

1 **Comprehensive evaluation of typical planetary boundary**
2 **layer (PBL) parameterization schemes in China. Part II:**
3 **Influence of uncertainty factors**

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31 **Abstract.** This study focuses on the uncertainties that influence numerical simulation results of
32 meteorological fields (including horizontal resolution: 75 km, 15km and 3 km, vertical resolution:
33 48 and 62 levels, near-surface (N-S) scheme: MM5 and Eta schemes, initial and boundary conditions:
34 Final (FNL) and European Center for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting (ECMWF) reanalysis
35 data, underlying surface update: model default and latest updates, and update of model version:
36 version 3.6.1 and 3.9.1). By further evaluating and analyzing the uncertainty factors, it is expected
37 to provide relevance for those scholars who are devoted to factor analysis, in order to make the
38 results closer to the observed values. In this study, a total of 12 experiments are set up to analyze
39 the effects of the uncertainties mentioned above, and the following conclusions are drawn: (1)
40 Horizontal resolution has a greater effect than vertical resolution. (2) The simulated effects of
41 temperature and wind speed in the ~~near-surface~~N-S scheme are smaller than those in the PBL
42 scheme. (3) The initial and boundary conditions of different products have the most remarkable
43 effect on relative humidity, and the simulation results of ECMWF data are the best. (4) The updates
44 with urban and water bodies as the underlying surface have a more significant contribution to the
45 meteorological fields, especially on temperature. (5) For the PBL parameterization schemes, the
46 update of the model version has less impact on the simulation results, because each update has small
47 changes and no major changes overall.~~The update of the model version does not necessarily~~
48 ~~optimize the model results.~~ In general, the configuration of uncertainties needs to be considered
49 comprehensively according to what you need in order to obtain the best simulation results.

50

51 **Introduction**

52 The key factor for the accurate simulation of near-surface (N-S) meteorological ~~elements-parameters~~
53 and planetary boundary layer (PBL) structures is the PBL parameterization scheme. Part I has
54 discussed the impact of the PBL schemes in detail from the mechanism, and assessed the
55 applicability of the PBL schemes for different parameters (i.e., 2-m temperature, 2-m relative
56 humidity, 10-m wind speed and direction, PBL vertical structures, PBL height, turbulent diffusion
57 coefficient) in different regions (i.e., North China Plain, NCP; Yangtze River Delta, YRD; Sichuan
58 Basin, SB; Pearl River Delta, PRD and Northwest Semi-arid, NS) and seasons (i.e., January, April,
59 July and October). However, there are still many uncertainties in the model that can affect the
60 forecasts and model results. The model settings used by different scholars exhibit differences in the

61 simulation results. For example, the horizontal and vertical resolutions are essential for model
62 settings. Horizontal resolution, as a critical factor, must be considered in all models, whether they
63 are macroscale earth system models (Ma-ESMs), climate models (CMs)~~climate models~~, mesoscale
64 regional-weather models (Me-WMs), or microscale fluid models (Mi-FMs). Constrained by
65 computational resources, a horizontal resolution of about 100~250 km is used for Ma-ESMs models
66 (e.g., Coupled Model Intercomparison Project phase 6, CMIP6 model) (D. Li et al., 2022; Taylor et
67 al., 2012). The horizontal resolution of ~~climate models~~CMs typically ranges from 50 to 25 km (e.g.,
68 Flexible Global Ocean-Atmosphere-Land System Finite-Volume version 3, FGOALS-f3 model)(J.
69 Li et al., 2021). The horizontal resolution of ~~mesoscale-weather models~~Me-WMs (e.g., The
70 Global/Regional Assimilation Prediction System, GRAPES model, Weather Research and
71 Forecasting, WRF model)(García-García et al., 2022; Ma et al., 2018) can be as fine as 1 km. The
72 ~~microscale fluid models~~Mi-FMs can have a horizontal resolution of less than 100 m (e.g., Large
73 eddy simulation, LES model)(Zhou et al., 2017). Studies have shown that the interaction between
74 large- and small-scales is influenced by resolution, with finer resolution allowing for better
75 characterization of underlying surface features and extreme events(Rummukainen, 2016; Singh et
76 al., 2021), and also impacting future climate predictions(Chang et al., 2020; Roberts et al., 2020;
77 Small et al., 2014). The use of PBL scheme is usually in coarse resolution models, which can lead
78 to additional errors since these schemes are developed for flat terrain conditions(Weigel et al., 2007).
79 Finer vertical resolution can better capture changes in PBL structures, which can also have an impact
80 on mass transport(Menut et al., 2013; O'Dea et al., 2017; Teixeira et al., 2016), especially on the
81 accuracy of wind resources (Tolentino et al., 2016). In addition, horizontal and vertical resolutions
82 can cause spurious gravity waves and increase model errors(Nolan and Onderlinde, 2022). Although
83 higher-finer resolution is better, there is no doubt that it is computationally expensive. Whether the
84 use of finer resolution will bring significant improvement to the model results deserves further
85 discussion.

86 Different PBL schemes are combined with the different near-surface (N-S) schemes, both of which
87 are crucial to the simulation results of the meteorological fields(Jia and Zhang, 2020). For instance,
88 the MYJ PBL scheme (i.e., PBL scheme) can only couple the Eta N-S scheme (i.e., N-S scheme),
89 while the BL PBL scheme (i.e., PBL scheme) can couple both the MM5 and the Eta N-S schemes
90 (i.e., N-S scheme). The N-S scheme is pivotal for mesoscale numerical simulation, especially for
91 fine numerical forecasting(Y. Li et al., 2010). Then, to figure out which scheme has a greater impact

92 on the meteorological field will help to make targeted improvements to the forecasts in the future.
93 In addition, the lag of the underlying surface data can also affect the simulation results of the
94 meteorological fields, especially for large cities with relatively rapid urbanization (Qian et al., 2022).
95 In particular, different underlying surface conditions can have different albedos that affect the
96 temperature changes, which can affect the urban heat island effect from a local perspective and
97 global warming from a global perspective.(Ouyang et al., 2022; Schwaab et al., 2021; Wang and Li,
98 2021).
99 The most commonly used final (FNL) reanalysis dataset is jointly produced by the National Centers
100 for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) and the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR).
101 They have adopted a global data assimilation system and a well-established database for quality
102 control and assimilation of observations from various sources (ground, ships, radio soundings, wind
103 balloons, aircraft, satellites, etc.) to obtain a complete set of reanalysis dataset. The European Center
104 for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting (ECMWF, hereafter referred to as EC) has concluded that
105 the steady progress in numerical forecasting over the last 30 years is mainly attributed to
106 improvements in the forecast models themselves, the application of more observations and the
107 development of data assimilation techniques(Magnusson and Källén, 2013). Among them, the
108 performance of the forecast model depends largely on the model resolution, the accuracy of the
109 finite difference method, and the representativeness of the physical process parameterization
110 scheme. Different initial fields also influence the model results due to different observational data,
111 quality control methods, assimilation schemes, and bias correction methods adopted for different
112 reanalysis data(Ma et al., 2021).
113 Finally, we also have to take the update of the model version into account. With model versions
114 being updated, many parameterization schemes are more or less updated(Morichetti et al., 2022).
115 However, under the circumstance that the updates are not disclosed in scientific and technical reports
116 or papers, we need to dig into them from the code itself. In reality, simulation results will be likely
117 to vary from scholar to scholar because of different model versions they choose(Jia and Zhang,
118 2020). Consequently, it is necessary to adopt a control variable approach when discussing the impact
119 of model version updates. Instead of updating all parameterization schemes, only by updating the
120 ones we are concerned with can the uncertainty arising from version updates can be quantified.
121 These aforementioned uncertainties have been studied by scholars individually, but few scholars
122 have been able to synthesize and analyze these factors. In this part (i.e., Part II), each of these

123 uncertainties will be analyzed and discussed, and the factors with more significant effects will be
124 selected for reference in that identifying which factors besides the PBL scheme are critical to the
125 simulation of meteorological fields makes all the difference.

126

127 2. Data and Methodology

128 2.1 Data

129 2.1.1 Reanalysis Data

130 *Final (FNL) reanalysis data.* The ~~National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP)~~
131 global ~~final (FNL)~~ reanalysis data are based on the 6 h temporal resolution (i.e., 00:00 (08:00),
132 06:00 (14:00), 12:00 (18:00), 18:00 (02:00) UTC (BJT)) by the Global Data Assimilation
133 System (GDAS) with a resolution of $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$ or $0.25^\circ \times 0.25^\circ$. This product continuously
134 collects observational data from the Global Telecommunications System (GTS) and other
135 sources. The FNL reanalysis data are made with the same model as NCEP uses in the Global
136 Forecast System (GFS), but the FNL reanalysis data are prepared about an hour or so after the
137 GFS is initialized. The FNL reanalysis data parameters include surface pressure, sea level
138 pressure, geopotential height, temperature, sea surface temperature, soil values, ice cover,
139 relative humidity, winds, vorticity etc. The data temporal range for 1-degree is from July 30,
140 1999 to the present (<https://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds083.2/>), while the time range for the 0.25-
141 degree is from July 8, 2015 to the present (<https://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds083.2/>,
142 <https://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds083.3/>).

143 *The fifth generation ECMWF reanalysis (ERA5) data.* The ERA5 is the fifth generation
144 ~~ECMWF~~ reanalysis of the global climate. Reanalysis combines model data with observations
145 worldwide to form a globally complete and consistent dataset. ERA5 replaces its predecessor,
146 the ERA-Interim reanalysis. ERA5 data is available from 1959 to present with a resolution of
147 $0.25^\circ \times 0.25^\circ$ (atmosphere) and $0.5^\circ \times 0.5^\circ$ (ocean waves). The model requires 3D data and
148 2D ~~data~~DATA, and the variables of 3D data are temperature, U and V components of wind,
149 geopotential height, relative humidity
150 ([https://cds.climate.copernicus.eu/cdsapp#!/dataset/reanalysis-era5-pressure-](https://cds.climate.copernicus.eu/cdsapp#!/dataset/reanalysis-era5-pressure-levels?tab=overview)
151 [levels?tab=overview](https://cds.climate.copernicus.eu/cdsapp#!/dataset/reanalysis-era5-pressure-levels?tab=overview)). The 2D data mainly includes the parameters surface pressure, mean sea

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152 level pressure, skin temperature, 2-m temperature, 2-m relative humidity, 10-m U and V
153 components of wind, soil data and soil height
154 ([https://cds.climate.copernicus.eu/cdsapp#!/dataset/reanalysis-era5-single-](https://cds.climate.copernicus.eu/cdsapp#!/dataset/reanalysis-era5-single-levels?tab=overview)
155 [levels?tab=overview](https://cds.climate.copernicus.eu/cdsapp#!/dataset/reanalysis-era5-single-levels?tab=overview)).

156 2.1.2 Underlying surface data

157 The default underlying surface data in WRF are USGS and MODIS data, where USGS has 24
158 classifications and MODIS has 20 classifications. In this study, MODIS data is selected. The
159 basic land cover is a modified IGBP (International Geosphere Biosphere Programme (IGBP)),
160 which is calculated by supervised classification using MODIS Terra and Aqua reflectance data,
161 with a resolution of 500 m
162 (https://www2.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/download/get_sources_wps_geog.html). The dataset
163 that comes with WRF is based on the year 2001 (Bhati and Mohan, 2016). The 20 types are
164 evergreen needleleaf, evergreen broadleaf, deciduous needleleaf, deciduous broadleaf, mixed
165 forest, closed shrublands, open shrublands, woody savannas, savannas, grasslands, permanent
166 wetlands, croplands, urban and built-up, cropland mosaics, snow and ice, bare soil and rocks,
167 water bodies, wooded tundra, mixed tundra and barren tundra.

168 To consider the influence of the underlying surface data on the model results, we further select
169 the same underlying surface data as the simulation period (i.e., January 2016)
170 (<https://e4ftl01.cr.usgs.gov/MOTA/MCD12Q1.006/>). This data is MCD12Q1 version 6 data
171 product (Friedl et al., 2002), including 17 land types that cover the IGBP land cover
172 classification.

173 2.2 Description of the modelling experiments

174 The regional settings and basic settings of the model are the same as those in Part I, still for the five
175 regions, and the month is selected as the test time only for January. To evaluate the effect of these
176 uncertainties on the simulation results of the meteorological fields, a total of 12 experiments are
177 conducted, and the detailed configuration of the experiments is shown in Table 1. The effect of
178 horizontal resolution is presented by three experimental comparisons in Exp1, Exp2 and Exp3, and
179 the effect of vertical resolution by Exp3 and Exp4. The implications of the surface layer schemes
180 are analyzed by comparing three experiments in Exp5, Exp6 and Exp7. The impact of the initial

181 field and boundary conditions are compared by three experiments, i.e., Exp3, Exp8 and Exp9. The
 182 influences of the underlying surface are displayed by two Exp3 and Exp10. The update of the model
 183 version is compared by Exp11 and Exp12.

184 **Table 1 Detail parameters setting of the 12 experiments**

Experiments	Horizontal resolution	Vertical resolution	PBL schemes	Surface- layer N-S schemes	Initial field and boundary condition	Underlying surface	Version of Model
Exp1	75 km	48 levels	YSU	MM5	FNL-1 °	Modis-15s	WRF v3.9.1
Exp2	15 km	48 levels	YSU	MM5	FNL-1 °	Modis-15s	WRF v3.9.1
Exp3	3 km	48 levels	YSU	MM5	FNL-1 °	Modis-15s	WRF v3.9.1
Exp4	3 km	62 levels	YSU	MM5	FNL-1 °	Modis-15s	WRF v3.9.1
Exp5	3 km	48 levels	BL	MM5	FNL-1 °	Modis-15s	WRF v3.9.1
Exp6	3 km	48 levels	MYJ	Eta	FNL-1 °	Modis-15s	WRF v3.9.1
Exp7	3 km	48 levels	BL	Eta	FNL-1 °	Modis-15s	WRF v3.9.1
Exp8	3 km	48 levels	YSU	MM5	FNL-0.25 °	Modis-15s	WRF v3.9.1
Exp9	3 km	48 levels	YSU	MM5	EC-0.25 °	Modis-15s	WRF v3.9.1
Exp10	3 km	48 levels	YSU	MM5	FNL-1 °	Modis-15s (2017)	WRF v3.9.1

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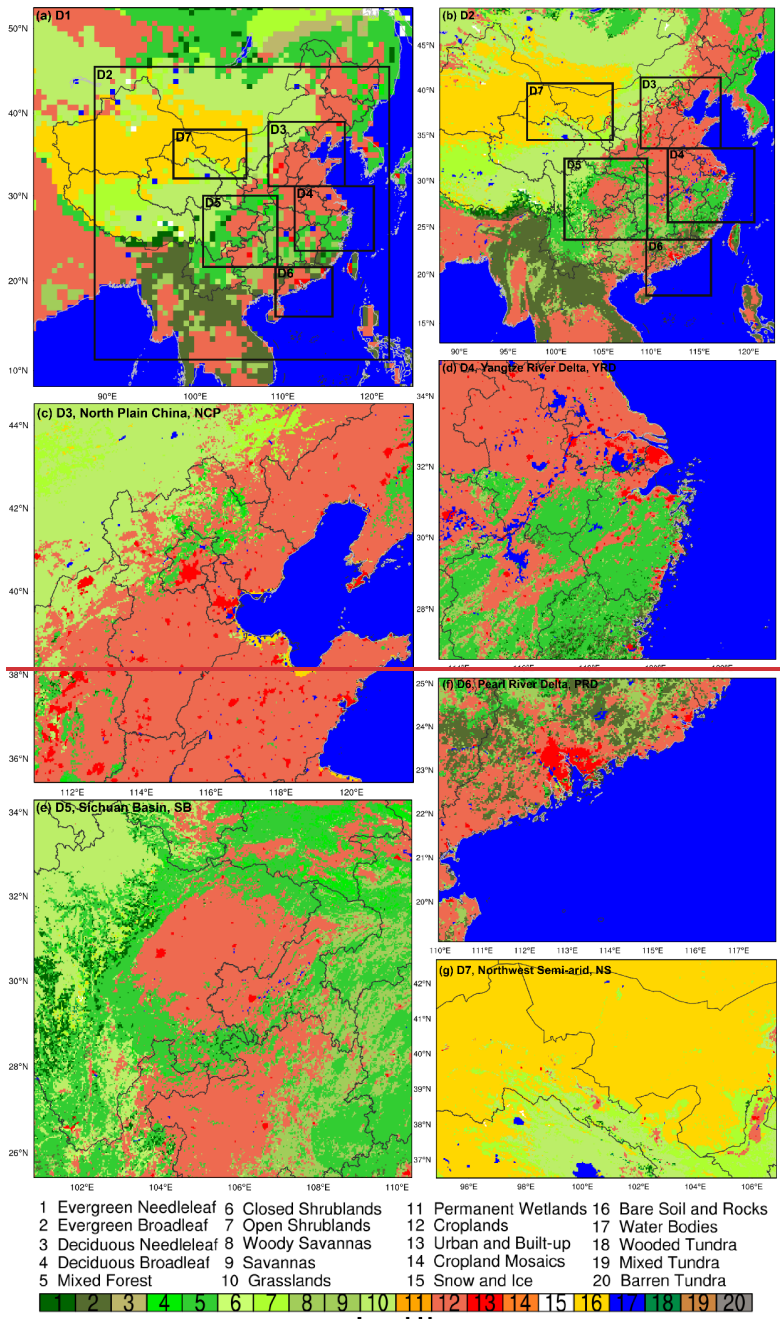
Exp11	3 km	48 levels	ACM2	MM5	FNL-1 °	Modis-15s	WRF v3.9.1
Exp12	3 km	48 levels	ACM2	MM5	FNL-1 °	Modis-15s	WRF v3.6.1 ⁺

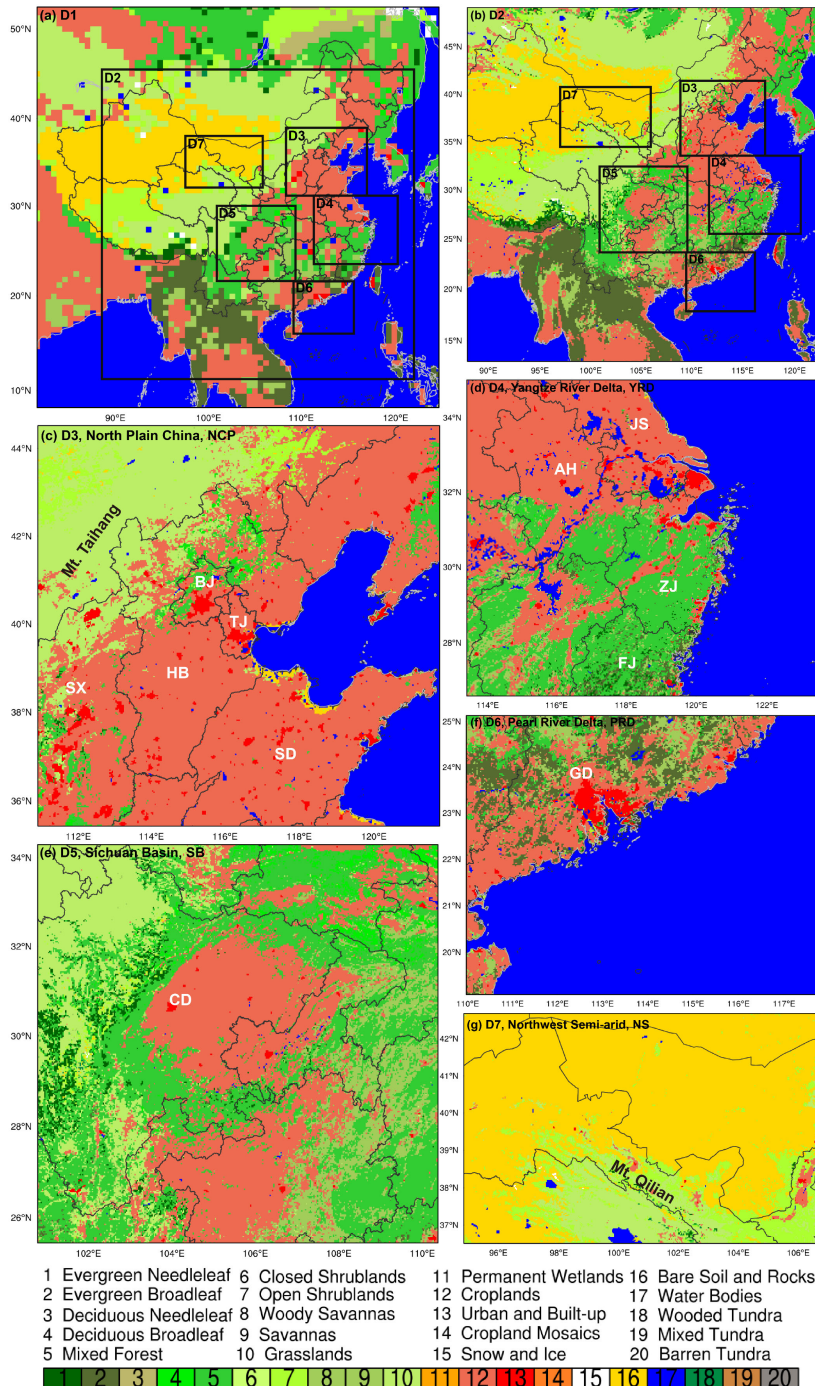
185 *WRF3.6.1⁺ refers to the migration of the ACM2 scheme from WRFv3.6.1 to WRFv3.9.1, ensuring
186 that no changes in other parameterization schemes. **Bold text indicates uncertainties of primary**
187 **concern.**

188 3 Results and discussion

189 3.1 horizontal resolution impact on 2-m temperature and 10-m wind speed

190 The underlying surface information is crucial to the simulation of near-surface meteorological
191 **factor**s**parameters**. From the distribution of the underlying surface, the three different resolutions of
192 the model can basically capture the general information of the underlying surface (Fig. 1). The
193 resolution of 75 km is relatively coarse, so many fine features are ignored and represented uniformly
194 by a large grid (Fig. 1a). The resolution of 15 km is very significantly different compared to 75 km
195 (Fig. 1b), and many fine characteristics (e.g., lakes, cities, etc.) are represented, very close to the
196 features of 3 km.

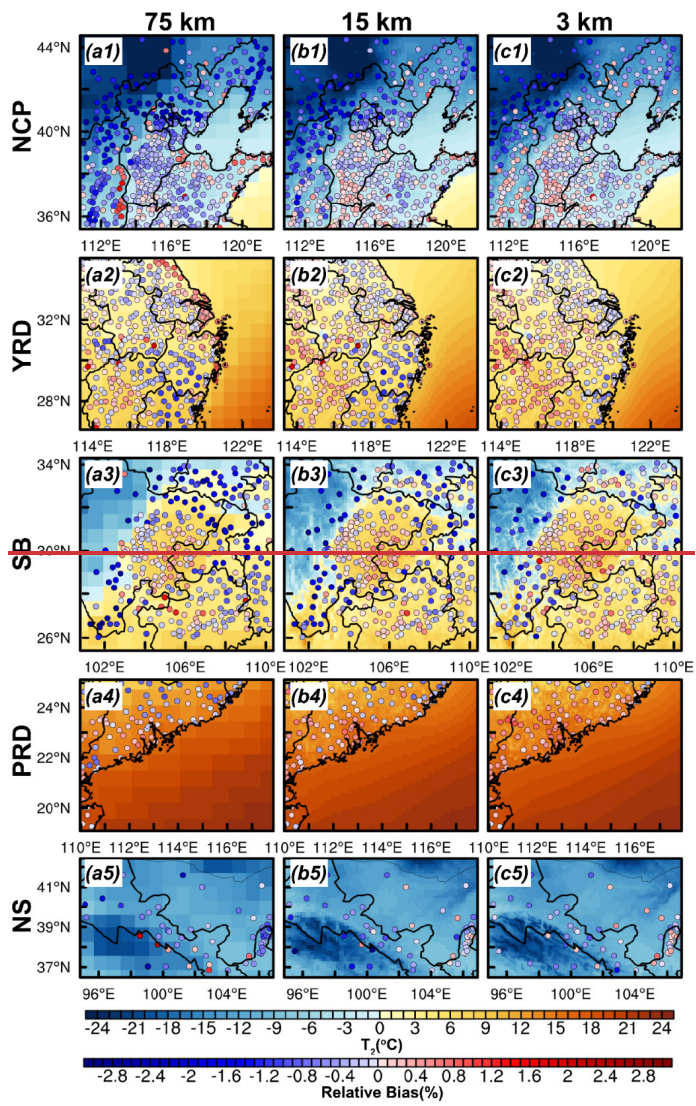


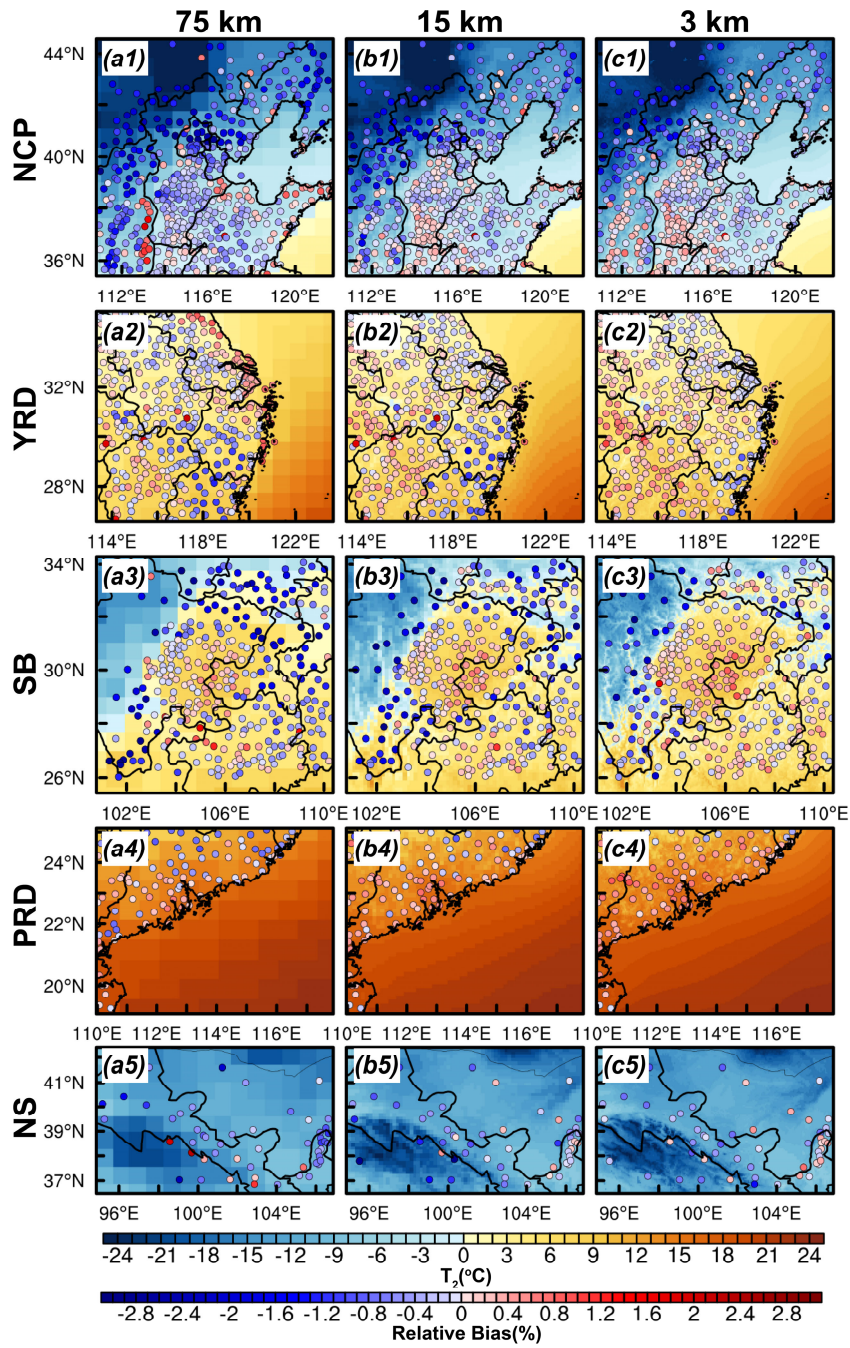


199 **Figure 1. (a-g) Map of land use type in the seven nested model domains. The abbreviations BJ, TJ,**
200 **HB, SX, SD, JS, ZJ, AH, FJ, CD, GD, Mt. Taihang and Mt. Qilian are denoted as Beijing Shi,**
201 **Tianjin Shi, Hebei province, Shanxi province, Shandong province, Jiangsu province, Zhejiang**
202 **province, Anhui province, Fujian province, Chengdu Shi, Guangdong province, Taihang**
203 **mountains and Qilian mountains in figure c-g, respectively.**

204 Further comparative analysis of temperature and wind speed in five regions at these three resolutions
205 have been performed. In terms of regional distribution, all three experiments can simulate high and
206 low value areas of 2-m temperature, but there are differences in the degree of overestimation and
207 underestimation (Fig. 2). In the NCP region, the three experiments underestimate the temperature
208 over a similar range of regions, especially in the northwest (Fig. 2a1-c1). Experiment 1 differs more
209 sharply from the other two experiments in areas with more marked underlying surface variability
210 such as in the complex mountainous areas (i.e., Taihang mountains, Mt. Taihang) in the northwest,
211 the underestimation of Exp1 is more significant, ~~but~~ at the sea-land interface, the overestimation
212 of Exp1 is more pronounced (Fig. 2a1), because the grid resolution is too low. The number (N) of
213 stations overestimated by the three experiments is 96, 128 ~~and~~ 172, and the relative bias (RB) are
214 0.38%, 0.19% ~~and~~ 0.18% respectively. Although the number of stations overestimated by Exp1 is
215 small, there are more extreme values, so the deviation is larger. Correspondingly, the higher degree
216 of underestimation (-0.89%) in Exp1 derives from more minimal values and stations (N=397) as
217 well. For the YRD region, obviously, Fig. 2a2-c2 note that the RB of the stations vary greatly with
218 different horizontal resolutions, especially for the northeastern coastal of YRD region (i.e., northeast
219 Jiangsu (JS) province) from overestimation (Fig. 2a2) to underestimation (Fig. 2c2), and the degree
220 of underestimation gradually decreases in the southeast of YRD (i.e., Zhejiang (ZJ) and Fujian (FJ)
221 provinces). In the SB region, it is clear that Exp1 underestimates the 2-m temperature more
222 significantly (RB=-1.11%, N=245), with fewer stations in the ~~Fig.~~ Fig. 2a3, followed by Exp2 (RB=-
223 1.03%, N=208), and to a lesser extent by Exp3 (RB=-0.69%, N=152). The PRD region behaves
224 differently from other regions, with the simulation results of Exp1 showing an underestimation
225 (RB=-0.11%), while Exp2 (RB=0.13%) and Exp3 (RB=0.35%) an overestimation (Fig. 2a4-c4).
226 The variation of underlying surface between grids in the PRD region is more complex in comparison
227 with other regions (Fig. 1). This does not indicate that the simulation results are better when the grid
228 horizontal resolution is lower, because the scheme itself still has errors in the simulation. It only
229 reveals that the simulation results of Exp1 perform better statistically in the current model
230 configuration for this region. The number of stations in Exp1 in the NS region is much less than the

231 other two experiments, which means that the relative bias of Exp1 is more than $\pm 3\%$ and the
232 deviation is greater, for the area along the Qilian mountains ([Mt. Qilian](#)) (Fig. 2a5-c5) in particular.
233 The results of wind speed are different from those of temperature, and the difference between the
234 three experiments is not as obvious as that of temperature (Fig. 3). The three experiments
235 overestimate the wind speed to varying degrees, however, more stations underestimate wind speed
236 in the Exp1, especially in the NCP ($N_{Exp1}=34$, $N_{Exp2}=21$, $N_{Exp3}=19$) and SB region ($N_{Exp1}=29$,
237 $N_{Exp2}=18$, $N_{Exp3}=7$) (Fig. 3a3). As the grid resolution is too coarse in the Exp1, the wind speed is
238 underestimated at some stations due to the complex terrain in the NCP and SB regions (Fig. 3a1,
239 a3).



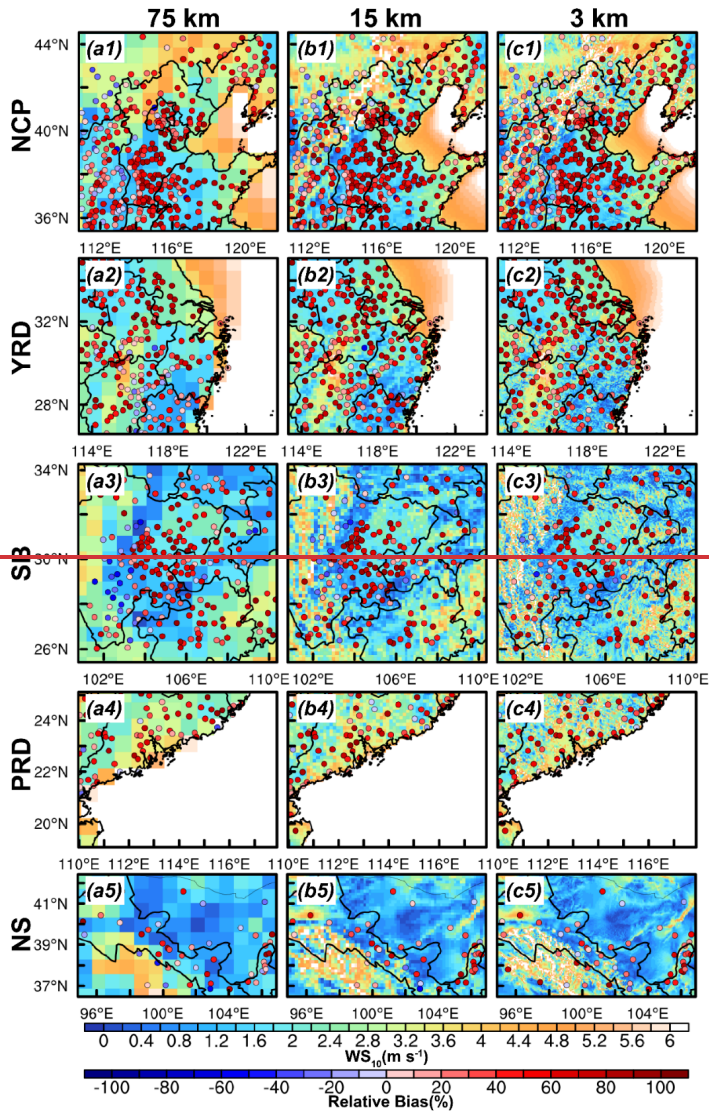


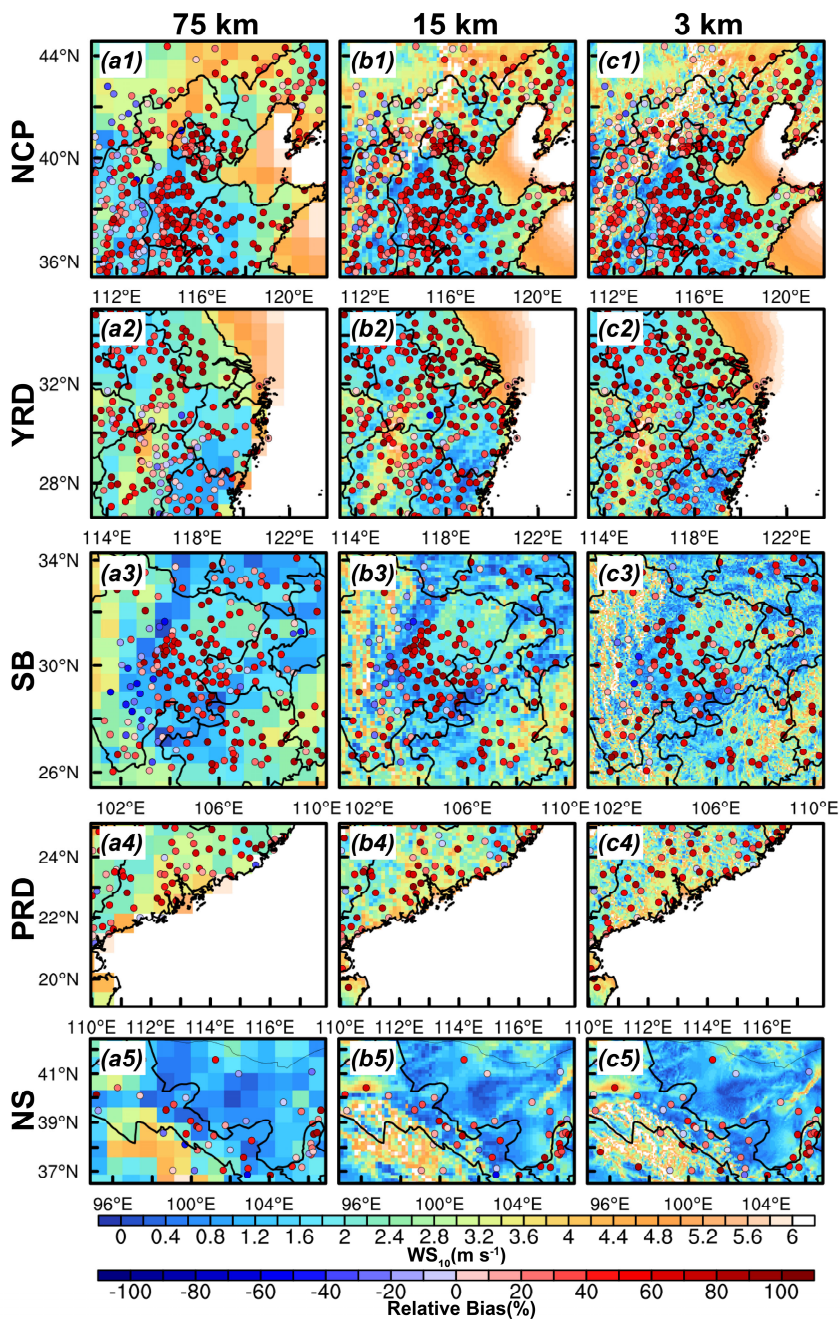
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Figure 2. Regional distribution of 2-m temperature simulated by the (a) domain 1 (75 km), (b)

243 domain 2 (15 km) and (c) domain 3 (3 km) for five regions in January, and distribution of relative
244 bias between simulations and observations is denoted by scatters.

245 It can also be seen from Figure 4 that the three experiments have a large difference in temperature
246 simulation, and the underestimate in Exp1 is more significant (Fig. 4a1-a5). However, in the PRD
247 region, although the average value of the mean bias is closer to 0 on account of the offsetting positive
248 and negative deviations. For the distribution range of the mean bias, it has been found that the
249 distribution of the Exp1 is closer to 0 (Fig. 4a4). In terms of the cumulative probability distribution,
250 the simulations differ for different temperature segments in the NCP, SB, and NS regions. For the
251 NCP region, the temperature below 270 K is better simulated in Exp3, the temperature threshold in
252 the SB region is about 280 K, and the threshold is about 265 K in the NS region (Fig. 4b1, b3, b5).
253 In the YRD region, the simulations of all three experiments are almost the same for any segmented
254 temperature (Fig. 4b2). In addition, the PRD region is special, with temperature below about 285 K,
255 and the Exp2 simulates better (Fig. 4b4). It is worth noting that, regardless of the region, one thing
256 in common is that the temperature of the three experiments simulations gets closer and closer as the
257 temperature increases. While the difference of wind speed between the three experiments is not
258 obvious (Fig. 4c1-c5). The average value of the mean bias in Exp1 is closer to 0, mainly attributable
259 to that there are more stations with negative mean bias to offset. Wind speed and temperature behave
260 differently in regard of cumulative probability distributions, with increasing differences in simulated
261 wind speeds for the three experiments as wind speed increases (Fig. 4d1-d5). The wind speed
262 simulated in Exp1 is low, leading to a better performance in Exp1 for small wind speed (Fig. 4d1-
263 d5).

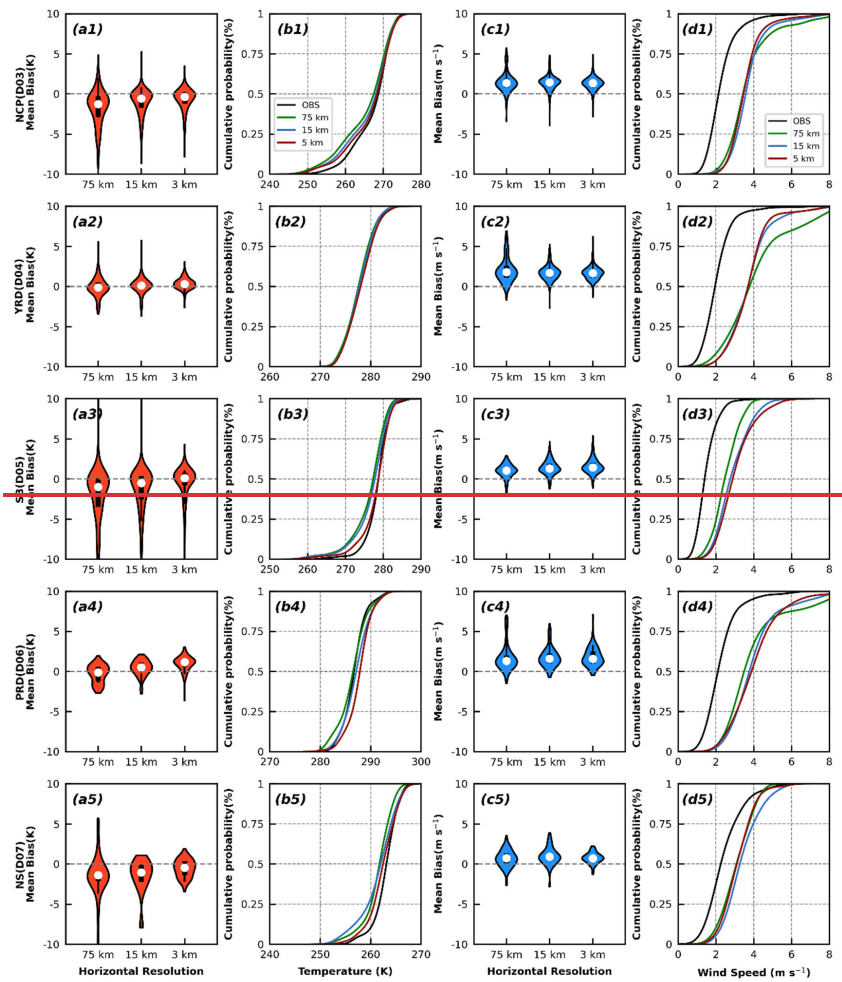


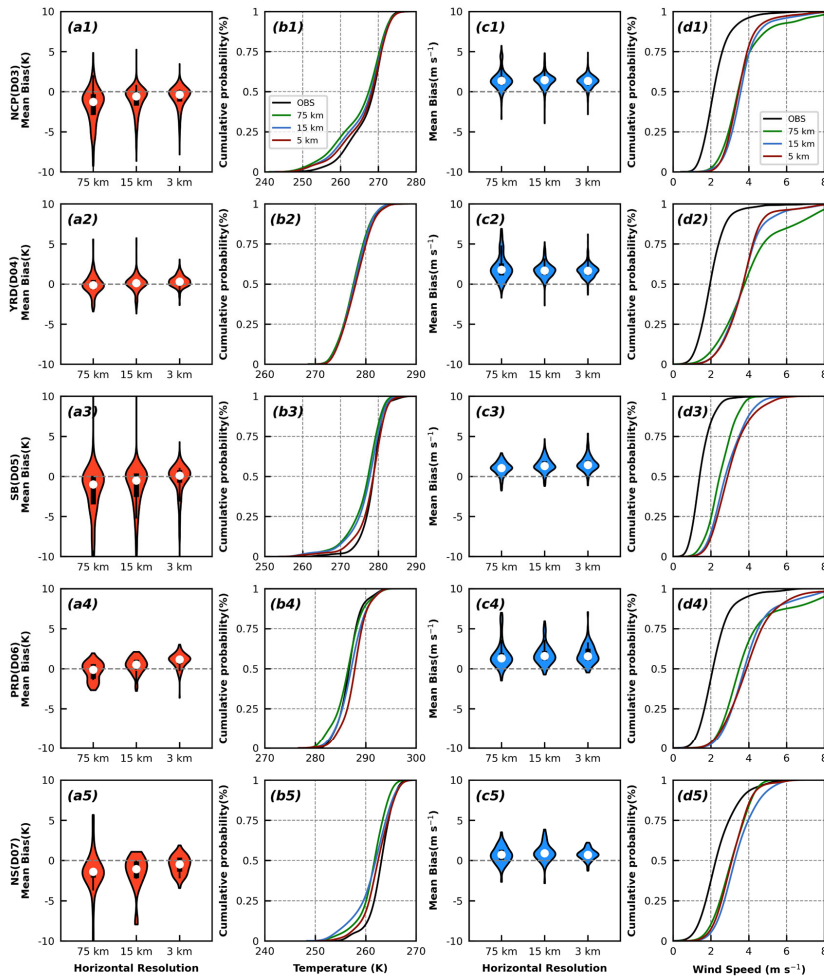


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Figure 3. Similar as Figure 2, but for 10-m wind speed.





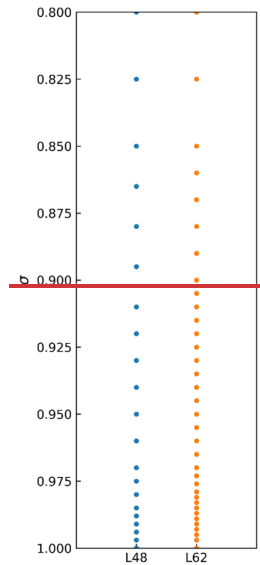
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 269 **Figure 4.** Violin-plots of mean bias of observed and simulated (a1-a5) 2-m temperature and (c1-c5)
 270 10-m wind speed at different horizontal resolution (i.e., 75 km, 15 km, 3 km), cumulative
 271 probability of observed and simulated (b1-b5) 2-m temperature and (d1-d5) 10-m wind speed at
 272 different horizontal resolution (i.e., 75 km, 15 km, 3 km) for five regions.

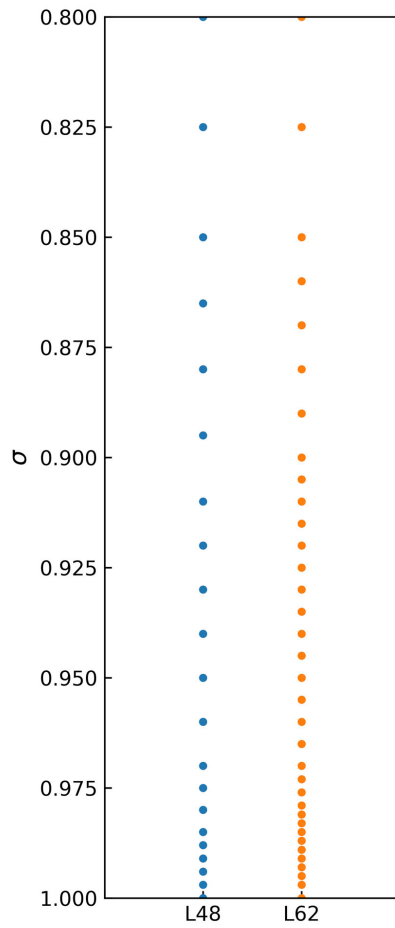
273 **3.2 vertical resolution impact on PBL structures**

274 Based on Exp3, the vertical resolution has been further encrypted from 21 to 35 levels below 2 km,
 275 i.e., the total number of vertical levels is increased from 48 to 62 levels (Fig. 5). The temperature
 276 and wind fields of the two experiments (Exp3 and Exp4) simulations are compared for the four

277 sounding stations selected for each region in Part I (NCP: Beijing, Zhangjiakou, Xingtai and
 278 Zhangqiu; YRD: Anqing, Nanjing, Shanghai and Quzhou; SB: Hongyuan, Wenjiang, Shapingba and
 279 Daxian; PRD: Qingyuan, Shantou, Yangjiang and Heyuan; NS: Mazongshan, Jiuquan, Zhangye and
 280 Minqin). As can be seen from Figure 6, the re-encryption of the vertical resolution has no effect on
 281 the simulation of the temperature, regardless of the region. The simulation results of the two
 282 experiments almost overlap in the vertical direction, implying that the vertical structure of 48 levels
 283 is sufficient. On the contrary, the encryption of vertical resolution affects the simulation results of
 284 wind speed to a certain extent, but the effect is marginal, especially for high altitude regions like SB
 285 and NS (Fig. 7). For the YRD and PRD regions, the wind speed simulated in Exp4 is less than that
 286 of Exp3 below 1000 m, with a difference of less than 1 m s^{-1} . However, the encryption of the vertical
 287 resolution causes an increase in memory, which would add about 5 GB of memory for a region of
 288 1-day results, and the 150 GB for a month. Therefore, the improvement in wind speed in some areas,
 289 due to the increase in vertical resolution, is not worth the cost of increased memory, as the
 290 improvement is simply too insignificant.

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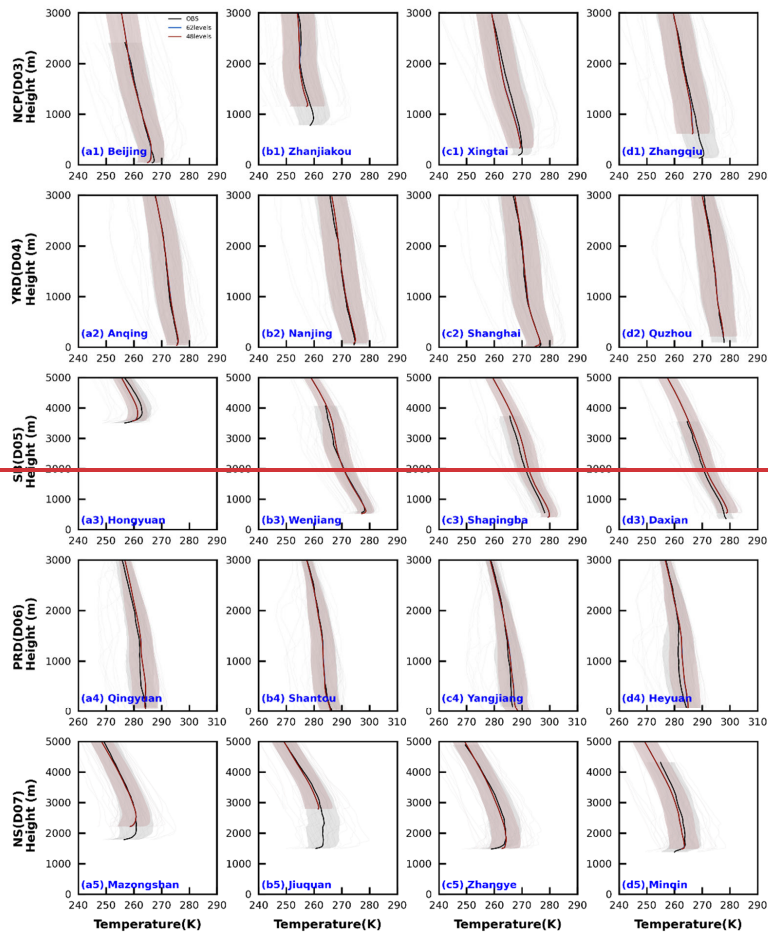


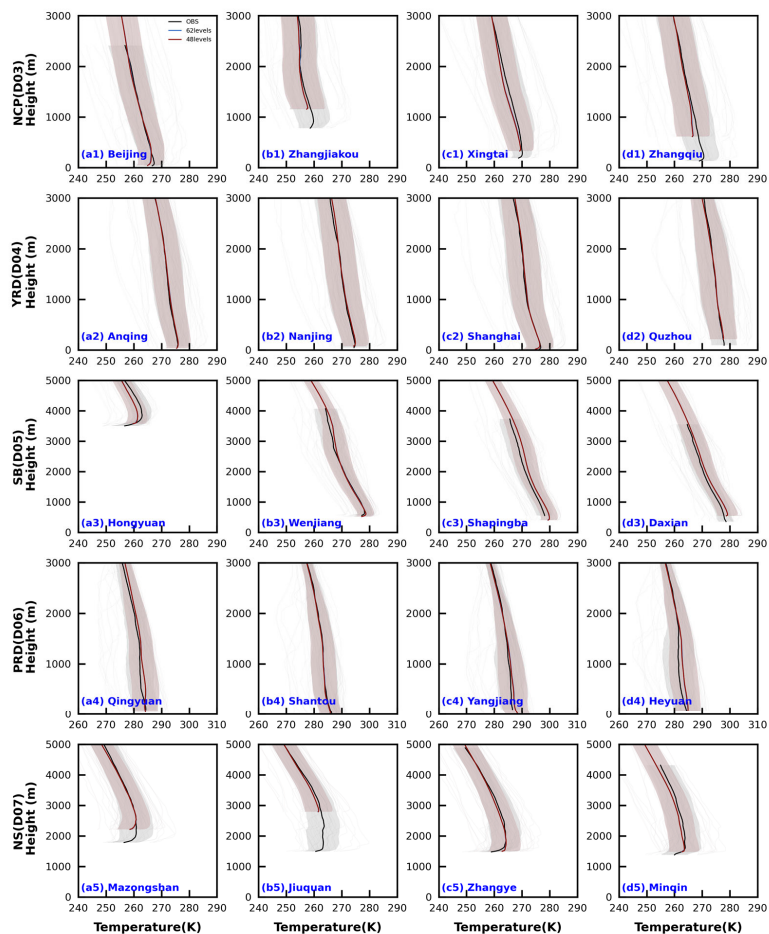


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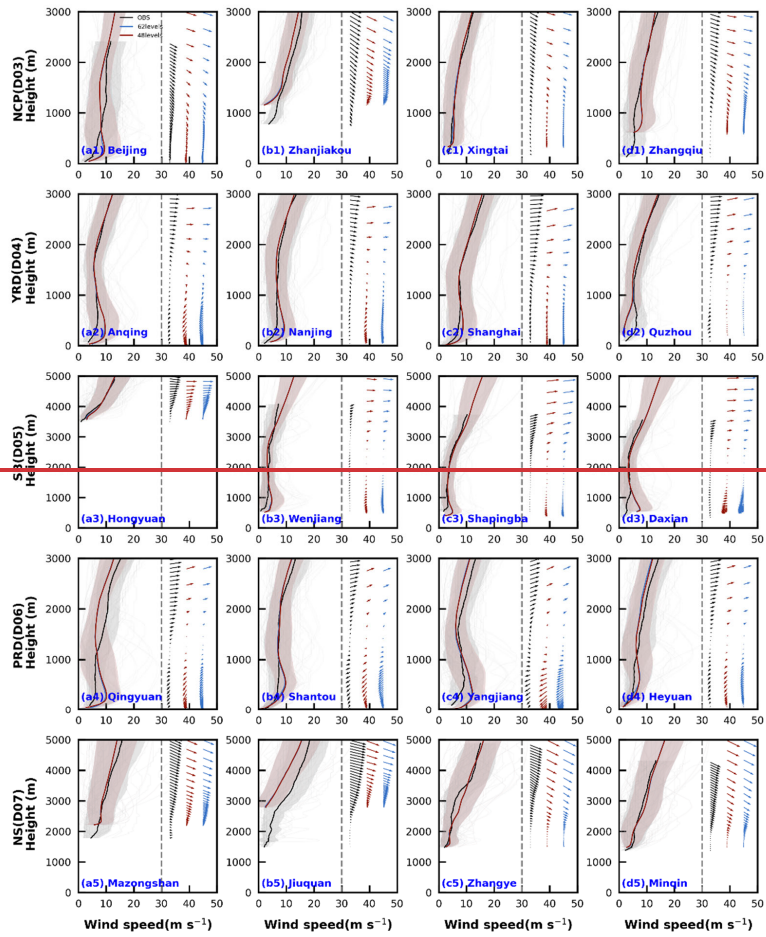
Figure 5. Vertical levels distribution for the two experiments of σ below 2 km in the model.

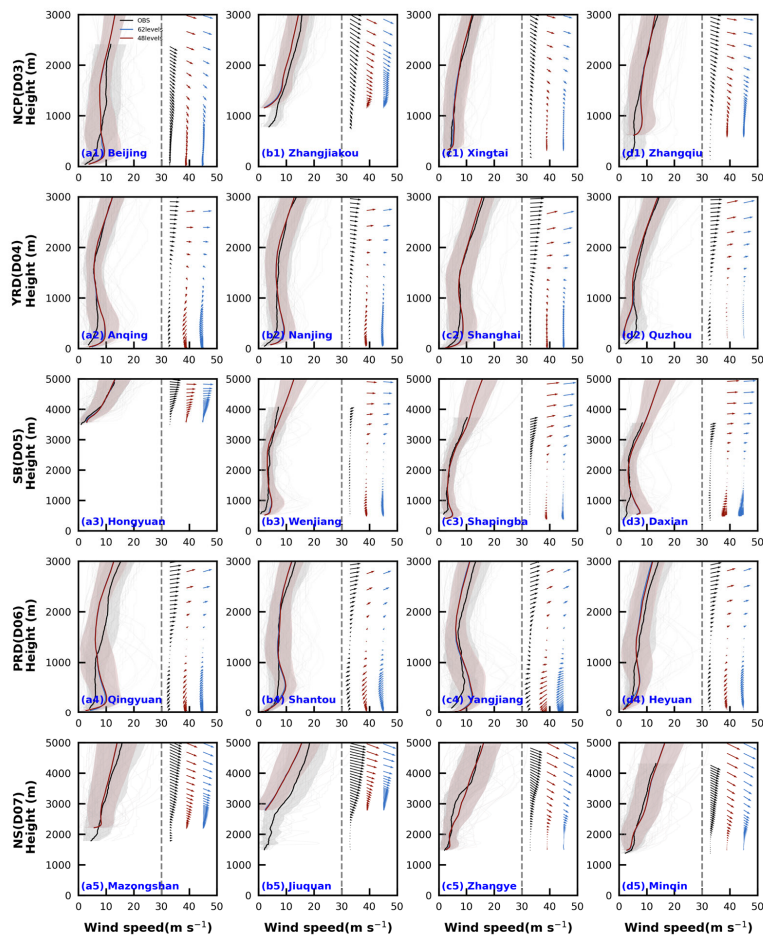




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Figure 6. Average vertical profiles of observed and simulated temperature at 08:00 and 20:00 BJT at four sounding stations for each region in January. The unobtrusive gray lines indicate the simulated lines for all time periods, and the lines with shading indicate the average values and shaded areas show the uncertainty range (the mean ± 1 standard deviation).





301
 302 **Figure 7. Similar as Figure 6, but for 10-m wind speed and direction.**

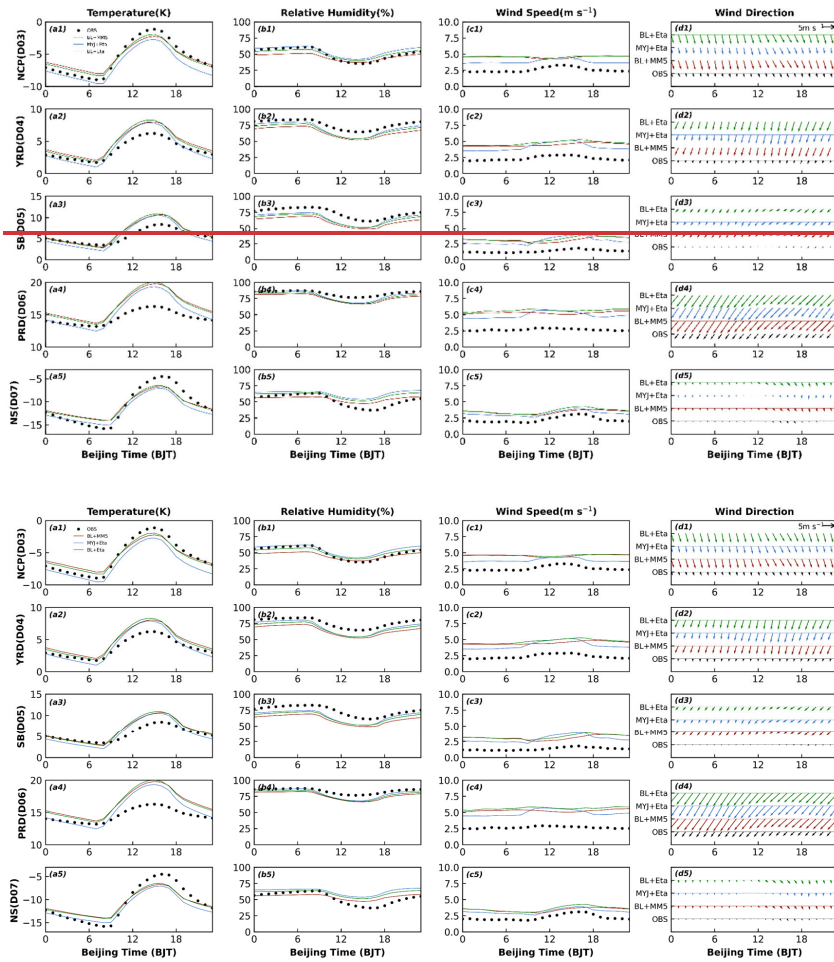
303 It is not necessary to set the vertical resolution much finer compared to the horizontal resolution,
 304 and in this experiment, 48 levels are fully sufficient to reproduce the vertical structure of the PBL.

305 3.3 near-surface (N-S) scheme impact on PBL structures

306 For the impact of the N-S scheme, this section focuses on the changes in the N-S meteorological
 307 parameters.

308 The N-S and PBL schemes are fixed pairings, and three experiments (i.e., Exp5, Exp6 and Exp7)
 309 are done by this study to distinguish the extent to which the N-S and PBL schemes affect the N-S
 310 meteorological parameters (2-m temperature, 2-m relative humidity, 10-m wind speed and direction).

311 In terms of daily variation, the variation of temperature in the five regions is consistent, with similar
 312 simulated results in Exp5 (BL+MM5) and Exp7 (BL+Eta), and two experiments have notable
 313 differences from Exp6 (MYJ+Eta) (Fig. 8a1-a5). However, the relative humidity and temperature
 314 are different, and the results of Exp5 and Exp7 are not close to each other (Fig. 8b1-b5). From the
 315 results of wind speed, it is similar to the results of temperature, and the results of Exp5 and Exp7
 316 are much closer, as is the wind direction (Fig. 8c1-d5). Furthermore, the three schemes are made
 317 differential to quantify the impact of the PBL scheme and N-S scheme. Exp6-Exp7 note the impact
 318 of the PBL scheme, and Exp5-Exp7 illustrate the effect of the N-S scheme.



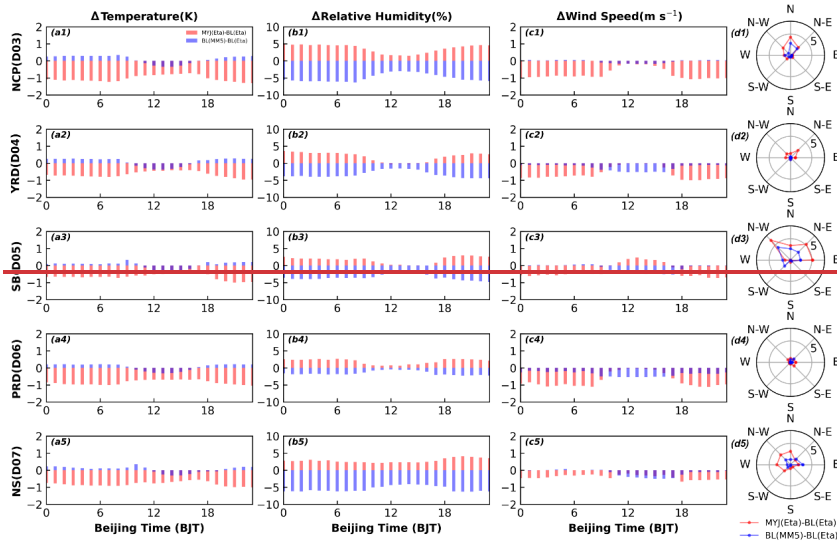
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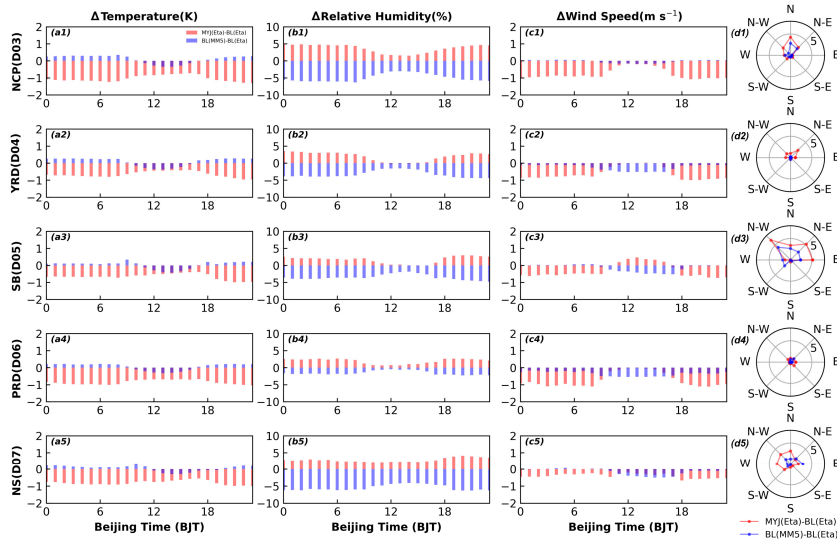
321 Figure 8. Time series of diurnal variation of (a1-a5) 2-m temperature, (b1-b5) 2-m relative

322 humidity, (c1-c5) 10-m wind speed and (d1-d5) 10-m wind direction for five regions in January.

323 As can be seen from Fig. 9a1-a5, the influence of the PBL scheme is greater compared to the N-S
324 scheme in five regions. The difference in temperature simulated by different PBL schemes is about
325 1 K, while the difference for N-S schemes is just less than 0.5 K. In Figure 9b1-b5, as in Figure 8,
326 the results for relative humidity differ from those for temperature. The PBL scheme does not affect
327 the relative humidity to the same extent as the N-S scheme, and it is also less than the N-S scheme.
328 Particularly in the NCP, SB, and NS regions, the impact of the PBL scheme is much smaller than
329 that of the N-S scheme (Fig. 9b1, b3, b5). Regardless of the PBL scheme and N-S scheme, the effect
330 is greater at night than during the day. The findings for wind speed and temperature are more similar,
331 with the PBL scheme having a remarkably greater impact than the N-S scheme (Fig. 9c1-c5). Except
332 for the daytime in both YRD and PRD regions, the N-S scheme has a slightly greater effect on wind
333 speed than the PBL scheme (Fig. 9c2, c4). The wind direction is divided into a total of eight
334 directions (N, N-E, E, S-E, S, S-W, W, N-W), and the influence of the PBL scheme is larger as to
335 the percentage frequency of each direction (Fig. 9 d1-d5).



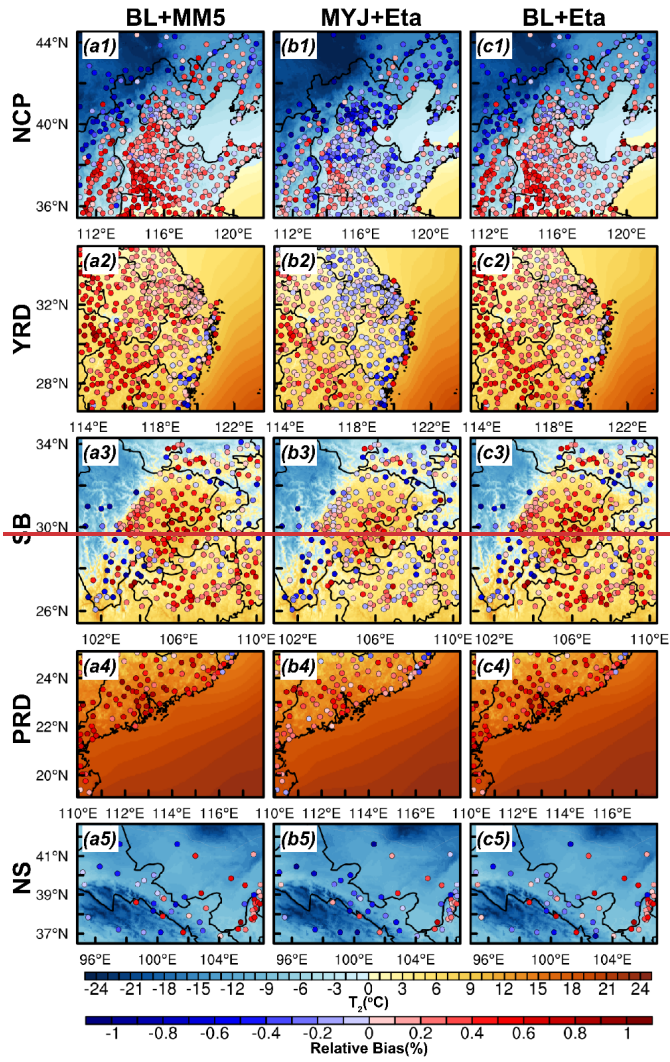
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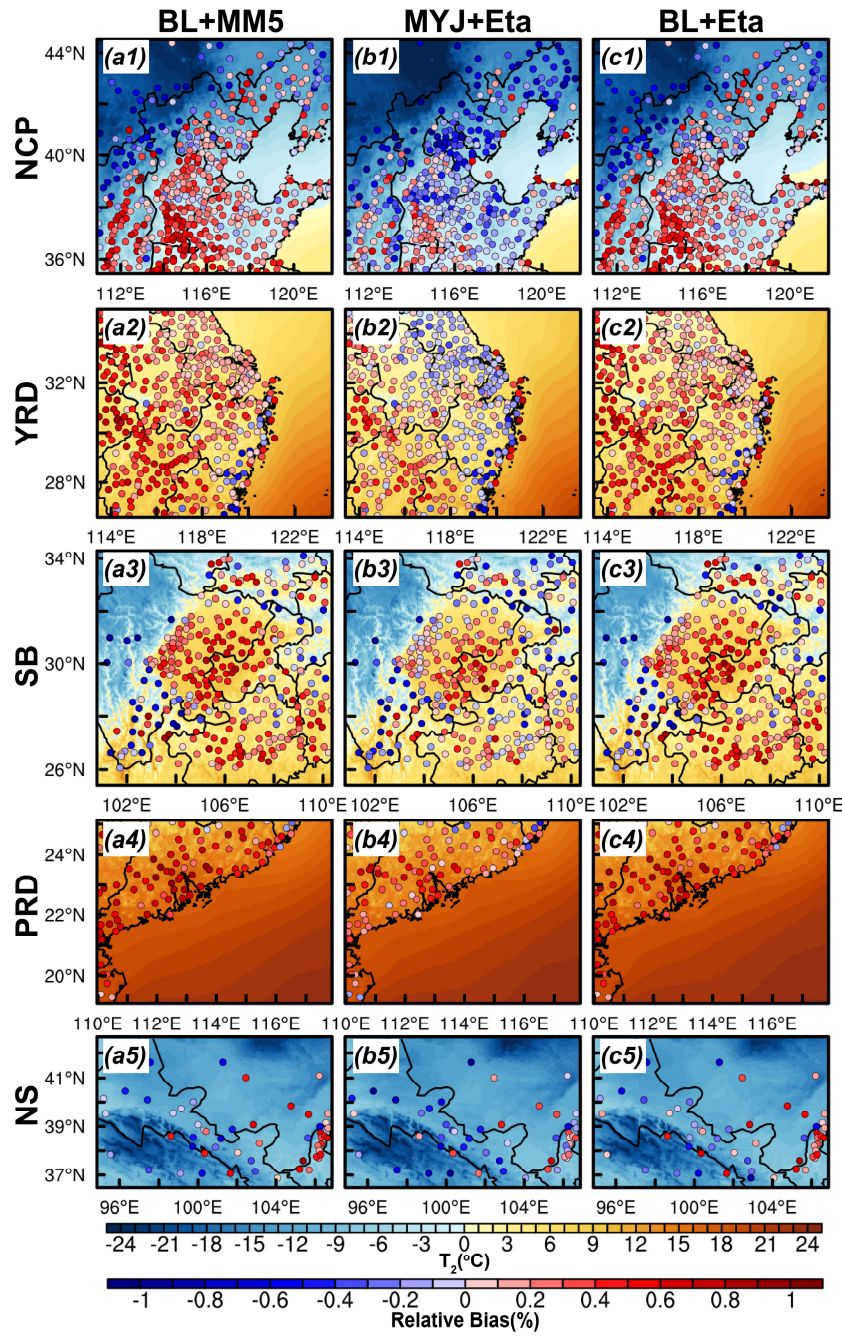


337

338 **Figure 9.** Time series of diurnal variation of the effects of PBL scheme and N-S scheme on (a1-a5)
 339 2-m temperature, (b1-b5) 2-m relative humidity, (c1-c5) 10-m wind speed and (d1-d5) 10-m wind
 340 direction for five regions in January.

341 As for the regional distribution of temperatures, the distribution of Exp5 and Exp7 is more similar,
 342 without regard to the region, and it differs considerably from that of Exp6 (Fig. 10). Therefore, for
 343 temperature, the effect of the PBL scheme is more important. For wind speed, Exp7 simulates the
 344 largest wind speed, followed by Exp5, and Exp6 has the smallest wind speed, noting that the PBL
 345 scheme has a larger degree of influence than the N-S scheme (Fig. 11).





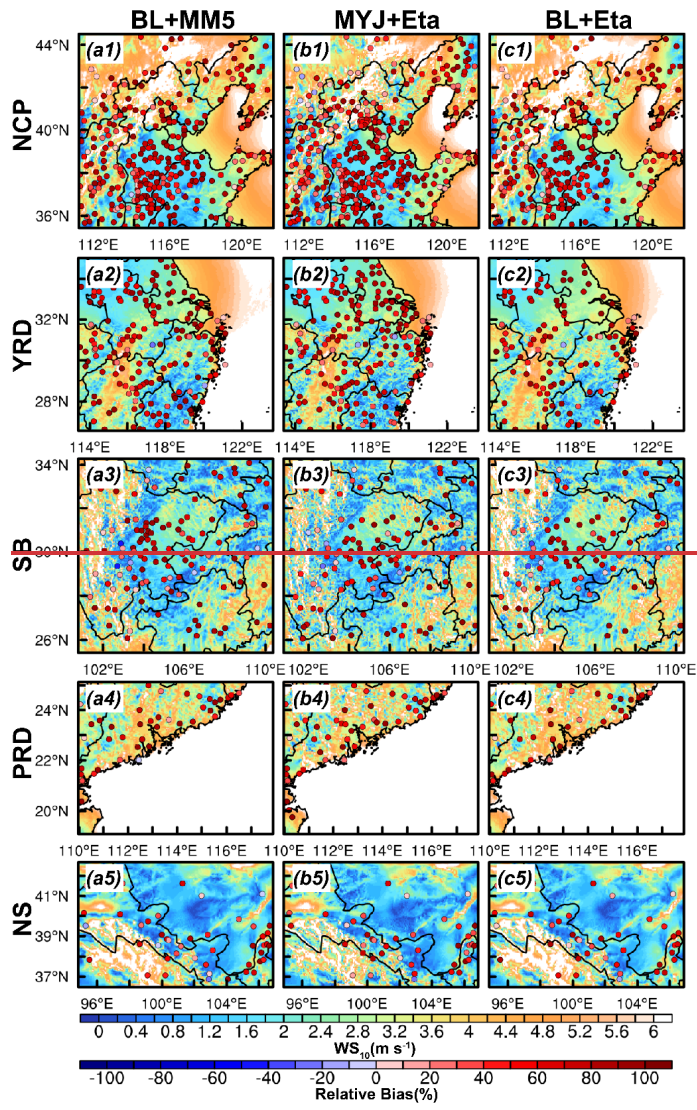
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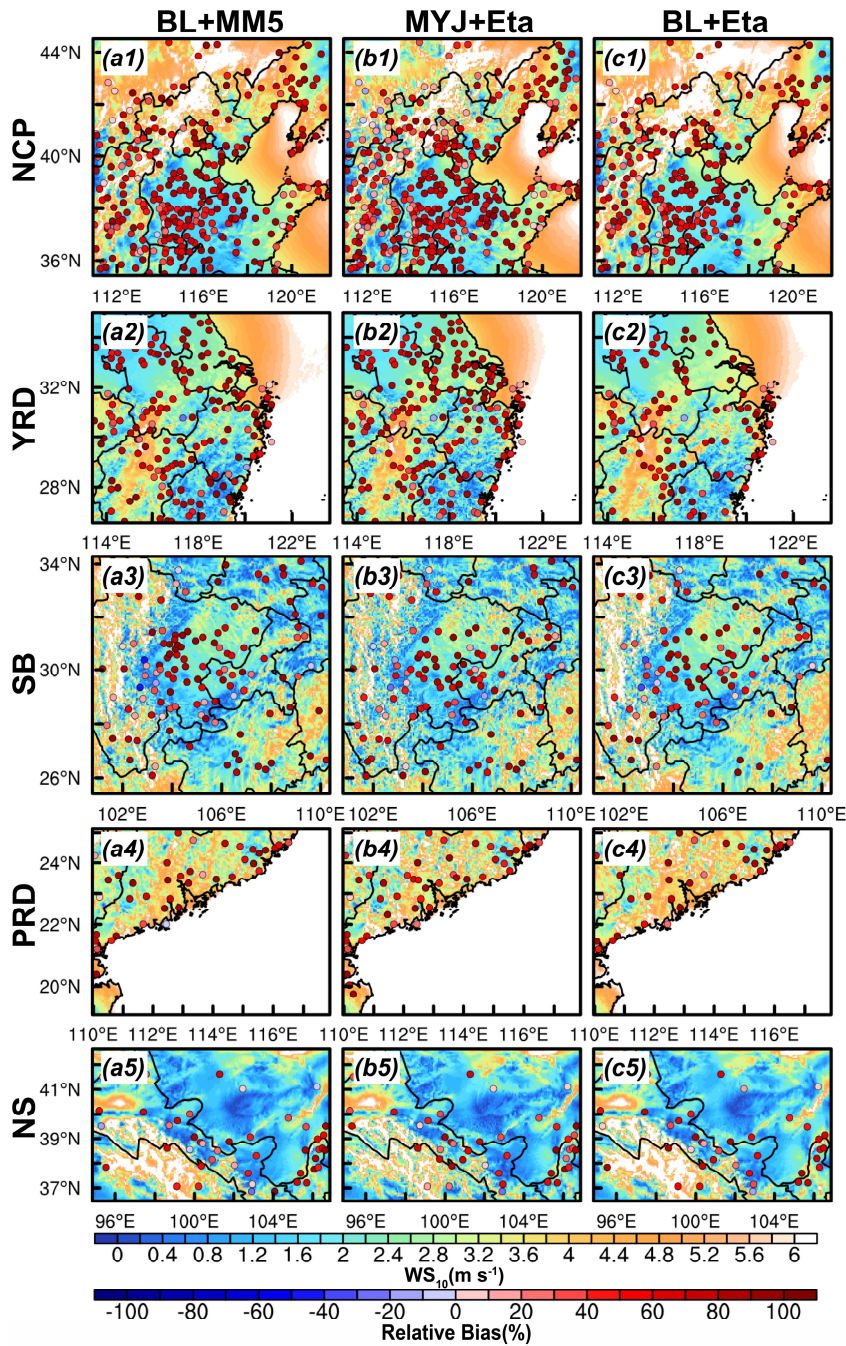
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Figure 10. Regional distribution of 2-m temperature simulated by the (a) BL+MM5, (b) MYJ+Eta

349 and (c) BL+Eta for five regions in January, and distribution of relative bias between simulations
350 and observations is denoted by scatters.

351 In general, for temperature, the choice of PBL scheme is of much more importance. For relative
352 humidity, the PBL and N-S schemes are equally important, except for the NCP, SB and NS regions,
353 where the choice of the N-S scheme is more principal. For wind speed and direction, the choice of
354 PBL scheme is more critical, and the simulation of different PBL schemes leads to more differences
355 in the results.



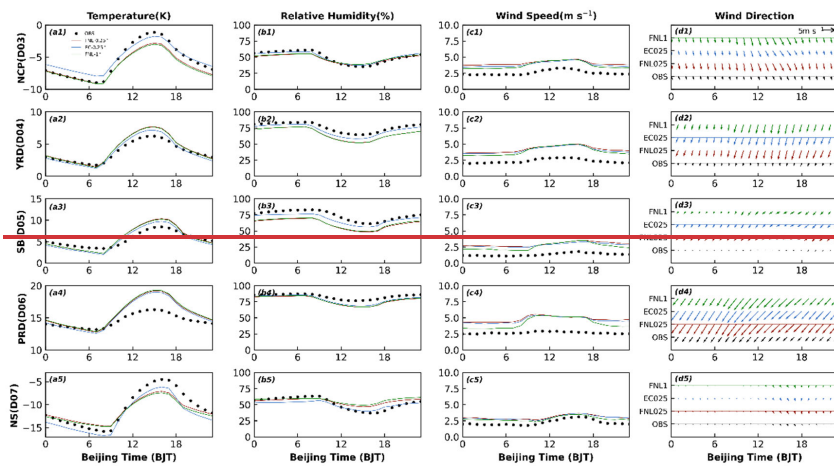


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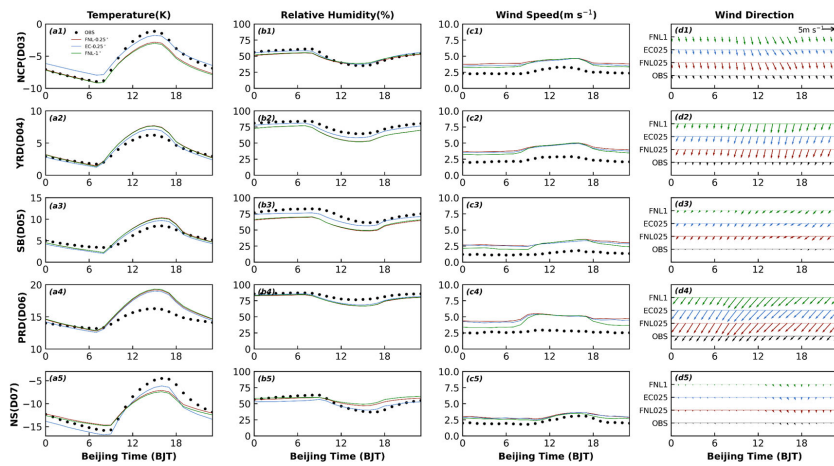
Figure 11. Similar as Figure 10, but for 10-m wind speed.

359 **3.4 effect of initial and boundary conditions on meteorological parameters**

360 In this subsection, the same initial field and boundary conditions at different resolutions (i.e., FNL–
 361 1° and FNL– 0.25°) and different initial field and boundary conditions at the same resolution (i.e.,
 362 FNL– 0.25° and EC– 0.25°) are chosen to explore the effects of the initial field and boundary
 363 conditions on the meteorological field simulation. Figure 12 shows the daily variation series of 2-m
 364 temperature, 2-m relative humidity and 10-m wind speed and direction. Also, Figure 12 notes that
 365 for temperature and relative humidity, the effect of data with different resolutions of the same initial
 366 field on the results is small, but the effect of data with different initial fields of the same resolution
 367 is profound. For the five regions, the EC data better simulate the temperature than the FNL data
 368 during the day, while at night, the difference between the two types of data simulating the
 369 temperature becomes less than during the day, except for the NCP and NS regions (where the
 370 temperature difference is larger for both day and night) (Fig. 12 a1-a5). For relative humidity, the
 371 EC data are simulated better than the FNL data regardless of the region, playing a key role in
 372 improving the relative humidity results of the model (Fig. 12 b1-b5). Overall, the increase in
 373 resolution of the initial field data from 1° to 0.25° has less effect on the simulation of temperature
 374 and relative humidity, while there is a striking difference between the different initial field data.



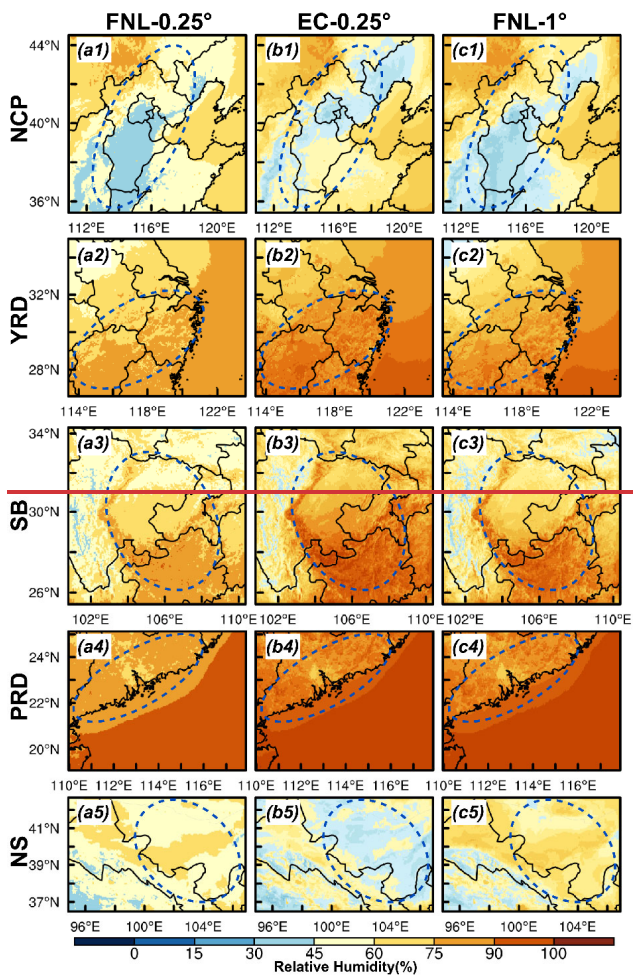
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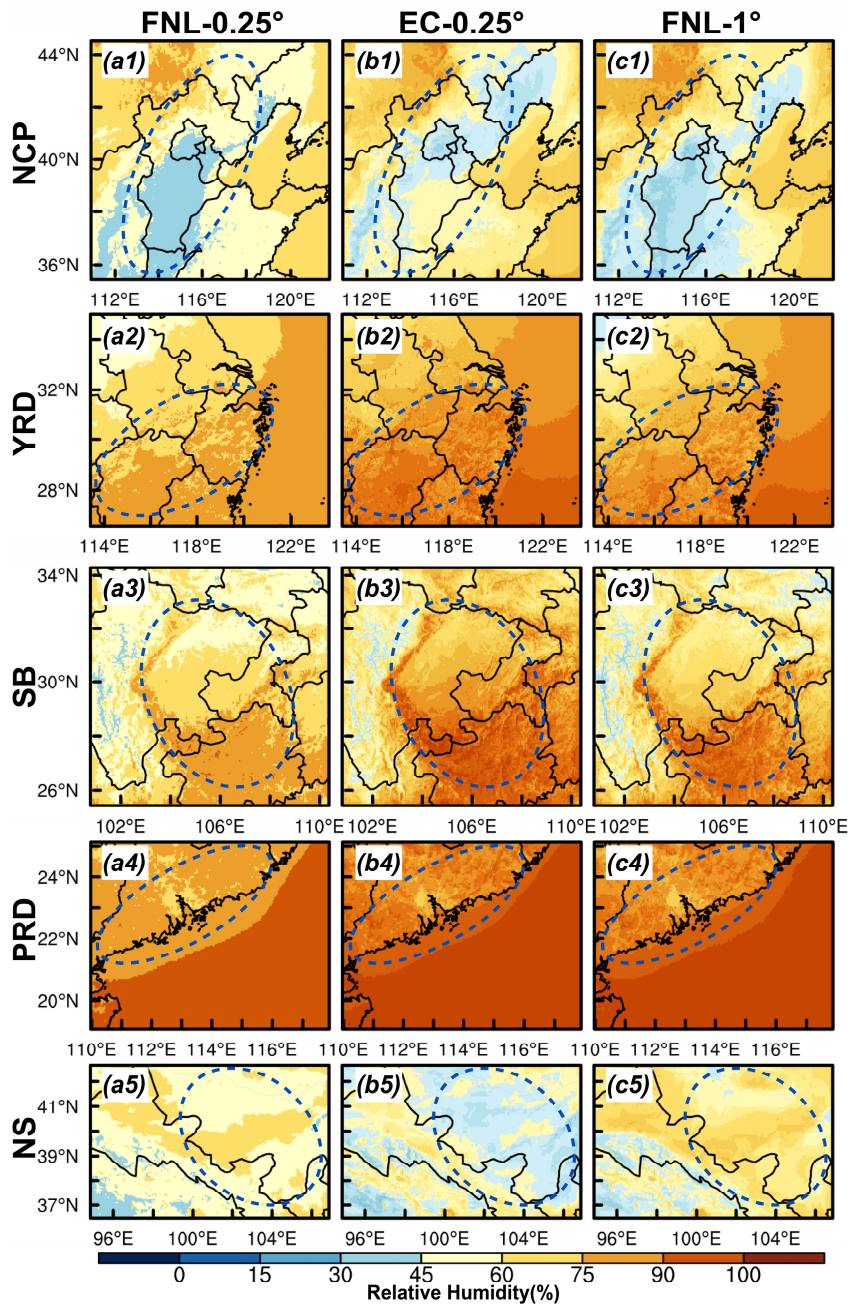


376

377 Figure 12. Similar as Figure 8, but for different initial and boundary conditions.

378 The results for wind speed differ from the first two parameters in that there is almost no difference
 379 between the three experiments for wind speed simulations during the day (Fig. 12 c1-c5). However,
 380 different initial field data at the same resolution have very little effect on the wind speed, but the
 381 same initial field data at different resolutions have a significant effect on the wind speed, especially
 382 at night (Fig. 12c1-c5). All data have a negligible effect on the wind direction (Fig. 12 d1-d5).
 383 The EC data have improved the results of relative humidity for all regions as mentioned earlier (Fig.
 384 12 b1-b5). In terms of regional distribution, the regional distribution of FNL data is similar in shape
 385 for different resolutions (Fig. 13 a, c). However, the relative humidity distribution simulated by EC
 386 data and FNL data is drastically different (Fig. 13). It is worth noting that the relative humidity of
 387 the EC data is the highest in the four regions except for the NS region in which the relative humidity
 388 is the lowest (Fig. 13 b1-b5).





390

391

Figure 13. Regional distribution of 2-m relative humidity simulated by the (a) FNL-0.25°, (b) EC-

392 0.25° and (c) FNL-1° for five regions in January, and the blue dashed circles indicate the regions
393 where the results of the three experimental simulations differ significantly.

394 In the vertical direction, the simulated results of the three experiments for temperature and wind
395 speed do not differ much, unlike the near-surface meteorological parameters (i.e., T_2 , RH_2 , WS_{10}
396 and WD_{10}) that show such obvious differences (Fig. S1, S2). Nevertheless, for the relative humidity,
397 the variation in vertical direction at different heights is more consistent with the near-surface layer,
398 where the relative humidity of EC data is high in the whole layer (Fig. S3). Except for a few highland
399 stations outside the basin in the SB region, the relative humidity of EC data is low at higher altitudes
400 (Fig. S3 a3, b3, d3).

401 3.5 effect of underlying surface on meteorological parameters

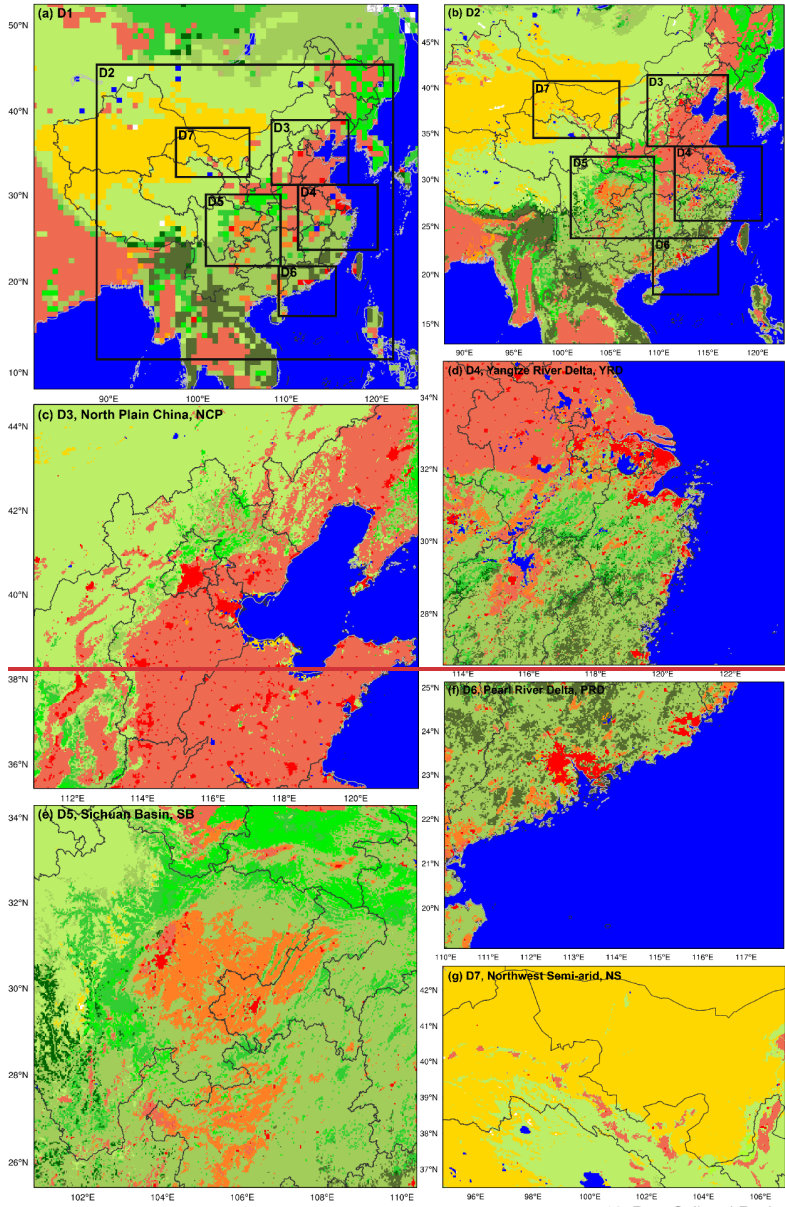
402 To further explore the impact of underlying surface changes on the simulation results of
403 meteorological fields, we use the underlying surface data in January 2016 that is closer to the
404 simulation time, in addition to the default underlying surface data that comes with the model, for
405 comparative analysis of the simulation. Comparing Figure 1 and Figure 14, it can be concluded
406 that the most substantial change in the Domain 1 area is in the croplands type (i.e., code 12),
407 especially for the area south of latitude 30 °N. Many types with an underlying surface of 12 have
408 become 14 or 8, 9 etc. Although both 12 and 14 here can represent cropland, there are some
409 differences in the specific descriptions. Code 12 mainly indicates that at least 60% of area is
410 cultivated cropland, while code 14 mainly refers to the mosaics of small-scale cultivation 40–60%
411 with natural tree, shrub, or herbaceous vegetation. In addition to croplands, the two types of urban
412 and water bodies are more variable as well. Therefore, this subsection focuses on the effects of urban
413 and water body changes on surface meteorological fields.

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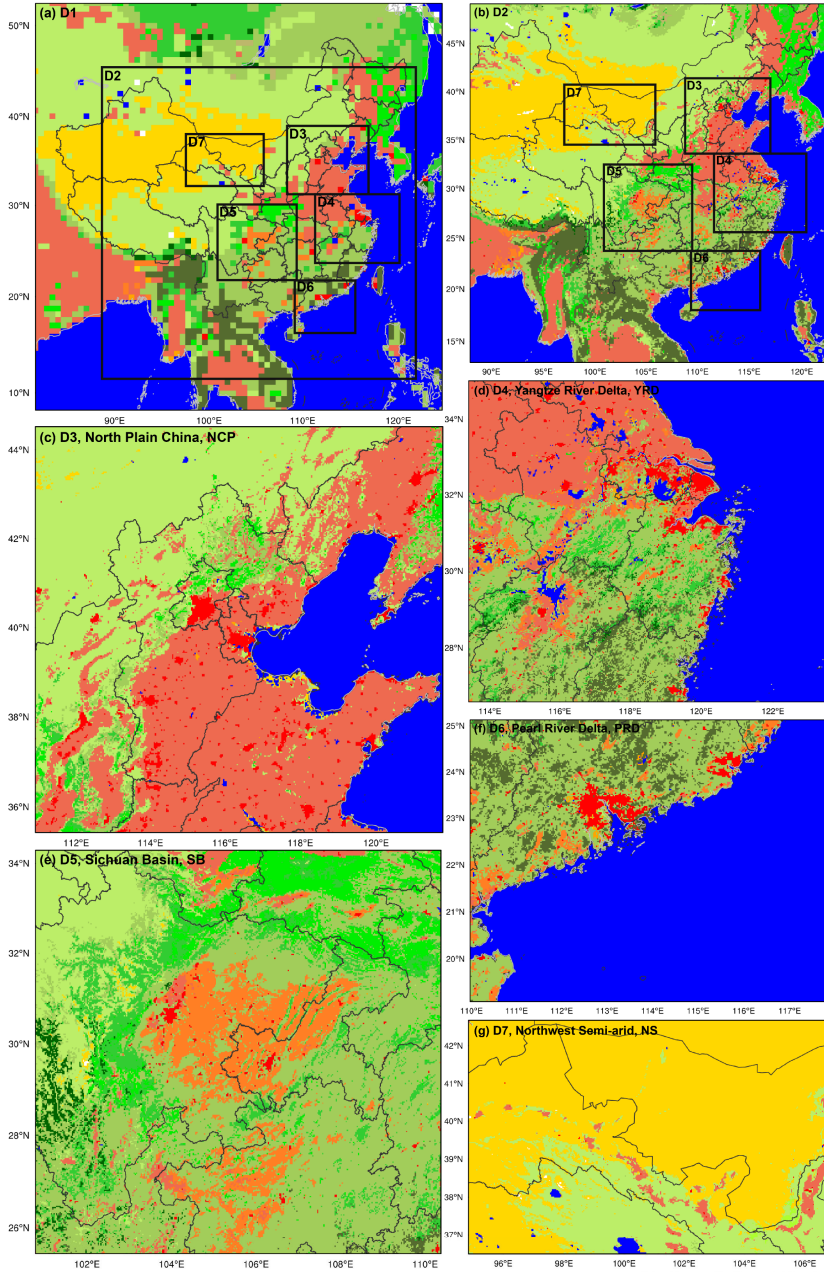
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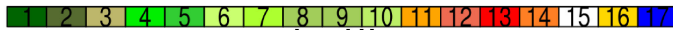
- | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Evergreen Needleleaf | 6 Closed Shrublands | 11 Permanent Wetlands | 16 Bare Soil and Rocks |
| 2 Evergreen Broadleaf | 7 Open Shrublands | 12 Croplands | 17 Water Bodies |
| 3 Deciduous Needleleaf | 8 Woody Savannas | 13 Urban and Built-up | |
| 4 Deciduous Broadleaf | 9 Savannas | 14 Cropland Mosaics | |
| 5 Mixed Forest | 10 Grasslands | 15 Snow and Ice | |



Land Use



- | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Evergreen Needleleaf | 6 Closed Shrublands | 11 Permanent Wetlands | 16 Bare Soil and Rocks |
| 2 Evergreen Broadleaf | 7 Open Shrublands | 12 Croplands | 17 Water Bodies |
| 3 Deciduous Needleleaf | 8 Woody Savannas | 13 Urban and Built-up | |
| 4 Deciduous Broadleaf | 9 Savannas | 14 Cropland Mosaics | |
| 5 Mixed Forest | 10 Grasslands | 15 Snow and Ice | |



Land Use

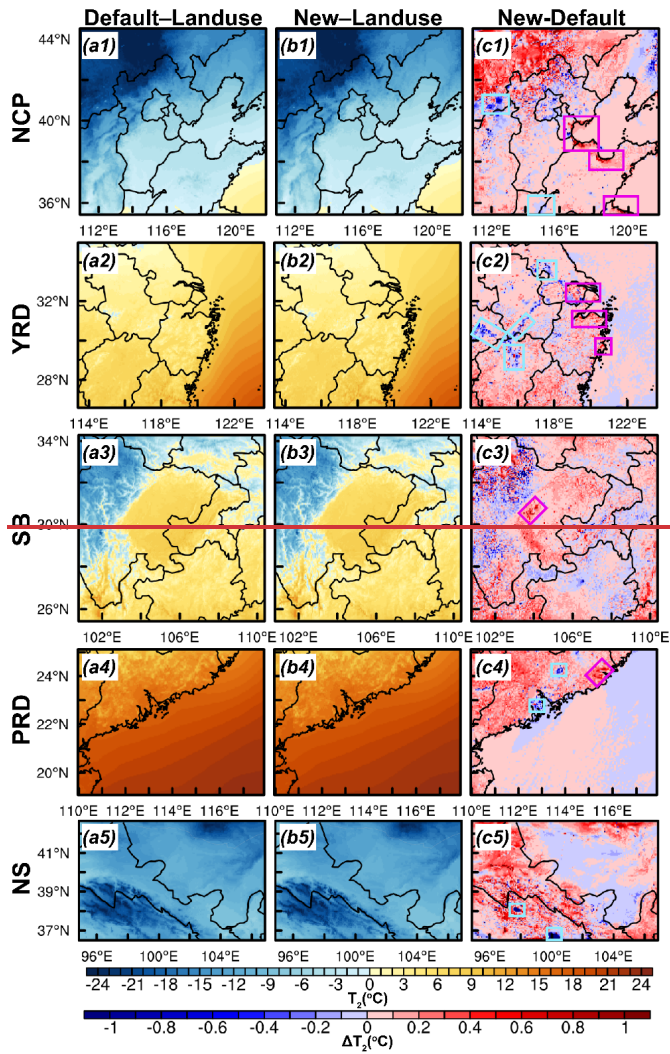
416 Figure 14. Similar as Figure 1, but for the land use type for January 2016.

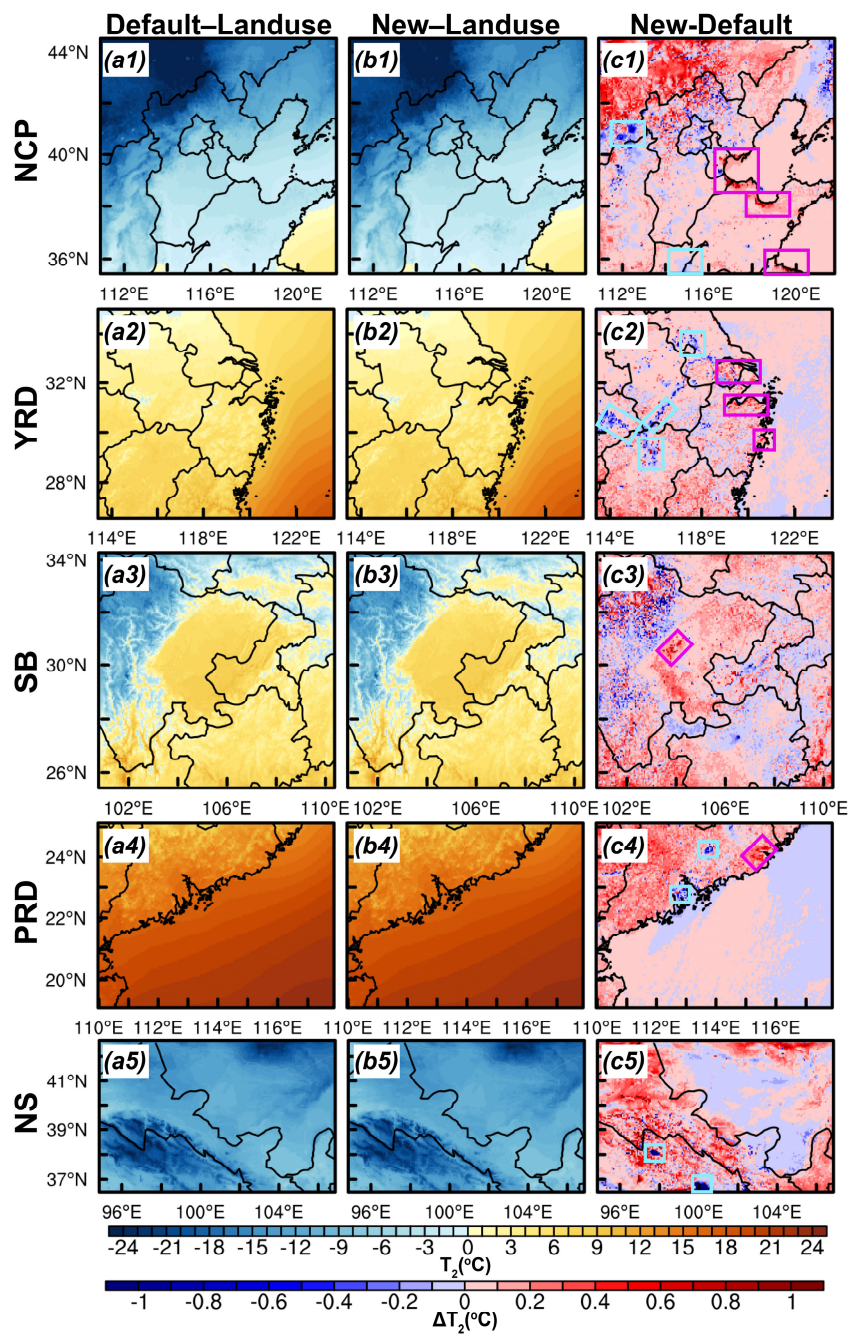
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418 In terms of the overall regional distribution, the new underlying surface did not affect the areas of
419 high and low values of temperature (Fig. 15 a-b) to an important degree. However, the difference
420 between the simulation results of two different underlying surface shows that the change of the
421 underlying surface has an effect on the temperature by about ± 1 °C, especially for the grids with
422 more obvious changes in water bodies and urban areas (Fig. 15 c). In the NCP region, an increase
423 in the area of water bodies in the coastal areas of Tianjin (TJ) Shi, Shandong (SD) Peninsula province,
424 and Jiangsu (JS) pProvince leads to a distinct increase in temperature (i.e., indicated by red boxes),
425 while a decrease in the area of inland water in the northern region of Shanxi (SX) pProvince causes
426 a decrease in temperature (i.e., denoted by blue boxes) (Fig. 15 c1). The decrease in the area of
427 water bodies in the Yangtze River in the YRD region has caused a decrease in temperature, while
428 urbanization has contributed to an increase in temperature in several regions (Fig. 15 c2). The
429 underlying surface changes in the SB region are mainly in the form of forest and savannas changes,
430 as well as the more rapid urbanization of the provincial capital city of Chengdu (CD) Shi (Fig. 14
431 e). The development of this city has a positive feedback effect on the temperature of the region (Fig.
432 15 c3). The underlying surface change in the YRD region is from croplands to savannas, with a
433 rapid greening rate, and its excessive greening may make the green coverage of some cities too high,
434 leading some grids to identify the cities as savannas. In the NS region, the area of croplands and
435 cities along the Qilian Mountains increases and the area of some inland lakes decreases, in turn
436 leaving some influence on the results of the temperature.

437 The wind field does not vary as regularly as the temperature filed. Except for the variation of water
438 body area which has a more consistent pattern on the wind field, all other types of underlying surface
439 variation have a haphazard effect on the wind field (Fig. S4).

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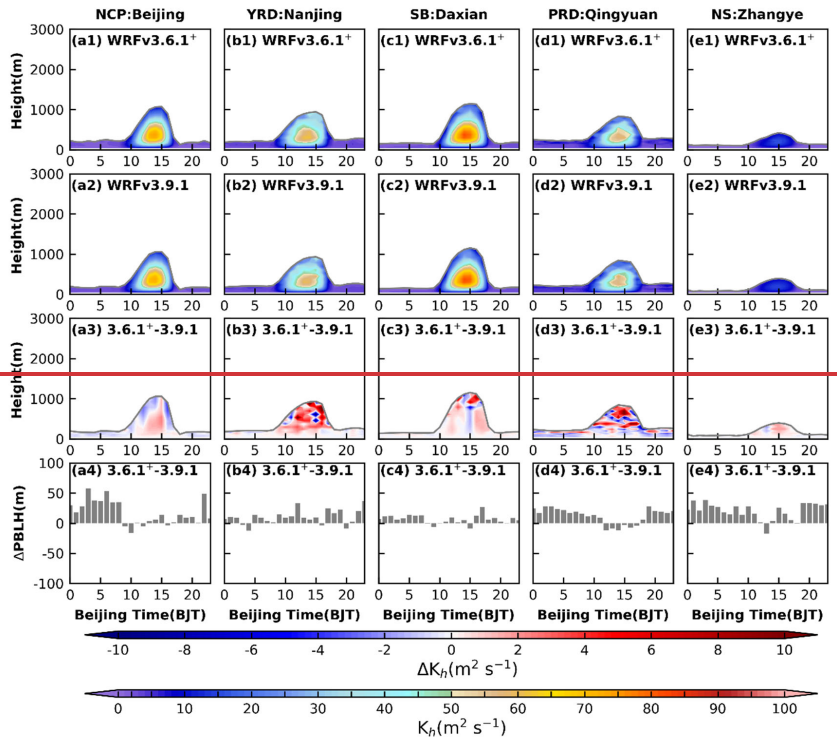
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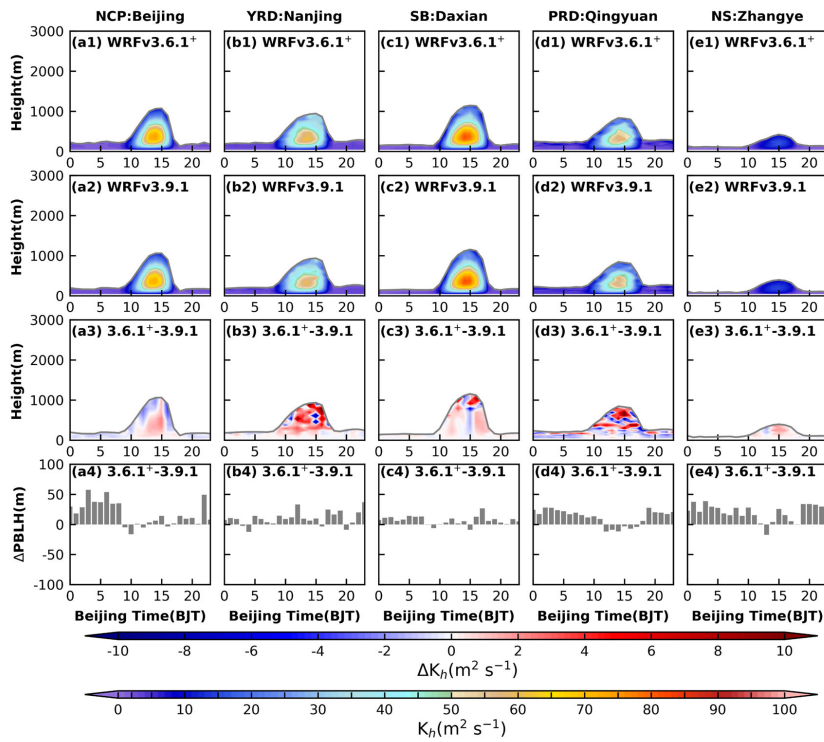
Figure 15. Regional distribution of 2-m temperature simulated by the (a) default land use, (b) new

443 land use and (c) the difference between the two land use types for five regions in January. The blue
444 (red) box indicates the region where the wind speed decreases (increases) due to changes in the
445 water bodies and urban.

446 3.6 impact of the model version update

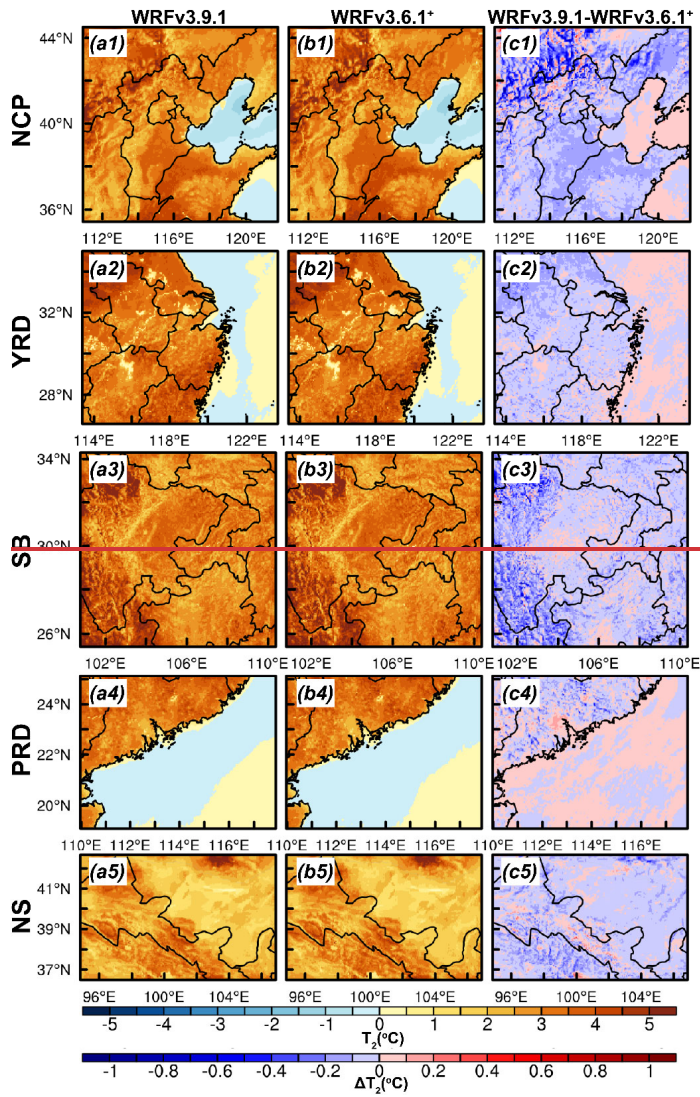
447 As computer technology continues to evolve, the parameterizations in the model are being upgraded
448 and improved, but it is worthwhile further exploring how much the parameterizations and versions
449 affect the simulation results of the model. For the PBL parameterization scheme, turbulent diffusion
450 is crucial for the vertical mixing of momentum, heat, water vapor and pollutants within the PBL.
451 And in December 2014, the ACM2 parameterization scheme received two major updates: (1) The
452 turbulent diffusion coefficients of heat are updated. The stability function of Richardson number is
453 modified, expecting to reduce the day and night 2-m temperature bias. (2) The bug that the minimum
454 value of the PBLH is lower than the height of the first level of the model under stable conditions
455 has been restored, and the minimum value of the PBLH is fixed to the height of the first level of the
456 model. We, therefore, choose the ACM2 scheme in WRFv3.6.1 as a control experiment. In the
457 control experiment, the ACM2 scheme in the WRFv3.9.1 version is replaced with WRFv3.6.1, and
458 all other schemes are kept in the WRFv3.9.1 (i.e., WRFv3.6.1⁺). This ensures that the difference
459 between the two experiments is the representative of the impact of the ACM2 scheme update.

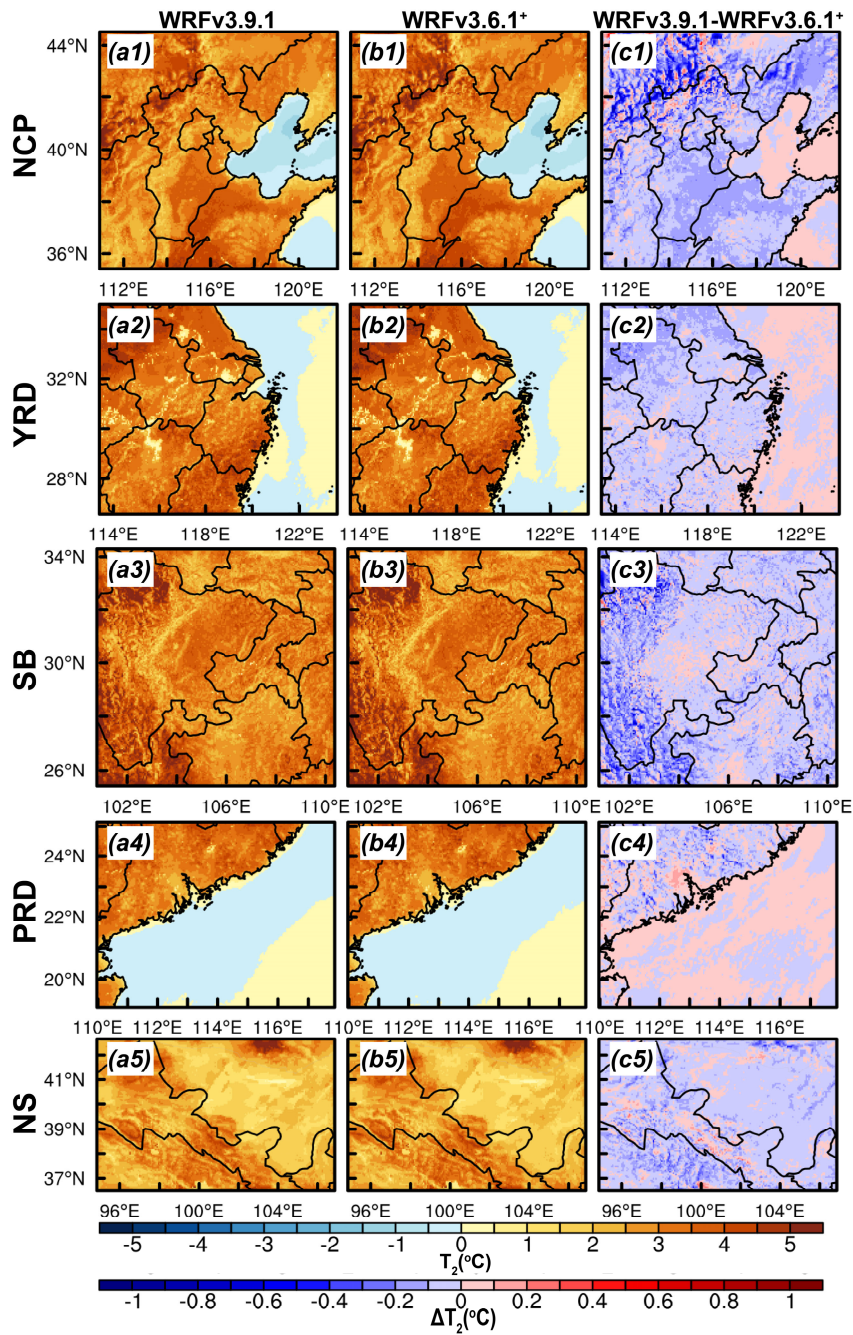




461

462 Figure 16. Time-height cross sections of heat turbulent diffusion coefficient (TDC) simulated by
 463 (a1-e1) WRFv3.6.1+, (a2-e2) WRFv3.9.1, (a3-e3) the difference between the TDC of the two versions.
 464 (a4-e4) Time series of diurnal variation of the difference between the PBLH of the two versions.
 465 The gray line in (a1-e3) indicates the PBLH.





467

468

Figure 17. Regional distribution of diurnal 2-m temperature range simulated by the (a) WRFv3.9.1,

469 (b) WRFv3.6.1⁺ and (c) the difference between the two versions for five regions in January. Similar
470 as Figure 15, but for the effects of model versions.

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471 The difference between the turbulent diffusion coefficient of heat calculated by the two versions lies
472 in the different principles of calculation using the Richardson number (Ri) method. In the
473 WRFv3.6.1⁺, not only Ri is used to judge the stability, but also z/L is used to additionally constrain
474 the stability and determine the empirical stability function. In contrast, only Ri is adopted to
475 determine the function in the WRFv3.9.1. Figure 16 shows the diurnal variation of turbulent
476 diffusion coefficient of heat with height, as well as the difference of PBLH. In general, the two
477 versions have no effect on the overall trend of TDC (Fig. 16 a1-e2). However, within the PBL, the
478 TDC of WRFv3.9.1 is smaller than that of WRFv3.6.1⁺, with the most significant difference during
479 the daytime. Meanwhile, in some regions at night, a TDC of WRFv3.9.1 is also greater than that of
480 WRFv3.6.1⁺ (Fig. 16 a3-e3). Besides, the differences among the five regions slightly vary. The
481 deviation in the NCP, SB, and NS regions is small, around $2 \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ (Fig. 16 a3, c3, e3), while the
482 deviation in the YRD and PRD regions is large, up to about $10 \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ (Fig. 16 b3, d3). The TDC
483 modification aims to reduce the temperature difference between day and night. Indeed, this
484 expectation is fulfilled. It can be noticed in Figure 17, the diurnal temperature difference for
485 WRFv3.9.1 is smaller than that of WRFv3.6.1⁺ in almost all regions (except for the area where the
486 underlying surface is water). In addition, we need to pay attention to the variation of the PBLH. As
487 shown in Figure 16, the difference in PBLH during daytime is smaller than at night, and the PBLH
488 of WRFv3.9.1 is lower than that of WRFv3.6.1⁺. The model WRFv3.9.1 fixes the minimum value
489 of the PBLH to the first level height, markedly reducing the PBLH at night. But this approach may
490 be too crude and parsimonious to cause problems, and should be corrected in the future.

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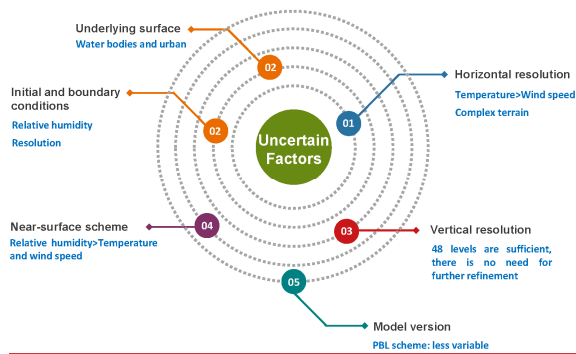
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491 4 Conclusion

492 The simulation results of the model within the PBL are subject to many factors, but its portrayal and
493 description by the PBL parameterization schemes plays a vital role in affecting the variation of the
494 meteorological field. The simulations of the PBL schemes on the meteorological fields has been
495 described in Part I. In Part II, further uncertainties affecting the results of the meteorological field
496 are evaluated and analyzed, and the degree of influence of different factors is compared, hoping to
497 provide a reference for scholars conducting research on the model.

498 In addition to the dominant role of the PBL scheme on the results of the meteorological field, many

499 elements in the model are influenced by large uncertainties. For example, what is the effect of
 500 horizontal resolution, and how much does the result vary under different resolution conditions? Is
 501 the continuous encryption of the vertical levels necessary for the simulation of the vertical structure
 502 of the PBL? Which has a greater impact on the results of the meteorological field, the near-surface
 503 (N-S) layer scheme or the PBL scheme? How much is the impact of these changes on the underlying
 504 surface, which is constantly updated by the development of urbanization? The innovation of
 505 computer technology has brought the opportunity to keep the model being updated. How much
 506 effect will the updates have on different versions of the model results? The simulation of the model
 507 depends on the initial and boundary conditions, so how much does the initial and boundary
 508 conditions of different resolutions and products affect the model results? These uncertainties have
 509 not been fully evaluated and analyzed yet. To resolve the confusions, this study synthesizes the
 510 effects of the above factors on the model results.



511
 512 **Figure 18. An overview figure of the prioritization of uncertainties, where the uncertainties are in**
 513 **black font and the elements focused on in that factor are in blue font.**

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514 a. *Effect of the horizontal resolution.* The three different resolutions have a more dramatic effect
 515 on temperature than on wind speed (Fig. 18). Regardless of the region, the distribution of
 516 temperature deviations simulated at 75 km resolution is clearly different from that of 15 km and
 517 3 km, especially in areas with more complex topography, such as NCP, SB and NS regions. All
 518 three resolutions overestimate the wind speed in all regions, except for the 75 km resolution,
 519 where there is an underestimation of the wind speed at the stations around the basin in the SB
 520 region (Fig. 18). The difference between the resolutions decreases with increasing temperature,
 521 but becomes more pronounced with increasing wind speed.

522 b. *Effect of the vertical resolution.* The number of vertical levels of the model is encrypted from

523 48 to 62 levels, with almost no effect on the vertical structure of the PBL. Meanwhile, the
524 increase in the number of vertical levels brings into an increase in memory of about 150 GB for
525 one month. Compared to the horizontal resolution, the vertical resolution does not need to be
526 set particularly fine, and 48 levels are perfectly sufficient to reproduce the evolution of the PBL
527 structure (Fig. 18).

528 *c. Influence of the N-S scheme.* The PBL scheme makes a greater impact on the simulated results
529 for temperature, wind speed and direction, while for relative humidity, the N-S scheme
530 contributes largely, especially in the NCP, SB and NS regions. For either scheme, the effect is
531 much greater at night than during the daytime. In general, the choice of the PBL scheme is more
532 critical for temperature and wind fields. But for relative humidity, the PBL and N-S schemes
533 are equally important (Fig. 18).

534 *d. Impact of the initial and boundary conditions.* The effect of data of different resolutions of the
535 same product on the results of temperature and relative humidity is small, but the influence of
536 data of different products of the same resolution is large. EC data simulates temperature better
537 than FNL data during the daytime, while at night, the difference between the two data is
538 relatively small (except for the NCP and NS regions). The EC data simulate the relative
539 humidity better than the FNL data regardless of the region, even in the vertical direction, which
540 will expose a key way to improve the relative humidity results of the model in the future (Fig.
541 18). Nonetheless, data of the same resolution but different products exhibit no obvious effect
542 on wind speed, while the influence of data from the same product with different resolutions is
543 larger, especially at night.

544 *e. Effect of the underlying surface.* In terms of regional distribution, the new underlying surface
545 make no significant difference with respect to the temperature. However, for the grids with
546 more pronounced changes in water bodies and urban, the change in underlying surface has an
547 approximate $\pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$ influence on temperature (Fig. 18). An increase (decrease) in the area of
548 water bodies leads to an increase (decrease) in temperature, and the growth of urbanization
549 brings about an increase in temperature. The variation of wind field is not as regular as
550 temperature. Except for the changes in the area of water bodies that affect the wind field
551 consistently, other types of underlying surface changes show a haphazard effect on the wind
552 field.

553 *f. Influence of the model version.* The update of the PBL scheme reduces the day and night 2-m

554 temperature bias. But the simple definition method of fixing the minimum value of the PBLH
555 as the first level height of the model may have some defects. The change in the stability function
556 of the Richardson number alters the turbulent diffusion coefficient of heat, which is more
557 distinct in the daytime with a deviation of about $10 \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$. The PBL parameterization scheme
558 in the current model is less modified (Fig. 18).

559 In summary, the horizontal resolution is more influential than the vertical resolution. The N-S
560 scheme has less effect than the PBL scheme on the results of temperature and wind speed. Also,
561 the initial and boundary conditions of different products have the most significant influence on
562 relative humidity. Grid changes where the underlying surface is urban and water bodies have a
563 more pronounced effect on the results of meteorological fields, especially for temperature. The
564 PBL parameterization schemes in the version WRFv3.9.1 and WRFv3.6.1 are less changed and
565 have less impact on the simulation of model results. The constant updating of the model version
566 does not necessarily optimize the simulation results continuously (Fig. 18). A special advice
567 here is that the needs of different scholars for the model vary a lot, thus, the configuration of
568 uncertainties requires a comprehensive consideration to obtain the optimal results for the
569 analysis.

570 **Code and data availability**

571 The source codes of WRF version 3.9.1 and 3.6.1 can be found on the following website:
572 <https://www2.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/users/download/>. The original model settings file is already
573 included in Supplement in Part I, while the other model settings file used in Part II is named after
574 the file name “L62_namelist.input” and is already included in Supplement. In addition, the
575 observations used are also provided in Supplement in Part I. The initial field and boundary condition
576 data and the underlying surface data are provided in the text.

577 **Author contributions**

578 Development of the ideas and concepts behind this work was performed by all the authors. Model
579 execution, data analysis and paper preparation were performed by WJ. XZ and HW provide
580 computing resources, and offer advice and feedback. YW, DW, and JZ support the data. WZ, LZ,
581 LG, YL, JW, YY, and YL provides suggestions. All authors contributed to the manuscript.

582 **Competing interests**

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

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