Towards Robust Parameterizations in Ecosystem-level Photosynthesis Models

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Abstract

In a model simulating dynamics of a system, parameters can represent system sensitivities and unresolved processes, therefore affecting model accuracy and uncertainty. Taking a light use efficiency (LUE) model as an example, which is a typical approach to estimate gross primary productivity (GPP), we propose a Simultaneous Parameter Inversion and Extrapolation approach (SPIE) to overcome issues stemming from plant-functional-type(PFT)-dependent parameterizations. SPIE refers to predicting model parameters using an artificial neural network based on collected variables, including PFT, climate types, bioclimatic variables, vegetation features, atmospheric nitrogen and phosphorus deposition and soil properties. The neural network was optimized to minimize GPP errors and constrain LUE model sensitivity functions. We compared SPIE with 11 typical parameter extrapolating methods, including PFT- and climate-specific parameterizations, global and PFT-based parameter optimization, site-similarity, and regression approaches. All methods were assessed using Nash-Sutcliffe model efficiency(NSE), determination coefficient and normalized root mean squared error, and contrasted with site-specific calibrations. Ten-fold cross-validated results showed that SPIE had the best performance across sites, various temporal scales and assessing metrics. None of the approaches performed similar to site-level calibrations (NSE=0.95), but SPIE was the only approach showing positive NSE(0.68). The Shapley value, layer-wise relevance and partial dependence showed that vegetation features, bioclimatic variables, soil properties and some PFTs are determining parameters. The proposed parameter extrapolation approach overcomes strong limitations observed in many standard parameterization methods. We argue that expanding SPIE to other models overcomes current limits and serves as an entry point to investigate the robustness and generalization of different models.

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14 Key Points:

- We propose a machine-learning-based parameterization method to model gross primary
 productivity
- The method overcomes significant biases in predictions using assumptions of biome dependent and globally fixed parameterizations
- Vegetation, climate and soil properties explain most variability in model parameters,
 challenging current prescriptions of their patterns.
- 21

22 Abstract

23 In a model simulating dynamics of a system, parameters can represent system sensitivities and

- 24 unresolved processes, therefore affecting model accuracy and uncertainty. Taking a light use
- efficiency (LUE) model as an example, which is a typical approach to estimate gross primary
- 26 productivity (GPP), we propose a Simultaneous Parameter Inversion and Extrapolation approach
- 27 (SPIE) to overcome issues stemming from plant-functional-type(PFT)-dependent
- 28 parameterizations. SPIE refers to predicting model parameters using an artificial neural network
- 29 based on collected variables, including PFT, climate types, bioclimatic variables, vegetation
- 30 features, atmospheric nitrogen and phosphorus deposition and soil properties. The neural
- network was optimized to minimize GPP errors and constrain LUE model sensitivity functions.
- We compared SPIE with 11 typical parameter extrapolating methods, including PFT- and climate-specific parameterizations, global and PFT-based parameter optimization, site-similarity,
- climate-specific parameterizations, global and PFT-based parameter optimization, site-simil
 and regression approaches. All methods were assessed using Nash-Sutcliffe model
- efficiency(NSE), determination coefficient and normalized root mean squared error, and
- contrasted with site-specific calibrations. Ten-fold cross-validated results showed that SPIE had
- the best performance across sites, various temporal scales and assessing metrics. None of the
- approaches performed similar to site-level calibrations(NSE=0.95), but SPIE was the only
- approach showing positive NSE(0.68). The Shapley value, layer-wise relevance and partial
- 40 dependence showed that vegetation features, bioclimatic variables, soil properties and some
- 41 PFTs are determining parameters. The proposed parameter extrapolation approach overcomes

42 strong limitations observed in many standard parameterization methods. We argue that

- 43 expanding SPIE to other models overcomes current limits and serves as an entry point to
- 44 investigate the robustness and generalization of different models.

45 Plain Language Summary

Parameters can represent ecosystem properties and sensitivities of ecosystem processes to 46 environment changes, affecting model accuracy and outputs uncertainties. Therefore determining 47 parameters is of great importance for applying models. Current ecosystem-level models mostly 48 determine parameters according to biomes. For example, light use efficiency (LUE) models, a 49 50 typical tool to estimate gross primary productivity (GPP), use plant-functional-type(PFT)specific parameters. However, PFT-specific parameters cannot represent the spatial variance of 51 GPP sensitivities to environmental conditions within PFT and introduce significant estimation 52 errors. To overcome these issues, we propose a Simultaneous Parameter Inversion and 53 Extrapolation method (SPIE). Taking an LUE model as an example, we estimated model 54 parameters using SPIE based on the input features representing vegetation, climate and soil 55 properties at 196 observational sites. We compared SPIE with 11 other parameter extrapolating 56 methods and all these methods with site-specific calibrations based on full-time-series observed 57 GPP. The results were validated and showed that SPIE was the best method to extrapolate 58 parameters across various temporal and spatial scales. According to the importance of input 59 features, vegetation, bioclimatic, soil properties and some PFTs are dominating spatial changes 60

- of parameters. Overall, SPIE is a robust method which overcomes strong limitations in many
- 62 standard parameter extrapolating methods.

63 **1 Introduction**

Increasing studies based on model ensembles reveal that large uncertainties remain in
 modeling the global carbon cycle and ecosystem responses to environmental changes (Baldocchi,

Ryu, & Keenan, 2016; Bloom, Exbrayat, Van Der Velde, Feng, & Williams, 2016; Piao et al., 66 2020). The uncertainties are mainly due to various limitations in model structures, driver data 67 and parameters (Huntzinger et al., 2017; Medlyn, Robinson, Clement, & McMurtrie, 2005; 68 Zheng et al., 2018). Although model parameters contribute to considerable uncertainties, most 69 global vegetation models are parameterized using fixed, biome- or plant functional type (PFT)-70 based values, which cannot capture the spatial variability of carbon assimilation processes 71 (Bloom et al., 2016). The fixed and PFT-based parameterization are also widely used and 72 introduced uncertainties in gross primary productivity (GPP) models (Groenendijk et al., 2011; 73 Ryu, Berry, & Baldocchi, 2019), including light use efficiency (LUE) models, leaf-scale-74 process-based models, machine-learning and sun-induced fluorescence models (Frankenberg et 75 al., 2011; Jung et al., 2011; Running et al., 2004; Tian et al., 2020; Zhang et al., 2012). A more 76

robust and physically intuitive parameterization method is desired for constraining the globalGPP estimation.

LUE models are typical approaches for the estimation of GPP at large global scales (Mahadevan et al., 2008; Potter et al., 1993; Running et al., 2004; Tian et al., 2020; Yuan et al., 2007). These kinds of models incorporate the knowledge of environmental constraints to the originally proposed empirical LUE model, Monteith et al.(1972)'s model, having advantages of high efficiency and algorithmic transparency compared to leaf-scale-process-based models and machine-learning-based models, respectively.

85 The first global GPP product based on MODIS LUE algorithm (Running et al., 2004) 86 proposed a set of PFT-dependent parameters. Later, other published global LUE models inherit the PFT-based parameterization method or incorporate parameters directly extracted from 87 literature (He et al., 2013; Mahadevan et al., 2008; Xiao et al., 2004; Xie & Li, 2020). The PFT-88 based approach is not exclusive to LUE models, but also commonly used in dynamic global 89 vegetation models and the land surface schemes of global Earth system models supporting IPCC 90 reports (Ciais et al., 2019; Masson-Delmotte et al., 2021; T. Stocker, 2014; Wenzel, Cox, Eyring, 91 92 & Friedlingstein, 2014). However, applying parameterizations in locations or regions, which have not previously used for or evaluated against might easily lead to naïve conclusions about 93 94 model structure robustness and/or parameter generalization. To overcome this limitation, LUE 95 models usually calibrate parameters within their physical ranges to minimize the mismatch between the modeled and the observational GPP (Carvalhais et al., 2008; Horn & Schulz, 2011a; 96 Mäkelä et al., 2008; Yan et al., 2017; Zhou et al., 2016), i.e., the GPP estimated from eddy 97 98 covariance (EC) carbon flux. This method is supported by the availability of EC flux towers, but given the need for parameter generalization limited for the global domain. To parameterize the 99 Carnegie-Ames-Stanford approach (CASA) model in locations without EC observations, 100 Carvalhais et al (2010) considered *in situ* parameterizations from EC sites with the same PFT 101 and similar climate and vegetation features. Other studies use the average site-level optimized 102 parameters per PFT (Guan, Chen, Shen, Xie, & Tan, 2022; Yuan, Cai, Xia, et al., 2014; Zhou et 103 al., 2016), PFT-specific optimized parameters (Tian et al., 2020; Zheng et al., 2020), globally 104 optimized parameters (B. D. Stocker et al., 2020; Yuan et al., 2019) or globally fixed parameters 105 (Mengoli et al., 2022; H. Wang et al., 2017). Yuan et al (2014) showed using six different LUE 106 models that the modeled GPP using globally optimized parameters was not significantly different 107 from that using PFT-specific optimized parameters. However, it has been illustrated that at least 108 parameter variations between PFTs need to be considered to reach confident model performances 109 (Tian et al., 2020). In general, most studies did not account for parameter variances within PFT, 110

despite assuming that LUE model parameters are related to characteristics of the vegetation andthe environment.

In some studies, the drivers for spatial changes of model parameters were analyzed based 113 on site-level calibrated parameters. For example, Horn et al (2011b) found that their LUE model 114 parameters, which represent the maximum light use efficiency and the sensitivity of GPP to 115 temperature and soil moisture, varied across climate zones and biomes and can be predicted 116 using vegetation and environmental properties. The relationship between parameters and plant 117 traits also existed in process-based GPP models (Peaucelle et al., 2019). Moreover, Luo et al 118 (2020) claimed that model parameters, which can represent both the evolving ecosystem 119 properties and the unresolved ecosystem processes, should be determined according to our 120 knowledge about the changing ecosystem properties. All these studies confirmed the control of 121 vegetation attributes and environmental features on model parameters, which represents GPP 122 sensitivities. These findings inspire the possible next generation of parameterization methods 123 based on the physical connection between model parameters and ecosystem properties. 124

125 In this study, we aim to propose a new model parameterization method (or parameter extrapolation method) that explicitly accommodates the contribution of PFT as well as other 126 vegetation features and environmental conditions to parameter spatial variability. We allow the 127 spatial variation of parameters, indicating GPP sensitivities to environmental forcings, to be 128 learned from a set of ecosystem properties. To test the approach, we compared 12 different 129 parameterization methods (see details in section 2.2) based on an exemplified LUE model with 130 131 appropriate environmental drivers and sensitivity functional forms selected from an ensemble of 5600 LUE models (Bao et al., 2022). These parameterization methods were assessed according 132 to the accuracy of the simulated GPP (GPP_{sim}) across different time scales at the site level, per 133 PFT, per climate type and globally (see section 2.3). The importance of drivers for model 134 parameters was evaluated using three different methods (see section 2.4). 135

136 2 Materials and Methods

147

137 2.1 Light use efficiency model

LUE models define GPP as a product of the photosynthetically active radiation (PAR), the fraction of photosynthetically active radiation (FAPAR) and the maximum light use efficiency (ε_{max}), regulated by environmental sensitivity functions. The environmental drivers and sensitivity functional forms differ across LUE models. To minimize the selection effect of environmental drivers and sensitivity functions, we select an LUE model based on Bao et al. (2022) which considers the impacts of temperature (T), vapor pressure deficit (VPD),

atmospheric CO₂ concentration (c_a), soil moisture (W), light intensity (L) and the cloudiness

145 index (CI) on GPP dynamics (see equations 1-8).

146 GPP=PAR·FAPAR·
$$\varepsilon_{max}$$
·fT·fVPD·fW·fL·fCI 1

$$fT = \frac{2e^{-(T_{f} \cdot T_{opt})/k_{T}}}{1 + e^{(-(T_{f} \cdot T_{opt})/k_{T})^{2}}}$$
2

148
$$f \text{VPD} = e^{\kappa \left(\frac{C_{a0}}{c_a}\right)^{C_{\kappa}} \text{VPD}} \left(1 + \frac{c_a - C_{a0}}{c_a - C_{a0} + C_m}\right)$$

5

6

$$fW = \frac{1}{1 + e^{\mathbf{k}\mathbf{W}(\mathbf{k}\mathbf{W}-\mathbf{W}\mathbf{I})}}$$

$$fL = \frac{1}{1 + \gamma APAR}$$

$$fCI=CI^{\mu}$$

152
$$T_{f}(t) = (1 - a_{T}) \cdot T(t) + a_{T} \cdot T_{f}(t-1)$$

153
$$T_{f}(t) = (1 - a_{W}) \cdot W(t) + a_{W} \cdot W_{f}(t-1)$$

154 The LUE model includes 13 parameters in total (in **bold**). All sensitivity functions (*f*T, fVPD, fW, fL and fCI) are scaled from zero to one, representing from strong to no constraints. 155 The physical meanings and units of the parameters and references of these sensitivity functions 156 are summarized in Table 1. 157

Parameters	Meanings	Range	Units	References
$\mathcal{E}_{ ext{max}}$	Maximum light use efficiency	0-10	gC·MJ ⁻¹	(Running et al., 2004)
Topt	Optimal temperature	5 – 35	°C	(Horn & Schulz,
k _T	Sensitivity to temperature changes	1 - 20	-	2011a)
к	Sensitivity to vapor pressure deficit changes	-10 ⁻¹ 10 ⁻⁴	kPa ⁻¹	(Mäkelä et al., 2008)
C _{a0}	Minimum optimal atmospheric CO ₂ concentration	340 - 390	ppm	(Kalliokoski,
Ск	Sensitivity to atmospheric CO ₂ concentration changes	0 - 10	-	Makela, Fronzek, Minunno, & Peltoniemi 2018)
Cm	CO ₂ fertilization intensity indicator	100 - 4000	ppm	1 encomenni, 2010)
kw	Sensitivity to soil moisture changes	-305	-	(Horn & Schulz,
WI	Optimal soil moisture	0.01 – 0.99	cm·cm ⁻¹	2011a)
γ	Light saturation curvature indicator	0 – 1	MJ ⁻¹ ·m ² ·d	(Mäkelä et al., 2008)
μ	Sensitivity to cloudiness index changes	10-3 - 1	-	(Bao et al., 2022)
α_{T}	Lag parameter for temperature effect	0.0 - 0.9	-	(II
$a_{ m W}$	Lag parameter for soil moisture effect	0.0-0.9	-	(Horn & Schulz, 2011a)

158	Table 1. List of LUE model para	meters
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159

light energy intercepted by the vegetation canopy, and thus was used as the light intensity input 163

The sensitivity function of VPD, fVPD, includes the effect of both VPD and ca, which jointly control the leaf internal CO₂ concentration. The pure CO₂ fertilization effect is described 160 only by the right part of *f*VPD (i.e., the sum of one and c_a function). The product of PAR and 161 FAPAR, i.e., the absorbed photosynthetically active radiation (APAR), is the estimate of the 162

of the sensitivity function of L (fL). The T and W were temporally filtered using lag parameters, ar and α w, at boreal and arid regions, respectively, according to Horn et al (2011a).

166 2.1.1 Forcing data and parameter calibration

167 The forcing data for the LUE model was collected at 196 EC sites (listed in Table S1) 168 from FLUXNET (<u>www.fluxnet.org</u>). The detailed sources and algorithms of the forcing data are 169 summarized in Table S2. The GPP estimated from the observed net ecosystem exchange (NEE) 170 at EC sites (GPP_{obs}) were also collected to calibrate parameters and evaluate parameterization 171 methods.

In the parameter calibration process, we added constraints on GPP simulation errors and sensitivity functions (e.g., fT) following the concept of ecological and dynamic constraints (see details in section S1). As a derivative-free global searching algorithm, CMAES (Hansen & Kern, 2004), was used to search the optimal parameters in its physical range according to the full time series of GPP_{obs}. We assumed that the simulated GPP using the optimized parameters (GPP_{calib}) can reach the model potential (i.e., the highest model performance) with GPP_{calib} considered as a reference for its good fitness to GPP_{obs}.

179 2.1.2 Input features for predicting parameters

To extrapolate the parameters across various sites and in the future to the global scale, we 180 collect mainly the variables that can represent the ecosystem properties available at both local 181 (i.e., site-level) and global scales. These variables include the PFT, climate classification types 182 (Clim; Rubel, Brugger, Haslinger, & Auer, 2017), 19 bioclimatic variables (BIO1-19, classified 183 as 'BioClim'; Xu & Hutchinson, 2011), two aridity features (AI1-2, classified as 'BioClim'), 11 184 vegetation index features (VIF1-11, represented by 'VIF'), atmospheric Nitrogen and 185 Phosphorus deposition (NdepNHX, NdepNOY and Pdep, summarized as 'NPdep'; R. Wang et 186 187 al., 2017) and 17 soil properties (classified as 'Soil'; Poggio et al., 2021). In other words, we totally used six classes of input features which are shorted to BioClim, Clim, NPdep, PFT, Soil 188 and VIF. The details of the input features are summarized in Table S3. 189

The categorical variables (PFT and climate types) were converted to one or zero to indicate whether the target location belongs to a specific type or not. All non-categorical variables were normalized by subtracting the mean of each feature and dividing by the standard deviation (equation 9). The original and normalized features are represented by *var* and *var*_{nor}. The mean and standard deviation per feature are represented by *mean* and *std*, respectively.

195
$$var_{nor} = \frac{var-mean}{std}$$

9

196 2.2 Parameterization methods

We extrapolate the parameters based on a ten-fold cross-validation strategy using the collected input features. Namely, the samples, here refers to the EC sites, were divided into 10 groups randomly (see the group number of each site in Table S1). We trained the parameterization models using nine of 10 groups and validate the result using the one left, and repeated 10 times until getting validated results from all sites. All PFT and climate classification types (11 PFT and 14 climate classification types in total, see Table S1) were included in each training dataset. The 12 parameterization methods can be divided into six groups, i.e., univariate clustering, similarity-based, optimization-based, regression-based, our hybrid approach based on a neural network and globally-fixed methods (see details in sections 2.2.1-2.2.6).

207 2.2.1 Univariate clustering methods ('PFTmean', 'Climmean', 'PFTmed', and 'Climmed')

In regions without observational data, the parameters were determined by the arithmetic

210 mean from the calibrated parameters at the sites with the same PFT (Guan et al., 2022; Yuan,

Cai, Xia, et al., 2014; Zhou et al., 2016). Here we tested the methods using the mean and median parameters per PFT and climate type.

- ²¹³ 'PFT_{mean}': means for calibrated parameter vectors per PFT;
- 214 'Clim_{mean}': means for calibrated parameter vectors per main climate type;
- ²¹⁵ 'PFT_{med}': medians for calibrated parameter vectors per PFT;
- ²¹⁶ 'Clim_{med}': medians for calibrated parameter vectors per main climate type.
- 217 2.2.2 Similarity-based method ('Sitesim')

The site similarity is defined by Carvalhais et al. (2010) which measures the similarity (D) of the climate and vegetation features between site i and site j as in equation 10:

220
$$D_{i,j} = 1 - \frac{\sum_{n=1}^{N} (V_{i,n} - V_{j,n})^2}{\sum_{n=1}^{N} (V_{i,n} - \overline{V}_i)^2}$$
10

Here, *V* is a vector including the normalized daily mean of the air temperature, precipitation (in logarithm), global radiation and LANDSAT-based normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI, see data source and processing method in Table S2) between 1986 and 2015.

To determine the parameters of a target location, we calculated D for each training site within the same PFT as the target location. The parameter vector at the site with the maximum D was used.

228 'Site_{sim}': parameter vectors for each site from the most similar site.

229 2.2.3 Optimization-based methods ('OPT-All' and 'OPT-PFT')

The parameters can be optimized across all sites or at sites per PFT (Yuan, Cai, Liu, et al., 2014). Here we adopted the same algorithm, CMAES, and the same cost functions as the site-specific calibration method (see section S1).

- 'OPT-All': a parameter vector optimized using all sites in the training dataset. (Yuan,
 Cai, Liu, et al., 2014)
- 'OPT-PFT': parameter vectors per PFT optimized using the sites within the same PFT in
 the training dataset (Kuppel et al., 2012; Tian et al., 2020).

237 2.2.4 Regression-based methods ('sRF', 'mRF', 'mNN')

To test the assumption that calibrated parameters are determined by ecosystem properties, here we predict the calibrated parameters using the normalized features based on different regression methods.

- 'sRF': parameter vectors per site of which each parameter was predicted independently
 based on the single-output random forest (trees number=100; Breiman, 2001).
- 'mRF': parameter vectors per site predicted simultaneously based on the multi-output
 random forest (trees number=100; Pedregosa et al., 2011).

'mNN': parameter vectors per site predicted simultaneously based on the multi-layer
perceptron neural network (hidden layers number=2, neurons number=16; Gardner & Dorling,
1998; McCulloch & Pitts, 1943).



Models can suffer from equifinality problems, namely different parameter vectors can generate similar model performance. Consequently, the calibrated parameters may not represent the true parameters to simulate GPP, which reflect the GPP sensitivities controlled by the environmental properties. Here we additionally test the assumption that the predicted parameter

vector based on ecosystem properties, which might differ from the calibrated parameter vector,

- can simulate GPP with good accuracy. Instead of directly predicting parameters, we applied the
- neural network to predict GPP based on the LUE model using parameters predicted by the input
- 257 features. The flowchart for this method is shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1. Flowchart of the GPP-targeting method. The parameter vectors per site are optimized until the cost function (see the definition in section S2) value is lower than the threshold (ε =10⁻²) or epochs are more than the maximum epochs (N_e=2×10³).

First, the neural network predicts the parameter vectors based on the normalized features. 262 The GPP_{sim} is then simulated using the predicted parameter vectors and compared with GPP_{obs} to 263 measure the model error (see the definition in section S2). The neural network backpropagates 264 the error to each hidden layer and optimizes the weight and bias of each neuron using ADAM 265 algorithm (Kingma & Ba, 2014). We repeated the optimization process until the epochs reach 266 2×10^3 . We set the learning rate (=10⁻³), L₂ regularization coefficient (=10⁻⁴), mini-batch size 267 (=32), neurons per layer (=16) and hidden layers (=2) according to a grid-searching experiment 268 (not shown here). We further applied a drop-out strategy (Srivastava, Hinton, Krizhevsky, 269 Sutskever, & Salakhutdinov, 2014) to the input and hidden layers to reduce overfitting problems. 270 The outputs from the network include the simulated GPP, sensitivity functions and predicted 271 parameter vectors per site. 272

SPIE': parameter vectors per site predicted based on ecosystem properties by
 minimizing GPP errors and constraining sensitivity functions of the LUE model.

275 2.2.6 Globally-fixed method ('P-model')

The derived P-model (B. D. Stocker et al., 2020; H. Wang et al., 2017) based on Farquhar 276 et al (1980) and Fick's law together with an optimality theory (Prentice, Dong, Gleason, Maire, 277 & Wright, 2014) adopts a globally-fixed parameter vector upscaled from leaf-scale processes. 278 Mengoli et al (2022) improved the model by adding an acclimation process to the photosynthetic 279 parameters. Here we ran the Mengoli model based on daily data, which is the same as the inputs 280 281 for the selected LUE model (section 2.1.1), using the optimal parameters given in the paper (acclimation window size=15, running-mean approach based on daily data; Mengoli et al., 2022) 282 and compared the model outputs, GPP, with other methods. 283

- 284 'P-model': a globally-fixed parameter vector from paper.
- 285 2.3 Statistical analysis for parameterized results

All the parameterization methods were assessed according to the GPP accuracy measured 286 by Nash-Sutcliffe model efficiency (NSE, $(-\infty, 1]$; NSE=1 indicates a perfect model), 287 determination coefficient (\mathbb{R}^2 , [0,1]; $\mathbb{R}^2=1$ indicates a perfect model) and normalized root mean 288 squared error (NRMSE, $[0,\infty)$; NRMSE=0 indicates a perfect model) which is equal to the root 289 mean squared error divided by the mean observational variable (e.g., GPP_{obs}). Only good-quality 290 data were used to calculate NSE, R² and NRMSE. Here the good-quality data refers to the input 291 vector of which the quality assessment flags (see 'QA' and 'QC' in Table S2) are all higher than 292 0.8, including quality assessment flags of all meteorological inputs, vegetation index and GPP_{obs}. 293 When aggregated to longer time scales, the good quality data means the average quality flags are 294 all higher than 0.7 at the weekly and monthly scales, and 0.5 at the yearly scale. Besides, 295 predicted parameters were compared to calibrated parameters to test if the model equifinality 296 problem exists. 297

298 2.3.1 Site-level temporal GPP assessment

We forced the LUE model at the daily scale and got the daily GPP_{sim} as a result. The weekly, monthly and yearly GPP_{sim} and GPP_{obs} were calculated based on the mean daily GPP_{sim} and GPP_{obs} , respectively. These time series of site-level GPP at different time scales were evaluated using NSE, R² and NRMSE. The vectors of NSE, R² and NRMSE were compared across all sites, per PFT and climate types.

304 2.3.2 Spatial variability of GPP assessment

The site-mean GPP_{obs} across sites represent the spatial variance of GPP. We used NSE, R² and NRMSE to measure the accuracy of the site-mean GPP_{sim} compared with GPP_{obs} to evaluate the ability of these parameterization methods to capture the spatial variability of GPP.

308

2.3.3 Comprehensive assessment across spatio-temporal scales based on model likelihood

309 The likelihood of each parameterization method, *P*, was calculated according to Bao et al

310 (2022). To avoid selecting a method falling shortly at locally describing ecosystem GPP, **P**

represents an overall performance at 200 different site groups. In each group, 100 sites were selected randomly from all sites and two-years GPP were then randomly extracted from each of

- these 100 sites. The 200 site-years GPP_{sim} were compared to GPP_{obs} based on NSE, R^2 and
- NRMSE at each site-year independently. The differences between the daily, weekly, and
- monthly NSE, R^2 and NRMSE vectors and the yearly NRMSE vectors per parameterization
- method (each with 200 elements) were tested using Kolmogorov-Smirnov statistical test and t-
- test. The method with statistically higher NSE, R^2 or lower NRMSE than others was given with the largest score (=1, otherwise =0) at each site group. In case that two or more methods were

statistically equal and better than others, NSE, R^2 or NRMSE across all site-years was

additionally computed to sort these methods independently. P is equal to the average score

- across all site groups. The average P across different statistical metrics (NSE, R² and NRMSE)
- and time scales (daily, weekly, monthly and yearly) was used to detect the best parameterization
- 323 method.

2.3.4 Comparison between predicted parameters and calibrated parameters

Since the 13 parameters have different meanings and ranges, they were compared independently. The similarity between the predicted parameters using methods introduced in section 2.2 and the calibrated parameters based on the observational data (see section S1) was assessed using NSE, R^2 and NRMSE.

329 2.4 Feature importance estimation

We evaluated the importance of input features using three methods and select the most important features based on the average normalized feature importance values.

332 2.4.1 Shapley-based feature importance (SHAP)

The Shapley value of a feature is calculated based on the deviation of the predicted parameter at a certain input from the average prediction (Lundberg & Lee, 2017), which represents the contribution of a feature to the output. Here SHAP is equal to the average absolute Shapley value across all inputs. The average SHAP across all cross-validation groups (Friedman,

337 2001) was used to assess the contribution of features for each parameter and all parameters.

338 2.4.2 Layer-wise-relevance-propagation-based feature importance (LRP)

The layer-wise relevance propagation refers to a strategy that allows decomposing the prediction of neural network over an input feature (Montavon, Binder, Lapuschkin, Samek, & Müller, 2019). It is usually used in deep classification neural networks, here we applied LRP to assess a shallow regression neural network. We calculated the relevance vector according to Bach et al. (2015) and measured the feature importance according to the average relevance across different cross-validation groups.

345 2.4.3 Partial-dependence-based feature importance (PD)

We estimated the partial dependence of the prediction on each input feature based on Friedman's (2001) algorithm. The feature importance, PD, was measured according to the partial dependence, which is equal to the standard deviation of the partial dependence if the input feature is non-categorical variables, otherwise is equal to the one-fourth of the absolute partial dependence range (Greenwell, Boehmke, & McCarthy, 2018).

351 3 Results

352 3.1 Temporal and spatial assessment

The parameterization method based on neural network aiming at minimizing GPP errors 353 and constraining sensitivity functions, SPIE, had the best performance compared with other 354 355 typical parameterization methods. All the assessing metrics at daily, weekly, monthly and yearly scales, NSE (Figure 2), R² (Figure S1) and NRMSE (Figure S2), showed that SPIE was better at 356 more sites (i.e., more bright color blocks in Figure 2). The spatial variability of GPP can be also 357 better captured by SPIE, which had higher NSE, R² and lower NRMSE measured by site-mean 358 GPP_{obs} and GPP_{sim} (Figure 3). The accuracy of time series and site-mean GPP_{sim} using other 359 methods were all significantly worse than SPIE. Although SPIE cannot perform as well as the 360 site-specific calibration, it is the best parameter extrapolation method globally. 361



362

Figure 2. Comparison of NSE between GPP_{obs} and GPP_{sim} based on 12 different

parameterization methods (see definitions of PFT_{mean}, Clim_{mean}, PFT_{med}, Clim_{med}, Site_{sim}, OPT-

All, OPT-PFT, sRF, mRF, mNN, SPIE, and P-model in section 2.2), and between GPP_{obs} and

 GPP_{calib} (site-calib, see the calibration process in section S1) at daily (a), weekly (b), monthly (c)

and yearly (d) scales. The methods are sorted according to the number of sites with positive
 NSE, which is displayed under each bar. The sites with negative NSE are in white color. The

area under the gray dashed line represents the sites excluded in the comparison due to less than
 four good-quality (see the definition of 'good-quality' data in section 2.3) data points.



371

Figure 3. Comparison of NSE, R², and NRMSE between the site-mean GPP_{obs} and GPP_{sim}. The bars (i.e., parameterization methods) are sorted according to NSE.

The global best parameterization method, SPIE, outperformed across various PFTs and 374 375 climate types. It had the highest daily NSE quantiles for each PFT and climate type considered in this study (Figure 4). While SPIE was relatively better than other methods, no extrapolated 376 parameters can provide accurate GPP dynamics (NSE>0.4) at closed shrubland (Figure 4c), 377 378 woody savanna (Figure 41), tropical (Figure 4m) and polar (Figure 4q) climate types given that the model using calibrated parameters was good. It demonstrated that the variance of current 379 extrapolated parameters was still insufficient and the parameters are possible to be overfitted in 380 site calibrations. Using R^2 or NRMSE as the assessing metric (see details in Figure S3-4), the 381 parameterization methods showed smaller but robust relative differences, i.e., the SPIE was still 382 the best method. In general, while none of these parameter extrapolation methods can reach the 383 highest model performance, SPIE was the best option for areas without observational data. 384





The model likelihood, P, which represents the likelihood of a model statistically better than others across various site groups, illustrated that SPIE was the best method to extrapolate parameters, followed by OPT-All and Clim_{med} with likelihoods lower than 0.06 (i.e., at less than 6% groups of sites the two methods can outperform). The average P of SPIE across daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly scales, and across various assessing metrics was also significantly higher than the other methods. It represented that the method is robust across various temporal

396 and spatial scales.





Figure 5. The average model likelihood (*P*) of parameterization methods

399

3.2 Differences between calibrated parameters and predicted parameters

The predicted parameters displayed different distribution patterns from the calibrated 400 parameters. Taking the best method, SPIE, as an example (Figure 6), ranges of predicted 401 parameters were narrower than calibrated parameters given the same predefined range. Further, 402 SPIE predicted parameters had no 'edge-hitting' problem, which means that the parameter 403 frequently reaches its maximum or minimum values, e.g., the calibrated parameters T_{opt} , k_T , C_{κ} , 404 C_{a0}, C_m and k_W (Figure 6b-c, f-h, j). The other parameterization methods based on ecosystem 405 properties (e.g., mRF, Figure S5) also showed narrower ranges. However, clustering and 406 optimization-based methods had similar ranges to the site-calibrations and more edge-hitting 407 instances than SPIE (see details in Figure S6-7). 408



Figure 6. Probability density function (PDF) of the calibrated parameters (site-calib) and the
 predicted parameters by SPIE.

The LUE model performance was not determined by the parameter difference to sitespecific calibrations. For example, NSE between the predicted parameters using SPIE and

414 calibrated parameters across sites were all negative. The maximum R^2 was 0.08 and the lowest

- 415 NRMSE was 0.08. Furthermore, the NSE difference between the calibration and SPIE was not 416 correlated with the relative difference between calibrated and predicted parameters (Figure 7).
- 416 correlated with the relative difference between calibrated and predicted parameters (Figure 7).
 417 Thus, the predicted parameters were not comparable to the calibrated parameters while they can
- produce similar GPP, suggesting the overfitting and parameter equifinality in the site-specific
- 419 calibrations of LUE model.



420

Figure 7. The distribution of site-level NSE differences between site-specific calibration
 (NSE_{site-calib}) and SPIE (NSE_{SPIE}) with the relative differences between calibrated parameters and
 predicted parameters. The red line is the least-squares fitting line of the scatters. The correlation

424 coefficient (r) is displayed at the upper-right corner.

425 3.3 Important features for explaining model parameter variability

The average normalized values of SHAP, LRP and PD illustrated that vegetation index 426 427 features, bioclimatic variables, soil properties and some PFTs were the most important variables explaining the spatial variability of model parameters (Figure 8). The importance values differed 428 across three different methods, but all of them showed that most climate types were not 429 important for determining model parameters (see details in Figure S8a-d). Some specific PFTs, 430 e.g., DBF and MF, had the second and third highest importance values, indicating that their 431 relative parameter vectors had different ranges compared to other PFTs. On average, the most 432 important features were vegetation index features. Besides, most bioclimatic variables, soil 433 properties and some specific PFTs were more important than other features. 434



435

Figure 8. The input feature classes sorted by the average normalized SHAP, LRP and PD for all
 parameters. The detailed average SHAP, LRP and PD values for all parameters are displayed in

Figure S8. The feature classes (see definitions in Table S3) refer to plant functional types (PFT),

439 Koeppen-Geiger climate classification types (Clim), bioclimatic variables and aridity indexes

- (BioClim), vegetation index features (VIF), atmospheric nitrogen and phosphorus deposition
- 441 (NPdep) and soil properties (Soil).

For a specific parameter, the most important feature was not the same as the one for all parameters. For example, ε_{max} was controlled mainly by AI1 (mean annual aridity index, see details in Figure S9), nonetheless W_I was controlled primarily by VIF7 (the range of mean annual EVI, see details in Figure S10). Although the ranks of input features were not clear across parameters and assessing methods, vegetation index features, bioclimatic variables, soil properties and some PFTs were shown to be determining the spatial variations of parameters that represent the GPP sensitivities to environment changes.

449 **4 Discussion**

450 451

4.1 Well-constrained site-specific parameterization is better than PFT-dependent parameterization

It has been shown that the long-used PFT-based parameterization cannot capture the 452 variance in parameters within PFT (Bloom et al., 2016) and can be influenced by PFT 453 misclassification errors. The method of directly using parameters from papers without local or 454 global evaluation can be also risky. P-model which adopted the globally fixed parameters 455 upscaled from the leaf scale might not include PFT errors (Mengoli et al., 2022; B. D. Stocker et 456 al., 2020), but had limited accuracy across temporal (Figure 2) and spatial scales (Figure 3). 457 Here, results showed that the globally fixed parameterization method (e.g., P-model) was worse 458 than the PFT-based method (e.g., OPT-PFT, and PFT_{mean}). The global optimization method (e.g., 459 OPT-All) had slightly better performance than PFT-based optimization at the global scale 460 (Figure 5) due to a higher spatial generalizability (e.g., Figure 3), the same as Yuan et al (2014). 461 462 However, OPT-All had accurate predictions at fewer sites (Figure 2). This agrees with a study using the PRELES model (Tian et al., 2020), which demonstrated that globally optimized 463 parameters are not sufficient to reflect the variability of GPP sensitivities. Luo et al (2020) also 464 confirmed that model parameters should vary with the spatial and temporal changes of 465 ecosystem properties but not depend on PFTs. While the site-specific parameterizations (Sitesim, 466 sRF, mRF, and mNN) have higher flexibility than clustering methods (PFT_{mean}, Clim_{mean}, PFT_{med} 467

and Clim_{med}), they did not show a robust advantage due to uncertainties remained in the

- calibrated parameters, which were used to constrain the predicted parameters in these methods.
- 470 However, the site-specific parameterization constraining GPP prediction errors and sensitivity
- 471 functions, SPIE, reaches the highest performance, highlighting that the well-constrained site-
- 472 specific parameterization method can provide more reliable outputs than clustering and
- 473 optimization methods. This is the opposite from the conclusion of Tian et al. (2020) who tested
- only the site-specific optimization method showing higher uncertainties than the PFT-based
- 475 optimization method.
- 476 477

4.2 Reduced parameter variability by considering the relationship between parameters and ecosystem properties

Our results reveal the equifinality of model parameters, which consequently increases the 478 model uncertainty. While no extrapolated parameter vectors outperformed calibrated ones, 479 parameter ranges were better constrained in all methods based on ecosystem properties (e.g., 480 sRF, mRF, mNN and SPIE) compared with site calibrations, clustering and optimization 481 methods. The results of parameter distribution and GPP simulation performance demonstrate that 482 considering physical links between GPP sensitivities and ecosystem properties can reduce the 483 parameter equifinality and the overfitting in site-specific calibrations. This is also true in other 484 LUE models (Horn & Schulz, 2011b). Furthermore, SPIE, considering only the GPP errors and 485 constraints on sensitivity functions but not the distance to calibrated parameters, avoids 486 inheriting uncertainties from model calibration. In general, the model parameterization relying 487 on ecosystem properties can reduce the parameter uncertainty resulting from model equifinality. 488

489 4.3 Drivers of the spatial variability of GPP sensitivities

Overall, the information in vegetation features, bioclimatic variables, soil properties and 490 some specific PFT (e.g., DBF and MF) explain most of the spatial variation in predicted 491 parameters by SPIE. This general observation is similar to the results of other independent 492 studies using a different LUE model (Horn & Schulz, 2011b) and terrestrial biosphere models 493 (Peaucelle et al., 2019). Given our assumption that model parameters indicate GPP sensitivities, 494 the results reflect the ecological understanding that vegetation features, bioclimatic conditions, 495 soil properties along with plant forms impose instrumental controls on how ecosystems respond 496 to environmental changes. 497

However, the current approach needs further development towards pinpointing key 498 features controlling the spatial variability of parameters. On the one hand, strong covariation 499 between input features (Figure S11) limits a confident variable attribution. While on the other 500 hand, differences in variable importance between different methods (e.g., SHAP, LRP and PD) 501 may result in different variable rankings (Figure S8). These may be associated to the covariation 502 between features while also to the underlying assumptions per feature importance estimation 503 method. However, given stationarity in the correlation structure between features, none of these 504 505 aspects would limit a statistical extrapolation of parameter variability in space.

506 Differences in the model fitness between the site calibration and SPIE may reflect 507 common overfitting issues in standard calibration exercises, challenging the generalization of a 508 given GPP model and/or of features and architectures for the extrapolation approach. Exploring 509 the contribution of additional variables may be a model-specific exercise, e.g., illumination features, as in the model of Horn et al (2011b), that can contribute to the enhanced spatial variance in predicted parameters.

Given the background understanding that ecosystem properties, including vegetation 512 features, climate regimes, soil characteristics and other environmental traits, influence response 513 sensitivities of carbon assimilation fluxes to environmental conditions, our results suggest further 514 expanding SPIE approach to other kinds of terrestrial ecosystem carbon cycle models (e.g., land 515 surface models and dynamic global vegetation models). Yet, temporal changes in ecosystem 516 properties can affect parameters (Luo & Schuur, 2020). Our results also suggest a cautionary 517 remark on the temporal variation in parameters when extrapolating or applying parameters to 518 long time scales (e.g., beyond decadal scales in prognostic simulations). 519

520 5 Conclusions

In this study, we developed a model parameterization approach based on the link between 521 ecosystem sensitivities and properties constrained by GPP simulation errors and sensitivity 522 functions. The method leverages on a neural network method to learn the parameterization of an 523 524 LUE model. Moreover, the experimental design demonstrates that the method enables parameter extrapolation in regions without observational data with a significant and substantially higher 525 accuracy than the widely-used PFT-based and globally fixed parameterization methods. 526 Compared with a set of univariate clustering, similarity-, regression-based and fixed methods 527 (NSE>0 at less than 41% of sites) considered in this study, our approach is unique in confidently 528 529 predicting GPP fluxes in cross-validation (NSE>0 at 74% of sites). The resulting reduction in parameter variability by prediction via ecosystem properties suggests reductions in equifinality 530 and overfitting commonly emerging from site-specific parameterizations. Vegetation features, 531 bioclimatic variables, soil properties and some PFTs can explain the spatial variability of LUE 532 model parameters. Overall, these are key features for diagnostic modeling exercises, although the 533 temporal variation in the parameters and the relationship between them and ecosystem properties 534 need to be further explored towards prognostic modeling. Given the general need for biological 535 and ecological parameterizations in carbon and water terrestrial ecosystem models, our results 536 propose statistical learning approaches for the parameterization of land surface schemes in Earth 537 system models. 538

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- 555

556 Data Availability Statement

- 557 Input data for light use efficiency model is available at the website of FLUXNET
- 558 (<u>https://fluxnet.org/</u>). The FluxnetEO product is available from ICOS Carbon Portal
- 559 <u>https://doi.org/10.18160/0Z7J-J3TR</u> (Walther et al., 2021a) for LANDSAT and
- 560 <u>https://doi.org/10.18160/XTV7-WXVZ</u> (Walther et al., 2021b) for MODIS. CRUNCEP dataset
- 561 for calculating bioclimatic variables is available at NCAR
- 562 (<u>https://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds314.3/#!description</u>). Atmospheric nitrogen and phosphorus data
- is available at <u>https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/gcb.13766</u>. SoilGrids product is
- available at <u>ftp://ftp.soilgrids.org/data/recent/</u>. All data are also available by contacting the
- 565 correspondence authors.
- 566

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	@AGU PUBLICATIONS
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2	Journal of Advances in Modeling Earth Systems
3	Supporting Information for
4	Towards Robust Parameterizations in Ecosystem-level Photosynthesis Models
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14 15 16 17 18 19	Contents of this file Text S1 to S2 Figures S1 to S11 Tables S1 to S3
20	Introduction
21 22 23	The supporting information includes the descriptions of model parameters calibration (text S1), cost functions used in SPIE (text S2), and figures and tables to supplement the information about the data and results appeared in the main text.
24 25 26	
27 28 29 30	Text S1. Model parameters calibration To get the highest model performance, we here calibrated the LUE model at each site using the full time series of GPP _{obs} . The purpose of model calibration is to find the parameter vector that can minimize the cost function, a metric to measure the model error, and to reduce

31 the model uncertainties associated with model parameters. In the calibration process, the

32 parameters were optimized in their physical ranges (Table 1) using a stochastic and derivative-

33 free evolutionary algorithm, CMAES(Hansen & Kern, 2004). CMAES, which is a reliable tool for 34 global optimization (Trautmann et al., 2018).

35 We define the cost function (cf) as the sum of the GPP errors (cf₁, equation S-2), the ET 36 errors (cf_2 , equation S-3), and the environmental sensitivity functions (fX) constraints (cf_3 and 37 cf_4). 38

$$cf = cf_1 + cf_2 + (cf_3 + cf_4)$$
 S-1

39

$$cf_{I} = \sum_{t=1}^{N_{t}} \sqrt{\left(GPP_{t} - \widehat{GPP_{t}}\right)^{2} \cdot \sigma_{NEE_{t}}^{-2}}$$
 S-2

40
$$cf_2 = \sum_{t=1}^{N_t} \sqrt{\left(ET_t - \widehat{ET}_t\right)^2 \cdot \sigma_{LE_t}^{-2}}$$

41 The cf_1 and cf_2 are to measure the sum of squares for errors of simulated GPP and ET, 42 which is used to optimize the parameters of water availability index (WAI, see Table S2), at 43 each time step t. The simulated GPP using the calibrated LUE parameters (GPP) and simulated 44 ET using the calibrated WAI parameters (\widehat{ET}) were compared to GPP_{obs} (GPP) and ET_{obs} (ET), 45 respectively. N_t denotes the total number of time steps. Due to the uncertainties in 46 observation and the different units of GPP and ET, we weighted the model errors using the 47 estimated uncertainty of GPP (σ_{NEE}) and ET (σ_{LE}), respectively. We assume that the parameter 48 vector that minimizes the sum of cf_1 and cf_2 is the best for the LUE model and WAI, 49 respectively.

50 We follow the concept of ecological and dynamic constraints (EDC, by (Bloom & Williams, 51 2015)) to regularize the inversion approach via two additional constraints: cf_3 (equation S-4) 52 and cf_4 (equation S- 5).

 $cf_{\mathcal{A}} = \left(\sum_{r} (fT_{r}(T < 0 \ \mathcal{C}) > \theta_{fT}) + \sum_{r} (fVPD_{r}(VPD > 2kPa) > \theta_{fVPD}) + \sum_{r} (fW_{r}(W < 0.01) > \theta_{fW})\right) \cdot c$

$$cf_3 = \left(\left(1 - \max(f\mathbf{T}_r) \right) + \left(1 - \max(f\mathbf{VPD}_r) \right) + \left(1 - \max(f\mathbf{W}_r) \right) + \left(1 - \max(f\mathbf{L}_r) \right) \right) \cdot c \qquad S-4$$

53

55 These impose constraints on the simulated fX (i.e., fT, fVPD, fW, fL and fCI) based on two 56 assumptions: the instantaneous ε (= ε_{max} ·fT·fVPD·fW·fL·fCI) of vegetation can reach its potential, 57 ε_{max} , under some specific environmental condition (cf_3) and is inhibited under a non-ideal 58 growing condition (cf_4). Here cf_3 and cf_4 were calculated independently from cf_1 and cf_2 , using 59 analog inputs (PAR=0-20 MJ·m⁻²·day⁻¹, FAPAR=0-1, T=-10-40 °C, VPD=0-2 kPa, W=0-1 and CI=0-60 1). cf3 is to set the maximum of fT, fVPD, excluding the CO₂ fertilization effect (the right part of 61 equation 3), fW, and fL to one, which implies that the corresponding environmental factor 62 does not limit ε at a certain point within the given ranges of PAR \in [0,20] (in MJ·m⁻²·day⁻¹), 63 $FAPAR \in [0,1], T \in [-10,40]$ (in °C), $VPD \in [0,2]$ (in kPa), $W \in [0,1]$ and $CI \in [0,1]$, represented by 64 the subscript, r, in equations S- 4-S- 5 (e.g., max(fT_r) represents the maximum fT when the 65 temperature is ranging between -10 and 40 °C). 66 Another constraint, cf_4 , is to guarantee the fT, fVPD, excluding the CO₂ fertilization part, 67 and fW lower than the threshold (θ_{fT} , θ_{fVPD} , and θ_{fW}) under the non-ideal conditions (T<0 °C, 68 VPD>2 kPa, or W<0.01). Here the thresholds ($\theta_{ff}=0.2$, $\theta_{VPD}=0.9$, and $\theta_{fW}=0.2$) were estimated 69 according to the normalized ratio of GPP to APAR at all sites. The other non-ideal conditions 70 were not included since they vary across sites. The c in equations S- 4-S- 5 denotes a penalty 71 term (=10⁴, an empirical value) to coordinate the scales of cf_1 , cf_2 , cf_3 , and cf_4 .

3

S- 5

- 72 Since the WAI parameters were not predicted in this study, the calibrated WAI
- 73 parameters were used in the parameterization experiments and the cf_2 was not considered in
- 74 the optimization-based parameterization methods, i.e., 'OPT-All' and 'OPT-PFT'.

75 Text S2. Cost functions used in SPIE

76 The cost function (cf_{NN} , equation S- 6) for SPIE was similar to the sum of cf_1 , cf_3 , and cf_4 . 77 Since normalizing the cost function can significantly improve the training efficiency of neural 78 network, we used normalized NSE (Nossent & Bauwens, 2012), ranging from 0-1, rather than 79 the sum of squares (S-7). 80

$$cf_{\rm NN} = cf_{\rm NN1} + cf_3 + cf_4 \qquad \qquad S-6$$

 $Cf_{NN1} = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^{N_t} (GPP_t \cdot \widehat{GPP}_t)^2 \cdot \sigma_{NEE_t}^{-2}}{\sum_{t=1}^{N_t} (GPP_t \cdot \widehat{GPP}_t)^2 \cdot \sigma_{NEE_t}^{-2} \cdot \sum_{t=1}^{N_t} (GPP_t \cdot \overline{GPP})^2 \cdot \sigma_{NEE_t}^{-2}}$ S-7

82 GPP_t and \widehat{GPP}_t are the observed and simulated GPP at time step, t. The normalized NSE is the ratio between the sum of the GPP errors across all time steps (N_t) to the sum of GPP errors 83 84 and the sum of GPP changes to the average GPP ($\overline{\text{GPP}}$). To consider the EDC, we added cf_{NN1} to

85 cf_3 and cf_4 as defined in section S1. The only difference was that the empirical coefficient, c,

86 was changed to 0.2 here due to the small range of cf_{NN1} .

87



88



90 parameterization methods, and between GPPobs and GPPcalib (site-calib) at daily (a), weekly (b),

91 monthly (c) and yearly (d) scales. The sites with less than four good-quality months or years are

92 removed from panel c and d, respectively. The sites with p-value larger than 0.05 are shown in 93 white.



- **Figure S2.** Comparison of NRMSE between GPP_{obs} and GPP_{sim} based on twelve different
- 96 parameterization methods, and between GPP_{obs} and GPP_{calib} (site-calib) at daily (a), weekly (b),
- 97 monthly (c) and yearly (d) scales.



99 Figure S3. Site-level daily NRMSE comparison across all sites (a), per PFT (b-l) and per Clim (m-

q). The mean and median per type are represented by the black cross and line, respectively



Figure S4. Site-level daily R² comparison across all sites (a), per PFT (b-l) and per Clim (m-q).
 The mean and median per type are represented by the black cross and line, respectively



104

Figure S5. The probability distribution function (PDF) of the predicted parameters by mRF(Upscal) and the calibrated parameters (Calib)







- **Figure S7.** The probability distribution function (PDF) of the predicted parameters by OPT-PFT
- 112 and the calibrated parameters



- **Figure S8.** The input features for predicting LUE model parameters sorted according to the
- average normalized SHAP, LRP and PD values (a). The absolute SHAP, LRP and PD of each
- 116 feature are shown in b-d in the same order.



Figure S9. The features sorted by the average normalized SHAP, LRP and PD for ε_{max}





120 Figure S10. The features sorted by the average normalized SHAP, LRP and PD for W₁

121

122 **Figure S11.** Correlation coefficient (R) matrix between input features.

123

Table S1. Eddy covariance flux site list used in this study. The latitude (Lat), longitude (Lon) and plant functional types (PFT) are collected from FLUXNET website. The data length differs across site and is determined by the years between 'data start' and 'data end'. The climate type is extracted from the Koeppen-Geiger climate classification map (at 5 arc min; Rubel et al., 2017). The elevation is collected from the site ancillary information, papers and satellite images (see the footnote below the table). The site group refers to the group number of each site used to validate the training result.

SiteID	Lat	Lon	Data start (year)	Data end (year)	PFT	Climate type	Elevation (m)	Site group	Reference
AR- SLu	-33.5	-66.5	2010	2011	MF	BSh	506 ^{*e}	4	(Ulke et al., 2015)
AT- Neu	47.1	11.3	2002	2012	GRA	Dfc	970	10	(Wohlfahrt et al., 2008)
AU- ASM	-22.3	133.3	2010	2014	ENF	BWh	606 ^{*b}	5	(Cleverly et al., 2013)

AU- Cpr	-34.0	140.6	2010	2014	SAV	BSk	62 ^{*e}	3	(Bloomfiel d et al., 2018; Meyer et al., 2015)
AU- Cum	-33.6	150.7	2012	2014	EBF	Cfa	20	1	(Renchon et al., 2018)
AU- DaP	-14.1	131.3	2009	2013	GRA	Aw	71 ^{*e}	3	(Hutley et al., 2011)
AU- DaS	-14.2	131.4	2010	2014	SAV	Aw	110	6	(Hutley et al., 2011)
AU- Dry	-15.3	132.4	2008	2014	SAV	Aw	175	5	(Hutley et al., 2011)
AU- Emr	-23.9	148.5	2011	2013	GRA	BSh	170	3	(Schroder, 2014)
AU- Gin	-31.4	115.7	2013	2014	WSA	Csa	51	3	(Beringer et al., 2016)
AU- GWW	-30.2	120.7	2011	2014	SAV	BSh	450	1	(Beringer et al., 2016)
AU- How	-12.5	131.2	2001	2014	WSA	Aw	64	2	(Beringer et al., 2003)
AU- RDF	-14.6	132.5	2011	2013	WSA	Aw	188 ^{*e}	7	(Bristow et al., 2016)
AU- Rig	-36.7	145.6	2011	2014	GRA	Cfa	152	10	(Beringer et al., 2016)
AU- Stp	-17.2	133.4	2008	2014	GRA	BSh	250 ^{*b}	1	(Hutley et al., 2011)
AU- TTE	-22.3	133.6	2012	2014	OSH	BWh	553	3	(Cleverly et al., 2016)
AU- Tum	-35.7	148.2	2001	2014	EBF	Cfb	1200	8	(Leuning et al., 2005)
AU- Wom	-37.4	144.1	2010	2014	EBF	Cfb	705	6	(Griebel et al., 2016)
AU- Ync	-35.0	146.3	2012	2014	GRA	BSk	126 ^{*e}	6	(Yee et al., 2015)
BE- Bra	51.3	4.5	2000	2014	MF	Cfb	16^{*a}	7	(Carrara et al., 2004)
BE- Lon	50.6	4.8	2004	2014	CRO	Cfb	167	2	(Aubinet et al., 2009)
BE- Vie	50.3	6.0	2000	2014	MF	Cfb	450 ^{*a}	1	As above
BR- Ban	-9.8	-50.2	2003	2006	EBF	Aw	120	6	(Da Rocha et al., 2009)
BR- Sp1	-21.6	-47.7	2001	2002	WSA	Aw	690	9	As above
BW- Mal	-19.9	23.6	2000	2001	WSA	BSh	950	4	(Veenendaa l et al., 2004)

CA- Cal	49.9	- 125.3	2000	2005	ENF	Cfb	300	7	(Humphrey s et al., 2006)
CA- Ca2	49.9	- 125.3	2000	2005	ENF	Csb	300	7	As above
CA- Ca3	49.5	- 124.9	2001	2005	ENF	Csb	300	7	As above
CA- Gro	48.2	-82.2	2003	2014	MF	Dfb	340	9	(Pejam et al., 2006)
CA- Let	49.7	- 112.9	2000	2005	GRA	BSk	960	7	(Flanagan et al., 2002)
CA- Mer	45.4	-75.5	2000	2005	WET	Dfb	70	1	(Lafleur et al., 2003)
CA- NS2	55.9	-98.5	2002	2005	ENF	Dfc	260	6	(Beringer et al., 2011)
CA- NS3	55.9	-98.4	2001	2005	ENF	Dfc	260	10	As above
CA- NS4	55.9	-98.4	2002	2005	ENF	Dfc	260	6	As above
CA- NS5	55.9	-98.5	2002	2005	ENF	Dfc	260	2	As above
CA- NS6	55.9	-99.0	2001	2005	OSH	Dfc	244	2	As above
CA- NS7	56.6	- 100.0	2002	2005	OSH	Dfc	297	5	As above
CA- Oas	53.6	- 106.2	2000	2010	DBF	Dfc	530	6	(Black et al., 1996)
CA- Obs	54.0	- 105.1	2000	2010	ENF	Dfc	628.94	7	(Jarvis et al., 1997)
CA- Ojp	53.9	- 104.7	2000	2005	ENF	Dfb	579	1	(Baldocchi et al., 1997)
CA- Qcu	49.3	-74.0	2001	2006	ENF	Dfb	392.3	4	(Giasson et al., 2006)
CA- Qfo	49.7	-74.3	2004	2010	ENF	Dfc	382	7	(Bergeron et al., 2007)
CA- SF1	54.5	- 105.8	2003	2006	ENF	Dfc	536	10	(Mkhabela et al., 2009)
CA- SF2	54.3	- 105.9	2001	2005	ENF	Dfc	520	6	As above
CA- SF3	54.1	- 106.0	2001	2005	OSH	Dfc	540	5	As above
CA- SJ1	53.9	- 104.7	2001	2005	ENF	Dfb	580	8	(Howard et al., 2004)
CA- SJ2	53.9	- 104.7	2003	2005	ENF	Dfc	580	1	(Coursolle et al., 2012)
CA- TP1	42.7	-80.6	2008	2014	ENF	Dfb	265	4	(Peichl & Arain, 2007)
CA- TP3	42.7	-80.4	2008	2014	ENF	Dfb	184	2	As above

CA- TP4	42.7	-80.4	2008	2014	ENF	Dfb	184	8	(Arain & Restrepo- Coupe, 2005)
CA- TPD	42.6	-80.6	2012	2014	DBF	Dfb	260	1	As above
CA- WP1	55.0	- 112.5	2003	2005	WET	Dfc	540	4	(Syed et al., 2006)
CH- Cha	47.2	8.4	2005	2014	GRA	Cfb	393	5	(Lutz Merbold et al., 2014) (Wolf et
CH- Dav	46.8	9.9	2000	2014	ENF	ET	1639	9	al., 2013; Zielis et al., 2014)
CH- Fru	47.1	8.5	2005	2014	GRA	Cfb	982	3	(Imer et al., 2013)
CH- Oel	47.3	7.7	2002	2008	GRA	Cfb	450	3	(Ammann et al., 2009)
CN- Cha	42.4	128.1	2003	2005	MF	Dwb	738	1	(Zhang et al., 2006)
CN- Cng	44.6	123.5	2007	2010	GRA	BSk	171 ^{*d}	10	(Pastorello et al., 2020)
CN- Dan	30.5	91.1	2004	2005	GRA	Dwc	4286	8	(Shi et al., 2006)
CN- Du2	42.1	116.3	2006	2008	GRA	Dwb	1350 ^{*b}	5	(Chen et al., 2009)
CN- Ha2	37.6	101.3	2003	2005	WET	Dwc	3357	2	(Pastorello et al., 2020)
CN- Xfs	44.1	116.3	2004	2006	GRA	BSk	1250	4	(Chen et al., 2009)
CZ- BK1	49.5	18.5	2004	2014	ENF	Dfb	908 ^{*a}	8	(Krupková et al., 2017)
CZ- BK2	49.5	18.5	2009	2012	GRA	Dfb	855	7	(Acosta et al., 2013)
CZ- wet	49.0	14.8	2007	2014	WET	Cfb	426	3	(Dušek et al., 2012)
DE- Geb	51.1	10.9	2001	2014	CRO	Cfb	161.5	7	(Anthoni et al., 2004b)
DE- Gri	51.0	13.5	2004	2014	GRA	Cfb	385	4	(Prescher et al., 2010)
DE- Hai	51.1	10.5	2000	2009	DBF	Cfb	430 ^{*a}	9	(Knohl et al., 2003)
DE- Har	47.9	7.6	2005	2006	ENF	Cfb	201	1	(Pastorello et al., 2020)

DE-Kli	50.9	13.5	2004	2014	CRO	Cfb	478	8	(Prescher et al., 2010)
DE- Lnf	51.3	10.4	2002	2012	DBF	Cfb	451	9	(Anthoni et al., 2004a)
DE- Meh	51.3	10.7	2003	2006	MF	Cfb	293 ^{*a}	7	(DON et al., 2009)
DE- Obe	50.8	13.7	2008	2014	ENF	Cfb	734	4	(Pastorello et al., 2020)
DE- SfN	47.8	11.3	2013	2014	WET	Cfb	590	2	(Hommelte nberg et al., 2014)
DE- Tha	51.0	13.6	2000	2014	ENF	Cfb	380 ^{*a}	3	(Bernhofer et al., 2003)
DE- Wet	50.5	11.5	2002	2006	ENF	Cfb	785 ^{*a}	8	(Rebmann et al., 2010)
DK- Ris	55.5	12.1	2004	2005	CRO	Cfb	10	10	(Pastorello et al., 2020)
DK- Sor	55.5	11.6	2000	2014	DBF	Cfb	40 ^{*a}	10	(Pilegaard & Ibrom, 2020)
ES- Amo	36.8	-2.3	2000	2014	OSH	BSh	58	3	(López- Ballesteros et al., 2017)
ES- ES1	39.4	-0.3	2007	2012	ENF	Csa	5 ^{*a}	3	(Sanz M J, 2004)
ES- ES2	39.3	-0.3	2000	2006	CRO	Csa	10	9	As above
ES- LgS	37.1	-3.0	2004	2006	OSH	Csb	2267	9	(Reverter et al., 2010)
ES- LJu	36.9	-2.8	2005	2011	OSH	Csa	1600	6	(Serrano- Ortiz et al., 2009)
ES- LMa	39.9	-5.8	2004	2006	SAV	Csa	258 ^{*a}	5	(Perez- Priego et al., 2017)
ES- VDA	42.2	1.5	2007	2009	GRA	Cfb	1765 ^{*a}	2	(Pastorello et al., 2020)
FI-Hyy	61.9	24.3	2004	2006	ENF	Dfc	181 ^{*a}	8	(Suni et al., 2003)
FI-Kaa	69.1	27.3	2000	2014	WET	Dfc	155	2	(MIKA AURELA et al., 2007)
FI-Let	60.6	24.0	2000	2006	ENF	Dfb	111	5	(Koskinen et al., 2014)
FI- Lom	68.0	24.2	2009	2012	WET	Dfc	269 ^{*a}	2	(M. Aurela et al., 2015)

FI-Sod	67.4	26.6	2007	2009	ENF	Dfc	180^{*a}	1	(Thum et al., 2007)
FR- Fon	48.5	2.8	2008	2014	DBF	Cfb	92 ^{*a}	8	(Michelot et al., 2011)
FR-Gri	48.8	2.0	2005	2013	CRO	Cfb	125	6	(Loubet et al., 2011)
FR- Hes	48.7	7.1	2004	2014	DBF	Cfb	300 ^{*a}	2	(Granier et al., 2000)
FR- LBr	44.7	-0.8	2000	2006	ENF	Cfb	61 ^{*a}	1	(Berbigier et al., 2001)
FR- Lq1	45.6	2.7	2000	2008	GRA	Cfb	1040	9	(Pastorello et al., 2020)
FR- Lq2	45.6	2.7	2004	2006	GRA	Cfb	1040	1	(Pastorello et al., 2020)
FR- Pue	43.7	3.6	2004	2006	EBF	Csa	270 ^{*a}	5	(Rambal et al., 2004)
GL- ZaH	74.5	-20.6	2000	2014	GRA	ET	48	4	(Lund et al., 2012)
HU- Bug	46.7	19.6	2002	2006	GRA	Cfb	111 ^{*a}	7	(Pastorello et al., 2020)
IL-Yat	31.3	35.1	2001	2006	ENF	Csa	650	7	(Tatarinov et al., 2016)
IT- Amp	41.9	13.6	2002	2006	GRA	Cfb	884 ^{*a}	6	(Papale et al., 2015)
IT-BCi	40.5	15.0	2004	2012	CRO	Csa	20	7	(Vitale et al., 2016)
IT- CA1	42.4	12.0	2011	2014	DBF	Csa	200	4	(Sabbatini et al., 2016)
IT- CA2	42.4	12.0	2011	2014	CRO	Csa	200	5	(Sabbatini et al., 2016)
IT- CA3	42.4	12.0	2011	2014	DBF	Csa	197	5	(Sabbatini et al., 2016)
IT-Col	41.9	13.6	2004	2014	DBF	Cfb	1560 ^{*a}	4	(VALENTI NI et al., 1996)
IT-Cpz	41.7	12.4	2000	2008	EBF	Csa	68	8	(Tirone et al., 2003)
IT-Isp	45.8	8.6	2013	2014	DBF	Cfa	210	9	(Ferréa et al., 2012)
IT-Lav	46.0	11.3	2004	2014	ENF	Cfb	1353	2	(B. Marcolla et al., 2003)
IT-Lec	43.3	11.3	2005	2006	EBF	Csa	314	8	(Pastorello et al., 2020)

IT- MBo	46.0	11.1	2003	2013	GRA	Dfb	1550 ^{*a}	5	(Barbara Marcolla et al., 2005)
IT-Noe	40.6	8.2	2004	2014	CSH	Csa	25	10	(Papale et al., 2015)
IT- Non	44.7	11.1	2001	2006	MF	Cfa	25 ^{*c}	1	(Nardino, 2002)
IT-PT1	45.2	9.1	2002	2004	DBF	Cfa	60	8	(Migliavac ca et al., 2009)
IT-Ren	46.6	11.4	2002	2013	ENF	Dfc	1730 ^{*a}	10	(Barbara Marcolla et al., 2005)
IT-Ro1	42.4	11.9	2000	2008	DBF	Csa	235	9	(Rey et al., 2002)
IT-Ro2	42.4	11.9	2002	2012	DBF	Csa	224 ^{*a}	4	(TEDESC HI et al., 2006)
IT- SR2	43.7	10.3	2013	2014	ENF	Csa	4	10	(Pastorello et al., 2020)
IT- SRo	43.7	10.3	2000	2012	ENF	Csa	4^{*a}	7	(Chiesi et al., 2005)
IT-Tor	45.8	7.6	2008	2012	GRA	ET	2160	10	(Galvagno et al., 2013)
NL- Cal	52.0	4.9	2003	2006	GRA	Cfb	0.7	3	(Jacobs et al., 2007)
NL- Loo	52.2	5.7	2000	2014	ENF	Cfb	25 ^{*a}	9	(Dolman et al., 2002)
PT- Cor	39.1	-8.3	2010	2017	EBF	Csa	170 ^{*c}	6	(Pastorello et al., 2020)
PT- Esp	38.6	-8.6	2002	2006	EBF	Csa	95 ^{*a}	9	(Rodrigues et al., 2011)
PT- Mil	38.5	-8.0	2003	2005	EBF	Csa	264 ^{*a}	10	(Pereira et al., 2007)
PT- Mi2	38.5	-8.0	2004	2006	GRA	Csa	190	8	(Pereira et al., 2007)
RU- Fyo	56.5	32.9	2002	2014	ENF	Dfb	265 ^{*a}	9	(Kurbatova et al., 2008)
RU- Hal	54.7	90.0	2002	2004	GRA	Dfb	446	4	(Belelli Marchesini et al., 2007)
RU- Zot	60.8	89.4	2002	2004	ENF	Dfc	90	10	(Arneth et al., 2002)
SD- Dem	13.3	30.5	2007	2009	SAV	BWh	500	2	(Ardö et al., 2008)

SE- Deg	64.2	19.6	2001	2005	WET	Dfc	270	6	(Sagerfors et al., 2008)
SE-Fla	64.1	19.5	2000	2002	ENF	Dfc	226 ^{*c}	3	(Valentini et al., 2000)
US- AR1	36.4	-99.4	2009	2012	GRA	Cfa	611	6	(Billesbach D, 2016)
US- AR2	36.6	-99.6	2009	2012	GRA	Cfa	646	10	(Billesbach D, 2016)
US- ARb	35.6	-98.0	2003	2012	GRA	Cfa	424	8	(Pastorello et al., 2020)
US- ARc	35.6	-98.0	2005	2006	GRA	Cfa	424	5	(Pastorello et al., 2020)
US- ARM	36.6	-97.5	2005	2006	CRO	Cfa	314	2	(Pastorello et al., 2020)
US- Atq	70.5	- 157.4	2003	2008	WET	ET	15	10	(Pastorello et al., 2020)
US- Aud	31.6	- 110.5	2002	2006	GRA	BSk	1469	9	(Pastorello et al., 2020)
US- Bar	44.1	-71.3	2004	2005	DBF	Dfb	272	8	(Ouimette et al., 2018)
US- Bkg	44.4	-96.8	2004	2006	GRA	Dfa	510	4	(Gilmanov et al., 2005)
US- Blo	38.9	- 120.6	2000	2007	ENF	Csb	1315	1	(Goldstein et al., 2000)
US- Bol	40.0	-88.3	2000	2007	CRO	Cfa	219	2	(Pastorello et al., 2020)
US- Bo2	40.0	-88.3	2004	2006	CRO	Cfa	219	9	(Pastorello et al., 2020)
US- Cop	38.1	- 109.4	2011	2013	GRA	BSk	1520	1	(D., 2016)
US- CRT	41.6	-83.4	2001	2007	CRO	Dfa	180	8	(Pastorello et al., 2020)
US- Dk1	36.0	-79.1	2001	2005	GRA	Cfa	168	7	(Pastorello et al., 2020)
US- Dk3	36.0	-79.1	2001	2005	ENF	Cfa	163	4	(Pastorello et al., 2020)

US- Fmf	35.1	- 111.7	2000	2006	ENF	Csb	2160	5	(Pastorello et al., 2020)
US- FPe	48.3	- 105.1	2004	2006	GRA	BSk	634	3	(Pastorello et al., 2020)
US- FR2	30.0	-98.0	2005	2006	WSA	Cfa	271.9	5	(Heinsch et al., 2004)
US- Goo	34.3	-89.9	2002	2006	GRA	Cfa	87	10	(T., 2016)
US- Hal	42.5	-72.2	2000	2012	DBF	Dfb	340	2	(Urbanski et al., 2007)
US- Hol	45.2	-68.7	2000	2004	ENF	Dfb	60	10	(Hollinger et al., 1999)
US- IB1	41.9	-88.2	2005	2007	CRO	Dfa	226.5	3	(Pastorello et al., 2020)
US- IB2	41.8	-88.2	2004	2011	GRA	Dfa	226.5	5	(Pastorello et al., 2020)
US-Ivo	68.5	- 155.8	2004	2007	WET	ET	568	1	(Epstein et al., 2004)
US- KS2	28.6	-80.7	2003	2006	CSH	Cfa	3	6	(Powell et al., 2006)
US- Los	46.1	-90.0	2000	2014	WET	Dfb	480	4	(Sulman et al., 2009)
US- Me2	44.5	- 121.6	2000	2014	ENF	Csb	1253	2	(Rwoll et al., 2018; Thomas et al., 2009)
US- Me3	44.3	- 121.6	2004	2006	ENF	Csb	1005	6	(Vickers et al., 2012)
US- Me5	44.4	- 121.6	2002	2014	ENF	Csb	1188	4	(Law et al., 2001; Williams et al., 2001)
US- Me6	44.3	- 121.6	2004	2009	ENF	Csb	998	7	(Ruehr et al., 2014)
US- MMS	39.3	-86.4	2000	2002	DBF	Cfa	275	7	(Roman et al., 2015)
US- MOz	38.7	-92.2	2010	2014	DBF	Cfa	219.4	3	(Gu et al., 2016)
US- Myb	38.1	- 121.8	2011	2014	WET	Csa	-1	2	(Pastorello et al., 2020)
US- NC1	35.8	-76.7	2005	2006	OSH	Cfa	5	4	(Noormets et al., 2012)

US- NC2	35.8	-76.7	2005	2006	ENF	Cfa	5	2	(Pastorello et al., 2020)
US- Ne1	41.2	-96.5	2000	2014	CRO	Dfa	361	7	(Pastorello et al., 2020)
US- Ne2	41.2	-96.5	2001	2013	CRO	Dfa	362	8	(Pastorello et al., 2020)
US- Ne3	41.2	-96.4	2001	2013	CRO	Dfa	363	6	(Pastorello et al., 2020)
US- NR1	40.0	- 105.6	2001	2013	ENF	Dfc	3050	9	(Monson et al., 2002)
US- Oho	41.6	-83.8	2004	2013	DBF	Dfa	230	4	(DeForest et al., 2006)
US-Prr	65.1	- 147.5	2011	2014	ENF	Dfc	210	3	(Ikawa et al., 2015; Nakai et al., 2013)
US- SO2	33.4	- 116.6	2004	2006	CSH	Csb	1394	3	(Lipson et al., 2005)
US- SO3	33.4	- 116.6	2001	2006	CSH	Csb	1429	5	(Lipson et al., 2005)
US- SO4	33.4	- 116.6	2004	2006	CSH	Csb	1429	5	(Lipson et al., 2005)
US- SP2	29.8	-82.2	2000	2004	ENF	Cfa	50	9	(Clark et al., 1999)
US- SP3	29.8	-82.2	2000	2004	ENF	Cfa	50	6	(Clark et al., 1999)
US- SRC	31.9	- 110.8	2008	2014	OSH	BSh	991	6	(Pastorello et al., 2020)
US- SRG	31.8	- 110.8	2008	2014	GRA	Csa	1291	2	(Scott et al., 2015)
US- SRM	31.8	- 110.9	2004	2014	WSA	BSk	1120	5	(Scott et al., 2009)
US- Syv	46.2	-89.4	2001	2014	MF	Dfb	540	6	(Desai et al., 2005)
US- Ton	38.4	- 121.0	2001	2014	WSA	Csa	177	8	(Ma et al., 2016)
US- Twt	38.1	- 121.7	2009	2014	CRO	Csa	-7	5	(Pastorello et al., 2020)
US- UMB	45.6	-84.7	2000	2014	DBF	Dfb	234	10	(Gough et al., 2008)
US- Var	38.4	- 121.0	2000	2014	GRA	Csa	129	9	(Ma et al., 2011)

US- WCr	45.8	-90.1	2000	2014	DBF	Dfb	520	4	(Cook et al., 2004)
US- Whs	31.7	- 110.1	2011	2013	OSH	BSk	1370	10	(Pastorello et al., 2020)
US- Wi4	46.7	-91.2	2007	2014	ENF	Dfb	352	7	(Noormets et al., 2007)
US- Wi9	46.6	-91.1	2002	2005	ENF	Dfb	350	1	(Noormets et al., 2007)
US- Wkg	31.7	- 109.9	2004	2005	GRA	BSk	1531	8	(Scott, 2010)
US- WPT	41.5	-83.0	2004	2014	WET	Cfa	175	3	(Pastorello et al., 2020)
US- Wrc	45.8	- 122.0	2000	2006	ENF	Csb	371	1	(Wharton et al., 2012)
ZA- Kru	-25.0	31.5	2000	2012	SAV	BSh	359	3	(Archibald et al., 2009)
ZM- Mon	-15.4	23.3	2007	2009	WSA	Aw	1053	9	(L. Merbold et al., 2009)

Note.

^{*a}: collected from (Flechard et al., 2020).

*b: collected from (Hao et al., 2019).

*c: collected from (B. Tang et al., 2018).

*d: collected from (X. Tang et al., 2020).

*e: extracted from google earth.

Other elevation data were collected from <u>https://fluxnet.org/</u>, <u>http://www.europe-fluxdata.eu/</u>, <u>http://www.ozflux.org.au/</u>, <u>https://ameriflux.lbl.gov/</u>, <u>http://www.asiaflux.net/</u>, <u>http://www.chinaflux.org/</u>, and ancillary information of LaThuile dataset (<u>https://fluxnet.org/data/la-thuile-dataset/</u>).

131 **Table S2.** List of the forcing variables for the LUE model. The variables in bold are used to

132 calibrate the model parameters.

Abbrevia- tion	Definition	Unit	Equation or source	Reference
LE	Latent heat flux, 'LE_F_MDS' in FLUXNET2015 dataset or 'LE_f' in LaThuile dataset	MJI?m ⁻ 2Id ⁻¹	EC observations	
NEE	Net ecosystem exchange, 'NEE_VUT_REF' or 'NEE_f'	gC⊵m ⁻ ²⊵d⁻¹	EC observations	See Table S1
Precip	Precipitation, 'P_F' or 'precip'	mm	EC observations	

QA	Quality flag of the variable from EC measurement, e.g., 'SW_IN_F_QC' is the QA of global radiation in FLUXNET2015 dataset, and 'Rg_fqcOK' is QA of that in LaThuile dataset.	Unitles s (0-1)	FLUXNET dataset	(Pastorello et al., 2020)
QC	Quality flags for all the reflectance of MCD43A4 product	Unitles s	MCD43A2 quality assessment product	(Schaaf & Wang, 2015)
R_{g}^{a}	Global radiation, 'SW_IN_F' or 'Rg_f'	MJิm⁻ ²ิd⁻¹	EC observations	
R_p^a	Potential radiation, 'SW_IN_POT' or 'Rg_pot'	MJิm⁻ ²ิd⁻¹	EC observations	See Table S1
R_n^a	Net radiation, 'NETRAD' or 'Rn_f'	MJ⊡m ⁻ 2⊡d ⁻¹	EC observations	
r _{red}	Reflectance at red band	Unitles s (0-1)	MCD43A4 version 6 Nadir BRDF-Adjusted Reflectance product	(Schaaf & Wang,
r _{nir}	Reflectance at near-infrared band	Unitles s (0-1)	As above	2015)
Tª	Air temperature, 'TA_F' or 'Tair_f'	°C	EC observations	See Table S1
VPD ^a	Vapor pressure deficit, 'VPD_F' or 'VPD_f'	kPa	EC observations	See Table S1
CI	Cloudiness index	Unitles s (0-1)	$1 - R_g/R_p$	(Fu & Rich, 1999; Turner et al., 2006)
CO ₂	Atmospheric CO ₂ concentration	ppm	Observations by NOAA/ESRL. The global annual mean atmospheric CO ₂ concentration was converted to daily time steps using a linear interpolation function	www.esrl.noaa.go v/ gmd/ccgg/trends/
ET_{obs} ^d	Evapotranspiration	mm	converted from LE using a latent heat of vaporization changing with T	(Henderson - Sellers, 1984)
PET	Potential ET	mm	Estimated using Rn and T	(Priestley & Taylor, 1972)

GPP _{obs} ^d	Gross primary productivity, 'GPP_NT_VUT_REF' or 'GPP_f'	gC?m ⁻ ²?d ⁻¹	Estimated from NEE using the night-time partitioning method	(Reichstein et al., 2005)
NDVIC	MODIS-based Normalized differential vegetation index	Unitles s (-1-1)	$\frac{r_{nir} - r_{red}}{r_{nir} + r_{red}}$	(Rouse et al., 1974)
PAR	Photosynthetically active radiation	MJิ₪¯ ²͡ᢓd¯¹	$R_g \times 0.45$	(Running & Zhao, 2015; Weiss & Norman, 1985)
WAI	Water availability index	mm	Estimated using Precip and PET, with two site-level calibrated parameters	See the algorithm of WAI in (Boese et al., 2019; Tramontana et al., 2016) and detailed calibration process in section S1 in (Bao et al., 2022)
W	Soil water supply	Unitles s (0-1)	W = min(1, WAI/AWC)	(Bao et al., 2022)
σ _{LE}	Random uncertainty of ET, 'LE_RANDUNC' or 'LE_fsd_UncNew_fullDay_m 1'	MJ⊡m ⁻ ²⊡d ⁻¹	Standard deviation of LE	(Pactorollo at al
σ _{NEE}	Random uncertainty of GPP, 'NEE_VUT_REF_RANDUNC' or 'NEE_fsd_UncNew_fullDay_ m1'	gC⊡m ⁻ ²⊡d ⁻¹	Standard deviation of NEE	(Pastoreno et al., 2020)
FAPAR ^b	Fraction of absorbed PAR	Unitles s (0-1)	$\begin{cases} = \text{NDVI} (\text{NDVI}>0) \\ = 0 (\text{NDVI} \le 0) \end{cases}$	(Myneni et al., 1997)

Note. All the above variables are at the daily scale;

^aThe gaps in the R_g, R_p, R_n, T, and VPD were filled using machine-learning-based downscaling (Besnard et al., 2019) of gridded product from CRUNCEP (Viovy, 2018);

^bThe linear relationship between FAPAR and NDVI was assumed according to (Myneni et al., 1997).

^cThe gaps in NDVI was filled using FluxnetEO dataset (Walther et al., 2022). The time-series NDVI were filtered by Savitzky-Golay filter (window size was eleven and polynomial order was three) (Savitzky & Golay, 1964).

^dSince GPP_{obs} is estimated from NEE and ET_{obs} is estimated from LE, the QA of GPPobs and ETobs are represented by QA of NEE ('NEE_VUT_REF_QC' or 'NEE_fsd_UncNew_fullDay_m1') and LE ('LE_F_MDS_QC' or 'LE_fsd_UncNew_fullDay_m1'), respectively.

133 **Table S3.** Eddy covariance flux site list used in this study. The latitude (Lat), longitude (Lon)

and plant functional types (PFT) are collected from FLUXNET website. The data length differs

- across site and is determined by the years between 'data start' and 'data end'. The climate type
- 136 is extracted from the Koeppen-Geiger climate classification map (at 5 arc min; Rubel et al.,
- 137 2017). The elevation is collected from the site ancillary information, papers and satellite
- 138 images (see the footnote below the table). The site group refers to the group number of each
- 139 site used to validate the training result.

Class name	Short names	Definitions	References
DET	DET	Plant functional types	See Table S1, eleven types
FLI	FLI	Flant functional types	in total
			See Table S1, five main
Clim	Clim	Koeppen-Geiger climate classification	climate types and fourteen
Ciiii	Cilli	types	specific classification types
			in total
	BIO1	Annual Mean Temperature	_
		Mean Diurnal Range (Mean of monthly	
	BIO2	maximum temperature minus minimum	
		temperature)	_
	BIO3	Isothermality (BIO2 divided by BIO7 and	
	ВЮЗ	100)	_
		Temperature Seasonality (standard	
	BIO4	deviation of temperature multiply with	
	_	100)	_
	BIO5	Max Temperature of Warmest Month	_
	BIO6	Min Temperature of Coldest Month	- Coloulated based on the
	BIO7	Temperature Annual Range (BIO5 minus	Calculated based on the
		BIO6)	- Hutchincon 2011) using
	BIO8	Mean Temperature of Wettest Quarter	- CPUNCEP dataset (Viewy
	BIO9	Mean Temperature of Driest Quarter	- 2018) from 1986-2015
BioClim	BIO10	Mean Temperature of Warmest Quarter	- 2018/ 110111 1980-2015.
	BIO11	Mean Temperature of Coldest Quarter	_
	BIO12	Annual Precipitation	_
	BIO13	Precipitation of Wettest Month	-
	BIO14	Precipitation of Driest Month	_
	PIO15	Precipitation Seasonality (Coefficient of	-
	вютэ	Variation)	
	BIO16	Precipitation of Wettest Quarter	-
	BIO17	Precipitation of Driest Quarter	-
	BIO18	Precipitation of Warmest Quarter	-
	BIO19	Precipitation of Coldest Quarter	-
		Mean annual aridity index (ratio between	
	AI1	mean annual precipitation and potential	Calculated using the
		evapotranspiration)	CRUNCEP dataset from
	A12	Seasonality of aridity index (standard	1986-2015
	~IZ	deviation of mean monthly aridity index)	

		Annual mean EVI (enhanced vegetation	
	VILT	index)	
	VIF2	Mean monthly EVI range	-
	1/152	Mean EVI variability (VIF2 divided by	
	VIFS	VIF7)	Calculated based on the
	VIEA	EVI seasonality (standard deviation of	(PIO1 PIO11) algorithm
	VII 4	EVI)	(BIOI-BIOII) algorithm
VIE	VIF5	Max EVI of Warmest Month	Landsat-based FVI
	VIF6	Min EVI of Coldest Month	(Walther et al. 2022) from
	VIF7	Annual EVI Range (BIO5 minus BIO6)	1986-2015
	VIF8	Mean EVI of Wettest Quarter	1500 2015
	VIF9	Mean EVI of Driest Quarter	-
	VIF10	Mean EVI of Warmest Quarter	-
	VIF11	Mean EVI of Coldest Quarter	-
	Ndon	Average atmospheric nitrogen deposition	Extracted from the
	NUCPNHX	$(NH_3 and NH_4)$	extracted from the
NDdon	Ndon	Average atmospheric nitrogen deposition	- product of the
NPuep	Nuep _{NOY}	(NO and NO ₂)	transport model TM2
	Ddop	Average atmospheric phosphorus	(Wang of al. 2017)
	Puep	deposition	(wang et al., 2017)
	BUDICM	Depth to bedrock (R horizon) up to 200	
	BDRICIVI	cm	
		Probability of occurrence (0-100%) of R	
	BURLOG	horizon	
	BDTICM	Absolute depth to bedrock (in cm)	
		Bulk density (fine earth) in kg/m3 at	-
	DLDFIE	depth 0.00 m	
		Cation exchange capacity of soil in	-
	CLCSOL	cmol/kg at depth 0.00 m	
		Clay content (0-2 micro meter) mass	-
	CLIPPI	fraction in % at depth 0.00 m	Extracted from the Soil
Soil		Coarse fragments volumetric in % at	Grids product (Poggio et
	CREVOL	depth 0.00 m	al., 2021)
		Soil organic carbon content (fine earth	-
	UNEDRE	fraction) in g/kg at depth 0.00 m	
	PHIHOX	Soil pH*10 in H2O at depth 0.00 m	-
	PHIKCL	Soil PH*10 in KCl at depth 0.00 m	
		Silt content (2-50 micro meter) mass	
	JLIPPI	fraction in % at depth 0.00 m	
	SNDDDT	Sand content (50-2000 micro meter)	
		mass fraction in % at depth 0.00 m	
		Derived available soil water capacity	
	AVVCIT	(volumetric fraction) with FC = pF 2.0 for	

	depth 0 cm
	Derived available soil water capacity
AWCh2	(volumetric fraction) with FC = pF 2.3 for
	depth 0 cm
	Derived available soil water capacity
AWCh3	(volumetric fraction) with FC = pF 2.5 for
	depth 0 cm
	Derived available soil water capacity
WWP	(volumetric fraction) until wilting point
	for depth 0 cm
A\A/C+S	Saturated water content (volumetric
AVVCIS	fraction) teta-S for depth 0 cm