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1 **Adjusting Solar-induced Fluorescence to Nadir-viewing Provides a Better Proxy for**

2 **GPP**

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33 **Abstract**

34 Solar-induced fluorescence (*SIF*) provides key information for inferring terrestrial gross primary
35 productivity (*GPP*). However, there is little research on analyzing the performance of nadir-
36 adjusted *SIF* (SIF_{nadir}) on *GPP*, compared to total *SIF* emitted by all leaves (SIF_{total}) for
37 reducing the viewing angle effects and estimating *GPP*. Besides, there have been controversial
38 opinions on whether SIF_{total} is better correlated to *GPP* than raw *SIF* observations (SIF_{obs}).
39 Here we systematically analyzed the relationship between raw/nadir/total *SIF* (i.e., SIF_{obs} ,
40 SIF_{nadir} and SIF_{total}) and *GPP* and investigated the underlying mechanism, using multi-angular
41 field measurements and eddy covariance data in wheat and corn crops at sub-daily scale. We
42 further compared the performance of SIF_{obs} , SIF_{nadir} and SIF_{total} in estimating *GPP* using the
43 TROPospheric Monitoring Instrument (TROPOMI) *SIF* and concurrent AmeriFlux
44 measurements at daily scale. The results indicate that diurnal SIF_{nadir} has stronger correlations
45 to *GPP* than SIF_{obs} for field measurements, with the increase of mean coefficient of
46 determination (R^2) by 0.05~0.07 for far-red band and 0.11~0.20 for red band. SIF_{nadir} shows
47 comparable performance with SIF_{total} for both far-red and red bands. Although the viewing
48 angle effects dominate the difference in estimating *GPP* between SIF_{nadir} and SIF_{obs} , the
49 correlation between light use efficiency (*LUE*) and f_{esc} further determines the different
50 performance of SIF_{nadir} and SIF_{total} in estimating *GPP*. TROPOMI-based analysis further
51 confirms that SIF_{nadir} overall has higher correlations to AmeriFlux *GPP* than SIF_{obs} for
52 different plant functional types and shows similar performance with SIF_{total} . Compared to
53 SIF_{total} , the estimation of SIF_{nadir} independent of viewing angle effects does not require any
54 canopy structure parameters, and thus offers promising potential for reliably estimating regional
55 and global *GPP*.

56

57 **Keywords:** *SIF*, gross primary productivity, viewing-angle effects, nadir viewing, canopy
58 structure effects, TROPOMI.

59 **1 Introduction**

60 The emerging spaceborne solar-induced fluorescence (*SIF*) measurements offer a novel
61 opportunity for monitoring and interpreting large-scale ecosystem carbon cycle (Frankenberg et
62 al., 2011; Joiner et al., 2011; Magney et al., 2020; Meroni et al., 2009; Mohammed et al., 2019;
63 Ryu et al., 2019). Compared to traditional vegetation indices, *SIF* has more inherent linkages to
64 vegetation photosynthetic activities (Gu et al., 2019; Magney et al., 2019). *SIF* has been
65 increasingly used for tracking terrestrial gross primary productivity (*GPP*) (Sun et al., 2017),
66 detecting plant stress (He et al., 2020b; Song et al., 2018), monitoring vegetation phenology
67 (Wang et al., 2019; Zhang et al., 2020a), estimating crop yield (Guan et al., 2016; He et al.,
68 2020a) and diagnosing ecosystem transpiration (Lu et al., 2018; Maes et al., 2020; Shan et al.,
69 2019; Shan et al., 2021).

70 However, viewing-angle effects have considerable impact on the top-of-canopy *SIF*
71 observations (SIF_{obs}) and their applications. Similar to surface reflectance, SIF_{obs} is sensitive to
72 viewing angles due to the canopy scattering and re-absorption processes (Van der Tol et al.,
73 2019), which has been confirmed by field measurements (Biriukova et al., 2020; Liu et al., 2015;
74 Pinto et al., 2017; Rogers et al., 2020; Zhang et al., 2020c), model simulations (Sakai et al., 2020;
75 Zeng et al., 2020; Zhao et al., 2016) and remote sensing observations (Doughty et al., 2019;
76 Guanter et al., 2012). The viewing-angle effects on *SIF* can distort the *SIF-GPP* relationship
77 (Zhang et al., 2019a; Zhang et al., 2018b; Zhang et al., 2021). Considering that most existing and
78 upcoming *SIF* observations from spaceborne instruments such as the Second Global Ozone
79 Monitoring Experiment (GOME-2), Orbiting Carbon Observatory-2 (OCO-2) and
80 TROPospheric Monitoring Instrument (TROPOMI) have varying scanning angles, reducing the
81 view-angle effects is urgently needed for *SIF* applications.

82 Compared to SIF_{obs} , the total SIF emitted by all leaves (hereinafter referred to as total
83 SIF , SIF_{total}) is less affected by scattering and reabsorption processes, and thus has been
84 considered to be better correlated to GPP (He et al., 2017; Lu et al., 2020; Zhang et al., 2019b;
85 Zhang et al., 2020b; Zhang et al., 2020c). A few recent studies developed practical methods to
86 estimate SIF_{total} based on radiative transfer modeling (Liu et al., 2019; Yang and Van der Tol,
87 2018; Yang et al., 2020; Zeng et al., 2019). These methods typically require knowledge of
88 canopy structure parameters such as leaf area index (LAI), clumping index (CI) and leaf angle
89 distribution (LAD), but their estimations from remote sensing still have large uncertainties (Fang
90 et al., 2019; Pisek et al., 2015; Zhang et al., 2020d) and hinder robust applications of SIF_{total} .

91 Moreover, there have been controversial opinions on whether SIF_{total} is better correlated
92 to GPP than SIF_{obs} . Zhang et al. (2019, 2020b) used the spaceborne TROPOMI and OCO-2 data
93 and demonstrated that SIF_{total} outperformed SIF_{obs} because of the reduced impact of canopy
94 structure effect. Lu et al. (2020) showed SIF_{total} improved the estimate of diurnal GPP at
95 Harvard Forest with complex canopy structure. Zhang et al. (2020c) showed that SIF_{total} had
96 less angular dependencies and stronger relationship with GPP in crops. In contrast, Dechant et al.
97 (2020) showed SIF_{obs} better served as a proxy for GPP in crops, benefited by the positive
98 correlations of the ratio of SIF photons escaping from canopy with photosynthetic light use
99 efficiency (LUE). It is worth noting that the viewing angle of SIF measurements was fixed at
100 nadir or hemispheric in Dechant et al. (2020), whereas SIF observations were collected at
101 varying viewing angles in Zhang et al. (2019, 2020b, 2020c), and with a fixed view zenith angle
102 (VZA) of 30° in Lu et al. (2020). The datasets used in the existing studies were collected using
103 different modes of fixed (nadir or off-nadir) or varying viewing angles, and thus the conclusions
104 of these studies may not be directly comparable and scalable. The viewing-angle effects have

105 smaller impacts on analyzing the *SIF-GPP* relationship in Dechant et al. (2020) due to nadir or
106 hemispherical viewing conditions, as compared with other studies (e.g., Zhang et al. (2019,
107 2020b, 2020c) and Lu et al. (2020)) with time varying viewing conditions, which may explain
108 the contradictory conclusions from these studies.

109 Therefore, normalizing SIF_{obs} to a standard viewing angle (i.e., nadir in this study) is
110 proposed in this study to minimize the viewing-angle effects on SIF_{obs} . This effort will facilitate
111 a systematic analysis on the impacts of viewing angle on the *SIF-GPP* relationship and an
112 evaluation of the capabilities of nadir-adjusted *SIF* (SIF_{nadir}) and SIF_{total} for approximating GPP,
113 which can potentially resolve the aforementioned debate. To the best of our knowledge, no such
114 analysis has been carried out before. Compared to off-nadir viewing angles, SIF_{nadir} is less prone
115 to be affected by hotspot effects caused by the variation of solar angles (Hao et al., 2021a). Liu et
116 al. (2016) explored the potential of kernel-driven (KD) Bidirectional-Reflectance-Distribution-
117 Function (BRDF) models in fitting multi-angular *SIF* measurements. Hao et al. (2021b)
118 developed two practical methods to normalize *SIF* to nadir-viewing: one was based on multi-
119 angular reflectance while the other leveraged a KD model (Hao et al., 2020b). Neither method
120 requires input of canopy structural parameters, and their performance only depends on high-
121 quality reflectance and *SIF* data.

122 Our study aims to comprehensively assess and understand the performance of SIF_{nadir}
123 and SIF_{total} on approximating *GPP* estimations. We primarily focus on answering the following
124 four questions : 1) how effective are different *SIF* normalization methods in reducing the
125 viewing-angle effects? 2) how does SIF_{obs} normalized to nadir viewing perform in estimating
126 *GPP*, compared to the raw off-nadir SIF_{obs} ? 3) which is better for estimating photosynthesis,

127 SIF_{nadir} or SIF_{total} ? and 4) what are the contributing factors leading to the differences between
128 the performance of SIF_{nadir} and SIF_{total} ?

129

130 **2 Materials and methods**

131 **2.1 Multi-angular field SIF measurements at sub-daily scale**

132 First, two field datasets (wheat and corn crops) were used in our analysis, with the
133 characteristics presented in Table 1. Both wheat and corn canopies show the erectophile leaf
134 inclination distribution (empirically identified from the field). Specifically, a high-resolution
135 spectrometer QEPro (Ocean Optics, Dunedin, FL, USA) installed in a multi-angular
136 measurement system (Multi-Fluo) was used to collect multi-angular observations. It had a field-
137 of-view (FOV) of 25° and a spectral range of 650-800 nm, with a full width at half maximum of
138 0.3 nm. For each day, the Multi-Fluo system (Figure S1) collected 24 groups (with different
139 VZAs) of multi-angular data from 6:00 to 18:00 (UTC+8). The system acquired one group of
140 multi-angular observations with the same VZA every 30 min, which covered 25 different view
141 azimuth angles (VAA) changing from 60° to 300° at a 10° interval. During the measurements,
142 VZA was dynamically adjusted to track the solar zenith angle (SZA) and to capture the hotspot
143 effects, and it was fixed at 40° when $SZA > 40^\circ$ to avoid the effects of large instantaneous FOVs.
144 An advanced spectral fitting method (Cogliati et al., 2015) was used to retrieve SIF for far-red
145 (760 nm) and red (687 nm) wavelengths. We used the averaged reflectance for 686-691 nm and
146 757-768 nm spectral bandwidths as Red and near-infrared (NIR) reflectance, respectively.
147 During the growing season, an eddy covariance flux system was installed to continuously
148 measure net ecosystem CO_2 exchange (NEE). Accompanying meteorological data composed of



149 shortwave radiation, air temperature, relative humidity and vapor pressure deficit were observed
150 regularly. *GPP* was estimated at a half-hourly interval using a nighttime-based partitioning
151 method (Reichstein et al., 2005) provided in the REddyProc tool (Wutzler et al., 2018). Effective
152 *LAI* (equal to $LAI \cdot CI$, denoted as *eLAI*) was measured with LAI-2200 plant canopy analyzer (LI-
153 COR, Lincoln, NE, USA). The photosynthetically active radiation (*PAR*) and fraction of *PAR*
154 absorbed by chlorophyll (*FPAR*) were measured via six LI-190SL quantum sensors (LI-COR
155 Inc., Lincoln, NE, USA) installed both above and below the canopy, and *LUE* was calculated as
156 $GPP/(PAR \cdot FPAR)$. We only used the data acquired under clear sky conditions when the
157 clearness index (defined as the ratio of top-of-canopy to top-of-atmosphere solar radiation) was
158 larger than 0.6 to avoid the interference of clouds. Finally, the field data obtained for five days
159 were used in the analysis. Detailed descriptions of the field datasets and associated quality
160 control can be found in Zhang et al. (2020c).

161

162

163 **Table 1.** Characteristics of the field measurements for wheat and corn crops.

164

Variables		Wheat	Corn
Location	Latitude (°N)	34.5199	34.5199
	Longitude (°E)	115.5916	115.5916
Measured Time	Year	2018	2018
	Day of Year (DOY)	124-133	235-239
	Hour of day	6:00-18:00	6:00-18:00
Viewing angle	View Zenith Angle (VZA, °)	20-40	15-40
	View Azimuth Angle (VAA, °)	60-300 at 10 intervals	60-300 at 10 intervals
	Leaf chlorophyll content (<i>Cab</i> , $\mu\text{g cm}^{-2}$)	66-71	51-54
Canopy structure	Effective leaf area index (<i>eLAI</i> , $\text{m}^2 \text{m}^{-2}$)	5.2-5.8	2.8-2.9
	Leaf inclination angle distribution	Erectophile	Erectophile
Field Image			

165

166

167 **2.2 TROPOMI *SIF* and MODIS data**

168 We also used daily TROPOMI *SIF* data over 2018-2019 together with corresponding
169 MODIS products and flux tower GPP data from AmeriFlux sites (see Section 2.3) to evaluate our
170 analysis at the large spatial scale. TROPOMI onboard the Sentinel-5 Precursor provides near-
171 daily (around 13:30) *SIF* data with global coverage and a spatial resolution of 3.5-km × 7-km at
172 nadir (Köhler et al., 2018). Considering that retrieved red *SIF* from TROPOMI still has high
173 relative uncertainties (Köhler et al., 2020), we only used far-red (740 nm) *SIF* in this study. We
174 used both instantaneous and daily averaged *SIF* and calculated the daily averaged *SIF* using the
175 day-length correction factors (Zhang et al., 2018a). To reduce the cloud contamination and keep
176 the most possible valid *SIF* data, the *SIF* soundings with the cloud fraction greater than 0.5 were
177 excluded and the sensitivity of our results to this threshold was tested (see Section 3.3).
178 Considering the large uncertainty in a single TROPOMI measurement (Köhler et al., 2018), *SIF*
179 measurements centering within a 10-km radius of the flux towers were averaged to reduce the
180 *SIF* uncertainties (Frankenberg et al., 2014) and match the AmeriFlux *GPP*.

181 A set of 500-m MODIS data were collected at the selected AmeriFlux sites using the
182 Google Earth Engine (GEE) (Gorelick et al., 2017) to provide vegetation information.
183 Specifically, the IGBP layer in the yearly MCD12Q1-v6 land cover products (Friedl et al., 2002)
184 for 2018 was used to evaluate the homogeneity of AmeriFlux sites. The sites with larger than 50%
185 being covered by the dominant PFT within a 10-km radius of the tower were considered as
186 homogeneous. The 4-day MCD15A3H-v6 *LAI/FPAR* products (Myneni et al., 2002b) were
187 selected to provide *LAI* and *FPAR*. The 8-day *CI* data retrieved from MODIS were acquired from
188 Wei et al. (2019). Daily MCD43A1-v6 BRDF/Albedo Model Parameters products (Schaaf et al.,
189 2002) were used to estimate multi-angular reflectance. The MODIS pixels within a 1.5-km

190 radius of the flux towers were spatially-averaged and temporally-interpolated using a nearest
191 neighbor methods to match with the AmeriFlux *GPP*.

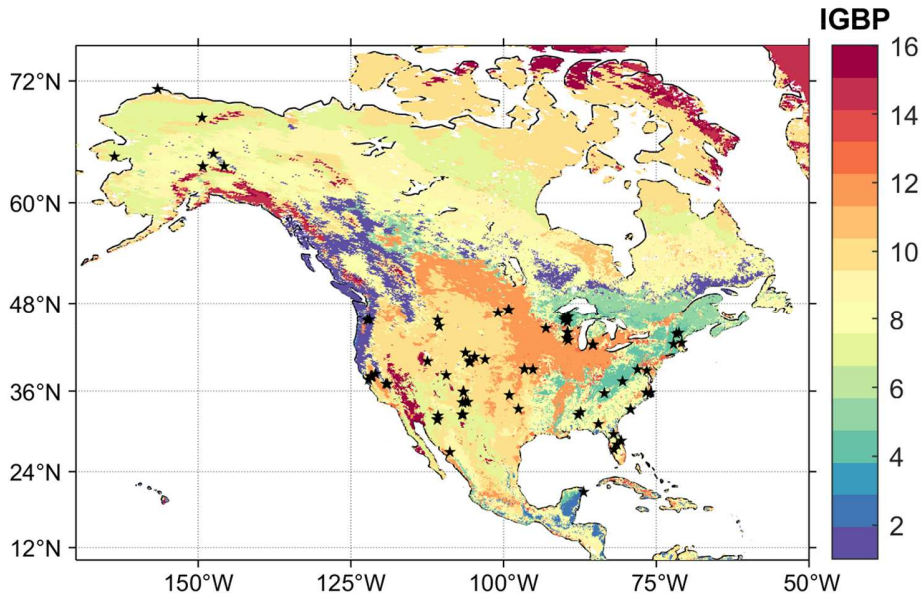
192

193 **2.3 AmeriFlux *GPP* data**

194 Overall, 102 AmeriFlux sites which have coincident measurements with TROPOMI *SIF*
195 during 2018-2019 were selected for our analysis (see Table S1 and Figure 1 for site information
196 and spatial distribution, respectively). These sites cover eight International-Geosphere-
197 Biosphere-Programme (IGBP) PFTs (Belward et al., 1999): Evergreen needleleaf forests (ENF),
198 Deciduous broadleaf forests (DBF), Mixed forests (MF), Open shrublands (OSH), Woody
199 savannas (WSA), Grasslands (GRA), Wetlands (WET), and Croplands (CRO). Half-hourly *GPP*
200 data estimated from partitioning NEE measurements at these sites were aggregated to acquire the
201 daily values. Both half-hourly and daily *GPP* data were used to match with the instantaneous and
202 daily averaged TROPOMI *SIF* data, respectively. Only the *GPP* data during the growing seasons
203 from April to October were used to avoid the impact of dormancy in winter.

204

205



206

207 **Figure 1.** Spatial distribution of AmeriFlux sites used in our study. Black pentagram represents
 208 the site location. The background color represents the IGBP PFTs: 1: Evergreen needleleaf
 209 forests, ENF; 2: Evergreen broadleaf forests, EBF ; 3: Deciduous needleleaf forests, DNF; 4:
 210 Deciduous broadleaf forests, DBF; 5: Mixed forests, MF; 6: Closed shrublands, CSH; 7: Open
 211 shrublands, OSH; 8: Wood savannas, WSA; 9: Savannas, SAV; 10: Grasslands, GRA; 11:
 212 Permanent wetlands, WET; 12: Croplands, CRO; 13: Urban and built-up lands, URB; 14:
 213 Cropland/natural vegetation mosaics: CVM; 15: Snow and ice, SNO; and 16: Barren, BSV.
 214

215 2.4 Decoupling viewing-angle and scattering/reabsorption effects on *SIF*

216 2.4.1 Overall framework

217 Due to the BRDF effect, SIF_{obs} is impacted by both the solar and viewing angles. With a
 218 certain solar angle, SIF_{obs} at a wavelength (λ) and a viewing angle (Ω) can be conceptually
 219 modeled as (Lee et al., 2013; Sun et al., 2017):

$$220 \quad SIF_{obs}(\Omega, \lambda) = PAR \cdot FPAR \cdot \Phi_F(\lambda) \cdot f_{esc}(\Omega, \lambda) \quad (1)$$

221 where Φ_F is the quantum yield of *SIF*, and f_{esc} represents the fraction of *SIF* photons escaping
 222 from canopy. The product of first three terms represents SIF_{total} within a canopy.

223 We can directly derive SIF_{total} from SIF_{obs} using Equation 1 as:

$$224 \quad SIF_{total}(\lambda) = \frac{SIF_{obs}(\Omega, \lambda)}{f_{esc}(\Omega, \lambda)} \quad (2)$$

225 Equation 2 suggests that the effects of viewing-angle and scattering/reabsorption can be
 226 simultaneously minimized. However, to evaluate their separate effects on SIF_{obs} , we need to
 227 decouple them into two independent terms. A practical solution for achieving this objective is to:
 228 1) normalize SIF_{obs} with varying viewing angles to a standard viewing geometry (e.g., nadir)
 229 and 2) estimate SIF_{total} from SIF_{nadir} . In the first step, all SIF observations are corrected to an
 230 identical viewing angle and thus the viewing-angle effects are minimized/eliminated; and in the
 231 second step, the scattering/reabsorption effects can be further minimized by estimating SIF_{total} .

232

233 **2.4.2 Calculating f_{esc} for deriving total SIF**

234 Equation 2 shows that the key to disentangling the effects of viewing-angle and
 235 scattering/reabsorption is to accurately calculate f_{esc} . Based on the spectral invariants theory,
 236 Yang et al. (2018b) derived a simple method to calculate far-red f_{esc} :

$$237 \quad f_{esc}(\Omega, far_red) = \frac{Ref(\Omega, far_red)}{i_0 \cdot \omega(far_red)} \quad (3)$$

238 where Ref represents the NIR reflectance, i_0 is the canopy interceptance which represents the
 239 probability of a photon interacting with the vegetation canopy (Smolander and Stenberg, 2005),
 240 and ω is the leaf single scattering albedo (equal to the sum of leaf reflectance and transmittance).
 241 This method is only suitable for dense vegetation canopy (Yang et al., 2018b). Zhang et al.
 242 (2020c) used this equation to empirically estimate red f_{esc} . i_0 can be calculated using canopy
 243 structure parameters (Chen and Leblanc, 2001):

$$244 \quad i_0 = 1 - \exp\left(\frac{-G(SZA) \cdot LAI \cdot CI}{\cos(SZA)}\right) \quad (4)$$

245 where $G(SZA)$ is the leaf projection function which quantifies the projection coefficient of unit
 246 foliage area on a plane perpendicular to the illumination direction. This method requires accurate
 247 canopy structure parameters (e.g., LAI , CI and LAD).

248 Meanwhile, Zeng et al. (2019) developed a practical method for estimating far-red f_{esc}
 249 using the near-infrared reflectance of vegetation ($NIRv$) (Badgley et al., 2017) and $FPAR$:

$$250 \quad f_{esc}(\Omega, far_red) = \frac{NIRv(\Omega)}{FPAR \cdot \omega(far_red)} \quad (5)$$

$$251 \quad NIRv \approx NIR \cdot NDVI \quad (6)$$

252 where $NIRv$ represents the fraction of reflected NIR light that originates from vegetation, and
 253 $NDVI$ is the normalized difference vegetation index (Tucker, 1979). This method requires
 254 accurate estimation of $NIRv$ and $FPAR$. Compared to Eq. 3, this method is suitable for both
 255 dense and sparse vegetation canopies (Zeng et al., 2019).

256 Similarly, Liu et al. (2020) developed a method for estimating red f_{esc} using the red
 257 reflectance of vegetation ($Redv$) and $FPAR$:

$$258 \quad f_{esc}(\Omega, red) = \frac{Redv(\Omega)}{FPAR \cdot \omega(red)} \quad (7)$$

$$259 \quad Redv(\Omega) \approx Red \cdot NDVI^2 \quad (8)$$

260 where $Redv$ represents the fraction of reflected red light that originates from vegetation. $NDVI^2$
 261 is used to reduce the contribution of soil to red reflectance, which is only an approximation
 262 acquired based on the PROSAIL model (Liu et al., 2020). This method also requires an accurate
 263 estimation of $Redv$ and $FPAR$.

264 Hereinafter, we named the methods expressed in Equations 3-4 and Equation 5-8 as i_0 -
 265 based and $FPAR$ -based methods, respectively. In this study, we also compared the difference
 266 between derived SIF_{total} using Ref (Equation 3) and $NIRv$ (Equation 6) or $Redv$ (Equation 8).

267

268 **2.4.3 Viewing-angle normalization methods**269 Based on Equation 1, SIF_{nadir} can be calculated by

270
$$SIF_{nadir}(\lambda) = SIF_{obs}(\Omega, \lambda) \cdot \frac{f_{esc}(nadir, \lambda)}{f_{esc}(\Omega, \lambda)} \quad (9)$$

271 Combining Equations 5-8 and 9, we can normalize SIF_{obs} to SIF_{nadir} only with $NIRv$ or $Redv$
 272 at both nadir and observed directions, which can be acquired from the KD model. This method is
 273 hereafter referred as the $NIRv/Redv$ -based method. This method is applicable when multi-
 274 angular reflectance data are available, but its performance depends on the reduced sensitivity of
 275 $NIRv$ and $Redv$ to soil contribution (Hao et al., 2021b).

276 Hao et al. (2021b) suggested an alternative method that uses the KD model to fit PAR -
 277 normalized multi-angular SIF observations (hereinafter referred to as KD-based method):

278
$$\frac{SIF_{obs}(\Omega, \lambda)}{PAR} = f_{iso}(\lambda) \cdot K_{iso}(\Omega) + f_{vol}(\lambda) \cdot K_{vol}(\Omega) + f_{geo}(\lambda) \cdot K_{geo}(\Omega) \quad (10)$$

279 where f_{iso} , f_{vol} and f_{geo} represent the fitting parameters, and K_{iso} , K_{vol} and K_{geo} represent the
 280 isotropic, volumetric-scattering and geometric-optical kernels. In this study, we used a constant
 281 value of 1, RossThick kernel and LiTransit kernel as K_{iso} , K_{vol} and K_{geo} , respectively, to capture
 282 the BRDF shapes caused by volumetric-scattering and surface-scattering. The RossThick kernel
 283 was derived from a single scattering approximation of the radiative transfer theory for dense
 284 vegetation canopy (Roujean et al., 1992), and the LiTransit kernel was derived from the
 285 geometric-optical mutual shadowing BRDF model for sparse vegetation canopy (Li et al., 1999).
 286 RossThick kernel and LiTransit kernel can be used to characterize bowl-shaped and dome-
 287 shaped BRDF curves, respectively.

288 Considering relatively small variations of Φ_F within one day (Yang et al., 2018) or during
 289 the growing season (Wang et al., 2020) and relatively stable canopy structure in a short time
 290 period, we can use multiple *SIF* observations to fit the KD model in Equation 10 and then derive
 291 the ratio of SIF_{nadir} to SIF_{obs} . This method is efficient only when multi-angular *SIF* and *PAR*
 292 data are available, and its performance also depends on employed KD models (Hao et al., 2021b).

293

294 **2.5 Analysis and evaluation methods**

295 Using the field dataset at sub-daily scale, we first fitted the KD models to all reflectance
 296 and *SIF* observations for each day; then used the fitted models to calculate nadir reflectance and
 297 *SIF* at each time of that day. Finally, SIF_{nadir} and SIF_{total} were estimated using the methods in
 298 Sections 2.4.2 and 2.4.3. We evaluated the performance of adjusted *SIFs* by four methods (two
 299 methods for estimating SIF_{nadir} and two methods for estimating SIF_{total}) for estimating *GPP*.
 300 Note that for i_0 -based and *FPAR*-based methods, ω were assumed as 0.9 and 0.1 for far-red and
 301 red bands, respectively (Liu et al., 2019), assuming that ω has little variation during the short
 302 measurement periods (Table 1). i_0 was estimated based on measured *eLAI* and a simplified
 303 approximation of $G(SZA)=0.5$ under the spherical distribution. For the *FPAR*-based method, we
 304 used the measured *FPAR*. We assume that the *SIF* variation is caused mainly by the variation of
 305 viewing angle in a short time window (i.e., 30 min) under no-stress conditions and thus the
 306 coefficient of variation (CV) was used to evaluate the performance of different methods for
 307 reducing the viewing-angle effects, calculated as the ratio of standard deviation to mean value:

$$308 \quad CV = \frac{std(\{SIF_i\})}{mean(\{SIF_i\})} \quad (11)$$

309 where $\{SIF_i\}$ represents the group of observed/nadir/total *SIF*. Specifically, we calculated the
 310 CVs for each group of *SIF* values with the same *VZA* but different *VAA*s, where the raw *SIF*

311 observed data were acquired at a short time window of about 30 min and thus the variation of the
 312 solar angle can be neglected. Smaller CVs indicate better performance for reducing the viewing-
 313 angle effects.

314 We used both linear and hyperbolic models (Damm et al., 2015) to approximate the
 315 empirical *SIF-GPP* relationship:

$$316 \quad GPP = a1 \cdot SIF + b1 \quad (12)$$

$$317 \quad GPP = \frac{a2 \cdot SIF}{SIF + b2} \quad (13)$$

318 where *SIF* represents observed/nadir/total *SIF*, and *a1*, *a2*, *b1* and *b2* are the fitting parameters.
 319 We used the coefficient of determination (R^2) and root mean square errors (RMSE) to test the
 320 goodness of fit for linear models, and the RMSE for hyperbolic models. The relationship was
 321 considered statistically significant if the significance level (p-value) was smaller than 0.05.

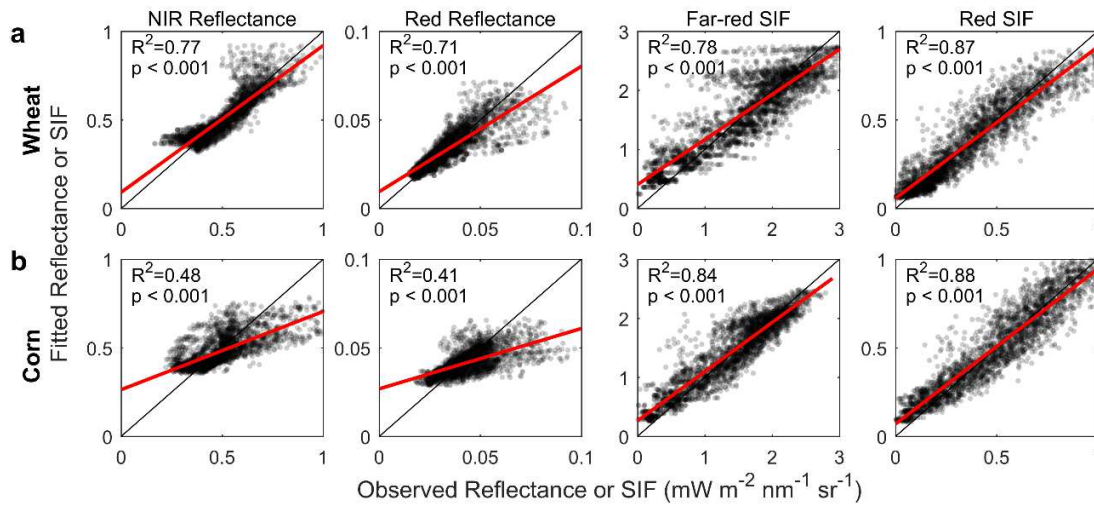
322 We used the TROPOMI and AmeriFlux data (both instantaneous at the overpass time of
 323 TROPOMI and daily averaged values) over the 2018-2019 period to evaluate the *SIF-GPP*
 324 relationship at the large spatial scale. Table S2 provides an overview of the data source for
 325 canopy structure parameters and reflectance, used for different methods. With the KD-based
 326 method, TROPOMI SIF data in a 16-day window were used to fit the parameters in the KD
 327 model. With the i_0 -based method, the far-red ω were assumed to be 0.9 (Asner, 1998; Gates et
 328 al., 1965; Liu et al., 2019) and relatively conservative both within and across species and is
 329 relatively invariant across time and space. LAD was assumed to be spherical, and then i_0 was
 330 estimated using MODIS LAI and CI data. With the *FPAR*-based method, ω was also assumed to
 331 be 0.9 and MODIS *FPAR* data was used. The magnitude of far-red ω only affected the
 332 magnitude of f_{esc} and had minimal impacts on the results in our study due to its small variations
 333 with time.

334

335 **3 Results**336 **3.1 Minimizing viewing-angle effects on *SIF***

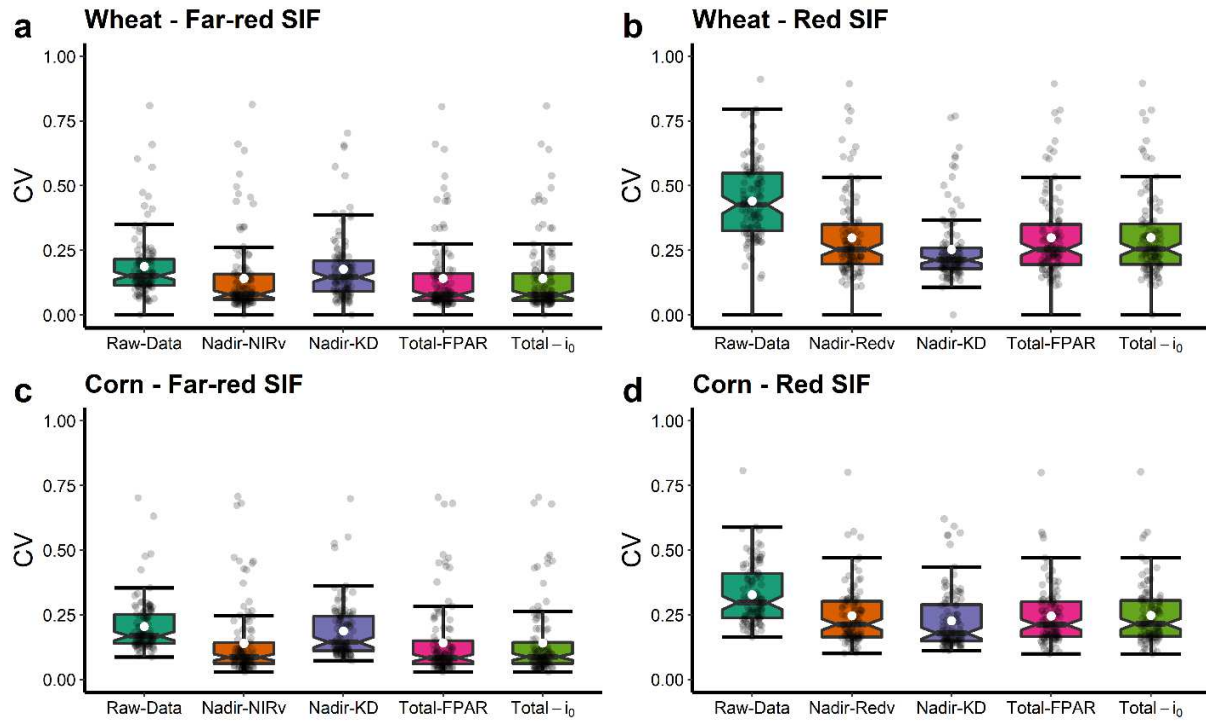
337 Both SIF_{nadir} and SIF_{total} reduce the angular heterogeneity of SIF observations in wheat
338 and corn, compared to raw directional SIF observations (Figures 2 and 3). Overall, the KD model
339 fits well with the reflectance and SIF for wheat and corn (Figure 2). Nadir SIF has smaller CVs
340 than the raw directional SIF observations (Figure 3). For wheat, nadir SIF normalized by
341 $NIRv/Redv$ -based method has mean CVs of about 14.2% (far-red) and 29.8% (red), and the
342 mean CVs of KD-based method are 17.7% (far-red) and 25.3% (red), while the raw multi-
343 angular observations have mean CVs of 18.7% (far-red) and 44.6% (red). For corn, nadir SIF
344 normalized by $NIRv/Redv$ -based method has mean CVs of 14.0% (far-red) and 24.7% (red), and
345 the mean CVs of KD-based method are 18.7% (far-red) and 22.8% (red), while observed SIF has
346 CV values of 20.5% and 32.8%, respectively. In contrast, the two methods ($FPAR$ -based and i_0 -
347 based) for calculating total SIF have similar mean CVs of 14.2% (far-red) and 29.9% (red) for
348 wheat and 14.2% (far-red) and 24.6% (red) for corn, respectively. Overall, nadir SIF performs
349 similarly as total SIF in reducing the viewing angle effects. Using TOC reflectance instead of
350 $NIRv/Redv$ leads to similar results (Figure S2). Figure S2 shows that the relative SIF (calculated
351 as the ratio of raw SIF to reflected radiance) also has good performance in reducing the view-
352 angle effects, which is identical to the TROPOMI-based analysis reported by Magney et al.
353 (2019). Figure 4 shows the time series of half-hourly observed, nadir and total $SIFs$, and the
354 shaded areas of both nadir and total $SIFs$ representing the standard deviations of $SIFs$ are

355 generally narrower than raw observed SIF. This further demonstrates that both nadir and total
 356 SIFs reduce the viewing-angle effects, when compared to raw *SIF* observations.



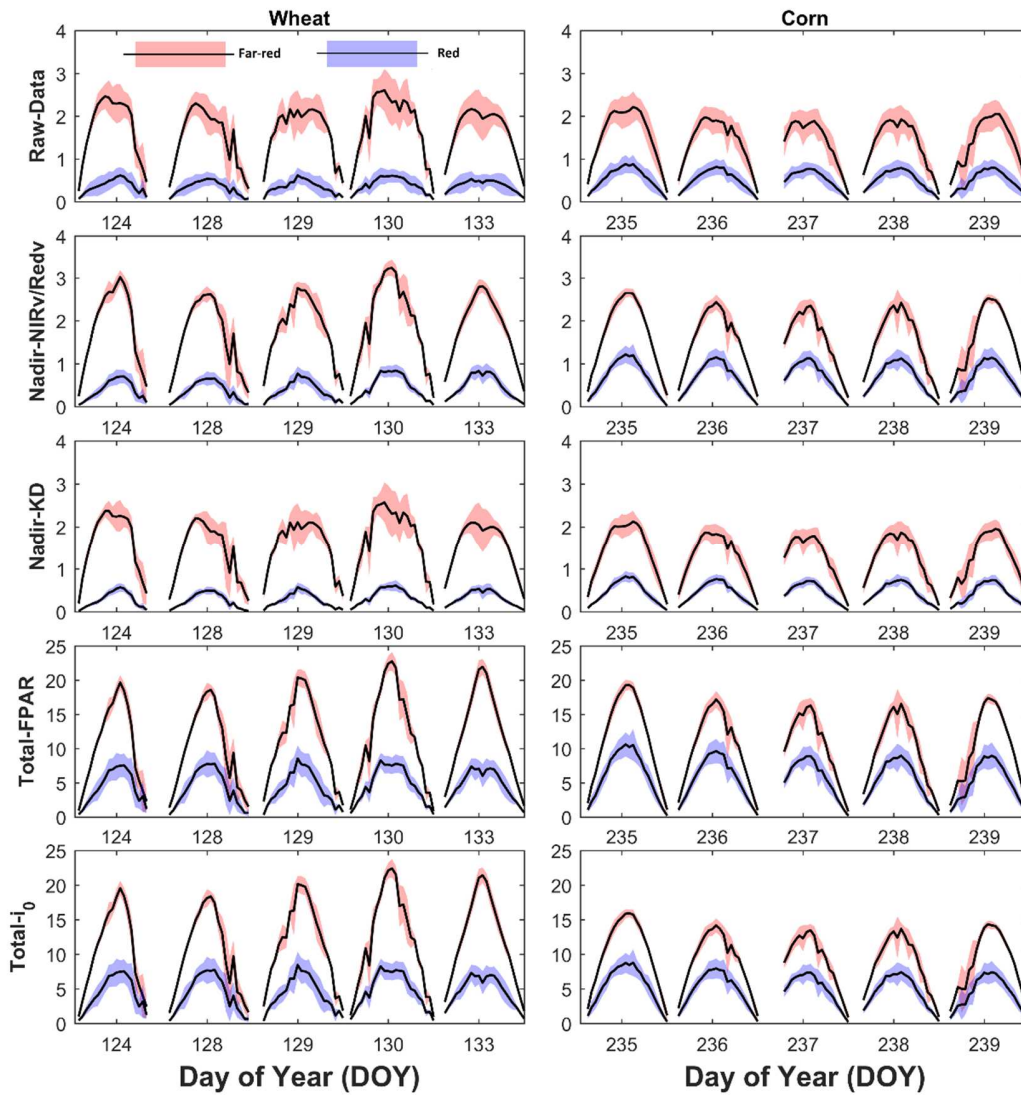
357
 358 **Figure 2.** Comparison between observed and fitted reflectance and *SIF* values with the kernel-
 359 driven model for red and far-red bands for (a) wheat and (b) corn. In each subplot, the degree of
 360 transparency for each point represents the data density from low (white) to high (black); the red
 361 line represents the linear regression line; and the R^2 and p -values of the linear fitting are also
 362 presented.

363



364

365 **Figure 3.** The coefficient of variation (CV) for observed/nadir/total *SIFs* for far-red and red
 366 bands for wheat (a-b) and corn (c-d). Here, CVs were calculated from each group of *SIF* values
 367 with the same *VZA* but different *VAA*s, where the raw observed data were acquired at a short
 368 time window of about 30 min. ‘Raw-data’, ‘Nadir-NIRv/Redv’, ‘Nadir-KD’, ‘Total-FPAR’ and
 369 ‘Total-i₀’ represent the raw observed *SIF*, nadir *SIFs* normalized by *NIRv/Redv*- and the KD-
 370 based methods, and total *SIFs* calculated by *FPAR*- or *i₀*-based methods, respectively. For each
 371 boxplot, white circles represent the mean values; the central lines represent the median values;
 372 boxes represent the interquartile ranges of the 25th (Q₂₅) and 75th (Q₇₅) percentiles; whiskers
 373 represent the values of $Q_{25}-1.5*(Q_{75}-Q_{25})$ and $Q_{75}+1.5*(Q_{75}-Q_{25})$; and grey points represent all
 374 CV values, whose degree of transparency represents the data density from low (white) to high
 375 (black).



376

377 **Figure 4.** Time series of half-hourly raw observed, nadir and total SIFs ($\text{mW m}^{-2} \text{nm}^{-1} (\text{sr}^{-1})$)
 378 from 6:00-17:30 (UTC+8) in 2018, for wheat and corn. The black lines and shaded areas
 379 represent the mean and standard deviations of *SIF* values, every 30 min.

380

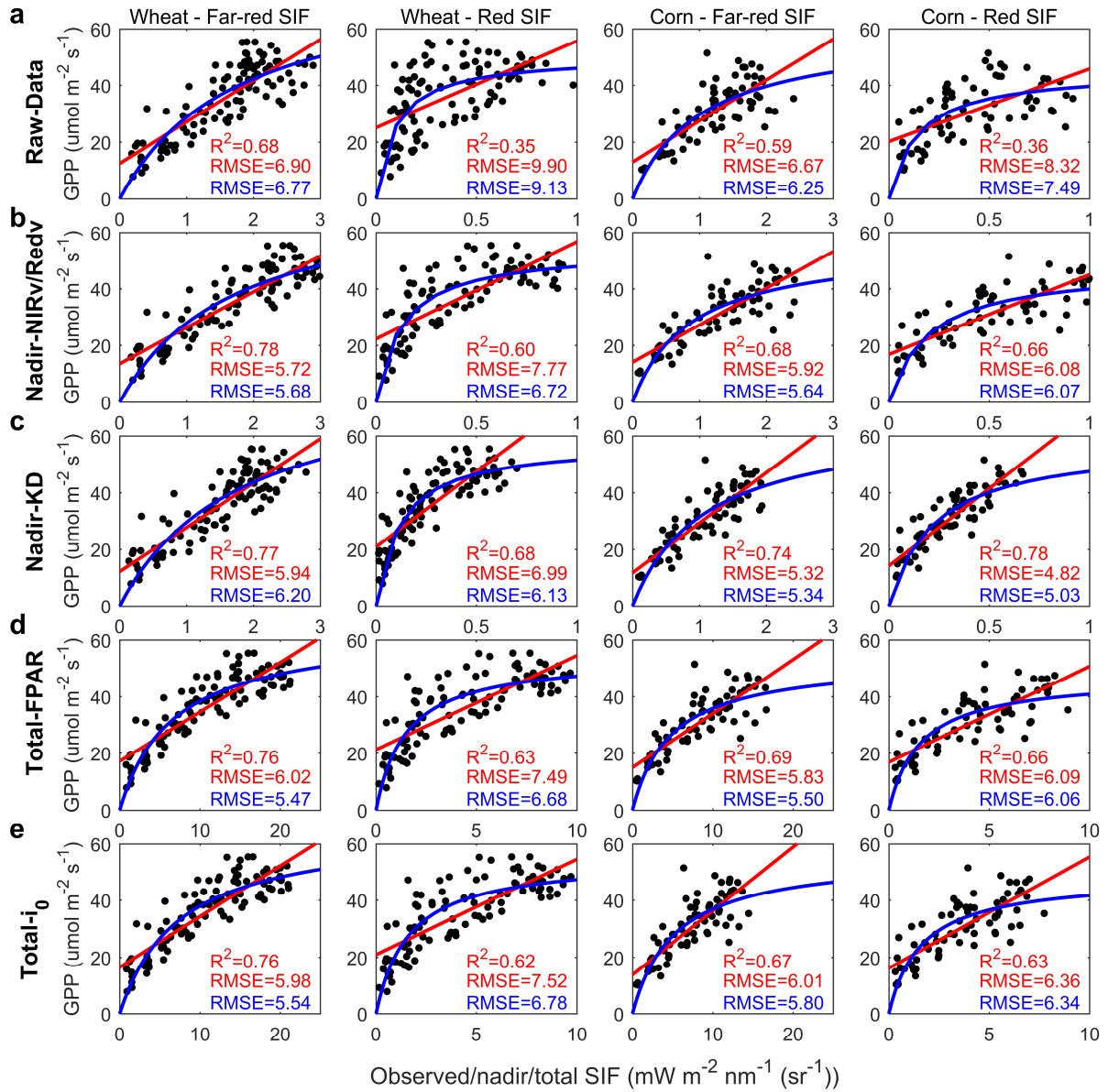
381 **3.2 *SIF-GPP* relationship based on multi-angular field measurements at sub-daily scale**

382 SIF_{nadir} is better correlated to GPP than observed multi-angular SIF_{obs} (Figure 5), due
 383 to the reduced viewing-angle effects (Section 3.1). For the linear relationship, when the VAA is
 384 fixed to be 240° and varying VZA (as a case), SIF_{obs} has R^2 values of 0.68 (far-red) and 0.35 (red)
 385 in wheat, and 0.59 (far-red) and 0.36 (red) in corn, respectively, while SIF_{nadir} normalized by
 386 the $NIRv/Redv$ -based method has R^2 values of 0.78 (far-red) and 0.60 (red) in wheat and 0.68
 387 (far-red) and 0.66 (red) in corn; and SIF_{nadir} normalized by the KD-based method has R^2 values
 388 of 0.77 (far-red) and 0.68 (red) in wheat and 0.74 (far-red) and 0.78 (red) in corn (see Figure 5).
 389 For all cases of VAA in Figure 6, SIF_{obs} has mean R^2 values of 0.66 (far-red) and 0.37 (red) in
 390 wheat and 0.60 (far-red) and 0.53 (red) in corn; the $NIRv/Redv$ -based method has mean R^2
 391 values of 0.73 (far-red) and 0.52 (red) in wheat and 0.64 (far-red) and 0.64 (red) in corn; and the
 392 KD-based method has mean R^2 values of 0.70 (far-red) and 0.58 (red) in wheat and 0.65 (far-red)
 393 and 0.63 (red) in corn. The improvements (i.e., the increases of R^2 value, ΔR^2) of SIF_{nadir}
 394 estimated by the two viewing angle normalization methods can reach up to 0.27 (far-red) and
 395 0.31 (red) in wheat, and 0.18 (far-red) and 0.28 (red) in corn (see Figure S3). Specifically, for
 396 wheat, the ΔR^2 values for the KD-based method vary from -0.01 to 0.10 for far-red band with an
 397 average value of 0.04, and from 0.02 to 0.49 with an average value of 0.20 for red band; and the
 398 ΔR^2 values for corn vary from -0.09 to 0.35 for far-red band with an average value of 0.10 and
 399 from -0.06 to 0.17 for red band with an average value of 0.05 (Figure S3). The hyperbolic model
 400 generally has smaller RMSEs than linear model, especially for the red band in wheat, but
 401 SIF_{nadir} has smaller RMSEs than SIF_{obs} for the two models (Figures 5 and S4-S5).

402 SIF_{nadir} shows comparable performance for estimating GPP to SIF_{total} . The $FPAR$ -
 403 based and i_0 -based methods of calculating SIF_{total} achieve very similar results. Here we only

404 report the results of SIF_{total} calculated based on $FPAR$. For the linear relationship, when VAA is
405 240° , SIF_{total} has R^2 values of 0.76 (far-red) and 0.63 (red) in wheat, and 0.69 (far-red) and 0.66
406 (red) in corn, which are similar to SIF_{nadir} results (Figure 5). For all cases of VAA shown in
407 Figure 6, the mean R^2 values are 0.69 (far-red) and 0.59 (red) in wheat, and 0.64 (far-red) and
408 0.63 (red); and the ΔR^2 values for SIF_{total} are similar to those for SIF_{nadir} (Figure 3). For
409 RMSE, SIF_{nadir} and SIF_{total} still hold the similar results for linear and hyperbolic models (see
410 Figures 6 and S4-S5).

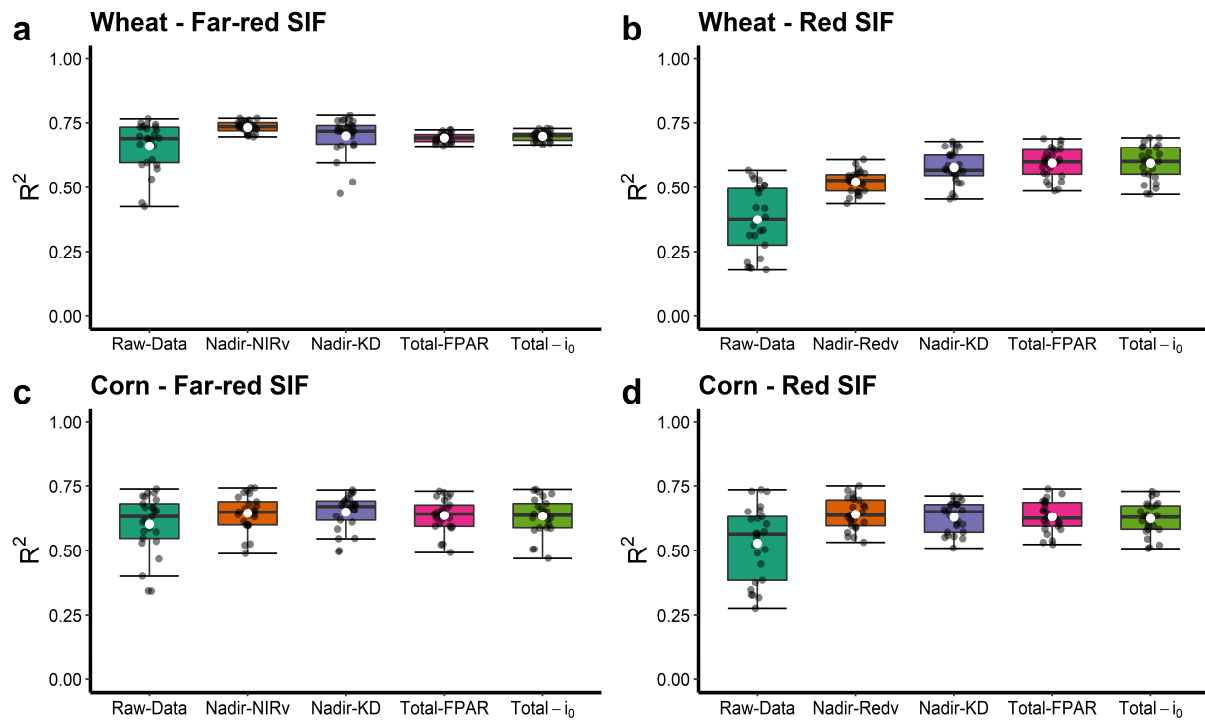
411



412

413 **Figure 5.** Performance of observed/nadir/total *SIFs* for far-red and red bands in predicting *GPP*
 414 under the *VAA* of 240° but varying *VZAs* for wheat and corn. In each subplot, the red and blue
 415 lines represent the linear and hyperbolic fitting lines, respectively; and R^2 and RMSEs of linear
 416 fitting are marked by red colors, and RMSEs of hyperbolic fitting are marked by blue colors; p-
 417 values are not included because they are smaller than 0.05 in all cases.

418



419

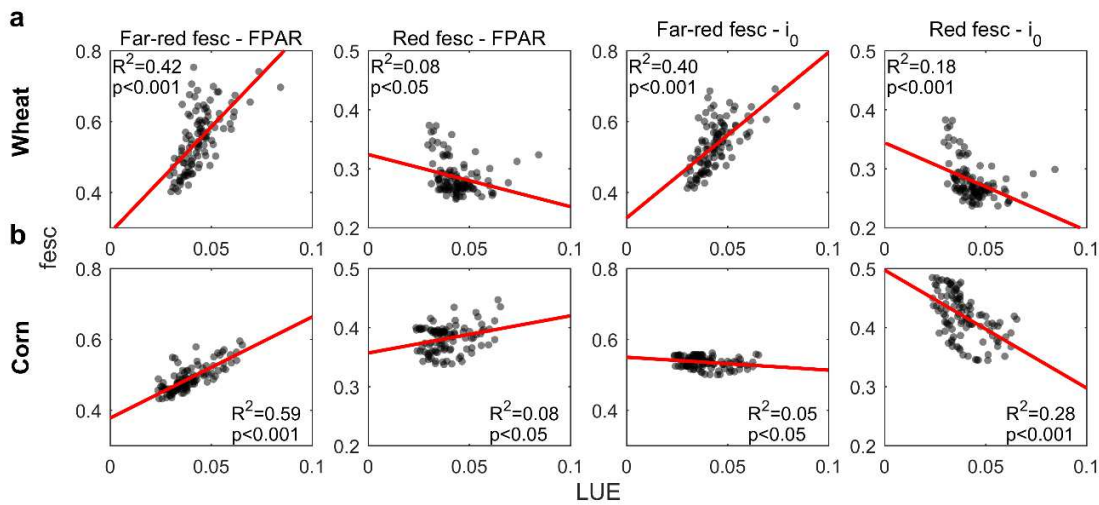
420 **Figure 6.** The R^2 values for the linear relationships between observed/nadir/total *SIFs* for far-red
 421 and red bands and *GPP* under different *VAA*s for wheat (a-b) and corn (c-d). For each boxplot,
 422 white circles represent the mean values and grey points represent R^2 values.

423

424

425 **3.3** f_{esc} explains the different performance of SIF_{total} and SIF_{nadir}

426 As shown in Equation 2, the SIF photon escape ratio in the viewing angle, f_{esc} , represents the
 427 differences between SIF_{nadir} and SIF_{total} . Thus the relative performance of SIF_{nadir} and SIF_{total}
 428 on approximating GPP depends on how well f_{esc} is correlated with LUE . Figure 7 shows that
 429 nadir f_{esc} at the far-red wavelength has a strong positive correlation to LUE , which is consistent
 430 with results reported by Dechant et al., (2020). This explains why SIF_{nadir} is slightly better than
 431 SIF_{total} in Figures 5-6. However, the red f_{esc} is weakly or even negatively correlated with LUE ,
 432 resulting that SIF_{nadir} is slightly inferior compared to SIF_{total} (Figures 5-6). It is worth noting
 433 that Equations 7-8 are empirical approximations and large uncertainties remain in calculating red
 434 f_{esc} (Liu et al., 2020) due to the large differences between leaf reflectance and transmittance in
 435 red band (Van der Tol et al., 2019; Yang et al., 2020).



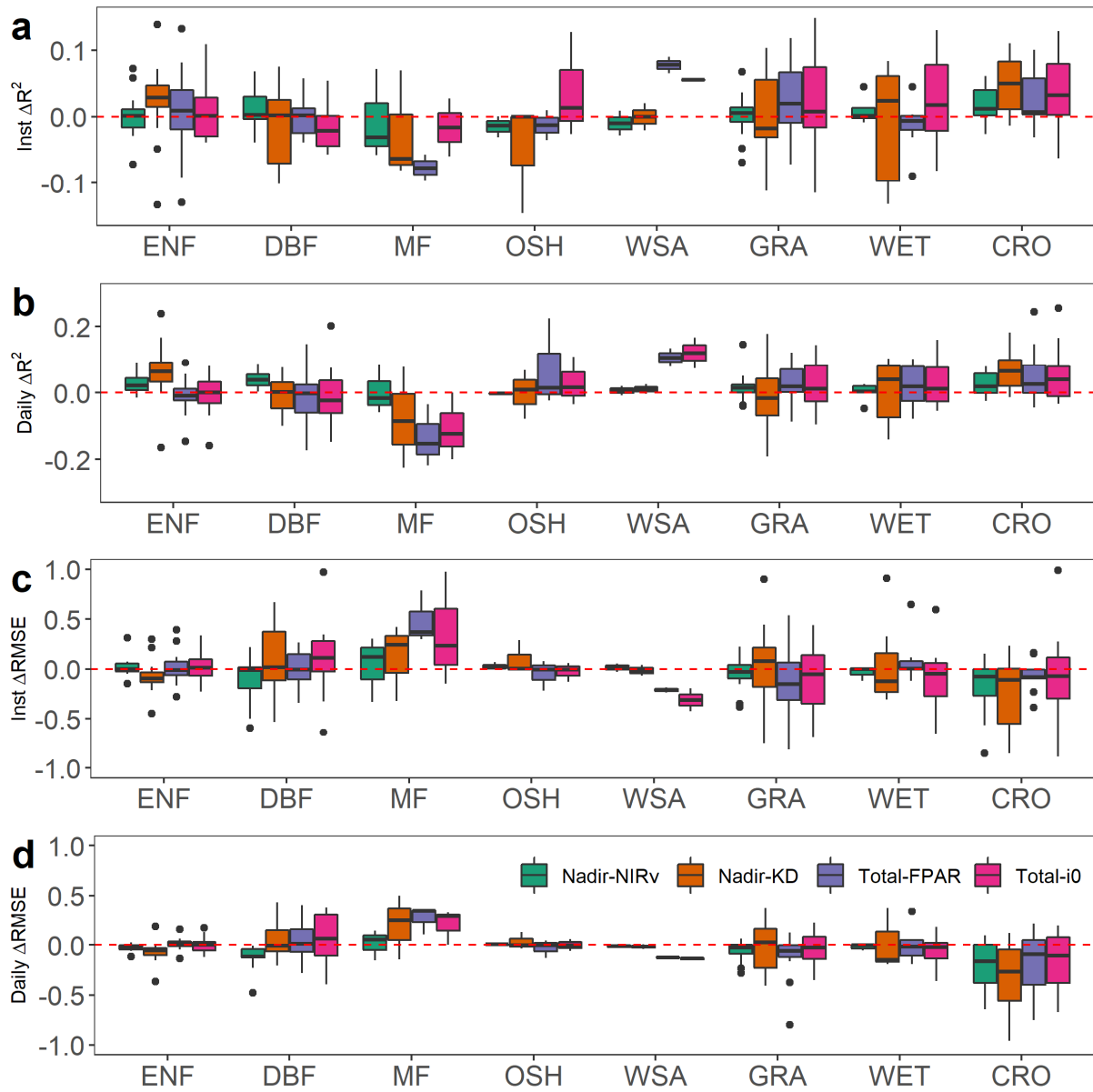
436 **Figure 7.** The relationships between LUE and nadir f_{esc} at the far-red and red wavelengths for (a)
 437 wheat and (b) corn. Here, ' f_{esc} -FPAR' and ' f_{esc} - i_0 ' represent the derived f_{esc} values by FPAR- and
 438 i_0 -based methods. In each subplot, the degree of transparency of each point represents the data
 439 density from low (white) to high (black); the red line represents the linear regression line; and
 440 both R^2 values and p -values of linear relationships are also presented.
 441

442

443 **3.4 Applications to daily TROPOMI data**

444 Overall, the TROPOMI far-red SIF_{nadir} has higher correlations to AmeriFlux GPP than
445 SIF_{obs} and shows similar performance with SIF_{total} for different PFTs, except MF and OSH
446 (Figure 8). Both SIF_{nadir} and SIF_{total} improved instantaneous $SIF-GPP$ relationship at most of
447 the study sites, and the improvement of R^2 and RMSE (i.e., ΔR^2 and $\Delta RMSE$) can exceed 0.1
448 and $1 \text{ umol}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ at several sites for ENF and CRO. Specifically, with the KD -based method,
449 the ΔR^2 values of all ENF sites vary from -0.13 to 0.21 and its average value is 0.05; and the ΔR^2
450 values for CRO vary from -0.01 to 0.11 with an average value of 0.05. However, after correcting
451 to SIF_{nadir} and SIF_{total} , the $SIF-GPP$ relationship becomes weaker at a few sites. For example,
452 for the KD -based method, the ΔR^2 values of all GRA sites vary from -0.18 to 0.10 and its
453 average value is 0.02. With the daily values, the improvements in R^2 and RMSE can exceed 0.2
454 and $1 \text{ gC}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{day}^{-1}$ at several CRO sites. Specifically, with the KD -based method, the ΔR^2 values
455 at ENF sites vary from -0.16 to 0.24 with an average value of 0.06; and the ΔR^2 values at CRO
456 sites vary from -0.01 to 0.18 with an average value of 0.06; and at GRA sites they vary from -
457 0.19 to 0.18 and with average value of 0.02. Different viewing angle normalization methods
458 generally show similar performance, but $NIRv/Redv$ -based method performs the best for MF; the
459 KD -based method performs the best for ENF and CRO; and $FPAR$ -based and i_0 -based methods
460 has better performance for sparse vegetation canopies (i.e., OSH, WSA and GRA). Overall, the
461 results from our analyses of using only homogeneous sites (Figure S6) are similar to those using
462 all study sites (Figure 8). In addition, Figures 8 and S7-S8 show that using different cloud
463 fractions thresholds (i.e., 0.2, 0.5 and 0.8) has minimal impact on the results.

464



465

466 **Figure 8.** Changes in goodness of fit (ΔR^2 and $\Delta RMSE$) for the linear fitting between TROPOMI

467 far-red *SIF* and AmeriFlux *GPP* after normalizing observed *SIFs* to nadir or total *SIFs* for all

468 sites with different PFTs. The units of $\Delta RMSE$ for instantaneous and daily scales are $\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$

469 1 and $\text{gC}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{day}^{-1}$, respectively.

470

471 **4 Discussion**

472 SIF_{nadir} shows better performance than raw multi-angular SIF observations and it has
473 comparable performance as SIF_{total} in estimating GPP at both sub-daily and daily scales.
474 Compared to SIF_{obs} with varying viewing angles, both SIF_{nadir} and SIF_{total} effectively reduce
475 the viewing-angle effects (Section 3.1). This explains why SIF_{total} shows better correlations to
476 GPP as reported by Zhang et al. (2019, 2020b, 2020c). Furthermore, even if we adjusted the raw
477 observations to a fixed off-nadir viewing angle (e.g., $VZA=40^\circ$) following Lu et al., 2020, both
478 SIF_{nadir} and SIF_{total} are still better correlated to GPP (Figure S9). This is likely because SIF_{obs}
479 for an off-nadir angle can be subject to hotspot effects due to solar angle changes, while both
480 SIF_{nadir} and SIF_{total} are less affected by hotspot effects. However, SIF s for different viewing
481 angles can convey extra useful information about vegetation canopies. Off-nadir SIF
482 measurements may work better at the beginning of the growing season, during which off-nadir
483 sensors receive less soil background (Li et al., 2020). How to make full use of these
484 complementary multi-angular SIF data to improve the GPP estimations deserves further
485 investigations. It is worth noting that the KD-based method requires high-quality multi-angular
486 SIF data but not f_{esc} , and shows better performance in red band than the $NIRv/Redv$ -based
487 method (Figures 3 and 5). However, the performance of the KD model is sensitive to the errors
488 and uncertainties of the input SIF data (Figure 2), which likely account for its relatively worse
489 performance in far-red band for wheat (Figure 6), indicating the necessity of reducing the
490 uncertainties of SIF retrievals (Chang et al., 2020). The assumptions of constant vegetation
491 structure and Φ_F stands in most cases with sufficient SIF measurements in a short time period,
492 but attentions should be called when the period is long enough or at particular vegetation
493 growing stages, e.g., the early growing season when the plants change rapidly. This method also

494 depends on the choice of kernels in the KD model (Hao et al., 2021b), whose performance needs
495 to be evaluated comprehensively before application.

496 In concept, SIF_{total} further reduces the scattering/reabsorption effects in addition to the
497 viewing-angle effects, but the correlation between LUE and f_{esc} is the key to determine the
498 different performance of SIF_{nadir} and SIF_{total} in approximating GPP (Dechant et al., 2020;
499 Figure 7). This finding explains the divergent conclusions and debates on the whether SIF_{total} or
500 SIF_{obs} better approximates GPP in previous studies. However, estimating SIF_{total} requires
501 accurate information about canopy structure parameters, while normalizing SIF_{obs} to nadir
502 viewing can be achieved using only reflectance or SIF data. Recently, a series of global-scale
503 PAR , $FPAR$, LAI and CI datasets have been produced (Hao et al., 2019; Hao et al., 2020a; He et
504 al., 2012; Myneni et al., 2002a; Wei et al., 2019), while their uncertainties are widely recognized
505 but usually not well quantified (Fang et al., 2019; Pisek et al., 2015; Zhang et al., 2020d). There
506 is no global LAD dataset available yet and a simplified assumption of spherical distribution or
507 prescribed biome-specific $LADs$ can introduce additional uncertainties. Accounting for the
508 spatio-temporal variations of ω especially for red band and the effects of diffuse skylight are
509 necessary for estimating SIF_{total} in global applications (Lu et al., 2020).

510 The relative SIF (the ratio of SIF to reflected radiance) also has good performance in
511 reducing the view-angle effects (Figure S2; Magney et al., 2019). However, because the relative
512 SIF is calculated as the ratio of SIF to reflected radiance, it has a different unit from SIF and does
513 not contain the PAR information. In fact, the relative SIF is proportional to Φ_F (Zeng et al.,
514 2019), which is promising for capturing the physiological response of vegetation to abiotic
515 changes and stresses.

516 Although overall performance of different methods to angular-normalizing TROPOMI
517 *SIF* data were similar (Figure 8), small differences can be found due to divergent assumptions of
518 the model/method as well as the quality and accuracy of remote sensing data. Compared to the
519 two methods for estimating SIF_{total} , the two methods for estimating SIF_{nadir} do not rely on any
520 inputs of canopy structure parameters and thus they should be more robust across PFTs.
521 The $NIRv$ -based method was derived from Equations 5-6, and thus its performance relies on
522 how well $NIRv$ can approximate the true NIR reflectance of vegetation (Zeng et al., 2021). Zeng
523 et al. (2021) developed a simple framework for estimating the true $NIRv$ from hyperspectral data
524 ($NIRvH$) with minimized soil contamination, which could be a promising approach for further
525 improving the performance of this method for sparse vegetation canopies. In theory, the KD-
526 based method is suitable for any PFT if the high-quality *SIF* data is available. However, this
527 method shows poor performance over OSH, WSA and GRA (Figure 8), possibly due to the large
528 relative errors of *SIF* retrievals for sparse vegetation canopies. For the methods of estimating
529 SIF_{total} , in principle, the *FPAR*-based method can be applied for both dense and sparse
530 vegetation canopies, while the i_0 -based method is primarily suitable for dense canopies. For
531 example, *FPAR*-based method performs the best over WSA for the instantaneous *SIFs*. The fact
532 that these two methods show overall similar performance in our study is possibly due to the
533 uncertainties of canopy structure parameters. Compared to the i_0 -based method, the *FPAR*-based
534 method only requires the input of *FPAR*, which is easier to acquire but its accuracy require
535 further improvement (Zhang et al., 2020d). Overall, the *SIF* data quality and canopy structure
536 parameters play important roles and may limit their applications in the performance for different
537 PFTs, although the field measurement-based analysis shows that these methods work well for
538 nearly all cases for wheat and corn canopies in this study (Figures 6 and S3).

539 We also used both linear and hyperbolic models to test the *SIF-GPP* relationship with
540 and without viewing angle normalizations. The hyperbolic model generally has higher R^2 values
541 than the linear model (Figure 5), because LUE can be expressed more realistically as a
542 hyperbolic function of absorbed *PAR* (Damm et al., 2015). This emphasizes the importance of
543 underlying assumptions associated with the model used when evaluating the *SIF-GPP*
544 relationship.

545 Our results highlight the necessity and feasibility of viewing angle normalization when
546 estimating *GPP* using remotely sensed *SIF*. The two methods for estimating SIF_{nadir} are
547 applicable to TROPOMI data, and SIF_{nadir} from TROPOMI shows a stronger relationship with
548 AmeriFlux *GPP* for most PFTs as compared with SIF_{obs} . These results are not sensitive to the
549 cloud cover (Figures 7 and S6-S7), confirming the robustness of the methods. In addition, most
550 of the existing remote sensing *SIF* data have a varying or off-nadir viewing angle. For example,
551 GOME-2 has a *VZA* of up to 54° ; both OCO-2 and OCO-3 (Taylor et al., 2020) have large
552 viewing angles at glint and target modes; and the Geostationary Carbon Observatory (GeoCarb)
553 (Moore III et al., 2018) will have large off-nadir viewing angles over the high-latitude regions.
554 To better estimate *GPP*, the viewing-angle effects of *SIF* observations need to be minimized
555 first. Normalizing *SIF* observations to nadir viewing provides a promising way which can avoid
556 the effects of the uncertainties of vegetation canopy parameters. Although simply averaging *SIF*
557 observations over space and time can reduce the viewing angle effects, our study shows the
558 feasibility of viewing angle normalized nadir *SIF* with high spatio-temporal resolutions without a
559 need for any space-time smoothing. However, the footprints of TROPOMI can be large if the
560 *SIF* observations are from the edge of the swath, which may not be representative for the
561 dominant PFT of an eddy covariance tower site. Our results confirm that, our methods can

562 generally work well for both heterogeneous and homogeneous study sites (Figures 7 and S6).
563 The spatial mismatch issues between TROPOMI, MODIS, and AmeriFlux data, spatial
564 heterogeneities and the representativeness of eddy-flux footprints for the tower sites (Chu et al.,
565 2021), may explain the degraded performance of normalized *SIF* for some PFTs (Figure 8). This
566 issue merits further investigations.

567 There are still a few limitations in our study. The field datasets we used only cover a
568 short period of a few days of observations and for homogeneous canopies. Using field
569 measurements for the entire growing season, or multiple seasons, over sparse canopies are
570 needed to further evaluate robustness of our proposed methodology. The multi-angular
571 measurements in the study were acquired by dynamically rotating the optical probe, which
572 means the target footprint under different viewing angles was different. The measurements did
573 not cover the full principal (PP) and cross-principal (CPP) planes and thus cannot capture
574 completely the BRDF shapes in PP and CPP. The spectrometer used to obtain the field
575 measurements had a large FOV of 25°, which may lead to uncertainties in the measured multi-
576 angular data. Although TROPOMI data provide unprecedented temporal resolutions, satellite-
577 based *SIF* retrievals are still noisy and have high relative uncertainties for red band (Köhler et al.,
578 2020). Further improving the quality of satellite-based *SIF* retrievals are required for detailed
579 quantitative analysis and applications. In addition, TROPOMI *SIF* data still have sparse spatial
580 resolution, which are hopefully resolved by future missions, such as GeoCarb and the
581 forthcoming Fluorescence Explorer (FLEX) mission of the European Space Agency (Kraft et al.,
582 2017).

583

584 **5 Conclusions**

585 Directional effects of *SIF* measurements greatly hinder the robust estimation of *GPP*. In
586 this study, we used two practical methods to normalize *SIF* observations to nadir viewing, and
587 used two simple methods to calculate the total *SIF*. We used the multi-angular field
588 measurements for wheat and corn at sub-daily scale, TROPOMI *SIF* and AmeriFlux *GPP* data at
589 daily scale to evaluate their relationships with *GPP*. Our results show that, overall, the four
590 methods show good performance in reducing the viewing angle effects on *SIF*. Nadir *SIF* can
591 better track *GPP* than raw multi-angular observations, due to the reduced viewing angle effects.
592 Nadir *SIF* also shows comparable performance with total *SIF*, but estimating nadir *SIF* only
593 requires reflectance or *SIF* observations, rather than detailed canopy structure parameters
594 generally needed for estimated total *SIF*. The varying relationship of *LUE* and f_{esc} can account
595 for the relative performance of nadir and total *SIF*s on approximating *GPP*. Our results underline
596 the significance, effectiveness and feasibility of using normalized nadir *SIF* to better estimate
597 *GPP*, especially over large areas.

598

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611 providing useful suggestions and TROPOMI SIF data (available at
612 <ftp://fluo.gps.caltech.edu/data/tropomi/>). All MODIS data are available from GEE. Codes to
613 reproduce all results are available at <https://github.com/daleihao/SIFNormalization>.
614

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