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Abstract. We use observations of forest fraction to constrain carbon cycle and land surface input parameters of the reduced resolution global climate model, FAMOUS. Using a history matching approach along with a computationally cheap statistical proxy (emulator) of the climate model, we compare an ensemble of simulations of forest fraction with observations, and rule out parameter settings where the forests are poorly simulated.

Regions of parameter space where FAMOUS best simulates the Amazon forest fraction are incompatible with the regions where FAMOUS best simulates other forests. Previous studies using climate models have used similar methods to find previously untried candidate input parameter sets that remove what was assumed an underlying structural error. We offer a counter example, arguing that we have found a true structural discrepancy. This has implications for the calibration of FAMOUS: using observations of different forest regions to calibrate the model leads to very different conclusions about the best values, the corresponding uncertainty of input parameters, and potentially, predictions of future forest cover. Dealing with this structural discrepancy is vital when choosing a set of "best" parameters for the land surface - failure to do so could lead to poor parameter selection.

We characterise the structural model discrepancy, and explore the consequences of ignoring it in a history matching exercise. We perform a sensitivity analysis to find the parameters most responsible for simulator error and therefore most promising for tuning. We use the emulator to simulate the forest fraction at the best set of parameters implied by matching the model to the Amazon, and to other major forests in turn. We can find parameters that lead to a realistic forest fraction in the Amazon, but using the Amazon alone to tune the simulator would result in a significant overestimate of forest fraction in the other forests. Conversely, using the other forests to calibrate the model leads to a larger underestimate of the Amazon forest fraction.

Finally, we perform a history matching exercise using credible estimates for simulator discrepancy and observational uncertainty terms. We find that we are unable to constrain the parameters individually, but that just under half of joint parameter space is ruled out as being incompatible with forest observations. We discuss the possible sources of the discrepancy in the simulated Amazon, including missing processes in the land surface component, and a bias in the climatology of the Amazon.

1 Introduction

(Craig et al., 1997) (Booth et al., 2012) (Booth et al., 2013) (Huntingford et al., 2009) (Sellers et al., 1996) (Abramowitz, 2012) (Luo et al., 2012) (Williamson et al., 2014) (Kennedy and O'Hagan, 2001) (Brynjarsdóttir and O'Hagan, 2014) (Higdon et al., 2008) (Jones et al., 2005) (Smith et al., 2008) (Gordon et al., 2000) (Pope et al., 2000) (Cox, 2001) (Smith, 2012) (Williams et al., 2013) (Williams et al., 2014) (Gnanadesikan and Stouffer, 2006) (McKay et al., 1979) (Urban and Fricker, 2010) (Gregoire et al., 2010) (Loveland et al., 2000) (Roustant et al., 2012) (R Core Team, 2016) (Vernon et al., 2010) (Lee et al., 2016) (Williamson et al., 2013) (Ritz et al., 2015) (McNeall et al., 2013) (Pukelsheim, 1994) (Carslaw et al., 2013) (Saltelli et al., 1999) (Pujol et al., 2015) (Cox et al., 2004) (Good et al., 2008) (Joetzjer et al., 2013) (Staver et al., 2011) (Malhi et al., 2009) (Yin et al., 2012)

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3 Conclusions

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Appendix A

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20 Author contributions. TEXT

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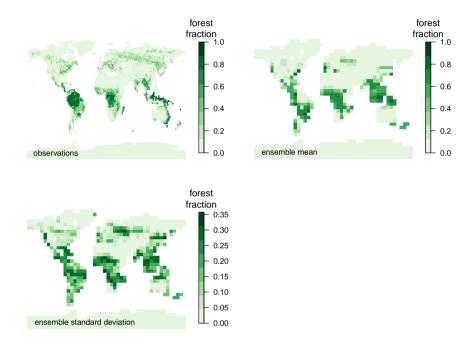


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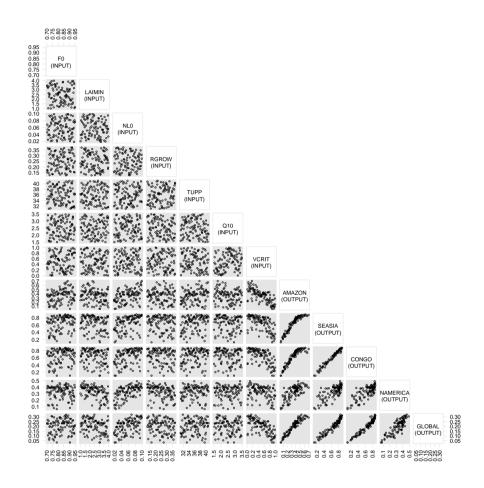


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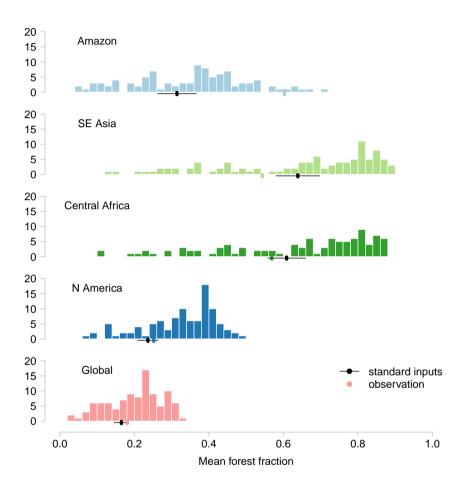


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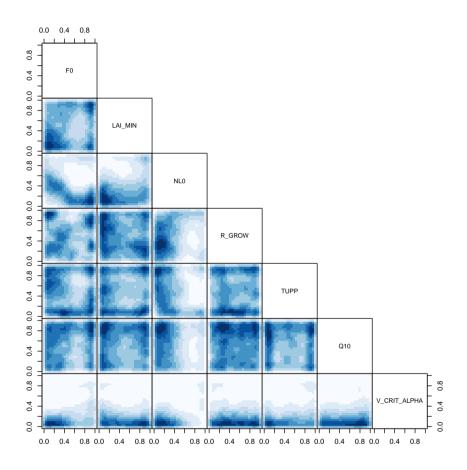


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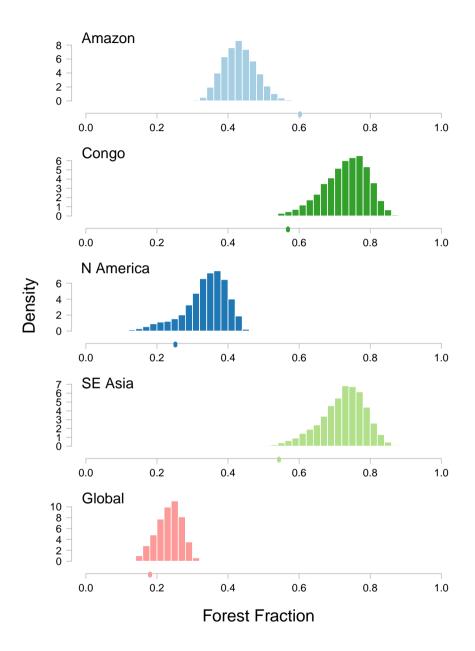


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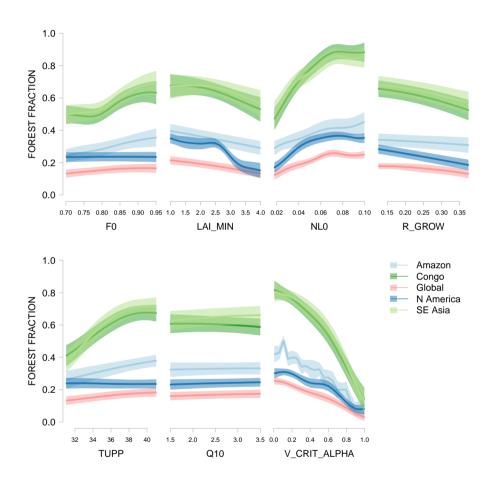


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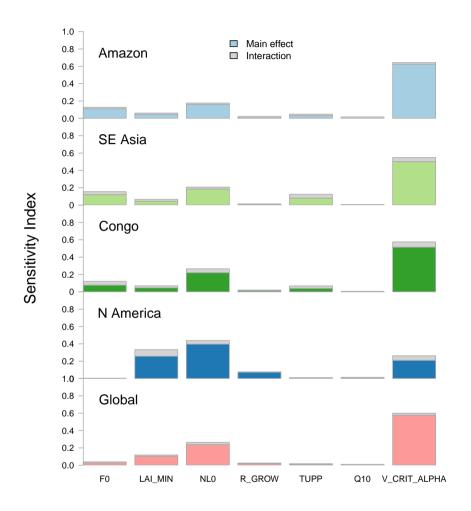


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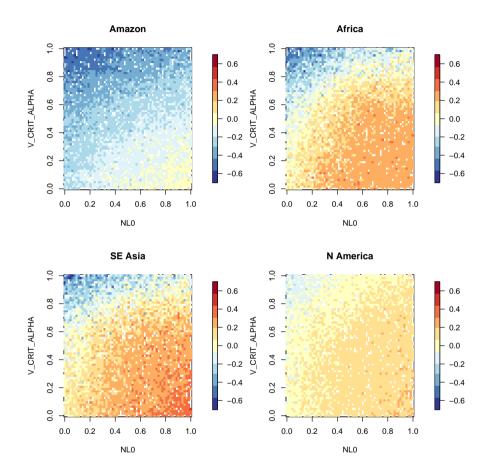


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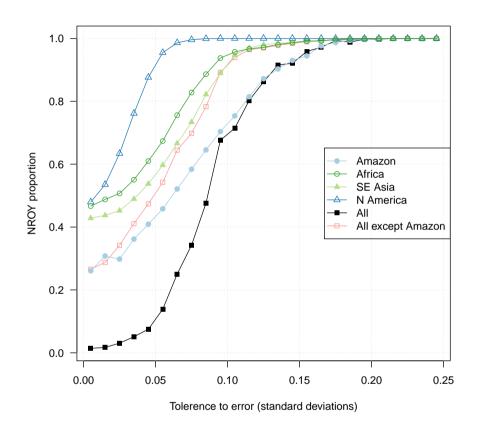


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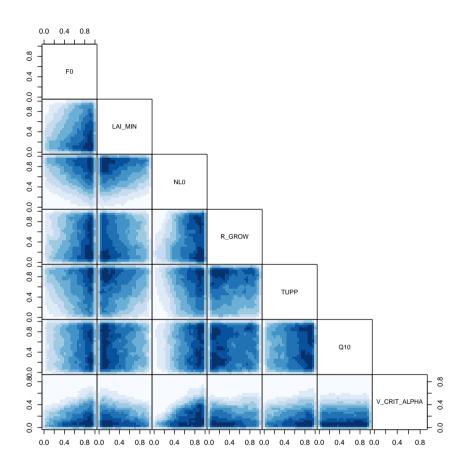


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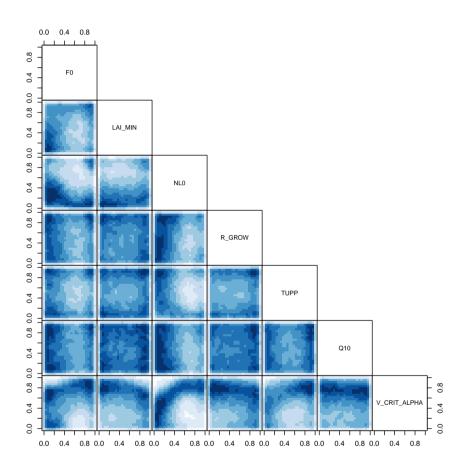


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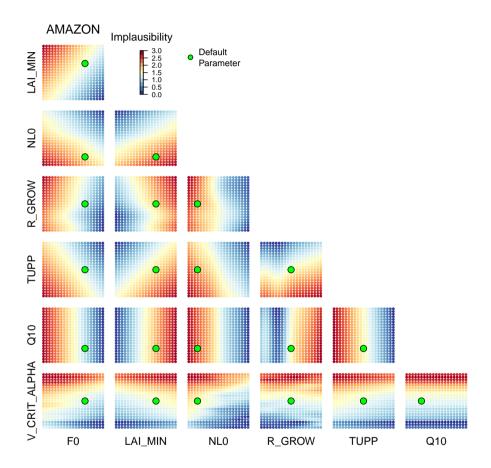


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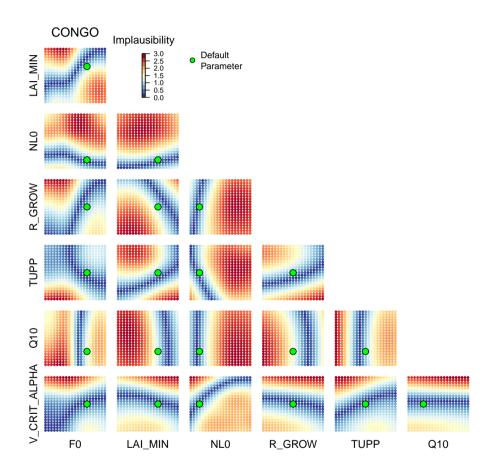
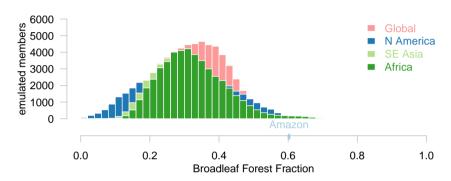


Figure 13. TEXT

Amazon at various best forest parameters



Other forests at best Amazon parameters

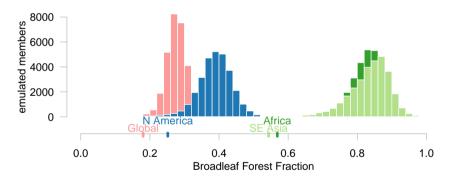


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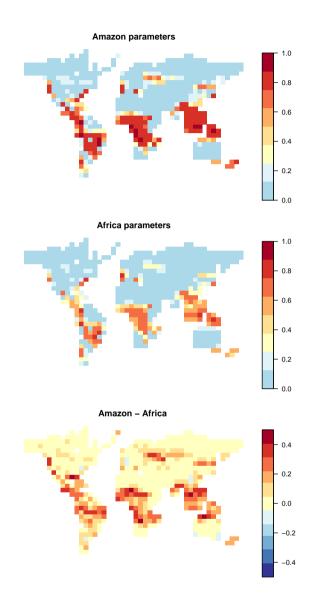


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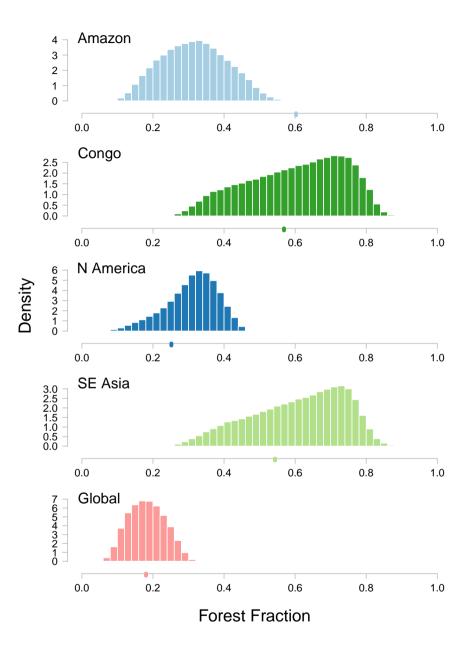


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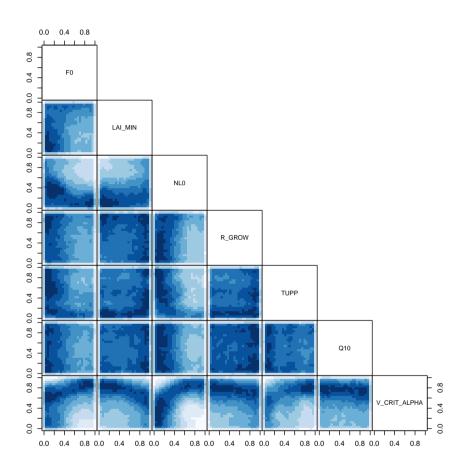


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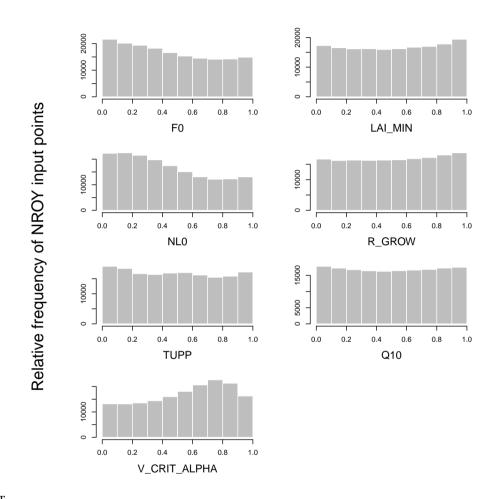


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