future
539 studies.

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817

818 **Table Captions**

819 Table 1. WRF-Chem configuration options and settings.

820 Table 2. Descriptions of the parallel simulations.

821 Table 3. Statistical analyses of the simulated meteorological variables versus the
822 ground observations. MB, mean bias; RMSE, root-mean-square error; FB, fractional
823 bias; FE, fractional error; IOA, index of agreement.

824 Table 4. The DRE differences (W m^{-2}) between the cases at TOA during the summer
825 harvest (1–21 June) in 2013.

826

827 Table 1. WRF-Chem configuration options and settings

Configuration options	
Radiation	RRTMG short- and longwave
Cumulus parameterization	New Grell Scheme (G3)
Land surface	Noah
Microphysics	Lin et al.
Photolysis	Fast-J
Gas chemistry	MOZART-4
Aerosol chemistry	MOSAIC
Boundary layer	Yonsei University
Domain settings	
Horizontal grid	52×60 (coarse) ; 49×64 (fine)
Grid spacing	75 km×75 km (coarse); 25 km×25 km (fine)
Vertical layers	25
Projection	Lambert conformal conic

828

829 Table 2. Descriptions of the main simulations.

Simulation	Emission inventory	BC-to-OC ratio	OA absorptivity	Mixing state
BASE	Comprehensive	0.27	Saleh et al. (2014)	Core-shell
nCB	No crop residue burning emissions	0.27	Saleh et al. (2014)	Core-shell
nBCCB	No BC emissions from crop residue burning	0.27	Saleh et al. (2014)	Core-shell
nOACB	No OA emissions from crop residue burning	0.27	Saleh et al. (2014)	Core-shell
nOAABS	Comprehensive	0.27	None	Core-shell
nOACB_nOAABS	No OA emissions from crop residue burning	0.27	None	Core-shell

830 Table 3. Statistical analyses of the simulated meteorological variables versus the
831 ground observations. MB, mean bias; RMSE, root-mean-square error; FB, fractional
832 bias; FE, fractional error; IOA, index of agreement.

Index	MB ^a	RMSE ^b	FB ^c	FE ^d	IOA ^e
2-m temperature (°C)	0.26	2.72	0.01	0.09	0.92
2-m relative humidity (%)	-0.69	13.93	-0.02	0.16	0.87
10-m wind speed (m/s)	0.99	2.01	0.45	0.65	0.61
10-m wind direction (°)	7.32	56.03			

833 ^a $MB = \frac{1}{N} \sum_1^N (sim - obs)$

834 ^b $RMSE = \sqrt{\sum_1^N (sim - obs)^2 / N}$

835 ^c $FB = 2\sqrt{(sim_i - obs_i) / (sim_i + obs_i) / N}$

836 ^d $FE = \sqrt{|sim_i - obs_i| / (sim_i + obs_i)^2 / N}$

837 ^e $IOA = 1 - \frac{N \times RMSE^2}{\sum_{i=1}^N (|obs_i - \overline{obs}| + |sim_i - \overline{obs}|)^2}$, where the term sim and obs refer to the

838 simulated and observed meteorological values, respectively and N represents the

839 number of data pairs

840 Table 4. The DRE differences (W m^{-2}) between the cases at TOA during the summer harvest (1–21 June) in 2013.

BASE – nCB	BASE – nBCCB	BASE – nOACB	(BASE – nOAABS) – (nOACB – nOACB_nOAABS)
+0.14 W m^{-2}	+0.79 W m^{-2}	-0.22 W m^{-2}	+ 0.21 W m^{-2}

841

842 Figure Captions

843 Figure 1. Double-nested Weather Research and Forecasting Model (WRF) modeling
844 domains and topographic field (m); the sampling site (Suixi) is indicated by the red
845 dot.

846 Figure 2. (a) Time series of the fire counts detected by Moderate Resolution Imaging
847 Spectroradiometer (MODIS) in East China in June 2013. (b) Spatial distribution of
848 MODIS agricultural fire counts in East China in June 2013. The green, red and blue
849 dots represent the location of fire counts detected in 1–8 June, 9–16 June and 17–21
850 June, respectively.

851 Figure 3. Time series of the observed (dots) and simulated (line) (a) black carbon (BC)
852 and (b) organic carbon (OC) mass concentrations ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$) at the Suixi site.
853 Scatterplots of simulated (c) BC and (d) OC mass concentrations ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$) and
854 corresponding observed values. NMB and R represent normalized mean bias and
855 correlation coefficient, respectively.

856 Figure 4. Spatial distributions of (a) carbonaceous aerosols mass concentration ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)
857 at lowest model level (~ 20 m) and (b) its contribution from crop residue burning (%)
858 in the three typical hours (6:00, GMT+8.0) during the summer harvest (1–21 June) in
859 June 2013. The location of the sampling site (Suixi) is indicated by the black dot. The
860 arrows represent the surface (~ 20 m) wind fields.

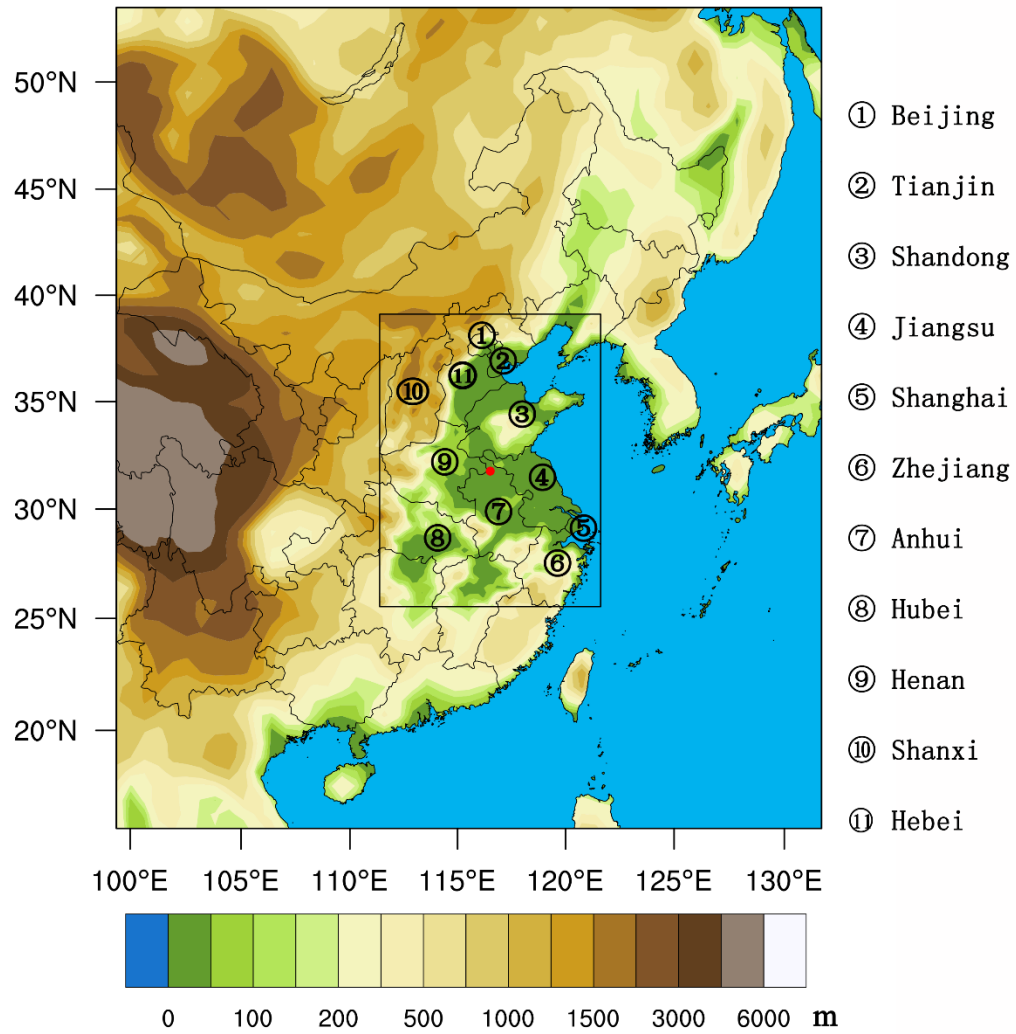
861 Figure 5. Spatial distribution of mean (a) 550-nm aerosol optical depth observations
862 from MODIS, (b) 550-nm aerosol optical depth from WRF-Chem, (c) mean
863 absorption aerosol optical depth from WRF-Chem and (d) mean carbonaceous aerosol
864 concentration ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$) at lowest model level (~ 20 m) during the summer harvest (1–

865 21 June). BASE run is shown.

866 Figure 6. Spatial distribution of simulated direct radiative effect (DRE) introduced by
867 (a) all aerosol from crop residue burning and (b)BC from crop-burning, (c) OA from
868 crop burning, and (d) the absorbing component of OA from crop-burning emissions,
869 calculated from WRF-Chem simulations during the summer harvest (1–21 June).

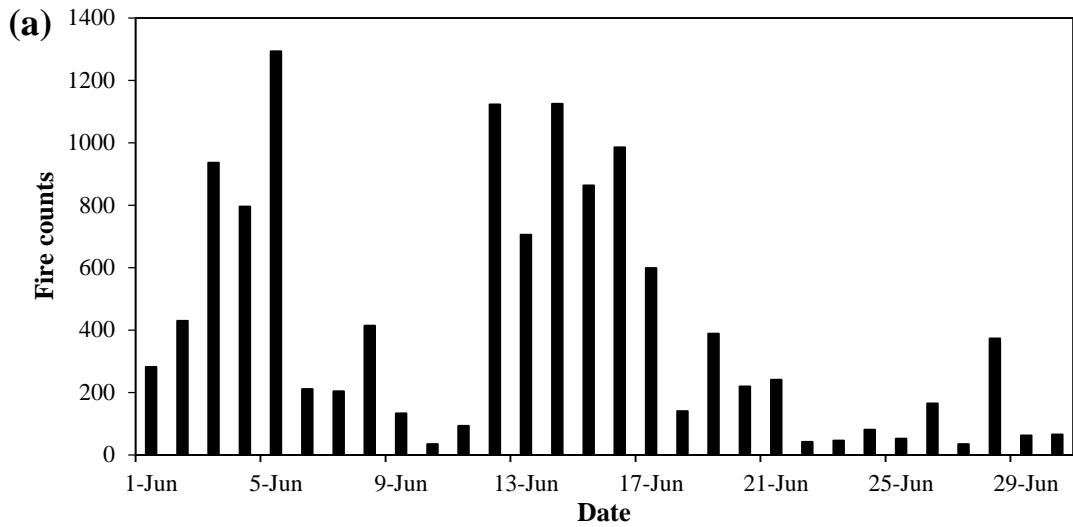
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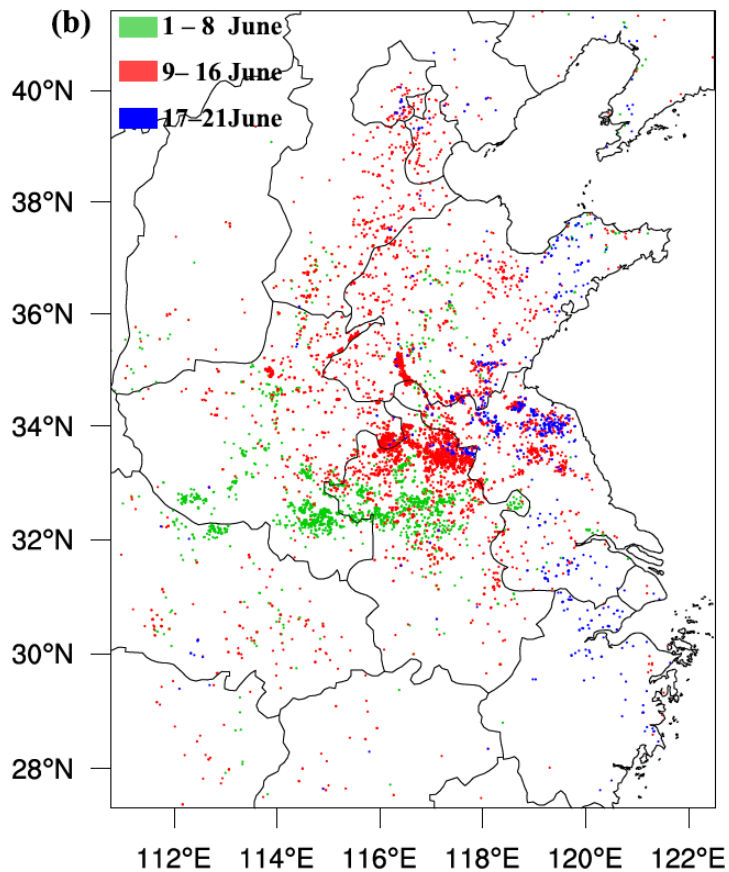


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 874 domains and topographic field (m); the sampling site (Suixi) is indicated by the red
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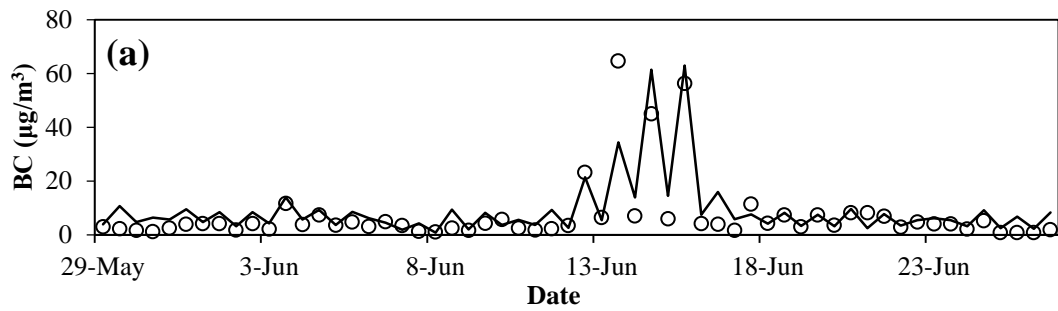


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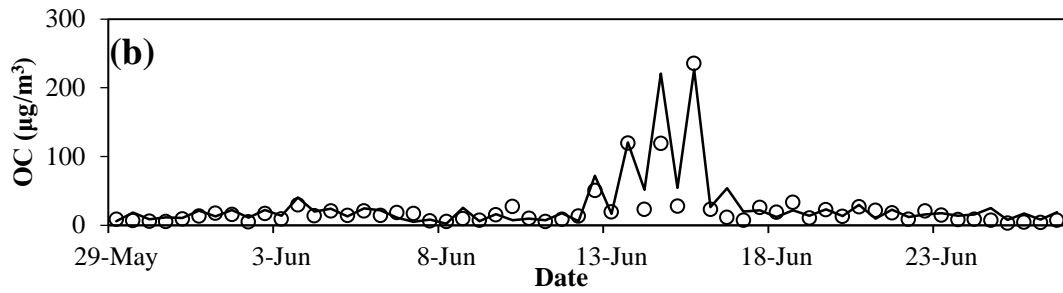


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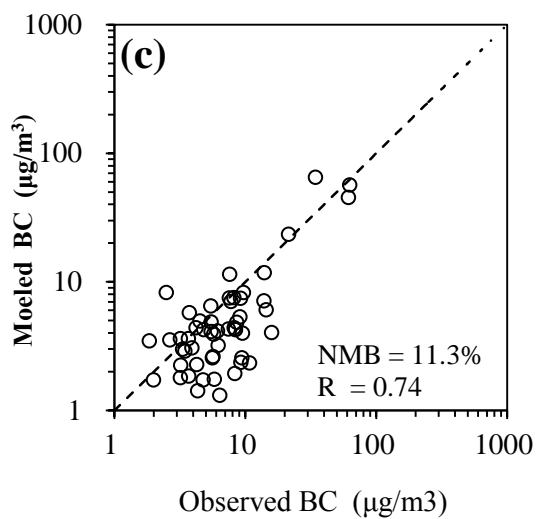
878 Figure 2. (a) Time series of the fire counts detected by Moderate Resolution Imaging
 879 Spectroradiometer (MODIS) in East China in June 2013. (b) Spatial distribution of
 880 MODIS agricultural fire counts in East China in June 2013. The green, red and blue
 881 dots represent the location of fire counts detected in 1–8 June, 9–16 June and 17–21
 882 June, respectively.



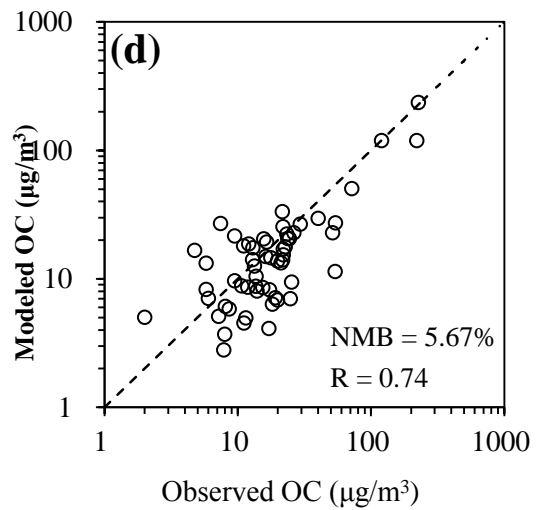
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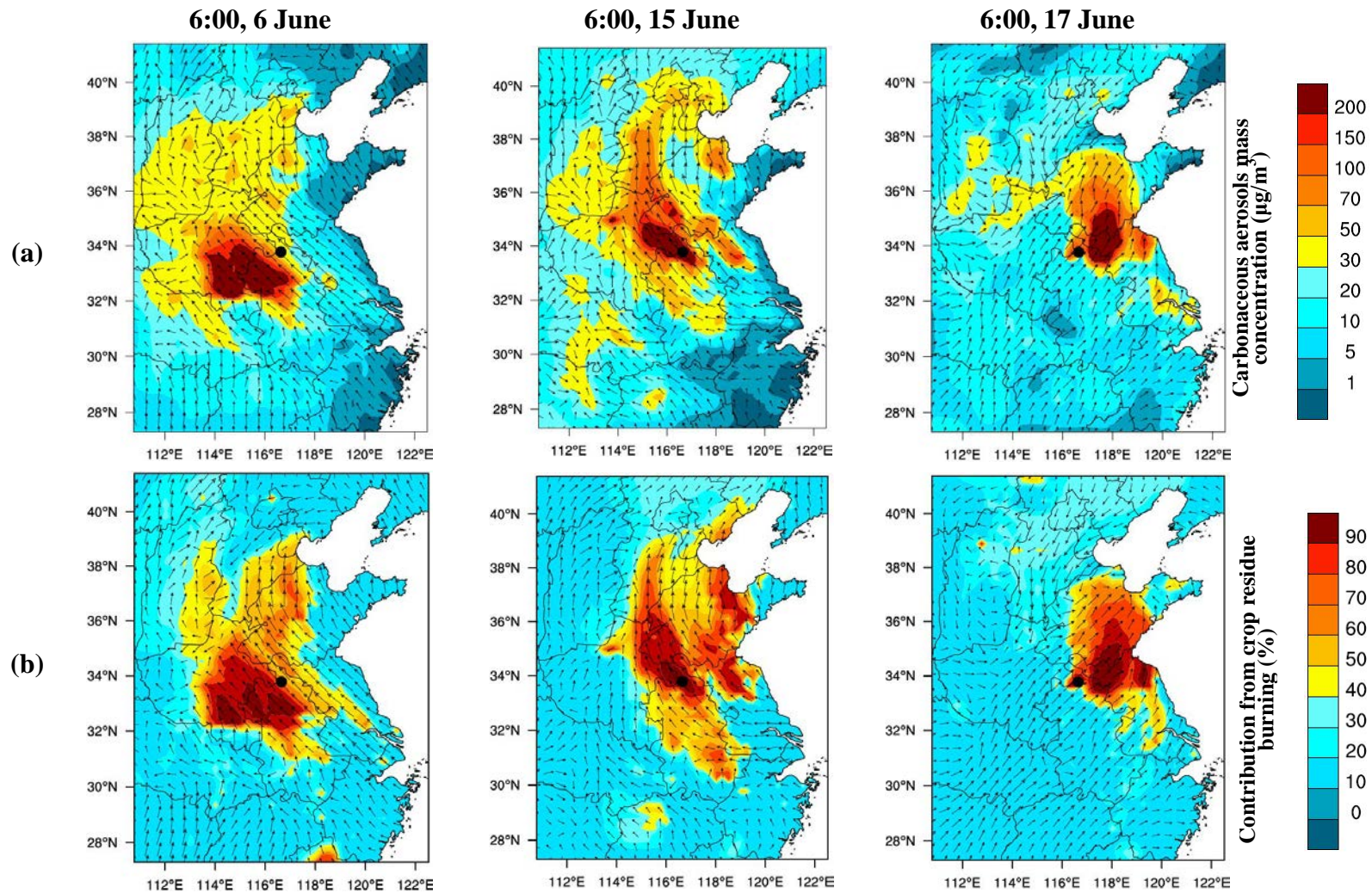
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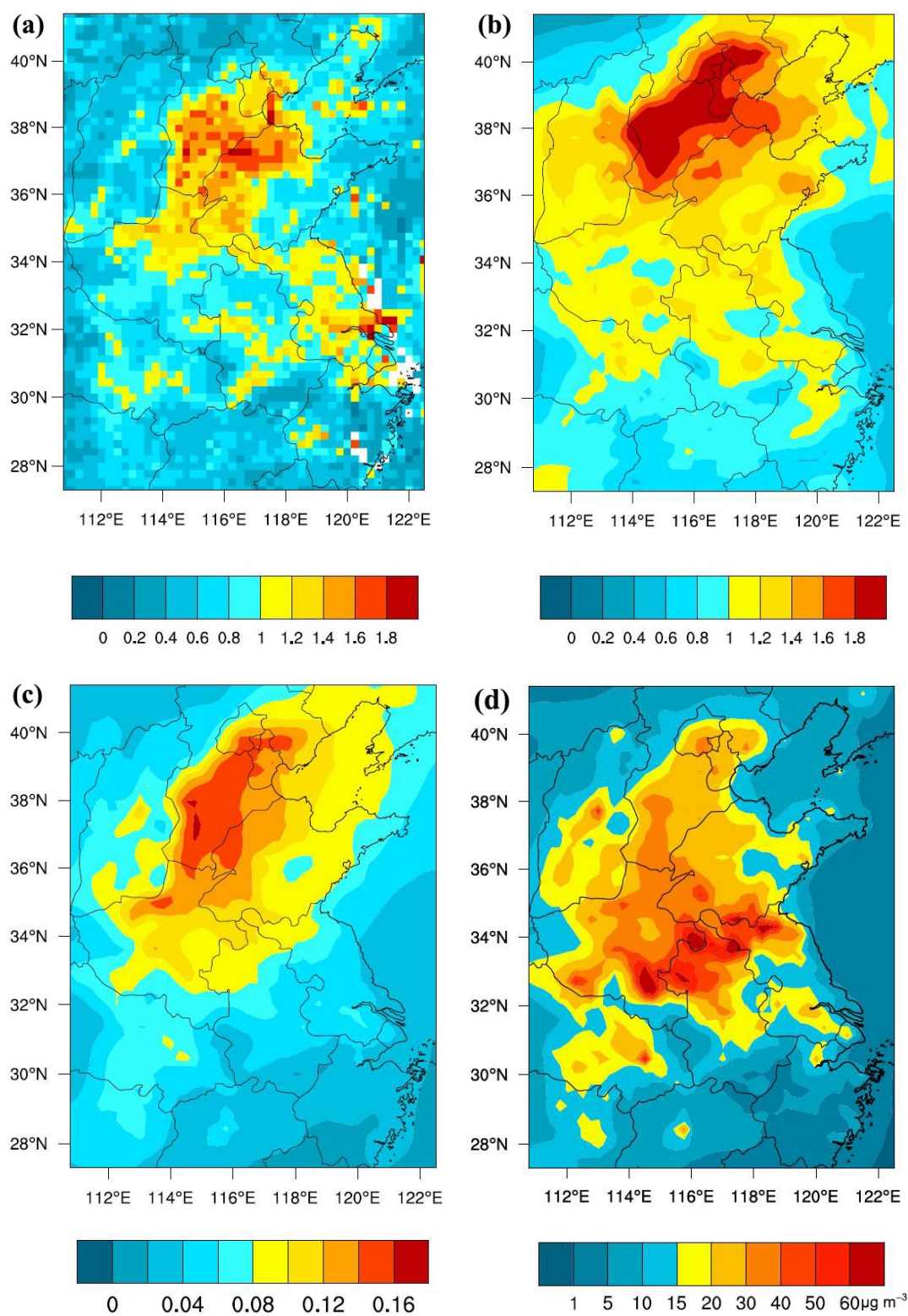
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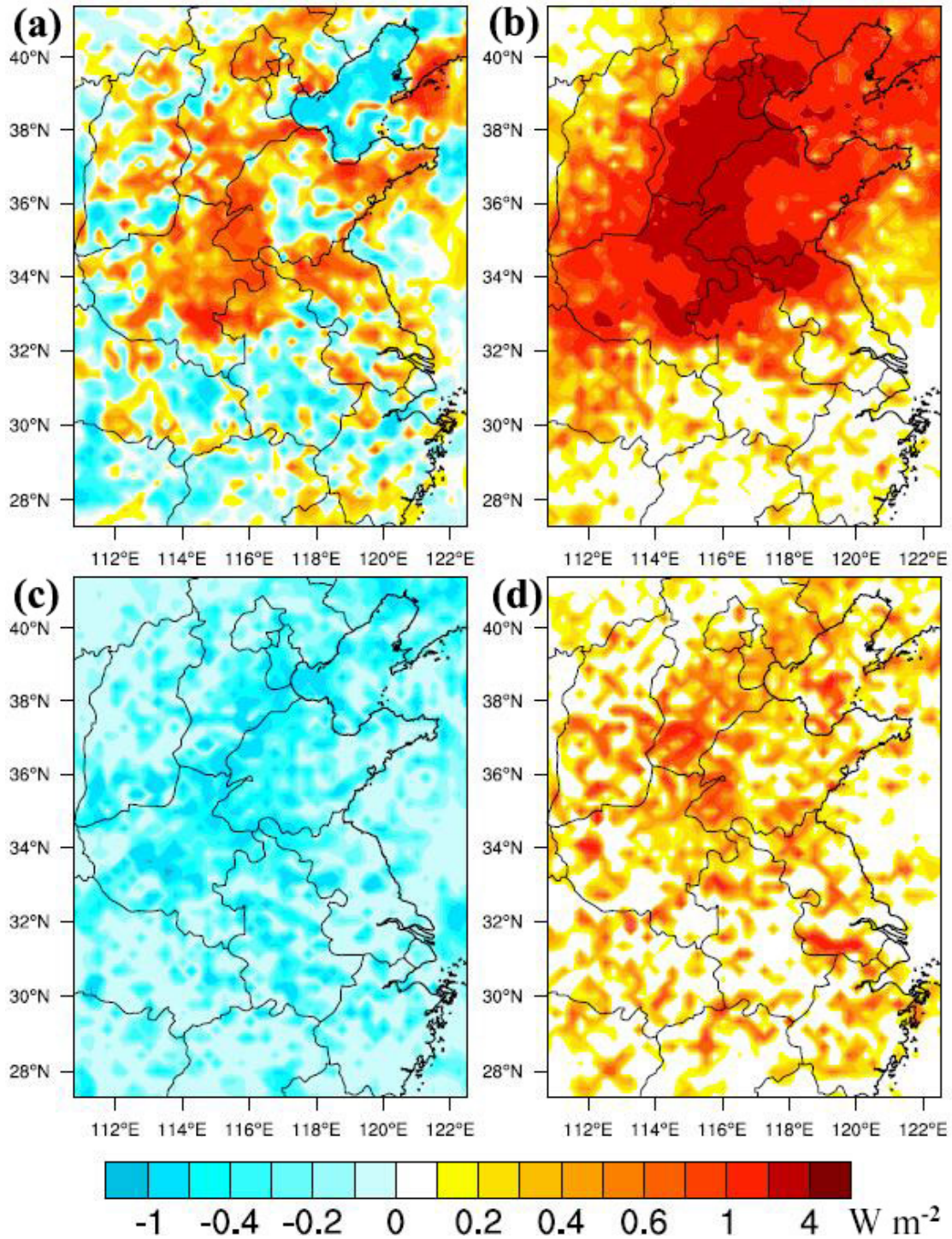
886 Figure 3. Time series of the observed (dots) and simulated (line) (a) black carbon (BC)
 887 and (b) organic carbon (OC) mass concentrations ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$) at the Suixi site.
 888 Scatterplots of simulated (c) BC and (d) OC mass concentrations ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$) and
 889 corresponding observed values. NMB and R represent normalized mean bias and
 890 correlation coefficient, respectively.



891 Figure 4. Spatial distributions of (a) carbonaceous aerosols mass concentration ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) at lowest model level (~ 20 m) and (b) its contribution from crop residue
 892 burning (%) in the three typical hours (6:00, GMT+8.0) during the summer harvest (1–21 June) in June 2013. The location of the sampling site (Suixi) is
 893 indicated by the black dot. The arrows represent the surface (~ 20 m) wind fields.



894 Figure 5. Spatial distribution of mean (a) 550-nm aerosol optical depth observations
 895 from MODIS, (b) 550-nm aerosol optical depth from WRF-Chem, (c) mean
 896 absorption aerosol optical depth from WRF-Chem and (d) mean carbonaceous aerosol
 897 concentration ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$) at lowest model level (~ 20 m) during the summer harvest (1–
 898 21 June). BASE run is shown.



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Figure 6. Spatial distribution of simulated direct radiative effect (DRE) introduced by (a) all aerosol from crop residue burning and (b) BC from crop-burning, (c) OA from crop burning, and (d) the absorbing component of OA from crop-burning emissions, calculated from WRF-Chem simulations during the summer harvest (1–21 June).