



1 Using the anomaly forcing Community Land Model (CLM 4.5) for crop yield projections

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3 Yaqiong Lu^{1,2*} and Xianyu Yang³

4 ¹Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Chengdu
5 610040, China

6 ²National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, CO 80305, USA

7 ³Chengdu University of Information Technology, Chengdu, 610225, China

8 *Corresponding author: Yaqiong Lu, yaqiong@imde.ac.cn, 8602861158015, #.9, Block 4,
9 Renminnanlu Road, Chengdu 610041, China

10

11 Abstract

12

13 Crop growth in land surface models normally requires high temporal resolution climate data (3-
14 hourly or 6-hourly), but such high temporal resolution climate data are not provided by many
15 climate model simulations due to expensive storage, which limits modeling choice if there is an
16 interest in a particular climate simulation that only saved monthly outputs. The Community Land
17 Surface Model (CLM) has proposed an alternative approach for utilizing monthly climate outputs
18 as forcing data since version 4.5, and it is called the anomaly forcing CLM. However, such an
19 approach has never been validated for crop yield projections. In our work, we created anomaly
20 forcing datasets for three climate scenarios (1.5 °C warming, 2.0 °C warming, and RCP4.5) and
21 validated crop yields against the standard CLM forcing with the same climate scenarios using 3-
22 hourly data. We found that the anomaly forcing CLM could not produce crop yields identical to
23 the standard CLM due to the different submonthly variations, and crop yields were underestimated
24 by 5-8% across the three scenarios (1.5 °C, 2.0 °C, and RCP4.5) for the global average, and 28-
25 41% of cropland showed significantly different yields. However, the anomaly forcing CLM
26 effectively captured the relative changes between scenarios and over time, as well as regional crop
27 yield variations. We recommend that such an approach be used for qualitative analysis of crop
28 yields when only monthly outputs are available. Our approach can be adopted by other land surface
29 models to expand their capabilities for utilizing monthly climate data.

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31 Key words: Community Land Model; Crop yields; Anomaly forcing

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33

34 Introduction

35

36 Increasing numbers of future climate scenarios exhibit large uncertainties for crop yield projections.
37 Crop yields may increase or decrease depending on which climate projection is used (Lobell et al.
38 2008, Urban et al. 2012, Rosenzweig et al. 2014). Ensemble future climate projections, such as
39 CMIP5, showed a large range of future climate projections, even for one emission scenario (Knutti
40 and Sedlacek 2013). Using all future climate projections is not realistic not only because of the
41 computational expense but also because many of these future climate projections only save
42 monthly climate outputs that are not suitable for crop models that require high temporal resolution
43 forcing data. Some standalone process-based crop models run in daily time steps, and some crop
44 models embedded in land surface models need at least 6-hour climate data as the forcing data to
45 represent diurnal cycles. Only a small portion of the CMIP5 (Coupled Model Intercomparison
46 Project 5) simulations (<25%) can be used as the forcing data for crop models, leaving little room



47 for crop modelers to choose a particular climate model projection that is of interest.

48

49 The Community Land Model (CLM) (Oleson et al. 2013) is a state-of-the-art land surface model
50 that simulates biogeophysical (radiation transfer, vegetation-soil-hydrology, surface energy fluxes,
51 etc.) and biogeochemical (soil carbon and nitrogen cycle, vegetation photosynthesis, dynamic
52 vegetation growth, etc.) processes. CLM is the default land model in the Community Earth System
53 Model (CESM) (Hurrell et al. 2013), and it can be run either online coupled with the rest of CESM
54 (atmosphere and ocean) or offline (the land model only, forced with climate datasets) for multiple
55 spatial extents (site, regional, and global) and at different resolutions. The crop model derived from
56 AgroIBIS (Kucharik 2003) was introduced to CLM4.0 by Levis et al. (2012), and it is responsible
57 for crop growth phenology (temperature determined), carbon allocation algorithms, and crop
58 management (e.g., irrigation). The crop model in CLM runs when the biogeochemical compset is
59 active, and it was tested with the CLM-CN compset in version 4.0 and tested with CLM-BGC in
60 version 4.5. Since their introduction, crop models in the CLM have been developed to represent
61 more crop types and processes, such as soybean nitrogen fixation (Drewniak et al. 2013), ozone
62 impacts on yields (Lombardozzi et al. 2015), winter wheat growth responses to cold hazards (Lu
63 et al. 2017), and maize growth responses to heat stress (Peng et al. 2018). CLM simulates nine
64 crop types, accounting for 54% of global total crop production (other production is represented by
65 the most similar crop type): maize, soybean, spring wheat, winter wheat, cotton, rice, sugarcane,
66 tropical maize, and tropical soybean. In this study, we used CLM version 4.5 (Oleson et al. 2013).

67

68 Since version 4.5, CLM offers a built-in function that indirectly uses monthly climate outputs as
69 the forcing data, and is called the anomaly forcing CLM (Lawrence et al. 2015). Anomaly forcing
70 CLM reconstructs new subdaily forcing data by applying the precalculated future monthly
71 anomaly signals to user-defined historical subdaily forcing data, referred to as the reference data.
72 The future monthly anomaly signals are calculated by the future monthly climate outputs and by
73 use of historical monthly outputs. The choice of reference data is arbitrary. Any existing subdaily
74 forcing data (e.g., CRUNCEP, QIAN) for CLM can be used as the reference data. The historical
75 monthly outputs are recommended to be multiyear averaged to represent the historical means and
76 avoid affecting the monthly anomaly signal by rare, extreme events in a particular year. Such an
77 arbitrary choice is because the goal of the original anomaly forcing CLM is not to reconstruct
78 future forcing that is identical to the actual future forcing when the high temporal resolution data
79 were saved. Rather, the original goal of the anomaly forcing CLM is to understand the influences
80 due to the anomaly signal by comparing the simulation with the anomaly forcing CLM to the
81 simulation run with the reference data. The differences between the two simulations are due to the
82 anomaly signals.

83

84 In our study, we modified the anomaly forcing CLM to fit our goals to understand whether we
85 could simply use the anomaly forcing CLM for crop yield projections when only monthly climate
86 data were available. We carefully chose the historical monthly data and the reference data so that
87 the reconstructed future anomaly forcing had nearly identical monthly means as the desired
88 subdaily future forcing, but we used different submonthly variations. We created anomaly forcing
89 datasets for three future scenarios (1.5 °C warming, 2.0 °C warming, and RCP4.5) for 2006-2075
90 for which both the subdaily and monthly climate outputs were available from three CESM
91 simulations. With the three paired CLM simulations, we validated the anomaly forcing CLM by
92 comparing it to the standard CLM.



93

94 Methods

95

96 The original anomaly forcing CLM has been in function since CLM4.5. This approach reconstructs
 97 the subdaily (3-hourly or 6-hourly) forcing data by applying the monthly anomaly signal to user
 98 selected subdaily reference data; therefore, it indirectly uses the monthly atmospheric outputs as
 99 the forcing data for CLM. This approach does not change any of the scientific code in CLM; it
 100 only adds code that reads the monthly anomaly signals and automatically applies these to the
 101 reference data while the CLM is running. There were two monthly anomaly signals for RCP4.5
 102 and RCP8.5 that were generated using the CESM future projections and were ready for use. It is
 103 the user's choice to select which subdaily reference (e.g., CRUNCEP or CLMQIAN) and which
 104 years to use. By simply modifying user_nl_cpl namelist and adding data streams of the anomaly
 105 forcing variables (see the appendix for the detailed usage), the anomaly forcing CLM will
 106 automatically read the monthly anomaly signal and apply the signal to each time step of the
 107 reference data within a month. When the reference data period is less than the anomaly signal
 108 period, the anomaly forcing CLM will cycle the same reference data until the simulation is
 109 complete. Because the different selections of reference data can generate different forcings, even
 110 with the same monthly anomaly signals, one should not use the simulation from the anomaly
 111 forcing CLM to represent the actual simulation. Rather, the original goal of the anomaly forcing
 112 CLM is to compare the simulation with the anomaly forcing and simulation with the reference
 113 forcing data to understand the effects of the monthly anomaly signals on land surface variables.

114

115 The goal of this work is to test how well crop yield projections from the anomaly forcing CLM
 116 compare to the projections from the standard forcing CLM, given that anomaly forcing has the
 117 same monthly average as standard forcing. We selected three future scenarios for CESM
 118 simulations that saved both monthly outputs and 3-hourly outputs, where the 3-hourly outputs
 119 were directly used in the standard forcing CLM, and the monthly outputs were indirectly used in
 120 the anomaly forcing CLM. We calculated the anomaly forcing signals using the monthly CESM
 121 outputs and the monthly average of reference data, so that when applying the anomaly signals to
 122 the reference data, it is expected to generate identical monthly means as does regular forcing.
 123 However, due to a limit in calculations of precipitation anomalies (precipitation anomaly ratio less
 124 than 5 times) and how the CLM treats snow and rainfall, the anomaly forcing CLM did not show
 125 identical snow and rainfall monthly averages and introduced bias in the crop yield simulations (see
 126 the results section).

127

128 Table 1. A summary of the original anomaly forcing CLM and the modifications in this work

	Original anomaly forcing CLM	Modifications in this work
3 h/6 h reference data	User choice	6 h CAM outputs from one historical low warming ensemble simulation 1996-2005
Monthly anomaly signals	Existing for RCP4.5 and RCP8.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anomalies between future scenarios and monthly means of reference data



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three future scenarios: 1.5 °C, 2.0 °C, and RCP4.5 • Each scenario had monthly outputs and 3 h outputs
Goals	Climate impact due to anomaly signals when comparing the anomaly run with the reference run	Given that anomaly forcing has the same monthly mean as MOAR, can we use it for crop yield projections?

129

130 We randomly chose the 6-hourly reference data (1996-2005) from one of the 11 historical low
 131 warming ensemble CESM simulations. Additionally, we selected three CESM future simulations
 132 for the 1.5 °C warming, 2.0 °C warming, and RCP4.5 scenarios, where all the three simulations
 133 saved both the monthly outputs and the 3-hourly outputs. We then calculated the monthly anomaly
 134 signal at each grid cell for each scenario (1.5, 2.0, and RCP45) from 2006-2075. The monthly
 135 anomaly signals are differences for temperature, specific humidity, wind, and air pressure and are
 136 ratios for solar radiation and precipitation between the monthly outputs of each scenario and the
 137 1996-2005 averaged monthly values of the reference data. The anomaly forcing signal has both
 138 spatial and monthly variations. When running the anomaly forcing simulation for 2006-2070,
 139 CLM repeatedly uses the 10-year reference period and applies the anomaly signal of a month to
 140 all subdaily reference forcing in this month. For example, an anomaly forcing simulation for 2006
 141 January uses the 1996 January reference data plus or multiplies (if the anomaly signal is a ratio)
 142 the 2006 January anomaly signal. If the 2006 January temperature anomaly is 1 K for a grid cell,
 143 then all 1996 January reference data will be increased by 1 K for the grid cell.

144

145 The monthly anomaly signal is calculated at each grid cell (i,j). For temperature, pressure, wind,
 146 and humidity, the anomaly signal is the difference between the future monthly data and the
 147 historical monthly average (equation 1). For solar radiation, longwave radiation, and
 148 precipitation, the anomaly signal is the ratio between the future monthly data and the historical
 149 monthly average (equation2). We set the maximum ratio for precipitation to 5 to avoid unrealistic
 150 extreme precipitation, which also introduced biases in precipitation (discussed in the discussion
 151 section).

152

$$153 \quad var_af_{i,j,m} = fut_var_{i,j,m} - \overline{hist_var_{i,j,m}} \quad (1)$$

154

$$155 \quad var_af_{i,j,m} = fut_var_{i,j,m} / \overline{hist_var_{i,j,m}} \quad (2)$$

156

157

158 We set up global CLM crop simulations (compset CLM45BGCCROP) at 1.9 by 2.5 in latitude and
 159 longitude, respectively, using the anomaly forcing CLM and the regular forcing CLM for the 1.5 °C
 160 warming, 2.0 °C warming, and RCP4.5 scenarios. All simulations used the default nitrogen
 161 fertilization rates and a constant CO₂ level of 359.8 ppm. For each scenario, we validate the crop
 162 yield in the anomaly forcing CLM to the regular forcing CLM to determine if we can use the



163 anomaly forcing CLM for future crop yield projections. We also studied whether the anomaly
164 forcing CLM has a similar crop growth response to transient CO₂ and nitrogen fertilization.
165 However, due to limited computational resources, we only tested such responses for the RCP4.5
166 scenario. The transient CO₂ levels in the RCP45 scenario gradually increased from 379 ppm in
167 2006 to 530 ppm in 2070. To test the nitrogen fertilization effects, we simply added a zero nitrogen
168 fertilization simulation here.

169
170 We adopted the two-sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov test (KS test) to test the statistical significance
171 of differences between the anomaly forcing CLM and the standard CLM for atmospheric forcing
172 data and yield. We used the KS test because some variables at some grid cells did not necessarily
173 follow normal distributions. The KS test is a nonparametric test that detects differences in the
174 empirical probability distributions between two samples, and the two samples do not need to have
175 normal distributions (Justel et al. 1997, Marozzi 2013). When repeated using the ten-year reference
176 data, we expected that the ten year averaged monthly anomaly forcing would show no significant
177 differences from the regular forcing. Thus, for the atmospheric forcing data, we tested probability
178 distribution differences between anomaly forcing and regular forcing for every ten-year averaged
179 monthly dataset (sample size was 7x12=84). For crop yields, we used the every ten-year averaged
180 annual yields (sample size was 7). We used linear regression coefficient (R²), bias (equation 3),
181 percentage differences (equation 4) in our evaluations.

$$182 \quad \text{bias} = CLM_{\text{anomaly forcing}} - CLM_{\text{standard}} \quad (3)$$

$$183 \quad \% \text{differences} = 100 * \left(\frac{CLM_{\text{anomaly forcing}}}{CLM_{\text{standard}}} - 1 \right) \quad (4)$$

185

186

187 Results

188

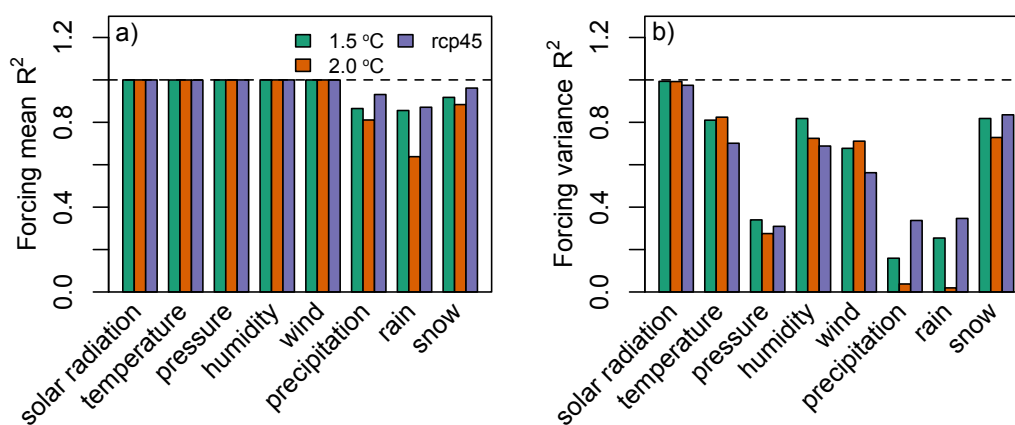
189 We aimed to generate an anomaly forcing that produced identical monthly averages as its
190 counterpart regular forcing (the desirable 3-hourly forcing data for CLM) but with different
191 submonthly variations. All atmospheric forcing variables achieved this goal except for
192 precipitation and its liquid and ice components, rain and snow. The linear regression coefficients
193 (R²) between anomaly forcing and standard forcing for the monthly means of incoming solar
194 radiation, bottom atmosphere temperatures, pressures, humidities, and winds all showed R² values
195 above 0.99, and there were also no significant differences for these variables for all grid cells.
196 However, for rain and snow, the R² values were 0.63-0.87 and 0.88-0.96 across the three scenarios,
197 respectively (Figure 1a). Statistically significant differences were also found for rain and snow in
198 many regions in the Northern Hemisphere (Figure 2). We used monthly variances as a measure of
199 the submonthly variations. R² for variances of forcing were low for most variables except for
200 incoming solar radiation (Figure 1b). Such lower R² values indicated that anomaly forcing could
201 not represent the submonthly variations as well as the regular forcing.

202

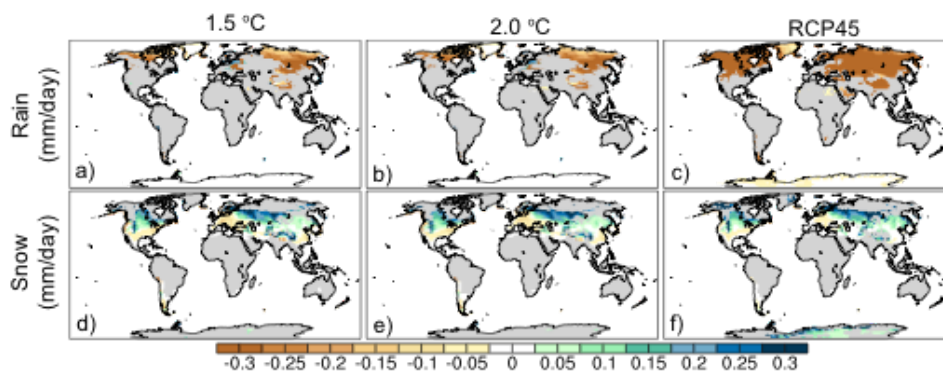
203 There were two error sources for precipitation. First, there was overall average lower precipitation
204 in the anomaly forcing by 0.02 mm/day, 0.03 mm/day, and 0.2 mm/day in the 1.5 °C, 2.0 °C, and
205 RCP45 scenarios, respectively. Such slightly lower precipitation was because we set the maximum
206 precipitation anomaly ratio to 5 to avoid unrealistically extreme precipitation levels. Second, the
207 CLM used the temperature in each time step to determine if the given precipitation was rain or



208 snow. Precipitation was rain when temperature was above 273.15 K, otherwise it was snow.
 209 Therefore, the different submonthly variations in temperature resulted in different submonthly
 210 variations for snow and rain. Due to this problem, the lower precipitation did not evenly distribute
 211 to the rain and snow bias, for which rain was underestimated by 0.08-0.3 mm/day, and snow was
 212 overestimated by 0.06-0.11 mm/day across the three scenarios. The significantly different regions
 213 were mainly in the Northern Hemisphere and the Antarctic, and most regions in the Southern
 214 Hemisphere did not show significant differences in rain or snow. How the rain and snow biases
 215 affected yield projections will be discussed.
 216



217
 218 Figure 1. Linear regression coefficients (R^2) between a) decade-averaged monthly mean (sample
 219 size =12 months x 7 decades=84) between anomaly forcing and regular forcing and b) every ten
 220 year-averaged monthly variance between anomaly forcing and regular forcing.
 221

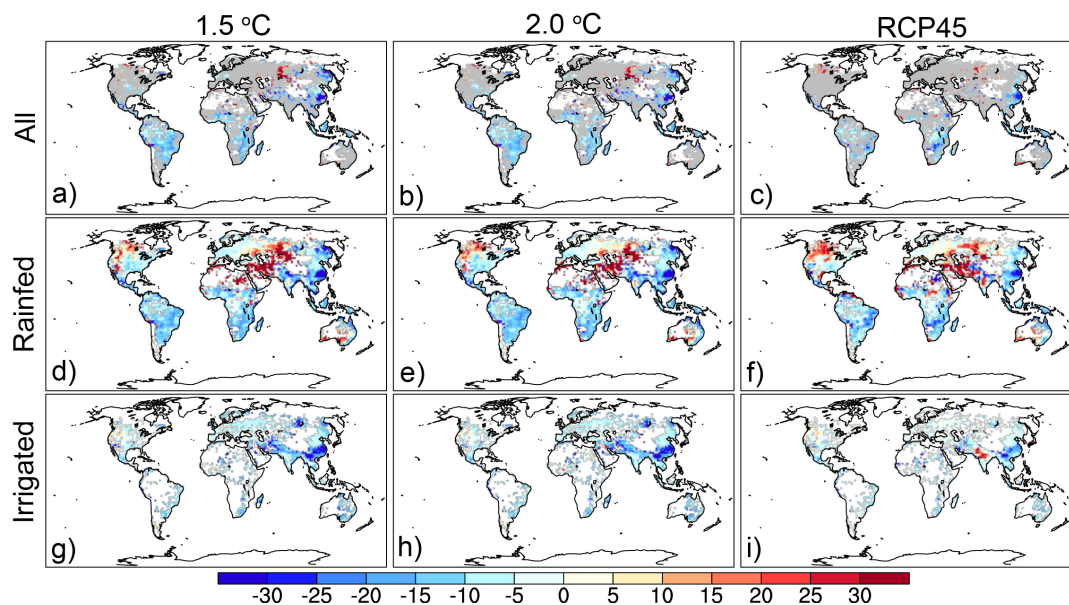


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 223
 224 Figure 2. 70-year averaged differences between anomaly forcing and regular forcing for rain (a-



225 c) and snow (d-f) for the 1pt5, 2pt0, and RCP45 scenarios. All differences shown here are
226 statistically significant differences tested by the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test with a sample size of
227 84. The gray areas are regions that did not show significant differences.
228
229

230 When compared to crop yield simulations in the standard CLM, the anomaly forcing CLM
231 underestimated crop yields by 5-8% across the three scenarios for the global average, and 28-41%
232 of cropland showed statistically significant differences in yields. The rainfed crop yield differences
233 across the three scenarios showed largely similar spatial distributions: overestimation in the
234 northern US and Europe and underestimation in the Southern Hemisphere and in East Asia (Figure
235 3d-f). The overestimated rainfed crop yield (mainly for maize and wheat) in the anomaly forcing
236 CLM is due to higher water availability in these regions, which is a result of higher snow in the
237 anomaly forcing CLM. For irrigated crops, such overestimations in the northern US and Europe
238 disappear (Figure 3g-i) because sufficient irrigation was added to the irrigated soil column; as long
239 as there is plant water stress which removed water availability impacts on crop yields. However,
240 the underestimations in the Southern Hemisphere and East Asia were persistent, because water
241 availability does not cause yield differences for irrigated crops; we suspect such underestimations
242 were caused by the other error in forcing data: the different submonthly variations in the forcing
243 data.
244

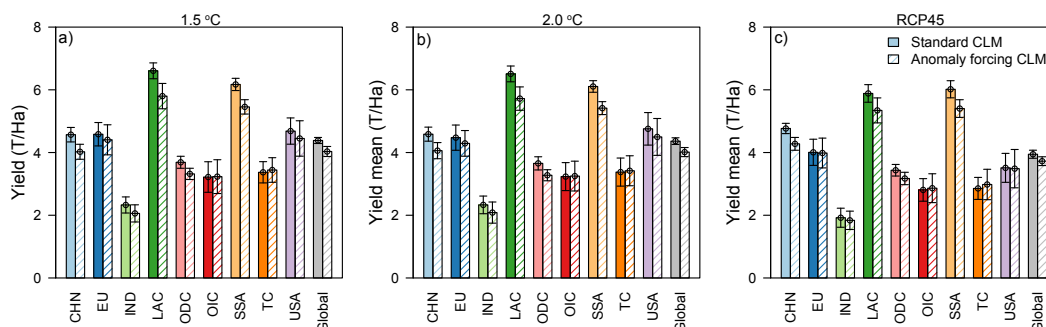


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246
247 Figure 3. The percentage differences of 70-year integrated yields between the anomaly forcing
248 CLM and the standard CLM for all crops (a-c), rainfed crops (d-f), and irrigated crops (g-i)
249 for the 1.5 °C, 2.0 °C, and RCP45 scenarios. The white regions are where no crops grow based on
250 the historical crop map in 2005. For plots a-c, we showed only the significant differences as
251 determined by the by Kolmogorov-Smirnov test with a sample size of 7. The regions with
252 insignificant differences are masked as gray in a-c. For plots d-i, we did not mask the



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 257

insignificant differences



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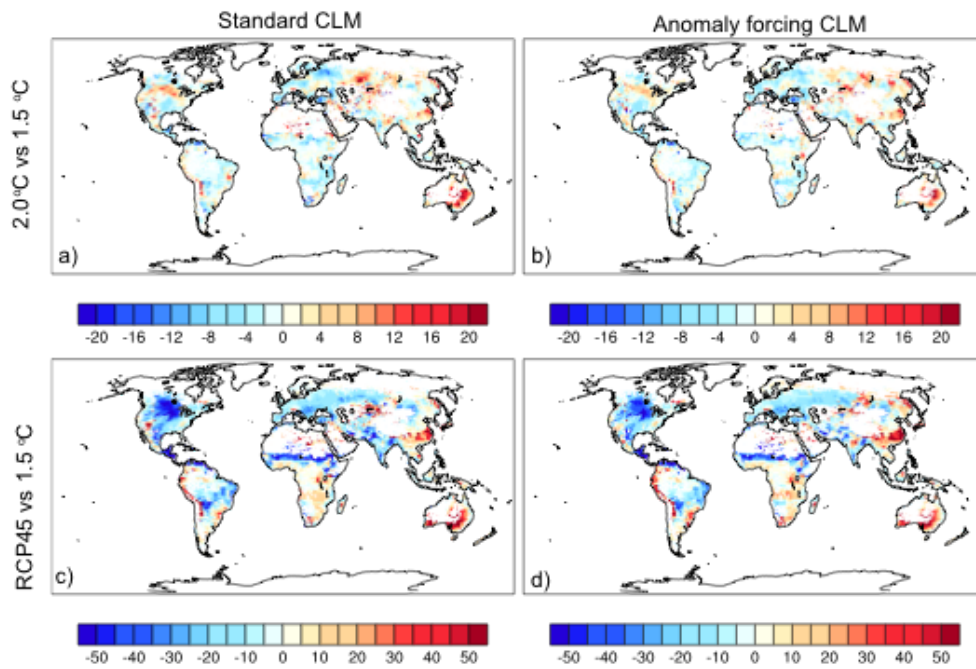
259 Figure 4. Regional comparisons of the 70-year integrated mean yields and yield standard
 260 deviations between the anomaly forcing CLM and the standard CLM. The error bars indicate 70-
 261 year yield standard deviations. CHN: China; EU: European Union; IND: India; LAC: Latin
 262 America; ODC: Other Developing Countries; OIC: Other Industrialized Countries; SSA: Sub-
 263 Saharan Africa; TC: Transition Countries; USA: United States

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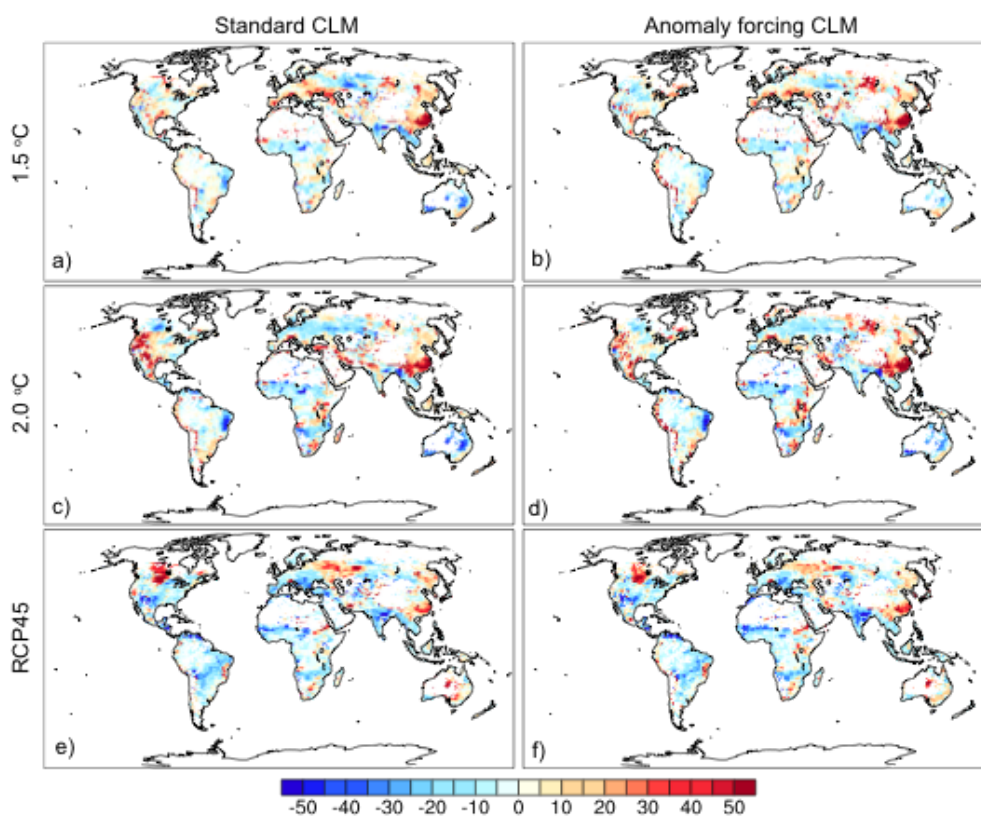
267 The global 70-year averaged yields \pm standard deviation in the standard CLM and in the anomaly
 268 forcing CLM are 4.38 ± 0.09 and 4.03 ± 0.16 t/ha, respectively, in the 1.5 °C scenario, 4.36 ± 0.11
 269 and 4.01 ± 0.14 t/ha, respectively, in the 2.0 °C scenario, 3.95 ± 0.13 and 3.72 ± 0.14 , respectively,
 270 in the RCP45 scenario. The anomaly forcing CLM captured the regional yield variations. Latin
 271 America (LAC) showed the highest yield while India (IND) showed the lowest yields for both the
 272 anomaly forcing CLM and the standard CLM across the three scenarios.

273
 274

275 Although the crop yields were underestimated, the anomaly forcing CLM could qualitatively
 276 represent the spatial yield differences between two climate scenarios. Comparing 2.0 °C to 1.5 °C,
 277 there was a 4-8% yield increase in the northern U.S. and a 0-4% yield decrease in (Figure 5a) in
 278 the southeast U.S. When comparing the RCP45 to the 1.5 °C scenario, crop yields in the U.S. were
 279 largely reduced (up to 50%). The anomaly forcing CLM clearly captured these yield differences
 280 (Figure 5b and 5d).



281
282 Figure 5. The percentage of 70-year integrated yield differences between 2.0 °C and 1.5 °C (top
283 panel) RCP45 to 1.5 (bottom panel) in the standard CLM and the anomaly forcing CLM
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285
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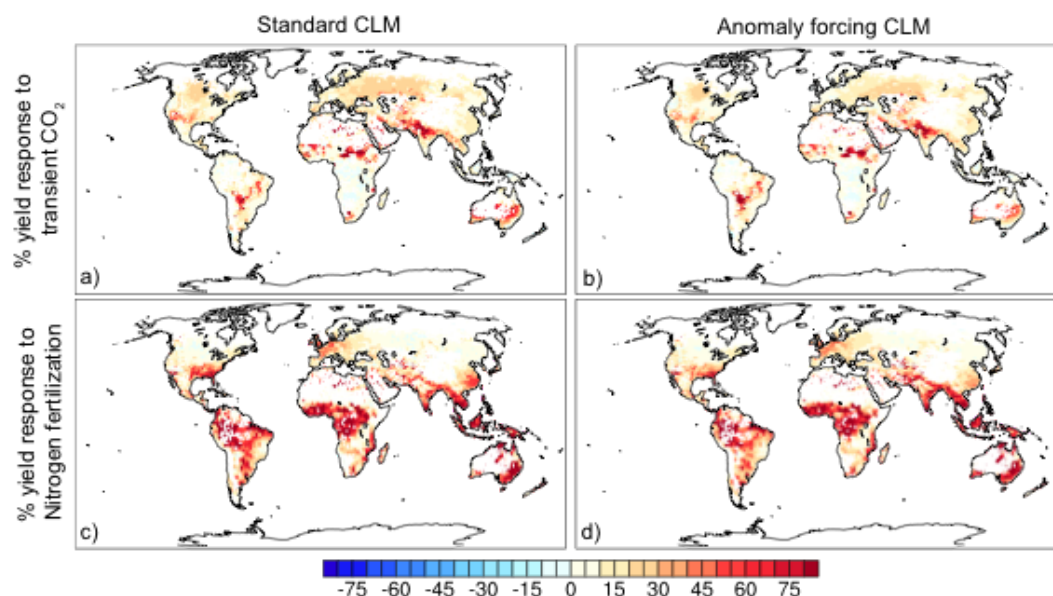
288
289 Figure 6. The percentage yield difference from 2006-2015 to 2066-2075 in the standard CLM
290 and anomaly forcing CLM across the three scenarios
291

292 The anomaly forcing CLM also captured yield changes over time for each climate scenario. The
293 three scenarios showed some similarities in yield changes from 2006-2015 to 2066-2075. For
294 example, crop yields increased in Southeast China and decreased in Sub-Saharan Africa. There
295 were also yield changes that were unique to each scenario that were also found in the anomaly
296 forcing CLM. For example, crop yields increased in Europe for the 1.5 °C scenario (Figure 6a-b),
297 while they decreased in Europe for the 2.0 °C and RCP45 scenarios (Figure 6c-f), and crop yields
298 declined in the U.S. for the RCP45 scenario (Figure 6e-f) while they increased for the 1.5 °C and
299 2.0 °C scenarios (Figure 6 a-d).

300
301 All simulations in the above evaluations adopted a constant CO₂ level (359.8 ppm) and crop types
302 dependent fixed nitrogen fertilization (25-500 kg N/ ha), so whether the anomaly forcing CLM
303 simulated a similar or different crop growth response to CO₂ or nitrogen fertilization is unknown.
304 Due to limited computational resources, we tested crop responses to transient CO₂ and nitrogen
305 fertilization only for the RCP45 scenario and assumed that the other scenarios would show the
306 same differences as the RCP45 scenario. The transient CO₂ in the RCP45 scenario gradually
307 increased from 379 ppm in 2006 to 530 ppm in 2075. To test the effects of nitrogen fertilization,



308 we simply added a zero nitrogen fertilization simulation. Although all grid cells had the same
309 amounts of CO₂ increase in a given year (no spatial variation), crop yields had spatial variations
310 in response to transient CO₂. Most regions showed a 5-10% yield increase, but some regions
311 showed much higher yield increases, such as northern India, the southern edge of the Sahara, and
312 Australia (Figure 7a). Such crop yield responses to transient CO₂ spatial patterns were also
313 captured by the anomaly forcing CLM (Figure 7b). Similar for the crop yield responses to nitrogen
314 fertilization, the anomaly forcing CLM simulated crop yield increase spatial patterns (Figure 7c-
315 d), in which the Southern Hemisphere and Asia had greater yield increases in response to nitrogen
316 fertilization.
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318



319
320

321 Figure 7. 70-year averaged integrated crop yield response to transient CO₂ and to no nitrogen
322 fertilization in the anomaly forcing CLM (a and b) and in the standard CLM (c and d) for the
323 RCP45 scenario.
324

325 Discussion

326

327 In this work, we created anomaly forcing datasets for three future climate scenarios, and we
328 validated the crop yields in the anomaly forcing CLM by comparison with the crop yields in the
329 standard CLM. The differences between the anomaly forcing CLM and standard CLM were due
330 only to differences in forcing data, for which the standard CLM used regular forcing (three-hourly
331 forcing) and the anomaly forcing CLM used anomaly forcing. We found that the anomaly forcing
332 CLM underestimated crop yields but identified the regional yield variations, as well as yield
333 differences between two climate scenarios and yield changes over time. The anomaly forcing CLM
334 could not generate the exact same crop yields as the standard CLM due to errors in precipitation
335 and in the submonthly variations. However, it could be used for qualitative analysis of relative



336 crop yield changes among different scenarios and over time.

337

338 The overall underestimation of crop yields may be due to differences in phenology that resulted
339 from different submonthly variations. Some of the low yields in the anomaly forcing CLM may
340 be explained by shorter grain fill periods. For example, the lower rice yields in southeast China is
341 due are due to a 5-10 day shorter grain fill period in the anomaly forcing CLM; maize and soybean
342 in the Southern Hemisphere also showed a 1-5 day shorter grain fill period that may account for
343 the lower yields. In addition to the low yields, the anomaly forcing CLM also simulated lower GPP
344 and LAI compared to the standard CLM, and the spatial distributions of GPP and LAI differences
345 were very similar to the yield differences.

346

347 Some regions in the Northern Hemisphere showed higher rainfed crop yields in the anomaly
348 forcing CLM, which is due to higher soil moistures at planting that resulted from higher snow
349 levels in the Northern Hemisphere. Crop growth in CLM is very sensitive to the soil moisture at
350 planting, and higher soil moisture results in unstressed crop growth and hence produces higher
351 yields. When adequate irrigation is applied, both the anomaly forcing and the standard CLM
352 models have sufficient water for crop growth, and the overestimations disappeared. Therefore, the
353 anomaly forcing may not be appropriate for estimating the actual future irrigation demands but is
354 able to distinguish the relative differences in irrigation demand across different climate scenarios.

355

356 The energy fluxes in the anomaly forcing CLM and in the standard CLM were different due to
357 different crop growth rates and differences in forcing data. The higher snow cover in the Northern
358 Hemisphere creates higher albedo and lowers absorbed solar radiation and hence lower surface
359 energy fluxes. The higher LAI increased the summer latent heat flux up to 5 W.m^{-2} (not shown),
360 while the annual latent heat flux showed 5-10 W.m^{-2} lower values in the anomaly forcing CLM
361 due to the lower net radiation. In the Southern Hemisphere, lower LAI resulted in lower latent heat
362 fluxes and higher sensible heat fluxes.

363

364 The regional yield comparisons indicate that the anomaly forcing CLM effectively captured
365 regional yield variations but with slightly lower yield biases. We want to point out that the very
366 high crop yields in Latin America and in Sub-Saharan Africa, and the very low crop yields in India
367 in both the anomaly forcing CLM and the standard CLM approaches are not realistic when
368 compared to the UNFAO yields. Such biases in the CLM have been discussed by Levis et al. (2018),
369 and the low yields in India are due to incorrect crop phenology when crops entered the grain fill
370 during the dry season. The high yields in Latin American and in Sub-Saharan Africa were due to
371 the nitrogen fertilization amounts based on US levels, which are too high for these regions.

372

373 Conclusions

374

375 The Community Land Surface model offers an alternative way in utilize the monthly climate as
376 the forcing data. Such an approach could expand user choice of forcing data when high temporal
377 resolution climate data are not available. In this work, we created anomaly forcing data for three
378 climate scenarios (1.5 °C warming, 2.0 °C warming, and RCP4.5) and validated crop yield
379 projections in the anomaly forcing CLM against the standard CLM. The anomaly forcing CLM
380 underestimated crop yields by 5-8%, which was largely due to the differences in phenology and
381 photosynthesis that resulted from the different submonthly variations. How CLM treated



382 precipitation as rain or snow also introduced biases in crop yields and in the energy flux
383 simulations. Although the anomaly forcing CLM could not generate crop yields identical to the
384 standard CLM, it could be used for qualitative analysis of crop yield changes across various
385 scenarios over time.

386

387 Code availability

388

389 The CLM source code used in our study is available at repository website Zenodo:
390 <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3900671>

391

392 Author contribution

393

394 Yaqiong Lu designed and performed the simulations. Yaqiong Lu and Xianyu Yang analyzed the
395 results and wrote the manuscript.

396

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398

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404 Laboratory, sponsored by the National Science Foundation.

405

406

407 Appendix: a user guide for using anomaly forcing CLM

408

409 Running the anomaly forcing CLM is similar to the standard CLM but with several additional
410 steps. First, the monthly anomaly data are prepared as described in the method section. Then, the
411 user needs to modify `user_nl_cpl` and `user_nl_datm` to specify which forcing variables to add to
412 the anomaly signals. There are seven anomaly forcing variables (Table A2), and the user can
413 specify one, or two, or all variables in the two namelists (`user_nl_cpl` and `user_nl_datm`). The
414 final step is to add the corresponding anomaly forcing data streams depending on which anomaly
415 forcing variables were specified in `user_nl_cpl` and `user_nl_datm`.

416

417

418 1. Modify `user_nl_cpl` and `user_nl_datm`

419

420 The user may add part or all of the following text to `user_nl_cpl`.

421

```
422 cplflds_custom      =      'Sa_prec_af->a2x',      'Sa_prec_af->x2l','Sa_tbot_af->a2x',  
423 'Sa_tbot_af->x2l','Sa_pbot_af->a2x',      'Sa_pbot_af->x2l','Sa_shum_af->a2x',  
424 'Sa_shum_af->x2l','Sa_u_af->a2x',      'Sa_u_af->x2l','Sa_v_af->a2x',  
425 'Sa_v_af->x2l','Sa_swdn_af->a2x', 'Sa_swdn_af->x2l','Sa_lwdn_af->a2x', 'Sa_lwdn_af->x2l'
```

426

427 Add part or all of the following text into `user_nl_datm`:



```

428
429 anomaly_forcing=
430 'Anomaly.Forcing.Precip','Anomaly.Forcing.Temperature','Anomaly.Forcing.Pressure','Anomaly.
431 Forcing.Humidity','Anomaly.Forcing.Uwind','Anomaly.Forcing.Vwind','Anomaly.Forcing.Short
432 wave','Anomaly.Forcing.Longwave'
433
434 Also attach the anomaly forcing data streams in user_nl_datm:
435
436 streams      =      "datm.streams.txt.CLMCRUNCEP.Solar      1996      1996      2005",
437 "datm.streams.txt.CLMCRUNCEP.Precip 1996 1996 2005",
438 "datm.streams.txt.CLMCRUNCEP.TPQW      1996      1996      2005",
439 "datm.streams.txt.presaero.clim_2000 1 1 1",
440 "datm.streams.txt.Anomaly.Forcing.Precip      2006      2006      2075",
441 "datm.streams.txt.Anomaly.Forcing.Temperature 2006 2006 2075",
442 "datm.streams.txt.Anomaly.Forcing.Pressure      2006      2006      2075",
443 "datm.streams.txt.Anomaly.Forcing.Humidity 2006 2006 2075",
444 "datm.streams.txt.Anomaly.Forcing.Uwind      2006      2006      2075",
445 "datm.streams.txt.Anomaly.Forcing.Vwind 2006 2006 2075",
446 "datm.streams.txt.Anomaly.Forcing.Shortwave      2006      2006      2075",
447 "datm.streams.txt.Anomaly.Forcing.Longwave 2006 2006 2075",
448 "/glade/p/work/yaqiong/inputdata/atm/datm7/co2.1pt5degC.streams.txt 1901 1901 2075"
449
450 mapalgo = 'bilinear', 'bilinear', 'bilinear', 'bilinear', 'bilinear', 'bilinear', 'bilinear', 'bilinear', 'bilinear',
451 'bilinear', 'bilinear', 'bilinear', 'nn'
452 tintalgo = 'coszen', 'nearest', 'linear', 'linear', 'nearest', 'nearest', 'nearest', 'nearest', 'nearest', 'nearest',
453 'nearest', 'nearest', 'linear'
    
```

Any combination or subset of anomaly forcing variables can be used. For example,
 cplflds_custom = 'Sa_prec_af->a2x', 'Sa_prec_af->x2l' (in user_nl_cpl)
 anomaly_forcing='Anomaly.Forcing.Precip' (in user_nl_datm)
 will only adjust precipitation. The reference data and period are defined in env_run.xml.

2. Add the anomaly forcing data stream

The anomaly forcing data stream is where to specify the data path of the monthly anomaly forcing signal and to tell the code which variable to retrieve. A list of all anomaly forcing data stream file names and the variables in the anomaly forcing data and the code are given in Table 2. An example of the content in user_datm.streams.txt.Anomaly.Forcing.Humidity is also attached. The user only needs to add the corresponding variable data streams that are defined in user_nl_cpl.

Table A2. A list of the anomaly forcing data streams and the corresponding variables in the anomaly forcing data and the code

Data stream file names	Vars in data	Vars in code
user_datm.streams.txt.Anomaly.Forcing.Humidity ¹	huss	shum_af
user_datm.streams.txt.Anomaly.Forcing.Precip	pr	prec_af
user_datm.streams.txt.Anomaly.Forcing.Pressure	ps	pbot_af
user_datm.streams.txt.Anomaly.Forcing.Shortwave	rsds	swdn_af



user_datm.streams.txt.Anomaly.Forcing.Temperature	tas	tbot_af
user_datm.streams.txt.Anomaly.Forcing.Uwind	uas	u_af
user_datm.streams.txt.Anomaly.Forcing.Vwind	vas	v_af
user_datm.streams.txt.Anomaly.Forcing.Longwave	rlds	lwdn_af

469 ¹An example of the content in the data stream was given below:

```

470 <dataSource>
471     GENERIC
472 </dataSource>
473 <domainInfo>
474     <variableNames>
475         time
476         xc lon
477         yc lat
478         area
479         mask
480     </variableNames>
481     <filePath>
482         /glade/p/cesmdata/cseg/inputdata/share/domains
483     </filePath>
484     <fileNames>
485         domain.lnd.fv0.9x1.25_gx1v6.090309.nc
486     </fileNames>
487 </domainInfo>
488 <fieldInfo>
489     <variableNames>
490         huss shum_af
491     </variableNames>
492     <filePath>
493         THE ANOMALY FORCING SIGNAL DATA PATH
494     </filePath>
495     <fileNames>
496         THE ANOMALY FORCING SIGNAL DATA NAME
497     </fileNames>
498     <offset>
499         0
500     </offset>
501 </fieldInfo>

```

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505
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