



*Supplement of*

## **A machine learning approach targeting parameter estimation for plant functional type coexistence modeling using ELM-FATES (v2.0)**

**Lingcheng Li et al.**

*Correspondence to:* Lingcheng Li ([lingcheng.li@pnnl.gov](mailto:lingcheng.li@pnnl.gov))

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Table S1 Monthly and annual climatology of observations (SD: standard deviation)

Month	ET (mm)	ET's SD	GPP ( $\mu\text{mol}/\text{m}^2/\text{s}$ )	GPP's SD	SH ( $\text{W}/\text{m}^2$ )	SH's SD	BW	BW's SD
1	88.28	6.42	10.96	0.58	25.73	9.15	0.31	0.08
2	69.94	14.56	9.70	1.07	23.28	3.04	0.27	0.10
3	81.87	16.08	10.03	0.33	20.55	3.17	0.27	0.05
4	69.15	19.03	8.96	0.44	25.42	5.56	0.34	0.09
5	79.61	20.47	9.98	1.91	25.29	5.89	0.35	0.14
6	94.73	5.73	8.15	0.64	26.47	4.72	0.28	0.06
7	91.43	12.18	8.21	1.08	27.79	5.12	0.32	0.07
8	107.87	23.51	7.89	0.85	34.04	10.24	0.35	0.11
9	104.79	23.25	8.88	0.92	35.77	3.92	0.44	0.09
10	101.14	8.72	10.44	0.88	33.81	4.69	0.41	0.15
11	86.83	14.55	11.02	0.98	30.83	6.40	0.39	0.06
12	81.27	15.70	10.97	0.84	24.03	2.39	0.34	0.04
Annual mean	88.08	15.02	9.60	0.88	27.75	5.36	0.34	0.09

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Table S2 comparisons between Exp-CTR and Exp-OBS

Category	$BR_{e2t}$ $\in[0.1, 0.9]$	AGB_bias  < 15%	GPP_bias  < 15%	ET_bias  < 15%	SH_bias  < 15%	BW_bias  < 15%	Exp-CTR		Exp-OBS	
							count	percent	count	percent
Late							130	8.7%	22	1.5%
Coexistence							309	20.6%	61	4.1%
Early							1059	70.6%	1417	94.5%
All dead							2	0.1%	0	0.0%
Total							1500		1500	
	+						309	20.6%	61	4.1%
	+	+					98	6.5%	44	2.9%
Add	+	+	+				85	5.7%	52	3.5%
observation	+	+	+	+			23	1.5%	11	0.7%
constraints	+	+	+	+	+		23	1.5%	7	0.5%
	+	+	+	+	+	+	21	1.4%	6	0.4%

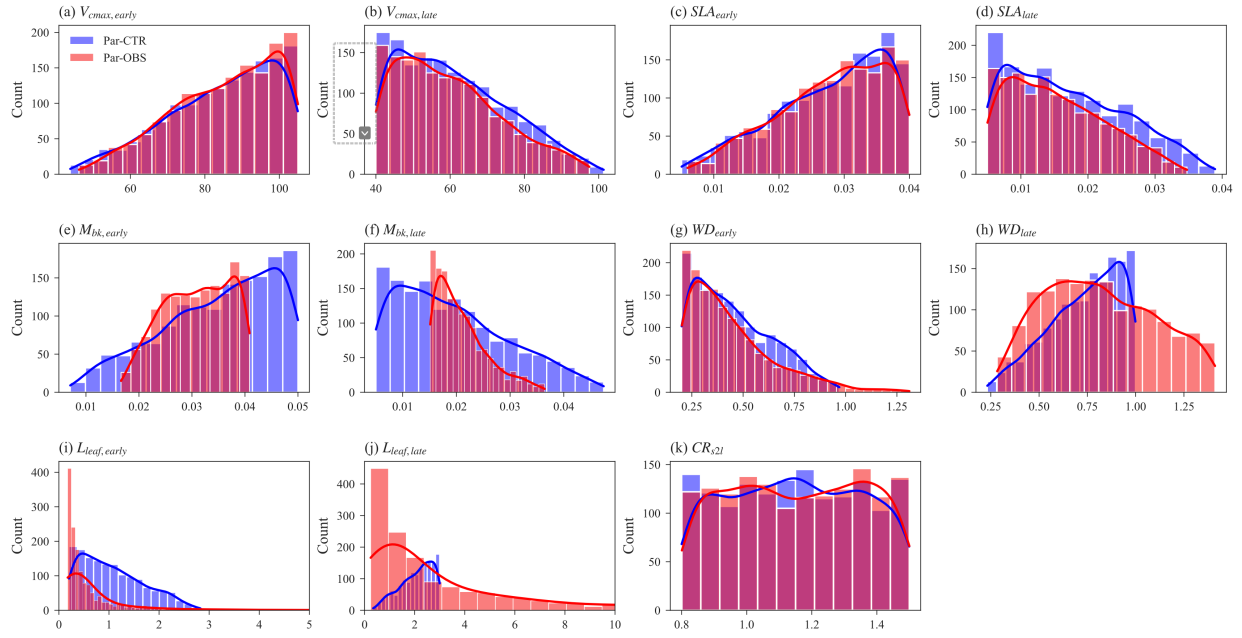
23 “+” means adding specific constraint to filter the experiments

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Table S3 comparisons between Exp-CTR and Exp-ML

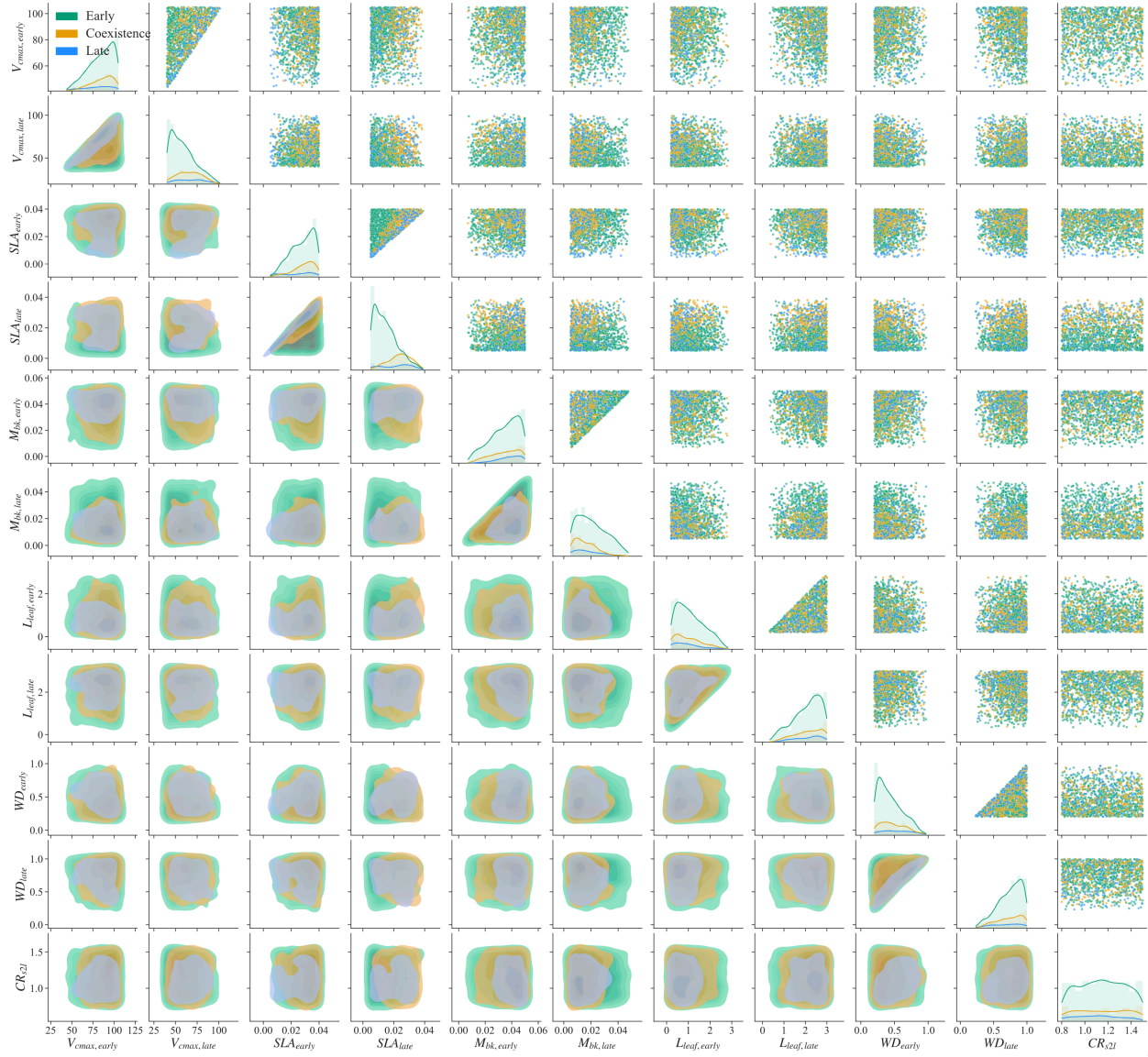
Category	$BR_{e2t}$	$ AGB\_bias $	$ GPP\_bias $	$ ET\_bias $	$ SH\_bias $	$ BW\_bias $	Exp-CTR		Exp-ML		Ratio
	$\in[0.1, 0.9]$	< 15%	< 15%	< 15%	< 15%	< 15%	count	percent	count	percent	
Late							130	8.7%	174	11.6%	1.3
Coexistence							309	20.6%	1097	73.1%	3.6
Early							1059	70.6%	229	15.3%	0.2
All dead							2	0.1%	0	0.0%	
Total							1500		1500		
	+						309	20.6%	1097	73.1%	3.6
	+	+					98	6.5%	620	41.3%	6.3
Add	+	+	+				85	5.7%	618	41.2%	7.3
observation	+	+	+	+			23	1.5%	572	38.1%	24.9
constraints	+	+	+	+	+		23	1.5%	502	33.5%	21.8
	+	+	+	+	+	+	21	1.4%	495	33.0%	23.6

25 “+” means adding specific constraint to filter the experiments



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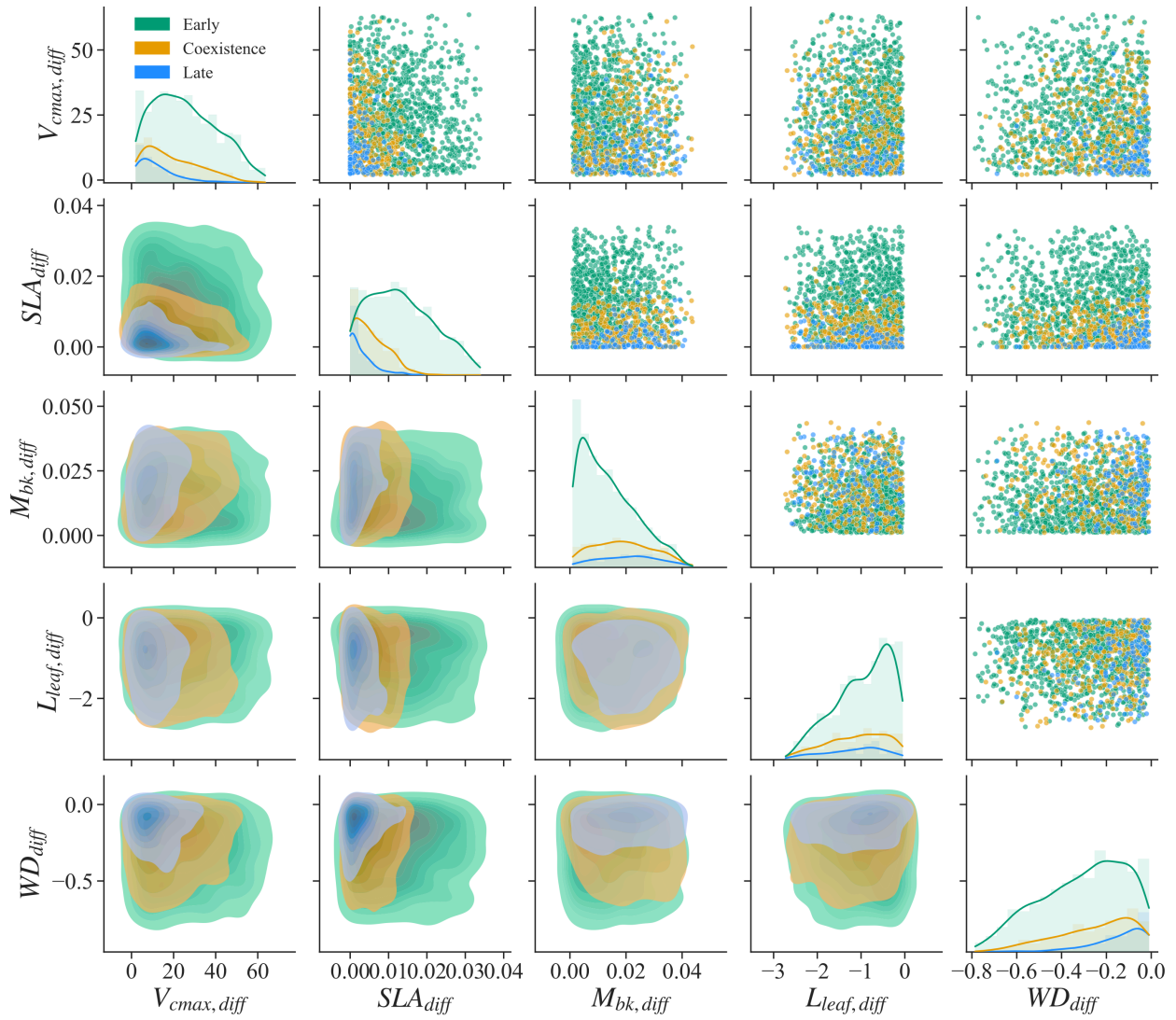
Figure S1. Distribution of parameter ensembles for Par-CTR and Par-OBS.



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29 Figure S2. Pairgrid plots of parameters in Par-CTR grouped by  $BR_{e2t}$ . The upper subplots are  
 30 scatter plots, the bottom subplots are corresponding kernel density estimate plots, and the diagonal  
 31 plots are the distribution for each parameter. These parameters are presented in three groups, i.e.,  
 32 blue for the early cases, orange for the coexistence cases, and green for the late cases.

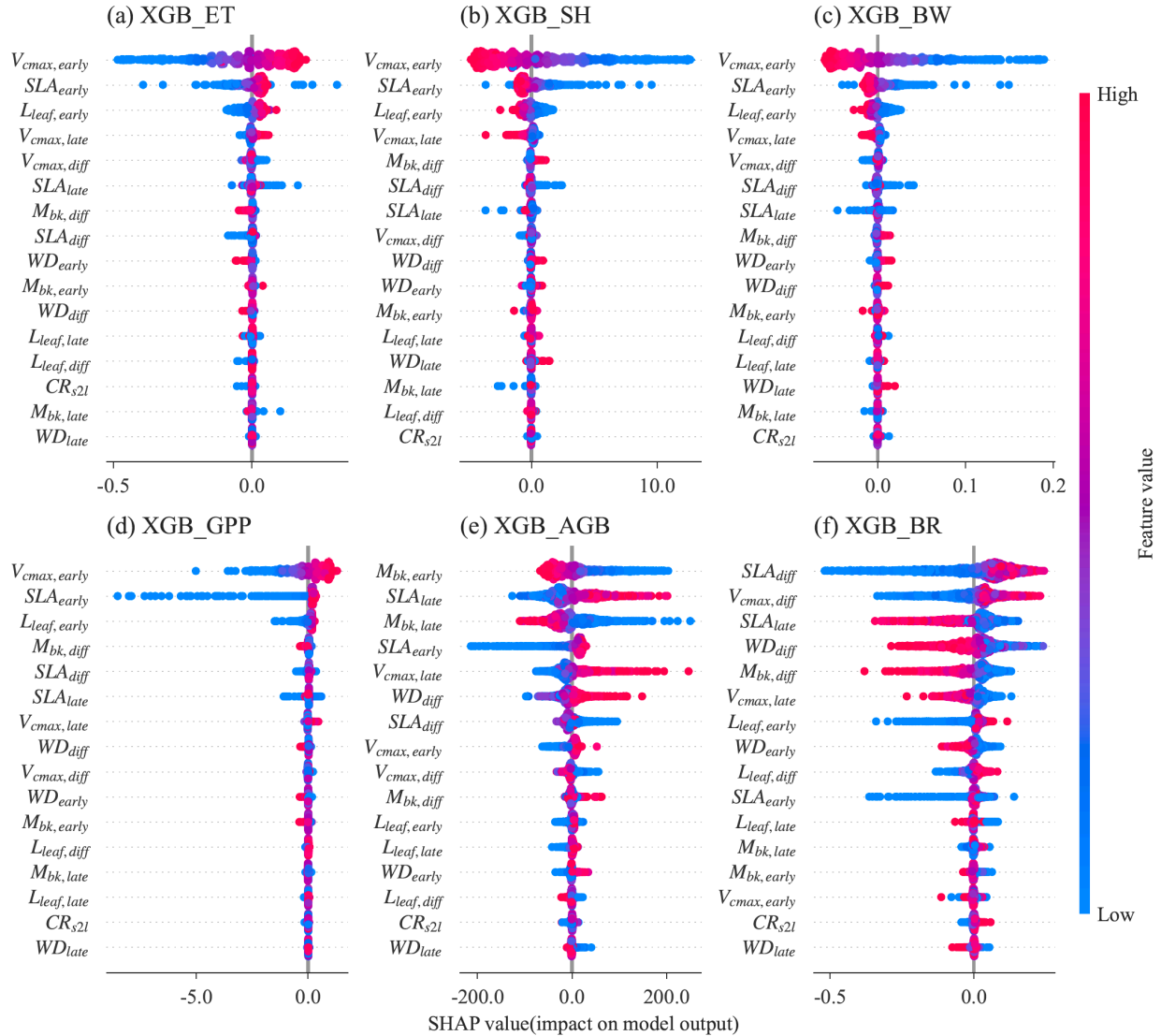
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35 Figure S3. Same as Figure S2, but for the parameter difference between early and late PFT (i.e.,  
36  $\text{diff} = \text{early} - \text{late}$ ).

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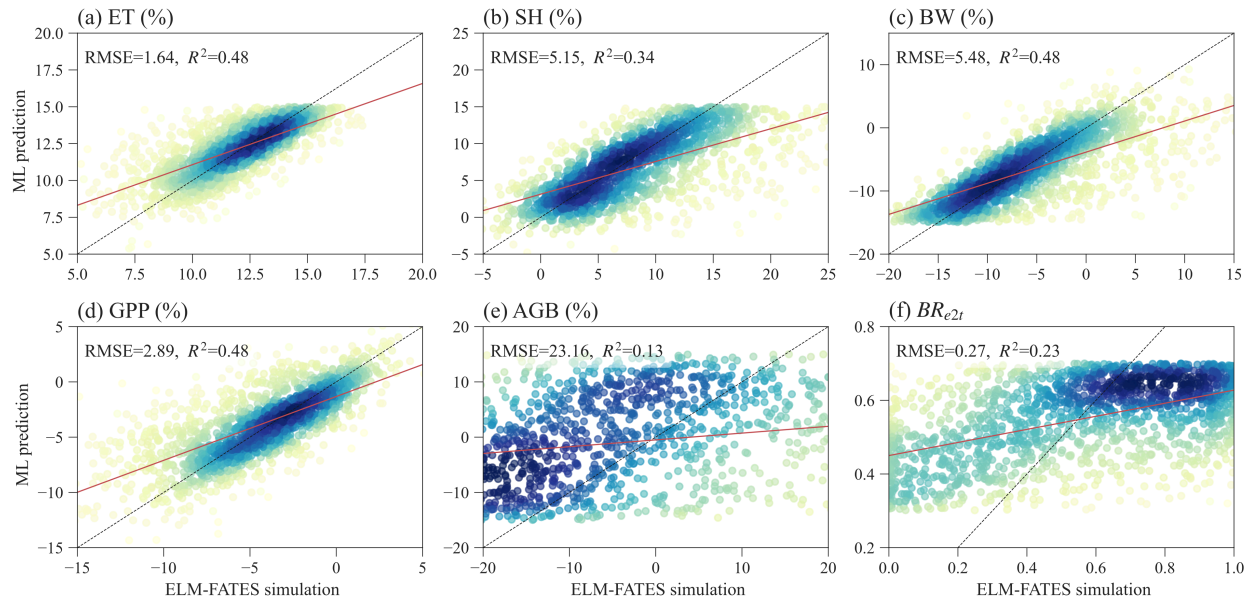


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39 Figure S4. SHAP bee swarm plots for different ML models to show the distribution of the impacts  
 40 of each feature on the model output. Each dot corresponds to a FATES simulation sample. The x-  
 41 axis is the SHAP value, which represents the impact of a specific feature (y-axis) on ML model's  
 42 prediction. The dot color represents the parameter's value from low to high. A positive (negative)  
 43 SHAP value means that the specific parameter value pushes the model output above (below) the  
 44 base value (the average model output over the training dataset). For each parameter (y-axis) in  
 45 each ML model, the Spearman correlation coefficient is calculated between parameter values and  
 46 corresponding SHAP values, which is displayed in Figure 6 of the main text.

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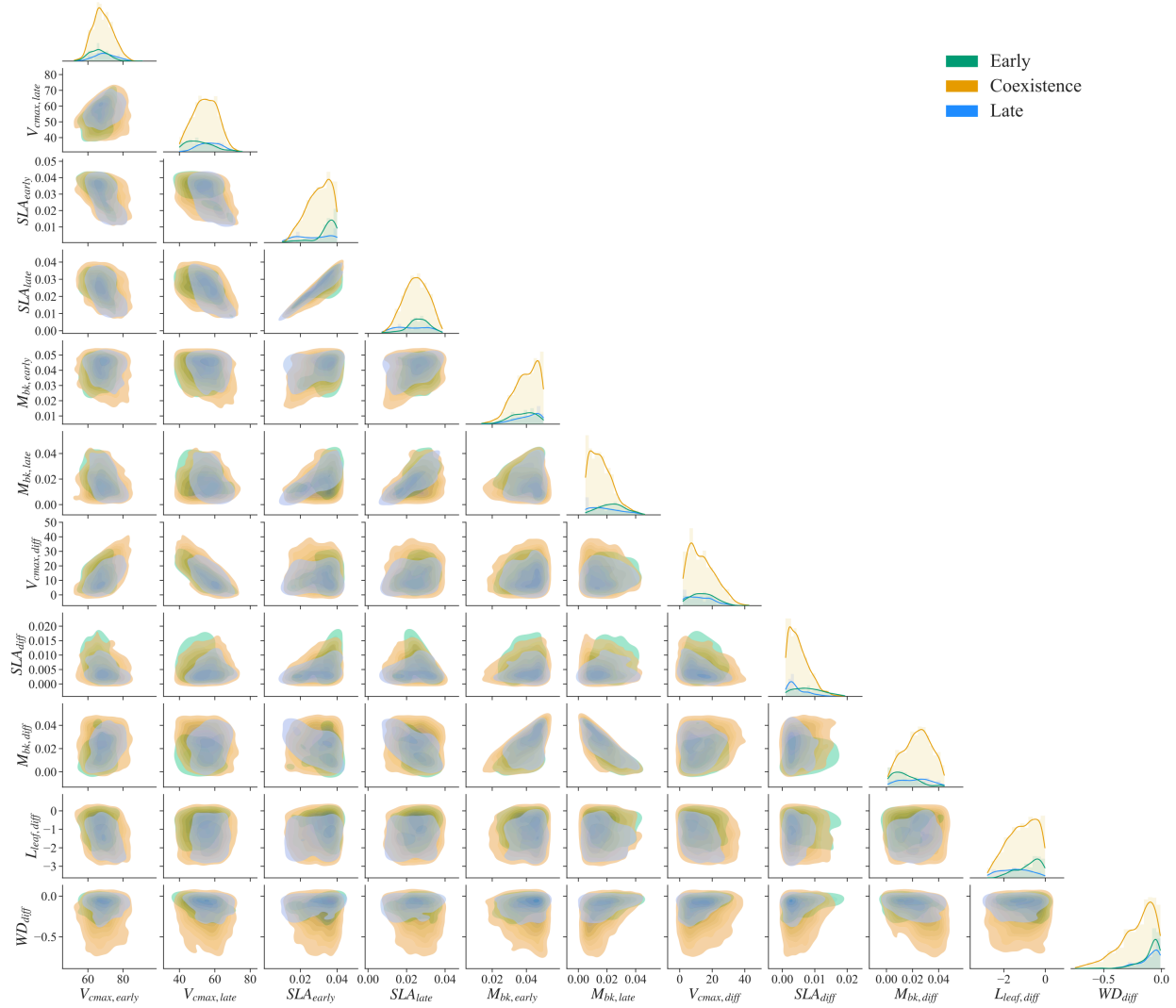


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49 Figure S5. Comparison between ML surrogate models' predictions and ELM-FATES

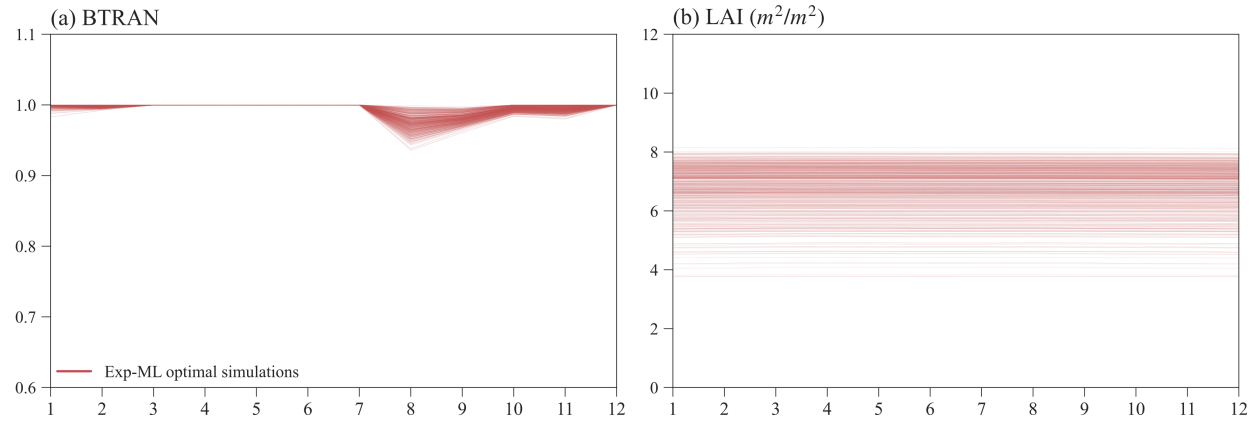
50 simulations in Exp-ML, (a) ET, (b) SH, (c) BW, (d) GPP, (e) AGB, and (f)  $BR_{e2t}$ .

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53 Figure S6. Comparison of parameter or parameter difference in Par-ML (Only eleven features are  
 54 shown here). The bottom subplots are kernel density estimate plots, and the diagonal plots are the  
 55 distribution for each parameter. There are three groups, i.e., blue, orange, and green for the early,  
 56 coexistence, and late cases.



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58 Figure S7. Mean monthly variations of Exp-ML optimal cases. (a) BTRAN, plant water stress  
 59 factor with a valid range between 0 (full water stress) and 1 (no water stress). (b) LAI. Each red  
 60 curve represents one ELM-FATES simulation.