

1 Wide Discrepancies in the Magnitude and Direction of Modelled SIF in Response to Light
2 Conditions

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25 **Abstract:**

26 Recent successes in passive remote sensing of far-red solar induced chlorophyll fluorescence (SIF)
27 have spurred development and integration of canopy-level fluorescence models in global
28 terrestrial biosphere models (TBMs) for climate and carbon cycle research. The interaction of
29 fluorescence with photochemistry at the leaf- and canopy- scale provides opportunities to
30 diagnose and constrain model simulations of photosynthesis and related processes, through
31 direct comparison to and assimilation of tower, airborne, and satellite data. TBMs describe key
32 processes related to absorption of sunlight, leaf-level fluorescence emission, scattering and
33 reabsorption throughout the canopy. Here, we analyze simulations from an ensemble of process-
34 based TBM-SIF models (SiB3, SiB4, CLM4.5, CLM5.0, BETHY, ORCHIDEE, BEPS) and the SCOPE
35 canopy radiation and vegetation model at a subalpine evergreen needleleaf forest near Niwot
36 Ridge, Colorado. These models are forced with local meteorology and analyzed against tower-
37 based continuous far-red SIF and gross primary productivity (GPP) partitioned eddy covariance
38 data at diurnal and synoptic scales during the growing season (July-August 2017). Our primary
39 objective is to summarize the site-level state of the art in TBM-SIF modeling over a relatively short
40 time period (summer) when light, canopy structure, and pigments are similar, setting the stage
41 for regional- to global-scale analyses. We find that these models are generally well constrained
42 in simulating photosynthetic yield, but show strongly divergent patterns in the simulation of
43 absorbed photosynthetic active radiation (PAR), absolute GPP and fluorescence, quantum yields,
44 and light response at leaf and canopy scale. This study highlights the need for mechanistic
45 modeling of non-photochemical quenching in stressed and unstressed environments, and
46 improved representation of light absorption (APAR), distribution of light across sunlit and shaded
47 leaves, and radiative transfer from leaf to canopy scale.

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50 **Section 1: Introduction**

51 Our ability to estimate and measure photosynthesis beyond the leaf scale is extremely limited.
52 This inhibits the ability to evaluate the performance of terrestrial biosphere models (TBMs) that
53 are designed to quantify the direct impact and feedbacks of the carbon cycle with climate change.
54 Consequently, there are substantial uncertainties in estimating the gross primary production
55 (GPP) response to environmental changes and carbon-climate feedback (Friedlingstein et al.,
56 2014). Global, multi-scale remote sensing of solar induced fluorescence (SIF) may represent a
57 major breakthrough in alleviating this deficiency (Mohammed et al, 2019). Spaceborne data
58 indicate a linear relationship between SIF and GPP at large spatial (kilometer) and temporal (bi-
59 weekly) scales (e.g., Sun et al., 2017) for several ecosystems, while theoretical models and
60 ground-based measurements indicate a more non-linear relationship at leaf and canopy scales
61 (Zhang et al., 2016; Gu et al., 2019; van der Tol et al., 2014; Magney et al., 2017, 2019a).

62 Chlorophyll fluorescence is re-emitted energy produced during the photosynthetic light
63 reactions, in which a small fraction (roughly 2%) of photosynthetic active radiation (PAR)
64 absorbed by chlorophyll is re-emitted at longer wavelengths (650-850 nm) as fluorescence. In
65 ambient conditions, the emission of SIF represents a by-product of two primary de-excitation
66 pathways, photochemical and nonphotochemical quenching (PQ, NPQ). Plants have evolved
67 these regulatory mechanisms to prevent damage to photosynthetic machinery when the amount
68 of absorbed radiation is greater than that which can be used to drive photochemistry. Chlorophyll
69 fluorescence responds dynamically to changes in photochemistry and NPQ from instantaneous
70 to hourly, daily, and seasonal timescales, as a function of changing environmental conditions and
71 plant structural properties (Porcar-Castell et al., 2014; Demmig-Adams et al., 2012). SIF is
72 fundamentally different than steady-state fluorescence yield typically measured at the leaf scale
73 as it is sensitive to both changes in photochemistry as well as absorbed PAR (APAR, related to
74 incident light, canopy structure, and biochemical content). The response of canopy SIF to APAR
75 is well documented in deciduous and evergreen forests and cropping ecosystems (Yang et al.,
76 2018; Badgley et al, 2017; Miao et al., 2018; Magney et al., 2019b; Li et al., 2020). More recently,
77 Magney et al. (2019b) showed that seasonal changes in canopy SIF for cold climate evergreen

78 systems is influenced by changes in needle physiology and photoprotective pigments (Magney et
79 al., 2019b).

80 To properly account for these factors, process-based SIF models must represent these underlying
81 non-linear biophysical and chemical processes. Several modeling groups have adapted TBMs to
82 incorporate various SIF formalisms for the purpose of model evaluation, data assimilation, and
83 improved model prediction (Lee et al., 2015; Koffi et al., 2015; Thum et al., 2017; Norton et al.,
84 2019; Bacour et al., 2019; Raczka et al., 2019). With these goals in mind, TBM SIF modeling
85 requires two important steps: (1) a representation of SIF at the leaf scale that accounts for NPQ
86 and photochemistry, and (2) canopy radiative transfer of SIF, which enables a comparison to large
87 field-of-view observations (e.g. tower, satellites). The second step involves accounting for
88 radiative transfer within the canopy and has typically relied on incorporating the Soil Canopy
89 Observation Photosynthesis Energy model (SCOPE, van der Tol et al., 2009, 2014), which
90 simulates chlorophyll fluorescence as a function of biophysics, canopy structure, environmental
91 conditions, and sun/sensor geometries. This approach has been adopted by TBMs in various ways
92 using different assumptions for fluorescence modeling and radiative transfer, as will be discussed
93 in Section 2.

94 Typically, measuring chlorophyll fluorescence and competing pathways (PQ, NPQ) has been done
95 at the leaf scale via pulse-amplitude modulation fluorescence (PAM, Schreiber et al., 1986).
96 Recently, commercially available spectrometers have made it possible to measure SIF directly in
97 the field at the leaf and canopy scale, and also enable the study of structural, environmental, and
98 directional controls (Cogliati et al. 2015; Daumard et al. 2010; Migliavacca et al. 2017; Yang et al.
99 2015; Grossman et al., 2018; Aasen et al., 2019; Gu et al., 2019b; Zhang et al., 2019). The use of
100 field deployable instruments on eddy covariance towers has increased rapidly since 2014,
101 providing coverage of multiple vegetation types across various climates around the world (Yang
102 et al., 2018; Magney et al., 2019a,b; Parazoo et al., 2019). These data enable improved
103 understanding of the relationship between SIF, GPP, APAR, and environmental effects at canopy
104 scales. Novel tower-mounted spectrometer systems such as Fluospec2 (Yang et al., 2018),
105 Photospec (Grossman et al., 2018), and FLOX (e.g., Julitta et al., 2017; Shan et al., 2019) have
106 made it possible to monitor canopy SIF continuously in the field with high precision over multiple

107 years providing opportunities for more direct comparison and evaluation of satellite data
108 (Grossman et al., 2018; Yang et al., 2015, 2018; Wohlfahrt et al., 2018; Magney et al., 2019b).
109 PhotoSpec offers the additional benefits (and challenge) of (a) precise field of view capable of
110 resolving leaf-level SIF, and (b) canopy scanning at azimuth and elevation angles. These features
111 enable SIF integration from leaf- to canopy- scales, and interpretation of directional variations of
112 the emitted radiance.

113 Canopy scanning spectrometers such as PhotoSpec thus provide an opportunity to understand
114 the physical processes that lead to a breakdown of SIF-GPP linearity at leaf to canopy scale (or
115 conversely, emergence of linearity at increasing scale), and for detailed evaluation and diagnosis
116 of TBM performance. This study provides a preliminary benchmarking site-level assessment for
117 simulations of SIF within a TBM framework and across an ensemble of TBMs, with the primary
118 purpose being an initial investigation into the response of modelled SIF and GPP to light during
119 peak summer. We leverage continuous measurements of SIF and GPP at the Niwot Ridge US-NR1
120 Ameriflux flux tower in Colorado from June-July 2017 (Magney et al., 2019b), and simulations of
121 canopy radiative transfer, photosynthesis, and fluorescence from a stand-alone version of SCOPE,
122 to (1) Benchmark TBM-SIF modeling, (2) Evaluate sensitivity to underlying processes and scaling
123 techniques, (3) Identify strengths and weaknesses in current modeling strategies, and (4)
124 Recommend strategies for models and observations.

125 The paper is organized as follows: Section 2 describes SCOPE and the seven TBM-SIF models (SiB3,
126 SiB4, ORCHIDEE, BEPS, BETHY, CLM4.5, CLM5) which have recently been published or are in
127 review, and provides more details on site level benchmarking observations. Section 3 summarizes
128 results comparing modelled and predicted SIF and GPP at hourly and daily scales, as they relate
129 to absorbed light, GPP and SIF yields, and quantum yields. Section 4 discusses results in more
130 detail, including attribution of SIF magnitude and temporal phasing biases and sensitivities to
131 absorbed light, and areas for improvement.

132 **Section 2: Methods**

133 *2.1 Site: Niwot Ridge, Colorado*

134 Our study focuses on an AmeriFlux (<https://ameriflux.lbl.gov/>) site in Niwot Ridge, Colorado,
135 USA (US-NR1), where a tower-based eddy covariance system has been continuously measuring
136 the net ecosystem exchange of carbon dioxide (NEE) over a high-elevation subalpine forest
137 since 1999, and a spectrometer system that has been continuously monitoring SIF since June
138 2017 (Grossman et al., 2018; Magney et al., 2019b). The 26 m tall tower is located in a high
139 elevation forest (3050 m asl) located in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado (Burns et al., 2015; Hu
140 et al., 2010; Monson et al., 2002) and consists primarily of the evergreen species of lodgepole
141 pine (*Pinus contorta*), Engelmann spruce (*Piceae engelmannii*), and subalpine fir (*Abies*
142 *lasiocarpa*). The mean annual temperature is 1.5°C and mean annual precipitation is 800 mm
143 (65% as snow). The forest is roughly 120 years old with a mean canopy height of 11.5 m, and a
144 leaf area index of 4.2 m² m⁻². More site-specific details can be found in Burns et al. (2015).

145 At Niwot Ridge, interannual variations in GPP are closely linked to winter snowfall amount, which
146 typically melts by early June, and summer precipitation, characterized by afternoon convective
147 thunderstorms triggered by upslope flow (Burns et al., 2015; Albert et al., 2017) and
148 climatological peak precipitation around 2 pm local time (Fig 1A). We note that our study period
149 of July-August 2017 is unusual for NR1 (relative to the 2015-2018 mean) in its bimodal
150 distribution of diurnal precipitation (morning and afternoon peaks), lower than normal afternoon
151 precipitation, cooler temperatures, and reduced vapor pressure deficit (Fig 1 A-C). The early
152 morning peak is due to a strong storm system that moved through from July 22-24 (Fig 1E), and
153 does not show up when these days are removed. This period also shows a decrease in incoming
154 shortwave relative to climatology despite lower precipitation (Fig 1D). We note that a second
155 storm passed through in early August. The combination of these two storms produced net
156 decreases in air temperature (Fig 1F), vapor pressure deficit (Fig 1G) and sunlight (Fig 1H) over a
157 two-week period from late July to early August.

158 2.2 Tower-Based Measurements: PAR, SIF, CO₂ Flux

159 2.2.1 Absorbed PAR

160 The site is equipped with two main upward-facing PAR sensors. The first (LICOR LI-190R),
161 mounted on the PhotoSpec telescope unit, provides an independent measurement of

162 direct/diffuse light and can be used to calibrate PhotoSpec (Grossman et al., 2018). The second
163 (SQ-500-SS; Apogee Instruments), mounted on the main flux tower, is part of a larger array of
164 upward- and downward-oriented PAR sensors above and below the canopy used for the
165 calculation of the fraction of PAR absorbed by the vegetation canopy (fAPAR). The two PAR
166 sensors show a similar diurnal pattern during July-August 2017 (Fig S1), including an afternoon
167 dip and relatively smaller values overall compared to 2018 (the only other year with available
168 PAR for comparison).

169 Full-spectrum quantum sensors (SQ-500-SS; Apogee Instruments) were new and factory-
170 calibrated together just before installation. Above-canopy sensors (one up and one down-facing)
171 were mounted on the main flux tower, and below-canopy sensors (six up and six down) were
172 mounted at the 2 m height above ground on a shorter canopy-access towers. APAR was
173 calculated for each pair of below-canopy relative to above-canopy sensors for every half-hour,
174 then averaged among sensors over daylight hours to create a daytime average. We then estimate
175 hourly APAR by multiplying hourly incoming PAR (measured and integrated from 400-700 nm) at
176 the top of canopy (PAR) by the daytime average of fAPAR. Fig S2 shows the mean diurnal cycle
177 for July-August 2017 for each sensor, and the across-sensor average, with APAR data collection
178 beginning on July 13, 2017. We note that APAR measurements are only as representative as the
179 distribution of PAR sensors beneath the canopy; while they are placed within the footprint of SIF
180 (Sec 2.2.3) and fetch of eddy covariance (Sec 2.2.4) measurements, they cannot be a perfect
181 representation of canopy APAR for each eddy covariance and SIF measurement.

182 2.2.2 Fluorescence parameters

183 We define and clarify three important quantities that define the relationship between absorbed
184 light and emitted SIF at leaf and canopy scales. ϕ_F is the quantum yield of fluorescence,
185 representing the probability an absorbed photon will be fluoresced. This quantity can be
186 observed at leaf level using PAM fluorimetry or calculated by models as a function of rate
187 coefficients for energy transfer (Sec 2.3.3). SIF_{yield} is the canopy emitted SIF per photon absorbed.
188 The quantity is estimated from models and observations as the ratio of absolute canopy SIF and
189 APAR ($SIF_{canopy}/APAR$). SIF_{yield} is our best attempt to account for the effects of (a) canopy absorbed
190 light and (b) SIF re-absorption within the canopy on the canopy integrated emission of SIF.

191 However, factors such as observation angle, fraction of sunlit/shaded canopy components, and
192 difference in footprint from APAR, necessitates an additional diagnostic variable defined as
193 relative SIF (SIF_{rel}). SIF_{rel} is emitted SIF per reflected radiance in the far red spectrum where SIF
194 retrievals occur (SIF/Ref_{fr}). This is useful because it normalizes for the exact amount of
195 'illuminated' canopy components within the sensor field of view, whereas APAR measurements
196 are integrated for the entire canopy.

197 These quantities represent different but equally important versions of reality. It is difficult for
198 models to exactly reproduce the distribution and timing of sunlight in the canopy as observed by
199 PhotoSpec. While SIF_{rel} removes model-observation differences in illumination, it confounds our
200 interpretation of the relationship with GPP_{yield} , which is derived from APAR. As such, we provide
201 both results to be comprehensive, but note the temporal stability associated with SIF_{rel} as the
202 more physical interpretation of canopy yield for this short period of study.

203 2.2.3 Tower Based Measurements of Solar Induced Chlorophyll Fluorescence (SIF)

204 SIF data has been collected from a scanning spectrometer (PhotoSpec) installed at the AmeriFlux
205 US-NR1 tall tower since June 17, 2017. PhotoSpec sits atop the tower at 26 m above the ground
206 and roughly 15 m above the forest canopy top, transferring reflected sunlight and SIF data
207 collected from the needleleaf canopy through a tri-furcated optical cable to three spectrometers
208 in a shed at the base of the tower. These spectrometers measure far-red fluorescence in the 745-
209 758 nm retrieval window at high spectral resolution (FWHM = 0.3 nm) and with a 0.7 deg field of
210 view (FOV), resulting in a 20 cm diameter footprint at nadir on top of the canopy. The far-red SIF
211 data are then scaled to 740 nm for model intercomparison using the first principal component of
212 the spectral shape in Magney et al., 2019a. Photospec scans from nadir to the horizon in 0.7
213 degrees steps at two azimuth directions, with a time resolution of ~20 s per measurement and
214 complete scan time of 20 minutes. For this study, we aggregate scans across all azimuth and
215 elevation angles into hourly, canopy level averages to benchmark model estimates of top of
216 canopy (TOC) or canopy averaged SIF (BETHY only, see Sec 2.3.4.1) at diurnal and synoptic time
217 scales. We refer the reader to Grossman et al. (2018) and Magney et al (2019b) for further details
218 regarding PhotoSpec, implementation at US-NR1, and data filtering, and to Magney et al (2019c)

219 for data access. We focus our model-data analysis on the 2017 growing season (July-August,
220 2017) to maximize overlap between observations of SIF, GPP, and APAR.

221 Diurnal composites of PhotoSpec SIF in 2017 show a late morning peak and afternoon dip (Fig
222 S3A). The afternoon dip is consistent with decreased incoming shortwave, PAR and APAR (Figs S1
223 and S2, respectively). However, we note the retrieved signal from PhotoSpec is also affected by
224 (1) viewing geometry, (2) fraction of sunlit vs shaded leaves (sun/shade fraction, i.e. the quantity
225 of needles illuminated by incident sunlight) due to self-shading within the canopy, and (3)
226 direct/diffuse fraction due to cloud cover. Structural and bidirectional effects lead to different
227 SIF emission patterns depending on view angle and scanning patterns (Yang and van der Tol,
228 2018). The viewing geometry of PhotoSpec (as implemented at NR1 in 2017) causes a higher
229 fraction of illuminated vegetation in the morning, which leads to a 2 to 3 hour offset in the timing
230 of peak SIF (Fig S3A) and incoming far-red reflected radiance within the retrieval window (Fig
231 S3B), from the peak zenith angle of the sun at noon (coinciding with the expected peak in PAR)
232 to late morning. Normalizing SIF by far-red reflected radiance as relative SIF (SIF_{rel} , Fig S3C) and
233 rescaling to SIF (Fig S3D) shifts the peak back to noon and preserved the afternoon dip (albeit
234 with reduced magnitude). SIF_{rel} helps to account for factors 1-3 listed above because it accounts
235 for the amount of reflected radiation in the field of view of PhotoSpec, which is impacted by
236 canopy structure, sun angle, and direct/diffuse light. As discussed above, SIF_{rel} is likely a better
237 approximation of SIF_{yield} because it normalizes for the exact amount of 'illuminated' canopy
238 components in each retrieval, whereas APAR integrates the entire canopy. As such, we expect
239 SIF_{rel} to have a strong seasonal change associated with downregulation of photosynthesis, and a
240 more subtle diurnal change, as during mid-summer the SIF signal is primarily driven by light
241 intensity.

242 It is important to note that the PhotoSpec system is highly sensitive to sun/shade fraction in the
243 canopy (factor 2) due to the narrow FOV of the PhotoSpec telescoping lens. Increased afternoon
244 cloud cover during summer causes diurnal asymmetry in incident PAR (Fig S1A). We examine this
245 effect in more detail (Section 3) by analyzing SIF and GPP under clear and diffuse sky conditions
246 using a threshold (0.5, top-of-canopy/top-of-atmosphere incoming shortwave radiation) similar
247 to that used in Yang et al. (2017) and Yang et al. (2018).

248 2.2.4 CO₂ Flux and GPP Partitioning

249 NEE measurements are screened using u_{star} filtering, and partitioned into gross primary
250 production (GPP) and terrestrial ecosystem respiration components using the so-called nighttime
251 method which is based on the relationship between NEE during the nighttime ($\text{PAR} < 50 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2}$
252 s^{-1}) and air temperature (Reichstein et al., 2005). Diurnal averages of GPP based on nighttime
253 partitioning show similar diurnal structure to PAR and SIF including the afternoon dip and
254 reduced overall magnitude compared to the 2015-2018 mean (Fig S4). Similar results are found
255 using daytime light partitioning of NEE (Lasslop et al., 2010; Fig S4) and thus only nighttime
256 partitioned GPP data are reported for the remainder of this study. All GPP estimates are
257 processed as half hourly means, then gap filled and averaged hourly. We note the tower location
258 near the Continental Divide in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado presents slope flow challenges
259 for eddy covariance during nighttime, but the relatively flat area of the tower reduces impact on
260 daytime flux measurements (Burns et al., 2018). Details on the flux measurements, data
261 processing and quality control are provided in Burns et al. (2015).

262 2.3 Modeling Approach

263 2.3.1 TBM-SIF Overview

264 The parent TBMs are designed to simulate the exchanges of carbon, water, and energy between
265 biosphere and atmosphere, from global to local scales depending on inputs from meteorological
266 forcing, soil texture, and plant functional type. The addition of a fluorescence model that
267 simulates SIF enables a direct comparison to remotely sensed observations for benchmarking,
268 process diagnostics, and parameter/state optimization (data fusion) for improved GPP
269 estimation. The TBM-SIF models analyzed here differ in ways too numerous to discuss. We refer
270 the reader to the appropriate references in Section 2.3.4 for more detailed model descriptions.
271 Instead, we focus on key differences affecting joint simulation of GPP and leaf/canopy level SIF
272 at diurnal and synoptic scale, during the peak of summer. These differences, which are
273 summarized in Table 1, include the representation of stomatal-conductance (all use Ball-Berry
274 except CLM5.0, BEPS, and ORCHIDEE), canopy absorption of incoming radiation (all account for
275 sunlit/shaded radiation except ORCHIDEE, SiB3, and SiB4), limiting factors for photosynthesis

276 (V_{cmax} , LAI, radiation, stress) and SIF (k_N , fluorescence photon re-absorption), scaling and radiative
277 transfer methods for transferring leaf-level SIF simulations to top of canopy, and parameter
278 optimization. Further details on (a) photosynthetic structural formulation and parameter choice,
279 (b) representation of leaf level processes important to SIF (k_N and ϕ_P), and (c) leaf-to-canopy
280 scaling approach (SIF_{canopy}) are provided in Sections 2.3.2 and 2.3.3.

281 2.3.2 Photosynthesis Models

282 All TBM-SIF models in this manuscript used enzyme-kinetic models to simulate leaf assimilation
283 rate (gross photosynthesis) as limited by the efficiency of photosynthetic enzyme system, the
284 amount of PAR captured by leaf chlorophyll, and the capacity of leaves to utilize end products of
285 photosynthesis (Farquhar et al., 1980; Collatz et al., 1991, 1992; Sellers et al., 1996). However,
286 there are important differences in the representation of (a) stomatal conductance that couples
287 carbon/water cycles, and (b) limiting factors on carbon assimilation due to leaf physiology
288 (maximum carboxylation capacity, V_{cmax}), radiation (APAR or fAPAR), canopy structure (LAI, leaf
289 angle distribution), and stress (water supply and demand, temperature), that affect plant
290 physiological processes and canopy radiative transfer. The underlying stomatal conductance
291 models in the TBMs analyzed here are represented by the Ball-Berry family of empirical models
292 rooted in the leaf gas exchange equation but with different representations of atmospheric
293 demand (relative humidity or vapor pressure deficit), including the Ball-Berry-Woodrow model
294 (Ball et al., 1987), the Leuning model (Leuning, 1995), the Yin-Stuik model (Yin and Struik, 2009),
295 and the Medlyn model (Medlyn et al., 2011). These structural and parametric differences also
296 influence calculated values such as the degree of light saturation (Section 2.3.3), which influence
297 both the fluorescence and quantum yield as used by the fluorescence models. Differences in
298 stomatal conductance, canopy type / radiation scheme, stress, V_{cmax} , and LAI are summarized in
299 Table 1.

300 2.3.3 Fluorescence Modeling Approach

301 Following the general approach described in Lee et al. (2015) and van der Tol et al. (2014), the
302 flux of total leaf-level emitted fluorescence, SIF_{leaf} , can be diagnosed using a light use efficiency
303 framework analogous to the expression for photosynthesis (Monteith et al., 1972),

$$\begin{aligned}
304 \quad SIF_{leaf} &= fAPAR * PAR * \phi_F \\
305 \quad &= APAR * \phi_F \qquad \qquad \qquad \text{Equation 1}
\end{aligned}$$

306 where PAR and $fAPAR$ are defined in Section 2.2.1 but measured at leaf level, and ϕ_F is the
307 quantum yield of fluorescence, representing the number of photons emitted by fluorescence per
308 absorbed photon. We note that photosystems I and II (PS1 and PSII, respectively) contribute to
309 leaf level fluorescence but only PSII is considered in models analyzed here (with the exception of
310 ORCHIDEE and BETHY, Section 2.3.4.2). ϕ_F is estimated as follows:

$$311 \quad \phi_F = \frac{k_F}{k_F + k_D + k_N} (1 - \phi_P) \qquad \qquad \qquad \text{Equation 2}$$

312 where k represents the rate coefficients for the different pathways for the transfer of energy
313 from excited chlorophyll (k_F = fluorescence, k_D = heat dissipation, and k_N = non-photochemical
314 quenching, or NPQ), and ϕ_P is the quantum yield of electron transport (see Section 2.3.2). k_F is
315 typically set to a constant value (0.05) in models following van der Tol et al (2014). k_D is also
316 typically set to a constant value of 0.95, or temperature corrected in some cases (e.g., ORCHIDEE,
317 CLM4.5, CLM5.0, BETHY). k_N has a substantial and variable impact on energy partitioning at
318 diurnal and seasonal scales which varies as a function of light saturation (e.g., Raczka et al., 2019;
319 Porcar-Castell et al., 2011). Once leaf level emissions are known, an approach is needed estimate
320 the total TOC fluorescence flux (SIF_{canopy}) for comparison to Photospec data. Leaf and canopy
321 level fluorescence modeling is described in more detail in Section 2.3.3.1 and 2.3.3.2 below.

322 2.3.3.1 Leaf level SIF emission

323 The ‘quantum yield’ approach has been used in SIF models to characterize the fraction of photons
324 that are used for PQ, NPQ, or re-emitted as fluorescence (van der Tol 2014). It is important to
325 note, that this does not translate into the actual amount of SIF emission leaving the leaf, but is
326 used as an approximation. TBM-SIF models typically represent ϕ_P using lake model formalism,
327 which assumes large connectivity between photosynthetic units (Genty et al., 1989; van der Tol
328 et al., 2014). ϕ_P is expressed in terms of the degree of light saturation (x), derived from the native
329 photosynthesis module of the parent TBM and represents the balance between actual and
330 potential electron transport rates, and the maximum photochemical yield under dark-acclimated

331 conditions (ϕ_{Pmax}), which is derived from the fluorescence model and defined in terms of rate
332 coefficients in Eq 2.

333 ϕ_N accounts for the ability of plants to dissipate excess energy as heat via NPQ through the
334 regulation of xanthophyll cycle pigments (Demmig-Adams and Adams, 2006). NPQ can be
335 represented as a sum of reversible (k_R) and sustained (k_S) components ($k_N = k_R + k_S$). k_R accounts for
336 the relatively fast (diurnal), reversible NPQ response to light. k_S accounts for the relatively slow
337 (seasonal), sustained NPQ response to light and other environmental factors. With the exception
338 of CLM4.5, models do not typically account for k_S .

339 A significant challenge in fluorescence models is to find an appropriate relationship between k_N
340 and the degree of light saturation (x). The TBM-SIF models represent k_N through an approach
341 similar to the one used in SCOPE, which uses a parametric model of k_N derived from PAM
342 fluorometry measurements (van der Tol et al., 2014).

343 NPQ models can be classified as stressed (drought) and unstressed relative to water availability
344 depending on the dataset from which empirical fits are derived. The unstressed model is ideal
345 for irrigated systems such as crops, and the stressed model is more appropriate for water limited
346 ecosystems such as Niwot Ridge. We examine each of these models using drought and unstressed
347 models from van der Tol (2014), and a drought-based model from Flexas et al. (2002). These
348 models use different empirical fits but are otherwise identical. In general, k_N increases more
349 rapidly with APAR (light saturation), and ramps up to a higher level, in the drought-based model
350 compared to the unstressed model. Additionally, some models provide unique improvements
351 such as dependence on environmental conditions (e.g., water stress vs no water stress in
352 ORCHIDEE), and equations for reversible and sustained NPQ to represent the different time
353 scales (minutes to seasonal) at which NPQ regulation occurs (e.g., CLM4.5) influenced by
354 pigmentation changes in the leaf.

355 *2.3.3.2 Leaf-to-Canopy scaling*

356 The TBM-SIFs produce leaf-level fluorescence which needs to be converted to canopy-level
357 fluorescence (SIF_{canopy}) to be directly compared to PhotoSpec and satellite observations. Leaf- to
358 canopy- level conversion of SIF requires a representation of canopy radiative transfer, which in

359 general is too computationally expensive to include within the TBMs in this study, that are
360 designed for global scale application. Therefore, most TBMs analyzed here account for canopy
361 radiative transfer of SIF using some representation of SCOPE (van der Tol 2009a,b). The most
362 commonly used approach is to run independent simulations of SIF from SCOPE to create an
363 empirical conversion factor (κ_{740}) between leaf and canopy level SIF that is a function of V_{cmax}
364 (Lee et al., 2015). This conversion factor accounts for integration over the fluorescence emission
365 spectrum, observation angle, and unit conversion. Model variations of this empirical approach,
366 as well additional approaches utilizing the full SCOPE model and a SCOPE emulator, are
367 summarized below and in Table 1.

368 2.3.4 TBM-SIF Models

369 Here we provide a brief description of individual TBM-SIF models and within model experiments.
370 We point out key differences in modeling of photosynthesis, fluorescence, and leaf-to-canopy
371 scaling. We note that within model experiments, labeled as Experiment 1 (exp1), Experiment 2
372 (exp2), etc, represent increasing order of realism, rather than a specific set of conditions common
373 across models. As such, Experiment 1 in BETHY (*BETHY-exp1*) is not equivalent to Experiment 1
374 in CLM4.5 (*CLM4.5-exp1*).

375 2.3.4.1 BETHY

376 The Biosphere Energy Transfer HydrologY (BETHY) model is the land surface component of the
377 Carbon Cycle Data Assimilation System (CCDAS) developed to ingest a range of observational data
378 for estimating terrestrial carbon fluxes at global scale (Rayner et al., 2005; Kaminski et al., 2013;
379 Koffi et al., 2012; Anav et al., 2015). Koffi et al. (2015) was the first to combine a process-based
380 model of SIF with a global TBM. The native canopy radiative transfer and photosynthesis schemes
381 of BETHY were effectively replaced with corresponding schemes and fluorescence model from
382 SCOPE (Koffi et al., 2015), thus enabling spatially explicit simulation of GPP and SIF as a function
383 of plant function type. This model was extended to include a module for prognostic leaf growth
384 (Norton et al., 2018) and more recently adapted with a formal optimization algorithm for
385 assimilating spaceborne SIF data (Norton et al., 2019). It has been updated for this study to accept
386 hourly meteorological forcing. BETHY-SCOPE, denoted here as BETHY, remains the first and only

387 global TBM-SIF model to simulate vertically integrated (1-D) fluorescence radiative transfer and
388 energy balance.

389 We include three experiments to examine the impact of calibrating the k_N model against PAM
390 fluorometry data to different species: (1) *BETHY-exp1* is adapted to unstressed cotton species
391 (van der Tol et al., 2014), (2) *BETHY-exp2* is adapted to drought stressed Mediterranean species
392 (i.e., vineyard in controlled environment subjected to drought) including higher temperature
393 correction (Flexas et al., 2002; van der Tol et al., 2014), (3) *BETHY-exp3* is adapted to drought
394 stressed Mediterranean species (Flexas et al., 2002).

395 We further leverage SCOPE enabled SIF modeling in BETHY (*BETHY-exp3* specifically) to examine
396 (a) leaf and canopy level SIF and quenching under sunlit and shaded leaves, and (b) SIF emissions
397 at the top of canopy (SIF_{canopy}) versus the average emission within the canopy (SIF_{ave}), which
398 accounts for the average emission from sunlit and shaded leaves. The latter analysis facilitates
399 comparison to PhotoSpec, which observes the entire canopy.

400 An important caveat in the analysis of BETHY simulations is that, at the time of this writing, the
401 prescribed meteorological forcing at NR1 is only available for 2015. While this degrades
402 comparison to diurnal and synoptic variation observed by PhotoSpec in 2017, we find that
403 analysis of magnitude, light sensitivities, and within model experiments still provides useful
404 insight for interpretation of other TBM-SIFs, and future modeling requirements in general.

405 2.3.4.2 ORCHIDEE

406 The Organizing Carbon and Hydrology In Dynamic Ecosystems (ORCHIDEE) model (Krinner et al.,
407 2005) is the land surface component of the Earth System Model of Institut Pierre-Simon Laplace
408 IPSL-CM, (Dufresne et al., 2013) involved in recent exercises of the Coupled Model
409 Intercomparison Project (CMIP) established by the World Climate Research Programme
410 (<https://www.wcrp-climate.org/wgcm-cmip>). Recently a mechanistic SIF observation operator
411 was developed for ORCHIDEE to simulate the regulation of photosystem II ϕ_F at the leaf level
412 using a novel parameterization of NPQ as a function of temperature, PAR, and normalized ϕ_P . It
413 emulates the radiative transfer of SIF to the top of the canopy using a parametric simplification
414 of SCOPE. The details of the SIF modelling approach are provided in Bacour et al. (2019).

415 We include three experiments to examine the impact of water stress and parameter optimization
416 (using OCO-2 SIF, see Section 2.4): (1) *ORCHIDEE-exp1* is the standard configuration with default
417 parameters, (2) *ORCHIDEE-exp2* is the same as *ORCHIDEE-exp1* with two key differences (a) water
418 stress is applied to stomatal conductance, mesophyll conductance and to the photosynthetic
419 capacity, and (b) the tree height (12 m instead of 15 m) was set specifically for the NR1 site, (3)
420 *ORCHIDEE-exp3* is the same as *ORCHIDEE-exp1* but includes OCO-2 optimized parameters.

421 2.3.4.3 BEPS

422 The Boreal Ecosystem Product Simulator (BEPS) is an enzyme kinetic two-leaf model for
423 simulating carbon and water cycles for different plant functional types (Chen et al., 1999; Liu et
424 al., 2003). BEPS uses a modified Ball-Berry stomatal conductance model (Leuning et al., 1995)
425 and semi-analytical canopy radiative transfer. The canopy architecture is well considered in BEPS
426 model, which has not only remote-sensed LAI but also the global map of the foliage clumping
427 index. The fluorescence emission at the leaf level follows the approach of Lee et al (2015). SIF
428 emission for sunlit and shaded leaves are separately simulated based on illumination and canopy
429 geometry in BEPS. In addition, multiple scattering SIF is also simulated to account for the
430 scattering process within the canopy. The scaling of leaf-level fluorescence emission to the
431 canopy is based on a novel scheme for single-layer models which accounts for canopy scattering
432 and extinction from sunlit and shaded leaves (Qiu et al., 2019). This scaling scheme is an effective
433 approach to simulate the radiative transfer of SIF for a given canopy structure. We include two
434 experiments similar to *BETHY-exp1/2* in the calibration of the k_N model against unstressed vs
435 stressed species (*BEPS-exp1* and *BEPS-exp2*, respectively).

436 2.3.4.4 CLM4.5

437 The Community Land Model version 4.5 (CLM4.5) provides a description of the biogeochemical
438 profile spanning from the sub-surface bedrock to the top of the vegetation canopy. The
439 fluorescence sub-model follows Raczka et al. (2019), in which the degree of light saturation is
440 calculated from the potential and actual electron transport rate as determined from the
441 photosynthesis model described above. ϕ_f is formulated as described in Equation 2 and ϕ_p is
442 formulated as a function of the maximum ϕ_p under dark acclimated conditions and the degree

443 of light saturation. CLM4.5 uses independent site-level SCOPE simulations that match the
444 observed canopy characteristics and observed GPP at Niwot Ridge to calculate a leaf to canopy
445 level conversion factor (κ_{740}) for estimating SIF_{canopy} . In CLM4.5, κ_{740} is fitted to the modeled
446 SCOPE data as a function of solar zenith angle (and implicitly V_{cmax}).

447 Similar to Raczka et al. (2019), here we examine three separate approaches to parameterize k_N .
448 *CLM4.5-exp1* only considers reversible NPQ (k_R), such that, $k_N = k_R$, and the relationship
449 between k_R and the degree of light saturation is fitted to PAM fluorometry data based on
450 Mediterranean shrubs (Flexas et al., 2002; Galmes et al., 2007). *CLM4.5-exp2* parameterizes k_R
451 with PAM fluorometry from a Scots Pine forest (Porcar-Castell et al., 2011), and defines the rate
452 coefficient in terms of both a reversible and sustained component ($k_N = k_R + k_S$). It has been
453 found that sustained NPQ is important for cold climate evergreen conifer forests such as Niwot
454 Ridge (Miguez et al., 2015; Magney et al., 2019b), and Raczka et al. (2019) found that
455 representing both components provided improved simulations of seasonal SIF. *CLM4.5-exp3* is
456 similar to *CLM4.5-exp3* but includes a seasonally varying representation of k_R . All model
457 experiments use hand-tuned parameters specific to US-NR1 (Raczka et al., 2016).

458 2.3.4.5 CLM5.0

459 CLM version 5.0 (CLM5.0) is similar to CLM4.5 with respect to the implementation of the
460 fluorescence sub-model, yet includes several important updates to the representation of
461 photosynthesis from CLM4.5, including a prognostic calculation of V_{cmax} based upon leaf nitrogen
462 and environmental conditions, revised nitrogen limitation scheme, Medlyn stomatal
463 conductance model, and plant hydraulic water stress (Kennedy et al., 2019). To represent NPQ
464 we use a single approach for k_N (see *CLM4.5-exp1*), but examine three approaches for estimating
465 κ_{740} : (1) *CLM5.0-exp1* uses κ_{740} as function of V_{cmax} following Lee et al (2015), (2) *CLM5.0-exp2*
466 follows the approach of *CLM4.5*, and (3) *CLM5.0-exp3* adapts the approach proposed by Zeng et
467 al. (2019) that estimates the fraction of total emitted SIF escaping the canopy by combining near-
468 infrared reflectance of vegetation (NIR_v) and fPAR.

469 2.3.4.6 SIB3

470 The Simple Biosphere Model version 3 (SIB3) involves the use of explicit biophysical mechanisms
471 to directly calculate carbon assimilation by photosynthesis (Baker et al., 2003; 2008). SiB3
472 includes prognostic calculation of temperature, moisture, and trace gases in the canopy air space,
473 but requires prescription of most structural properties including LAI. We examine two
474 approaches for prescribing LAI: (1) *SIB3-exp1* using values prescribed from MODIS, and (2) *SIB3-*
475 *exp2* uses values observed at the study site ($4.0 \text{ m}^2 \text{ m}^{-2}$). In general, the fluorescence sub-model
476 follows the approach of Lee et al. (2015) except that k_N is adapted to drought stressed species
477 following van der Tol et al (2014).

478 2.3.4.7 SIB4

479 SIB4 (Haynes et al., 2019a,b) shares many similarities to SIB3 with respect to functional aspects
480 of photosynthesis and fluorescence, however, SIB4 uses prognostic rather than prescribed
481 phenology and LAI.

482 2.3.5 SCOPE

483 SCOPE is a multi-layer canopy model which explicitly represents the within canopy radiative
484 transfer of fluorescence, whereas TBM-SIFs analyzed here (with the exception of BETHY) only
485 provide an empirical representation. We provide results from a stand-alone version of SCOPE
486 v1.73 (van der Tol et al., 2014) as an additional benchmark for TBM-SIF simulations of APAR, GPP,
487 SIF, and quantum yields. There are three important reasons for this: (1) It is inherently difficult
488 to provide representative and accurate *in situ* measurements of APAR, SIF, and GPP for
489 comparison to models; (2) SCOPE provides estimates of quantum yields for fluorescence,
490 photochemistry, and non-photochemical quenching, which are not measured continuously in the
491 canopy at NR1; and (3) SCOPE offers a more direct benchmark for evaluating more simplified
492 representations of canopy radiative transfer in TBM-SIFs. Unlike the TBM-SIFs, SCOPE does not
493 include a representation of biogeochemical cycling or carbon pools, and thus no spin up is
494 required. As such, we prescribe LAI ($4 \text{ m}^2 \text{ m}^{-2}$), canopy height (13 m), and leaf chlorophyll content
495 (25 ug cm^{-2}) following Raczka et al. (2019). We also examine two approaches for prescribing V_{cmax} :
496 (1) *SCOPE-exp1* uses the default constant value of 30, similar to *BETHY*, and (2) *SCOPE-exp2* uses
497 a seasonal varying value calibrated to NR1, following Raczka et al. (2016, 2019), which follows a

498 bimodal distribution peaking near 45 in early summer (DOY = 150) and 40 in late summer (DOY =
499 250)

500 *2.4 Data Assimilation*

501 Details of the data assimilation protocols for ORCHIDEE is provided in Bacour et al. (2019). An
502 ensemble of parameters related to photosynthesis (including optimal V_{cmax}) and phenology were
503 optimized for several plant functional types. Note that none of the assimilated pixels encompass
504 the location of the US-NR1 tower. In ORCHIDEE, the study site is treated as boreal needleleaf
505 evergreen (ENF); as such, the *ORCHIDEE-exp3* simulations in this study are based on parameters
506 optimized against OCO-2 SIF data using an ensemble of worldwide ENF pixels. Note that for
507 BETHY, each experiment uses the same set of optimized parameters whereas in ORCHIDEE the
508 SIF simulations are performed separately for the standard parameters (*ORCHIDEE-exp1/exp2*)
509 and optimized parameters (*ORCHIDEE-exp3*), thus providing a test of sensitivity to parameter
510 optimization as discussed below.

511 *2.5 Illumination Conditions*

512 In order to gain insight into how SIF emissions and quantum yields vary with illumination, we
513 further analyze Photospec and a subset of models with respect to (a) changes in incoming light
514 and (b) self-shading within the canopy, respectively. For PhotoSpec, we analyze changes in
515 canopy average SIF and SIF_{rel} under conditions of predominantly direct versus diffuse PAR, using
516 a 0.5 threshold to distinguish between the two conditions (Section 2.2.3). For models we focus
517 on emissions from sunlit vs shaded leaves. We analyze leaf- versus canopy-level SIF emissions
518 (SIF_{leaf} and SIF_{canopy}) in *CLM4.5-exp3*, and leaf-level quantum yields (ϕ_f , ϕ_p , ϕ_N) in *SCOPE-exp2*.
519 We further compare predictions of quantum yield at the top-of-canopy to canopy averages in
520 *SCOPE-exp2*. The motivation here is that top-of-canopy leaves see most of the sunlight, and thus
521 should have different yields compared to shade adapted leaves lower in the canopy. This also
522 provides a more direct comparison for PhotoSpec.

523 *2.6 Modeling Protocol*

524 Models are run for the period 2000-2018 (except BETHY (2015 only) and SCOPE (2017 only)) using
525 identical, hourly, gap-filled meteorological observations. The primary hourly output fields

526 analyzed are the top-of-canopy SIF ($SIF_{\text{canopy}} @ 740 \text{ nm}$), GPP, ϕ_f , ϕ_p , and APAR. Model-
527 observation comparisons are made for absolute and relative SIF, GPP, SIF_{yield} ($SIF_{\text{canopy}}/APAR$) and
528 GPP_{yield} ($GPP/APAR$), sunlit versus shaded canopies (*CLM4.5-exp3* and *SCOPE-exp2*), and TOC
529 versus canopy average SIF (SIF_{canopy} versus SIF_{ave} , respectively, from *SCOPE-exp2*). Quantum yields
530 and within model experiments provide context to understand canopy integrated results. We
531 focus our analysis on 8 am – 4 pm local time from July-August 2017 for comparison to available
532 PhotoSpec and APAR data.

533 Models are controlled for meteorological forcing (meteorological data described in Burns et al.,
534 2015) but other factors such as spin-up, land surface characteristics, parameter tuning, and
535 model state, are not controlled for and are treated separately according to each model's
536 protocol. For example, CLM4.5 is better suited than others in prescribing observed vegetation
537 characteristics at the study site. One ORCHIDEE experiment (*ORCHIDEE-exp3*) is preliminary
538 optimized by assimilating independent Orbiting Carbon Observatory 2 (OCO-2) SIF data at the
539 global scale (Section 2.4). We emphasize that our point here is not to identify the best model but
540 to identify common patterns in model behavior through normalized SIF and deviation from
541 observed behavior to identify areas requiring the most attention.

542 The results are organized around two parallel themes. The first theme addresses four key
543 processes driving canopy-level fluorescence: (1) incoming illumination, (2) energy partitioning on
544 incoming light between photochemistry, fluorescence, and NPQ, and (3) leaf-to-canopy emitted
545 SIF, including linearity of yields at leaf and canopy scale. The second theme addresses sensitivity
546 of these processes to environmental conditions at diurnal and synoptic scales. Here, synoptic
547 scale refers to the impact of day-to-day changes in weather, including two storm events which
548 brought sustained cool, wet, and cloudy conditions from July 22-31 and then from August 6-10.

549 **Section 3: Results**

550 *Incoming Illumination*

551 Two key features dominate observed APAR variability: afternoon depression (Fig 2A) and
552 reduction during two summer storms (Fig 2D). Both features are captured by models. More
553 generally, models capture synoptic variability with high correlation ($r > 0.8$) and low across model

554 spread ($\sigma = 10\%$). The exception is BETHY, which is simulated outside our observation year (2015).
555 High model fidelity is expected given that observed PAR is prescribed, and it is promising that
556 models show a consistent response to changes in illumination. The primary shortcoming across
557 TBM-SIFs and SCOPE is a systematic high bias in APAR magnitude (129%), with most models
558 exceeding the upper range of observed APAR (as determined from the six within canopy PAR
559 sensors, Fig S2), and high model spread. These errors are likely related to differences in predicted
560 fAPAR. In the case of ORCHIDEE, high APAR is expected due to the big leaf assumption where all
561 leaves are considered as opaque and fully absorbing.

562 *Canopy Photosynthesis*

563 Observed GPP shows a broad peak from mid-morning to early afternoon (~9 am – 1 pm local),
564 followed by slight decrease until 4 pm (Fig 2B), consistent with afternoon cooling and reduced
565 light availability (Fig 1B-D). The two month period under investigation is relatively flat with
566 generally weak day-to-day variability ($\sigma = 17\%$), but modest correlation with APAR ($r = 0.61$, Fig
567 2E). Some models capture the afternoon GPP depression, but all models strongly underestimate
568 its magnitude, apparently independent of stomatal conductance formulation or more explicit
569 accounting for plant hydraulic water stress such as in CLM5.0. *SCOPE* and *BETHY*, which don't
570 account for water stress, show no afternoon depression. Models are mostly uncorrelated with
571 observed GPP at synoptic scale (r ranges from -0.2 to 0.36, highest value in SiB4), high biased,
572 and show increased spread (in predicted magnitude) relative to APAR (143% +/- 23%). *SCOPE-*
573 *exp2* shows slight improvement in GPP magnitude with the larger V_{cmax} value in late summer.

574 While observed GPP_{yield} is mostly stable over the diurnal cycle, most models (except BEPS) show
575 a distinct midday minimum (Fig 3A). Half of the models show a similar midday minimum in
576 photochemical quantum yield (ϕ_p , Fig 4A), with the other half either increasing or decreasing in
577 the afternoon (CLM5.0 and SiB3/SiB4, respectively). The midday dip in yield is likely associated
578 with reduced photosynthetic efficiency at high light levels, as demonstrated by reductions in GPP,
579 GPP_{yield} , ϕ_p with APAR (Fig 5A, C, E).

580 Observed GPP_{yield} shows significant structure at synoptic temporal scale (Fig 3C), most notably
581 increased yield during the cool/rainy period (reduced heat and water stress), and decreased yield

582 in mid- to late- August (increased heat and water stress following the cooling pattern). In contrast
583 to predicted GPP, models show high fidelity in capturing the magnitude and variability of GPP_{yield}
584 at synoptic scale (r ranges from 0.35 – 0.76, highest values in *SCOPE* and *CLM4.5/5.0*). Individual
585 models are self-consistent in their predictions of GPP_{yield} and ϕ_P at synoptic scale ($r = 0.592 -$
586 0.935) except for SiB3/SiB4 ($r < 0.1$, Fig 4B).

587 *Canopy Fluorescence*

588 Observed SIF_{canopy} is strongly correlated with observed APAR at diurnal and synoptic scale ($r =$
589 0.77), with common features including afternoon depression and reduction during rainy periods
590 (Fig 2C & 2F). Observed PAR also feeds into the fluorescence sub-model and, unlike GPP, strongly
591 correlates with SIF_{canopy} at synoptic scale (r ranges from 0.58 to 0.92, highest values in *SCOPE* and
592 *ORCHIDEE*). However, we find a persistent positive model bias in SIF_{canopy} (170% +/- 45%)
593 consistent with, but not proportional in magnitude to, the APAR bias. We note that models are
594 especially oversensitive to APAR at high light levels (Fig 5D).

595 We investigate the high bias in SIF_{canopy} in more detail using *SCOPE-exp2* and *CLM4.5-exp3*.
596 Specifically, we examine leaf and canopy level SIF and quenching under sunlit and shaded leaves.
597 Analysis of quantum yields in *SCOPE-exp2* (Fig S5) shows a reversal in the fractional amounts of
598 absorbed energy going to SIF and PQ vs NPQ in low- vs high-light conditions that is consistent
599 with leaf level data and theory (Porcar-Castell et al., 2014). More specifically, *SCOPE-exp2*
600 predicts low ϕ_F and ϕ_P and high ϕ_N in sunlit leaves relative to shaded leaves, with more energy
601 going to fluorescence and photochemistry than to NPQ in shaded leaves, and more energy going
602 to (shed off by) NPQ in sunlit leaves (Fig S5). Likewise, total ϕ_F shows decreasing values with
603 increasing APAR in *SCOPE* and *BETHY-exp2/3* compared to *BETHY-exp1*, consistent with observed
604 SIF_{yield} (Fig 5E-F), as ϕ_N ramps up to higher levels in the drought parameterized Kn model.
605 Moreover, in stark contrast to SIF_{yield} and SIF_{canopy} , ϕ_F does not show high values relative to other
606 models (Fig 4D). These results point to an issue in *SCOPE* and *BETHY* with leaf to canopy scaling
607 in needleleaf forests.

608 Analysis of *CLM4.5-exp3* suggests several possible reasons for oversensitivity to APAR. First, we
609 focus on emissions from sunlit/shaded portions of the canopy (Fig S6). *CLM4.5-exp3* and

610 PhotoSpec both show higher SIF under “high light” conditions (sunlit leaves and direct radiation,
611 respectively) compared to “low light” conditions (shaded leaves and diffuse radiation,
612 respectively), which is promising (Fig S6 A,D). Comparing the ratio of sunlit to shaded SIF in
613 *CLM4.5-exp3* to the ratio of direct to diffuse SIF in PhotoSpec (Fig S6 B,E) shows higher ratio in
614 *CLM4.5-exp3* on average. The difference peaks in midday, when sunlit leaf area is maximized
615 (self-shading minimized) in CLM4.5 but no major difference in the amount of direct radiation,
616 and decreases with increasing sun angle (morning and afternoon) and with increasing rainfall (in
617 the afternoon on average, and during the rainy period in late July / early August), both of which
618 increase the shaded fraction. As such, accounting for view angle and different illumination
619 metrics for PhotoSpec and CLM4.5 (most comparable in morning, afternoon, and during rainy
620 days) reduces, but does not entirely remove, the positive bias in high light conditions.

621 Second, the degree of light saturation (x) is twice as high in the sunlit canopy in *CLM4.5* (Fig S7),
622 which leads to low fluorescence efficiency in sunlit leaves and high fluorescence efficiency in
623 shaded leaves. While this produces high photochemistry in shaded leaves, it contributes a small
624 fraction of SIF to the total canopy ($\sim 20\%$) despite higher fractions of shaded leaves ($\sim 2/3$ at noon,
625 Fig S6C) and thus sunlit leaves dominate SIF_{yield} and SIF_{canopy} . Therefore, it seems likely that a
626 model’s representation of canopy structure including the partitioning between sunlit/shaded leaf
627 area fractions has an important impact upon canopy SIF. Biases in the sunlit/shaded fraction will
628 likely propagate into the simulated value of canopy SIF. However, it’s important to know that the
629 observed sunlit/shaded fraction from PhotoSpec is estimated as well, since it is currently not
630 possible to determine the precise sun/shade fraction within PhotoSpec FOV.

631 Additionally, all formulations of CLM4.5 (and most models except BETHY and SCOPE) show lack
632 of decline in SIF_{yield} with APAR compared to measurements of absolute SIF (Fig 5E). For CLM4.5,
633 the relationship between SIF_{yield} and APAR depends upon the relationship between degree of
634 light saturation and reversible NPQ (Raczka et al., 2019). This suggests it is important to properly
635 represent the NPQ response to environmental conditions when simulating SIF.

636 While most of the model bias is reduced in SIF_{yield} (126%, mostly attributed to BETHY and SCOPE),
637 the remaining signal, representing the dynamic response to synoptic conditions (e.g., Magney et
638 al., 2019), is poorly represented in models, as demonstrated in a time series of 5-day means (Fig

639 3D). Most models show zero to strongly negative correlation with observations at synoptic scale
640 and only three models (*SCOPE*, *ORCHIDEE-exp3*, and *BETHY-exp2/3*), produce correlation greater
641 than 0.5. These are the only three models that also capture a negative relationship between
642 SIF_{yield} and APAR (Fig 5E).

643 In general, predicted SIF_{yield} is stable during our short study period (Fig 3). Half of models show a
644 significant positive correlation with GPP_{yield} ($r > 0.85$) and half show zero or negative correlation
645 (Fig S8). While these findings run counter to observed SIF_{yield} , which shows a clear response
646 during and following the storm event and moderate positive correlation with observed GPP_{yield} (r
647 = 0.40), they show some consistency with observed SIF_{rel} (grey line in Fig 3 and Fig S8A) which
648 like many models is stable and uncorrelated with GPP_{yield} . We refer the reader to Section 2.2.2
649 for clarification of the important difference between SIF_{yield} and SIF_{rel} .

650 *Leaf-to-Canopy Scaling*

651 Several methods have been proposed to transfer predicted leaf-level SIF emissions to the top of
652 canopy. While leaf-to-canopy scaling enables efficient global scale simulation, the diversity of
653 novel methods adds uncertainty to the canopy level estimate of SIF (in addition to
654 aforementioned uncertainties in structure, APAR, photochemistry, fluorescence). These
655 differences are evident in comparison of Figures 3 and 4, in which yields are plotted on a similar
656 scale.

657 At least at diurnal scale, there is some evidence that leaf and canopy emissions look more similar
658 for models adopting simplified empirical scaling functions (SiB3, SiB4, CLM4.5, CLM5.0, BEPS)
659 than for models that more explicitly account for radiative transfer (*SCOPE*, *BETHY*, *ORCHIDEE*).
660 For the more explicit models, the diurnal cycle of ϕ_f is out of phase with SIF_{yield} , the former of
661 which peaks in the afternoon and the latter of which peaks in the morning. This produces
662 reasonable agreement to PhotoSpec in phase and magnitude between SIF_{yield} and SIF_{rel} for
663 *ORCHIDEE*, but produces divergence in the magnitude of SIF_{canopy} for *ORCHIDEE*.

664 Model performance in leaf-to-canopy scaling is summarized in Figure S8. The only three models
665 with a positive relationship between yields (Fig S8B) and between quenching terms (Fig S8C)
666 include explicit representation of radiative transfer (i.e., *SCOPE*, *BETHY*, and *ORCHIDEE*). CLM4.5

667 is the only model with a positive relationship between yields, but not between quenching terms.
668 SiB3/SiB4 are the only models with a positive relationship between quenching terms, but not
669 between yields.

670 Finally, we clarify an important difference between observed and predicted estimates of canopy
671 average SIF. PhotoSpec scans direct emissions from sunlit and shaded leaves within the canopy,
672 thus observing the ‘total’ emission from leaves in the instrument FOV. We then average each of
673 these leaf-level scans and report as canopy averages. Model output, in contrast, is reported at
674 the TOC, which represents the ‘net’ emission from leaves after attenuation in the canopy
675 (through canopy radiative transfer, re-absorption of SIF, and shading). Assuming sunlit and
676 shaded leaves within the canopy emit at the same rate as TOC leaves, attenuation will reduce the
677 effective signal from leaf-level emissions within the canopy. As such, the average of leaf level
678 emissions (canopy average) is expected to be lower than the net emission of leaves reaching the
679 top of canopy.

680 This is important because CLM4.5 shows strong attenuation of SIF from leaf-level to TOC,
681 decreasing by a factor of 2-3 at midday (Fig S7). The interpretation here is that the model bias in
682 absolute SIF may actually be higher than reported here; however, we note that more quantitative
683 information on the observed fraction of sunlit vs shaded leaves and comparative top-of-canopy
684 SIF values for the same canopy elements are needed (to account for off-nadir SIF viewing) for
685 more accurate determination of scaling between observed canopy and top-of-canopy SIF.

686 *Within Model Experiments*

687 In most cases, within model experiments produce improvements in some metrics and
688 degradation across others (performance change is quantified by reporting correlation values in
689 brackets). An important and unexpected result of this study is the impact of different levels of
690 tuning to observations on our predictions. While this work represents a snapshot of the state-of-
691 the-art in site-level TBM-SIF modeling, and we have taken great care to control for environmental
692 conditions (most important being illumination), an important overall takeaway is for future
693 model comparisons to make additional efforts to control for initial conditions and vegetation
694 state (i.e. model biophysical parameters).

695 The most basic example is tuning of LAI in SiB3 and V_{cmax} in SCOPE. LAI, as prescribed by MODIS
696 for *SiB3-exp1* (~1.5), is on the low end for a subalpine evergreen forest, and consequently
697 produces negative biases in APAR, GPP, SIF and $\text{SIF}_{\text{yield}}$. When prescribed according to tower
698 observations in *SiB3-exp2* (~4.0), the biases become positive (albeit on the lower end of the
699 model ensemble), but produces degraded variation at synoptic scale for GPP (0.39 vs 0.19), SIF
700 (0.87 vs .71) and $\text{SIF}_{\text{yield}}$ (0.09 vs -0.32). The tuning of V_{cmax} in SCOPE improves the magnitude of
701 GPP, with minimal impact on variability at diurnal- to synoptic- scale.

702 Experiments in CLM4.5 comprise a higher level of hand tuning of vegetation structural and
703 functional characteristics. Parameter tuning was imposed to match vegetation structure with
704 site level measurements and consequently CLM4.5 produces overall low bias in yields. With
705 respect to synoptic variation, NPQ experiments, tuned against the measured air temperature and
706 a representative evergreen forest, produce improvements at synoptic scale for GPP (-0.01 vs
707 0.16), SIF (0.59 vs 0.86), and $\text{GPP}_{\text{yield}}$ (0.05 vs 0.63), but degradation in $\text{SIF}_{\text{yield}}$ (0.32 vs -0.25).
708 Likewise, NPQ experiments in BETHY based on species information (calibration of K_{N} against PAM
709 fluorescence in stressed vs unstressed systems) shows improvement in the $\text{SIF}_{\text{yield}}$ -APAR
710 relationship for drought stressed models (*BETHY-exp1* vs *BETHY-exp2/3*).

711 Experiments with ORCHIDEE demonstrate that errors in model parameters (such as V_{cmax} , LAI_{max} ,
712 leaf age, or SLA) contribute to SIF and GPP uncertainty but can be alleviated by assimilation of
713 OCO-2 SIF retrievals (*ORCH-exp1/2* vs *ORCH-exp3*). Model optimization of parameters improves
714 the functional link between SIF and GPP, thus reducing biases in APAR, GPP, and $\text{SIF}_{\text{yield}}$, and
715 improving synoptic variation in $\text{SIF}_{\text{yield}}$ (-0.04 vs 0.58).

716 **Section 4. Discussion**

717 This study represents a first attempt to evaluate a controlled ensemble of TBM-SIF models
718 against canopy integrated SIF observations to identify and attribute model-observation
719 mismatches related to errors in canopy absorption of sunlight, photosynthesis, fluorescence, and
720 leaf-to-canopy radiative transfer of fluorescence.

721 Different models match some observed parameters better than others (with respect to APAR and
722 yield), but no model gets both APAR and $\text{SIF}_{\text{yield}}$ magnitude and/or sensitivities close to the

723 observations. For example, BEPS closely matches the magnitude of APAR (Fig 2A), and BETHY
724 captures the decline in SIF_{yield} with APAR for NPQ quenching based on stressed species (Fig 5E),
725 but both models overestimate observed yield by a factor of 2, hence SIF is overestimated (Fig 2).
726 CLM4.5 correctly captures the diurnal SIF_{yield} change, but overestimate APAR; in this case, SIF and
727 SIF_{yield} are overestimated. Importantly, models diverge strongly from each other and from
728 observations in the magnitude of SIF_{yield} and its decline with APAR (Fig 5E), partially reflecting
729 model variability in ϕ_f (Fig 5F), but in general show a characteristic pattern of weak SIF_{yield} decline
730 with APAR. GPP_{yield} shows higher agreement between models and with observations (Fig 5B),
731 despite divergent ϕ_p (Fig 5C), which could be indication that the primary uncertainty is due to
732 the representation of fluorescence and not the photosynthesis model.

733 Consequently, we find a strong linear and positive relationship between observed SIF_{yield} and
734 GPP_{yield} for absolute SIF, which is underestimated on average by models (Fig S8A-B). In contrast,
735 models show quite strong positive relationships between ϕ_f and ϕ_p (Fig S8C). Our study
736 highlights an apparent challenge for models in transferring leaf level processes to canopy scale,
737 and consequently, linking the proper canopy mechanistic SIF-GPP relationship at the leaf level.

738 The mismatch between multi-model simulations and tower-based observations of SIF and GPP
739 at hourly and daily scales can be summarized as symptoms of five main factors: (1) PhotoSpec
740 scan strategy, (2) radiative transfer of incoming PAR and impact on APAR and sunlit/shaded
741 fraction, (3) representation of photosynthesis and sensitivity to water limitation especially during
742 afternoon conditions, (4) representation of fluorescence and sensitivity to reversible NPQ
743 response at Niwot Ridge, and (5) radiative transfer of fluorescence from leaf to canopy. Several
744 persistent biases falling under these broad categories are discussed below.

745 **Apples to Apples Comparison.**

746 PhotoSpec is unique in its ability to scan entire canopies for signals that are largely hidden from
747 nadir-oriented instruments. However, this creates unique challenges for interpretation of data
748 and comparison to models. For example, the diurnal cycle of observed SIF is highly sensitive to
749 view angle. PhotoSpec was set up in 2017 to scan back-and-forth between northwest and
750 northeast view angles, but the instrument was slightly biased to the northwest, causing a low

751 phase angle in the morning (more aligned with rising sun) and increased phase angle in the
752 afternoon (more opposed to setting sun). As such, PhotoSpec observed predominantly
753 illuminated canopies in the morning and shaded canopies in the afternoon (i.e., more shaded
754 fraction), leading to the late morning peak in reflected radiance (Fig S3).

755 Moreover, Photospec scans specific locations at the top of the canopy from near nadir to view
756 angles closer to the horizon (see Fig. S8 in Magney et al., 2019b), while models are currently
757 configured to simulate top of canopy emission and simulated here as nadir viewing. The question
758 becomes whether to retain nadir only data and sacrifice signal-to-noise, or to average over all
759 elevation angles and risk aliasing view angle effects. This study, partly motivated by high
760 agreement of canopy integrated SIF with spaceborne data from OCO-2 and TROPOMI (Magney
761 et al., 2019b; Parazoo et al., 2019), has chosen the latter approach but with an attempt to
762 minimize scan angle effects in SIF_{rel} . However, it is worth noting that swath sensors such as
763 GOME-2 show high sensitivity to viewing angle especially under increasing illumination angles
764 (Kohler et al., 2018; Joiner et al., in review). View angle effects are likely to be especially acute
765 for PhotoSpec in the morning and afternoon with increasing anisotropy and changes in the
766 illuminated field of view with sun and view angle. Other tower SIF instruments with a wide FOV
767 (i.e. FluoSpec2; Yang et al., 2018) may more appropriately represent the TOC SIF emission, but
768 also have difficulty disentangling the sunlit/shaded canopy components.

769 It is critical that model evaluation relative to measured SIF data and data assimilation studies
770 properly account for the specificities of the instrument (viewing of the instrument, spectral band,
771 time of the overpass for space-borne instruments), the representation of canopy emission, and
772 correct observations for directional variations in SIF relative to observation geometry. Although
773 normalizing SIF by reflected radiance partially alleviates scan angle effects, this highlights the
774 need for models to get canopy structure, radiative transfer, and sunlit/shaded fraction correct,
775 which feed all the way through to SIF and GPP. Further ground-based investigations of SIF
776 anisotropy, sunlit/shade fraction, and vertical distribution (within canopy, canopy integrated,
777 and top of canopy) with PhotoSpec and SCOPE may help to inform models on the physical aspects
778 of the signal. Despite the issues we highlight in comparing observations to models, the potentially

779 more interesting and important story here is with respect to model-model comparisons, which
780 reveals wide divergence in response to light conditions and other factors, as discussed below.

781 **TBM SIF is too sensitive to APAR.**

782 Our results indicate a wide range of SIF responses to APAR: TBM-SIFs and SCOPE are usually far
783 too sensitive to APAR, observations of absolute SIF are less sensitive, and observations of relative
784 SIF (SIF_{rel}) are least sensitive (Fig. 5D). We remind the reader that SIF_{rel} is normalized by the
785 amount of far-red light reflected from leaves in the FOV of PhotoSpec, and thus has reduced
786 sensitivity to absorbed light than absolute SIF. The fact that SIF_{rel} is the least sensitive to APAR
787 means other processes are driving changes in SIF under increased light absorption. In this case,
788 it reveals a strong SIF response to changes in photochemical quenching. SIF models appear
789 especially sensitive to sunlit leaves. In CLM4.5, SIF emissions from the sunlit portion of the canopy
790 are a factor of 5 higher than emissions from shaded leaves, despite twice as fewer leaves in the
791 sunlit canopy (Fig S6C). In CLM4.5, the combination of higher than average ϕ_f (Fig 5F) with higher
792 fluorescence efficiency in the sunlit portion of the canopy, produce an increase in the magnitude
793 and sensitivity to sunlit fraction, thus contributing to the high bias (factor of 3 higher than
794 observed) and strong diurnal cycle (2-fold increase from morning to midday).

795 **Linearity of SIF and GPP yields.**

796 Observations show a positive but not significant linear relationship between SIF_{yield} and GPP_{yield}
797 (Fig 6A, $r = 0.40$) at our study site. This is likely due to the short time period investigated here
798 where there is relatively little change in SIF_{yield} and GPP_{yield} during peak summer. Half of models
799 (4 of 8) show a significant ($r > 0.35$) linear and positive slope ($r > 0.35$; SCOPE, ORCH-exp3,
800 CLM4.5-exp3, and BETHY-exp3) between SIF_{yield} and GPP_{yield} , while 6 models (except CLM5.0)
801 show a significant positive slope between quantum yields (ϕ_f and ϕ_p , Fig S8C). These regression
802 plots of quantum yields, in turn, help explain the observed linearity of SIF_{yield} vs. GPP_{yield} : At least
803 in the case of Niwot Ridge, model (and presumably observed) ϕ_p stays within high light “NPQ-
804 Phase” conditions, and generally doesn’t exceed the range in which decoupling of ϕ_f and ϕ_p (ϕ_p
805 > 0.6) in low light “PQ-Phase” conditions occurs (Porcar-Castell et al., 2014, cf Fig 9). SCOPE and
806 BETHY-exp3, which best capture the observed relationship in the canopy between SIF_{yield} and

807 GPP_{yield}, are also the only models that also show a decline in SIF_{yield} with APAR, as discussed below.
808 These results are likely to change when we expand the study to several years; however, the
809 purpose of this study was to provide an initial investigation into the response of modelled SIF and
810 GPP to light during peak summer.

811 **Insufficient decline in SIF_{yield} with APAR.**

812 In general, models show an insufficient decline in SIF_{yield} with APAR, when compared to observed
813 SIF_{yield} (Fig 5E). All models except SiB3 and SiB4 show some decline, with BETHY showing the best
814 agreement in slope magnitude. SCOPE and BETHY are the only models with full radiative transfer
815 but this does not appear to have a substantial impact on SIF_{yield}, which has a similar (albeit
816 suppressed) decline with APAR as ϕ_f (Fig 5F). Within model experiments show little to no
817 sensitivity of SIF_{yield} or ϕ_f decline with APAR to water stress (e.g., ORCHIDEE) or prescribed LAI
818 (e.g., SiB3), but high sensitivity to the formulation of NPQ with respect to species calibration (e.g.,
819 BETHY) and reversibility (e.g., CLM4.5).

820 Three CLM4.5 experiments demonstrate sensitivity to representation of NPQ variability at diurnal
821 and seasonal scales. The first simulation using the default NPQ parameterization from SCOPE
822 (*CLM4.5-exp1*, based on a 2-parameter fit to drought stressed Mediterranean species (Galmes et
823 al., 2007) produces the strongest decline in SIF_{yield}. The second simulation, which includes a site-
824 specific NPQ formulation that accounts for k_R and k_S (*CLM4.5-exp2*), produces the weakest
825 decline. The third simulation with seasonally varying k_R produces a slightly stronger decline. An
826 important point for this formulation is that k_R is constrained by PAM fluorometry data at Hyytiala
827 (Scot Pine) and does not account for high light saturation values and summer drought conditions
828 that may be more typical of lower latitude sites such as Niwot Ridge. This could indicate that
829 parameterizing k_R based upon similar PFTs may not be sufficient to properly characterize the NPQ
830 response for lower latitude sites such as Niwot Ridge.

831 Similar results are found in experiments with BETHY comparing stressed (drought) and
832 unstressed (relative to water availability) NPQ models at NR1 but controlling for k_R (constant in
833 time in both cases, stronger negative SIF_{yield} response to APAR in stressed model). In the
834 unstressed models of CLM4.5 and BETHY, the NPQ response to APAR becomes too low, causing

835 an oversensitivity of SIF to APAR and thus high SIF bias. The strongly regulated NPQ response of
836 the drought-based model enables more non-photochemical quenching at high light levels in
837 stressed ecosystems compared to typical unstressed plants. While this k_{NPQ} model was
838 developed using drought-stressed plants, similar up-regulation of NPQ is expected to occur under
839 any condition where photosynthesis is limited and available excitation energy is high (e.g. cold
840 temperatures and high light, Sveshnikov et al., 2006). Our results thus emphasize the need for
841 careful implementation of NPQ dynamics for simulating and assimilating SIF in different light and
842 stress environments (Raczka et al., 2019; Norton et al., 2019).

843 **Data assimilation reduces high bias.** Assimilation of OCO-2 SIF in ORCHIDEE brings the magnitude
844 of both GPP and SIF in closer agreement with observations. This improvement is driven by
845 decreases in leaf photosynthetic capacity (V_{cmax} , LAI_{max} , leaf age, SLA, Bacour et al., 2019), which
846 decreases the magnitude (but not shape) of APAR closer to observed values (Fig 2), and leads to
847 improvements in GPP_{yield} and SIF_{yield} (Fig 3). Nevertheless, after the assimilation there are still
848 disagreements in SIF_{yield} vs GPP_{yield} relative to the measured quantities (Fig S8). For diurnal and
849 synoptic cycles, the assimilation effectively acts to scale the magnitude of SIF, GPP and APAR (and
850 related yields), but it does little to alter variability. Although data assimilation (i.e. calibrating
851 model parameters) is critical to improving modelled SIF and GPP, this should be done in
852 conjunction with improvements in the model formulation (as summarized in Section 5),
853 otherwise the estimated model parameters can be sub-optimal to compensate for the lack of
854 missing processes.

855 **5. Conclusions/Recommendations**

856 Our results reveal systematic biases across TBM-SIF models affecting leaf-to-canopy simulations
857 of APAR, GPP, and SIF. This highlights key areas where observing strategies and model
858 formulations can be improved:

- 859 1) Radiative transfer of incoming and absorbed PAR. The representation of incoming radiative
860 transfer produces positive biases in APAR that leads to positive biases in GPP, both of which
861 occur regardless of time of day. This is influenced by characterization of the canopy, leaf
862 orientation and clumping, biochemical content, canopy layers, and leaf area, which dictates

863 the sunlit/shaded fractions of the canopy. Furthermore, the combination of high APAR bias
864 in models and high uncertainty in observed APAR highlights a need for more accurate and
865 representative *in situ* measurements of APAR within the FOV of SIF observations and
866 footprint of eddy covariance data. We recommend further site-level investigation of
867 observed and simulated canopy light absorption, emphasizing comparison of multi-layer and
868 multi-leaf radiation schemes accounting for sunlit and shaded leaf area.

869 2) Water stress impacts on photosynthesis. The underlying photosynthetic models fail to
870 simulate the magnitude of depression of observed GPP in the afternoon, regardless of how
871 stomatal-conductance and water stress models and parameters are formulated. This likely
872 results from the inability to account for afternoon water stress to properly restrict stomatal
873 conductance and hence GPP and SIF. Additional effort is needed to characterize SIF and GPP
874 sensitivity to increased atmospheric demand and/or reduced soil moisture across a range of
875 managed and unmanaged systems. We also recommend more inclusion of stomatal
876 optimization models (e.g., Eller et al., 2020) as optional parameterizations for TBMs, to better
877 account for plant hydraulic functioning under water stress compared to the more widely used
878 semi-empirical models.

879 3) Leaf Mechanism for Energy Partitioning. We provide evidence that many models fail to
880 capture the correct reversible NPQ response to light saturation, leading to biases in SIF_{yield}
881 during high light conditions and especially with increasing moisture limitation at the end of
882 summer. Further investigation using models such as BETHY and CLM is needed to better
883 characterize sensitivity of NPQ formulations to PFT and environmental conditions. We also
884 emphasize a need for more simultaneous measurements of active and passive chlorophyll
885 fluorescence to determine the temporal dynamics of competing pathways (PQ, NPQ) from a
886 wider variety of plant species under ambient conditions and different levels of stress.

887 4) Radiative transfer of SIF. SIF is emitted from the leaf level and then is transferred to the top
888 of canopy as a function of canopy structure (leaf geometry, canopy layers, leaf area,
889 sunlit/shaded fraction). Despite high disagreement of SCOPE and BETHY with respect to the
890 simulation of APAR and SIF magnitude, we recommend site level simulations using a similar

891 framework where a radiative transfer model is run both offline and coupled to a terrestrial
892 biosphere model for more detailed investigation of sensitivity to canopy characteristics.

893 5) Observation strategy. The PhotoSpec scan strategy enables direct measurement of SIF
894 emission at leaf-to-canopy scale, but requires off-nadir view angles that lead to changing
895 fractions of sunlit and shaded canopies throughout the day as a function of sun angle. Further
896 work could be done using tower mounted instruments with a wider FOV that more accurately
897 represent top of canopy emissions for comparison to model simulations, and to classify
898 emissions from shaded vs sunlit canopies. More effort is also needed to better align models
899 with observations, for example by leveraging three-dimensional capabilities in SCOPE (and
900 other RTMs) to directly account for multiple observation angles.

901 6) Finally, we note that our focus on a water limited subalpine evergreen needleleaf forest
902 represents a challenging case study for models and observations. In many cases, there is
903 strong covariance between LAI, SIF, APAR and GPP in cropping systems (Dechant et al., 2020),
904 but because this study site experiences little change in canopy structure and APAR
905 throughout the season (Magney et al, 2019b), our study sought to provide more explicit
906 insight into the models sensitivity to photosynthesis and fluorescence. As such, it is possible
907 that we would see more convergence of results, and a reduction in confounding effects (e.g.,
908 decreased NPQ), in a well-watered high-LAI cropping system. We therefore recommend
909 similar model-observation assessments across a wider range of biota and climate.

910 **Data availability**

911 All observational data (APAR, SIF, GPP, and relative SIF) are provided as hourly time series. The
912 data can be found at <https://data.caltech.edu/records/1231>. The data are saved as a .csv file.

913 **Author Contribution**

914 NP, TM, and IB designed research. NP, TM, AN, BR, CB, FM, IB, YZ, BQ, MS, DB performed
915 research; AN, BR, CB, FM, IB, YZ, BQ, MS, NM contributed model simulations; TM, DB, SP, PB, JS,
916 KG, CF contributed observational data; NP, TM, AN, BR analyzed data; NP, TM, AN, BR, CB, IB, YZ,
917 NM, DB, CF wrote paper.

918 **Competing Interests**

919 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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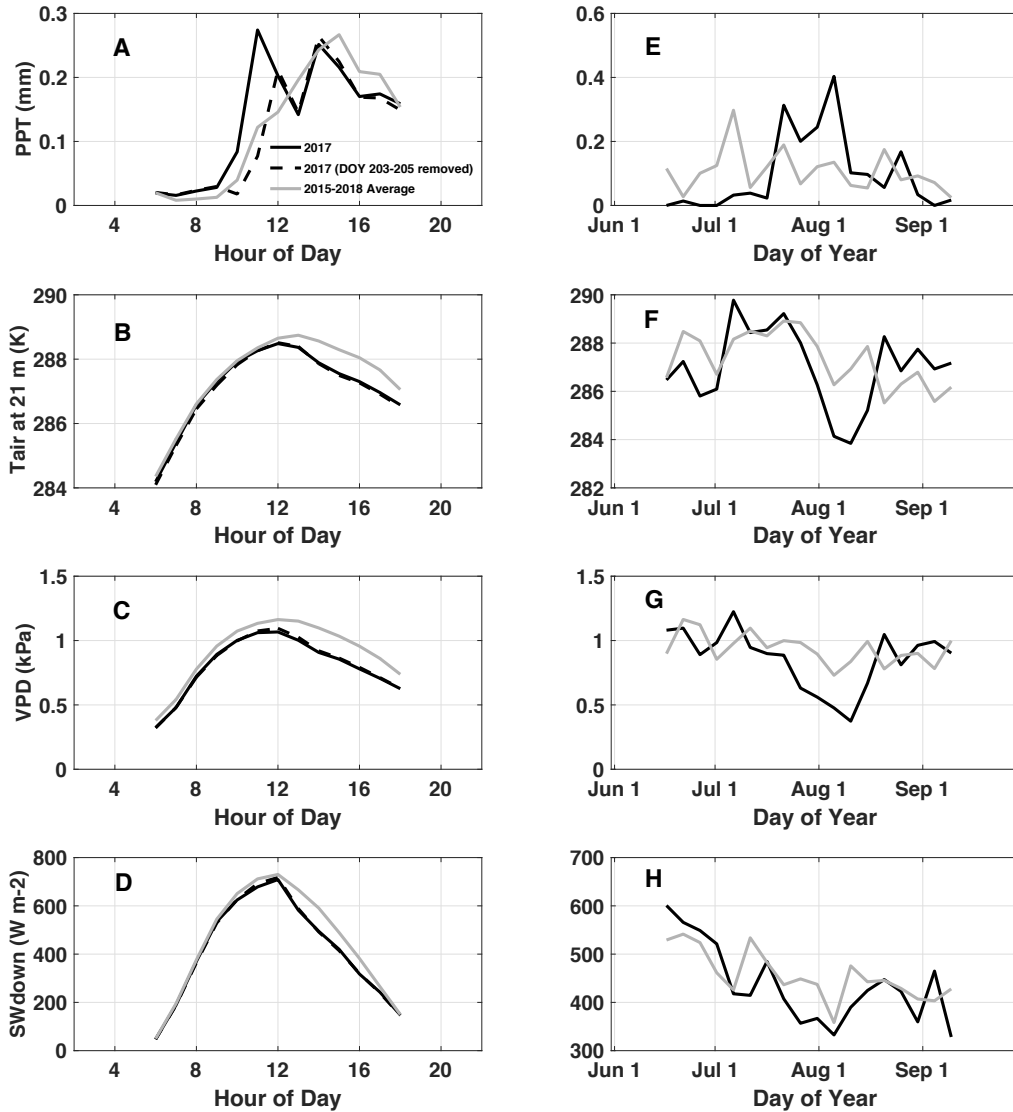
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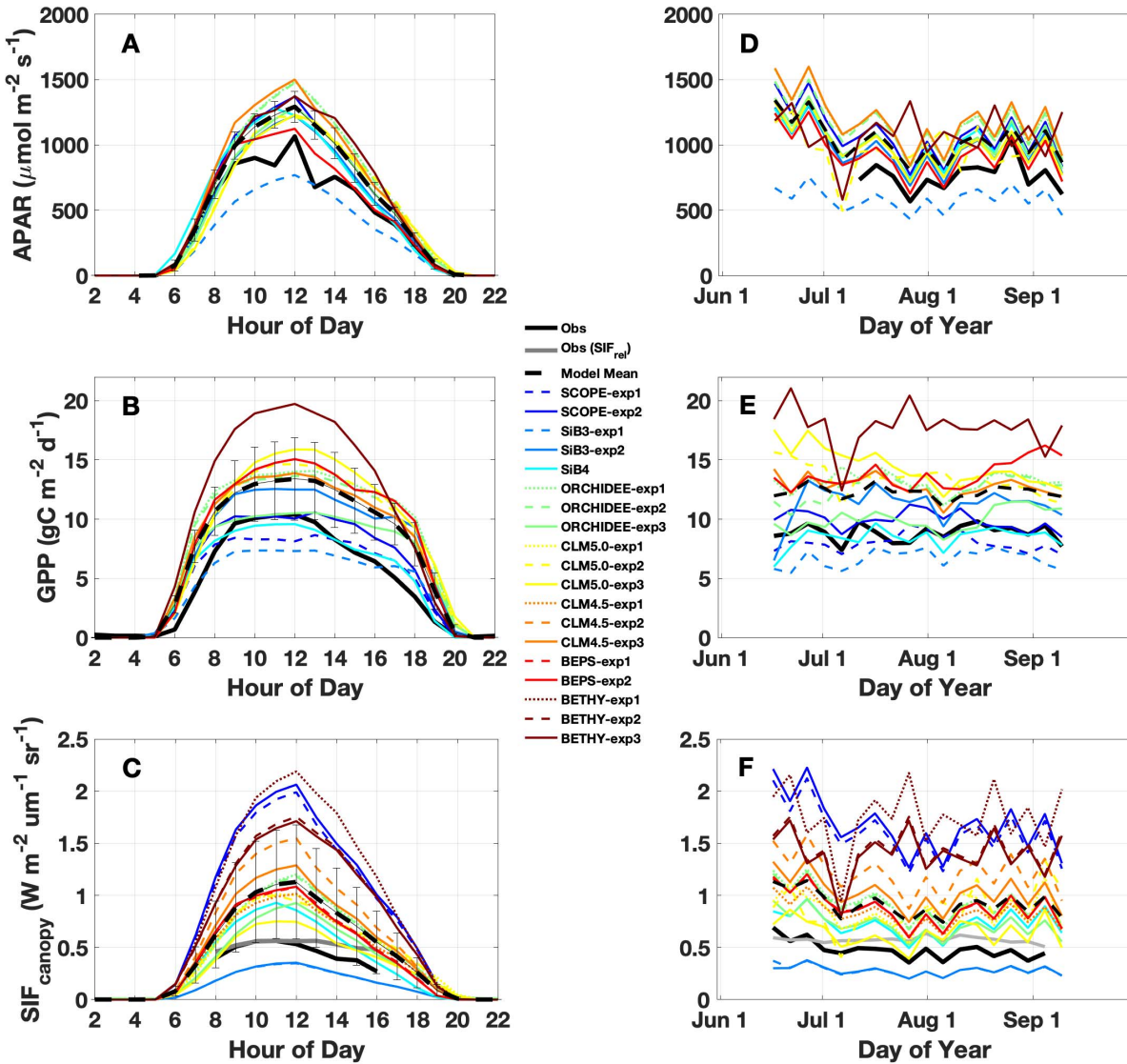
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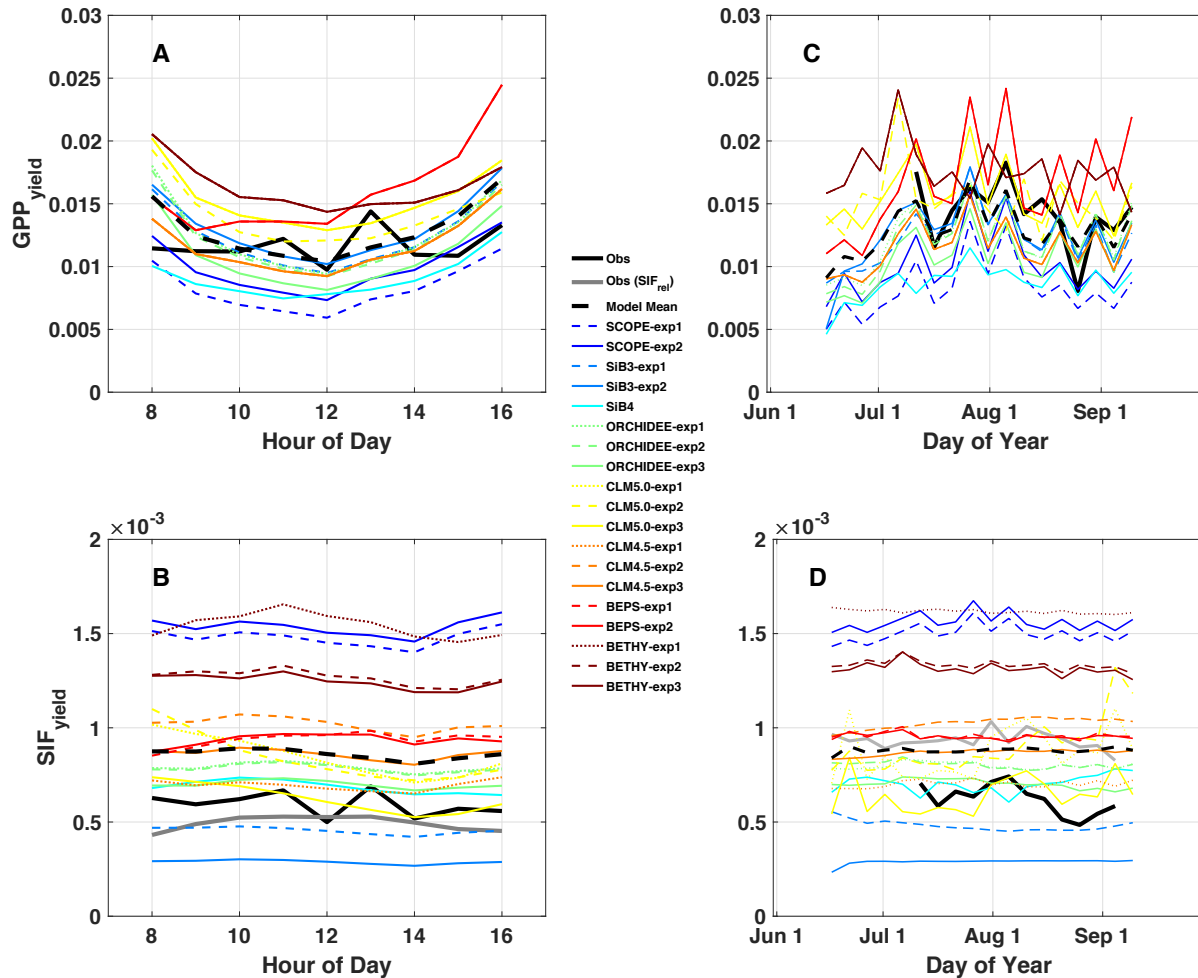
1145
 1146 **Figure 1.** Observed diurnal (A-D) and synoptic (E-H) precipitation (PPT), air temperature at 21 m
 1147 (Tair), vapor pressure deficit (VPD), and downwelling shortwave (SWdown). Diurnal cycles are
 1148 averaged over July-August, 2017. Synoptic cycles are plotted as 5-day averages from June 15 –
 1149 Sep 15. Data from 2017 is shown in black and climatology (2015-2018) in grey. Typically, peak
 1150 rainfall occurs in the afternoon at this site (A). A substantial rain event which occurred from DOY
 1151 203-205 is removed from the 2017 average to show the impact on diurnal variability and to
 1152 demonstrate the dominance of the afternoon monsoon upon diurnal precipitation in summer.

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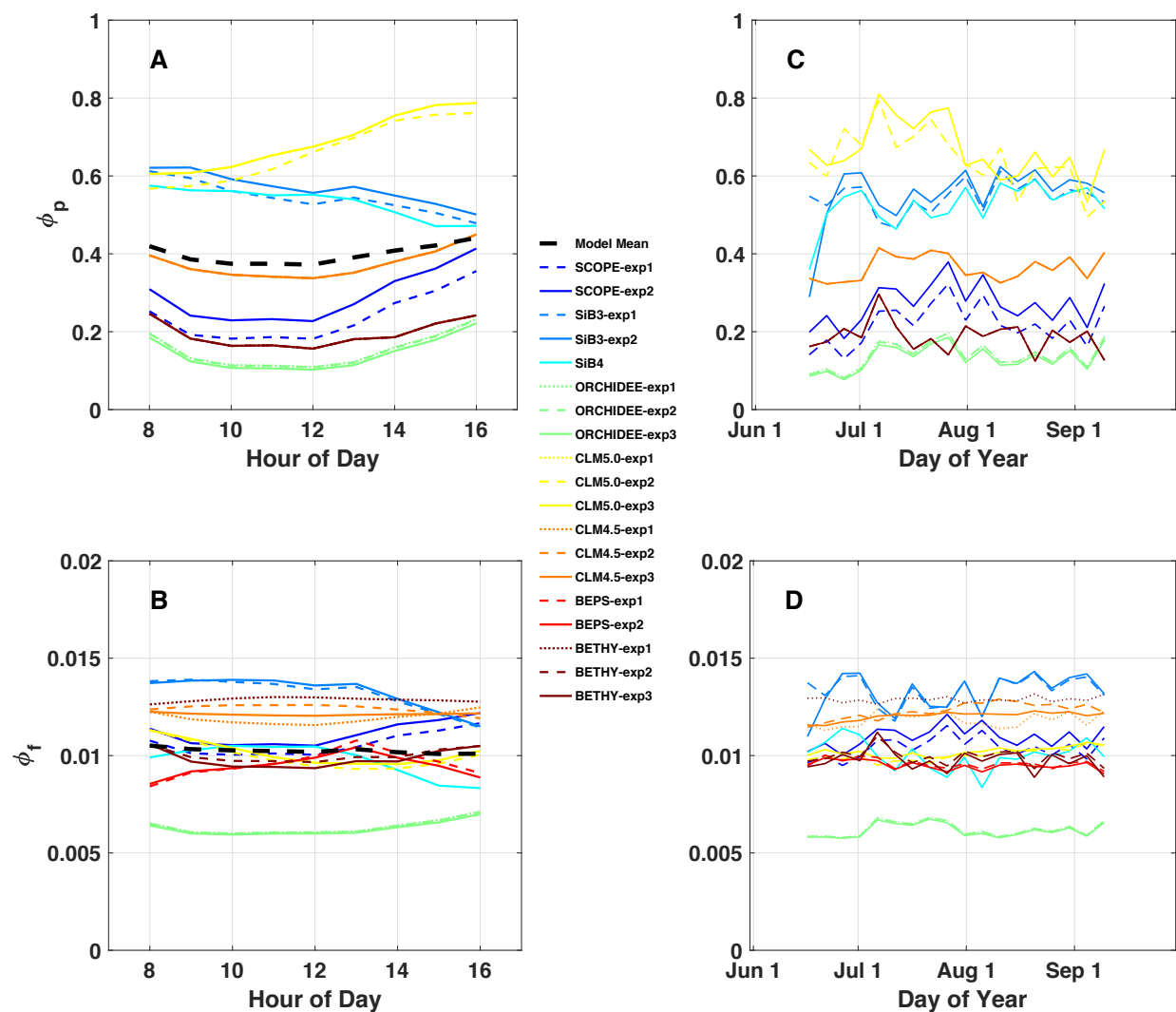
1155 **Figure 2.** Observed and simulated diurnal and synoptic cycles of APAR, GPP and SIF. Diurnal cycles
 1156 (A-C) are averaged over July-August, 2017. Synoptic cycles (D-F) are plotted as 5-day averages
 1157 from June 15 – Sep 15. Observations are shown in black, with relative SIF (SIF_{canopy} / far red
 1158 reflected radiance) included in (C, F) in grey. The across model average (dashed black) represents
 1159 the average of “best-case” model scenarios (solid lines; SCOPE-exp2, SiB3-exp2, SiB4, ORCHIDEE-
 1160 exp3, CLM5.0-exp3, CLM4.5-exp3, BEPS-exp2, BETHY-exp3) with uncertainty bars indicating the
 1161 across model 1 sigma uncertainty.



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1163 **Figure 3.** Same as Figure 2 except for SIF_{yield} and GPP_{yield} . Here, $SIF_{yield} = SIF_{canopy} / APAR$, and
 1164 $GPP_{yield} = GPP / APAR$. As with Figure 2, the left column shows the mean diurnal cycle, and the
 1165 right column shows a time series of 5-day averages.

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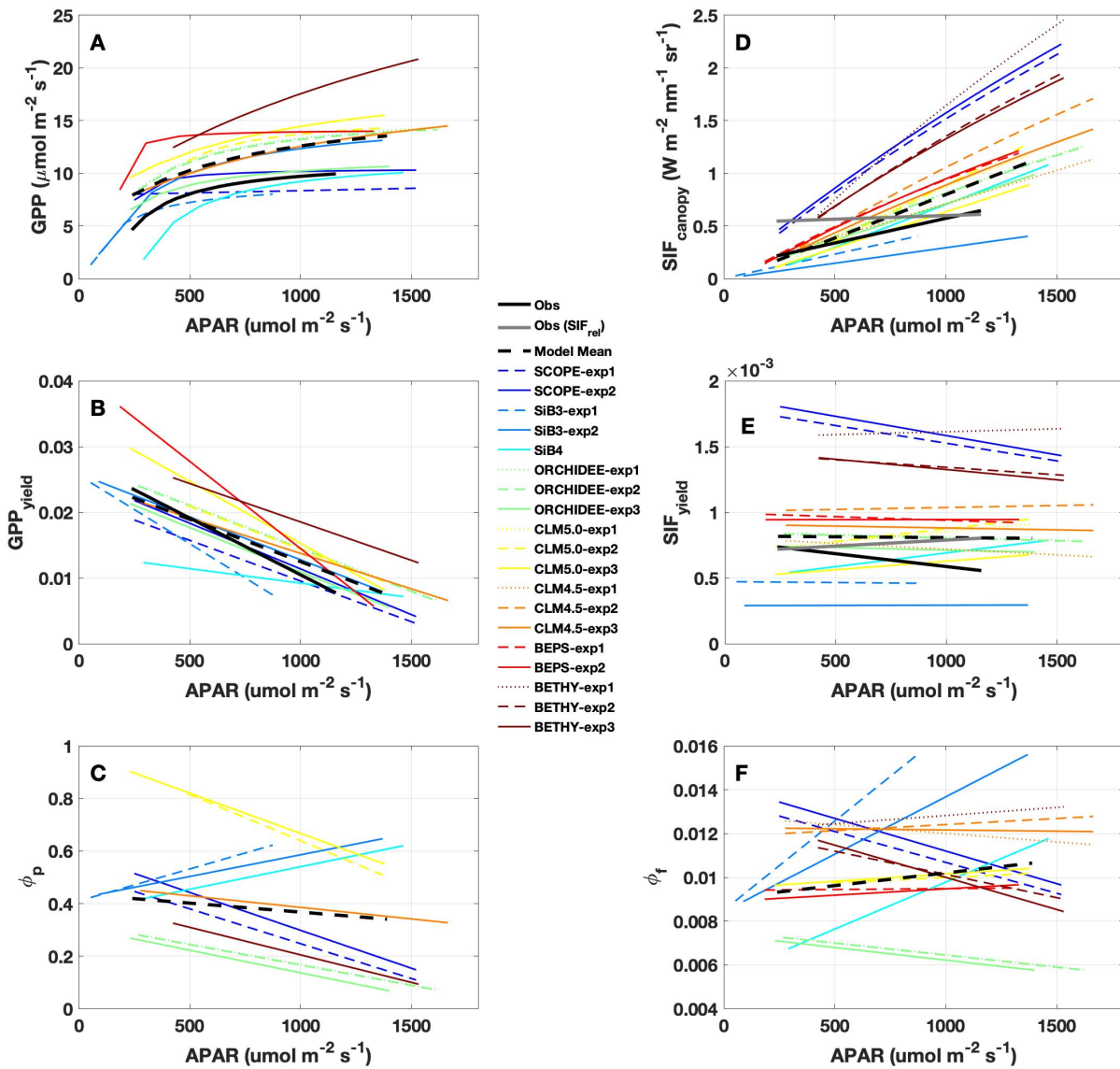


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 1168 **Figure 4.** Same as Figure 2, except for quantum yield of fluorescence (ϕ_f) and photochemistry
 1169 (ϕ_p).

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1174 **Figure 5.** Observed and predicted change in GPP, SIF, and yields with APAR. Regression lines are
 1175 shown for (A) GPP, (B) $\text{GPP}_{\text{yield}}$, (C) photochemical quantum yield (ϕ_p), (D) $\text{SIF}_{\text{canopy}}$, (E) $\text{SIF}_{\text{yield}}$, (F)
 1176 fluorescence quantum yield (ϕ_f), as a function of APAR, using daily mean (8 am – 4 pm local)
 1177 values over the period July-August 2017. Observations are shown in solid black, individual models
 1178 and experiments in color, the across model average in dashed black. Relative SIF is shown in grey
 1179 in (D) and (E).

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Model (citation)	Model Experiments	Stomatal Conductance	Canopy Type / Radiation	Stress	Vcmax	LAI	k_N	Leaf-to-Canopy Scaling	Parameter Optimization
SCOPE v1.73 (van der Tol, 2014)	SCOPE-exp1	Ball-Berry-Woodrow	Multi-layer Sunlit/Shaded = Yes Fpar/APAR = semi-analytical canopy radiative model (based on SAIL)	Ta stress	Prescribed (30)	Prescribed (4.0 m ² m ⁻²)	Adapted to drought stressed Mediterranean species including high temperature correction (Tol et al., 2014; Flexas et al., 2002)	60 layer 1D radiative transfer	Hand-tuned to NR1 (Raczka et al., 2016)
	SCOPE-exp2				Seasonally calibrated to NR1				
BETHY (Norton et al., 2019)	BETHY-exp1	Ball-Berry-Woodrow	Same as SCOPE	Ta stress	Prior is a function of Ta	Prescribed (4.0 m ² m ⁻²)	Adapted to unstressed cotton species (Tol et al., 2014)	SCOPE radiative transfer. f(Ta, APAR, structure, leaf composition) via dependence of photosynthetic rate on ϕ_i	Default
	BETHY-exp2						Adapted to drought stressed Mediterranean species including high temperature correction (Tol et al., 2014; Flexas et al., 2002)		
	BETHY-exp3						Adapted to drought stressed Mediterranean species (Flexas et al., 2002)		
ORCHIDEE (Bacour et al., 2019)	ORCHIDEE-exp1	Yin-Struik	Big Leaf Sunlit/Shaded = No APAR = Beer-Lambert law depending on LAI and extinction factor = 0.5	Ta stress	f (leaf age, CO ₂ , Ta, water stress)	Prognostic	Adapted to needleleaf species (Porcar-Castell et al., 2011) and unstressed Mediterranean species (Flexas, 2002), with added dependence on PAR, temperature, and ϕ_i	Parametric representation of SCOPE (v1.6.1) to emulate radiative transfer within canopy for PSI/II	Default
	ORCHIDEE-exp2			Ta and water stress (Yin and Struik, 2009)					Default
	ORCHIDEE-exp3			Same as exp 1					Global ENF PFT optimized against OCO-2
BEPS (Qiu et al., 2019)	BEPS-exp1	Leuning	Two Leaf Sunlit/Shaded = Yes Fpar = semi-analytical canopy radiative transfer	Soil water stress factor (ratio of measured soil available water to maximum plant available water)	Prescribed	Prescribed (4.0 m ² m ⁻²)	Adapted to water stressed Mediterranean species (Galmes et al., 2007)	Parametric representation of radiative transfer physics to account for canopy scattering effects	Default
	BEPS-exp2						Adapted to drought stressed Mediterranean species including high temperature correction (Tol et al., 2014; Flexas et al., 2002)		
CLM4.5 (Raczka et al., 2019)	CLM4.5-exp1	Ball-Berry-Woodrow	Two Big Leaf Sunlit/Shaded = Yes	Ta(Vcmax); soil moisture stress uses Btran parameterization (function of column rooting profile and soil water potential)	Prescribed (calibrated against observed GPP at NR1)	Prescribed (4.0 m ² m ⁻²)	Adapted to water stressed Mediterranean species (Galmes et al., 2007)	$K_{700} = f(Vcmax, SZA)$, calibrated to offline SCOPE runs using prescribed canopy characteristics at NR1	Hand-tuned to NR1 (Raczka et al., 2016)
	CLM4.5-exp2						Adapted to needleleaf species (Porcar-Castell et al., 2011); Accounts for sustained NPQ (k_N) separately from reversible NPQ (k_R). k_N is calibrated to NR1 Tair. k_R is fixed in time		
	CLM4.5-exp3						same as Exp 2, but k_N is seasonal		
CLM5.0 (unpublished)	CLM5.0-exp1	Medlyn	Two Big Leaf Sunlit/Shaded = Yes	Plant hydraulic water stress (Sperry and Love, 2015; Lawrence et al., 2019) accounting for water demand and supply	f (soil moisture, nitrogen), calibrated to NR1	Prescribed (4.0 m ² m ⁻²)	Adapted to water stressed Mediterranean species (Galmes et al., 2007)	$K_{700} = f(Vcmax)$, calibrated to offline SCOPE runs from Lee et al. (2015)	Default
	CLM5.0-exp2						$K_{700} = f(Vcmax, SZA)$, calibrated to offline SCOPE runs w/ prescribed canopy characteristics at NR1		
	CLM5.0-exp3						Escape ratio (f_{esc}), derived from NIRv and fPAR (Zeng et al., 2019)		
SIB3 (Baker et al., 2003, 2008) SIB4 (Haynes et al., 2019a,b)	SIB3-exp1	Ball-Berry-Woodrow	Big Leaf Sunlit/Shaded = No	Downregulation by VPD, Ta, and soil moisture	f (soil moisture)	Prescribed (MODIS)	Adapted to drought stressed species (Tol et al., 2014)	$K_{700} = f(Vcmax)$, calibrated to offline SCOPE runs from Lee et al. (2015)	Default
	SIB3-exp2					Prescribed (4.0 m ² m ⁻²)			
	SIB4					Prognostic			

1183
 1184 **Table 1.** Summary of TBM-SIF models and within model experiments illustrating model
 1185 components that may have led to differences in modeled SIF., These include a representation of
 1186 stomatal-conductance (column 3), canopy absorption of incoming radiation (column 4), limiting
 1187 factors for photosynthesis (Stress, V_{cmax}, LAI; columns 5-7) and SIF (k_N ; column 8), leaf-to-canopy
 1188 scaling of SIF (column 9), and parameter optimization (column 10). The underlined model
 1189 experiment was used for model intercomparison .

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