



**JULES-CCATT-  
BRAMS atmospheric  
model**

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**Coupling between the JULES land-surface  
scheme and the CCATT-BRAMS  
atmospheric chemistry model  
(JULES-CCATT-BRAMS1.0): applications  
to numerical weather forecasting and the  
CO<sub>2</sub> budget in South America**

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## Abstract

This article presents the development of a new numerical system denominated JULES-CCATT-BRAMS, which resulted from the coupling of the JULES surface model to the CCATT-BRAMS atmospheric chemistry model. The performance of this system in relation to several meteorological variables (wind speed at 10 m, air temperature at 2 m, dew point temperature at 2 m, pressure reduced to mean sea level and 6 h accumulated precipitation) and the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration above an extensive area of South America is also presented, focusing on the Amazon basin. The evaluations were conducted for two periods, the wet (March) and dry (September) seasons of 2010. The statistics used to perform the evaluation included bias (BIAS) and root mean squared error (RMSE). The errors were calculated in relation to observations at conventional stations in airports and automatic stations. In addition, CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in the first model level were compared with meteorological tower measurements and vertical CO<sub>2</sub> profiles were compared with aircraft data. The results of this study show that the JULES model coupled to CCATT-BRAMS provided a significant gain in performance in the evaluated atmospheric fields relative to those simulated by the LEAF (version 3) surface model originally utilized by CCATT-BRAMS. Simulations of CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in Amazonia and a comparison with observations are also discussed and show that the system presents a gain in performance relative to previous studies. Finally, we discuss a wide range of numerical studies integrating coupled atmospheric, land surface and chemistry processes that could be produced with the system described here. Therefore, this work presents to the scientific community a free tool, with good performance in relation to the observed data and re-analyses, able to produce atmospheric simulations/forecasts at different resolutions, for any period of time and in any region of the globe.

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## 1 Introduction

Before the beginning of the industrial era, around the year 1750, the atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) concentration was roughly 280 ppm, but has continually increased since then (Keeling, 1997). The growth of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> is mostly caused by anthropogenic emissions, principally from fossil fuel and biomass burning. The main sinks of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> are the oceans and forests. The terrestrial biosphere continually sequesters 20 to 30 % of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and studies suggest that Amazonia has been one of the largest contributors to atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> removal (Baker et al., 2004). Accurate understanding and representation of the Amazon forest CO<sub>2</sub> exchange processes and their interaction with the atmosphere in climate models is critical to a consistent modeling of the regional and global CO<sub>2</sub> budget. In South America, during the biomass burning season, fires represent the largest source of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>; however, various other gases are also emitted, which contribute to the greenhouse effect either directly or indirectly (through the formation of secondary gases, for example, ozone), as well as particulate matter (Andreae, 1991; Artaxo et al., 2002; Andreae et al., 2004). The latter has an important influence on radiation balance, cloud microphysics and the hydrologic cycle (Kaufman, 1995; Rosenfeld, 1999; Andreae et al., 2004; Koren et al., 2004) and thus affects surface processes by altering the availability of energy and precipitation. It has been suggested that the interaction between biomass burning aerosols and solar radiation alters the photosynthesis process in the Amazon rainforest through the attenuation of the amount of solar radiation arriving at the surface and via the increase of the diffuse fraction (Yamasoe et al., 2006). Another process relevant to the rainforest is the formation of ozone from precursors emitted by fires. Previous studies suggested that the assimilation of ozone is likely to significantly affect forest net productivity (Sitch et al., 2007). The potential impact of all these processes can be considerable since, during the peak of the fire season, smoke plumes can cover areas of millions of km<sup>2</sup> (Prins et al., 1998).

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To fill in the gaps in observed data, to conduct fictitious experiments (for example, changing the vegetation type in a given region), and to predict the weather, the scientific community has widely used numerical modeling. From the knowledge of the processes that occur in nature, physical equations are developed to simulate these processes as realistically as possible. However, due to the complexity and interaction of all processes occurring in the atmosphere and at the surface, it can be said that we will never be able to reproduce and/or predict exactly all phenomena that govern nature. However, with the advancement of research and enormous advances in computing, models are increasingly able to approximate reality. With observations of nature, it is possible to develop equations more appropriate to a particular event, and with the advancement of computing more complex equations can be implemented in numerical models and the approaches used to accelerate the calculations can be reduced. Thus, this work has as its main goal the replacement of an outdated surface model (LEAF), with a current model (JULES) with several new simulated processes that is in constant development by dozens of renowned researchers.

CCATT-BRAMS (Coupled Chemistry-Aerosol-Tracer Transport model to the Brazilian developments on the Regional Atmospheric Modeling System) (Freitas et al., 2009; Longo et al., 2013) is a numerical system developed at the Brazilian National Institute for Space Research (INPE) aimed at regional scale weather forecasting and atmosphere chemistry and air quality research. Currently, the CCATT-BRAMS surface scheme is based on the LEAF (Walko et al., 2000) model for prediction of temperature, soil water content, snow cover and vegetation temperature, and includes exchange of turbulent and radiative fluxes between these components and the atmosphere. However, LEAF does not include air-surface exchanges of CO<sub>2</sub> (photosynthesis and respiration), other trace gases, or a dynamic vegetation formulation, among other processes. In this study, the Joint UK Land Environment Simulator (JULES) surface-atmosphere interaction model (Best et al., 2011; Clark et al., 2011) was coupled to the CCATT-BRAMS model. JULES is considered state-of-the-art in terms of the representation of surface processes, with modern formulations able to simulate large

number of processes that occur at the surface, including vegetation dynamics, carbon storage, soil moisture, photosynthesis and plant respiration. Thus, an integrated model (JULES-CCATT-BRAMS) was created, capable of simulating most of the principal processes that occur at the surface and in the terrestrial atmosphere, and their interactions.

This paper is organized as follows. Section 2 provides a brief description of the numerical models that are coupled. It describes the BRAMS atmospheric model; the CCATT model, which is responsible for the transport of gases and aerosols; and the JULES model, responsible for predicting the processes that occur at the surface. At the end of this section the coupled model (JULES-CCATT-BRAMS) is described, and the initial and boundary conditions necessary for execution of the model are presented. Section 3 shows the evaluation and sensitivity of JULES-CCATT-BRAMS to various configurations in wet and dry seasons. Finally, Sect. 4 gives a brief summary of the article.

## 2 System components and coupling of JULES to CCATT-BRAMS

### 2.1 The BRAMS atmospheric component

The Brazilian developments on the Regional Atmospheric Modeling System (BRAMS) is based on the Regional Atmospheric Modeling System (RAMS, Walko et al., 2000) with several modifications to improve the numerical representation of key physical processes over tropical and sub-tropical regions.

According to Freitas et al. (2009), RAMS is a numerical model designed to simulate atmospheric circulations at many scales. RAMS solves the fully compressible non-hydrostatic equations described by Tripoli and Cotton (1982) and is equipped with a multiple grid nesting scheme which allows the model equations to be solved simultaneously on any number of two-way interacting computational meshes of increasing spatial resolution. It has a set of physical parameterizations appropriate for simulating

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processes such as surface-air exchanges, turbulence, convection, radiation and cloud microphysics.

Subdivision of a RAMS surface grid cell into multiple areas with distinct land-use types is allowed, with each sub-grid area, or patch, containing its own surface model (LEAF), and each patch interacting with the overlying atmospheric column with a weight proportional to its fractional area in the grid cell.

As previously stated, BRAMS is based on the RAMS model, with new developments focusing on better representation of atmospheric processes in tropical regions. Features include a set of additional modern physical parameterizations and improved software quality (see Freitas et al., 2009 for more details).

## 2.2 The CCATT atmospheric chemistry component

CCATT is an Eulerian transport model online with BRAMS and developed to simulate the transport, diffusion, chemical transformation and removal processes associated with gases and aerosols (Freitas et al., 2009; Longo et al., 2012). CCATT simulates the tracer transport on-line with the simulation of the atmospheric state by BRAMS, using the same dynamical and physical parameterizations. According to Freitas et al. (2009), the tracer mass mixing ratio, which is a prognostic variable, includes the effects of sub-grid scale turbulence in the planetary boundary layer and convective transport by shallow and deep moist convection, in addition to grid scale advective transport. The general mass continuity for tracers em form of tendency equation solved in the model is:

$$\frac{\partial \bar{s}}{\partial t} = \left( \frac{\partial \bar{s}}{\partial t} \right)_{\text{adv I}} + \left( \frac{\partial \bar{s}}{\partial t} \right)_{\text{PBL diff II}} + \left( \frac{\partial \bar{s}}{\partial t} \right)_{\text{deep conv III}} + \left( \frac{\partial \bar{s}}{\partial t} \right)_{\text{shallow conv IV}} + \left( \frac{\partial \bar{s}}{\partial t} \right)_{\text{chem V}} + W_{\text{VI}} + R_{\text{VII}} + Q_{\text{VIII}} \quad (1)$$

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where  $\bar{s}$  is the mean mass mixing ratio, term (I) represents the 3-D advection, (II) is the sub-grid scale diffusion in the PBL and terms (III) and (IV) are the sub-grid scale transport by deep and shallow convection, respectively. Term (V) is the net production or loss by chemical reactions. Term (VI) is the wet removal, term (VII) refers to the dry deposition and, finally, VIII is the source term that includes the plume rise mechanism associated with vegetation fires (Freitas et al., 2007).

The grid-scale advection uses the same BRAMS model approach, a second order forward-upstream scheme non-monotonic formulation (Tremback et al., 1987), which can generate non-physical negative mass concentrations, or a monotonic formulation (Freitas et al., 2012), which does not produce any new extrema (over- or undershoots) of the mass mixing ratio of the tracer being transported as well as not does not cause strong numerical diffusion. The diffusion in the PBL use the same BRAMS formulations that are applied for temperature and water mass mixing ratio, but with a recent mass conservation fix on slopes developed by Meesters et al. (2008). As before, the same BRAMS convective parameterizations (for sub-grid scale deep and shallow convection) applied to moist static energy and water vapor are applied consistently to the tracers. For radiative effects, smoke aerosols are assumed to be homogeneous spherical particles with an average mass density of  $1.35 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ , according to (Reid et al., 1998). Size distribution and complex refractive index are based on climatological data from AERONET stations located in the Amazon basin and Cerrado and spectral optical properties were obtained using these climatologies as input in a Mie Code (Procopio et al., 2003; Rosario et al., 2012). Wet removal of smoke aerosol particles is coupled with the deep convection parameterization following Berge (1993). Dry deposition is simulated using the resistance approach following Wesley (1989) and Seinfeld and Pandis (1998).

The CCATT model has also a preprocessor named PREP-CHEM-SRC (Freitas et al., 2011), designed to produce emission fields of trace gases and aerosols for chemistry simulations. PREP-CHEMSRC is able to generate emission fields from urban/industrial, biogenic, biomass burning, volcanic, biofuel use and burning from agri-



cultural waste sources. The emission fields are generated on the native grid of the transport model and several map projections are available.

CCATT-BRAMS has been running operationally at CPTEC/INPE since 2003 in a domain that encompasses all of South America and with a spatial resolution of 25 km. The predictions of gases and aerosols are available in real time at <http://meioambiente.cptec.inpe.br/> and the meteorological variables are available at <http://previsaonumerica.cptec.inpe.br/golMapWeb/DadosPages?id=CCattBrams>.

### 2.3 The JULES land surface component

The “Joint UK Land Environment Simulator” is a soil/vegetation model developed from the Meteorological Office Surface Exchange Scheme (MOSES), which is a surface model used in the UK Meteorological Office unified model (Cox et al., 2000). A detailed JULES model description can be found in (Best et al., 2011) and (Clark et al., 2011). JULES is composed of two principle modules: (a) MOSES and (b) TRIFFID (Top-down Representation of Interactive Foliage and Flora Including Dynamics). MOSES is responsible for the simulation of surface energy fluxes and hydrological processes, while TRIFFID is designed to simulate vegetation and soil dynamics.

Figure 1 presents in schematic form the processes that are simulated by JULES version 3.0. Blue represents the processes that are related to hydrology, green refers to the processes that are directly involved with vegetation and brown refers to gases and aerosols. The lower layer of the diagram presents the processes that occur in the soil, the two upper layers refer to processes located between the surface and the canopy top and the arrows in the upper layer indicate fluxes, gases and aerosols that are exchanged with the atmosphere.

The physics of JULES can be divided in 5 modules. Below is a brief description of each module (the text is based on a documentation published at link <https://jules.jchmr.org/model-description> and further details can be obtained at Best et al., 2011, and Clark et al., 2011):

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- *Vegetation* – Photosynthesis depends mainly on the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration of the environment and inside the leaf, as well as soil moisture and photosynthetically active radiation (PAR). The net primary production, derived of the plants respiration, can be divided into two processes: a fix part for growth and the other for maintenance, where this is function of nitrogen concentration in the leaf. The TRIFFID module is responsible for updating the distribution of plants. It is considered a competition between vegetation types, depending on the net amount of carbon available and radiation PAR. Thus, there is a co-competition depending mainly of relative heights of the plants, where trees (broadleaf and needleleaf) normally earn of grasses (type C3 (Collatz et al., 1991) and C4 (Collatz et al., 1992)). Therefore, the dominant types limit the expansion of subdominant types.
- *Soil* – The flux of water in the soil is given by the equation of Darcy, which depends on the hydraulic conductivity and soil water suction. The stock of carbon in the soil is increased by the total amount of leaves that fall on the ground and is reduced by soil respiration, which occurs at a rate dependent on the soil humidity and temperature.
- *Hydrology* – Part of the precipitation that arrives at the canopy is intercepted, while another part passes through the canopy and arrives at the soil (throughfall). Part of the water that arrives at the soil infiltrates and part runs off superficially (Gregory and Smith, 1990). This process is applied separately for each vegetation type. The model is being developed so that is will include a rainfall-runoff module and a runoff routing scheme. At present these options are not available.
- *Radiation* – Albedo of the bare soil varies geographically as a function of the soil color. For vegetation, the two flux model is used, calculating separately the direct and diffuse radiation albedos for each vegetation type.
- *Energy balance* – The evaporative flux extracted from each soil layer is dependent on the soil humidity availability factor. Evaporation from bare soil is extracted from

the surface soil layer. The aerodynamic resistance for latent and sensible heat fluxes between the surface and the atmosphere above each vegetation type is calculated as a function of temperature, specific humidity and wind velocity.

JULES was conceived to serve two purposes: (1) to have a model freely available to the scientific community and (2) to permit model development to include new modules. The JULES source code is written in the FORTRAN90 language with a modular structure comprised of routines and subroutines. The land surface is divided in grid boxes, which can be occupied by a number of plant functional types (PFTs) and non-functional plant types (NPFTs). Up to five PFTs can occupy a grid box, whose names are: Broad leaf trees (BT); Needle leaf trees (NT); C3 grasses (C3G); C4 grasses (C4G) and Shrubs (Sh). A grid box can also be occupied by up to four NPFTs: Urban, Inland water, Soil and Ice. JULES adopts a tiled structure in which the surface processes are calculated separately for each surface type. It can be executed for a single point, for a group of points or for a regular grid.

The JULES model has been used in a large number of scientific studies, such as: (a) CO<sub>2</sub> effects in continental rivers (Gedney et al., 2006), (b) dynamics of a vegetation model (Hughes et al., 2006), (c) interception of radiation and photosynthesis (Mercado et al., 2007), (d) impact of diffuse radiation on the land carbon sink (Mercado et al., 2009), and (e) ozone effects on the land-carbon sink (Sitch et al., 2007), among others.

## 2.4 The coupled JULES-CCATT-BRAMS system

The JULES surface scheme has been fully coupled to the CCATT-BRAMS modeling system. The coupling is two-way in the sense that, for each model time step, the atmospheric component provides to JULES the current near surface wind speed, air temperature, pressure, condensed water and downward radiation fluxes, as well as water vapor and trace gas (for example, carbon dioxide and monoxide, methane and volatile organic compounds) mixing ratios. After its processing, JULES advances its state variables over the time step and feeds back to the atmospheric component the sensible and

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latent heat and momentum surface fluxes, upward short-wave and long-wave radiation fluxes as well as a set of trace gases fluxes. Figure 2 shows a model grid box with the main physical and chemical processes that the JULES-CCATT-BRAMS system addresses.

JULES initialization requires: land use, soil type, normalized difference vegetative index (NDVI), sea surface temperature, soil carbon and soil moisture data. In this work, the land use map for the Amazon basin provided by the PROVEG project (Sestini et al., 2003) was used, while data from the RADAMBRASIL project (Rossato et al., 1998) was used for the soil type in Brazil and data from FAO (Zobler, 1999) was used outside Brazil. The 15-day NDVI data is derived from MODIS (Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer) data based on the years 2001–2002. Weekly sea surface temperature is provided by Reynolds et al. (2002) and observed soil carbon is provided by the LBA project (Large Scale Biosphere-Atmosphere Experiment in Amazonia) (Batjes, 1996). Daily soil moisture data, an operational product of CPTEC/INPE, is described by Gevaerd and Freitas (2006).

CCATT-BRAMS requires: topography data sets, an emissions database (urban-industrial, biogenic and biomass burning), atmospheric fields and the CO<sub>2</sub> background. In this study, the (Gesch et al., 1999) topography dataset available through the United States Geological Survey's (USGS) Earth Resources Observation Systems (EROS) Data Center was used, with a latitude-longitude resolution of 30 arc-seconds (approximately 1 km). Biomass burning emissions were estimated using fire pixels detected by remote sensing (GOES), and the other source emissions are climatological datasets (Freitas et al., 2011). The atmospheric fields for initialization and boundary conditions were obtained from the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) final analysis (FNL) with a T382 horizontal resolution (approximately 35 km) and 64 vertical pressure levels at 6-h time intervals (available online at <ftp://ftpprd.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/gfs/prod/>), which were interpolated to the model grid. Initial and boundary conditions for CO<sub>2</sub> were taken from outputs of the CarbonTracker/TM5 carbon data assimilation system (Krol et al., 2005;

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Peters et al., 2007) with a horizontal resolution of  $3^{\circ} \times 2^{\circ}$  and 34 vertical levels ([http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ccgg/carbontracker/documentation\\_4pdf.html](http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ccgg/carbontracker/documentation_4pdf.html)).

The increase in processing time of JULES-CCATT-BRAMS in relation to CCATT-BRAMS was around 17%. This cost is very low considering that JULES simulates more processes than LEAF; the parameterizations are more modern, predict gas concentrations and include variations in vegetation morphology over the simulation time; and it is shown in this work that there is a significant gain in quality by using JULES when compared with LEAF. The time step of the atmospheric model is around 30 s for a resolution of 20 km, but JULES normally is executed with a time step greater than half hour. Thus, there is the option to execute JULES only every  $n$  time steps of the atmospheric model, considerably reducing the increase in processing time. However, the impact of this procedure on the quality of the result has not yet been evaluated.

### 3 Evaluation and sensitivity tests

In order to evaluate the JULES-CCATT-BRAMS system, 93 simulations were conducted (3 experiments with 31 members each, one member per day) for March 2010 (wet season) and 90 (3 experiments with 30 members each) for September 2010 (dry season). Each simulation was integrated over 5 days. In Table 1, the principal CCATT-BRAMS model configurations and parameterizations are defined and Table 2 presents the configurations and parameterizations that were altered in relation to the namelist point\_loobos\_example.jin that accompanies the version 3 of the JULES package.

The simulations were executed on a CRAY cluster (2.1 GHz AMD Opteron processors) using 360 processors. The processing time for each 5 days simulation was approximately 48 min using LEAF and 56 min using JULES.

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### 3.1 Applications in numerical weather prediction

The data obtained from numerical simulations were compared with observations from surface meteorological stations installed at airports (METAR) and automatic stations (PCDs) installed and maintained by the National Institute of Meteorology (INMET).

5 These data have a temporal frequency of an hour and an irregular spatial distribution. They are available daily on the respective websites: <http://www.redemet.aer.mil.br> and <http://www.inmet.gov.br/sonabra/maps/automaticas.php>. The simulated values of air and dew point temperature at 2 m, wind speed at 10 m, pressure reduced to mean sea level and precipitation were bilinearly interpolated to the station points using the  
10 four grid points around the station point. With the simulated and observed data collocated at each grid point, the bias and root mean squared error were calculated utilizing Eqs. (1) and (2), respectively. Figure 3 presents in a schematic form the methodology utilized to obtain the error plots presented in this work. For each station and hour of integration (0, 1, 2, . . . , 120), bias and root mean squared error between the observed and simulated data were calculated using 30 (or 31) members and the arithmetic mean  
15 of the errors at all stations in the desired domain was calculated. The spatial distribution of observed data is described in Fig. 4a. The first two days of integration were ignored, the period in which the model is in adjustment, and the mean of the last three days was calculated. In this way, the plot of the evolution of the error along the day for a certain variable and a certain experiment is obtained. The Eqs. (2) and (3) describe  
20 respectively the procedure used to obtain the bias and root mean squared error of the simulations.

$$\text{BIAS}(h) = \frac{\sum_{d=3}^D \frac{\sum_{s=1}^S \frac{\sum_{m=1}^M (\text{model}(m,s,h(m,d)) - \text{obs}(s,h(m,d)))}{M}}{S}}{D} \quad (2)$$

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$$RMSE(h) = \frac{\sum_{d=3}^D \sum_{s=1}^S \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{m=1}^M (\text{model}(m,s,h(m,d)) - \text{obs}(s,h(m,d)))^2}{M}}}{D} \quad (3)$$

where:  $m$  = member of the month (1, 2, . . . , 30 (or 31)).

$M$  = number of members (31 in March and 30 in September).

$s$  = stations in selected region (SBMN, A701, . . . ).

$S$  = number of stations in selected region (METAR+INMET PCDs).

$d$  = days of integration (3, 4 and 5).

$D$  = number of days of integrations ( $D = 5$ )

$h$  = hours (UTC) of the day (00, 01, . . . , 23).

### 3.1.1 Evaluation of the numerical forecast during March 2010 (wet season)

For the rainy season, three experiments were conducted in order to evaluate the JULES-CCATT-BRAMS system:

- Using the original soil-vegetation model (LEAF) with a non-monotonic advection scheme (ad0) and disregarding the presence of aerosol (ae0), which is symbolized by LEAF\_ad0\_ae0,
- Similar to the previous, but using the JULES soil-vegetation model, which is symbolized by JULES\_ad0\_ae0,
- Similar to the previous, but with a monotonic advection scheme (ad1), which is symbolized by JULES\_ad1\_ae0.

Following the same methodology described above, the error of the ECMWF ERA-Interim reanalysis (Dee et al., 2011) was also calculated. This reanalysis

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has a horizontal resolution of 1.5° and utilizes a 4-D-Var system (Bouttier and Kelly, 2001) to assimilate observed data (available online at: [http://data-portal.ecmwf.int/data/d/interim\\_daily/levtype=sfc/](http://data-portal.ecmwf.int/data/d/interim_daily/levtype=sfc/)).

Figure 4 shows the root mean squared error considering the mean errors at the METAR and INMET PCD stations contained in the entire domain of the simulations (Fig. 4a). Daily data from around 70 to 200 stations were used, depending on the evaluated variable. Considering the temperature at 2 m, it can be observed in Fig. 4b that during the nocturnal period the coupling with JULES, with both transport configurations, monotonic and non-monotonic, had a similar error to the model with LEAF. However, during the daytime the model with JULES presented much better results for temperature, above all when the monotonic scheme was utilized. ECMWF data presents the lowest and the highest RMSE during the night and day, respectively. The best overall score is presented by JULES with a mean RMSE equal to 1.80, followed by ECMWF and LEAF with 1.96 and 1.97, respectively. The bias analysis (figure not shown) pointed out that the model with JULES (in both transport configurations) and ECMWF have biases close to zero during the nighttime and negative bias during the daytime, while the model with LEAF has a positive bias during the nighttime and negative bias during the day.

The improvement from coupling CCATT-BRAMS with JULES is much higher for the dew point temperature at 2 m, as shown in Fig. 4c. The mean RMSE dropped from 3.01 to 2.44. Note also that the use of a monotonic advection scheme did not make any difference in this evaluation. In this case, ECMWF presents the lowest mean RMSE, with JULES much closer to it than LEAF. For the mean sea level pressure (LSP) the coupling with JULES did not present noticeable improvement, as one can see from Fig. 4d. For precipitation, JULES had a smaller error than LEAF during the daytime, as shown in Fig. 4e. The monotonic advection scheme results in a slightly better score (2.79), which might be related to more accurate moisture transport. JULES also provides a better performance than ECMWF. In terms of the wind speed at 10 m above the surface the results are very different (Fig. 4f). LEAF provides the best score, even

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better than ECMWF reanalysis data. However, the results are different for simulated wind speed at the levels above the surface, as shown in Fig. 5. This figure shows the wind speed RMSE using radiosoundings at 11 locations during March 2010. RMSEs are similar for all models, with the JULES simulation with monotonic advection showing slightly better scores. This result suggests that the differences in RMSE of wind speed at 10 m could be related to physical formulations used by both surface schemes to derive the wind speed at this level.

### 3.1.2 Evaluation of the numerical forecast during September (dry season)

The dry season (July–September) in South America (SA) corresponds to austral winter. This season is discernible by suppression of rainfall over large areas of SA and by the huge number of vegetation fires along the border of the Amazon region and in central Brazil. The associated smoke is transported and dispersed over large areas of SA (Freitas et al., 2005) with significant effects on air quality, the regional energy budget (Procopio et al., 2003; Rosário et al., 2012) and very likely on the hydrological cycle (Andreae et al., 2004). As previously discussed, the two latter aspects are strongly linked to surface processes, either as drivers or as responses as well. Therefore, a special aspect we evaluate for September 2010 is the importance of the inclusion of the biomass burning aerosol direct radiative effect on radiative transfer. Here we present model evaluations for September 2010 using the same observational data as presented in Fig. 4a. The simulations are named as follows:

- LEAF\_ad0\_ae0: using the original soil-vegetation scheme (LEAF), with a non-monotonic advection scheme (ad0) and disregarding the presence of atmospheric biomass burning aerosol (ae0),
- JULES\_ad0\_ae0: the same as above, but using JULES,

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- JULES\_ad0\_ae1: using JULES, a non-monotonic advection scheme (ad0) and including the direct radiative effect of smoke aerosols (radiation absorption and scattering) (ae1).

As before, we also include ECMWF reanalysis data to compare with our results.

Figure 6 shows the results for (a) temperature and (b) dew point temperature at 2 m, (c) precipitation and (d) wind speed at 10 m. For the first two quantities, JULES presents a noticeable gain in performance with scores closer to the ECMWF ones. However, there is not any discernible improvement of the precipitation forecasts (c), with ECMWF having the best score. As before, LEAF presents a better score for wind speed at 10 m, even better than ECMWF results.

As previously mentioned, this case study can be used to evaluate the impact of biomass burning aerosols on near surface atmospheric properties. Observing Fig. 6 again, one can see that the inclusion of biomass burning aerosols results in slightly better scores for temperature at 2 m, wind speed at 10 m and dew point temperature and an equal score for precipitation. However, focusing on the evaluation over a smaller area where the smoke concentrates, the impacts are much higher, as expected. Figure 7a shows a smaller domain with the highest aerosol concentration in September as simulated by the JULES-CCATT-BRAMS model. The monthly mean particulate matter less than  $2.5 \mu\text{m}$  ( $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ ) vertically integrated in the area shown in Fig. 7a is  $62 \text{ mg m}^{-2}$  (in March, wet season, this value was  $8 \text{ mg m}^{-2}$ ). Figure 7b presents the RMSE of temperature at 2 m for this area. The improvement during the daytime is evident, with a decrease in the mean score from 2.49 (JULES\_ad0\_ae0) to 2.35 (JULES\_ad0\_ae1). Note also that only the use of JULES caused a huge gain in performance in the RMSE, which dropped from 3.25 (with LEAF) to 2.49. Finally, the ECMWF reanalysis had a score similar to JULES\_ad0\_ae0, and it also does not include aerosol direct effects on radiation, at least not in the level of detail that JULES-CCATT-BRAMS did here. For the other variables (Td-2m, rainfall and wind speed) significant differences were not observed between JULES\_ad0\_ae0 and JULES\_ad0\_ae1 (not shown). The differences between

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LEAF, JULES (ae0 or ae1) and ECMWF were also similar to the result shown before with the average at all stations (Fig. 6).

### 3.1.3 NCEP bias

Figure 8 presents the mean bias for temperature at 2 m of the NCEP analysis, which was utilized as the initial and boundary conditions of the simulations. This bias was calculated in relation to the observed data from METAR and INMET PCD stations during the month of March 2010. The colors in blue tones, represented with a circle around the station location, correspond to negative bias (underestimated temperature) and the colors in red tones, represented with squares, correspond to positive bias (overestimated temperature). The numbers inside the circles (or squares) represent the predominant vegetation type at the station point. It can be observed that the errors are high, above all during early morning (12:00 UTC, 8 a.m. LT). In certain regions, values are larger than 4° and in other regions lower than -4°. It is also noted that a region with negative bias (northeast region of Brazil, except the coast) and another with a positive bias (Amazon region) are well characterized. During the nighttime (00:00 UTC, 8 p.m. LT) normally a negative bias is observed, with exception of the northeast Brazilian coast and some stations in the Amazon region. We were unable to identify a relationship between NCEP bias and vegetation type. Therefore, part of the simulation errors are probably associated with the inherent errors in the NCEP analyses, utilized as initial and boundary conditions, since the JULES-CCATT-BRAMS simulations were executed without assimilation of observations.

### 3.2 Simulating the carbon cycle over the Amazon

Soil processes, such as stocks of carbon and humidity, are quite slow processes. However, in modeling a technique of “denominated spin-up” is normally used. This technique consists of executing a model for several years until the changes in the fields are less than a certain delta, considering that at this point the model is in equilibrium

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(Yang et al., 1995). To attain this equilibrium it is necessary to run the model for several years. However, this is a very computationally expensive process, and in the case of this study this was a difficult technique to apply, due to the large number of points to be simulated. With the aim of reducing the necessity of spin-up, in this study we initialize the model with fields as close as possible to observed such as observed values of soil carbon content (Batjes, 1996) and soil moisture estimated via an off-line water balance model forced with rainfall derived from remote sensing (Gevaerd and Freitas, 2006).

### 3.2.1 Evaluating model simulations of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> profiles

To evaluate the ability of the JULES-CCATT-BRAMS modeling system to reproduce observed CO<sub>2</sub> profiles, observed data collected aboard an airplane was used. 80 profiles were performed during the year 2010 in a descending spiral profile from 4300 m to 300 m in four Amazon locations: Santarém-PA (SAN), Rio Branco-AC (RBA), Alta Floresta-MT (ALF) and Tabatinga-AM (TAB). All profiles were usually taken between 12–14 h local time. At the RBA, TAB and ALF sites, 12 flasks were sampled with a portable sampling system consisting of separate compressor and flask units. These units were loaded onto a light aircraft. A GPS and temperature and relative humidity sensors were also attached to the compressor unit. The pilot initiated sample collection at a pre-determined altitude using a wired remote control. At SAN the flask unit contained 17 flasks and for all units each flask had a volume of 700 mL and was pressurized to about 270 kPa, described in (Gatti et al., 2010).

Figure 9 presents eight CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations profiles for wet (a, b, c and d) and dry (e, f, g and h) seasons, two of them for each location described above. The figure shows aircraft observed CO<sub>2</sub> concentration, numerical results of CO<sub>2</sub> concentration with the JULES-CCATT-BRAMS model as well as with the CarbonTracker modeling system. CO<sub>2</sub> concentration from CarbonTracker was used as initial and boundary conditions for the JULES-CCATT-BRAMS simulations.

For the wet season, it is observed in this figure that, in general, the JULES-CCATT-BRAMS model obtained better results than CarbonTracker, mainly at the levels close to

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the surface. In higher levels, both models were able to simulate well the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration, except for Rio Branco (RBA) on 13 March 2010, where the error was around 2 ppm, which corresponds to less than 1 % of the observed concentration. The model errors in the lower levels, mainly within PBL, are higher and should be related to difficulties on simulating a number of atmospheric process (net surface radiation, sub-grid scale turbulent transport, sub-grid scale transport by convection, e.g.) and carbon fluxes between surface and atmosphere. On the other hand, at higher levels JULES-CCATT-BRAMS CO<sub>2</sub> concentration follows very close to the CarbonTracker simulation, as one should expect.

The CO<sub>2</sub> simulations for the dry season present little higher disagreements between models simulation and observation. One reason for that might be associated to the impact of CO<sub>2</sub> emission by biomass burning in Amazon basin, which also has a high uncertainty at the flux estimation. In spite of the disagreement between the absolute values of CO<sub>2</sub>, the vertical structure of CO<sub>2</sub> as simulated by JULES-CCATT-BRAMS resembles very well the observation, at least for the levels below ~ 2500 m. Above this height, the simulated profile is largely influenced by the CarbonTracker model data.

### 3.2.2 CO<sub>2</sub> diurnal cycle

Figure 10 shows the daily evaluation of the mean CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the month of March 2010. The observed data (black line) were measured by an eddy correlation system installed at a meteorological tower at an altitude of 57.9 m. This tower is located to the south of Santarém–PA, Brazil, close to kilometer 67 of the Cuiabá-Santarém highway (Tapajós forest: 55.04° W; 2.85° S). These data were collected in an automatic and continuous form from August 2008 with a temporal resolution of 1 h. In Fig. 10, an increase in CO<sub>2</sub> concentration is observed during the nighttime due to plant respiration, and a decrease is seen during the daytime due to photosynthetic processes. Thus, the maximum concentration normally occurs shortly after sunrise and the minimum before sunset. Also there is a build up of CO<sub>2</sub> in the canopy in calm nights which flushes when the wind picks up in the morning. It is observed in this figure that JULES-

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CCATT-BRAMS represents the diurnal CO<sub>2</sub> cycle very well. CarbonTracker also had a good representation, although the figure shows its maximum concentration value shifted to earlier times compared with the observation, but one should notice that the temporal resolution of this model is 3 h; thus, it is not possible to know if higher values exist between 06:00 UTC and 12:00 UTC. The underestimate in the diurnal cycle of approximately 3 ppm in both models could be related to the fact that the model level is 17.8 m below the altitude at which the tower measurement was made. This difference is relatively small, but it is observed in Fig. 10 that the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration can vary significantly in the lowest levels, due to the strong convective process during the daytime. Another possible reason for this underestimate in the daytime could be due to the low spatial resolution of the soil carbon map (0.5°). The JULES model is quite sensitive to this parameter; therefore, when the interpolation is made to the grid box where the tower is located, the model could have assumed a lower value than the real value, justifying the underestimate. Also, the disturbance history at km67 is believed to be quite complicated, so this could have a big impact on NEE if it is not modeled properly.

## 4 Conclusions

This study aimed to replace a surface model that is obsolete with one which is today considered state-of-the-art. It was shown that in addition to gains from the simulation of new processes, the new surface model also promoted major improvements of the main variables predicted by the CCATT-BRAMS model.

The simulations with the new JULES-CCATT-BRAMS system improved the regional modeling of surface temperature and dew point, which is believed to be associated with the better surface-atmosphere interaction provided by the JULES surface scheme. Surface atmospheric pressure was also improved. In the case of the surface wind speed, the comparison with observed data from surface stations showed that the original surface scheme (LEAF) provided better results. However, when compared with

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radiosounding data, similar errors in wind magnitude were observed for both surface schemes, JULES and LEAF, for all experiments.

The errors in temperature and pressure in the JULES-CCATT-BRAMS simulations are lower than those of the ECMWF reanalysis. For the other variables, dew point and precipitation, the ECMWF reanalysis provided better results, but one should consider the fact that many of the data utilized as reference in the error calculation may have been used in the production of this reanalysis. Also, part of the errors presented in this work could originate in the NCEP analysis itself, which was used as initial and boundary conditions.

The JULES-CCATT-BRAMS model is now able to simulate regional carbon cycle including anthropogenic (urban and biomass burning processes) and biogenic fluxes. The model simulation of surface CO<sub>2</sub> at tower km 67 shows feasible agreement with observations. The simulations of vertical profile over 4 sites of Amazon basin and for wet and dry seasons did not show very accurate agreement, mainly at lower levels. However, there are improvements in comparison with the CarbonTracker system. On the other hand, the simulations performed in this work used the default settings of JULES surface scheme, which might not be optimized for Amazon basin. The continuation of this work will take advantage of different techniques of fluxes estimation like inversion calculations.

Finally, the JULES soil/vegetation model coupled with the CCATT-BRAMS atmospheric chemistry model provided a significant gain in performance when compared to the original surface model (LEAF). Moreover, the new system represents an important step towards a better understanding of the interaction between the Amazonian ecosystem and regional atmospheric processes, due to the ability of JULES to simulate photosynthesis, respiration and dynamic vegetation, among other processes. JULES-CCATT-BRAMS could be utilized for operational weather forecasting as well as for research goals, for example, the aerosol effects associated with regional smoke on the carbon cycle. The model JULES-CCATT-BRAMS code package, instructions to compile and test cases are available upon request to the 1st author.

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**Table 1.** Main parameters and parameterizations used in the CCATT-BRAMS model.

CCATT-BRAMS version:	4.3.3
Atmospheric boundary conditions:	TQ0382L064 (horizontal resolution of the ~ 35 km and 64 vertical levels)
Horizontal resolution:	20 km
Points in X:	310
Points in Y:	210
Points in Z:	48
Points in soil level:	7
Time step :	30 s
Grid center:	59.0° W; 3.2° S
Nudging in domain:	Lateral: 900 s (15 points) Center: 43 200 s Top: 10 800 s (above of 15 km)
Cumulus convection (deep/shallow):	(Grell and Dezso Devenyi, 2002)/(Souza, 1999)
radiation:	CARMA (Toon et al., 1988)
Vertical coordinate:	Sigma-z
Basic equations:	No-hydrostatic
Topography scheme:	Average orography
Turbulent diffusion:	Mellor and Yamada (Mellor and Yamada, 1982)
Microphysics:	Complexity level 3 (Flatau et al., 1989)
Topography map:	USGS (1 km of resolution) (Gesch et al., 1999)
SST:	weekly of the NCEP (111 km of resolution) (Reynolds et al., 2002)
Vegetation:	OGE (outside Brazil) + IBGE/INPE(within Brazil) (1 km of resol.) (Olson, 1994; Sestini et al., 2003)
Soil texture:	FAO-INPE (55 km of resolution) (Zobler, 1999; Rossato et al., 1998)
NDVI:	From MODIS (1 km of resolution)
Soil moist:	CPTEC/INPE (28 km of resolution) (Gevaerd and Freitas, 2006)
Output frequency:	1 h
Time of integration:	120 h (5 days)
Number of CPU's:	360

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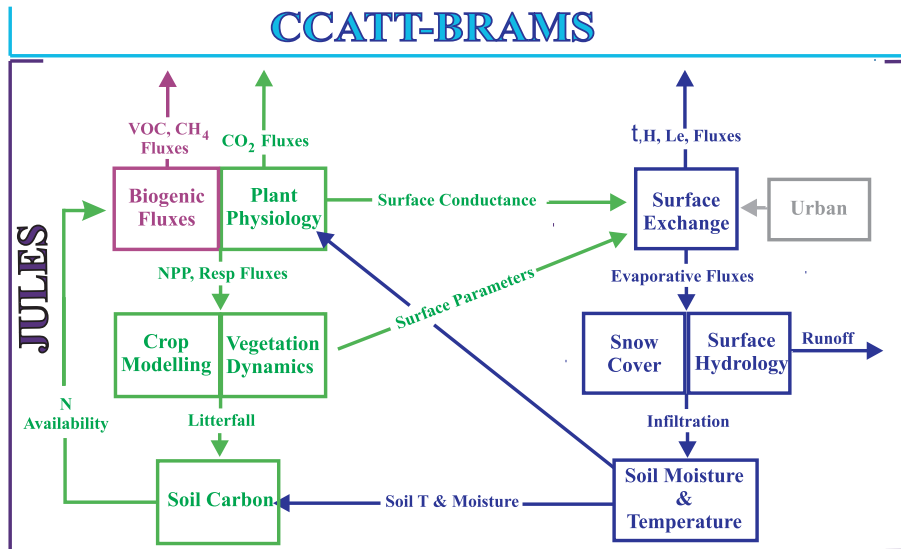
**Table 2.** Main parameters in the JULES namelist that were changed in relation to the example point\_loobos\_example.jin (included in jules\_3.0 source).

nxln, nyln:	310, 210 (from CCATT-BRAMS namelist)
sm_levels:	7 (from CCATT-BRAMS namelist)
can_rad_mod:	4
timestep:	30 s (from CCATT-BRAMS namelist)
dateMainRun:	“mar/2010 and sep/2010” (from CCATT-BRAMS namelist)
pointsList:	T
readFileLand:	T (from CCATT-BRAMS)
regLatLon:	T
cs:	LBA Project (Batjes, 1996)
readFile (INIT_LATLON):	T (from CCATT-BRAMS)
readFile (INIT_FRAC):	T (from CCATT-BRAMS)
readFile (INIT_SOIL):	T (from CCATT-BRAMS)
dzsoil:	0.1, 0.25, 0.65, 1.25, 2.0, 3.0, 5.0
rootd_ft:	5.00, 1.00, 0.50, 0.50, 0.50
driveDataPer:	30 s (= timestep) (from CCATT-BRAMS)
ioPrecipType:	1
ioWindSpeed:	F
z1_uv, z1_tq:	height of the first CCATT-BRAMS level – $z_0$ (zero-plane)



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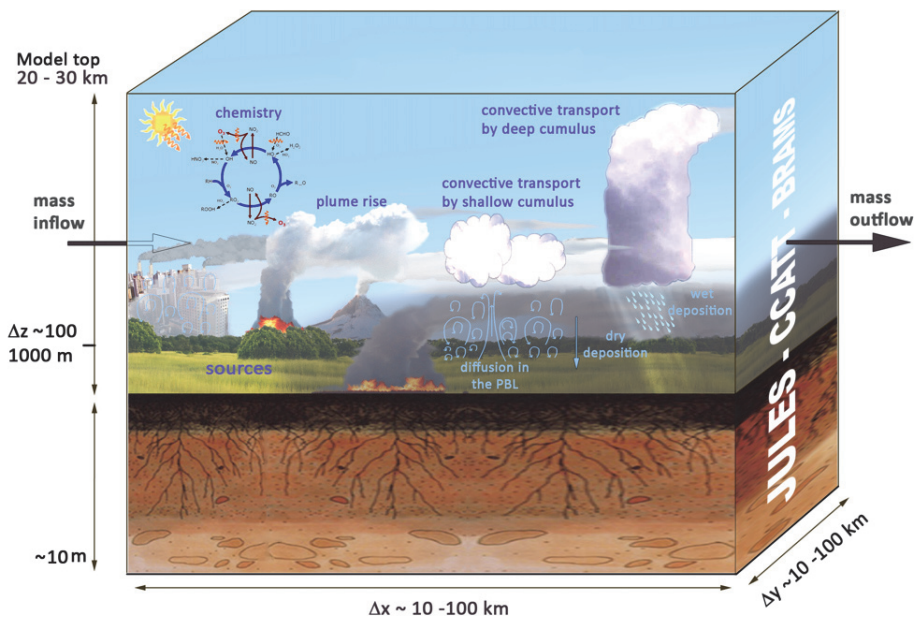
**Fig. 1.** Structure of JULES 3.0 (adapted from <http://www.jchmr.org/jules/management/>).

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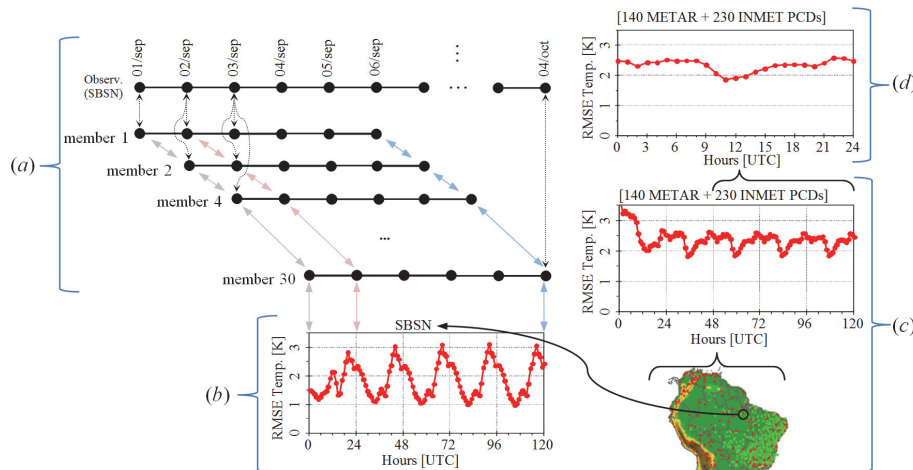


**Fig. 2.** Some of the sub-grid processes simulated by the JULES-CCATT-BRAMS model (adapted from: [http://meioambiente.cptec.inpe.br/modelo\\_cattbrams.php](http://meioambiente.cptec.inpe.br/modelo_cattbrams.php)).

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**Fig. 3.** Method for evaluation of the simulations. **(a)** Simulated data of each member is compared with observed data in similar time; **(b)** obtains RMSE (or BIAS) to 120 h of model integrate for each station; **(c)** arithmetic mean of the errors at all stations in the desired domain was calculated; **(d)** the first two days of integration are ignored and the mean of the last three days was calculated.

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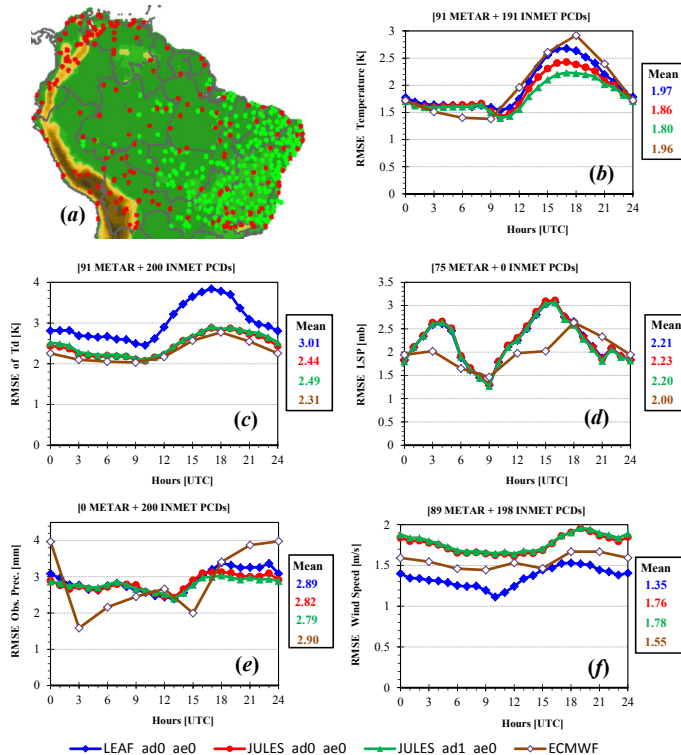
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**Fig. 4.** Geographic locations of the conventional airport stations (red points) and automatic stations (green points) (a). Root mean squared error for the variables: air temperature at 2 m (b); dew point temperature at 2 m (c); pressure reduced to mean sea level (d); six hour accumulated precipitation (e) and wind speed at 10 m (f), for the period from 1–31 March 2010. Brown line is referent to ECMWF re-analyses and other lines are from JULES-CCATT-BRAMS model disregarding the presence of aerosol (ae0), where blue/red line was used LEAF/JULES surface model with advection non-monotonic (ad0) and green line was used JULES surface model with advection monotonic (ad1).

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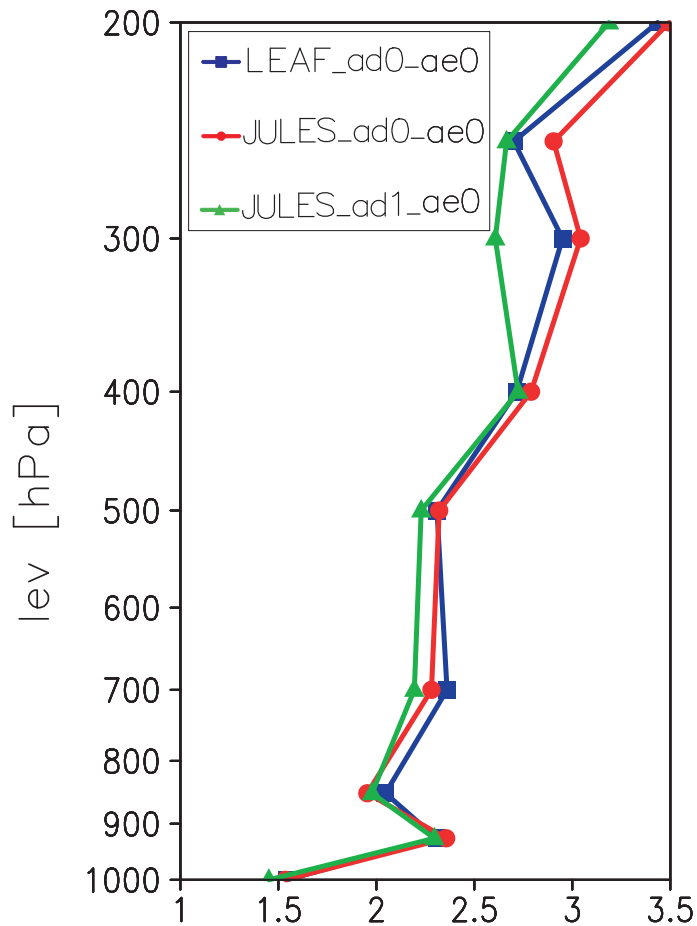
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**Fig. 5.** Root mean squared error of wind speed, considering radiosounding data measured daily at 12Z at 11 stations, during the 31 days of the month of March 2010.

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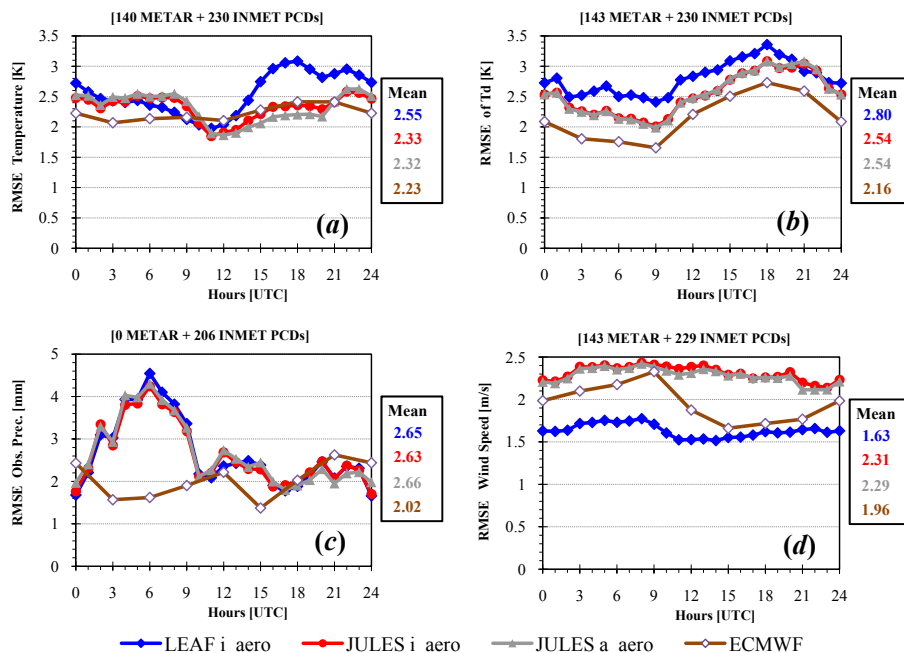
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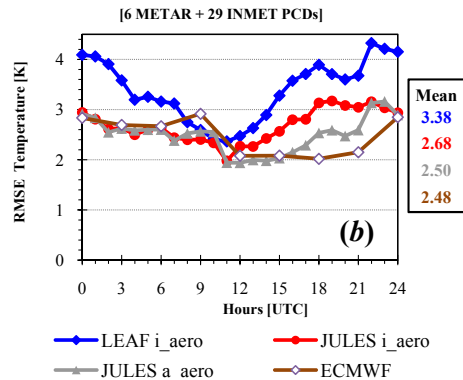
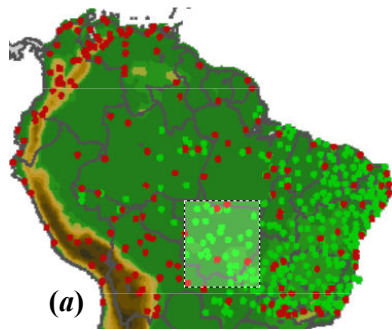
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**Fig. 6.** Similar to Fig. 4, but for the dry season (September 2010): **(a)** air temperature at 2 m; **(b)** dew point temperature at 2 m; **(c)** six hour accumulated precipitation and **(d)** wind speed at 10 m. Gray line is from JULES-CCATT-BRAMS model with advection non-monotonic (ad0), used JULES surface model and considering the presence of aerosol (ae1).

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**Fig. 7.** Root mean squared error of air temperature at 2 m in September 2010. The average is calculated only for the stations within the lighter rectangle in the figure on the right (6 METAR stations and 29 INMET PCDs).

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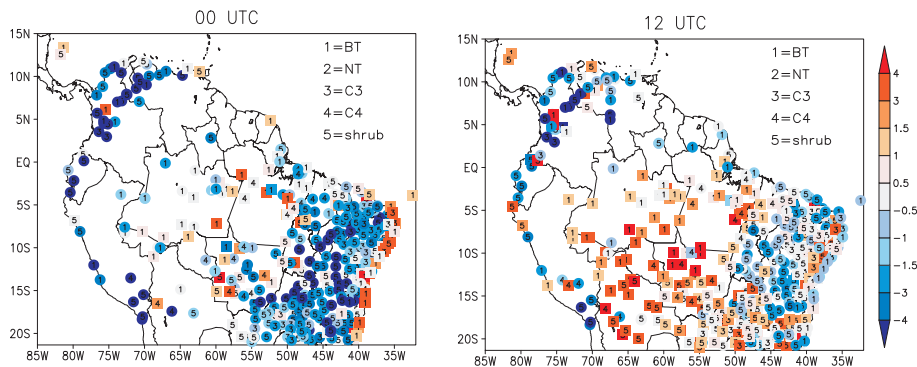
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**Fig. 8.** The colors represent the bias NCEP analysis (average difference between NCEP analysis and observation) at 00 UTC and 12:00 UTC. The numbers inside the circles (or squares) represent the predominant vegetation type at the station point, where: BT = Broad leaf trees; NT = Needle leaf trees; C3 = grasses C3 and C4 = grasses C4.

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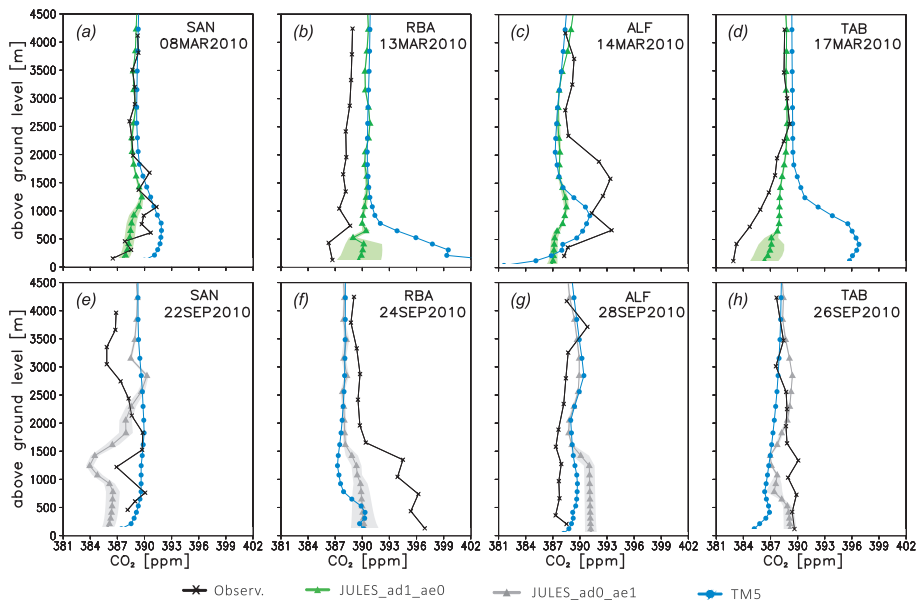
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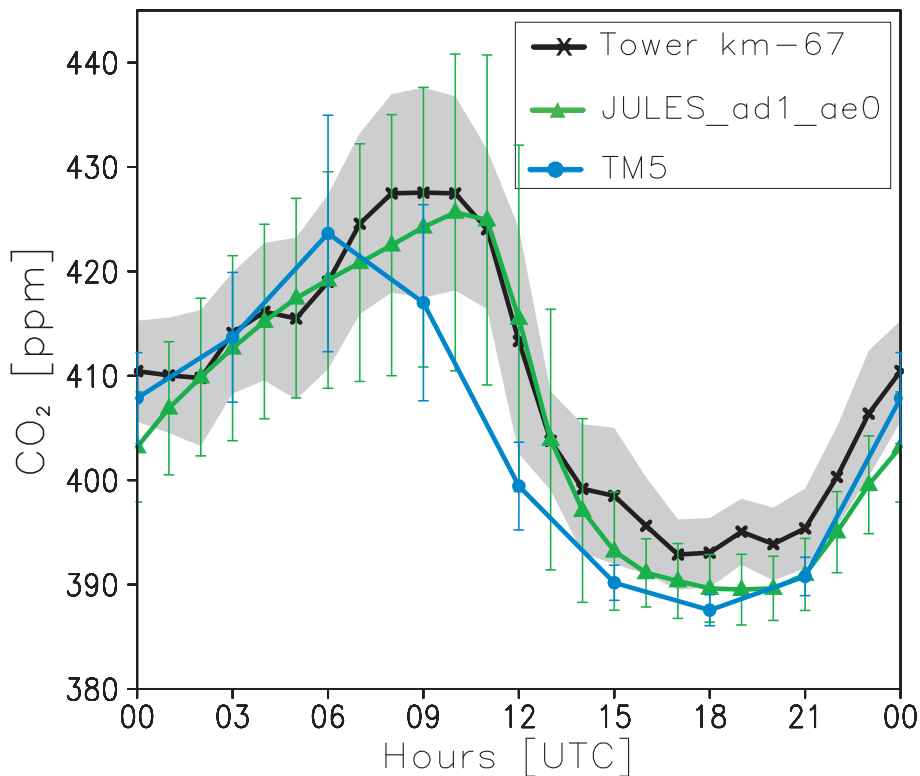


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**Fig. 9.** Observed CO<sub>2</sub> vertical profiles (black lines), simulated with CarbonTracker model (blue lines) and simulated with JULES-CCATT-BRAMS (green and gray lines). The observations were collected at around 16 UTC and the simulated profiles correspond to 15:00 UTC to CarbonTracker, because it has temporal frequency of three hours, and time average between 16–17 UTC to JULES-CCATT-BRAMS (temporal frequency of one hour), green/gray shading represents the standard deviation of the time average. The title of each figure contains the respective locations and dates of the profiles, where: SAN = Santarém (54.95° W; 2.86° S); RBA = Rio Branco (67.62° W; 9.38° S); ALF = Alta Floresta (56.75° W; 8.80° S) and TAB = Tabatinga (70.06° W; 5.96° S).



**Fig. 10.** Mean CO<sub>2</sub> concentration diurnal cycle for the month of March 2010. The black line corresponds to the observed values at the km-67 tower (Tapajós forest: 55.04° W; 2.85° S) at an altitude of 57.9 m; the green line corresponds to the JULES-CCATT-BRAMS experiment with monotonic advection and the blue line refers to the CarbonTracker experiment, both bilinearly interpolated to the tower location and an altitude of 39.2 m (first model sigma level).

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