



## A Column Canopy-Air Turbulent Diffusion Method for Different Canopy Structures

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**Key Points:**

- Underestimation of sensible heat or overestimation of latent heat (evapotranspiration) by SEBS for a forest canopy is due to its overestimation of  $kB^{-1}$
- Vertical variations of foliage density, foliage shielding, and foliage drag/heat transfer are used to build a column canopy-air exchange model
- The model accurately simulates heat flux for seven land covers by considering momentum and heat transfer efficiency in vertical layers

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**Abstract** An accurate simulation of the sensible heat flux ( $H$ ) over vegetation from thermal remote sensing requires an a priori estimate of roughness length and the excess resistance parameter  $kB^{-1}$ . Despite being the subject of considerable interest in hydrometeorology, there still does not exist a uniform method for estimating roughness length from remote sensing techniques. This study demonstrates a turbulent diffusion method to simulate canopy-air sensible heat. The performance of the roughness length scheme as described in Chen et al. (2013, <https://doi.org/10.1175/JAMC-D-12-056.1>) was examined by comparing simulated  $H$  to measured values at 28 flux tower stations, which include seven different land covers (needle forest, broadleaf forest, shrub, savanna, grassland, cropland, and sparsely vegetated land). The model predictions of  $H$  for grass, crop, and sparsely vegetated land compare favorably with observed values, when actual canopy height is given.  $H$  is significantly underestimated at forest sites due to a high value of  $kB^{-1}$ . Among the different physical representations for the canopy, canopy-soil mixture, and soil component, it is found that such a high  $kB^{-1}$  value is caused by the high  $kB^{-1}$  value for the canopy part. The reasons for this high  $kB^{-1}$  were investigated from canopy-air physical process of turbulent diffusion. This study introduces the vertical foliage density information into a column canopy-air turbulent diffusion model to include the different momentum and heat transfer efficiencies in the vertical canopy layers to enhance the thermal turbulent transfer intensity above the tall canopy. The new model has been verified to provide accurate simulation over different canopy structures.

### 1. Introduction

The sensible heat flux ( $H$ ) between a forested surface and the atmosphere within the roughness sublayer can be estimated by means of the Monin-Obukhov similarity theory (MOST) when surface variables and synoptic meteorological information are available (Physick & Garratt, 1995):

$$H = k u_* \rho C_p (\theta_0 - \theta_a) \left[ \ln \left( \frac{Z_r - d_0}{z_{0h}} \right) - \Psi_h \left( \frac{Z_r - d_0}{L} \right) + \Psi_h \left( \frac{z_{0h}}{L} \right) + \int_{Z_r}^{z_*} \frac{\Phi_s (1 - \phi_s)}{Z} dz \right]^{-1}, \quad (1)$$

$$u_* = ku \left[ \ln \left( \frac{Z_r - d_0}{z_{0m}} \right) - \Psi_m \left( \frac{Z_r - d_0}{L} \right) + \Psi_m \left( \frac{z_{0m}}{L} \right) + \int_{Z_r}^{z_*} \frac{\Phi_u (1 - \phi_u)}{Z} dz \right]^{-1}, \quad (2)$$

where  $k$  is the von Karman constant,  $u_*$  is the friction velocity,  $\rho$  is the density of air,  $C_p$  is the specific heat for air,  $\theta_0$  is the potential temperature at the surface,  $\theta_a$  is the potential air temperature at height  $Z_r$ ,  $d_0$  is the zero plane displacement height,  $\Psi_h$  and  $\Psi_m$  are the stability correction functions for heat and momentum transfer,  $L$  is the Obukhov length, and  $z_{0h}$  and  $z_{0m}$  are the roughness length for heat and momentum transfer.  $z_*$  is the height of the roughness sublayer. The integral terms on the right side of equations (1) and (2) are roughness sublayer corrections for sensible heat and momentum fluxes, which are necessary when  $Z_r$  is in the roughness sublayer above the canopy top.

Previous studies have shown that fluxes calculated from profiles by a method that integrated the roughness sublayer corrections were generally in good agreement with those measured by the eddy-covariance methods at forest sites (Mölder et al., 1999). Meanwhile, different forms of  $\phi_s$ ,  $\phi_u$ ,  $z_{0m}$ , and  $d_0$  were used at different locations (Cellier & Brunet, 1992; De Ridder, 2010; Garratt, 1980; Mölder et al., 1999). No

uniform solution for these variables has been provided. This study aims to provide such a solution, which can be used for estimates of turbulent heat flux over any kind of canopy covers.

In addition, calculating  $H$  by means of similarity theory,  $z_{0h}$  and  $z_{0m}$  must be accurately determined.  $z_{0m}$  can be estimated by acquiring land surface physical roughness or geometric information for the canopy.  $z_{0h}$  can be derived from  $z_{0m}$  by adding an excess resistance for heat transfer  $kB^{-1}$  (where  $k$  is the same von Karman constant as in equation (2) and  $B$  is the Stanton number):

$$z_{0h} = \frac{z_{0m}}{\exp(kB^{-1})}, \quad (3)$$

$z_{0m}$  and  $z_{0h}$  are defined as the heights (above the displacement height) where wind speed and temperature become equal to their surface values when the logarithmic profiles are extrapolated through the roughness sublayer. Consequently,  $z_{0h}$  and  $z_{0m}$  are a combination of the effects of the roughness sublayer and the actual vegetation-atmosphere interfacial transport, when the subroughness correction is added in the logarithmic profiles.

The difference in turbulent momentum and heat transfer efficiency is represented by  $kB^{-1}$ . Here we seek to exclude the effects of different turbulent transport in the roughness sublayer between momentum and heat on the calculation of the heat roughness length by adjusting  $kB^{-1}$ .  $kB^{-1}$  used in this study is calculated based on a Lagrangian model (Massman, 1999). The Lagrangian model takes into account the process of scalar diffusion at *near-field* and *far-field* (Mölder et al., 1999), as an alternative method for turbulent flux simulation within the canopy subroughness layer.

$kB^{-1}$  has been the subject of increased interest in micrometeorology (Hong et al., 2012). Various empirical, semiempirical, and physical equations have been proposed to relate  $kB^{-1}$  with other more readily measurable variables, such as momentum roughness length, friction velocity, canopy height, and heat flux (Beljaars & Holtslag, 1991; Brutsaert & Sugita, 1996; Garratt & Hicks, 1973; Jensen & Hummelshøj, 1995; McNaughton & van den Hurk, 1995; Owen & Thomson, 1963; Qualls & Brutsaert, 1996; Thom, 1972; Verhoef, McNaughton, et al., 1997; Yang et al., 2003). After a comprehensive literature review, no commonly accepted  $kB^{-1}$  method has been found suitable to model the transitional regime from smooth to rough flow (Verhoef, De Bruin, et al., 1997) or from bare soil to low canopy and high canopy (Brutsaert, 2010), due to effects of different plant spacing and shapes.

The aim of this study is to derive a uniform  $kB^{-1}$  scheme, which is robust for heat flux calculation for high and low canopies. Recent observational studies reveal that  $kB^{-1}$  is dependent on environmental conditions, surface types, canopy structure (the sizes of the foliage elements and canopy height), and vegetation surface geometry (frontal area and surface density). For vegetated surfaces in particular, key variables are the mean canopy height (Chen et al., 2013; Saha, 2008), frontal surface area (Raupach, 1994), and the mean plant density. Improved characterization of the land surface canopies using satellite imagery is leading to improved estimates of  $kB^{-1}$ . Massman (1999) theoretically showed that  $kB^{-1}$  is controlled by leaf size, foliage distribution, leaf area index (LAI), and friction velocity. Based on plant phenology and Lagrangian theory (Massman, 1999), Su et al. (2001) built a  $kB^{-1}$  scheme from the work of Massman (1999), which can estimate individual contribution of bare soil, canopy, and mixed-canopy-soil to  $kB^{-1}$  separately. The temporal variation of  $kB^{-1}$  and its dependency on plant functional types is considered by Su et al. (2001) as a function of LAI, canopy fraction, and canopy height, as all these canopy parameters can be provided by satellite remotely sensing. Meanwhile, our previous work (Chen et al., 2013) has updated  $kB^{-1}$  for the bare soil part, which has demonstrated a better  $kB^{-1}$  diurnal variation and more accurate simulation of  $H$  over four arid sites. The  $kB^{-1}$  parameterization method used in this study includes not only the schemes that set  $kB^{-1}$  as a function of the Reynolds number but also the schemes that express  $kB^{-1}$  as a function of plant phenology. Since the method relies on the characterization of the bulk canopy geometry, it offers an opportunity to estimate the local aerodynamic roughness that is also a function of the same physical properties. It can be independently used to predict  $kB^{-1}$  based on the vegetation characteristics, whereby the impact of the vegetation changes on  $kB^{-1}$  could be quantified and analyzed. The scheme has been applied to in situ observation (Chen et al., 2013; Ershadi et al., 2014), regional (Oku et al., 2007; Su et al., 2005), and continental scale (Chen et al., 2014; Vinukollu et al., 2011). The  $kB^{-1}$  model has a dependency on LAI, which can result in a seasonal variation in the  $kB^{-1}$  estimate. However, further efforts are still needed to improve its

applicability and accuracy over different land surface canopies (Chen et al., 2014). As  $kB^{-1}$  is only evaluated for sparse canopies or low canopies, direct application of this approach to dense or high canopies, such as a forest, induced unexplained errors in evapotranspiration, and surface fluxes estimations (Chen et al., 2013, 2014; Ershadi et al., 2014).

Relatively large roughness lengths for forest canopies can lead to an order of magnitude increase in its Reynolds number when compared to short canopies (Hong et al., 2012). A high Reynolds number results in a significant reduction in its modeled sensible heat fluxes over tall canopies due to the  $kB^{-1}$  parameterizations. This study attempts to assess the uncertainty in  $H$  for a tall forest canopy due to  $kB^{-1}$  parameterizations. The underestimation of  $H$  is due to an overestimation of  $kB^{-1}$ . In order to decrease  $kB_c$  ( $kB^{-1}$  of the canopy), the vertical foliage density profile was introduced to a column canopy-air turbulent transfer model to take into account momentum and heat transfer efficiency in different canopy vertical layers. Section 2 introduces the methodology and data collection for the model evaluation and verification. The equations used in the  $kB^{-1}$  column model are described in section 3. The inclusion of a vertical foliage drag coefficient, vertical foliage leaf area density, and foliage shelter factor are also introduced in this part. A new method for the calculation of the foliage heat transfer coefficient (closely related to canopy-air heat transfer) in the canopy resulted from this study, which improves the underestimation of turbulent heat flux. At the end, some applications and minor problems are discussed.

## 2. Methodology and Data Set

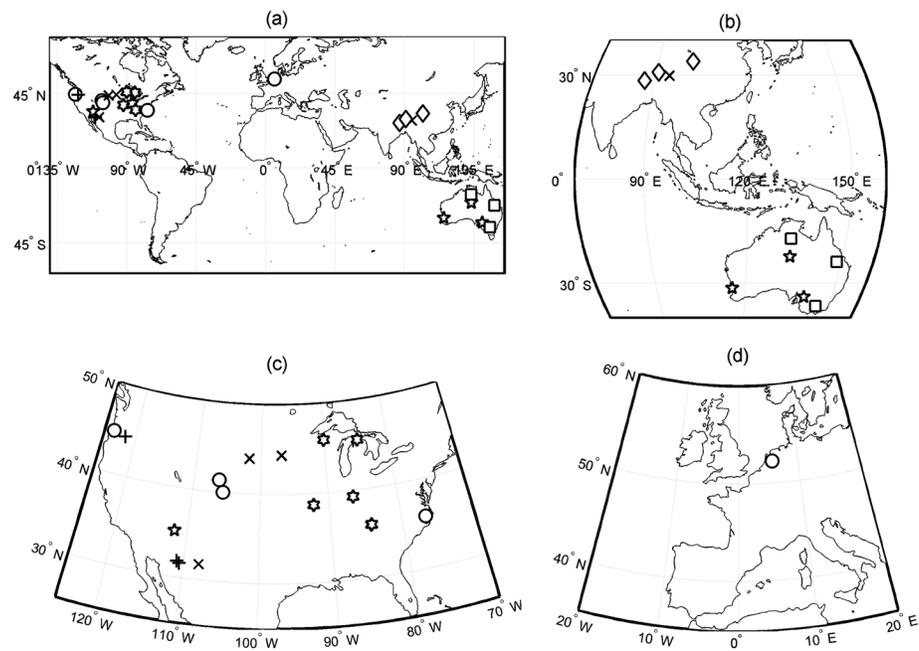
In what follows, we evaluate the performance of the turbulent flux parameterization scheme in our previous study by Chen et al. (2013). The subroughness length stability calibration is also used in the model for sensible heat simulation over forest sites. The methodology adopted here is different from the work on roughness sublayer stability correction ( $\Psi_u(Z_r)$ ) by Harman and Finnigan (2008). The method from Physick and Garratt (1995) was used. The model evaluation is indirectly done by comparing  $H$  simulations with concurrent observations. The values of linear fitting slope, root-mean-square error (RMSE), and correlation coefficient ( $r$ ) were used as a measure for the skill of the model.

We first tested the model simulation forced by flux-tower meteorological measurements from seven land cover units, evergreen needleleaf forest (ENF, five sites), deciduous broadleaf forest (DBF, six sites), shrub-land (SRB, three sites), savannas (SAV, four sites), grasslands (GRS, four sites), croplands (CRP, three sites), and barren or sparsely vegetated (BSN, three sites). Furthermore, measured  $H$  by the eddy covariance (EC) method at each station were used to assess the modeled  $H$ . Bias in the  $H$  simulation was diagnosed relating to the problem of  $kB^{-1}$  in presenting the canopy-air turbulent transfer process, as it is assumed that the input data from flux towers are accurate without bias. After diagnosing the problems in the model, the model structure was adjusted from a one-foliage layer to a multifoliage layer, which provides the possibility of including the impact of vertical variations in foliage leaf area density, foliage shelter factor, and foliage heat transfer coefficient.

To calculate  $H$ , the air temperature, pressure, relative humidity, wind speed, and land surface temperature (LST) from the stations were needed. Here LST was computed from measured upward longwave radiation and downward longwave radiation using the Stefan-Boltzmann equation. The Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) emissivity (MOD11C3 V5 and MYD11C3 V5) was used to calculate in situ LST (Chen et al., 2017). In order to produce accurate estimates of  $H$ , we used as much as possible available observational information. Years of meteorological data and ancillary parameters were collected from 28 flux stations to perform the  $H$  simulations. The canopy height at ENF sites varies from 11 to 35 m with different tree density and space. DBF sites have canopy heights between 24 and 30 m. SAV stations have canopy height of 4–15 m. SRB stations have canopies from 0.5- to 3-m height. The bare soil stations were also included as a reference for nonvegetated area, which has a relatively homogenous and smooth surface without interruption from canopy roughness elements.

### 2.1. Data Collection and Processing

Flux tower data used in this paper were collected from the AmeriFlux Level 2 database (<ftp://cdiac.ornl.gov/pub/ameriflux/data/Level2>, April 2010), Ozflux Level 2 (<http://www.ozflux.org.au/index.html>), and China flux sites. Meteorological variables are measured at all flux towers. Other variables, such as net radiation



**Figure 1.** Geolocation of evergreen needleleaf forest (labeled by circle), deciduous broadleaf forest (hexagon), shrub-land (square), savannas (pentagram), grasslands (cross), croplands (plus), and barren or sparsely vegetated (diamond) flux tower stations on different continents.

and ground heat flux, are measured at a limited number of towers. The final selection of sites represents a number of typical biomass and climates. Seventeen flux sites were selected from AmeriFlux, six sites from Ozflux, four sites from the Tibetan Plateau in the Third Pole Environment database (Ma et al., 2008), and one site in the Netherlands, as these stations have provided all necessary measurements (including surface radiation components, air temperature, pressure, humidity, wind speed, and turbulent fluxes) to run and verify the model. The locations of the 28 sites are shown in Figure 1. The detailed coordinates and elevations of these sites are listed in Table 1.

The researchers at the flux sites have done a data quality assessment and controlling process to their flux data, such as spike detection, tilt-correction, and WPL-corrections (Webb et al., 1980). Data quality control is also done by AmeriFlux, Ozflux, and Chinaflux network contributors. The data set has a temporal resolution of 30 min. As gap filling implies an additional error added in the data, which might influence the results of analysis, only the available measured data were used without gap filling. Physically unreasonable values were removed. The model is evaluated with  $H$  measurement only under dry conditions as EC gas analyzers are not reliable during rain events due to disturbance of the infrared signal by droplets on the sensor (Burba et al., 2010). Therefore, data from any days with precipitation are removed from the analysis.  $H$  with friction velocities less than a critical value of 0.01 m/s were also excluded from the analysis.

## 2.2. Canopy Information at the Flux Sites

The importance of canopy structure (stem, crown height and width, the number of plants per unit ground area, and distance between the plants) to roughness length has been discussed by Schaudt and Dickinson (2000). We also believe that more canopy structure information would improve the modeling of turbulent momentum and heat transfer between the canopy surface and atmosphere. The model used here needs some independent canopy variables (e.g., canopy height, canopy fraction, LAI, and normalized difference vegetation index [NDVI]), which were retrieved from satellite data. These canopy variables are necessary for  $kB^{-1}$  calculation at regional scale or in situ station scale. Forest canopy height is typically considered constant, while for other canopies, for example, crop, grass, and shrub, their heights can change largely within a season. The height information for tall canopy (e.g., forest and savanna) is obtained from the description on the

**Table 1**  
*Eddy Covariance Site Information*

| Site no. | Name         | Lat (deg)/Lon (deg) | Land cover | <i>h</i> (m)                   | Period                        | Site elevation (m) | Meteorological measurement height (above ground floor)   |
|----------|--------------|---------------------|------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| 1        | Speulderbos  | 52.25225, 5.6905    | ENF        | 32                             | January 2009 to December 2009 | 52                 | Upward longwave radiation 35 m, wind speed 46 m, eddy covariance 46 m, air temperature 45 m              |
| 2        | US-NC2       | 35.8031, -76.6685   | ENF        | 18.2                           | January 2008 to December 2008 | 5                  | Upward longwave radiation 22.5 m, wind speed 22.5 m, eddy covariance 22.5 m, air temperature 22.5 m      |
| 3        | US-GLE       | 41.3644, -106.2390  | ENF        | 13                             | October 2010 to December 2010 | 3190               | Upward longwave radiation 24.3 m, wind speed 25.7/22.5 m, eddy covariance 22.5 m, air temperature 23.7 m |
| 4        | US-MRf       | 44.6465, -123.5500  | ENF        | 34                             | January 2009 to December 2009 | 236                | Upward longwave radiation 37 m; wind speed 38.3,39.5 m; eddy covariance 38.3 m; air temperature 4, 38 m  |
| 5        | US-NR1       | 40.0329, -105.5400  | ENF        | 11.5                           | January 2011 to December 2011 | 3023               | Upward longwave radiation 25.5 m, wind speed 21.5 m, eddy covariance 21.5 m, air temperature 21.5 m      |
| 6        | US-UMB       | 45.5598, -84.7138   | DBF        | 22                             | January 2008 to May 2008      | 234                | Upward longwave radiation 46 m, wind speed 46 m, eddy covariance 48 m, air temperature 46 m              |
| 7        | US-ChR       | 35.9311, -84.3324   | DBF        | 30                             | January 2010 to December 2010 | 286                | Upward longwave radiation 43 m, wind speed 43 m, eddy covariance 43 m, air temperature 43 m              |
| 8        | US-MOz       | 38.7441, -92.2000   | DBF        | 18.5                           | June 2009 to December 2009    | 219                | Upward longwave radiation 31 m, wind speed 31.4 m, eddy covariance 31 m, air temperature 31.4 m          |
| 9        | US-MMS       | 39.3232, -86.4130   | DBF        | 27                             | January 2010 to December 2010 | 275                | Upward longwave radiation 46 m, wind speed 46 m, eddy covariance 48 m, air temperature 46 m              |
| 10       | US-WBW       | 35.9588, -84.2874   | DBF        | 25                             | January 2004 to December 2004 | 343                | Upward longwave radiation 38 m, wind speed 36.6 m, eddy covariance 36.9 m, air temperature 38.2 m        |
| 11       | US-WCr       | 45.9059, -90.0799   | DBF        | 24.2                           | January 2005 to December 2005 | 515                | Upward longwave radiation 29.6 m, wind speed 29.6 m, eddy covariance 29.6 m, air temperature 29.6 m      |
| 12       | US-Aud       | 31.5907, -110.5092  | SRB        | hcMin = 0.002;<br>hcMax = 0.5  | January 2005 to December 2005 | 1469               | Upward longwave radiation 1.6 m, wind speed 2 m, eddy covariance 3 m, air temperature 2 m                |
| 13       | Us-Me6       | 44.3232, -121.600   | SRB        | 7.5 m                          | January 2010 to December 2010 | 966                | Upward longwave radiation 10 m, wind speed 12 m, eddy covariance 12 m, air temperature 10 m              |
| 14       | US-SRM       | 31.8214, 110.8661   | SRB        | 2.5                            | January 2010 to December 2010 | 1116               | Upward longwave radiation 12 m, wind speed 12 m, eddy covariance 12 m, air temperature 12 m              |
| 15       | Gingin       | -31.375, 115.650    | SAV        | 6.8                            | January 2012 to December 2012 | 1469               | Upward longwave radiation 15 m, wind speed 15 m, eddy covariance 15 m, air temperature 15 m              |
| 16       | Calperum     | -34.002, 140.589    | SAV        | 5.5                            | January 2011 to December 2011 | 4520               | Upward longwave radiation 20 m, wind speed 20 m, eddy covariance 20 m, air temperature 20 m              |
| 17       | Ti Tree East | -22.287, 133.640    | SAV        | 4.5                            | July 2012 to December 2013    | 553                | Upward longwave radiation 9.9 m, wind speed 8.28 m, eddy covariance 9.81 m, air temperature 9.81 m       |
| 18       | US-Fmf       | 35.1426, -111.7270  | SAV        | 15                             | July 2010 to December 2010    | 2160               | Upward longwave radiation 23 m, wind speed 23 m, eddy covariance 23 m, air temperature 23 m              |
| 19       | Linzhi       | 29.7622, 94.7417    | GRS        | hcMin = 0.0012;<br>hcMax = 0.8 | February 2007 to Octobr 2007  | 3327               | Upward longwave radiation 1.5 m, wind speed 5 m, eddy covariance 3.2 m, air temperature 4.9 m            |

**Table 1** (continued)

| Site no. | Name               | Lat (deg)/Lon (deg)  | Land cover | $h$ (m)                      | Period                        | Site elevation (m) | Meteorological measurement height (above ground floor)  |
|----------|--------------------|----------------------|------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| 20       | US-Br1 (Brookings) | 44.3453, -96.8362    | GRS        | hcMin = 0.0012; hcMax = 0.4  | January 2009 to December 2009 | 994                | Upward longwave radiation 2 m, wind speed 4 m, eddy covariance 3 m, air temperature 4 m         |
| 21       | US-Ctn             | 43.9500, -101.846    | GRS        | hcMin = 0.0012; hcMax = 0.3  | January 2007 to December 2007 | 744                | Upward longwave radiation 2 m, wind speed 4 m, eddy covariance 3 m, air temperature 4 m         |
| 22       | US-Wkg             | 31.7365, -109.941    | GRS        | hcMin = 0.0012; hcMax = 0.5  | January 2010 to December 2010 | 1531               | Upward longwave radiation 1.5 m, wind speed 2.1 m, eddy covariance 2.1 m, air temperature 1.5 m |
| 23       | Riggs Creek        | -36.6560, 145.5760   | CRP        | hcMin = 0.002; hcMax = 1     | January 2011 to December 2011 | 152                | Upward longwave radiation 10 m, wind speed 2.5 m, eddy covariance 2.5 m, air temperature 2.5 m  |
| 24       | Daly Pasture       | -17.150, 133.350     | CRP        | hcMin = 0.5; hcMax = 1.5     | January 2011 to December 2011 | 102                | Upward longwave radiation 15 m, wind speed 15 m, eddy covariance 15 m, air temperature 15 m     |
| 25       | Arcturus           | -23.8587, 148.4746   | CRP        | hcMin = 0.01; hcMax = 0.8    | January 2011 to December 2011 | 4700               | Upward longwave radiation 5.6 m, wind speed 5.6 m, eddy covariance 6.7 m, air temperature 5.6 m |
| 26       | QOMS               | 28.358209, 86.949638 | BSN        | hcMin = 0.0012; hcMax = 0.1  | March 2007 to December 2007   | 4276               | Upward longwave radiation 1.5 m, wind speed 5 m, eddy covariance 3 m, air temperature 5 m       |
| 27       | Nam Co             | 30.7699, 90.9636     | BSN        | hcMin = 0.0012; hcMax = 0.01 | March 2007 to December 2007   | 4730               | Upward longwave radiation 1.5 m, wind speed 5 m, eddy covariance 3 m, air temperature 5 m       |
| 28       | Maqu               | 33.8872, 102.1406    | BSN        | hcMin = 0.0012; hcMax = 0.5  | April 2009- May 2010          | 3439               | Upward longwave radiation 1.5 m, wind speed 10 m, eddy covariance 3 m, air temperature 10 m     |

Fluxnet website or by contact with the site PIs. The height for low canopy ( $h$ ) is computed from MODIS NDVI data (MOD13C2) using the following equation (Chen et al., 2013):

$$h = h_{\min} + \frac{h_{\max} - h_{\min}}{(NDVI_{\max} - NDVI_{\min})} * (NDVI - NDVI_{\min}), \quad (4)$$

where  $h_{\max}$  and  $h_{\min}$  are the measured maximum and minimum canopy height,  $h_{\min}$  is set to 0.0012, and  $h_{\max}$  is the highest canopy height for a specific canopy in 1 year. More information about  $h_{\max}$  for the estimate of regional canopy height could be found in Chen et al. (2014). The NDVI canopy height method is designed for global remote sensing flux calculation, although NDVI has no direct relation with canopy height. NDVI data quality has a significant influence on canopy height and even more on the accuracy of turbulent heat flux. In order to eliminate the noise in daily NDVI time series, monthly NDVI data sets were used.

### 3. Model Introduction and Improvements

#### 3.1. Model Introduction

The integration for  $\phi_s$  and  $\phi_u$  goes from a certain height in the roughness sublayer up to the top of the roughness sublayer. There are many methods that could be used to calculate  $\phi_s$  and  $\phi_u$  (Cellier & Brunet, 1992; De Ridder, 2010; Flerchinger et al., 2012; Harman & Finnigan, 2007). Stability functions in the roughness sublayer are still a thorny issue in the literature. There could be large uncertainties associated with these methods. The method developed by Physick and Garratt (1995) (PG95) is used. In unstable conditions ( $\zeta = z/L \leq 0$ )

$$\Phi_s = P_r(1-9\zeta)^{-0.5}, \quad (5)$$

$$\Phi_u = (1-15\zeta)^{-0.25}, \quad (6)$$

$$\phi_s = \phi_u = 0.5 \exp(0.7 Z/Z^*), \quad (7)$$

and stable conditions ( $\zeta > 0$ )

$$\Phi_s = P_r + 4.7\zeta, \quad (8)$$

$$\Phi_u = 1 + 4.7\zeta, \quad (9)$$

$$\phi_u = \phi_s = 0.5 \exp(0.7 Z/Z^*), \quad (10)$$

with  $P_r$  is the Prandtl number. An approximate roughness-sublayer height can reach three to eight times the stand height (Garratt, 1978). Cellier and Brunet (1992) take  $Z^*$  as the height of two times the canopy height. This study uses  $Z^* = 3.45 h$ .

The  $kB^{-1}$  scheme developed by Su et al. (2001) is constructed using the *localized near-field (LNF)* Lagrangian theory (Raupach, 1989), due to it is consistent with the observed within-canopy counter gradient canopy flow. The LNF model for  $kB^{-1}$  is a combination of a far-field and a near-field temperature profile, with a canopy source function and leaf boundary layer resistance, the canopy momentum transfer model, a canopy turbulence model, and soil boundary layer resistance (Massman, 1999). This makes the  $kB^{-1}$  used in this study a combination of a three source method. It takes into account the vegetation, soil component and the combined effects of the canopy and soil in a single source approach by using the fraction of soil and canopy coverage as their weighting coefficients (Su, 2002). The model describes the canopy, soil, and combined canopy-soil boundary layer effects on  $kB^{-1}$ . The first term  $kB_c^{-1}$  follows the full canopy-only model of Choudhury and Monteith (1988), which is used to parameterize the canopy-air exchange resistance. The second term is that of Brutsaert (1982) for a bare soil surface, used for describing soil-air turbulent exchange resistance. The third term is used to describe the interaction between the canopy and soil or could be taken as a description of canopy soil interaction resistance. The  $kB^{-1}$  from Su (2002) is

$$kB^{-1} = f_c^2 kB_c^{-1} + f_s^2 kB_s^{-1} + 2^* f_c f_s kB_m^{-1}, \quad (11)$$

where  $f_c$  is the fractional canopy coverage and  $f_s$  is that of soil ( $f_s=1-f_c$ ).  $kB_c^{-1}$  is  $kB^{-1}$  of the canopy only, which is expressed as

$$kB_c^{-1} = \frac{k C_d}{4 C_t \frac{u^*}{u(h)} (1-e^{-n_{ec}/2})}, \quad (12a)$$

$C_d$  is the foliage drag coefficient,  $C_t$  is the heat transfer coefficient of the leaf, and  $n_{ec}$  is the wind speed profile extinction coefficient in the canopy.  $\frac{u^*}{u(h)}$  is calculated by a submodel of momentum transfer in canopy:

$$\frac{u^*}{u(h)} = C_1 - C_2 \exp(-C_3 \zeta(h)), \quad (12b)$$

$$n_{ec} = \frac{\zeta(h)}{2 \times (C_1 - C_2 \exp(-C_3 \zeta(h)))^2}, \quad (12c)$$

where  $C_1 = 0.320$ ,  $C_2 = 0.264$ , and  $C_3 = 15.1$ . The Surface Energy Balance System (SEBS) model version (Su, 2002) (Su02) uses  $\zeta(h) = C_d \text{LAI}$ , which is different with that of Su et al. (2001) using a with-in canopy wind profile information. A column canopy-air turbulent transfer model is introduced by this study to calculate  $\zeta(h)$  (see section 3.3).

$kB_m^{-1}$  describes the combined canopy and soil boundary layer effects on  $kB^{-1}$  (soil-plant interaction component) and is a function of Reynolds number.

$$kB_m^{-1} = \frac{k \frac{u_* z_{0m}}{u(h) h}}{C_t^*}, \quad (13a)$$

The heat transfer coefficient of the soil ( $C_t^*$ ) is given by

$$C_t^* = Pr^{-2/3} Re_s^{-1/2}, \quad (13b)$$

where  $Pr = 0.71$ , suggested by Massman (1999) and the roughness Reynolds number for soil  $Re_s = h_s u_* / \vartheta$ , with  $h_s$  being the roughness height of the soil (0.004 m). The kinematic viscosity of the air  $\vartheta = 1.327 \times 10^{-5} (p_0/p)(T/T_0)^{1.81}$  (Massman, 1999), with  $p$  and  $T$  being the ambient pressure and temperature,  $p_0=101.3$  kPa, and  $T_0=273.15$  K.

$kB_s^{-1}$  is the bare soil part, which is calculated according to Brutsaert (1982) from Su et al. (2001) as

$$kB_s^{-1} = 2.46 Re_s^{1/4} - \ln(7.4), \quad (14a)$$

In our previous work of Chen et al. (2013)(Chen13),  $kB_s^{-1}$  is revised as following, while keeping  $kB_m^{-1}$  and  $kB_c^{-1}$  the same as the original version in Su et al. (2001) and SEBS model:

$$kB_s^{-1} = \ln \left( \frac{z_{0m-s}}{z_{0h-s}} \right), \quad (14b)$$

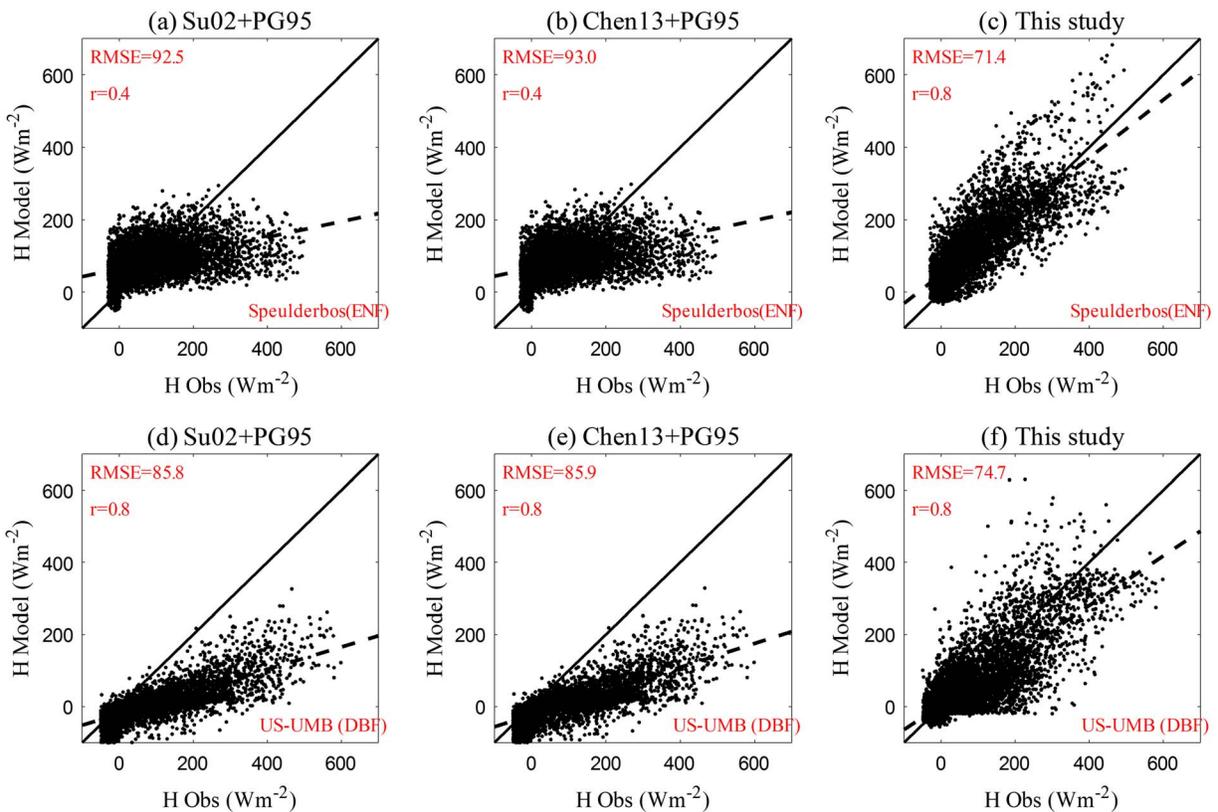
$$z_{0h-s} = \frac{70 \vartheta}{u_{s*}} \exp(-\beta u_{s*}^{0.5} \theta_{s*}^{0.25}), \quad (14c)$$

where  $\beta$  equals  $7.2 s^{0.5} \cdot m^{-0.5} \cdot K^{-0.25}$  and  $u_{s*}$  and  $\theta_{s*}$  are the soil surface friction velocity and friction temperature.  $z_{0m-s}$  is momentum roughness length for soil. The detailed calculation method for  $z_{0h-s}$ ,  $\theta_{s*}$  and  $u_{s*}$  can be found in Yang et al. (2002). Here  $z_{0m-s}$  is set to equal to  $h_s$  (0.004 m). The air temperature, wind speed, humidity, and pressure used to calculate  $kB_s^{-1}$  are assumed to the same as that of a soil-canopy mixed pixel. So that the canopy and soil part experience the same temperature and humidity as well as other meteorological forcing.  $kB_s^{-1}$  is computed with  $u_{s*}$  (via  $Re_s = h_s u_* / \vartheta$ ) in Su02, shown by equation (14a), while Yang et al. (2002) takes into account the diurnal variation in  $u_{s*}$  and  $\theta_{s*}$ .  $\theta_{s*}$  is derived with the land-air temperature gradient, which means that the strong diurnal variation in the temperature gradient is included in equation (14b), and explains why it could provide a better  $H$  estimate than equation (14a).

### 3.2. Problems of the $kB^{-1}$ Scheme Over Forest Canopies

In the following we will analyze the model structure, which can be related to the errors in  $H$  simulation. Figure 2 shows a comparison of sensible heat flux between Su02, Chen13 simulation, and flux tower observation for two forest sites. The result from Su02 is similar to Chen13 at forest sites. However, Chen13 has a better performance than Su02 at other canopy covers. Speulderbos and US-UMB are taken as a demonstration site for ENF and DBF, respectively.  $H$  simulated by the model is much lower than observations at both sites. The phenomena shown by the two sites are similar to all other needleleaf and broadleaf forest sites. Meanwhile, the model has an accurate estimate at GRS, CRP, and BSN. The roughness sublayer correction is also included in the simulation, which is annotated by *Su02 + PG95* and *Chen13 + PG95* in Figure 2.

In order to diagnose the underestimation of  $H$  at forest sites by the model, Figure 3 shows the temporal variation of half-hourly values of  $kB^{-1}$  in 2009 at the Speulderbos ENF site (Su et al., 2009). Two similar versions of  $kB^{-1}$  from Su02 and Chen13 were included. Seasonal variations in the three parts of  $kB^{-1}$  were shown separately. The instantaneous values of  $kB_c^{-1}$ ,  $kB_m^{-1}$ ,  $kB_s^{-1}$ , and  $kB^{-1}$  proved to be highly variable.  $kB_c^{-1}$  and  $kB_m^{-1}$  have a distinct seasonal pattern, with low values in summer due to a high leaf density and high ones in winter. Both  $kB_s^{-1}$  calculated by Su02 and Chen13 show that the highest values are usually around midday and the lowest ones in the morning, which are consistent with reports from other studies for bare ground surfaces (Feng et al., 2012; Sun, 1999; Verhoef, De Bruin, et al., 1997; Wang & Ma, 2011). Both models can give negative  $kB_s^{-1}$  values during nighttime, a phenomena which is often observed for relatively smooth surfaces (Wang & Ma, 2011; Yang et al., 2003). However, the daytime average  $kB_s^{-1}$  from Su02 is about 7.5, much higher than the 1 of Chen13, causing a higher  $kB^{-1}$  than Chen13. The average  $kB^{-1}$  from Su02 is about

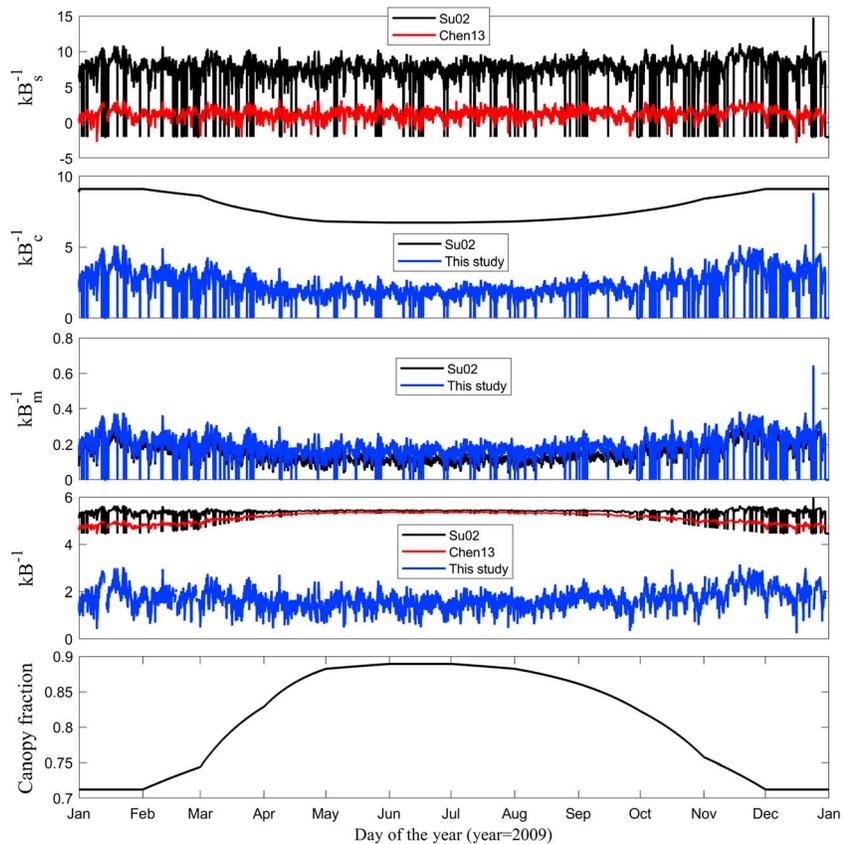


**Figure 2.** Comparison between sensible heat simulated by Su02 + PG95, Chen13 + PG95, and this study against observations at Speulderbos evergreen needleleaf forest (ENF) and US-UMB deciduous broadleaf forest (DBF).

5.4, while Chen13 estimated it to be 5.1. Bosveld (1999) reported  $kB^{-1}$  around 0 for ENF at Speulderbos. Mölder et al. (1999) also found approximately the same low value for a boreal pine-spruce forest. A higher  $kB^{-1}$  will result in a higher heat transfer resistance, which causes lower sensible heat flux and vice versa. It can be deduced that the underestimation of sensible heat at ENF is due to an overestimation of  $kB^{-1}$ . Chen13 gives a decreased  $kB_s^{-1}$  value, but the weight coefficients ( $f_s^2$ ) for  $kB_s^{-1}$  are too low, which causes Chen13 to fail to provide a true estimation of  $kB^{-1}$  over forest sites. Relatively high canopy fraction at forest sites results in a high contribution of  $kB_c^{-1}$  to  $kB^{-1}$ .  $kB_c^{-1}$  values change between 7 and 9, which are much higher than 2, as usually assumed to hold for vegetation (Garratt & Hicks, 1973). Therefore, high  $kB_c^{-1}$  values result in high  $kB^{-1}$  and high canopy resistance, which result in low  $H$  at ENF sites.

The daytime average  $kB_s^{-1}$  at a DBF site produced by Su02 is about 6.0 (Figure 4), much higher than that of Chen13. Due to its high  $kB_s^{-1}$  values, Su02 also gives a high  $kB^{-1}$  than Chen13. Su02 produced an average  $kB^{-1}$  value of 5.5 in January and December and value of 5 during June to September. Lower  $kB^{-1}$  from Chen13 means that the heat transfer resistance from the soil will also be lower than Su02. This explains why Chen13 has solved the underestimates of sensible heat for BSN, CRP, and GRS sites (Chen et al., 2013). Despite that Chen13 gives a relatively higher  $H$  than that of Su02,  $H$  simulation is still lower than the true values. The contribution from  $kB_c^{-1}$  to the variation of  $kB^{-1}$  is more important than the other two  $kB^{-1}$  components at DBF sites, as the canopy resistance is significant for areas of full canopy cover.

As the scale of the turbulence is approximately that of the height of the canopy, turbulence over forest sites is more intensive than that over short canopies and causes turbulent heat exchange to be more efficient for forest sites. The canopy convective effect (Rotenberg & Yakir, 2010) can effectively reduce the aerodynamic resistance, and forests would have intrinsically lower aerodynamic resistance to heat transfer than short canopies (Banerjee et al., 2017). Results from both ENF and DBF sites show the necessity for revising the scheme for  $kB_c^{-1}$  in order to decrease the canopy heat transfer resistance for forest sites. The low turbulent heat transfer



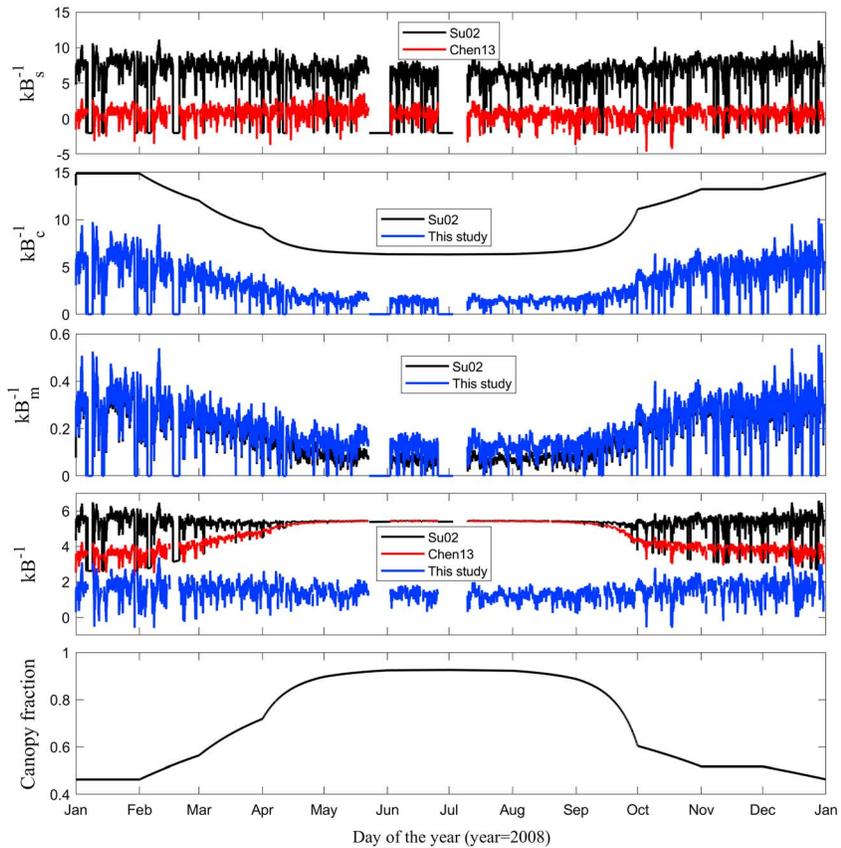
**Figure 3.** Time series of  $kB_c^{-1}$ ,  $kB_s^{-1}$ ,  $kB_m^{-1}$ ,  $kB^{-1}$ , and  $f_c$  at Speuderbos evergreen needleleaf forest station derived by Su02 (dark line), Chen13 (red line), and this paper (blue line). The time resolution for the four  $kB^{-1}$  variables is half-hour.

resistance over forest could in turn enhance sensible heat as the forest and surface air temperature gradient is quite low (Rotenberg & Yakir, 2010). This explains why a canopy-soil-air heat transfer resistance scheme that is valid for short canopy cannot work well at forest sites.

A similar study of  $kB_c^{-1}$  values at SRB, SAV, GRS, and CRP (not shown here) sites has also been conducted. The common conclusion is that the underestimation of  $H$  is due to higher  $kB_c^{-1}$ . While Chen13 produced a lower  $kB_s^{-1}$  than Su02 for all the land surfaces, which makes the model produce better estimates of  $H$  at ENF, DBF, GRS, CRP, and BSN sites, the underestimation for forest sites is not fully solved even by adding the roughness sublayer correction from Physick and Garratt (1995). Thus, a more robust model needs to be provided for forest canopies.

When land surface changes from bare soil, to grass, shrub, and forest canopy, the frictional resistance to surface airflow will increase, because the roughness of the underlying surface increases. While the boundary layer between near-surface and the atmosphere becomes more complex, the turbulence within the roughness sublayer above the canopy is affected more by vegetation height, vegetation horizontal structure, and other canopy related factors. As a result, the  $kB_c^{-1}$  estimated only by using LAI in Su02 and Chen13 may not be sufficient for different vegetated land surfaces. Thus, some other critical vegetation characteristics and wind factors should be taken into account for  $kB^{-1}$  calculation, which will be the subject of next section. Considering Chen13 has a better or equal performance than Su02 for 5 out of 7 land covers (ENF, DBF, GRS, CRP, and BSN), the following work will be based on Chen13  $kB^{-1}$  version to make a further enhancement.

The model version in Chen13 is a simple version of Su et al. (2001) and is similar to the one used in Su02 (or SEBS model). Neither Chen13 nor Su02 include a submodel of within canopy wind profile. Su02 uses an effective foliage heat and momentum drag coefficient ( $C_d = 0.2$ ,  $C_t = 0.01$ ), neglecting the variation of turbulent transfer efficiency within the canopy. Both Su02 and Chen13 adopt an idea of *big leaf*, without



**Figure 4.** Time series of  $kB_c^{-1}$ ,  $kB_s^{-1}$ ,  $kB_m^{-1}$ ,  $kB^{-1}$ , and  $f_c$  for US-UMB deciduous broadleaf forest station derived by Su02 (dark line) Chen13 (red line), and this paper (blue line). The time resolution for the four  $kB^{-1}$  variables is half-hour.

wind information within the canopy, which will influence the heat and mass transfer between canopy and air above it. From the foregoing study it is clear that describing the vertical wind profile within the canopy is necessary for simulating turbulent heat transfer over the forest canopy. Therefore, a submodel of within canopy wind has been included to make this model a column canopy-air turbulent transfer model as follows.

### 3.3. Model Reconstruction and Improvements

Table 2 shows a list of variables used in SEBS and the model developed by this study. The main difference is about the introduction of vertical foliage density, foliage drag coefficient in the canopy, foliage heat transfer efficiency in the canopy, foliage shelter factor for momentum, and subroughness correction in the model developed by this study. The method for calculation of displacement height is also changed. Below is the detailed explanation on these revisions.

#### 3.3.1. A Column Canopy-Air Turbulent Transfer Model

Within the canopy the wind speed is modeled as an exponential function of cumulative leaf drag area per unit planform area after Albin (1981):

$$\frac{u(z)}{u(h)} = e^{-n_{ec} (1-\zeta(z)/\zeta(h))}, \quad (15)$$

where  $z$  is the height above the soil surface and in the canopy and  $\zeta(z)$  is the cumulative leaf drag area per unit planform area:

$$\zeta(z) = \int_0^z [a(z') C_d^v(z') P_m^v(z')] dz', \quad (16)$$

$\zeta(z)$  changes with the height in the canopy ( $z$ ). Here  $a(z')$  is the vertical foliage leaf area density function,  $C_d^v(z')$  is the foliage drag coefficient as a function of height within the canopy, and  $P_m^v(z')$  is the foliage shelter factor for momentum. To have a sounder description of turbulent process in the canopy, the following

**Table 2**  
Parameters or Intermedium Variables Used in SEBS and the Model Developed in This Study

| Symbol             | Description                                      | SEBS  | This study  |
|--------------------|--|---|---|
| $k$                | von Karman constant                              | 0.4   | 0.4   |
| $C_d$              | foliage drag coefficient                         | 0.2   | 0.2   |
| $z_{0m\_s}$        | soil roughness length                            | 0.009 m   | 0.004 m   |
| $Pr$               | Prandtl number                                   | 0.71  | 0.71  |
| $h_s$              | soil roughness height                            | 0.009   | 0.004 m from Chen et al. (2013)   |
| $l$                | the characteristic leaf length scale             | Not used  | 0.01 m  |
| $f_c$              | fractional canopy coverage                       | $(NDVI-NDVI_{min})^2/(NDVI_{max}-NDVI_{min})^2$   | $1 - \exp(-0.5 LAI)$  |
| $f_s$              | fraction of bare soil                            | $1 - f_c$   | $\exp(-0.5 LAI)$  |
| $h$                | canopy height                                    | No specific solution.   | $h_{minLCT} + \frac{h_{maxLCT}-h_{minLCT}}{(NDVI_{max}-NDVI_{min})} (NDVI-NDVI_{min})$  |
| $\xi$              | Nondimensional height above soil surface         | Not used  | Varies from 0 (soil surface) to 1 (canopy top)  |
| $C_t$              | heat transfer coefficient for the leaf           | 0.01  | $\frac{C_t^v(z)}{C_t^v(z)}$   |
| $C_t^v(\xi)$       | foliage heat transfer efficiency in the canopy   | Not used  | $[u^*/u(h)]^{0.5} * Pr^{-0.67} * Re_s(\xi)^{-0.5}$  |
| $C_t^*$            | heat transfer coefficient of the soil            | $Pr^{-2/3} Re_s^{-1/2}$   | $Pr^{-2/3} Re_s^{-1/2}$ , with different $Re_s$ value   |
| $Re_s$             | Reynolds number for soil                         | $h_s u^*/\vartheta$   | $h_s u^*/\vartheta$ , with different $h_s$ value  |
| $Re_s(\xi)$        | local canopy Reynolds number                     | Not used  | $l u(\xi)/\vartheta$  |
| $u(\xi)$           | wind speed in the canopy                         | Not used  | $u(h) \exp^{-n_{ec} (1-\xi(\xi)/\zeta(h))}$   |
| $u(h)$             | wind speed at the canopy top                     | Not used  | $U \left( \frac{\log((h-d_0)/z_{0m})}{\log((h+10-d_0)/z_{0m})} \right)$   |
| $\vartheta$        | kinematic viscosity of the air                   | $1.327 \times 10^{-5} \left( \frac{p_0}{p} \right) \left( \frac{T}{T_0} \right)^{1.81}$ , $p_0=101.3$ kPa,<br>and $T_0=273.15$ K                      | Same as SEBS  |
| $u^*$              | friction velocity                                | $ku \left[ \ln \left( \frac{z_r-d_0}{z_{0m}} \right) - \Psi_m \left( \frac{z_r-d_0}{L} \right) + \Psi_m \left( \frac{z_{0m}}{L} \right) \right]^{-1}$ | $ku \left[ \ln \left( \frac{z_r-d_0}{z_{0m}} \right) - \Psi_m \left( \frac{z_r-d_0}{L} \right) + \Psi_m \left( \frac{z_{0m}}{L} \right) + \Psi_u(z_r) \right]^{-1}$ |
| $C_p$              | specific heat for moist air                      | 1846 Q + (1-Q) 1005   | 1846 Q + (1-Q) 1005   |
| $\theta_0$         | potential temperature at the land surface        | $LST(p_0/p)^{0.286}$ ,  | $LST(p_0/p)^{0.286}$ ,  |
| $d_0$              | Zero plane displacement height (m)               | $h(1 - 1/(2 n_{ec})(1 - \exp(-2 n_{ec})))$  | $h \left( 1 - \frac{u_z^2(0)}{u_z^2(1)} \int_0^1 \frac{u_z^2(\xi)/u_z^2(1)}{u_z^2(\xi)/u_z^2(1)} d\xi \right)$  |
| $z_{0h}$           | heat roughness length                            | $z_{0h} = \frac{z_{0m}}{\exp(kB^{-1})}$   | Same as SEBS, but with different $z_{0m}$ and $kB^{-1}$ .   |
| $z_{0m}$           | momentum roughness length                        | $(1 - \frac{d_0}{h}) e^{-k u(h)/u^*}$   | Same as SEBS, but with different $\frac{d_0}{h}$ and $\frac{u^*}{u(h)}$ method  |
| $kB^{-1}$          | excess resistance                                | $f_c^2 kB_c^{-1} + f_s^2 kB_s^{-1} + 2 f_c f_s kB_m^{-1}$   | Same as SEBS, but with different $kB_c^{-1}$ , $kB_m^{-1}$ and $kB_s^{-1}$  |
| $kB_c^{-1}$        | $kB^{-1}$ of the canopy                          | $\frac{kC_d}{4C_{t,u}(h)(1-e^{-n_{ec}/2})}$   | Same as SEBS, with different values for $C_t$ , $\frac{u^*}{u(h)}$ , and $n_{ec}$   |
| $kB_s^{-1}$        | $kB^{-1}$ of bare-soil                           | $2.46 Re_s^{1/4} - \ln(7.4)$  | $\log \left( \frac{z_{0ms}}{u_s^* \exp(-\beta u_s^{0.5} \vartheta^{0.25})} \right)$   |
| $kB_m^{-1}$        | $kB^{-1}$ for mixed bare-soil and canopy         | $\frac{k}{C_t} \frac{u^* z_{0m}}{u(h) h}$   | Same as SEBS, with different $\frac{u^*}{u(h)}$ and $\frac{z_{0m}}{h}$  |
| $\frac{u^*}{u(h)}$ | representation of surface drag coefficient       | $C_1 - C_2 \exp(-C_3 C_d LAI)$  | $C_1 - C_2 \exp(-C_3 \zeta(h))$   |
| $n_{ec}$           | wind speed extinction coefficient within-canopy  | $\frac{C_d LAI}{2(C_1 - C_2 \exp(-C_3 C_d LAI))}^2$ ,<br>$C_1 = 0.320$ , $C_2 = 0.264$ , and $C_3 = 15.1$   | $\frac{\zeta(h)}{2(C_1 - C_2 \exp(-C_3 \zeta(h)))}^2$ ,<br>$C_1 = 0.320$ , $C_2 = 0.264$ , and $C_3 = 15.1$   |
| $\zeta(z)$         | cumulative leaf drag area per unit planform area | Not used  | $\int_0^z [a(z') C_d^v(z') P_m^v(z')] dz'$  |

**Table 2** (continued)

| Symbol       | Description  | SEBS     | This study  |
|--------------|--|----------|---|
| $a(\xi)$     | foliage leaf area density function   | Not used | $\frac{LAI}{h} \frac{\beta(\xi)}{\int_0^1 \beta(\xi) d\xi}$   |
| $C_d^v(\xi)$ | foliage drag coefficient in the canopy   | Not used | $C_d e^{-A_2(1-\xi)}$   |
| $P_m^v(\xi)$ | foliage shelter factor for momentum  | Not used | $1/(1 + 0.4 h a(\xi))$  |
| $\beta(\xi)$ | shape of foliage leaf area density function                                    | Not used | $\begin{cases} \exp(-(\xi-\xi_m)^2/\sigma_u^2) & \xi_m \leq \xi \leq 1 \\ \exp(-(\xi_m-\xi)^2/\sigma_l^2) & 0 \leq \xi \leq \xi_m \end{cases}$  |
| $\xi_m$      | height of maximum foliage area density   | Not used | Different land covers have different values   |
| $\sigma_u$   | standard deviation of foliage density profile in the upper layer above $\xi_m$ | Not used | Different canopy has different values   |
| $\sigma_l$   | standard deviation of foliage density profile in lower layer below $\xi_m$     | Not used | Different canopy has different values.  |
| $A_2$        | Vertical canopy momentum drag coefficient                                      | Not used | $A_2 = -1$ to emulate the case when drag coefficient decreases with increasing wind speed, while $A_2 = 1$ is used for the case when the drag coefficient increases with increasing wind speed.<br>$A_2 = -5$ was used in this study. |

methods for  $a(z')$ ,  $C_d^v(z')$ , and  $P_m^v(z')$  were used in this study, while  $C_d^v(z')$  and  $P_m^v(z')$  were set as a constant values of 0.2 and 1 in Su et al. (2001).

$$a(\xi) = \frac{LAI}{h} \frac{\beta(\xi)}{\int_0^1 \beta(\xi) d\xi}, \quad (17)$$

$$C_d^v(\xi) = C_d e^{-A_2(1-\xi)}, \quad (18)$$

with  $\xi = z/h$ ;  $A_2 = -1$  to emulate the case when drag coefficient decreases with increasing wind speed, while  $A_2 = 1$  is used for the case when the drag coefficient increases with increasing wind speed (Massman & Weil, 1999). A *asymmetric Gaussian* method for  $\beta(\xi)$  from Massman et al. (2017) has been used in this study, which can be more easily defined for any kind of canopies than the beta function used in Su et al. (2001):

$$\beta(\xi) = \begin{cases} \exp(-(\xi-\xi_m)^2/\sigma_u^2) & \xi_m \leq \xi \leq 1 \\ \exp(-(\xi_m-\xi)^2/\sigma_l^2) & 0 \leq \xi \leq \xi_m \end{cases}, \quad (19)$$

with  $\xi_m$  as the height of maximum foliage area density and  $\sigma_u$  and  $\sigma_l$  are the standard deviation of foliage density profile in the upper layer above  $\xi_m$  and lower layer below  $\xi_m$ . An asymmetric Gaussian is used in equation (19) as it provides smoother canopy wind and stress profiles, as well as a smoother  $\beta(\xi)$ , without compromising the model's performance.

**Table 3**

List of  $\xi_m$  (Height of Maximum Foliage Area Density), and  $\sigma_u$  and  $\sigma_l$  (the Standard Deviation of Foliage Density Profile in the Upper Layer and Lower Layer), Leaf Drag Coefficient, and Foliage Shelter Parameters ( $A_2$  and  $A_s$ )

|            | ENF  | DBF  | SRB   | SAV  | GRS  | CRP   | BSN   |
|------------|------|------|-------|------|------|-------|-------|
| $\xi_m$    | 0.6  | 0.55 | 0.95  | 0.40 | 0.99 | 0.72  | 0.9   |
| $\sigma_u$ | 0.18 | 0.40 | 0.35  | 0.15 | 0.55 | 0.01  | 0.14  |
| $\sigma_l$ | 0.06 | 0.30 | 0.001 | 0.05 | 0.03 | 0.001 | 0.001 |
| $A_s$      | 0.5  | 0.5  | 0.5   | 0.5  | 0.5  | 0.5   | 0.5   |
| $A_2$      | -5   | -5   | -5    | -5   | -5   | -5    | -5    |

Note. BSN, barren; CRP, croplands; DBF, deciduous broadleaf forest; ENF, evergreen needleleaf forest; GRS, grasslands; SAV, savannas; SRB, shrub-land.

Sheltering occurs when neighboring canopy elements interfere with one another. One canopy element may block or reduce the exposure of another neighboring element to the turbulent wind. Consequently,  $P_m^v(z)$  might be expected to decrease with increasing of foliage density. Hereby  $P_m^v(z)$  is calculated by the method of Massman and Weil (1999) as:

$$P_m^v(\xi) = 1/(1 + A_s h a(\xi)) \quad (20)$$

The values of  $A_s$  for different canopies are listed in Table 3. A constant value for  $A_2$  was used as discussed above. The chosen values for  $A_s$  and  $A_2$  can provide satisfactory  $H$  estimates, but they may be optimized based on stability in future work.

The within-canopy wind momentum transfer model represented by equations (15)–(20) is further used to estimate  $d$  and  $z_{0m}$ . Su02 and Chen13 used the following method to calculate  $d$ :

$$\frac{d}{h} = 1 - \int_0^1 e^{-2 n_{ec}(1-\zeta(z)/\zeta(h))} d\xi, \quad (21)$$

A more physically realistic method for  $\frac{d}{h}$  (Jackson, 1981; Massman et al., 2017; Seginer, 1974) was used for canopies of arbitrary plant surface distribution and leaf area and can reproduce observed canopy wind speed profiles across a wide variety of canopies. As within-canopy Reynolds stress,  $u_*^2(z)$ , provides a reasonable description of the observed vertical profiles of Reynolds stress, it is used by this study to calculate  $z_{0m}$  and  $d$ .

$$\frac{z_{0m}}{h} = \left(1 - \frac{d}{h}\right) e^{-k u(h)/u_*}, \quad (22)$$

$$\frac{d}{h} = \left(1 - \frac{u_*^2(0)}{u_*^2(1)}\right) \frac{\int_0^1 [u_*^2(\xi)/u_*^2(1)] \xi d\xi}{\int_0^1 [u_*^2(\xi)/u_*^2(1)] d\xi}, \quad (23)$$

Readers are referred to Jackson (1981), Massman et al. (2017), and Seginer (1974) for the calculation of  $u_*^2(0)$ ,  $u_*^2(1)$ , and  $u_*^2(\xi)$ .

Linking to equation (12b), (16), and (22), it can be deduced that the estimates of  $z_{0m}/h$  and  $d/h$  are only based on the variation of normalized  $\zeta(z)$ , which is determined by the vertical variations of foliage density, foliage drag coefficient, and foliage shelter factor inside the canopy.

### 3.3.2. Revision of Foliage Heat Transfer Coefficient

The foliage heat transfer coefficient is closely related to canopy-air heat transfer. In previous versions of Su02 and Chen13,  $C_t$  in equation (12a) is given a constant value of 0.01. However, the foliage heat transfer coefficient should vary with the turbulent intensity within the canopy. Hereby a solution to include the vertical variation of  $C_t$  in the canopy is provided. Brutsaert (1979) suggested

$$C_{tf} = C_L Pr^{-m} Re_*^{-n}, \quad (24)$$

$C_L$ ,  $m$ , and  $n$  are parameters that may depend on the shape, density, and orientation of the leaves and on the intensity of the turbulence.  $Re_*$  is a local canopy Reynolds number, which can be calculated with either friction velocity or wind speed. Here local canopy Reynolds number is calculated with wind speed profile in the canopy, as  $Re_*(z) = l * u(z)/\vartheta$ .  $l$  is the characteristic leaf length scale [0.01 m];  $u(z)$  is the wind speed in the canopy. If wind speed is used as velocity scale for  $Re_*$ , the parameter  $C_L$  should be adjusted to be  $[u_*/u(h)]^{0.5}$  (Brutsaert, 1979). The wind speed profile in the canopy can be derived from the above mentioned column canopy-air turbulent transfer model, as shown in the equation (15).  $u(z)$  is used to calculate local canopy Reynolds number or leaf Reynolds number for each vertical canopy layers ( $Re_*(z)$ ); by doing so a vertical profile of foliage heat transfer efficiency in the canopy ( $C_t^v(z)$ ) can be derived by

$$C_t^v(z) = [u_*/u(h)]^{0.5} Pr^{-0.67} Re_*(z)^{-0.5} \quad (25)$$

The relation between turbulent Prandtl number ( $Pr$ ) and atmospheric stability in Li et al. (2015) also has a potential to be applied for  $C_t^v(z)$  calculation. An average vertical foliage heat transfer value  $C_t = \overline{C_t^v(z)}$  is then used to calculate  $kB_c^{-1}$  and further  $kB^{-1}$ . The results of using the new  $C_t$  scheme (labeled by *this paper*) and a constant  $C_t$  value of 0.01 (labeled by *Su02* and *Chen13*) are shown in Figure 2. Su02 and Chen13 refer to results by a different  $kB^{-1}$  model from this paper with a  $C_t$  value of 0.01. The comparison between the three schemes shows that the new model developed by this study has the best performance for sensible heat flux simulation. The enhanced performance of the new model explained that the addition of vertical foliage density, vertical foliage drag coefficient, and vertical foliage heat transfer efficiency in the canopy is necessary for correct simulation of turbulent heat flux over high canopy.

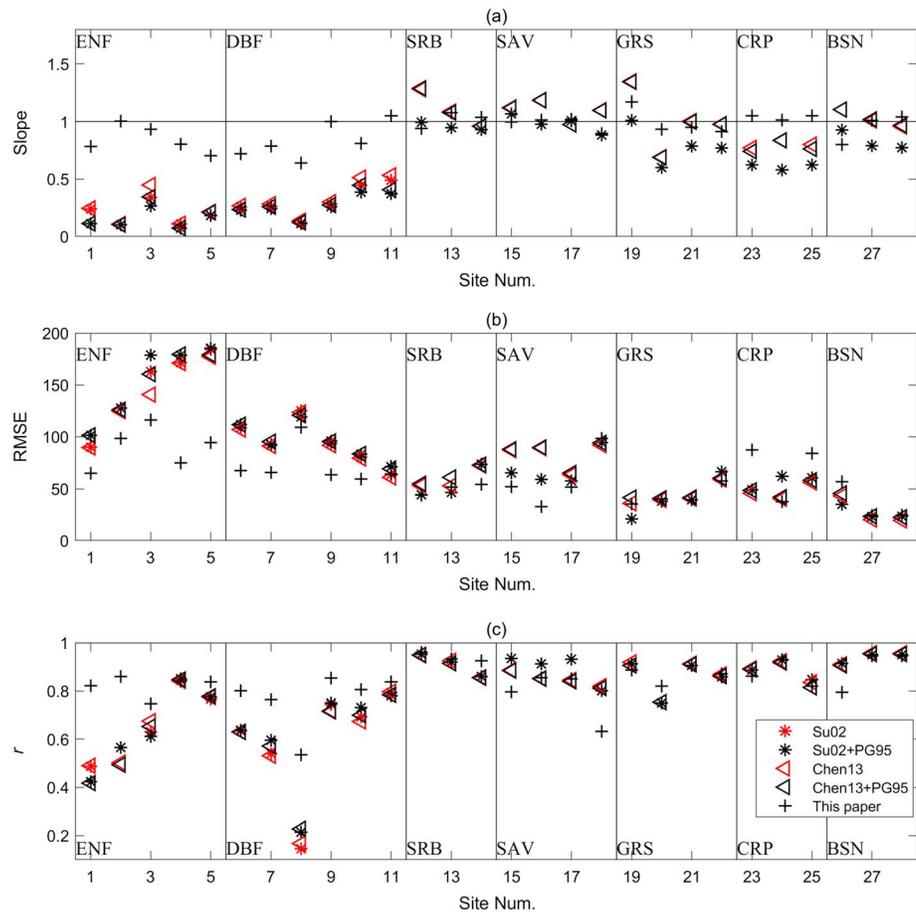
Figures 3 and 4 also describe the impact of the model rebuilt by this study.  $kB_c^{-1}$  significantly decreased in the new model.  $kB^{-1}$  at the two forest sites from the new model is not higher than 3. The lower  $kB^{-1}$  in the new

model could solve  $H$  underestimates at forest sites. Meanwhile, the new model retains a similar performance at nonforest sites. The RMSE at Speulderbos and US-UMB forest sites have been reduced from 93.4 and 141.1 to 70.6 and 74.9  $\text{W/m}^2$ , respectively. Our tests show that the revision to foliage heat transfer coefficient is most important to the  $H$  improvement.

#### 4. Discussions

In practice,  $kB^{-1}$  is derived from the bulk transfer formulation using measurements of other quantities. Any uncertainties associated with these measurements will cause uncertainties in the evaluation of  $kB^{-1}$  and the estimated sensible heat flux. The flux and meteorological variables may have different up-wind source area than that of the foliage temperature due to different measurement heights and the involved processes. A more critical selection of high-quality turbulent flux with statistically stationary and horizontal homogeneity analysis (Foken & Wichura, 1996) may help to get a better model performance. The surface temperature was determined using radiometers with a limited field of view. An assumption was made to regard this temperature as representative of the fetch area of the EC system and can represent the mean status of whole canopy foliage layers. The discrepancy shown by the scatter plot in Figure 2 is believed to be related to differences in footprint of the sensors and caused by effects of the inhomogeneous terrain. Troufleau et al. (1997) noted that the notion of *surface* over forest canopy is quite problematic compared with bare soil. In fact, the only observation technique available to determine leaf surface temperature for us to use Fluxnet data is that from a radiometer. Radiometric surface temperatures are derived from measurements of the radiance emitted by everything within the field of view of the sensor. For a flat soil surface, the radiance is emitted from the plane of the surface. Vegetated surfaces present greater complications, especially when the vegetation is bluff rough and has a permeable rough surface (Bosveld, 1999). In the case of sparse canopy there are indications that this technique is inadequate, because a radiometer could see too much understory or bare surface, and does not yield the temperature of the vegetation surface that drives the sensible heat flux. As a result, the surface temperature observed with a radiometer is smaller than the air temperature above the trees. On the other hand, the observed sensible heat flux could be positive—that is, a heat flux goes from the surface into the air. This will also cause difficulties in the simulation of sensible heat over forest and explain why forest sites have relative high RMSE in Figure 5. Furthermore, in order to upscale the canopy turbulent transfer model to global area, a  $5 \times 5$  km LAI, NDVI pixel value is used to represent LAI and NDVI variation for the station location. This also introduces a certain error in  $kB^{-1}$  and  $H$  estimates.

Calculation of  $H$  using the MOST approach over tall canopy areas is well known to underestimate sensible heat flux (Mölder et al., 1999). Due to a roughness sublayer, which exists just above a forest stand, eddy diffusivities in the roughness sublayer are enhanced and gradients of meteorological variables are reduced. The traditional surface layer relationships are satisfied only at heights sufficiently above the roughness elements. We have examined a roughness scheme from Physick and Garratt (1995) by using 28 flux tower measurements. The meteorological measurements at 11 forest flux sites are within the roughness sublayer above the canopy. Previous studies have shown that fluxes calculated from profiles by a method, which takes into account the roughness sublayer corrections, are generally in good agreement with those measured by the EC method within the roughness sublayer. Several suggestions of corrections to the standard flux-profile expression have been proposed in order to increase the magnitude of turbulent heat flux (Arnqvist & Bergström, 2015; Graefe, 2004; Harman & Finnigan, 2007). The column canopy-air turbulent diffusion method developed in this study takes into account the impact of forest canopy on the vertical profile by calculating the vertical variation of  $u_*$  and  $u$  in the canopy. The vertical variations of  $u_*$  and  $u$  have been included in the calculation of  $d_0$ ,  $z_{0m}$ ,  $kB_c^{-1}$ ,  $kB_m^{-1}$ ,  $kB^{-1}$ , and  $z_{0h}$ . Thus, the roughness sublayer impact is represented in the model but not by a canopy-mixing-layer length scale. The vertical variation of  $u_*$  has also been used in the calculation of the heat transfer coefficient in this study. This is why our model has similar performance as that of a subroughness length stability calibration method in other studies (Cellier & Brunet, 1992; Mölder et al., 1999). Furthermore, we also tested the subroughness length stability calibration in the model. Meanwhile, adding or not-adding the calibration is nearly the same as shown by Figure 5. The reason could be due to using the same subroughness correction function as Physick and Garratt (1995), which may need to be adjusted at each site. A fixed ratio of  $Z^*$  to canopy height was used in this study, and we did not optimize



**Figure 5.** The (a) linear fitting slope, (b) root-mean-square error (RMSE), and (c)  $r$  derived from  $H$  observation and simulation with four schemes. Su02 + PG95 means roughness scheme from SEBS (Su, 2002), and the subroughness correction function from Physick and Garratt (1995) were used. Chen13 + PG95 means roughness scheme from Chen et al. (2013), and the subroughness correction function from Physick and Garratt (1995) were used.

the value of  $Z^*$ ,  $\phi_s$ ,  $\phi_u$ ,  $\Phi_s$ , and  $\Phi_u$  for each site. Nevertheless, the new model now provides a generally better result than the previous two versions, shown by a lower RMSE, higher  $r$ , and slope value closer to 1 (Figure 5). Site numbers 23 and 25 demonstrate the new model with a slightly higher RMSE, while its slope values show better results than other versions. Site numbers 15 and 18 have a lower  $r$  value, while their RMSE and slope demonstrate a better performance. It is more interesting for us to look at slope values, since previous model version has achieved a clear low bias. The slope values at the 28 sites indicate the progress made in this paper. In addition, both RMSEs for 22 sites and  $r$  for 25 sites show that the new model is better than previous versions. Thus, the bias at a few sites need not influence the conclusion of the generally better performance of the new model.

For global flux calculation, the same values for  $\xi_m$ ,  $\sigma_u$ ,  $\sigma_l$ , and  $A_s$  listed in Table 3 can be used for the same land covers. In future, the leaf area density profile at global scale will be produced by satellite lidar sensors. Tang et al. (2016) have demonstrated the capability of mapping leaf area density over the United States, using satellite lidar technology. Once global maps of leaf area density information become available, the need for the asymmetric Gaussian function may be reduced for estimation of the canopy-air flux.

## 5. Conclusions

Flux parameterization in the atmospheric surface layer is one of the most used methods in numerical weather prediction models because of its ease of use and effectiveness in the quantification of turbulent exchange processes between the Earth's surface and the lower atmosphere. However, the classical flux-

gradient relationships derived from the surface layer similarity theory have been known for a long time to be not valid in the so-called *roughness sublayer*, the layer just above plant canopies (Cellier & Brunet, 1992). Noticeable discrepancies have been reported by many authors between flux values derived from the surface layer similarity theory and those measured by EC technique. This was also found by us over forests when using a  $kB^{-1}$  scheme in MOST. The bulk transfer equation based on the MOST provides a relatively simple way to parameterize land-atmosphere heat transfer. However, this approach requires an estimate of roughness length and  $kB^{-1}$ . Different approximations of roughness length can cause considerable changes in the estimation of turbulent fluxes at the surface. Usually, the surface roughness length is given a fixed value in numerical models but is widely known to be varying in space and time. Many numerical weather prediction models have substantial biases in the radiative surface temperature (Chen et al., 2017), due to biases in the choice of  $kB^{-1}$ . A previous  $kB^{-1}$  model has been enhanced in this study to make it suitable for high and low canopies, allowing the use of the aerodynamic method over different canopies. This  $kB^{-1}$  parameterization model was driven by a time series of meteorological observation data at point scales, and its performance has been evaluated by comparisons between its simulated sensible heat fluxes and observed ones at 28 flux stations. The measurements were performed over seven typical land-cover types that cover the major land areas. The results show that the Su02 and Chen13 formulation of  $kB^{-1}$  (used in the SEBS model) tends to produce underestimates for  $H$  over forest canopy covers. Using sensitivity analyses, the most critical parameters (foliage drag coefficient and heat transfer coefficient of the leaf) for  $kB^{-1}$  estimation have been identified. The model structure is revised in this study from one foliage layer concept in SEBS to a vertical foliage layers model. The wind speed profile extinction coefficient within the canopy proposed by Massman (1997) has been used to rebuild the model as a column canopy-air turbulent transfer model. The new model was found to be more robust over bare soil, short canopy, and tall canopies.

As Physick and Garratt (1995) pointed out that there are two methods that solve the presence of high roughness over forest covers in the land-air turbulent flux calculation. The first method parameterizes the mean flow and turbulent exchange fluxes within the forest. The second approach is to treat the forest as a very rough surface, which takes into account the effect of forest high roughness by using subroughness length stability calibration. This paper used both methods to solve the underestimation problem in sensible heat flux simulation and reported that the first method is more accurate.

This paper has shown that a more physical expression of important parameters, such as foliage drag coefficient, heat transfer coefficient of the leaf, based on process studies, may significantly improve the model simulation. A quick solution to solve the underestimation of  $H$  can be the optimization of the values for parameters  $C_b$ ,  $C_d$ , and  $C_1$  in respect of canopy classification. However, a universal representation of the physical process and the parameters would be preferable, because the universal physical process representation is closer to reality. Another possible solution could be to use a macroscopic relation between the turbulent Prandtl number and atmospheric stability (Li et al., 2015), which might give an accurate  $H$  estimation. This study also found that the model overestimates  $H$  during stable conditions at nighttime; this might need further investigation.

Equation (11) is a simple description of the combined effects of the canopy and soil boundary layer on  $kB^{-1}$ , which uses the canopy fraction as a weighting factor for canopy and the soil boundary layer resistance in the full LNF model. The final flux calculation method uses the one source method, and this study has demonstrated that revisions to canopy effects on  $kB^{-1}$  could improve the one source simulation of canopy-air turbulent heat transfer.

The new updated scheme of turbulent heat flux parameterization method will be useful for land-surface interaction simulations in weather and climate models. This work advances the model proposed by Su02 and Chen13 to be applicable for typical land covers of the globe and helps us to analyze the possibility and suitability to generate surface heat flux maps over global land areas by remote sensing techniques, which has been the subject of the study by the Energy and Water Cycle Study (NEWS) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Integrated Land Ecosystem-Atmosphere Process study (iLEAPS), the EU Water and Global Change (WATCH), the Water Cycle Multimission Observation Strategy (WACMOS) by the European Space Agency (ESA), and the LandFlux-EVAL initiative of the Global Energy and Water Cycle Experiment (GEWEX).

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