

An overview of ELM-SPRUCE modeling efforts

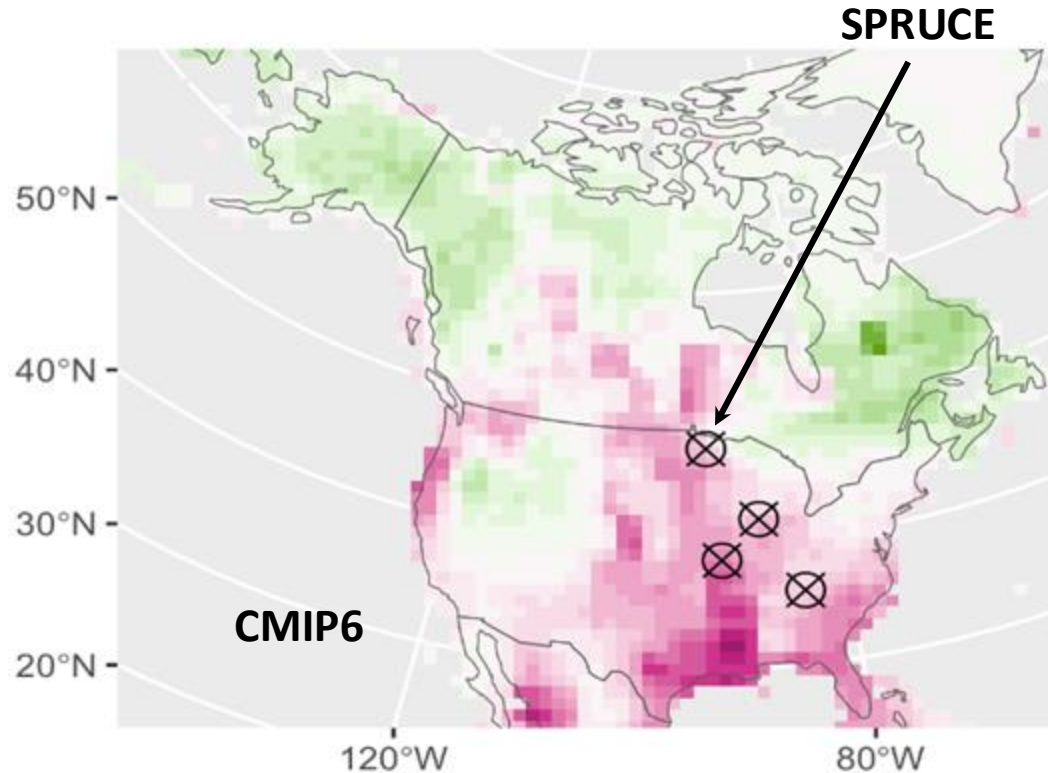
May 13th, 2025

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Yaoping Wang, Xiaofeng Xu
and the ORNL TES SFA team

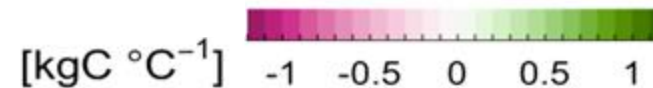
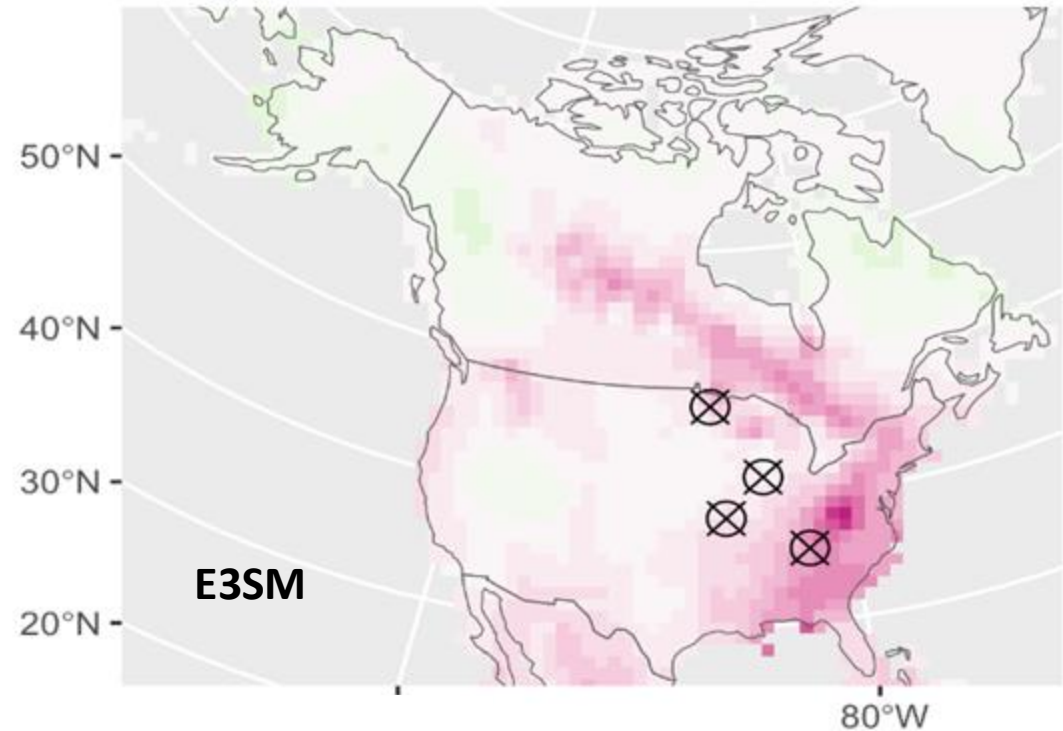
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Motivation: Earth system models likely underestimate peatland feedbacks due to missing processes

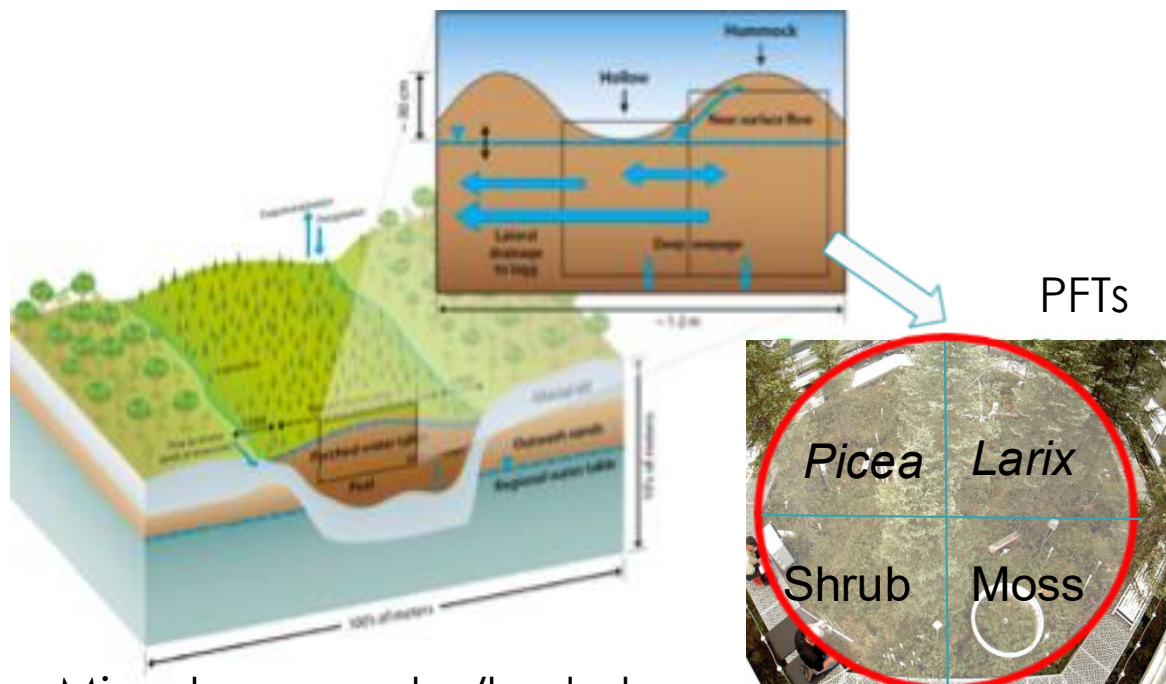


$$\text{CMIP6 } \gamma_{\text{SPRUCE_site}} = -0.5 \text{ kgC m}^{-2} \text{ °C}^{-1}$$



$$\text{E3SM } \gamma_{\text{SPRUCE_site}} = -0.3 \text{ kgC m}^{-2} \text{ °C}^{-1}$$

SPRUCES modeling efforts using ELM

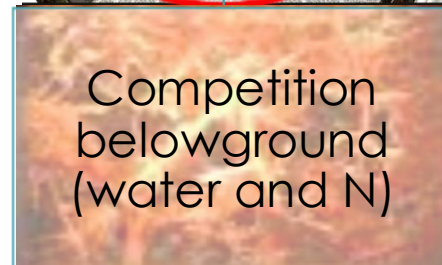


Microtopography/hydrology

Sphagnum
physiology



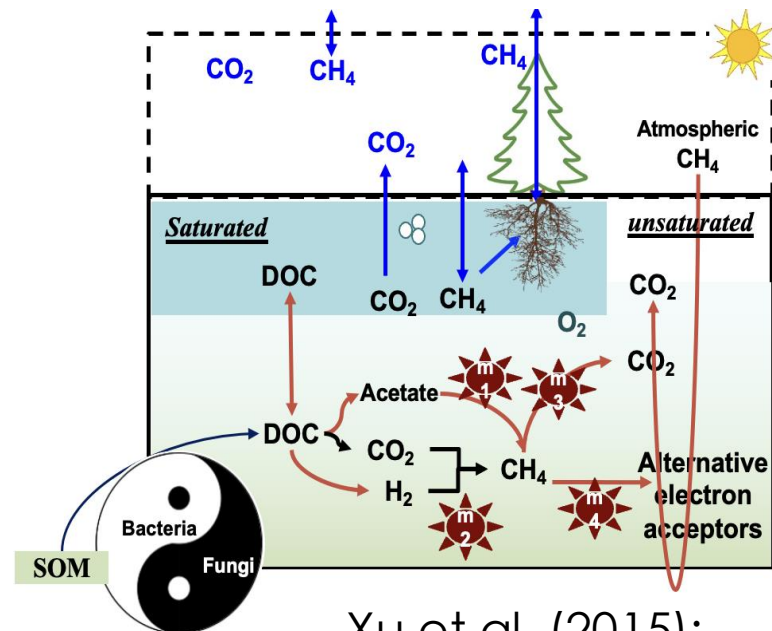
Shi et al. (2015, 2021)



Phenology
Meng et al. (2021)

Intercomparison
Shi et al. (in prep)

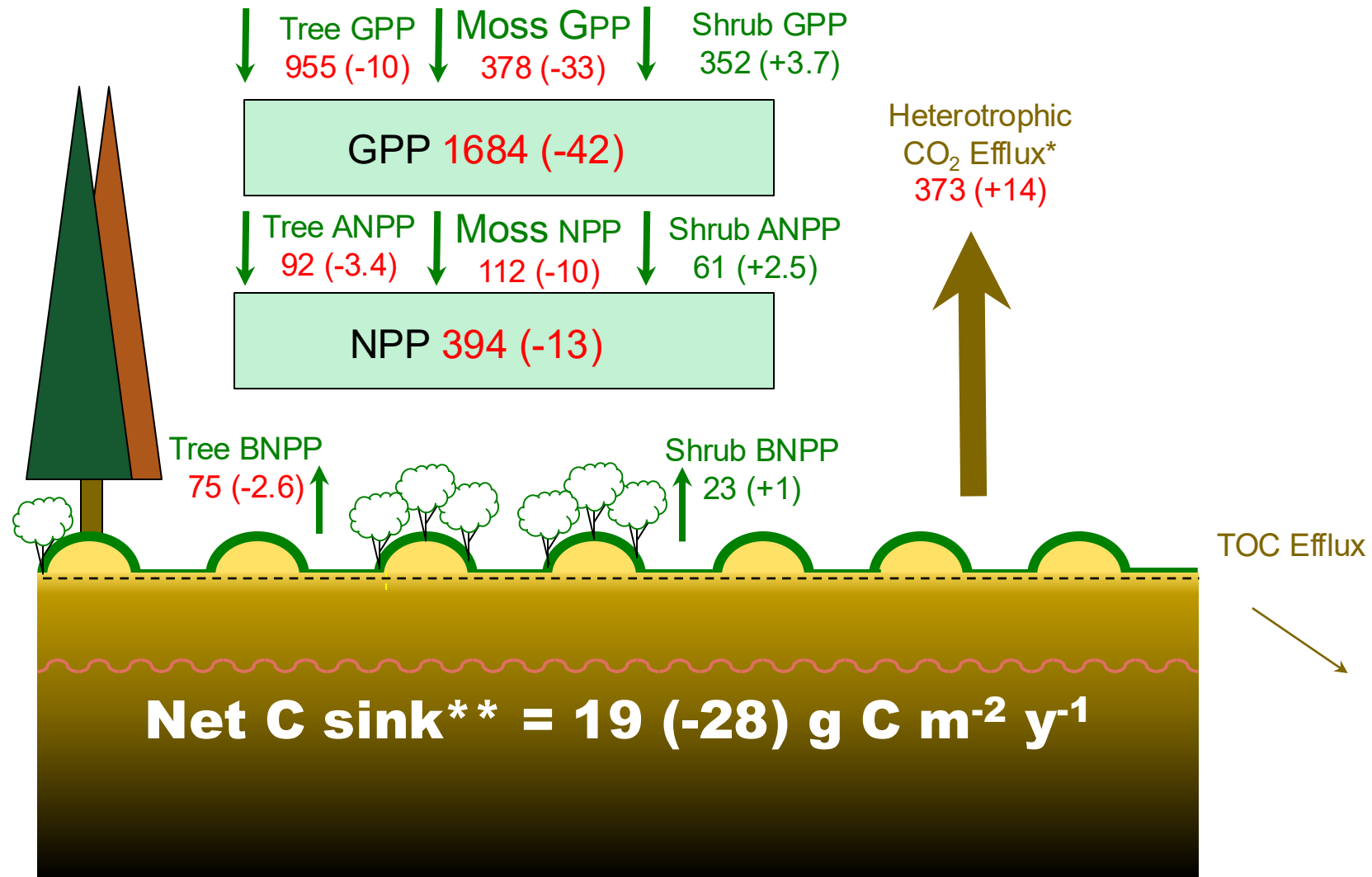
Methane cycling



Xu et al. (2015);
Ricciuto et al. (2021);
Yuan et al. (2021)

ELM-SPRUCES includes peatland
processes that are missing from ELM,
and new parameters for the site.

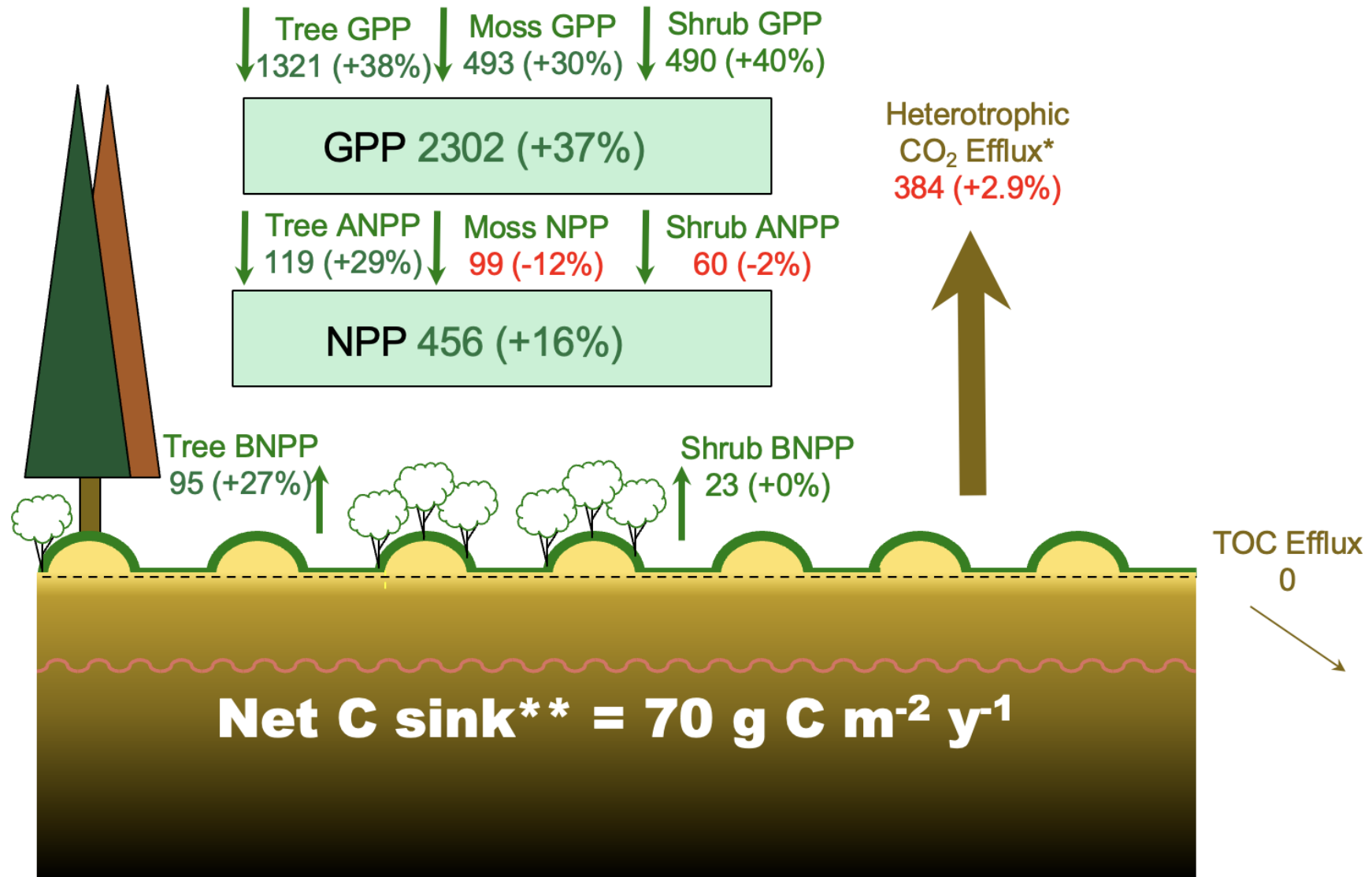
ELM-SPRUCE carbon budget for T0 simulation (slope)



*In this version of ELM, Heterotrophic C losses include CH₄ emissions.

**Net C Flux = NPP – Heterotrophic CO₂ Efflux – CH₄ Efflux – TOC Efflux

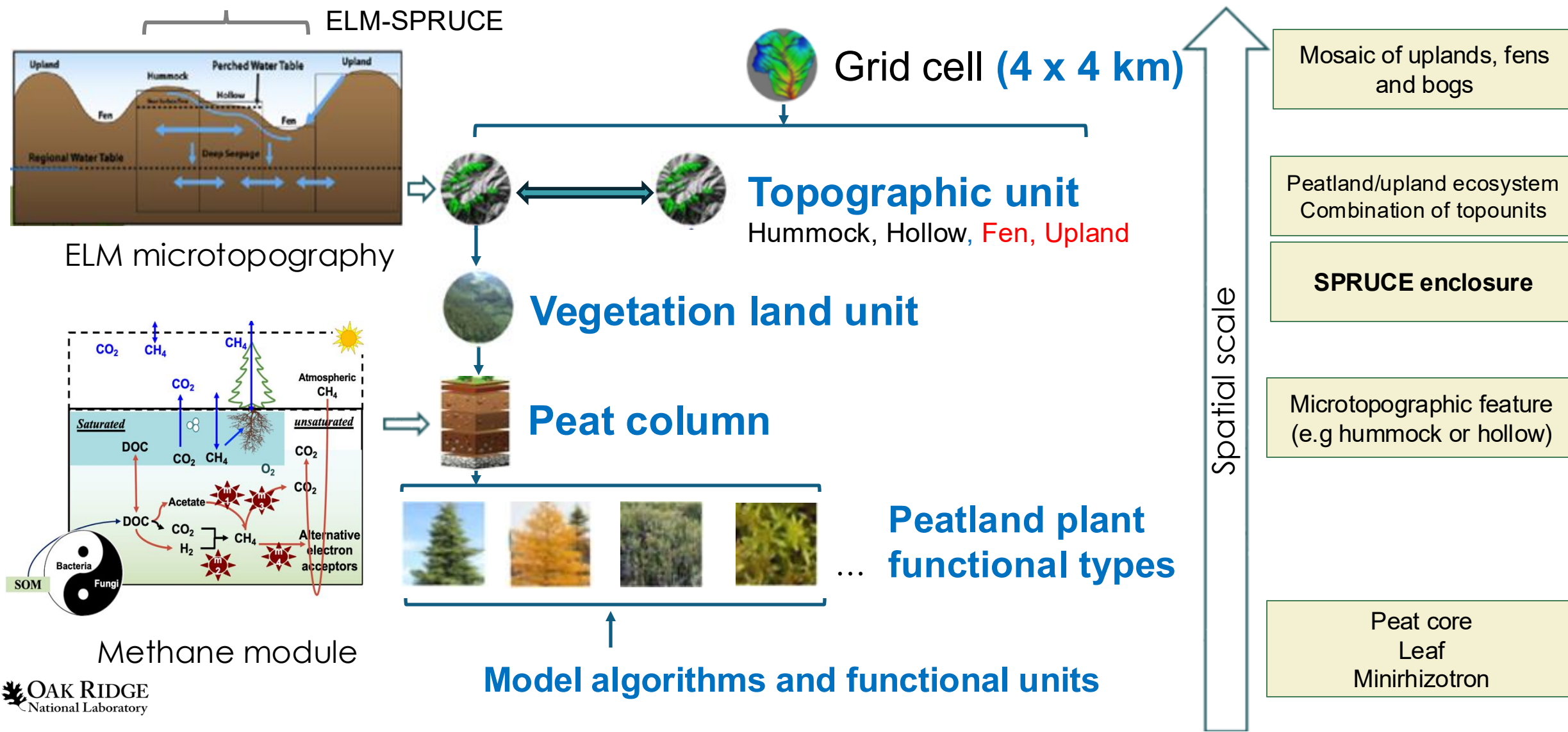
ELM carbon budget for T0eCO₂ simulation



*In this version of ELM, Heterotrophic C losses include CH₄ emissions.

**Net C Flux = NPP – Heterotrophic CO₂ Efflux – CH₄ Efflux – TOC Efflux

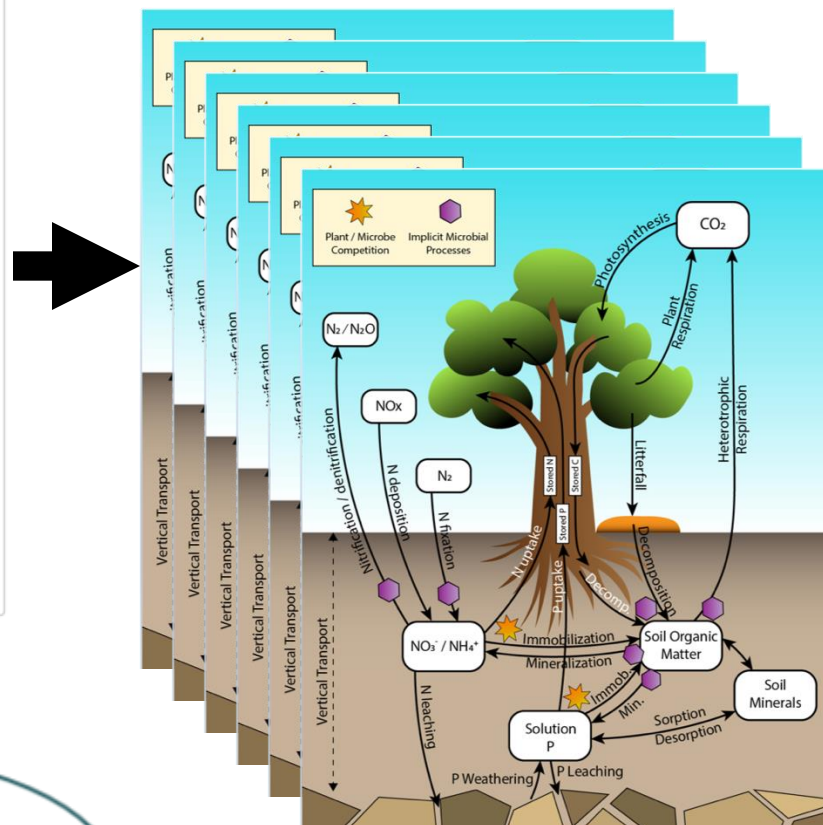
ELM-SPRUCES is developing into ELM-Peatlands: Extending SPRUCE results regionally



Automated workflow for ModEx and uncertainty quantification (UQ)

Uncertain Input
Parameter priors

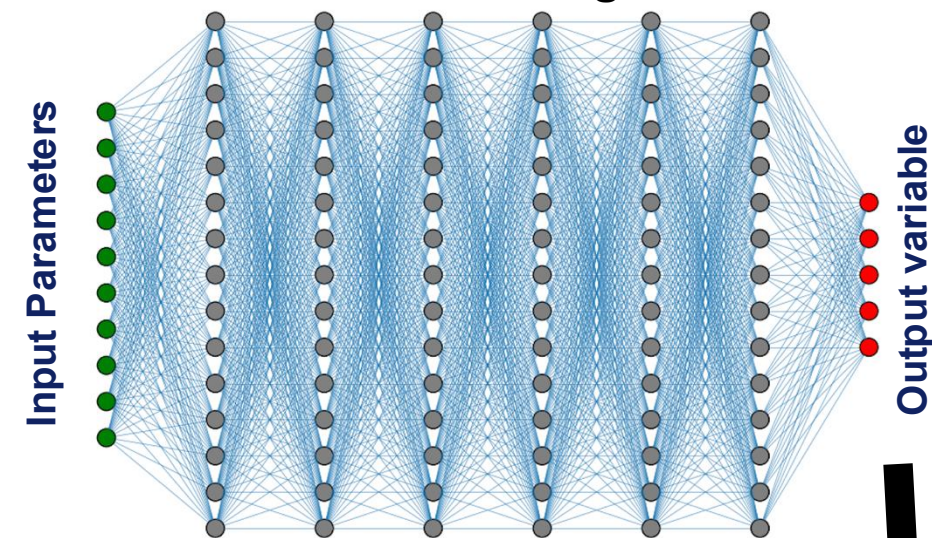
- flnr Spruce
- flnr Larch
- flnr Shrub
- flnr Moss
- froot_leaf Spruce
- froot_leaf Larch
- froot_leaf Shrub
- froot_leaf Moss
- stem_leaf Spruce
- stem_leaf Larch
- stem_leaf Shrub
- mbbopt Spruce
- mbbopt Larch
- mbbopt Shrub
- k_l3
- decomp_depth_efolding
- mino2lim
- q10_mr
- q10_hr
- q10ch4
- f_ch4



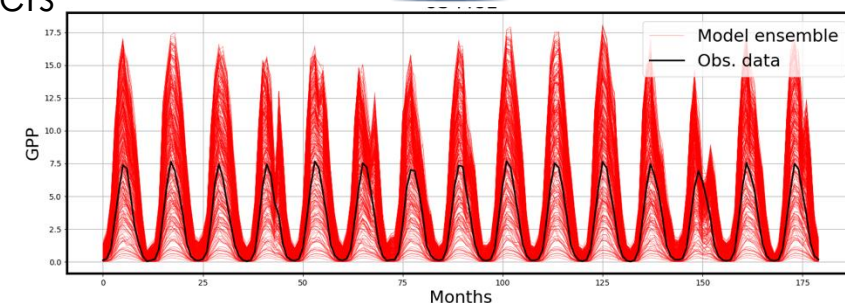
ELM ensembles



Neural network Surrogate model



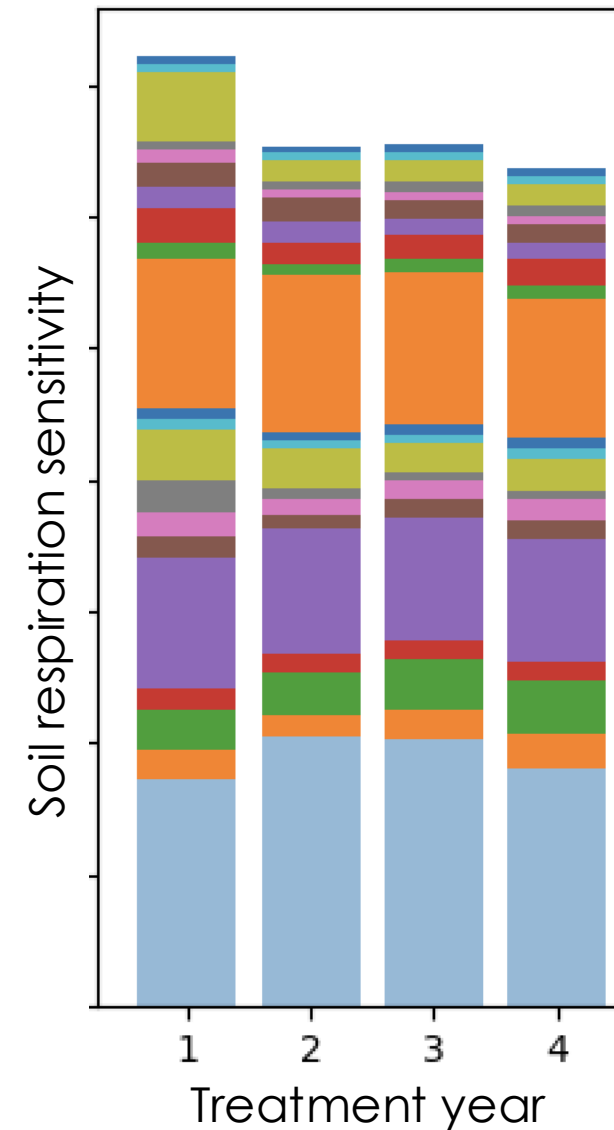
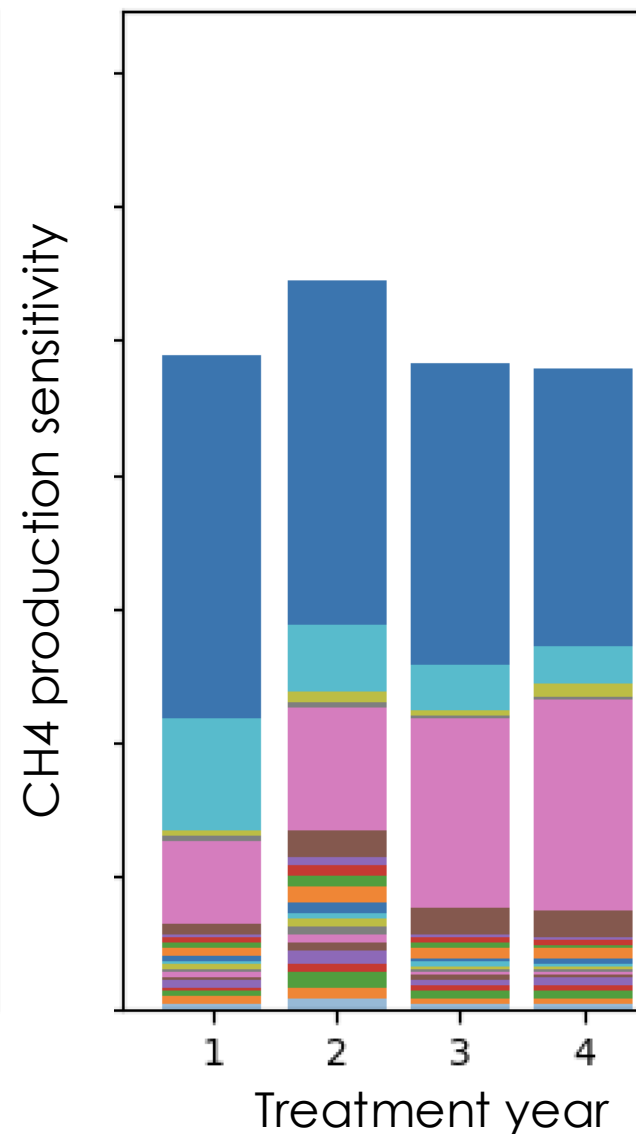
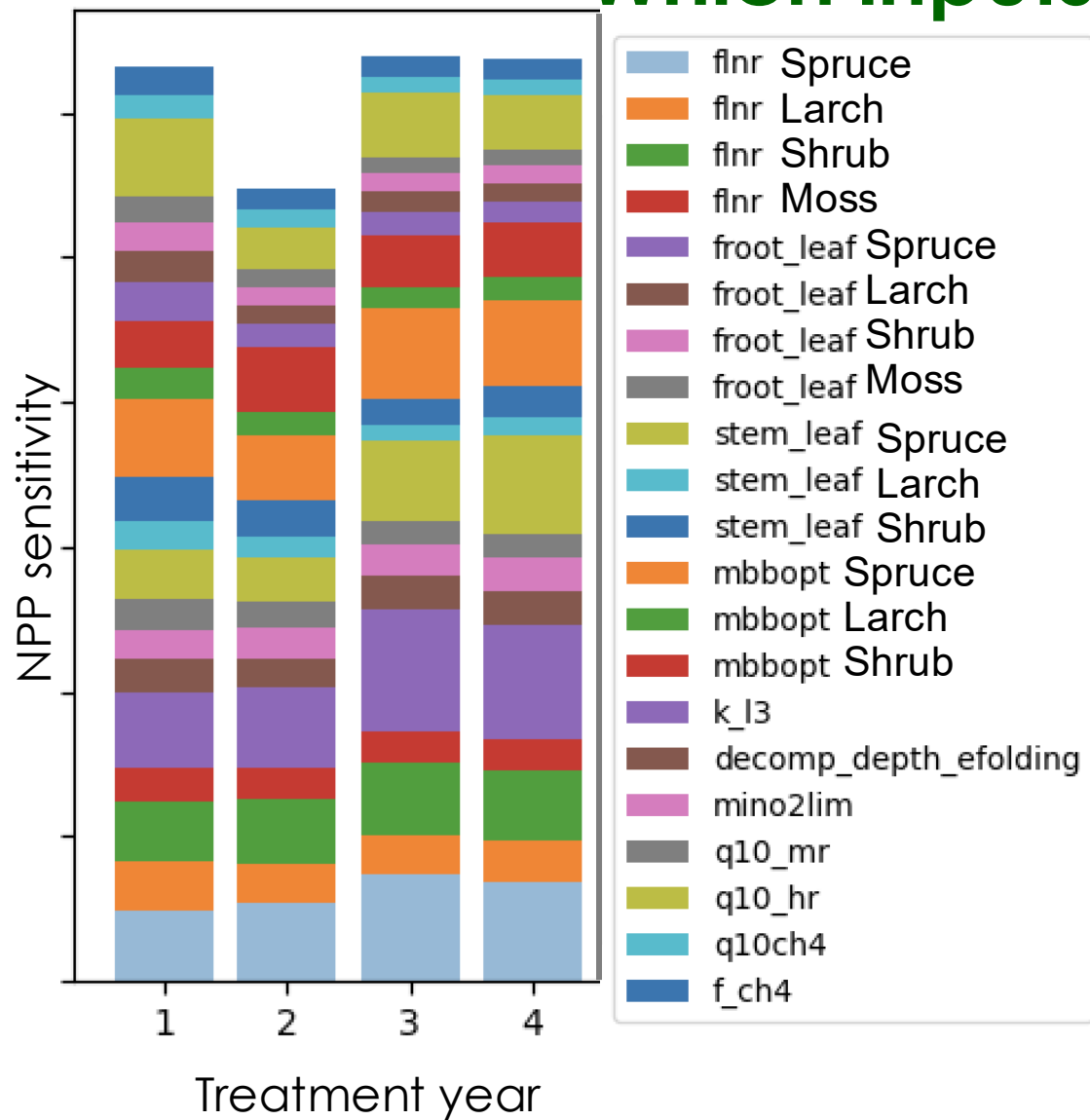
Optimized
parameters



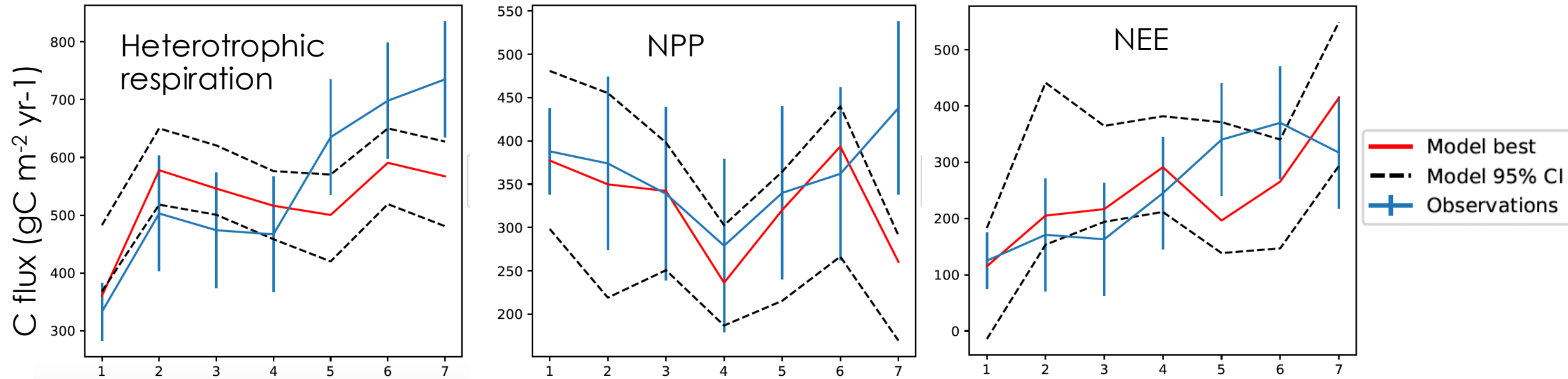
Site observations

Applying surrogate models: Sensitivity analysis

Which inputs are important?



Applying surrogate models: Joint calibration



Year of experiment (extreme warming scenario. +9C)
Observations extended from Hanson et al. (2020)

- Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) technique to determine posterior parameter and output distributions
- Requires large number of serial simulations ($> 10^5$), but ELM takes 4-6 hours
- Enabled by surrogate model (10^3 times faster)
- Model-data mismatch reveals structural or data errors, informing model development

Remaining challenges

- Moss cover is currently forced, ELM is unable to represent level of mortality in warm plots
 - Observed shrub growth increases larger than model predictions
 - Representing changes in peat elevation
 - Understanding the flows of carbon in the eCO₂ simulations
 - Bringing together different data sources for model calibration
-
- Understanding biases when applying ELM-SPRUCES at other sites
 - Determining appropriate level of complexity for regional scaling