

# Assimilation of All Sky Infrared Radiance from INSAT-3D/3DR Satellite in the WRF Model

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## Abstract

The all-sky Infrared (IR) radiance assimilation from geostationary satellites has been a prime research area in the numerical weather prediction (NWP) modeling. In this study, the variational data assimilation system of the weather research and forecasting (WRF) model has been customized to assimilate all-sky assimilation of water vapour (WV) radiance from Imager onboard two geostationary Indian National Satellites (INSAT-3D and INSAT-3DR). This study also integrated different hydrometeors (like cloud, rain, ice, snow and graupel) as control variables in the WRF variation assimilation system. To do this, parallel experiments were performed by carrying out model simulations with and without INSAT WV radiance assimilation during July 2018. Results of these simulations suggested that the WRF model analyses for all-sky assimilation are closer to the brightness temperature ( $T_B$ ) of channel-1 ( $183.31 \pm 0.2$  GHz) of SAPHIR (Sondeur Atmosphérique du Profil d'Humidité Intertropicale par Radiométrie) sensor onboard Megha-Tropiques satellite and channel-3 ( $183.31 \pm 1.0$  GHz) of MHS (Microwave Humidity Sounder) sensor onboard National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA-18/19) and Meteorological Operational Satellite (MetOp-A/B/C) satellites. Furthermore, noteworthy changes are noticed in hydrometeors analyses with all-sky assimilation and the number of assimilated observations are increased significantly (around 2.5 times). The short-range predictions from all-sky assimilation runs revealed notable positive impact as compared to clear-sky assimilation runs when verified with SAPHIR and MHS  $T_B$ , and NCEP (National Centers for Environmental Prediction) final analysis.

# 1           **Assimilation of All Sky Infrared Radiance from INSAT-3D/3DR**

## 2                                   **Satellite in the WRF Model**

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### 9 10       **Abstract**

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24       and channel-3 ( $183.31 \pm 1.0$  GHz) of MHS (Microwave Humidity Sounder) sensor  
25       onboard National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA-18/19) and  
26       Meteorological Operational Satellite (MetOp-A/B/C) satellites. Furthermore,

27 noteworthy changes are noticed in hydrometeors analyses with all-sky assimilation  
28 and the number of assimilated observations are increased significantly (around 2.5  
29 times). The short-range predictions from all-sky assimilation runs revealed notable  
30 positive impact as compared to clear-sky assimilation runs when verified with SAPHIR  
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33 **Keywords:** *All sky, IR radiance, WRF model, Variational assimilation, Hydrometeors.*

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## 52 **1. Introduction**

53           The advances in the numerical weather prediction (NWP) model represent a  
54 significant revolution in the scientific knowledge and technological advances in the last  
55 decades ([Bauer et al. 2011a,b, 2015, 2021](#)). The technical advancements has brought  
56 sea changes in the measurements of various parameters used in NWP model. Not  
57 only ground based measurements but also satellite measurements are increased  
58 significantly in both space and time. As a matter-of-fact, around 90-95% data  
59 assimilated in the NWP model are contributed by space-borne sensors. However,  
60 these satellite observations are still only 2 to 5% of measurements available globally  
61 and provided by satellites. The vast number of satellite data are not yet employed in  
62 the NWP model due to concurrent limitations of data assimilation methods like  
63 constraints of Gaussian assumption, uncorrelated observations, complex non-  
64 linearity, etc. ([Kumar and Shukla, 2019](#)). Condition of uncorrelated observations  
65 warrants data thinning whereas avoidance of surface channels due to unknown  
66 emissivity imposes the restriction of using channels that are sensitive to temperature  
67 (CO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub> band) and water vapour (WV) (H<sub>2</sub>O band) absorption, etc. in the  
68 assimilation system. Additionally, Around 75% of satellite measurements are  
69 discarded due to cloud contamination and unknown surface emissivity ([Bauer et al.](#)  
70 [2011a](#)).

71

72 Presently, the Infrared (IR) measurements from satellites are assimilated with clear-  
73 sky limitations, and cloud removal or correction for IR radiance became a critical step  
74 for operational assimilation ([Kumar and Shukla, 2019](#) and references therein). This  
75 cloud correction procedure also introduced representative error in the NWP model  
76 ([Errico et al. 2007](#)). The restriction of clear-sky assimilation is not due to insignificance

77 of cloud-affected measurements, but mainly due to insufficient treatment of clouds in  
78 the radiative transfer (RT) models and inaccurate cloud parameters as first guess.  
79 Further, the intricacies of cloud affected IR radiances are exacerbated due to complex  
80 non-linearity in the cloud process. Furthermore, cloud parameters are not considered  
81 as part of control variables in most of the assimilation systems. The major cause of  
82 neglecting cloud parameters as control variables are due to large errors in the first-  
83 guess. In the last decade, the cloud and precipitation prediction from the NWP model  
84 has achieved a reasonable degree of realism that opens possibilities to explore impact  
85 of cloud-influenced radiance from IR and microwave (MW) sensors ([Janisková, 2015](#)),  
86 majorly high temporal and spatial resolution measurements from geostationary  
87 platform. [Geer et al. \(2019\)](#) discussed that the all-sky IR assimilation has not so far  
88 been operational at any weather forecasting centers that conveys requirements of new  
89 observations in critical cloud-affected regions and avoids cloud removing/clearing  
90 needs in future. Furthermore, the all-sky assimilation helped to avoid biases caused  
91 by undetected clouds that can affect the clear-sky assimilation ([Geer et al. 2017,](#)  
92 [2018](#)).

93

94 [Bauer et al. \(2010\)](#) and [Geer et al. \(2010\)](#) demonstrated first successful direct  
95 assimilation of all-sky MW imager observations in the European Centre for Medium-  
96 Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) assimilation system. Authors also discussed the  
97 major concerns in the cloud and precipitation assimilation that include discontinuity in  
98 space and time, constraints of the present assimilation system that linearized the  
99 nonlinear processes, etc. [Bauer et al. \(2011b\)](#) reviewed development in the cloud  
100 affected satellite measurements in the operational NWP centers. Authors also  
101 discussed the need of the total moisture (e.g. WV, cloud liquid, cloud ice, and

102 hydrometeors) as a control variable and generation of their background error  
103 covariance using National Meteorological Center (NMC; [Parrish and Derber, 1992](#))  
104 method. [Geer et al. \(2017, 2018\)](#) highlighted that the cloud and precipitation data  
105 cannot be assimilated when missing in model first guess due to zero gradient problem  
106 and non-Gaussian distribution of error. [Montmerle et al. \(2010\)](#) also emphasized the  
107 necessity of background error modelling for clouds and precipitation parameters by  
108 ensemble forecast differences method. [Zhang and Guan \(2017\)](#) included cloud liquid,  
109 ice, and rain-water content as control variables in the assimilation of cloud-affected  
110 MW satellite measurements and found improvement in the model analysis. [Chen et](#)  
111 [al. \(2015\)](#) also suggested that the initialization of the cloud components in the NWP  
112 model is requisite because these quantities are resultant of atmospheric moisture and  
113 hydrometeor transport and complicated nonlinear physical processes associated with  
114 cloud development and decay. These previous studies highlighted that the inclusion  
115 of the different hydrometeors as control variables with their background error  
116 covariance is one of the major steps towards all-sky assimilation.

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118 Recently, the efforts for assimilation in the NWP model has been more focused  
119 towards using clouds affected IR radiance, after remarkable success of the all-sky MW  
120 sensors and its operational implementation in many weather forecasting centers (e.g.  
121 [Bauer et al., 2010](#); [Geer et al., 2010](#); [McNally, 2009](#); [Pavelin et al., 2008](#); [Eresmaa,](#)  
122 [2014](#)). [Zhu et al. \(2016\)](#) discussed operational assimilation of all-sky MW sensors in  
123 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Centers for  
124 Environmental Prediction (NCEP) models. Various experiments have been performed  
125 in the last decade to explore the potential of assimilating all-sky IR radiance in the  
126 NWP model, majorly from geostationary satellites. [Otkin \(2010\)](#) assimilated window

127 channel radiance for both clear-sky and cloudy-sky conditions at convection permitting  
128 scale and suggested that both observations are crucial for the NWP prediction.  
129 [Okamoto et al. \(2012\)](#) suggested to make use of a symmetric parameter, which is  
130 based upon observed and simulated cloud radiances. The use of symmetric parameter  
131 provided a better Gaussian form of background departure (observation minus  
132 background; O-B). [Okamoto et al. \(2014\)](#) and [Harnisch et al. \(2016\)](#) also proposed to  
133 use climatological error models for IR radiance as a function of different cloud-affected  
134 parameters. [Zhang et al. \(2018\)](#) assimilated all-sky IR observations from  
135 Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES)-16 Advanced Baseline  
136 Imager (ABI) sensor using ensemble based data assimilation at convection allowing  
137 horizontal resolution. [Zhang et al. \(2016\)](#) also studied the potential impact of  
138 assimilating GOES-R radiance for tropical cyclone analysis using Ensemble Kalman  
139 Filter (EnKF) method. [Minamide and Zhang \(2018\)](#) explored the assimilation impact  
140 of all-sky IR radiance from the Himawari-8 satellite using the EnKF at convective scale  
141 for predicting super typhoon Soudelor. Authors suggested that the hourly update  
142 assimilation system improves initial intensity as well as spatial distribution of  
143 convective activities. [Honda et al. \(2018a\)](#) assimilated every 10-minutes all-sky  
144 radiance from Himawari-8 satellite for a case study of heavy rainfall. [Honda et al.](#)  
145 [\(2018b\)](#) also assimilated all-sky Himawari-8 IR radiance for soudelor typhoon, and  
146 found improved tropical cyclone structure and intensity prediction. Recently, [Otkin and](#)  
147 [Potthast \(2019\)](#) used an ensemble method to assimilate all-sky IR radiance from  
148 Spinning Enhanced Visible and InfraRed Imager (SEVIRI) sensor with different bias  
149 correction predictors and suggested improvement in short range forecasts.

150

151 The critical elements of all-sky IR/MW assimilations are inclusion of hydrometeor  
152 profiles in the RT model, use of cloud parameters as control variable, generation of  
153 cloud analysis increments using background error covariance for hydrometeors,  
154 radiance data information is mapped onto not only temperature and moisture fields,  
155 but also for different hydrometeors using Radiative Transfer Model (RTM) jacobians,  
156 etc. In the present study, first time all-sky IR WV radiance from the Indian  
157 geostationary satellites are assimilated in the weather research and forecasting (WRF)  
158 model with inclusion of hydrometeor profiles as control variables and their background  
159 errors using NMC method. Previously, [Singh et al. \(2016\)](#) assimilated clear-sky WV  
160 radiance from the INSAT-3D satellite in the WRF model and demonstrated positive  
161 impact on short-range weather prediction. In this study, three parallel experiments are  
162 performed during the entire month of July 2018 to understand the importance of all-  
163 sky assimilation. The WV channel data of Imager onboard INSAT-3D and INSAT-3DR  
164 satellites are described in section 2, and details about the WRF model and variational  
165 assimilation system are provided in section 3. Results and discussions are included in  
166 section 4, and concluded in the last section.

167

## 168 **2. Data Description**

### 169 **2.1. INSAT-3D and INSAT-3DR Satellite**

170 The Indian geostationary satellites INSAT-3D ([Kumar and Shukla, 2019](#)) and  
171 INSAT-3DR ([Sankhala et al. 2020](#)) are positioned at 82° E and 74° E at equator over  
172 the Indian Ocean, respectively. Both satellites carried two meteorological payloads  
173 including a very high-resolution radiometer (VHRR) also called Imager and an 18-  
174 channels IR sounder. The WV (6.5 - 7.1  $\mu\text{m}$ ) channel is available in Imager, in addition  
175 to visible, short-wave IR, mid-IR, and two thermal IR channels. The INSAT-3D and

176 INSAT-3DR satellites collectively provide WV imagery at every 15 minutes in  
177 staggered mode at 8 km nominal spatial resolution. The calibration procedure of the  
178 multi-spectral Imager observations from INSAT-3D and INSAT-3DR satellites are  
179 broadly based on [Weinreb et al. \(1997\)](#). It is important to note that satellite instruments  
180 like INSAT-3D/3DR, which are in geostationary orbit and are three axis stabilized, face  
181 the problem of mid-night calibration. During mid-night, the Sun positioned directly  
182 opposite to the satellite and the Sun radiations intrude into the satellite aperture, and  
183 thus disturb the thermal equilibrium of the cavity of the satellite platform. IR  
184 instruments on-board are severely affected by such intrusion. This kind of problem  
185 was also observed in Kalpana-1 satellite ([Shukla et al. 2012](#)). The problem of direct  
186 sun radiation intrusion is more severe in INSAT-3D/3DR satellites because of its larger  
187 aperture size in comparison to Kalpana-1 satellite. Due to mid-night calibration issues  
188 a few acquisitions are discarded (or not taken) in case of INSAT-3D/3DR satellites. In  
189 the present study, WV channel radiance of INSAT-3D and INSAT-3DR satellites  
190 around 0300 UTC are used for assimilation study. This WV Imager radiance is  
191 available from satellite data archival centre at Space Applications Centre (SAC), Indian  
192 Space Research Organization (ISRO), Ahmedabad (<http://www.mosdac.gov.in>).

193

### 194 **3. Methodology**

195 The Advanced Research WRF ([Skamarock et al. 2008](#)) model version 4.2 and  
196 its three-dimensional variational (3D-Var) data assimilation system are used in this  
197 study to assess the impact of all-sky and clear-sky WV radiance assimilation. The  
198 diverse physics schemes are available in the WRF model for the treatment of  
199 convection and mesoscale precipitation systems, shortwave and longwave radiation,  
200 boundary layer processes, etc. The cumulus convection parameterization and

201 planetary boundary layer of Kain–Fritsch (KF) and Yonsei University (YSU) schemes,  
202 respectively are selected in this study. The rapid RT model for general circulation  
203 models (GCMs) (RRTMG) scheme is used for long-wave and short-wave radiation.  
204 The microphysics scheme used in this study is WRF Single-Moment 6-class (WSM6)  
205 scheme for microphysics. These schemes are selected based on their performances  
206 over the south Asia region ([Kumar et al. 2014](#); [Singh et al. 2016](#) and references  
207 [therein](#)). More details of design of experiments are available in [Sankhala et al. \(2020\)](#)  
208 and [Kumar and Shukla \(2019\)](#).

209

210 In the present study, three parallel assimilation experiments are performed with and  
211 without WV radiance assimilation from INSAT-3D and INSAT-3DR satellites during the  
212 entire month of July 2018. All set of experiments assimilated control observations that  
213 include conventional observations (like Synop, Sonde, Pilot, Ship, Aircraft, Buoy, etc.),  
214 atmospheric motion vectors from geostationary satellites, refractivity measurements  
215 from Global Positioning System (GPS) Radio Occultation (RO) available from NCEP  
216 Global Telecommunications System (GTS) at 0300 UTC. The 9-hour WRF model  
217 forecast, valid at 0300 UTC, is used as first guess for all sets of experiments. This  
218 procedure avoids the uncertainties whether these datasets are used in a global model  
219 assimilation system or not. The NCEP Global Data Assimilation System (GDAS)  
220 analysis at  $0.25^\circ \times 0.25^\circ$  spatial resolution is used to generate the lateral boundary  
221 conditions. The 48 hours WRF model forecasts are performed daily from 0300 UTC  
222 during 01-31 July 2018. The WRF model simulations are performed using a single  
223 domain having 12 km spatial resolution without cyclic assimilation. The model domain  
224 consists  $700 \times 700$  grids covering regions of Latitude  $25.7^\circ$  S –  $43.7^\circ$  N and Longitude  
225 varies from  $44.3^\circ$  E to  $119.7^\circ$  E. The **WCNT** experiment defined as control run that

226 assimilated control observations only, and no satellite radiances are assimilated in this  
227 experiment. The clear-sky and all-sky WV radiance from INSAT-3D and INSAT-3DR  
228 satellites are assimilated in the **WCLR** and **WCLD** experiments, respectively in  
229 addition to control observations.

230

231 The WRF 3D-Var data assimilation system is employed in this study for INSAT WV  
232 assimilation (Singh et al. 2016). A 1-h time window ( $\pm 30$ -minutes) has been selected  
233 around the model initial time for assimilating control and satellite observations. Prior  
234 to data assimilation, all satellite data underwent a process of quality check to avoid the  
235 possibility of assimilating spurious observations. A strict quality control is performed,  
236 in which observations that differed from the model's first guess by more than three  
237 times the observational errors are removed. Here, observation error in the WV channel  
238 is assumed uncorrelated in space and time and the observational error covariance  
239 matrices are diagonal matrices with fix variance of 2.5 K for WV channel as diagonal  
240 element that may be a scope for future research to include separate observation errors  
241 for clear and cloudy radiance. The variational bias correction available in the WRF  
242 model is implemented to correct the biases in the radiance. In this study, the  
243 Community Radiative Transfer Model (CRTM; Han et al. 2006), a fast RT model,  
244 implemented in the WRF model, has been used for simulating the brightness  
245 temperature ( $T_B$ ) of WV channels of INSAT-3D and INSAT-3DR satellites. The CRTM  
246 model is a fast RT model developed by Joint Center for Satellite Data Assimilation  
247 (JCSDA). The CRTM model is widely used for data assimilation as a forward operator,  
248 and computation of gradient for various control variables (Zhang et al. 2018). To  
249 simulate the BT within WRF model, it uses the successive order of interaction (SOI)  
250 forward solver (Heidinger et al. 2006) using the OPTRAN (Optical Path Transmittance)

251 code. For all-sky assimilation, a particle filter based cloud detection scheme for IR  
252 radiance with considering of cloud effects in CRTM calculations are implemented that  
253 are available in the WRF assimilation system (Xu et al. 2016). In this study,  
254 *cloud\_cv\_options=2* is considered which needs individual hydrometeor control  
255 variables with statistical error covariances. For this selection, in addition to standard  
256 control variables of stream function, unbalanced velocity potential, unbalanced  
257 temperature, unbalanced surface pressure and pseudo relative humidity, five different  
258 hydrometeors (cloud, rain, ice, snow, graupel) are also included as control variables  
259 for generalized background error covariance. The details of implementing generalized  
260 background error covariance are available in Descombes et al. (2015). Differences of  
261 12- and 24-hour forecasts during the entire month of July 2018 are used to determine  
262 the background error covariance matrix by NMC method. In this study, cross-  
263 correlation for cloud and rain is considered with moisture, whereas no cross-  
264 correlation is considered for snow, ice and graupel mixing ratio.

265

## 266 **4. Results and discussions**

### 267 **4.1. Impact in analysis**

268 Figure 1 shows the spatial distribution of WV channel observations from the  
269 INSAT-3D satellite for a sample day at 0300 UTC 01 July 2018. The WV  $T_B$  from  
270 INSAT-3D satellite used in WCLR and WCLD runs are shown in figure 1(a) and figure  
271 1(d), respectively. The CRTM model is used to prepare simulated  $T_B$  from the WRF  
272 model analysis, and further defined as simulated analyzed  $T_B$ . Figure shows that a  
273 large number of observations are rejected in WCLR run (Fig. 1a), and this reduction  
274 is more prominent over land area. However, few WV observations are also rejected in  
275 the WCLD run (Fig. 1d) that are majorly due to strict quality control in variational

276 method. For such cases, simulated WCLD analyzed  $T_B$  is far from INSAT-3D WV  $T_B$ .  
277 These data gap regions in WCLD run suggested that the WRF simulated  $T_B$  with the  
278 CRTM model is still have differences with satellite measurements beyond the  
279 permissible limits due to various limitations of the NWP and RT model and satellite  
280 observations. It also indicates towards the need of separate observation error for clear  
281 and cloudy measurements. The first guess simulated WV  $T_B$  for WCLR (Fig. 1b) and  
282 WCLD (Fig. 1e) runs showed that the WRF model is able to capture the spatial  
283 distribution of observed  $T_B$ . The simulated  $T_B$  matches relatively well over the ocean  
284 as compared to land due to imprecise land surface emissivity input in the RT  
285 modelling. The simulated analyzed  $T_B$  from the WCLR (Fig. 1c) and WCLD (Fig. 1f)  
286 runs clearly represented that the model analyses are closer to the INSAT-3D observed  
287  $T_B$  as compared to first guess, which demonstrated the successful assimilation of the  
288 WV  $T_B$  in the WRF model. For all-sky (clear-sky) assimilation, the values of root-mean-  
289 square difference (defined as RMSD) is changed from 2.39 (1.42) K in background  
290 departure to 0.62 (0.59) K in analysis departure (observation minus analysis; O-A).  
291 Slightly larger values of mean difference (defined as BIAS) are found in WCLD  
292 analysis (-0.22 K) as compared to WCLR analysis (-0.19 K). It is important to note that  
293 the WCLD analysis is closer to cloud-affected satellite observation, which is generally  
294 not made use in clear-sky assimilation.

295

296 Figure 2 shows the spatial distribution of the mean first-guess and analysis departure  
297 for WCLR and WCLD runs during 1-31 July 2018 (total 31 sample days) for WV  
298 channel of INSAT-3D data. The spatial distribution of mean first guess departure in  
299 WCLR (Fig. 2a) and WCLD (Fig. 2b) runs showed almost similar distribution over the  
300 northern India and adjoining regions. However, large differences are seen over the

301 Indian Ocean that are mainly due to inclusion of cloud-affected radiance in WCLD  
302 runs. The mean analysis departure is reduced significantly for both WCLR (Fig. 2c)  
303 and WCLD (Fig. 2d) runs. It suggested that the INSAT-3D observed WV channel is  
304 successfully assimilated in the WRF model. The distribution of first guess and analysis  
305 departure for 1-31 July 2018 showed that the values of BIAS is reduced significantly  
306 from 0.19 K and -0.25 K in WCLR and WCLD first-guess departure to approximate  
307 zero in the analyses departure. The values of RMSD are reduced from 2.40 (1.33) K  
308 in WCLD (WCLR) first-guess to 0.60 (0.54) K in the analysis for INSAT-3D satellite.  
309 Similar statistics are found for INSAT-3DR satellite. These analyses clearly suggested  
310 that the WRF model analyses are closer to the satellite observed  $T_B$  for WV channel.  
311 Both, first-guess and analysis departure follows the Gaussian distribution for WCLD  
312 runs that suggested that incorporation of the hydrometeors as control variables do not  
313 influence the constraints of variational method (figure not shown). Few observations  
314 are rejected in the strict quality control, and varying observation errors for cloud-  
315 affected radiance may include these measurements and may be a scope for future  
316 research.

317

318 The temporal distribution of number of observations, domain average values of BIAS  
319 and RMSD for WCLR (in black colour) and WCLD (in grey colour) runs are shown in  
320 figure 3. The left (right) panel shows statistics for the INSAT-3D (INSAT-3DR) satellite.  
321 Figures 3(a) and 3(d) show the number of observations assimilated in the WCLR and  
322 WCLD runs from the INSAT-3D and INSAT-3DR satellites, respectively. Figure shows  
323 that more clear-sky observations are assimilated from the INSAT-3DR satellite  
324 (around 9820) as compared to INSAT-3D satellite (around 7630). However, no  
325 significant differences are found for the number of observations assimilated with all-

326 sky for both satellites. The less value of BIAS is found in the analysis (dashed line) as  
327 compared to first-guess (solid line) for both WCLR and WCLD runs of INSAT-3D (Fig.  
328 3b) and INSAT-3DR (Fig. 3e) satellites. For both satellites, WCLD (WCLR) first-  
329 guesses have a negative (positive) value of BIAS for most of the days. The RMSD  
330 values are reduced significantly for WCLD and WCNT analyses for both satellites. No  
331 significant differences are found between INSAT-3D (Fig. 3c) and INSAT-3DR (Fig.  
332 3f) satellites. Furthermore, a slightly larger value of RMSD is found in WCLD analysis  
333 (0.73 K) as compared to WCNT analysis (0.52 K). These results clearly suggested  
334 that the all-sky observations are successfully assimilated in the WRF model with  
335 additional control variables of hydrometeors.

336

337 Figure 4 shows the spatial distribution of the anomaly in WCLD and WCNT analyses  
338 (defined WCLD minus WCNT) for different parameters at 500 hPa during July 2018.  
339 The spatial distribution of anomaly for WV mixing ratio (Fig. 4a) shows significant  
340 differences over the model domain. These differences are majorly over the mid- and  
341 high vertical levels (around 600 to 200 hPa) which are majorly due to sensitivity of  
342 INSAT-3D/3DR WV channel over these atmospheric layers ([Kumar et al. 2012](#)). Due  
343 to multivariate nature of variation assimilation, mean departure for temperature (Fig.  
344 4b), zonal winds (Fig. 4c) and meridional winds (Fig. 4d) are also changed spatially  
345 over the model domain. These differences are larger over the land for zonal and  
346 meridional winds. These differences are also available at different vertical levels that  
347 are more dominant in the upper atmosphere (above 400 hPa) (figure not shown due  
348 to brevity). Furthermore, the control variables of different hydrometeors also show  
349 significant differences in different atmospheric layers. The spatial distribution of cloud  
350 mixing ratio (Fig. 4e) and rain-mixing ratio (Fig. 4f) show major differences over the

351 landmass and the Bay of Bengal regions. These differences are high in the lower  
352 layers of the atmosphere (figure not shown due to brevity). The spatial distribution of  
353 snow (Fig. 4g), ice (Fig. 4h), and graupel (Fig. 4i) mixing ratio shows noteworthy  
354 changes at 500 hPa over model domain. In general, due to absence of these  
355 hydrometeors as control variables, these changes are not possible in the model  
356 analysis. The changes in snow, ice and graupel mixing ratio are prominent over mid-  
357 and upper-atmospheric layers.

358

359 To evaluate the impact of INSAT-3D/3DR WV radiance assimilation in the WCLR and  
360 WCLD runs as compared to WCNT runs, the WRF model analyses are also compared  
361 with satellite observations that are not used for data assimilation. The channel-1  
362 ( $183.31 \pm 0.2$  GHz)  $T_B$  from SAPHIR (Sondeur Atmosphérique du Profil d'Humidité  
363 Intertropicale par Radiométrie) sensor onboard Megha-Tropiques satellite (Fig. 5) and  
364 channel-3 ( $183.31 \pm 1.0$  GHz) of MHS (Microwave Humidity Sounder) onboard NOAA-  
365 18/19 and Meteorological Operational Satellite (MetOp)-A/B/C (Fig. 6) are used here.  
366 The selected WV channel of SAPHIR and MHS sensors are also sensitive to upper  
367 atmospheric layers (500 to 150 hPa) and can be utilized to evaluate the WCLR and  
368 WCLD analyses. The mean SAPHIR  $T_B$  observations are shown in figure 5(a). Due to  
369 the low-inclination ( $\sim 20^\circ$ ) orbit of Megha-Tropiques satellite, the WRF model analyses  
370 are compared upto  $\sim 30^\circ$  N of the study domain. It shows less value of  $T_B$  over the  
371 Indian landmass and adjoining oceanic regions that generally occurred during the  
372 summer monsoon period. The RMSD in the WCNT analysis simulated  $T_B$  against  
373 SAPHIR observations are shown in figure 5(b). Large differences are found over the  
374 active monsoon regions, mainly the Bay of Bengal, Indo Gangetic Plain, and ITCZ  
375 (Inter Tropical Convergence Zone) regions. Slightly larger RMSD values are found

376 over land, coastal and adjoining oceanic regions. An improvement parameter is  
 377 defined here to understand the impact of WCLR or WCLD experiments over WCNT  
 378 experiments. The improvement parameter for clear-sky and all-sky are defined as

$$379 \quad \alpha_{CLR} = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^N (BT_{WCNT} - BT_{SAT})^2} - \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^N (BT_{WCLR} - BT_{SAT})^2} \quad (1)$$

$$380 \quad \alpha_{CLD} = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^N (BT_{WCNT} - BT_{SAT})^2} - \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^N (BT_{WCLD} - BT_{SAT})^2} \quad (2)$$

381 The improvement parameter for clear-sky and all-sky analyses are defined as  $\alpha_{CLR}$   
 382 and  $\alpha_{CLD}$ , respectively. The parameters  $BT_{SAT}$ ,  $BT_{WCNT}$ ,  $BT_{WCLR}$ , and  $BT_{WCLD}$  are  $T_B$   
 383 from satellite, and simulated  $T_B$  from WCNT, WCLR, and WCLD runs, respectively.  
 384 The  $N$  is the total number of sample days that are 31 in this study. The positive  
 385 (negative) values of improvement parameter shows improvement (degradation) of WV  
 386 assimilation over WCNT experiments. The spatial distribution of improvement  
 387 parameter for WCLR and WCLD runs are shown in figure 5(c) and figure 5(d),  
 388 respectively. In general, both clear-sky and all-sky assimilation has a positive impact  
 389 on the WRF model analyses. However, small degradation is also seen over the  
 390 western part of India and Arabian Sea in WCLR runs, and southern India and Bay of  
 391 Bengal regions in WCLD runs. The positive improvements are more prominent over  
 392 the ITCZ regions in WCLD runs. Results suggest larger improvement in WCLD runs  
 393 as compared to WCLR runs that show the importance of all-sky assimilation in the  
 394 model analyses. It is also interesting to note that larger improvements are seen over  
 395 the land in the WCLD runs as compared to WCLR runs. Furthermore, results are  
 396 extended for high-latitude regions that are not possible with SAPHIR observation. For  
 397 this purpose, similar analyses are also prepared with channel-3 measurements of  
 398 MHS sensors that are also sensitive to upper layers of atmospheric moisture. The  
 399 mean value of MHS measured  $T_B$  is shown in figure 6(a) that re-confirm the low values

400 of  $T_B$  over core monsoon regions as shown in figure 5(a) for SAPHIR data. The WCNT  
401 simulated  $T_B$  has a large value of RMSD over the landmass, ITCZ, and Bay of Bengal  
402 regions (Fig. 6b). A noteworthy high RMSD is seen over the northern part of the  
403 domain majorly over Jammu and Kashmir and nearby regions. The spatial distribution  
404 of improvement parameter shows positive impact of clear-sky assimilation over the  
405 oceanic regions. Moreover, large RMSD errors over the ITCZ regions are also  
406 improved with assimilation of clear-sky  $T_B$  (Fig. 6c). However, the value of  
407 improvement parameter is slightly negative over Indian landmass. The improvement  
408 parameter for all-sky assimilation are noteworthy positive over the ITCZ regions.  
409 Furthermore, WCLD analyses have shown larger impact over the landmass as  
410 compared to WCLR analyses. These large improvements in WCLD analyses are  
411 majorly due to cloud-affected radiance that are not used for WCLR runs. Overall, these  
412 results based on one-month experiments suggested that all-sky assimilation is  
413 successfully implemented in the WRF model with additional control variables of  
414 different hydrometeors. Moreover, the verifications of the WRF model analyses with  
415 independent MW satellite observations suggested that the WCLD analyses are more  
416 realistic and accurate as compared to WCLR and WCNT analyses. These positive  
417 impacts in model analyses are further evaluated for short-range weather prediction in  
418 the section 4.2.

419

## 420 **4.2. Impact in forecast**

421 To assess the impact of clear-sky and all-sky assimilation, three-hourly  
422 forecasts from the WRF model (upto 48 hours) are compared with SAPHIR and MHS  
423 observed  $T_B$ , and NCEP final moisture analyses. The distribution of number of  
424 observations used for improvement parameter computation are shown in figure 7(a)

425 and figure 8(a) for SAPHIR and MHS sensors, respectively. The number of  
426 observations are almost twice in MHS due to availability on various platforms and  
427 global coverage. Figure 7(b) clearly shows that the value of RMSD in WCNT runs  
428 increases with forecast lengths. Minimum RMSD error is found in first 12 hours  
429 forecasts and reaches maximum after 24 hours. However, the RMSD in WCNT shows  
430 diurnal variations in errors when compared with MHS observations (Fig. 8b). The  
431 maximum errors are observed at 0900 UTC (in 06-hour forecasts) and 2100 UTC (in  
432 18-hour forecasts), when the number of MHS observations are least. Similar to  
433 SAPHIR comparison, the RMSD values are increased with forecast lengths in figure  
434 8(b). The percentage improvement parameter for WCLR and WCLD forecasts against  
435 WCNT forecasts are shown in figure 7(c) and figure 7(d), respectively for SAPHIR  
436 observations, and in figure 8(c) and figure 8(d), respectively for MHS observations.  
437 Results show that clear-sky assimilation has positive impact on short range prediction,  
438 this positive improvement is more prominent when all-sky observations are assimilated  
439 in the WRF model. This improvement is higher than 5-10% for short-range forecasts  
440 when compared with SAPHIR observations. Figures 8(c,d) show that the value of  
441 positive improvement is reduced rapidly after a few hours and neutral to marginal  
442 positive impact is seen for both WCLR and WCLD runs. The possible cause of this  
443 reduction in positive improvement may be due to strict quality control in data  
444 assimilation. [Kumar et al. \(2014\)](#) also mentioned that the strict quality control in data  
445 assimilation improves short-range forecast only. Another possible reason may be due  
446 to identical lateral boundary conditions without cyclic assimilation that may also  
447 influence the longer forecasts.

448

449 The spatial distribution of the mean WV mixing ratio at upper vertical level (300 hPa)  
450 from the NCEP final analysis and 12-hour forecasts from the WCNT runs are shown  
451 in figure 9(a) and figure 9(b), respectively. Figure shows that the WCNT runs are able  
452 to capture spatial distribution of upper level moisture with few differences over the  
453 central India and orographic regions. The spatial distribution of percentage  
454 improvement parameter for WCLR runs show almost neutral impact of clear-sky  
455 assimilation, except in the northern part of the study domain (Fig. 9c). The spatial  
456 distribution of percentage improvement parameter in WCLD runs against WCNT runs  
457 suggested noteworthy improvements over the central India, northern and western  
458 Arabian Sea regions. Few pockets of positive improvement can also be seen over the  
459 Indian Ocean. Vertical profile of improvement suggests that the maximum positive  
460 impact occurs over the upper layer of atmosphere (Fig. 10). These positive  
461 improvements reduce with forecast lengths for WCLD runs (Fig. 10b). These positive  
462 improvements are less in magnitude for WCLR runs (Fig. 10a) and majorly exist over  
463 the mid-layer of atmosphere (600 to 250 hPa) for all forecast lengths upto 48 hours.  
464 The magnitude of negative impact is also seen at surface and upper layers (around  
465 100 hPa) in all-sky assimilation. This negative impact is almost negligible for clear-sky  
466 assimilation. Overall, these results suggested that the WRF model predictions improve  
467 with all-sky assimilation as compared to clear-sky assimilation.

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## 474 **5. Conclusion**

475           In this study, the assimilation of clear-sky and all-sky IR observations from WV  
476 channel of Imager onboard INSAT-3D and INSAT-3DR satellites are assimilated in the  
477 WRF model using variational method. The different hydrometeors are considered as  
478 individual control variables to understand the importance of clouds as control  
479 variables. The background error covariance matrix for different control variables using  
480 the NMC method is implemented in the 3D-Var assimilation system. The changes in  
481 different hydrometeors analyses suggested that this assimilation system is able to  
482 modify the initial state of hydrometeors in the WRF model. It is clearly demonstrated  
483 that the all-sky analyses are closer to the independent satellite observations as  
484 compared to analyses from WCLR and WCNT runs. This study demonstrates that the  
485 all-sky IR WV observations are able to improve the moisture information over the study  
486 domain that are very crucial over the south-Asia regions. Overall, results suggested  
487 that the analysis as well as forecasts from the WCLD runs are closer to observations  
488 and final analysis as compared to WCLR and WCNT runs. Results show the potential  
489 of assimilating all-sky measurements from IR sensors on-board geostationary  
490 satellites. This study did not consider the importance of frequent sampling from  
491 geostationary satellites that may be a scope for further research using WRF four-  
492 dimensional variational (4D-Var) or four-dimensional ensemble variational (4DEnVar)  
493 in future. Additional research is needed to understand the degradation of positive  
494 impact with forecast lengths in all-sky assimilation.

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505 WRF model and its assimilation system available from [www2.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/src/](http://www2.mmm.ucar.edu/wrf/src/)  
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507 analysis, PREPbufr data, and GPS RO data used in this study from  
508 <https://rda.ucar.edu/> data sets. The model simulations are too large to include as  
509 supporting information.

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716 **Figure captions**

717 Figure 1: Spatial distribution of INSAT-3D WV  $T_B$  observations assimilated in the (a)  
718 WCLR and (d) WCLD runs, simulated  $T_B$  from (b) WCLR first guess, (c) WCLR  
719 analysis, (e) WCLD first guess, and (f) WCLD analysis on a sample day 01 July 2018.

720

721 Figure 2: Spatial distribution of average first-guess departure for (a) WCLR and (b)  
722 WCLD runs, and analysis departure for (c) WCLR and (d) WCLD runs during 1-31 July  
723 2018.

724

725 Figure 3: Temporal distribution of number of observations assimilated in WCLR and  
726 WCLD runs for (a) INSAT-3D and (d) INSAT-3DR satellites, BIAS in first-guess and  
727 analysis for (b) INSAT-3D and (e) INSAT-3DR satellites, and RMSD in first-guess and  
728 analysis for (c) INSAT-3D and (f) INSAT-3DR satellites during July 2018. The WCLR  
729 and WCLD runs are defined as CLR and CLD, respectively. First-guess and analysis  
730 are shown as solid-line and dash-line, respectively.

731

732 Figure 4: Spatial distribution of anomaly (WCLD – WCNT) analyses for variables (a)  
733 humidity ( $\text{g Kg}^{-1}$ ), (b) temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), (c) Zonal wind ( $\text{m s}^{-1}$ ), (d) meridional wind ( $\text{m}$   
734  $\text{s}^{-1}$ ), (e) cloud mixing ratio ( $\text{mg Kg}^{-1}$ ), (f) rain mixing ratio ( $\text{mg Kg}^{-1}$ ), (g) snow mixing  
735 ratio ( $\text{mg Kg}^{-1}$ ), (h) ice mixing ratio ( $\text{mg Kg}^{-1}$ ), and (i) graupel mixing ratio ( $\text{mg Kg}^{-1}$ )  
736 variables at 500 hPa during July 2018.

737

738 Figure 5: Spatial distribution of (a) mean SAPHIR channel-1  $T_B$ , (b) RMSD in the  
739 WCNT simulated  $T_B$  against SAPHIR, improvement parameter (K) in (c) WCLR and

740 (d) WCLD simulated analyzed  $T_B$  against WCNT simulated analyzed  $T_B$  during entire  
741 month of July 2018.

742

743 Figure 6: Spatial distribution of (a) mean MHS channel-3  $T_B$ , (b) RMSD in the WCNT  
744 simulated  $T_B$  against MHS, improvement parameter (K) in (c) WCLR and (d) WCLD  
745 simulated analyzed  $T_B$  against WCNT simulated analyzed  $T_B$  during entire month of  
746 July 2018.

747

748 Figure 7: Spatial distribution of (a) number of SAPHIR observations used for 03-hourly  
749 forecasts verifications, (b) RMSD in WCNT forecasts simulated  $T_B$  against SAPHIR,  
750 percentage improvement parameter in (c) WCLR and (d) WCLD forecasts simulated  
751  $T_B$  against WCNT forecasts simulated  $T_B$  during 1-31 July 2018.

752

753 Figure 8: Spatial distribution of (a) number of MHS observations used for 03-hourly  
754 forecasts verifications, (b) RMSD in WCNT forecasts simulated  $T_B$  against MHS,  
755 percentage improvement parameter in (c) WCLR and (d) WCLD forecasts simulated  
756  $T_B$  against WCNT forecasts simulated  $T_B$  during 1-31 July 2018.

757

758 Figure 9: Spatial distribution of WV mixing ratio from (a) NCEP final analysis, and (b)  
759 12-hour forecast from WCNT runs, percentage improvement parameter for (c) WCLR  
760 and (d) WCLD runs against WCNT runs at 300 hPa during July 2018.

761

762 Figure 10: Time-Height plot of percentage improvement parameter for different  
763 forecast lengths for (a) WCLR and (d) WCLD runs against WCNT runs, when  
764 compared with NCEP final analysis during the entire month of July 2018.

Figure 01.

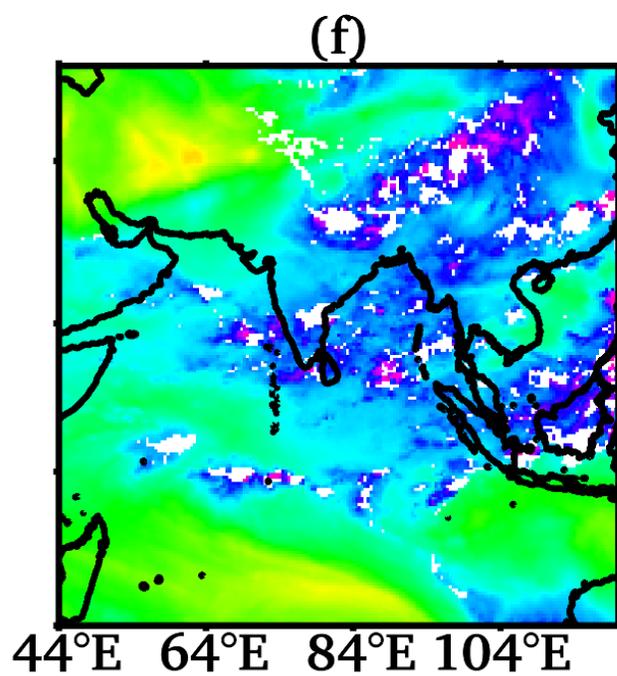
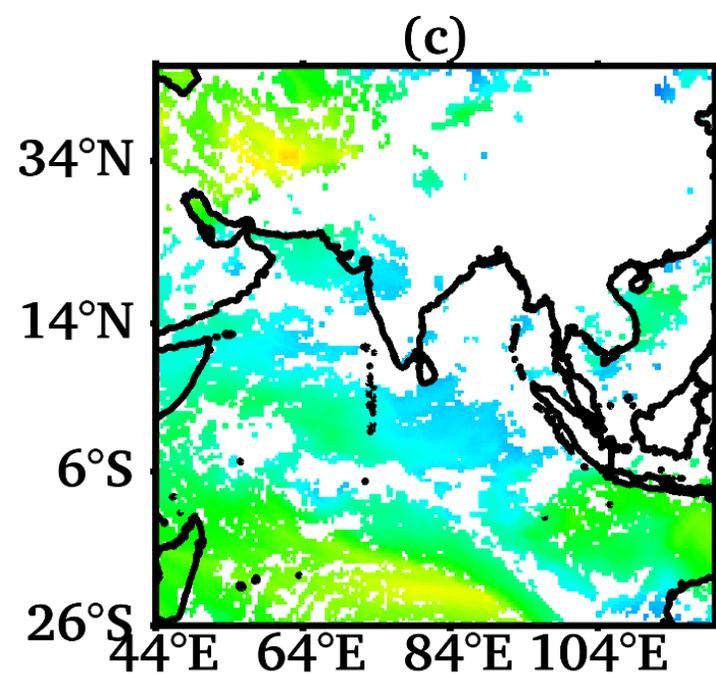
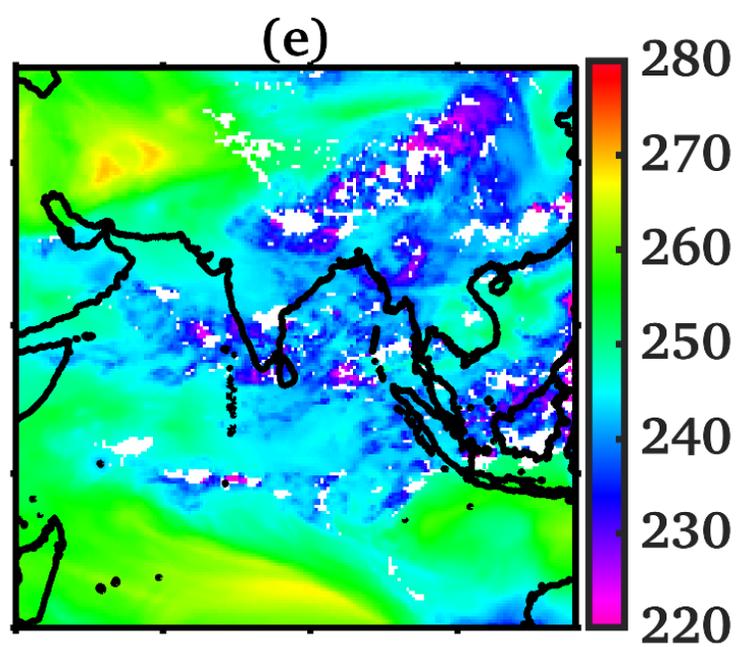
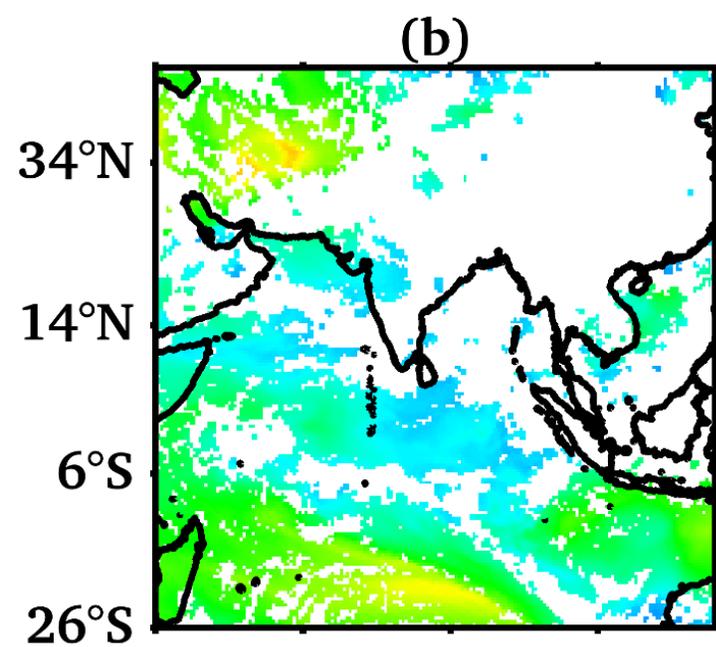
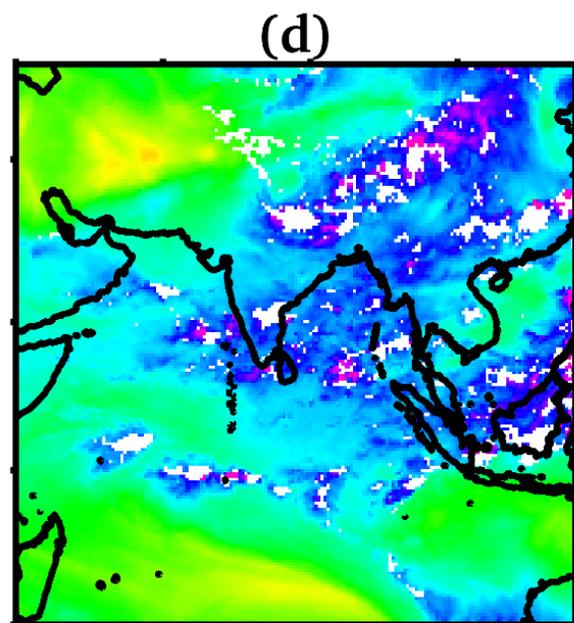
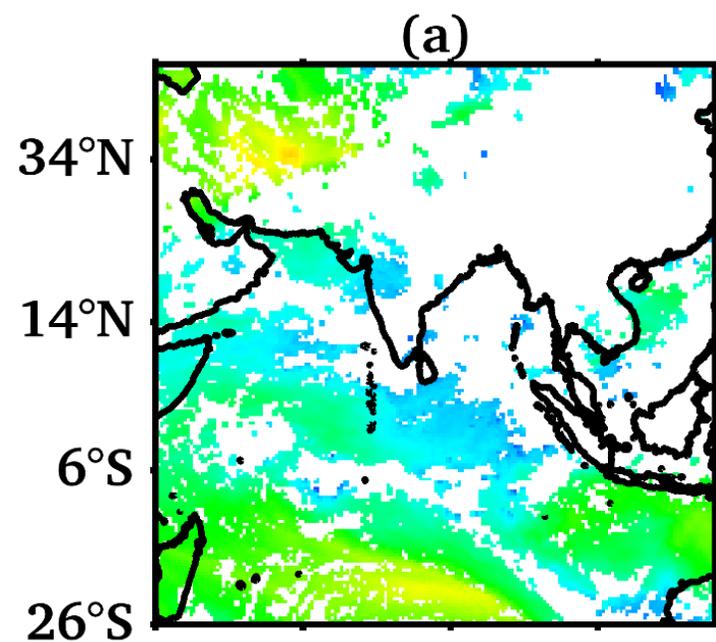


Figure 02.

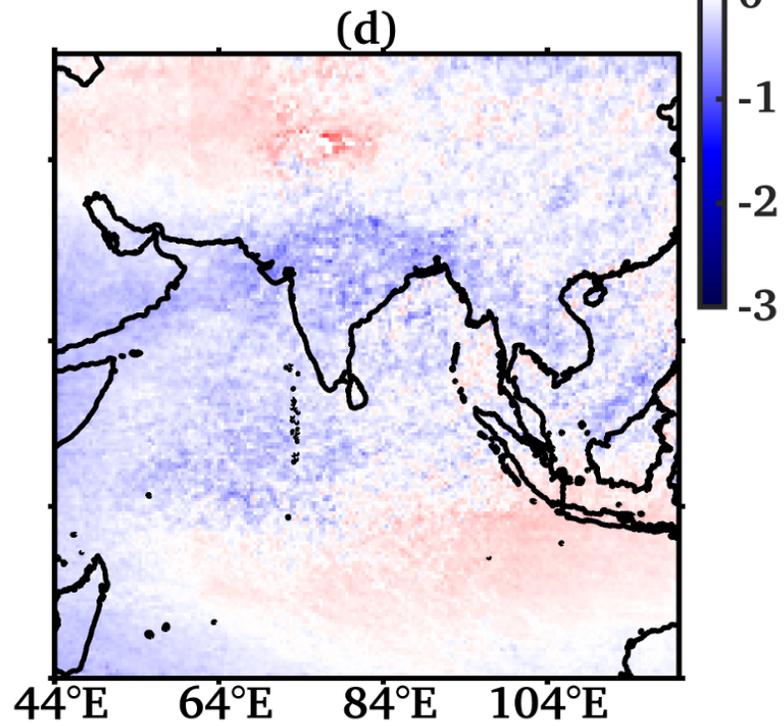
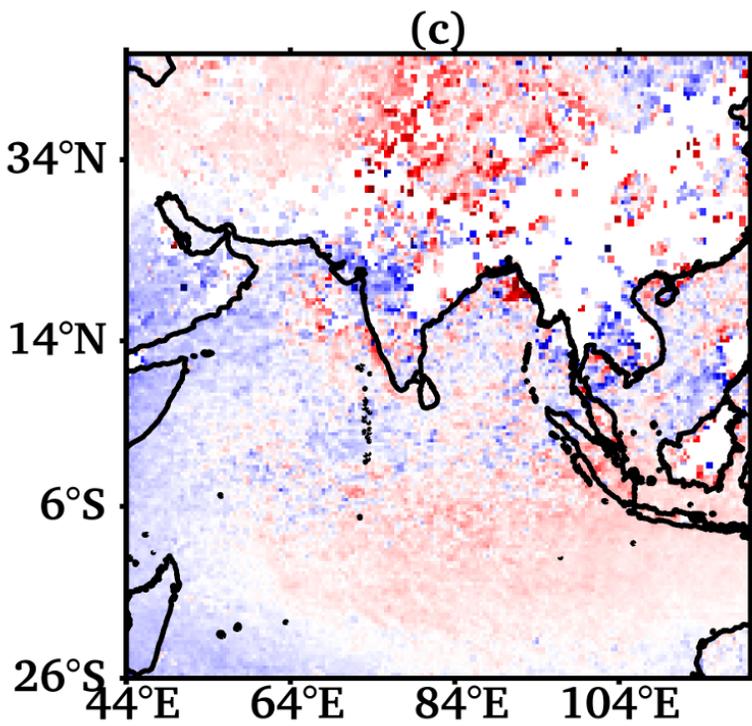
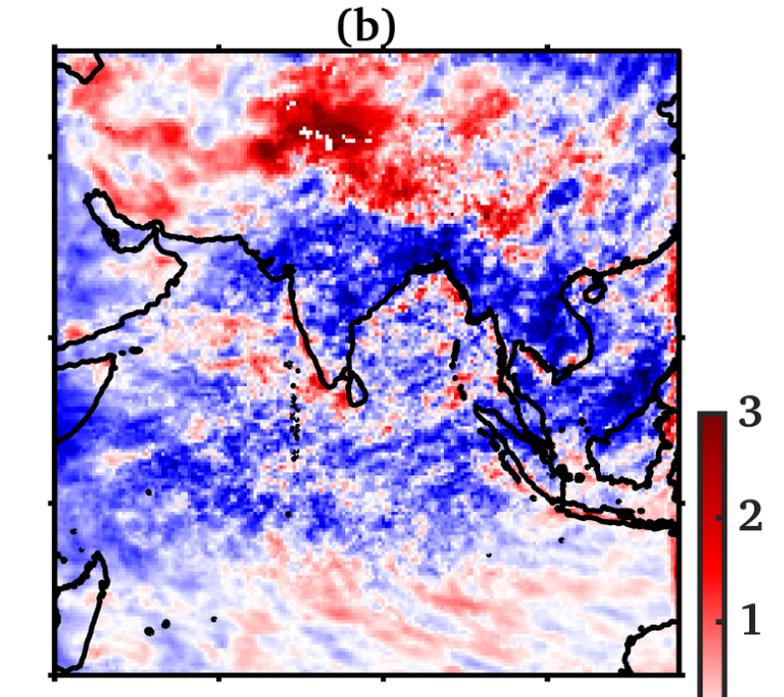
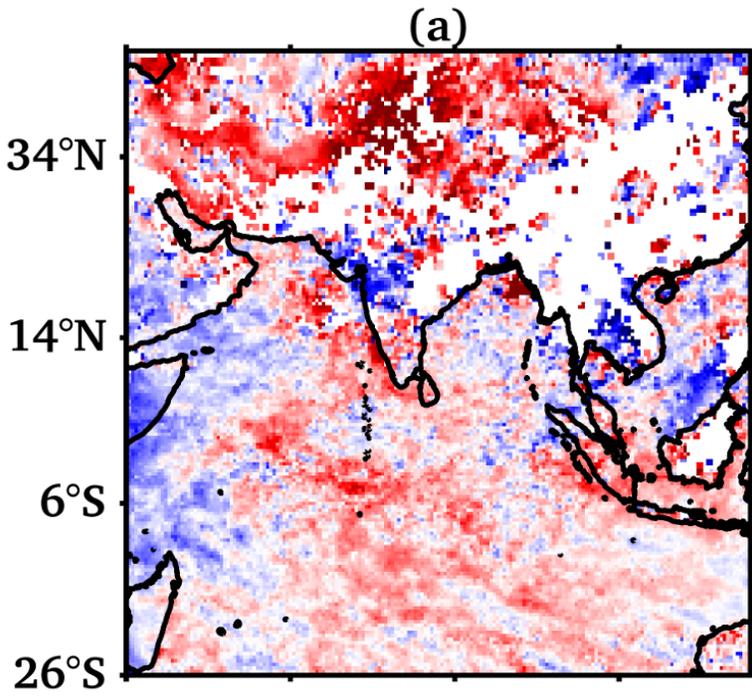


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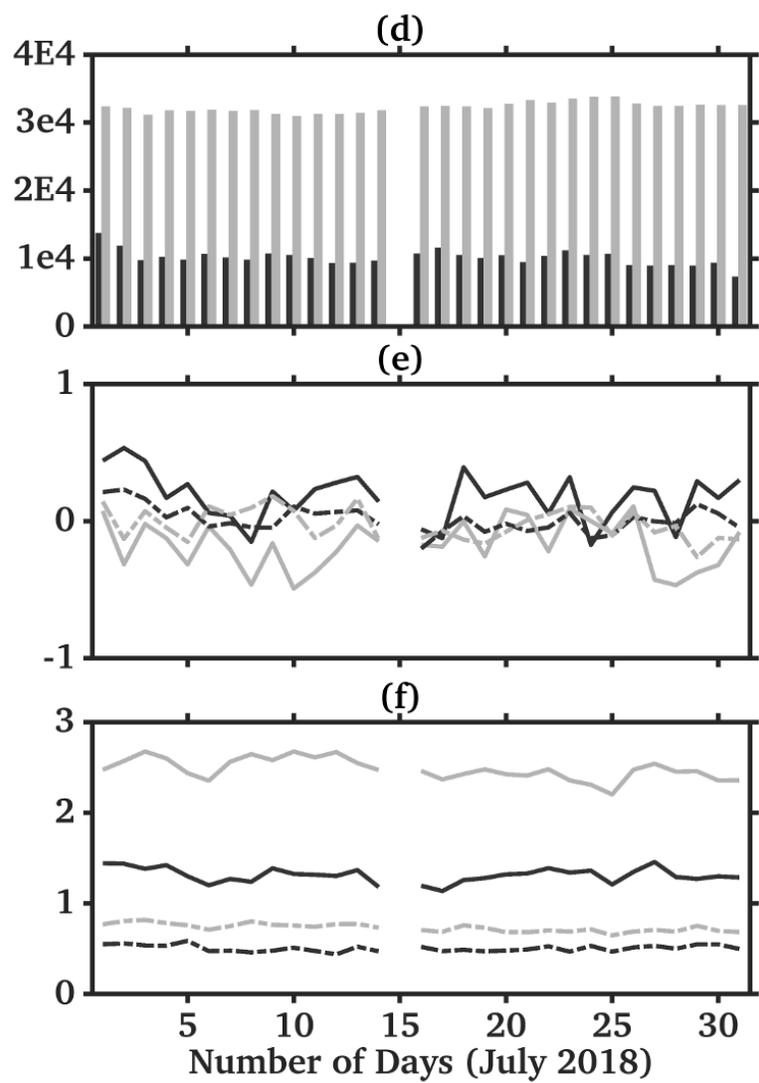
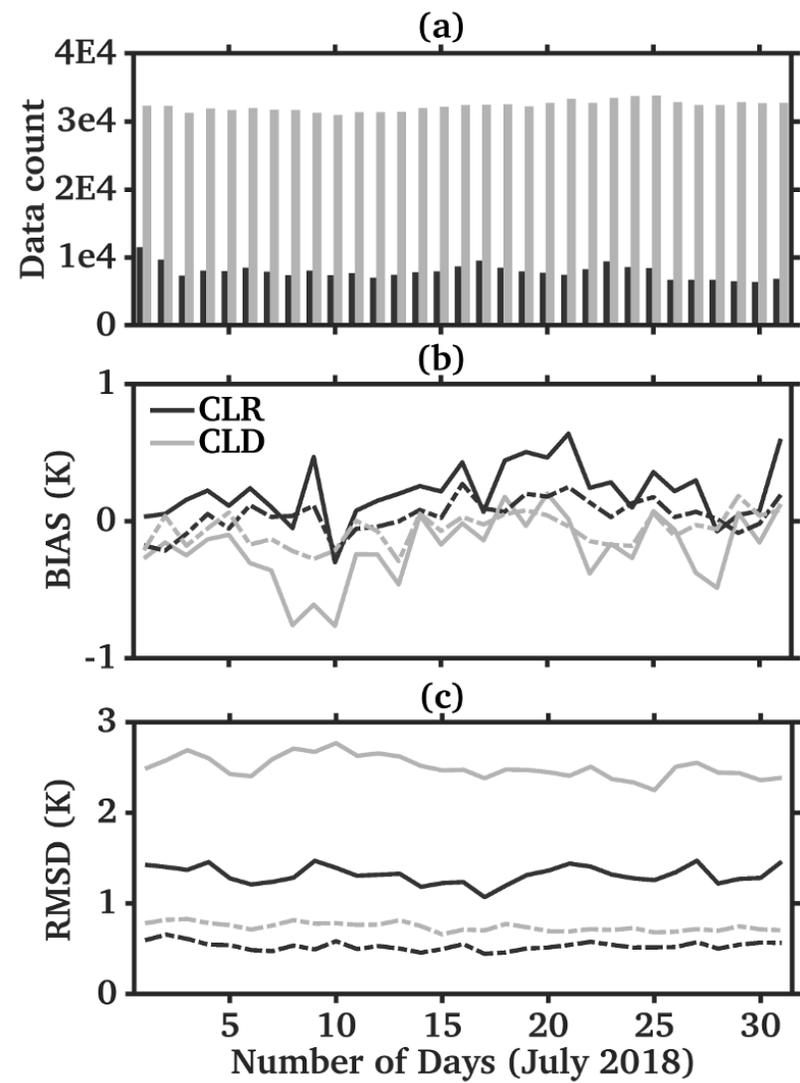


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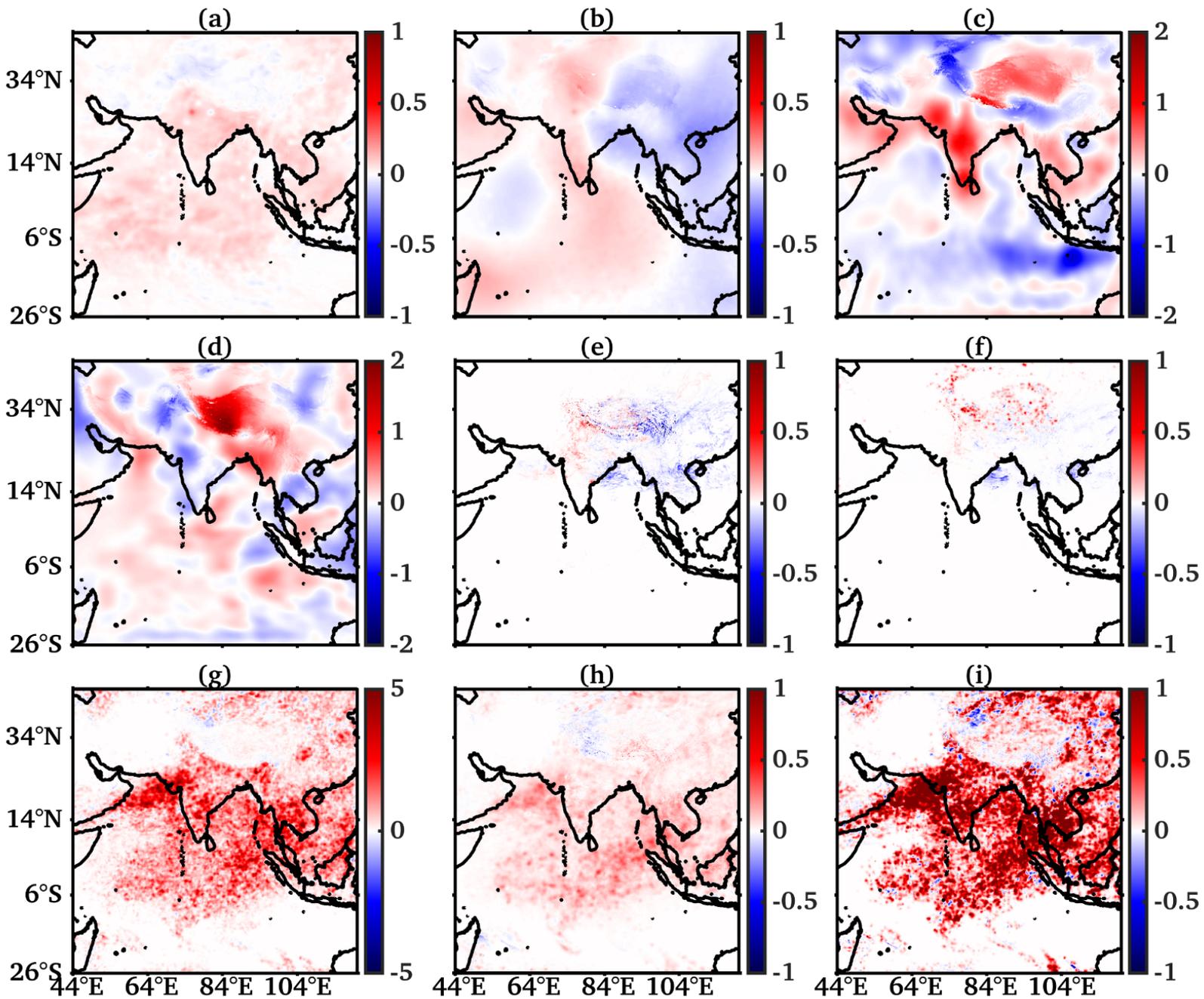
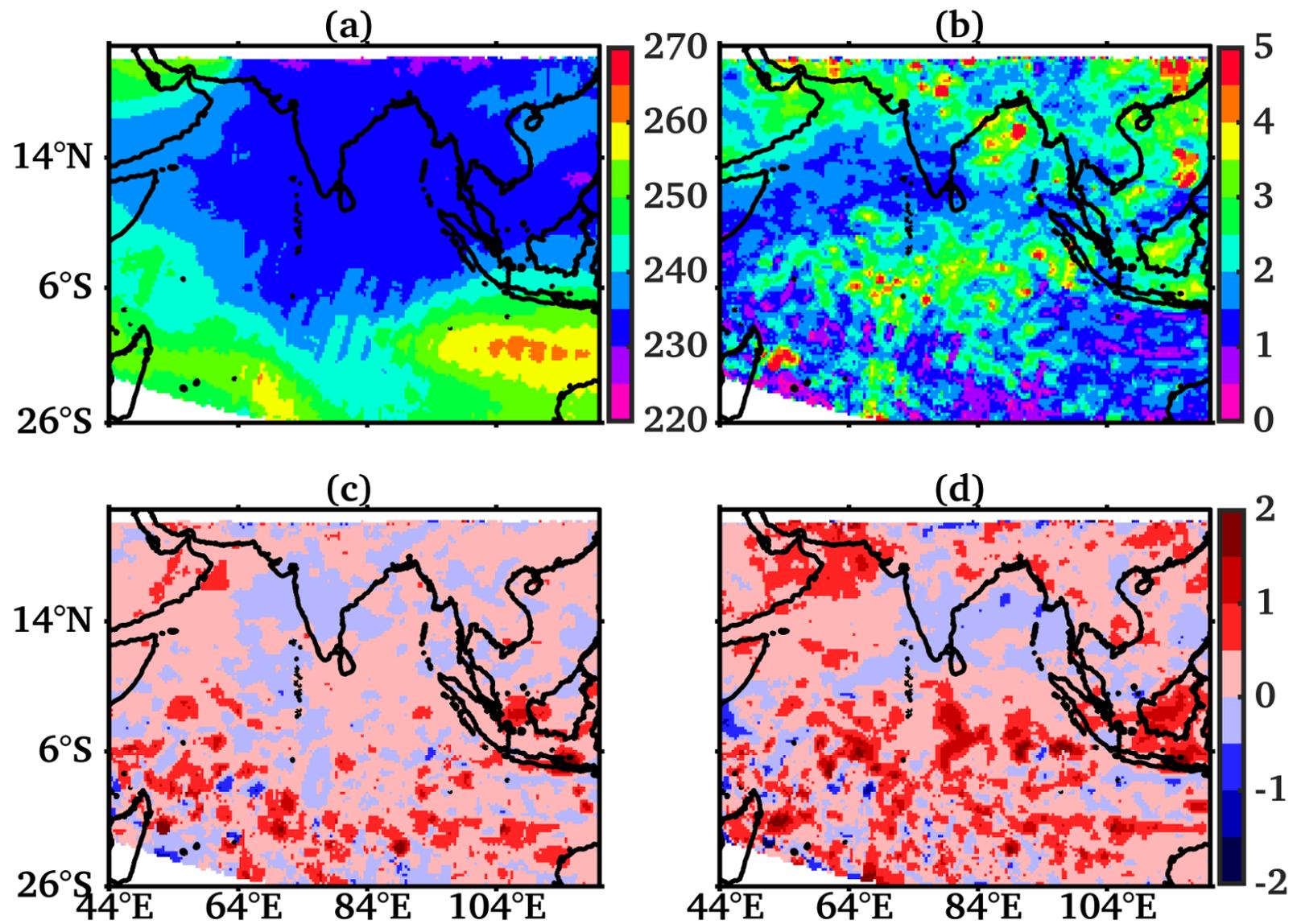


Figure 05.



**Figure 06.**

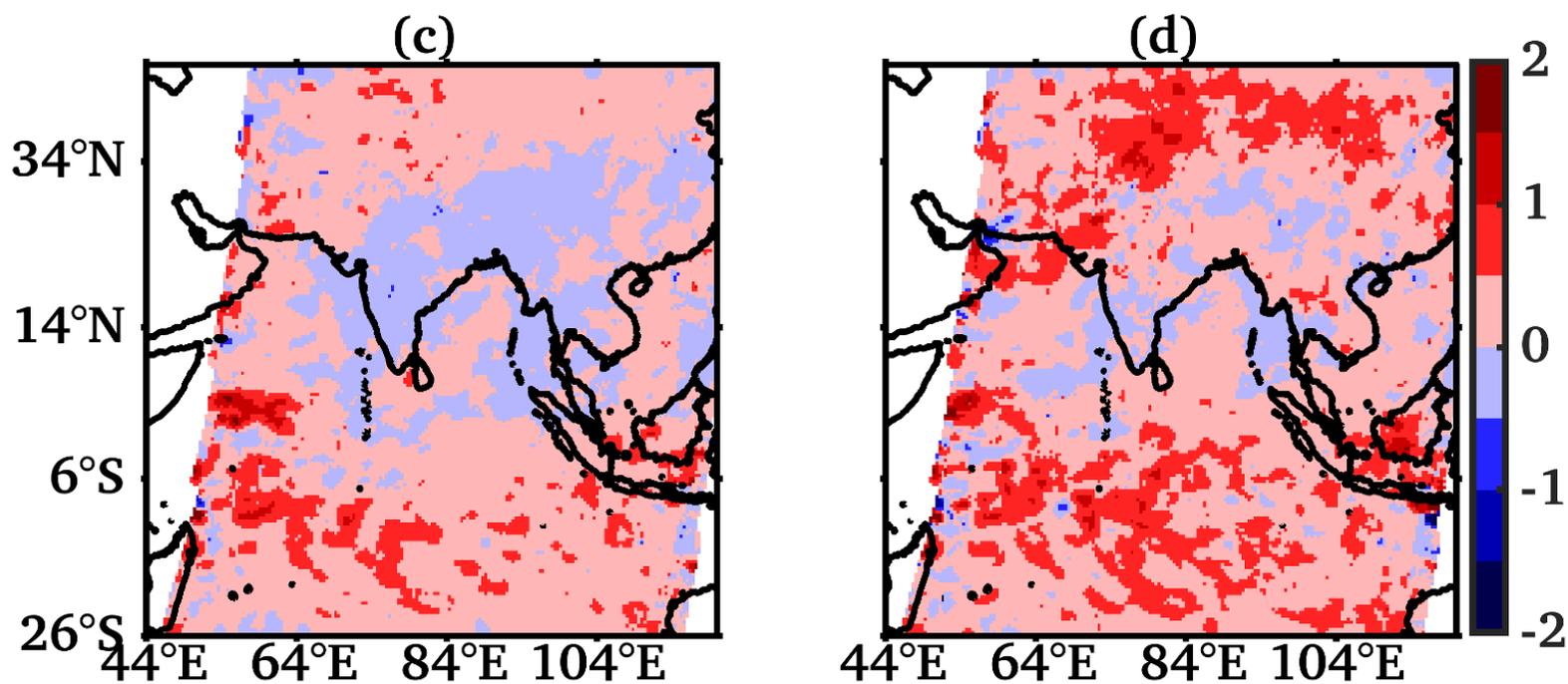
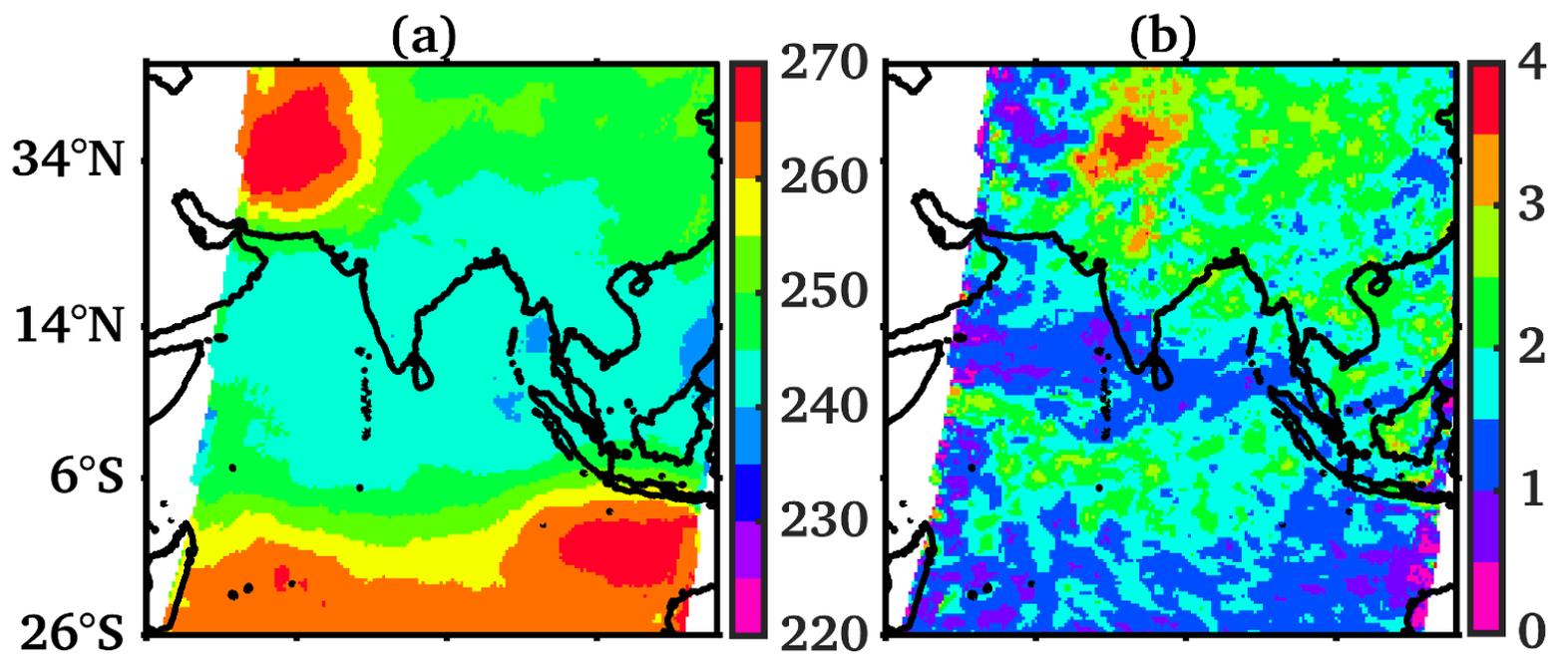


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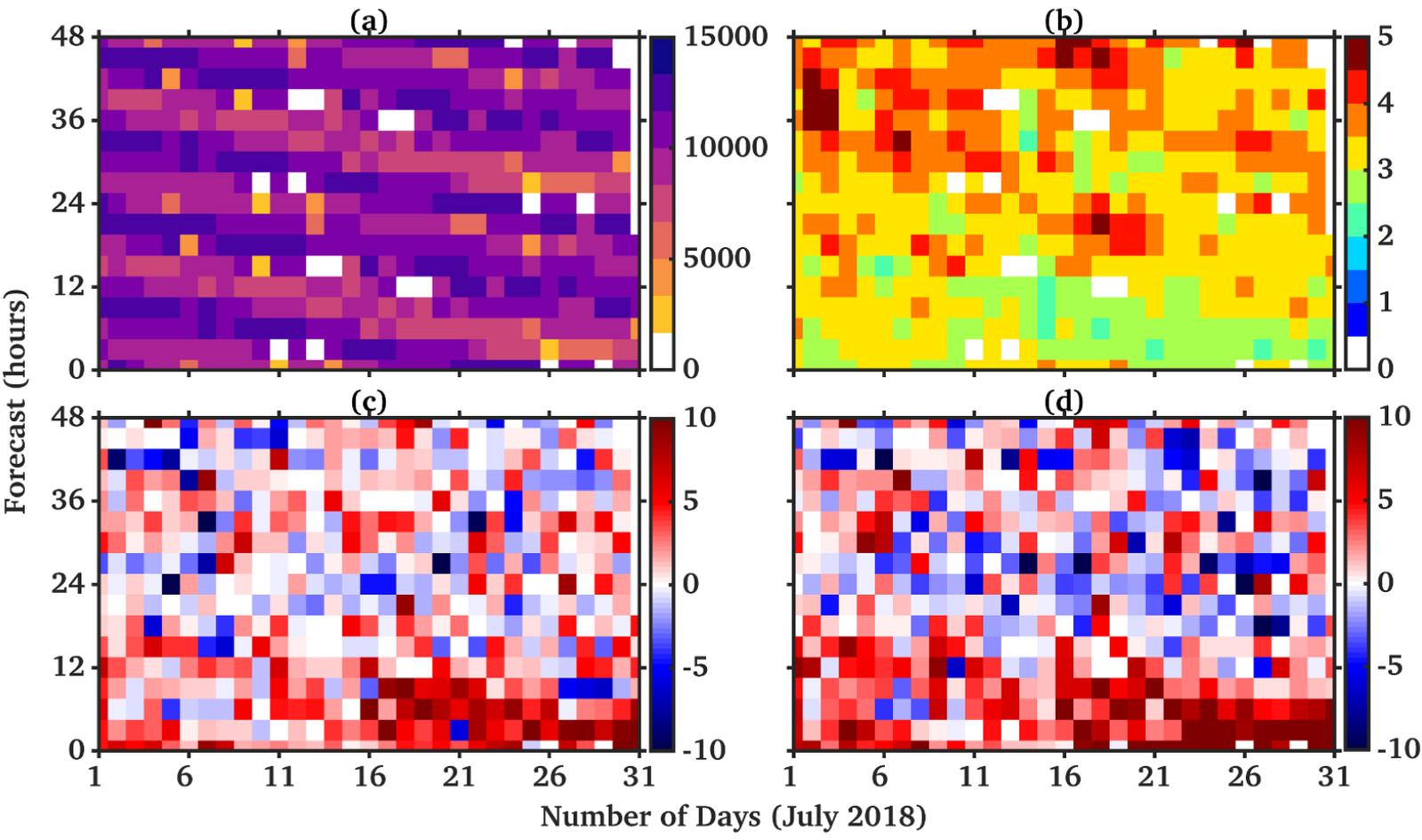


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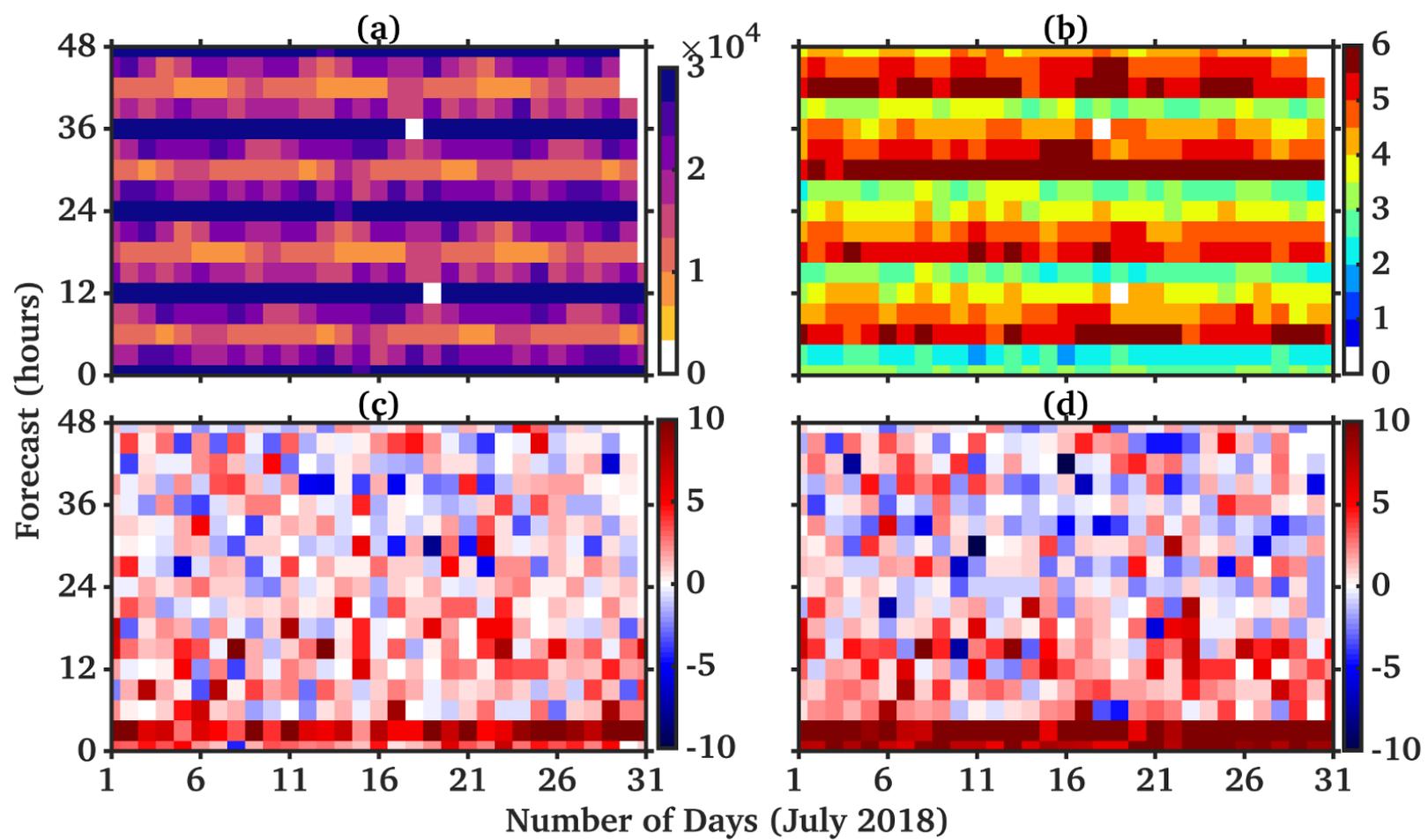


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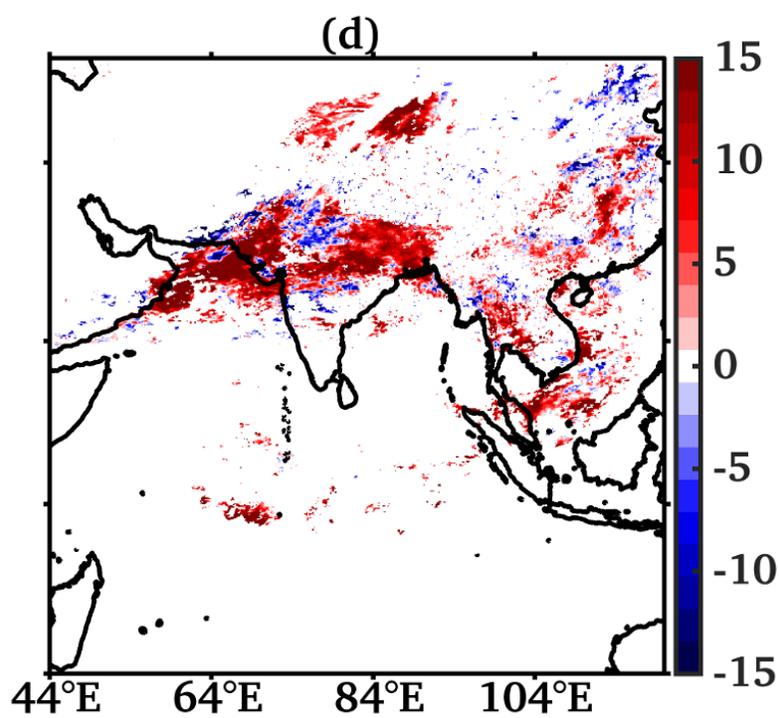
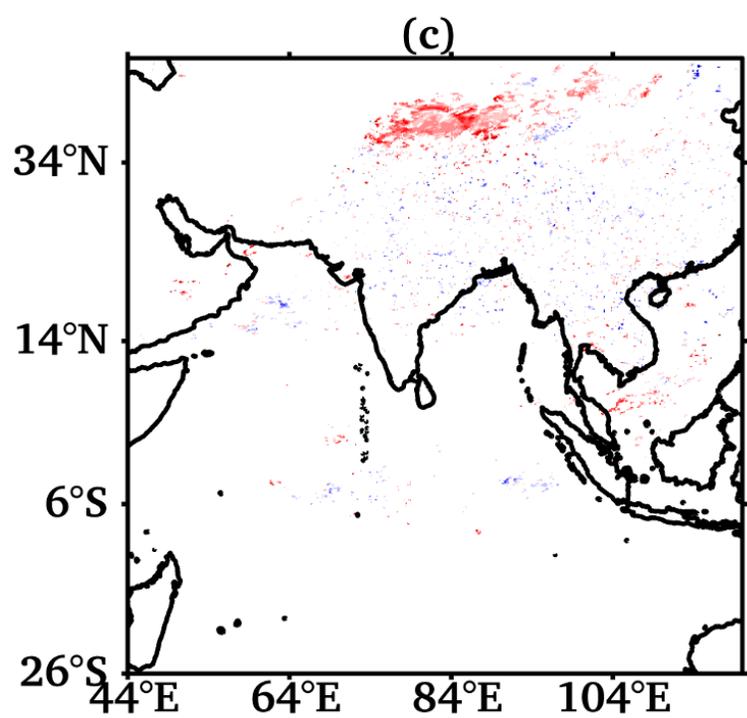
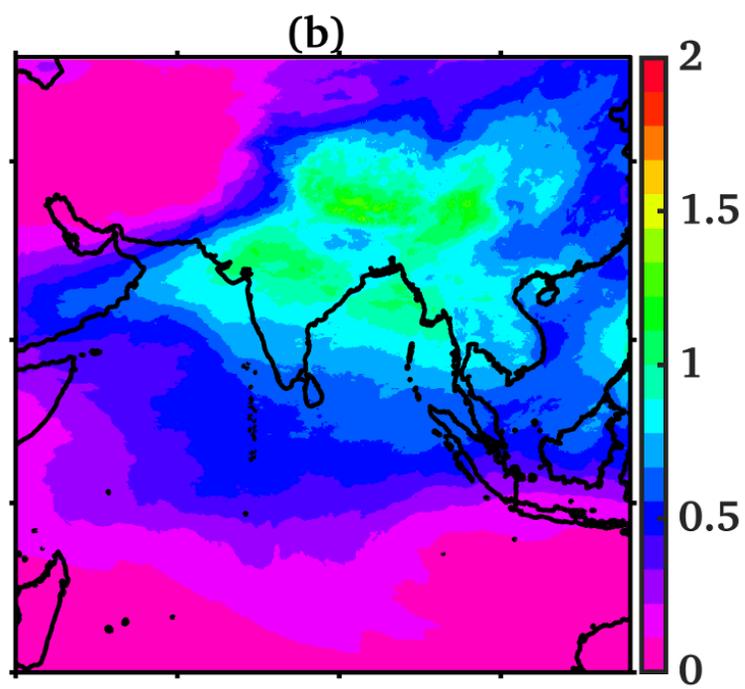
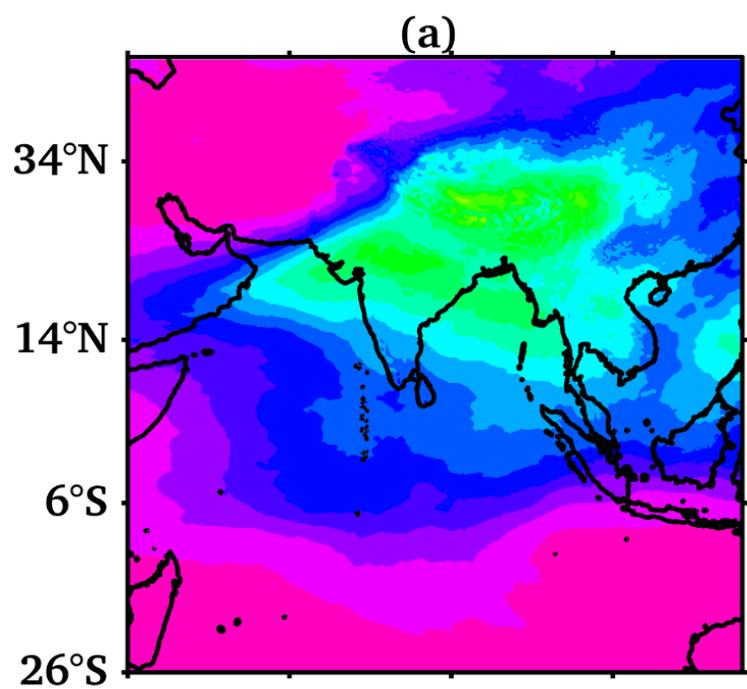


Figure 10.

