Responses to the comments of anonymous Referee #1

This paper describes a significant and impressive undertaking in an important region. The authors succeed in describing the relevant points and steps of the dataset production process. The dataset itself will be very interesting to environmental modellers and is presented in a readily usable format. Apart from minor adaptations listed below I recommend publishing the article in ESSD.

Reply: Thank you very much for your valuable suggestions! We have carefully addressed all your comments throughout the revised manuscript.

General comments:

1) It would be interesting to include a figure, which displays the number of stations (y axis) for each year (x-axis) with available observational data. The bars could exhibit the number of stations with data separated in global, diffuse and PAR in a form as given in Fig1 (attachment)

Reply: We really appreciate the suggestion! We have added a figure that displays the numbers of stations with valid observations of sunshine duration, global radiation, diffuse radiation and PAR per year from 1981 to 2010 (Fig. R1). We have added this figure to the revised manuscript as Fig. 3, and described the figure in *Section* 2.1.2 (P3, L24).
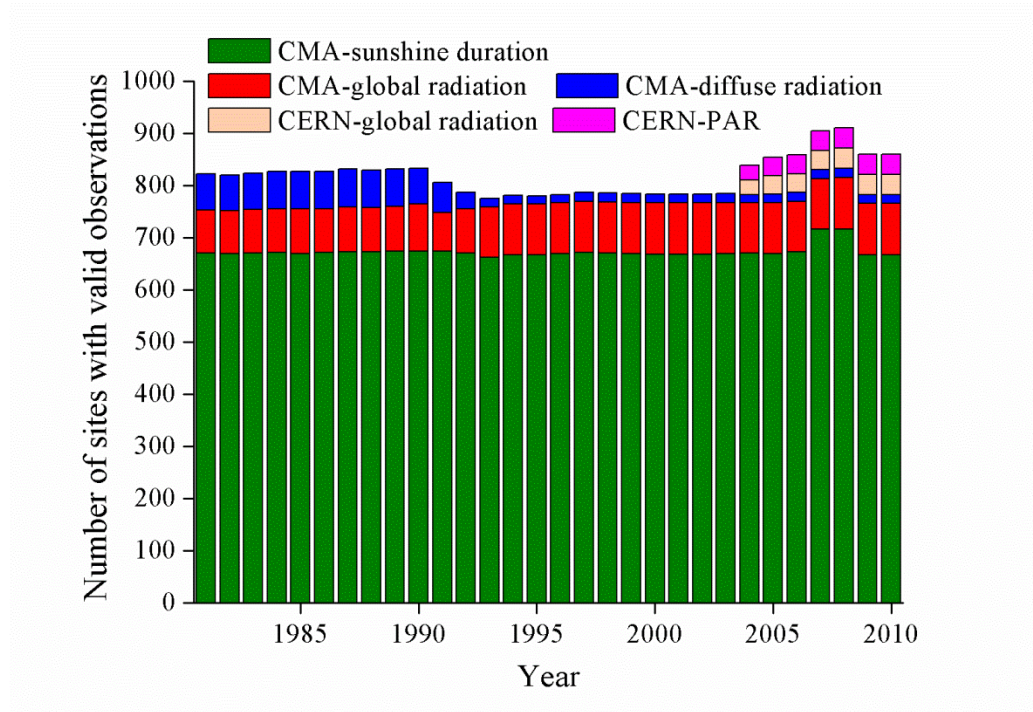
Figure R1. The numbers of sites with valid observational data of sunshine duration, global radiation, diffuse radiation, and photosynthetically active radiation (PAR) per year from 1981 to 2010. CMA and CERN represent China Meteorology Administration and Chinese Ecosystem Research Network, respectively.

2) Would it be possible to include the original observational data in the Zenodo record or give a link to where this data can be obtained from? This would be very helpful for people trying to reproduce the data generation process or for those that would like to use the observational data itself. As this might be a data-owner/copyright issue I do understand if this is not possible.

Reply: The original observational data were obtained from China Meteorology Administration (CMA) and Chinese Ecosystem Research Network (CERN). We have provided the links (http://data.cma.cn/en and http://www.cern.ac.cn) to where the users can obtain the original observational data. Due to the data-owner and copyright issue, the original observational data are not shared in this manuscript. If the users need the

original data, they can access the aforementioned links to derive. Sorry for the inconvenience.

3) I am missing a discussion on the influence of smog/aerosols in urban areas on radiation values. Could that influence the results of the data expansion in some areas?

Reply: Good point! The influences of aerosols on radiation were incorporated in the observational data of sunshine duration, global radiation, diffuse radiation and PAR. Therefore, the estimation models parameterized using the observational data implicitly included the influences of aerosols on radiation expansion. The relative importance of aerosols may differ among regions, and the net effect of aerosols on radiation depends on a balance between the reduction in global radiation and the enhancement in the diffuse fraction. Therefore, to consider the regional differences, we parameterized the estimation models for eight different geographical regions separately. In addition, the influences of aerosols on radiation can be clearly seen through the anomalous high values of diffuse radiation in 1982, 1983, 1991 and 1992 (Table 1 in the manuscript), which may be caused by the El Chinchon eruption in April of 1982 and the Pinatubo eruption in June of 1991.

Actually, we have discussed the influence of aerosols on radiation in detail in Ren et al. (2013). Specifically, aerosols can influence the total and partitioning of solar radiation into direct and diffuse components. Atmospheric aerosols can be categorized into sulfates, carbonaceous particles, sea salt and mineral dust; and the sources involve volcanic eruptions, human activities and so on. Pure sulfate aerosols primarily scatter solar radiation, and produce much more diffuse radiation without reducing the total radiation substantially, while carbonaceous aerosols absorb and scatter solar radiation. In addition to the direct radiative forcing, aerosols also have indirect effects on radiation through their modification of cloud properties. Increases in cloud cover and scattering aerosols enhance the diffuse fraction of the radiation, whereas increasing concentrations of absorbing aerosols just reduce the total solar radiation. These effects can be reflected by clearness index, i.e. the ratio of global radiation to extra-terrestrial radiation, and diffuse fraction, i.e. the ratio of diffuse radiation to global radiation.

We have revised the manuscript to make this point clear (P4, L7-12).

Ren, X. L., He, H. L., Zhang, L., Zhou, L., Yu, G. R., and Fan, J. W.: Spatiotemporal variability analysis of diffuse radiation in China during 1981–2010, Ann. Geophys., 31, 277-289, https:/doi.org/10.5194/angeo-31-277-2013, 2013.

Specific comments:

P1 L15: delete the word "the" in the sentence ": : :freely available from the Zenodo: : :"
Reply: We have deleted the word "the" following your suggestion.

P1 L16: remove the blank after "DOI:"
Reply: We have revised that accordingly.

P1 L 18: there is a blank missing in front of the reference bracket. This is also the case in P1 L27, P2 L15, P2 L27 and so on)
Reply: Thank you for the reminding! We have carefully checked the whole manuscript and revised the similar errors throughout the manuscript.

P1 L20, L21, L25: I am not a fan of the "/" used e.g. in "global radiation/PAR". Please replace the "/" with "and", "or", "vs." or whatever else is meant.
Reply: Sorry for the confusion. We have revised all the "/" throughout the manuscript following your suggestion.

P2 L1: Maybe write "However, in China, global radiation, PAR, diffuse radiation, and diffuse PAR are not generally measured in contrast to other meteorological variables such as sunshine duration"
Reply: Thank you for the suggestion, and we have revised that accordingly.

P2 L2: Maybe write: ": : : and diffuse PAR is required for a better understanding of the ecosystem carbon dynamics in China as well as: : :."
Reply: Thank you for the suggestion, and we have revised that accordingly.

P2 L11: Change the sentence beginning with "Then" to "They then generated the radiation dataset in China from 1981 to 2010 and analysed the spatio-temporal variations." I do hope I understood right that the dataset was created by Ren et al.?
Reply: Yes, you understood right. We have revised the sentence following your suggestion.

P2 L16: When you write at the end "In this paper" which one do you mean, the one I am reading or the one of Ren et al. 2017c? If it was the current (ESSD) one I would begin a new line to clarify that.
Reply: Sorry for the confusion. The "In this paper" means this current ESSDD manuscript. We have begun a new paragraph from there to make this clear (P2, L19).

P3 L18: where does the 40% come from, do you have a reference on that?
Reply: Yes, we have a reference on that. Tsubo and Walker (2005) reported that the extra-terrestrial PAR is 40% of the extra-terrestrial global radiation. In the meantime, PAR is no larger than extra-terrestrial PAR, so PAR is no larger than 40% of extra-terrestrial global radiation. We have added the reference to the revised manuscript (P3, L21).

Tsubo, M. and Walker, S.: Relationships between photosynthetically active radiation and clearness index at Bloemfontein, South Africa, Theor Appl Climatol, 80, 17-25, https:/doi.org/10.1007/s00704-004-0080-5, 2005.

P3 L22: in the formula, what requirement has to be fulfilled if Q/Q' is between 0.2 and 0.6?
Reply: The formula was used to eliminate the questionable data points following Reindl et al. (1990) and Ren et al. (2013). Specifically, under cloudy conditions with low values of clearness index, it is reasonable to expect a large portion of incoming radiation being scattered by the clouds, thereby a large value of diffuse fraction. Similarly, under clear conditions with high values of clearness index, there should be a small value of diffuse radiation. Eq. 1 is used to place limits on the values of diffuse fraction under the aforementioned cloudy and clear sky conditions, so it does not include the requirements for intermediate sky conditions, i.e., when Q/Q' is between 0.2 and 0.6.

P4 L7, L16/17: here again the blank in front of the reference bracket is missing
Reply: Thank you for the reminding! We have carefully checked the whole manuscript and revised the similar errors throughout the manuscript.

P4 L18: replace "performance with other models" by "performance compare to other models"
Reply: Thank you for the suggestion. We have replaced "performance with other models" by "performance compared to other models".

P5 L13, L18: blank in front of the reference brackets missing

Reply: Thank you for the reminding! We have carefully checked the whole manuscript and revised the similar errors throughout the manuscript.

P5 L17: The title sounds a little odd, maybe just "Dataset generation"?

Reply: Thank you for the suggestion, and we have revised the title following your suggestion.

P6 L3: You begin points 2) to 4) with a verb, you should do it the same way for point 1)

Reply: Thank you for the reminding. We have revised point 1) to start with a verb, i.e., "1) *Scale daily radiation data to monthly and format the data following the instructions of ANUSPLIN using MATLAB software; resample the DEM data to 10km×10km using ArcGIS software*" (P6, L10).

P6 L14: again, I am not a fan of the "/" – rather use "and", "or" or whatever is meant here

Reply: Sorry for the confusion. We have revised all the "/" throughout the manuscript following your suggestion.

P6 L20: replace the "We can see" with "It can be seen" or something similar

Reply: Thank you for the suggestion. We have replaced the "We can see" with "It can be seen" in the revised manuscript.

P6 L26: I like Table 1, but do you think giving a mean of the total of China as done in line 26 is of any meaning? I would leave it at having means of the regions as given in Table 1.

Reply: Thank you for the suggestion! We have calculated the values of global radiation, diffuse radiation, PAR, and diffuse PAR averaged from 1981 to 2010 for each region. From Table R1 and Fig. R2, it can be seen that the global radiation is the highest in Qinghai-Tibet Plateau and the lowest in Central China, while the diffuse radiation has the highest value in Southwest China and the lowest value in Northeast China. We have added this point (P#, L#) and Table R1 as Table 2 in the revised manuscript.

Table R1. Global radiation, diffuse radiation, PAR, and diffuse PAR averaged from 1981 to 2010 for each region in China. Units are in MJ m^{-2} yr^{-1}.

Region ID	Region	Global radiation	Diffuse radiation	PAR	Diffuse PAR
I	Northwest China	5801.8	2473.4	2435.9	1142.0
II	Inner Mongolia	5503.5	2287.7	2245.2	1030.7
III	Northeast China	4716.1	2160.3	1851.8	929.8
IV	North China	4858.7	2542.7	1948.9	1106.7
V	Central China	3983.9	2479.1	1666.4	1104.6
VI	South China	4819.8	2557.3	1914.5	1081.4
VII	Southwest China	5390.5	2707.5	2117.8	1148.3
VIII	Qinghai-Tibet Plateau	6072.3	2601.3	2514.7	1177.5

Fig. R2. Global radiation, diffuse radiation, PAR, and diffuse PAR averaged from 1981 to 2010 for each region in China (I: Northwest China; II: Inner Mongolia; III: Northeast China; IV: North China; V: Central China; VI: South China; VII: Southwest China; VIII: Qinghai-Tibet Plateau).

P6 L27: replace "which was consistent" with "which is consistent"
Reply: We have revised that following your suggestion.

P6 L29 and P7 L6, L23: blank in front of the reference brackets missing
Reply: We have revised all similar errors in the revised manuscript.

P7 L13: maybe better to say ": : :. was derived"
Reply: We have revised that following your suggestion.

P7 L14: replace "leaved" with "left"
Reply: We have revised that following your suggestion.

P7 L14: better "with the remaining data" (instead of rest data)
Reply: We have revised that following your suggestion.

P7 L15: maybe better ".. and then the average performance of site expansion was derived"
Reply: We have revised that following your suggestion.

P7 L16: "Table 2 shows" (instead of showed)
Reply: We have revised that following your suggestion.

P8 L4ff: I would rather write: "The dataset is freely available from the Zenodo website at : : : (DOI:10.11: : :.)."
Reply: We have revised that following your suggestion.

P8 L8: Instead of "There are two formats: : :" I would write "Two formats are offered, i.e. ArcGIS : : :."
Reply: We have revised that following your suggestion.

P9ff - Reference list: I am missing the article dois in the References chapter

Reply: Following your suggestion, we have added the article dois in the *References* section.

P17 Table1: It would maybe be nice to have a figure on that, too.

Reply: Thank you for the suggestion. To avoid information abundance, we chose table over figure on this. We believe the specific values in Table 1 can be more helpful to those who need these annual data.

Global radiation, photosynthetically active radiation, and the diffuse components dataset of China, 1981–2010

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Abstract. Solar radiation, especially photosynthetically active radiation (PAR), is the main energy source of plant photosynthesis; and the diffuse component can enhance canopy light use efficiency, thus increasing ecosystem productivity. In order to predict the terrestrial ecosystem productivity precisely, we not only need global radiation and PAR as driving variables, but also need to treat diffuse radiation and diffuse PAR explicitly in ecosystem models. Therefore, we generated a series of radiation datasets, including global radiation, diffuse radiation, PAR, and diffuse PAR of China from 1981 to 2010, based on the observations of China Meteorology Administration (CMA) and Chinese Ecosystem Research Network (CERN). The dataset should be useful for the analysis of the spatio-temporal variations of solar radiation in China and the impact of diffuse radiation on terrestrial ecosystem productivity based on ecosystem models. The dataset is freely available from Zenodo at the website of https://zenodo.org/record/1198894 (DOI:10.11922/sciencedb.555).

1 Introduction

Solar radiation is the primary energy source for life on Earth (Wild, 2009), and the portion of global radiation with 400~700 nm wavelengths, i.e. photosynthetically active radiation (PAR), is critical for vegetation photosynthesis. Therefore, global radiation or PAR is a prerequisite for the modelling of terrestrial ecosystem productivity (Jacovides et al., 2007). Besides the quantity, the composition of global radiation and PAR, i.e. the proportion of diffuse and direct components, is also important (Farquhar and Roderick, 2003; Lauret et al., 2010), since the diffuse radiation can reduce photosynthetic saturation and increase the canopy light use efficiency (LUE), thereby enhancing the ecosystem carbon uptake (Kanniah et al., 2012; Mercado et al., 2009). The explicit treatment of diffuse radiation in ecological models is needed to accurately simulate the carbon dynamics of terrestrial ecosystems, making the diffuse radiation or diffuse PAR an important environmental driving factor (Gu et al., 2003; Kanniah et al., 2012; Mercado et al., 2009). The effects of diffuse radiation on ecosystem productivity have become a hot issue in carbon cycle research (Alton et al., 2007; Gu et al., 2002; Gu et al., 2003; Mercado

et al., 2009; Zhang et al., 2011; Zhang et al., 2017). However, in China, global radiation, PAR, diffuse radiation, and diffuse PAR are not generally measured in contrast to other meteorological variables such as sunshine duration (Ren et al., 2014; Ren et al., 2013). So a long-term high-quality reanalysis dataset of global radiation, PAR, diffuse radiation, and diffuse PAR is required for a better understanding of the ecosystem carbon dynamics in China as well as their spatial and temporal variability.

Globally, a widespread decrease in solar radiation between the 1950s and 1980s has been detected, known as global dimming, with a partial recovery thereafter at many locations, known as global brightening (Wild, 2009; Wild et al., 2005). As a big country in the world, did China experience the same variation? Employing the observation data from national meteorological stations of China Meteorology Administration (CMA) and the field sites of Chinese Ecosystem Research Network (CERN), Ren et al. (Ren et al., 2014; Ren et al., 2013) parameterized the estimation models of global radiation, diffuse radiation, PAR, and diffuse PAR, and performed cross validation, which indicated high estimation accuracy. They then generated the radiation dataset in China from 1981 to 2010 and analysed and the spatio-temporal variations. This dataset has been employed to estimate the above-ground biomass and net ecosystem productivity of alpine grasslands on Three-River Headwaters Region (Ren et al., 2017a; Zeng et al., 2017) and the gross primary productivity of the alpine grasslands on Tibetan Plateau (He et al., 2014; Ren et al., 2017b). We have published the monthly diffuse PAR spatial dataset in *China Scientific Data*, and briefly introduced the estimation method of diffuse PAR (Ren et al., 2017c).

In this paper, we systematically described the estimation and interpolation methods of global radiation, diffuse radiation, PAR, and diffuse PAR, and provided the estimated values of model parameters as well as the accuracy of estimation and interpolation. The spatial dataset of monthly and yearly global radiation, diffuse radiation, PAR, and diffuse PAR in China from 1981 to 2010 (called radiation dataset for short hereafter) are shared in this paper, providing an integral radiation dataset for ecological modelling and the analysis of the effects of diffuse radiation on terrestrial ecosystem productivity.

2 Data and Method

The schematic workflow of the radiation dataset production is shown in Fig. 1. Since the observation sites of sunshine duration are widely distributed in China (756 sites), we first expanded the observation data of global radiation, diffuse radiation, and PAR from 122 sites, 81 sites and 39 sites to 756 sites based on sunshine duration data through estimation models, respectively. Then diffuse PAR, which has few observation sites in China, was estimated through the empirical relationship with global radiation, diffuse radiation and PAR. Finally, ANUSPLIN software (Hutchinson, 2001) was

employed to acquire the spatial global radiation, diffuse radiation, PAR, and diffuse PAR data. The details are described in the following sections.

2.1 Observation data and quality control

2.1.1 Basic data

5   The basic data used here include daily sunshine duration, global radiation, diffuse radiation, and PAR observation data (Fig. 2), as well as Digital Elevation Model (DEM) data. The observed daily sunshine duration data (756 meteorological stations), global radiation data (122 meteorological stations), and diffuse radiation data (81 meteorological stations) during 1981 to 2010 were provided by CMA (http://data.cma.cn/en). We also used the daily global radiation and PAR data observed in 39 CERN field sites during 2004 to 2010 (http://www.cern.ac.cn). The DEM data (500m×500m) was from the Institute of 10   Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences (http://www.resdc.cn). It should be noted that due to the station adjustment of CMA in 1993, the number of stations observing diffuse radiation dropped from more than 70 to 17 after 1993. In sum, there are 81 stations that have more than 1-year record of diffuse radiation during the period of 1981 to 2010 (Ren et al., 2013).

2.1.2 Quality control of observation data

15   Quality control is an important part of reanalysis dataset production. Observations with poor quality may offset the parameter values of estimation models, thus affecting the quality of generated dataset. The CMA and CERN have performed basic quality control on the observational data (Shi et al., 2008). We made further quality checks according to the following criteria: 1) daily sunshine duration cannot be bigger than the daily possible sunshine duration, which is calculated according to the geographical latitude and day of year; 2) daily extra-terrestrial radiation must be bigger than daily global radiation, 20   where extra-terrestrial radiation is determined by solar constant and geographical latitude. 3) daily PAR cannot exceed daily global radiation, and the ratio between daily PAR and daily extra-terrestrial radiation cannot be larger than 40% (Tsubo and Walker, 2005); 4) daily diffuse radiation cannot exceed daily global radiation, and need to satisfy the requirements for overcast and clear skies described by Eq.1 (Reindl et al., 1990; Ren et al., 2013). The numbers of sites with valid observational data for each variable per year from 1981 to 2010 are shown in Fig. 3.

$$\begin{cases} Q_d/Q \geq 0.9 \text{ , for } Q/Q' < 0.2 \\ Q_d/Q \leq 0.8 \text{ , for } Q/Q' > 0.6 \end{cases} \qquad (1)$$

where Q_d, Q, and Q' represents daily diffuse radiation, daily global radiation, and daily extra-terrestrial radiation, respectively.

2.2 The expansion and estimation of radiation data at site scale

The coverage of radiation stations in CMA is limited, thus we used estimation models to expand daily global radiation, diffuse radiation, and PAR at site scale based on the widely distributed daily sunshine duration observations. Diffuse PAR is not generally measured, thus estimated using the empirical relationships with global radiation, diffuse radiation, and PAR. Due to the highly heterogeneous topography and climate of China, we estimated the model parameters for eight different geographical regions according to Chinese Physical Geography Division (Zhao, 1997), including Northwest China, Inner Mongolia, Northeast China, North China, Central China, South China, Southwest China, and Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. Meanwhile, the aerosols can influence the total and partitioning of solar radiation into direct and diffuse components (Kanniah et al., 2012), and the relative importance of aerosols may differ among regions due to the different levels of human activities (Wild, 2009), which further justifies the separate data expansion for different regions.

(1) The expansion of global radiation

Previous studies indicated that global radiation in China was estimated more accurately using sunshine duration than other predictors such as temperature, through the comparison of multiple global radiation models (Chen et al., 2004). So we used the Angstrom model (Eq. 2) to expand daily global radiation (Angstrom, 1924; Chen et al., 2004; Ren et al., 2017a). The model was parameterized using daily global radiation and sunshine duration data in 122 CMA stations. Then the daily global radiation of 756 CMA stations was derived using the informed model and sunshine duration data in 756 CMA stations.

$$k_t = \frac{Q}{Q'} = a + b\frac{n}{N}$$

(2)

where k_t represents clearness index, defined as the ratio of the daily global radiation (Q) to the daily extra-terrestrial radiation (Q'); n and N are the actual and possible daily sunshine duration; a and b are undetermined parameters.

(2) The expansion of diffuse radiation

There are many radiation decomposition models relating daily diffuse radiation with daily diffuse fraction, including Liu & Jordan model (Liu and Jordan, 1960), Page model (Page, 1961), Reindl model (Reindl et al., 1990), Boland model (Boland et

al., 2001) and so on. Using data from several sites in Europe, Africa, Australia, and Asia, Lauret et al. (Lauret et al., 2010) indicated that Boland model (Eq. 3) had better or similar performance compared to other models but with a much simpler model structure. We also compared several models and found that the Boland model is the best one in our case (Ren et al., 2013). So we parameterized Boland model using daily global radiation and diffuse radiation data, and then expanded the daily diffuse radiation data from 81 CMA stations to 756 CMA stations.

$$k_d = \frac{Q_d}{Q} = \frac{1}{\exp(c + d \cdot k_t)}$$

(3)

where k_d represents the daily diffuse fraction, defined as the ratio of daily diffuse radiation (Q_d) to global radiation (Q); c and d are undetermined parameters.

(3) The expansion of PAR

The PAR model (Eq. 4), which has been proved applicable in China (Ren et al., 2014; Zhu et al., 2010), was used to expand the daily PAR data from 39 CERN filed sites to 756 CMA stations. Firstly, we used the daily PAR and global radiation data measured in 39 CERN field sites to estimate the model parameters, and then utilized the informed model and expanded daily global radiation data to expand daily PAR data.

$$PAR = [e + f \cdot \ln(k_t)] \cdot Q$$

(4)

where e and f are undetermined parameters.

(4) The estimation of diffuse PAR

Diffuse PAR is usually roughly estimated by multiplying PAR and the diffuse fraction of global radiation. However, the diffuse fraction of global radiation is not equivalent to the diffuse fraction of PAR, since the latter is significantly greater than the former under clear skies, while almost equivalent under cloudy skies (Ren et al., 2014; Spitters et al., 1986). So the Spitters model (Spitters et al., 1986) (Eq. 5) was applied to estimate the daily diffuse PAR of 756 CMA stations.

$$PAR_d = [1 + 0.3 \cdot (1 - k_d)^2] \cdot k_d \cdot PAR$$

(5)

where PAR_d represents diffuse PAR.

2.3 Dataset generation

ANUSPLIN software (Hutchinson, 2001) was utilized to generate the reanalysis radiation dataset with 10km×10km spatial resolution in China from 1981 to 2010. ANUSPLIN is a widely used spatial interpolation package, developed by the Center

5   for Resource and Environmental Studies at the Australian National University (Hijmans et al., 2005; Hutchinson, 1995). This software implemented thin plate smoothing splines, which can incorporate the covariates in addition to the independent spline variables.   We used three-dimensional spline to interpolate radiation data, with latitude and longitude as the independent variables and the elevation as the covariate. The specific steps of this process are shown in Fig. 4. The main procedures are as follows.

10   1) Scale daily radiation data to monthly and format the data following the instructions of ANUSPLIN using MATLAB software; resample the DEM data to 10km×10km using ArcGIS software.

2) Determine the specific parameter values in the command files of Splina.exe and Lapgrd.exe, which are sub-modules of ANUSPLIN.

3) Construct the spline using Splina.exe and interpolate the radiation data using Lapgrd.exe.

15   4) Convert the output ASCII files to ArcGIS GRID files.

3 Description and analysis of the radiation dataset

The radiation dataset has four subsets, including global radiation, diffuse radiation, PAR, and diffuse PAR in China with 10km×10km from 1981 to 2010. Each subset has 12×30×2 monthly files and 30×2 yearly files, except diffuse PAR, which only has 30×2 yearly files. We provide two formats for each data file, i.e. ArcGIS GRID and ASCII Text, as well as the

20   Python code for the conversion from Text to GRID. To be comparable with each other, the units of radiation data are all set to MJ m^{-2} month^{-1} (monthly)/ MJ m^{-2} yr^{-1} (yearly).

It should be noted that the measuring systems of PAR include radiation flux density (W m^{-2}) and photosynthetic photon flux density (μmol m^{-2} s^{-1}), which are convertible through a conversion coefficient of 4.57 μmol J^{-1}. The users can convert the unit

25   of PAR and diffuse PAR from MJ m^{-2} to mol m^{-2} if needed.

The spatial patterns of global radiation, diffuse radiation, PAR, and diffuse PAR are shown in Fig. 5. It can be seen that the distribution of radiation in China is inhomogeneous. The global radiation and PAR are higher in the northwest and lower in

the southeast, while the diffuse radiation and diffuse PAR are higher in the south and west and lower in the north. Because the south has more cloudy days and more precipitation than other regions, so the diffuse radiation is high there although the global radiation is rather low.

The annual values of global radiation, diffuse radiation, PAR, and diffuse PAR in China from 1981 to 2010 are listed in
5 Table 1. The average value of global radiation, diffuse radiation, PAR, and diffuse PAR is 5270.0, 2477.0, 2164.5, 1106.9 MJ m^{-2} yr^{-1}, respectively. The global radiation in China was declining during 1980s, and then started to recover, which is consistent with the global findings (Wild, 2009). There were dramatic increases of diffuse radiation in 1982, 1983, 1991, and 1992, which may be caused by the El Chinchon eruption in 1982 and the Pinatubo eruption in 1991 (Ren et al., 2013). The global radiation is the highest in Qinghai-Tibet Plateau and the lowest in Central China, while the diffuse radiation has the
10 highest value in Southwest China and the lowest value in Northeast China (Table 2). More detailed discussion about the spatio-temporal variations of radiation in China during 1981-2010 has been reported in previous papers (Ren et al., 2014; Ren et al., 2013).

4 Validation of the radiation dataset

4.1 Validation of data expansion at site scale

15 To validate the precision of data expansion at site scale, we utilized leave-one-out cross validation method to calibrate and check the location and time independence of the Angstrom model, Boland model and PAR model. Taking time expansion of global radiation for example, we used the sunshine duration and global radiation data of 29 years out of 30 years to calibrate the Angstrom model and used the data of the last one year to perform validation. This process was repeated 30 times, and then the average model performance, measured by correlation coefficient (R) and root mean square error (RMSE), was
20 derived. In the case of site expansion, we left the data of one site out and fitted the model with the remaining data for the number of sites times, and then the average performance of site expansion was derived.

Table 3 shows the estimated parameter values and validation results for the models, which indicated that the data expansion at site scale in all regions of China had high accuracy. Almost all the correlation coefficients exceeded 0.8, only the Boland
25 model in Qinghai-Tibet Plateau was an exception, which might be caused by the large differences in climatic conditions among the sparse stations there (Fig. 2 and Fig. 6).

4.2 The prediction standard error of spatial interpolation

The ANUSPLIN software can not only interpolate the climatic data but also estimate the prediction standard error (Hutchinson, 2001). The spatial distribution of the interpolation error for global radiation, diffuse radiation, PAR, and diffuse PAR is shown in Fig. 7. The mean error for yearly global radiation, diffuse radiation, PAR, and diffuse PAR is 280.8, 98.9, 107.7, 40.9 MJ m^{-2} yr^{-1}, respectively; and the relative error is 5.3%, 4.0%, 5.0%, and 3.7%, respectively.

The interpolation error in the north western part of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau is relatively large, probably because the meteorological stations there are very limited (Fig. 2). Because of the absence of observations in Taiwan, the interpolation error there is rather large compared with other areas. It should be noted that the data around the border also have relatively large error, because we do not have the observation data beyond the border.

5 Data availability

The dataset is freely available from the Zenodo website at https://zenodo.org/record/1198894 (DOI:10.11922/sciencedb.555). Users can find the dataset freely accessible, although some users may need to use a keyword search ('global radiation China') to establish initial access. There are four folders for global radiation (i.e. Global radiation.zip), diffuse radiation (i.e. Diffuse radiation.zip), PAR (i.e. PAR.zip), and diffuse PAR (i.e. Diffuse PAR.zip), respectively, and a description text file (i.e. Readme.txt). Two formats are offered, i.e. ArcGIS GRID and ASCII Text, along with the Python code for the conversion from Text to GRID.

6 Conclusions

Solar radiation is pivotal to the modelling of terrestrial ecosystem productivity, and the quantity and quality of solar radiation are both important because of the differences between vegetation light use efficiency for direct and diffuse light. A reanalysis spatial radiation dataset, i.e. monthly and yearly global radiation, diffuse radiation, PAR, and diffuse PAR in China from 1981 to 2010, were produced based on several estimation models and the observation data from CMA and CERN. It provides a series of systematic and integral radiation data for the community of ecological modelling, making the analysis of the effects of solar radiation and its diffuse components on terrestrial ecosystem productivity in China more convenient.

Author contribution

X. R. and H.H. designed the study; X. R. collected the data, performed data processing and production, and wrote the manuscript. L. Z. provided help in collecting data; G. Y. gave technical guidance.

Competing interests

5   The authors declare no competing financial interests.

Acknowledgements

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10   **References**

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Figures and captions

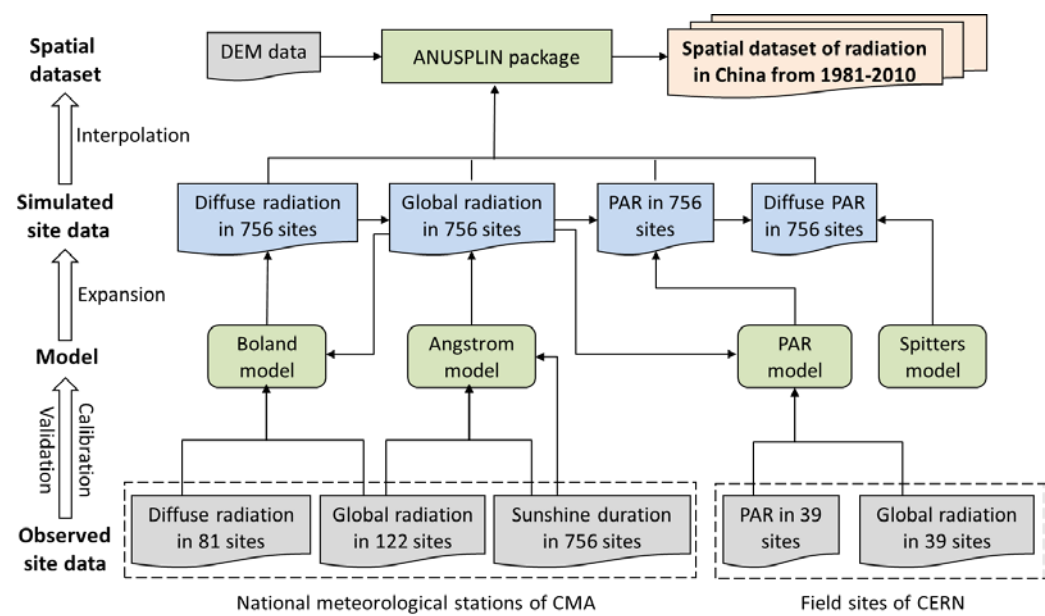



Figure 1. The schematic workflow of the radiation dataset production.

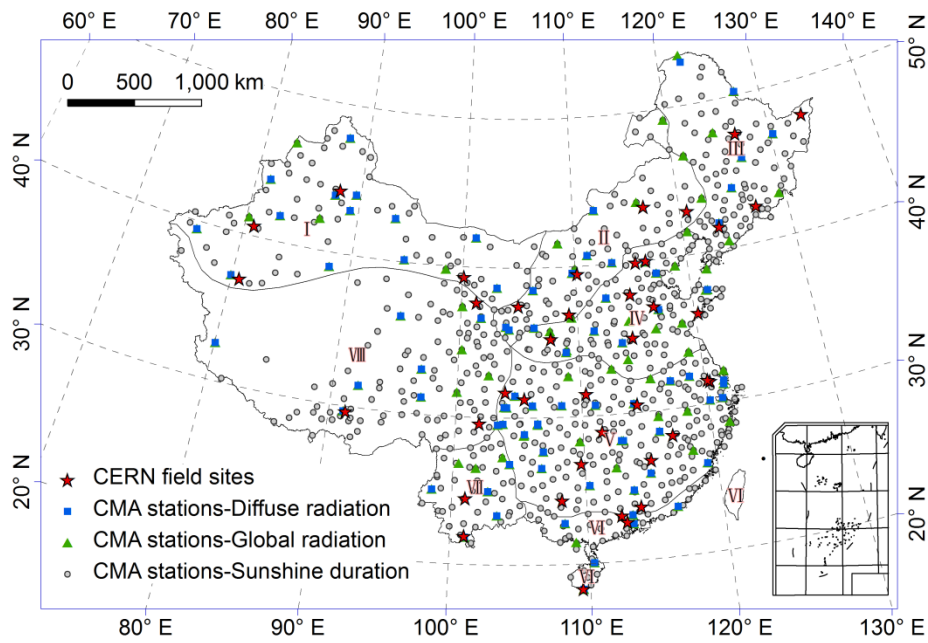



Figure 2. Distribution of the meteorological stations of China Meteorology Administration (CMA) that measured sunshine duration, global radiation, diffuse radiation, and the field sites of Chinese Ecosystem Research Network (CERN) that measured global radiation and PAR (I: Northwest China; II: Inner Mongolia; III: Northeast China; IV: North China; V: Central China; VI: South China; VII: Southwest China; VIII: Qinghai-Tibet Plateau).

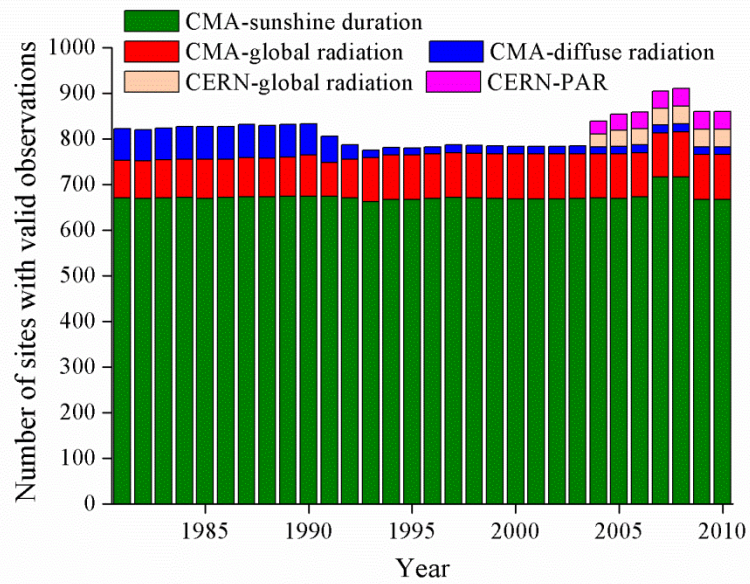



Figure 3. The numbers of sites with valid observational data of sunshine duration, global radiation, diffuse radiation, and photosynthetically active radiation (PAR) per year from 1981 to 2010. CMA and CERN represent China Meteorology Administration and Chinese Ecosystem Research Network, respectively.

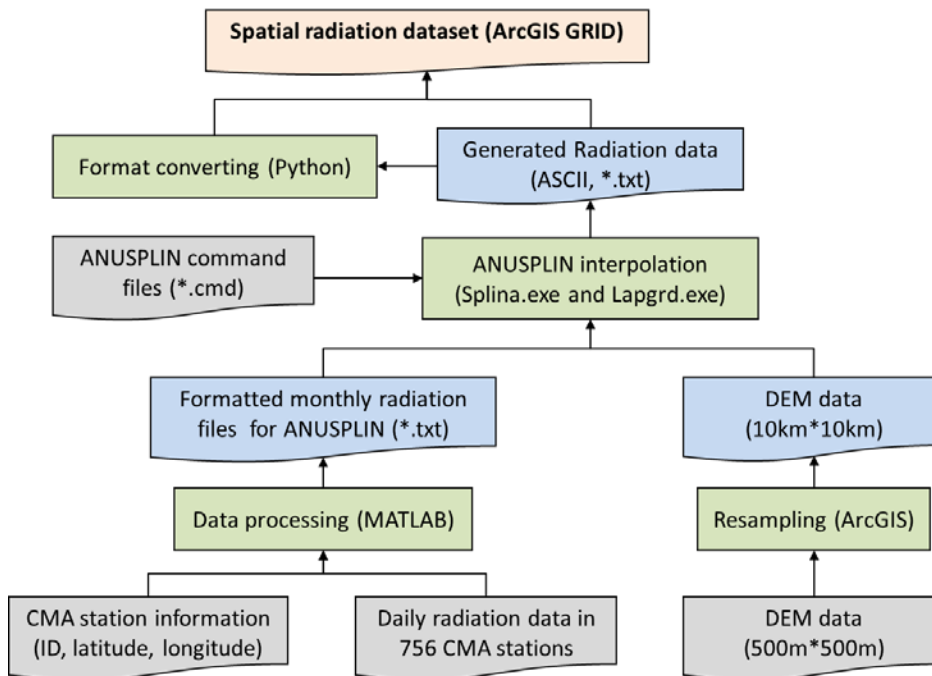



Figure 4. The workflow of the generation of radiation dataset.

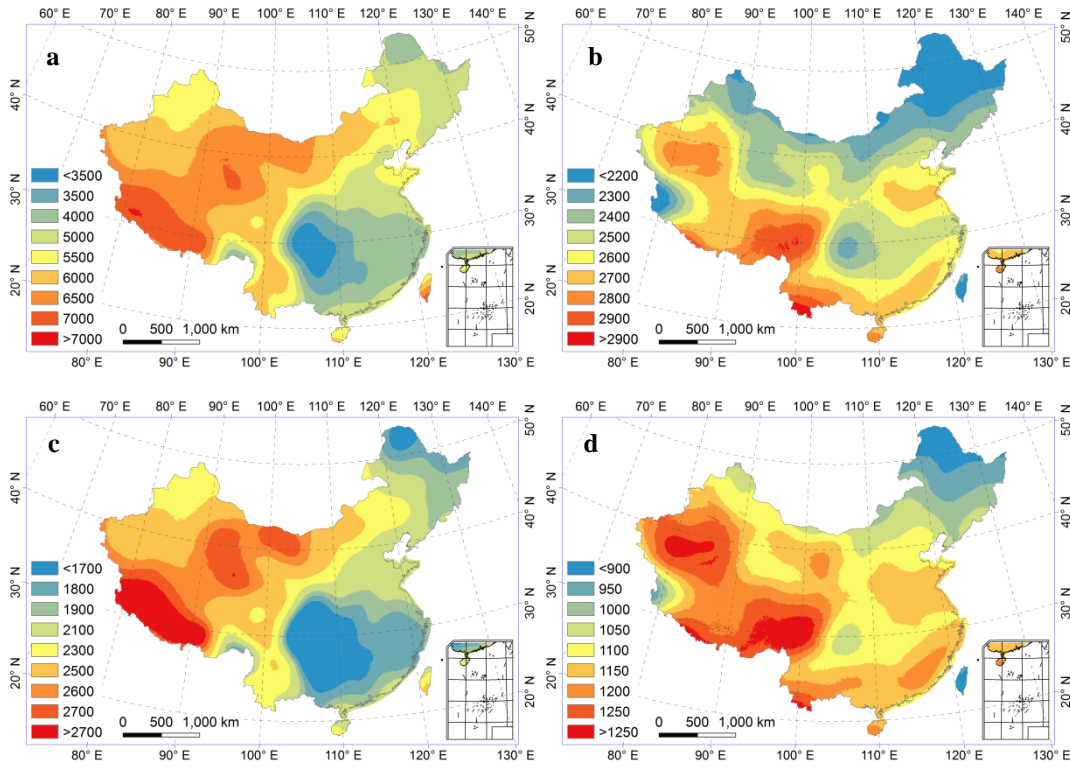



Figure 5. Spatial pattern of global radiation (a), diffuse radiation (b), PAR (c), and diffuse PAR (d) in China for 1981-2010. Units are in MJ m^{-2} yr^{-1}.

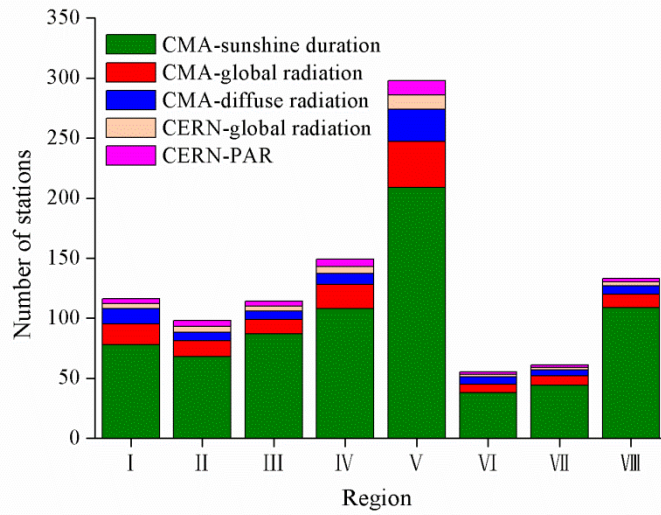
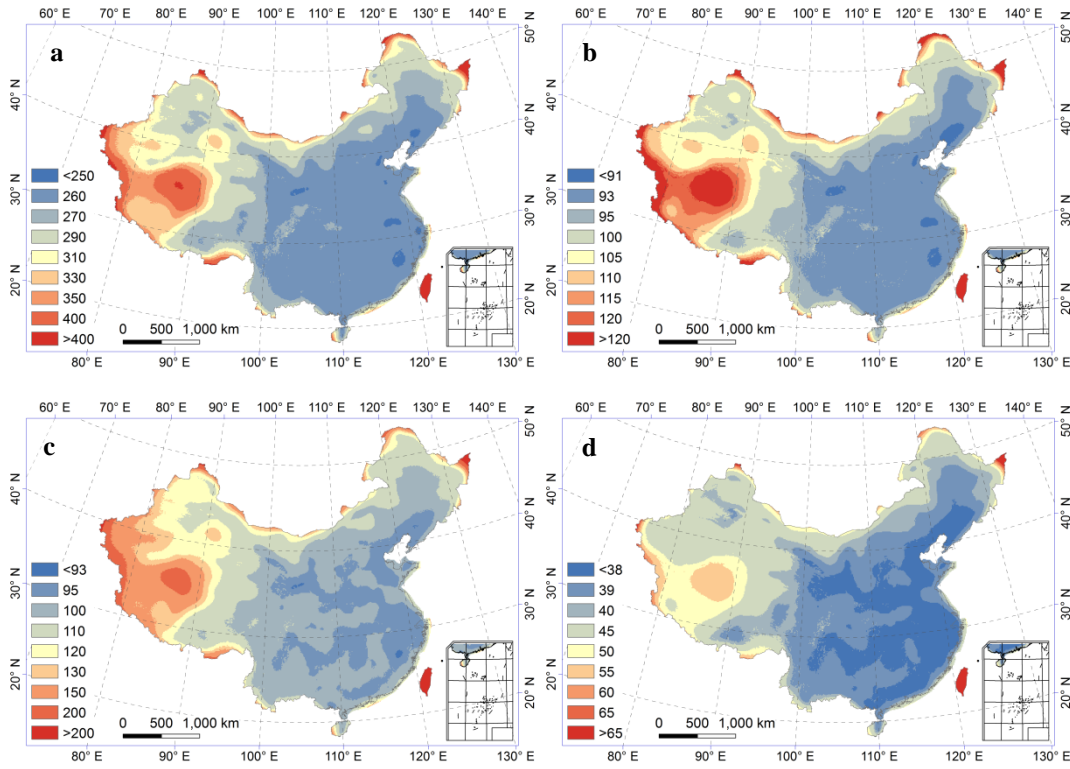



Figure 6. The numbers of stations observing sunshine duration, global radiation, diffuse radiation, and photosynthetically active radiation (PAR) for each region (I: Northwest China; II: Inner Mongolia; III: Northeast China; IV: North China; V: Central China; VI: South China; VII: Southwest China; VIII: Qinghai-Tibet Plateau). CMA and CERN represent China Meteorology Administration and Chinese Ecosystem Research Network, respectively.

5   **Figure 7.** Spatial pattern of prediction standard errors of global radiation (a), diffuse radiation (b), PAR (c), and diffuse PAR (d) in China during 1981–2010. Units are in MJ m^{-2} yr^{-1}.

Tables

Table 1. Global radiation, diffuse radiation, PAR, diffuse PAR in China for each year. Units are in MJ m^{-2} yr^{-1}.

Year	Global radiation	Diffuse radiation	PAR	Diffuse PAR
1981	5329.7	2472.4	2185.9	1104.8
1982	5280.6	2494.7	2168.5	1113.6
1983	5281.8	2490.1	2169.9	1112.4
1984	5290.4	2461.8	2173.3	1101.3
1985	5228.4	2465.4	2149.0	1101.7
1986	5386.8	2449.1	2206.5	1095.3
1987	5323.0	2454.7	2183.2	1097.2
1988	5287.1	2453.6	2170.3	1097.0
1989	5202.2	2450.4	2138.4	1095.8
1990	5274.7	2445.2	2165.7	1093.6
1991	5223.2	2471.2	2147.2	1104.3
1992	5198.6	2510.5	2138.5	1120.3
1993	5190.8	2485.8	2135.6	1110.7
1994	5286.0	2479.1	2170.8	1108.2
1995	5289.4	2476.7	2171.5	1106.9
1996	5218.4	2480.1	2145.9	1108.8
1997	5330.5	2475.4	2185.7	1106.2
1998	5222.5	2486.2	2146.9	1111.0
1999	5274.2	2480.5	2165.8	1108.7
2000	5287.2	2480.3	2170.8	1108.6
2001	5296.7	2483.6	2173.7	1109.6
2002	5232.5	2489.0	2150.2	1111.8
2003	5222.6	2495.2	2148.2	1114.8
2004	5374.8	2478.9	2203.2	1107.7
2005	5253.9	2481.8	2158.7	1108.4
2006	5281.9	2490.6	2169.6	1112.2
2007	5295.1	2473.9	2174.1	1106.1
2008	5238.2	2492.4	2153.7	1113.2
2009	5293.3	2478.7	2173.3	1108.1
2010	5204.8	2482.1	2140.5	1109.4
Mean	5270.0	2477.0	2164.5	1106.9

Table 2. Global radiation, diffuse radiation, PAR, and diffuse PAR averaged from 1981 to 2010 for each region in China. Units are in MJ m^{-2} yr^{-1}.

Region ID	Region	Global radiation	Diffuse radiation	PAR	Diffuse PAR
I	Northwest China	5801.8	2473.4	2435.9	1142.0
II	Inner Mongolia	5503.5	2287.7	2245.2	1030.7
III	Northeast China	4716.1	2160.3	1851.8	929.8
IV	North China	4858.7	2542.7	1948.9	1106.7
V	Central China	3983.9	2479.1	1666.4	1104.6
VI	South China	4819.8	2557.3	1914.5	1081.4
VII	Southwest China	5390.5	2707.5	2117.8	1148.3
VIII	Qinghai-Tibet Plateau	6072.3	2601.3	2514.7	1177.5

Table 3. Calibration and validation of Angstrom, Boland, and PAR model in different regions across China. *R* and *RMSE* is correlation coefficient and root mean square error, respectively.

Model	Estimated values and validation of parameters	Northwest China	Inner Mongolia	Northeast China	North China	Central China	South China	Southwest China	Qinghai-Tibet Plateau
Angstrom model	*a*	0.22	0.18	0.20	0.17	0.15	0.17	0.19	0.20
	b	0.52	0.57	0.52	0.53	0.55	0.53	0.55	0.55
	Site expansion-*R*	0.96	0.95	0.94	0.94	0.93	0.91	0.88	0.87
	Site expansion-*RMSE* (MJ m^{-2} d^{-1})	2.11	2.38	2.60	2.45	2.88	2.96	3.08	3.58
	Time expansion-*R*	0.96	0.95	0.94	0.94	0.93	0.90	0.88	0.81
	Time expansion *RMSE* (MJ m^{-2} d^{-1})	2.17	2.41	2.52	2.49	2.74	2.97	2.95	4.08
Boland model	*c*	-4.26	-3.51	-3.38	-4.14	-4.32	-4.02	-3.98	-3.38
	d	7.57	6.54	6.43	7.62	8.11	7.96	7.59	6.34
	Site expansion-*R*	0.84	0.83	0.85	0.90	0.92	0.82	0.86	0.77
	Site expansion-*RMSE* (MJ m^{-2} d^{-1})	2.02	1.96	1.79	1.54	1.43	1.66	1.70	2.35
	Time expansion-*R*	0.83	0.80	0.86	0.89	0.91	0.83	0.86	0.76
	Time expansion *RMSE* (MJ m^{-2} d^{-1})	1.99	1.90	1.75	1.53	1.49	1.66	1.69	2.25
PAR model	*e*	0.39	0.38	0.35	0.35	0.36	0.38	0.36	0.40
	f	-0.06	-0.06	-0.06	-0.07	-0.07	-0.02	-0.04	-0.03
	Site expansion-*R*	0.99	0.99	0.97	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.92	0.98
	Site expansion-*RMSE* (mol m^{-2} d^{-1})	2.29	2.49	3.41	2.96	2.89	3.29	4.15	2.58
	Time expansion-*R*	0.99	0.99	0.97	0.98	0.98	0.99	0.97	0.99
	Time expansion *RMSE* (mol m^{-2} d^{-1})	2.15	2.31	3.17	2.83	2.85	2.76	3.54	2.40