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Regionalization of land surface heat fluxes and evapotranspiration by using satellite data and atmospheric boundary layer observations over the Third Pole

Yaoming Ma^{a,b,c,d,e,f}

^a Land-Atmosphere Interaction and its Climatic Effects Group, State Key Laboratory of Tibetan Plateau Earth System, Environment and Resources (TPESER), Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China.

^b College of Earth and Planetary Sciences, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China.

^c College of Atmospheric Science, Lanzhou University, Lanzhou 730000, China.

^d National Observation and Research Station for Qomolangma Special Atmospheric Processes and Environmental Changes, Dingri, China.

^e Kathmandu Center of Research and Education, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China.

^f China-Pakistan Joint Research Center on Earth Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Islamabad, Pakistan
Email: ymma@itpcas.ac.cn

Abstract: The exchange of heat and water vapor between land surface and atmosphere over the Third Pole region (Tibetan Plateau and nearby surrounding region) plays an important role in Asian monsoon, westerlies and the northern hemisphere weather and climate systems. Supported by various agencies in the People's Republic of China, a Third Pole Environment (TPE) Integrated Three-dimensional Observation and research Platform (TPEITORP) is now implementing over the Third Pole region. The background of the establishment of the TPEITORP, the establishing and monitoring plan of long-term scale (5-10 years) of it will be shown firstly. Then the preliminary observational analysis results, such as the characteristics of land surface energy fluxes partitioning and the turbulent characteristics will also be shown in this study. Then, the parameterization methodology based on satellite data and the atmospheric boundary layer (ABL) observations has been proposed and tested for deriving regional distribution of net radiation flux, soil heat flux, sensible heat flux and latent heat flux (evapotranspiration (ET)) and their variation trends over the heterogeneous landscape of the Tibetan Plateau (TP) area. To validate the proposed methodology, the ground measured net radiation flux, soil heat flux, sensible heat flux, latent heat flux and ET of the TPEORP are compared to the derived values. The results showed that the derived land surface heat fluxes and ET over the study areas are in good accordance with the land surface status. These parameters show a wide range due to the strong contrast of surface feature. And the estimated land surface heat fluxes and ET are in good agreement with ground measurements, and all the absolute percent difference in less than 10% in the validation sites. It is therefore conclude that the proposed methodology is successful for the retrieval of land surface heat fluxes and ET over heterogeneous landscape of the TP area. Further improvement of the methodology and its applying field over the whole Third Pole region and Pan-Third Pole region were also discussed.

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