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Impacts of Ammonia-Aerosol-Climate Feedbacks on Food Security and Air Quality

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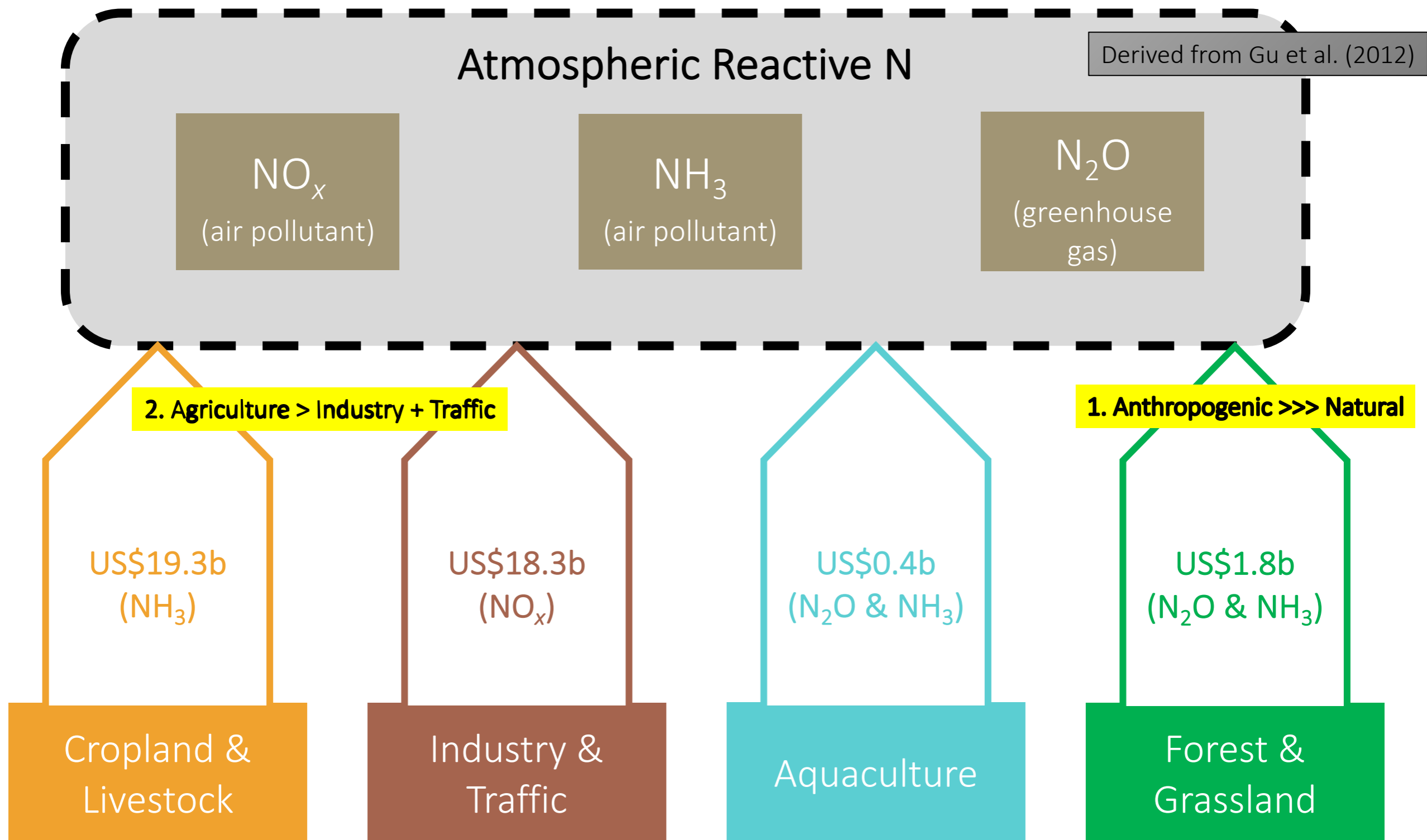
Amos Tai (The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Maria Val Martin (University of Sheffield)

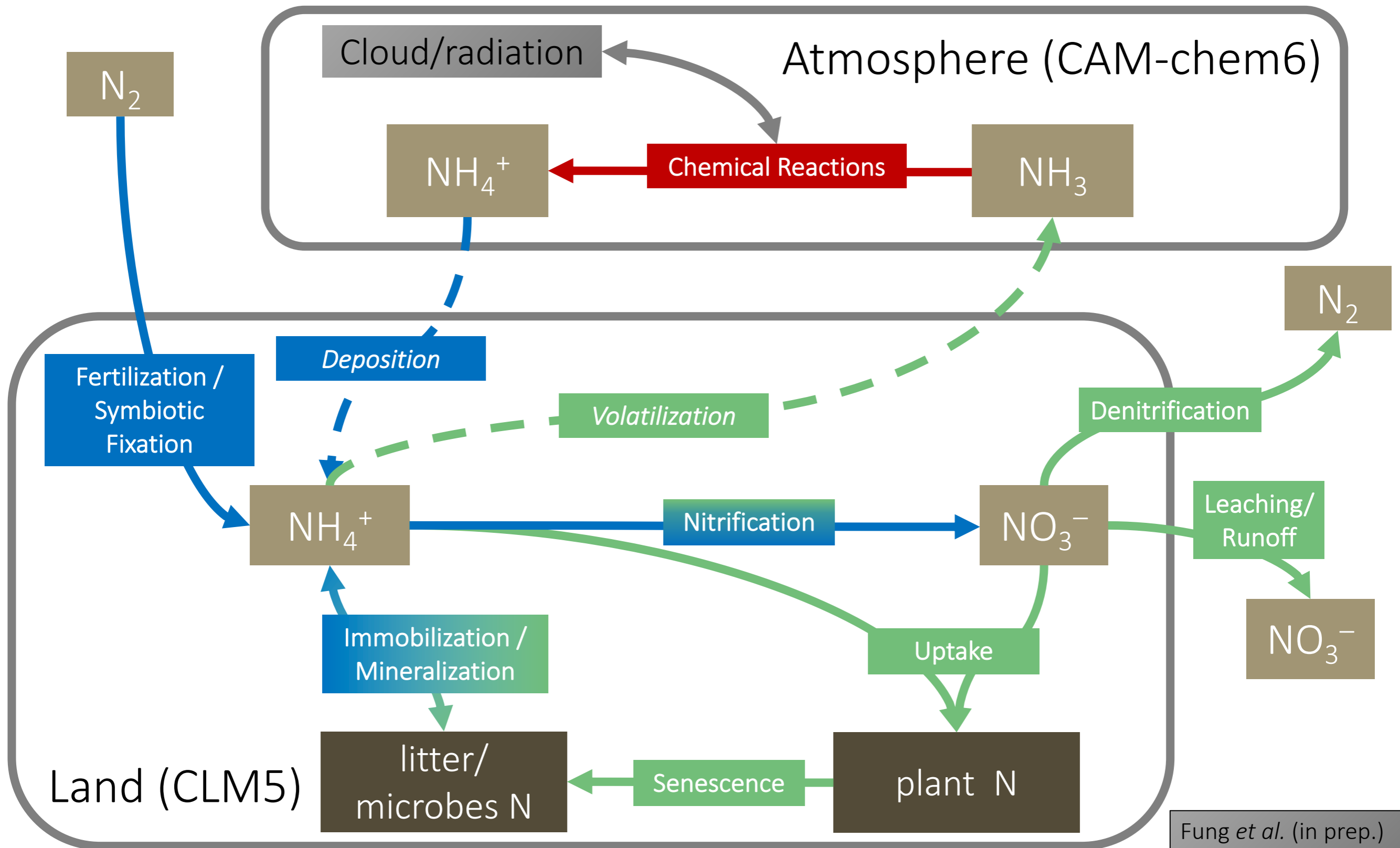
CESM LMWG Meeting, March 4th, 2020

Agricultural NH_3 is equally harmful as reactive N from factories and vehicles

Health Damage Costs of Reactive N across China in 2008



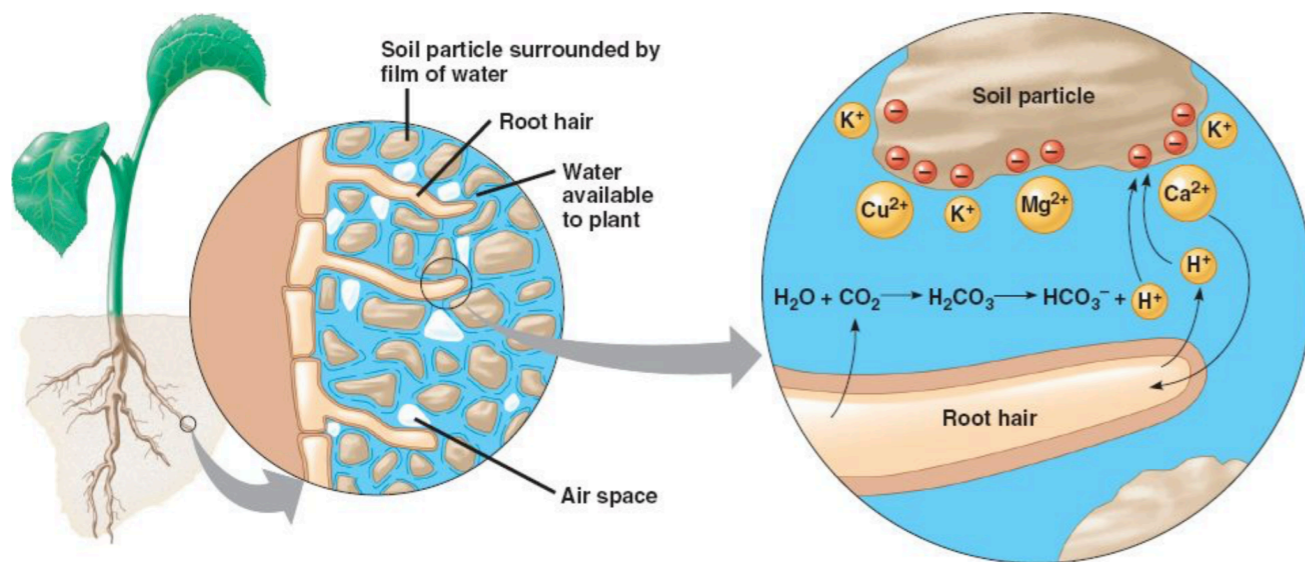
The current N cycle in CESM2 and the missing bidirectional exchange of NH_3 & NH_4^+



We implement into CLM the “multi-step” NH_3 volatilization scheme from DNDC (Li *et al.*, 2012)

$$\left(\frac{d[\text{NH}_3(\text{g})]}{dt}\right)_{\text{from soil}} \approx [\text{NH}_4^+(\text{soil})](1 - f_{\text{adsorption}})f_{\text{dissociation}}f_{\text{vaporization}} \left(\frac{1}{\Delta t}\right)$$

Campbell et al. (2008)



Dissociation of free-flowing NH_4^+ :



rate constant of dissociation

soil temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)

$$f_{\text{dissociation}} = \frac{K_w}{[\text{H}^+]K_a}$$

$$K_a = (1.4 + (0.01)T_{\text{soil}}) \times 10^{-5} \text{ (mol. L}^{-1}\text{)}$$

$$K_w = 10^{0.09 + (0.04)T_{\text{soil}}} \times 10^{-15} \text{ (mol.}^2\text{ L}^{-2}\text{)}$$

$$[\text{H}^+] = 10^{-\text{pH}} \text{ (mol. L}^{-1}\text{)}$$

$$\text{pH} = 6.8$$

rate constant of hydrolysis

more about this assumption later

Aqueous NH_4^+ adsorbing on negative soil surface:

$$f_{\text{adsorption}} = 0.99(7.27f_{\text{clay}}^3 - 11.22f_{\text{clay}}^2 + 5.72f_{\text{clay}} + 0.03)$$

clay fraction

Fraction of $\text{NH}_3(\text{aq})$ to vaporize:

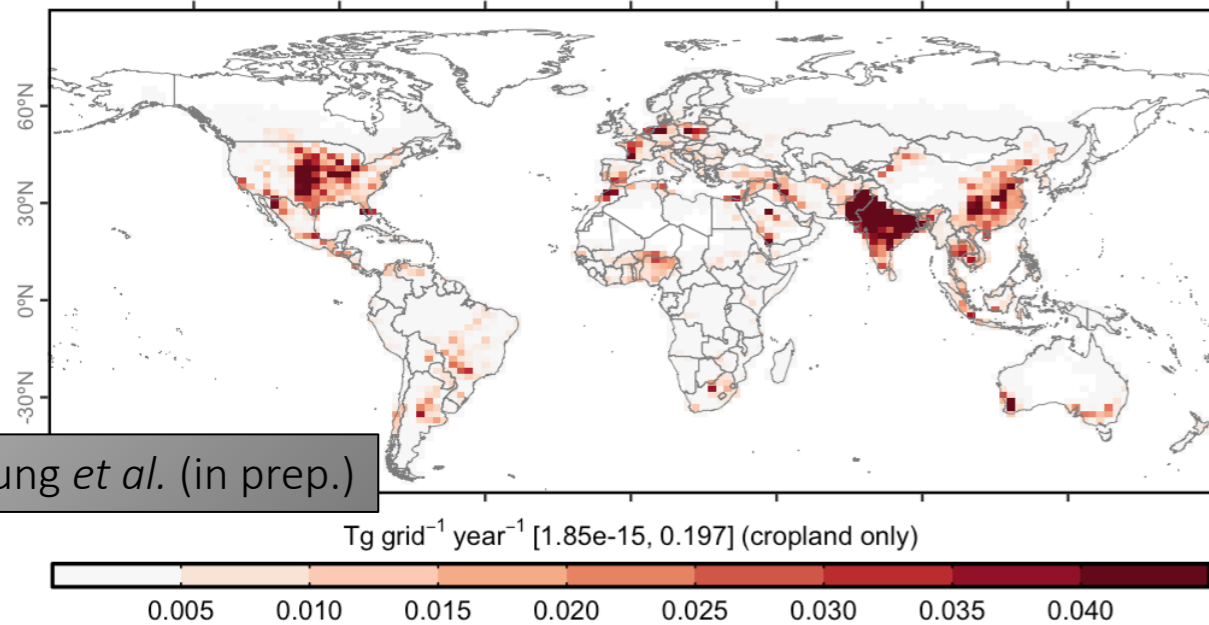
soil layer depth (m)

$$f_{\text{vaporization}} = \left(\frac{1.5s}{1+s}\right) \left(\frac{T_{\text{soil}}}{50+T_{\text{soil}}}\right) \left(\frac{l_{\text{max}} - l}{l_{\text{max}}}\right)$$

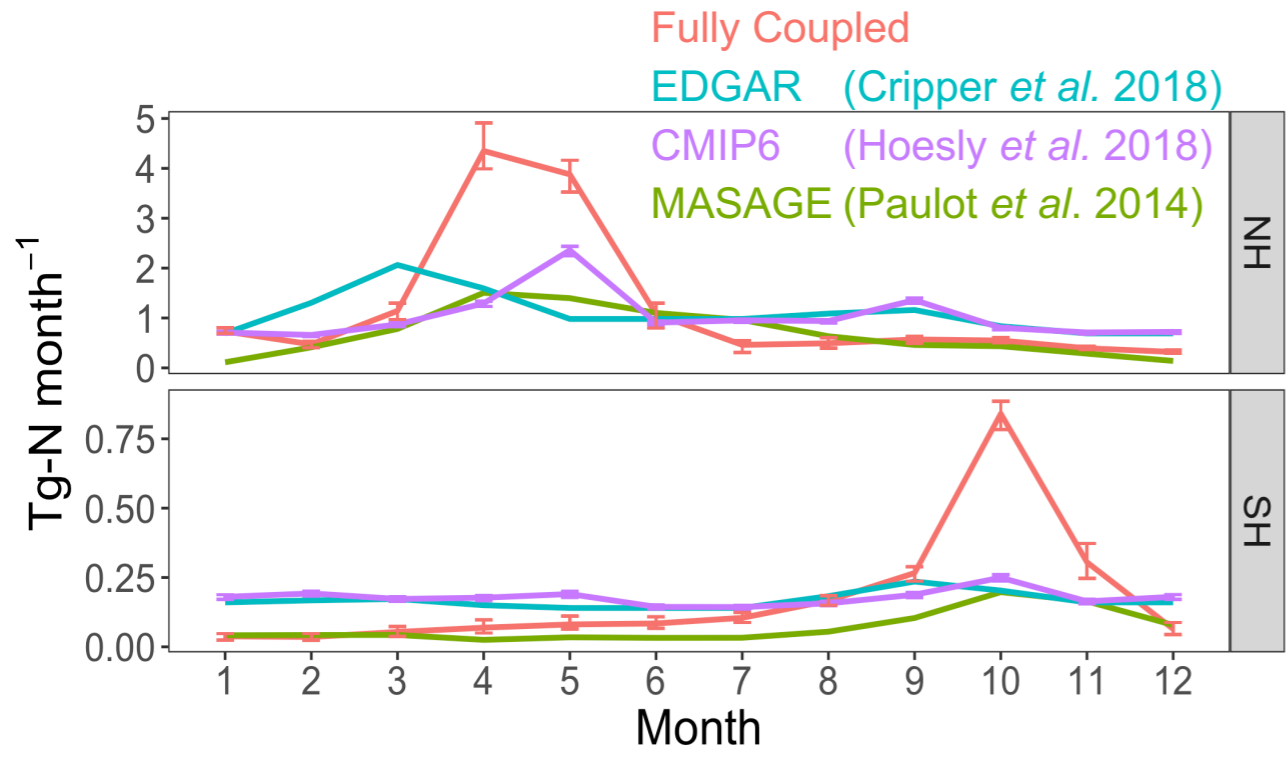
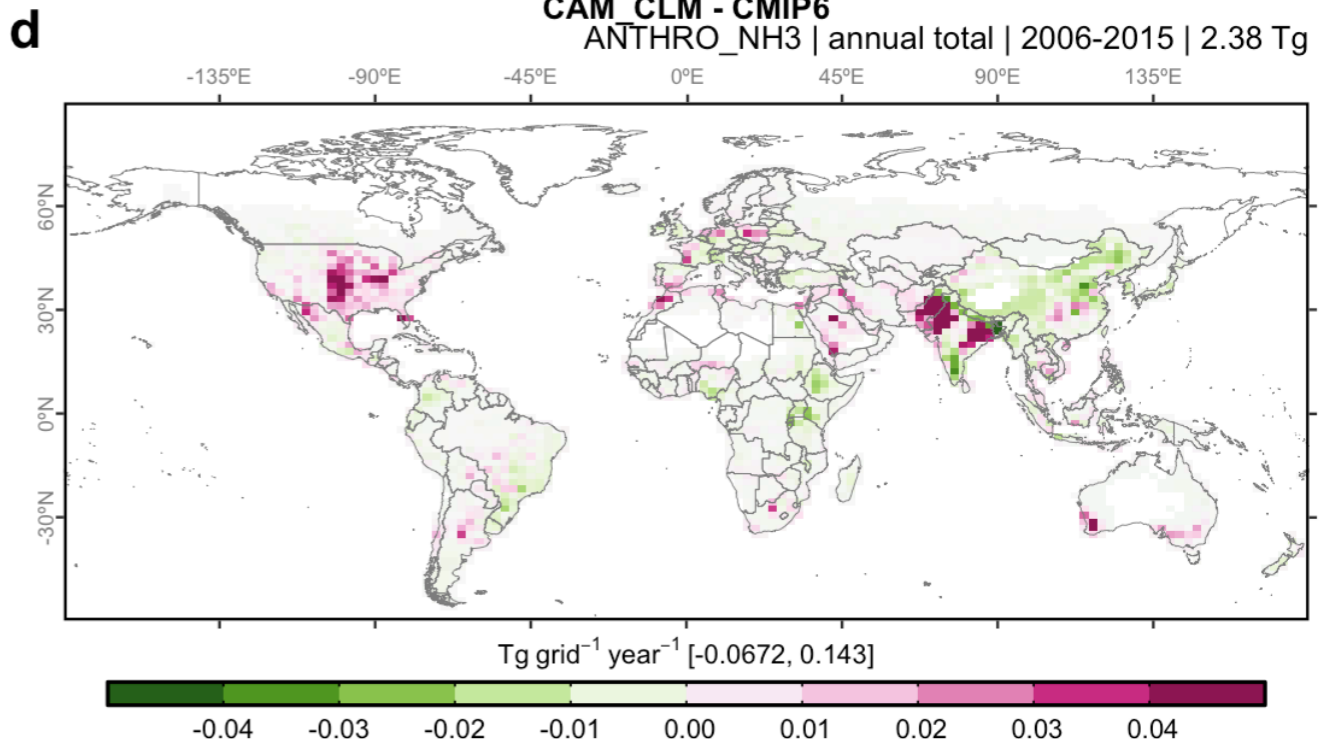
wind speed (m s^{-1})

Our cropland NH₃ emission agrees reasonably well with inventories around hotspots

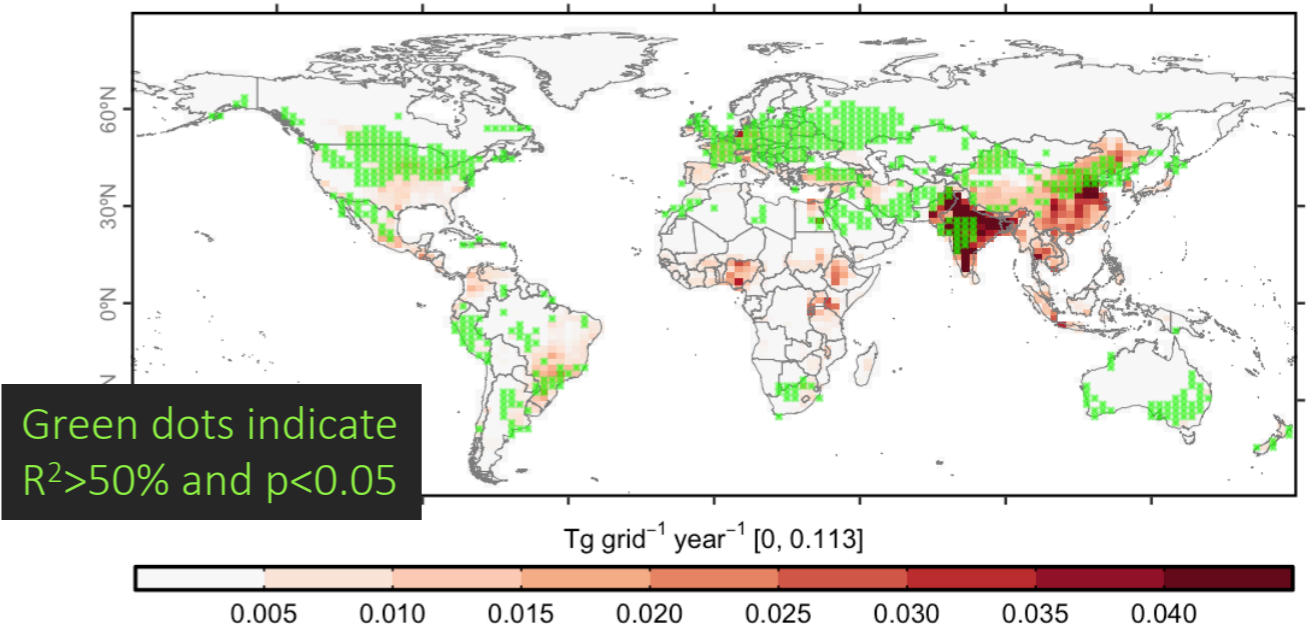
Fully Coupled: NH₃ Emission due to Fertilizers
(Global Total = 16.6 Tg-N year⁻¹)



Fung *et al.* (in prep.)



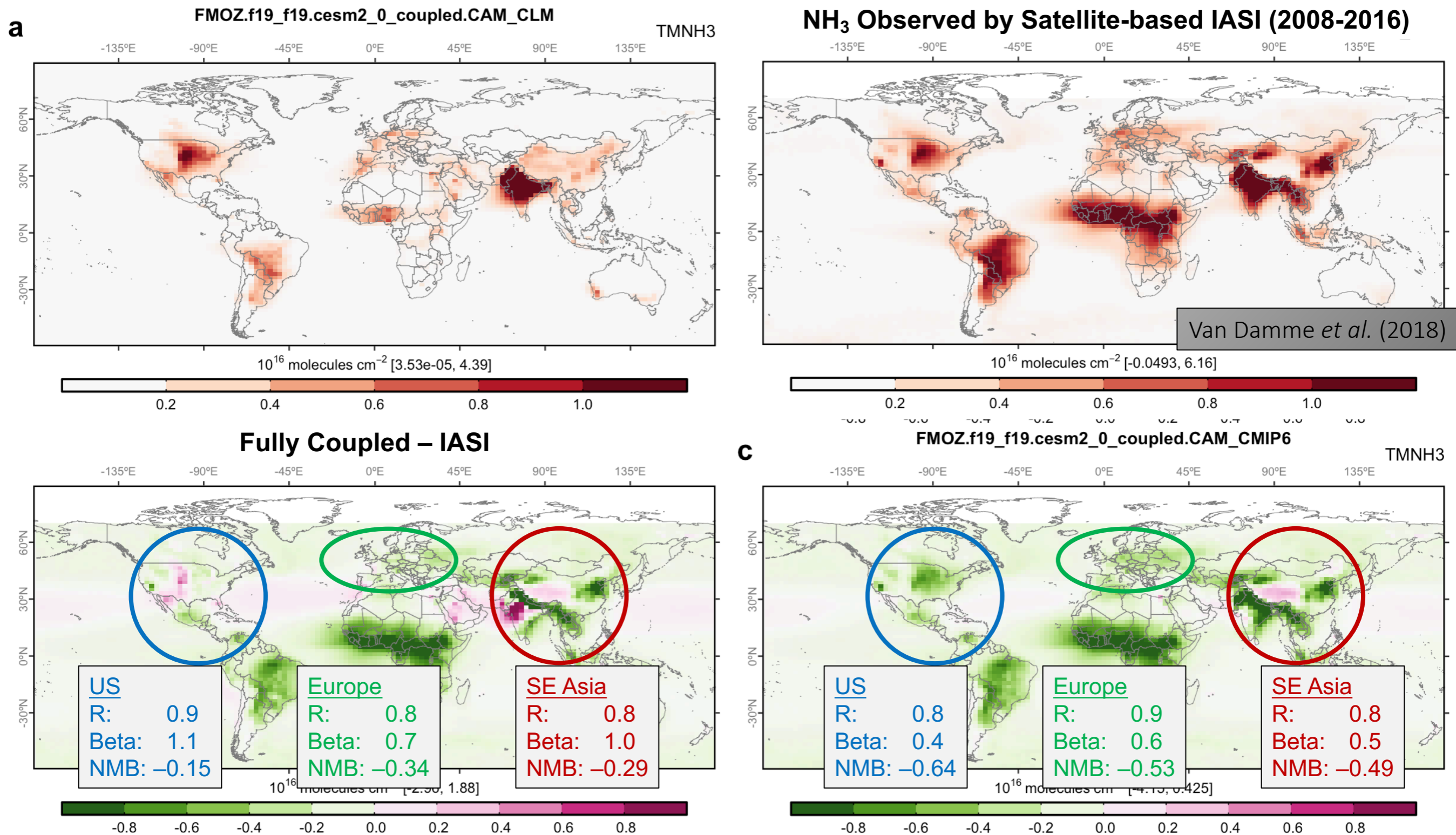
Grid-by-grid Correlation of Monthly Emission Rates (Fully Coupled vs CMIP6)



Green dots indicate R²>50% and p<0.05

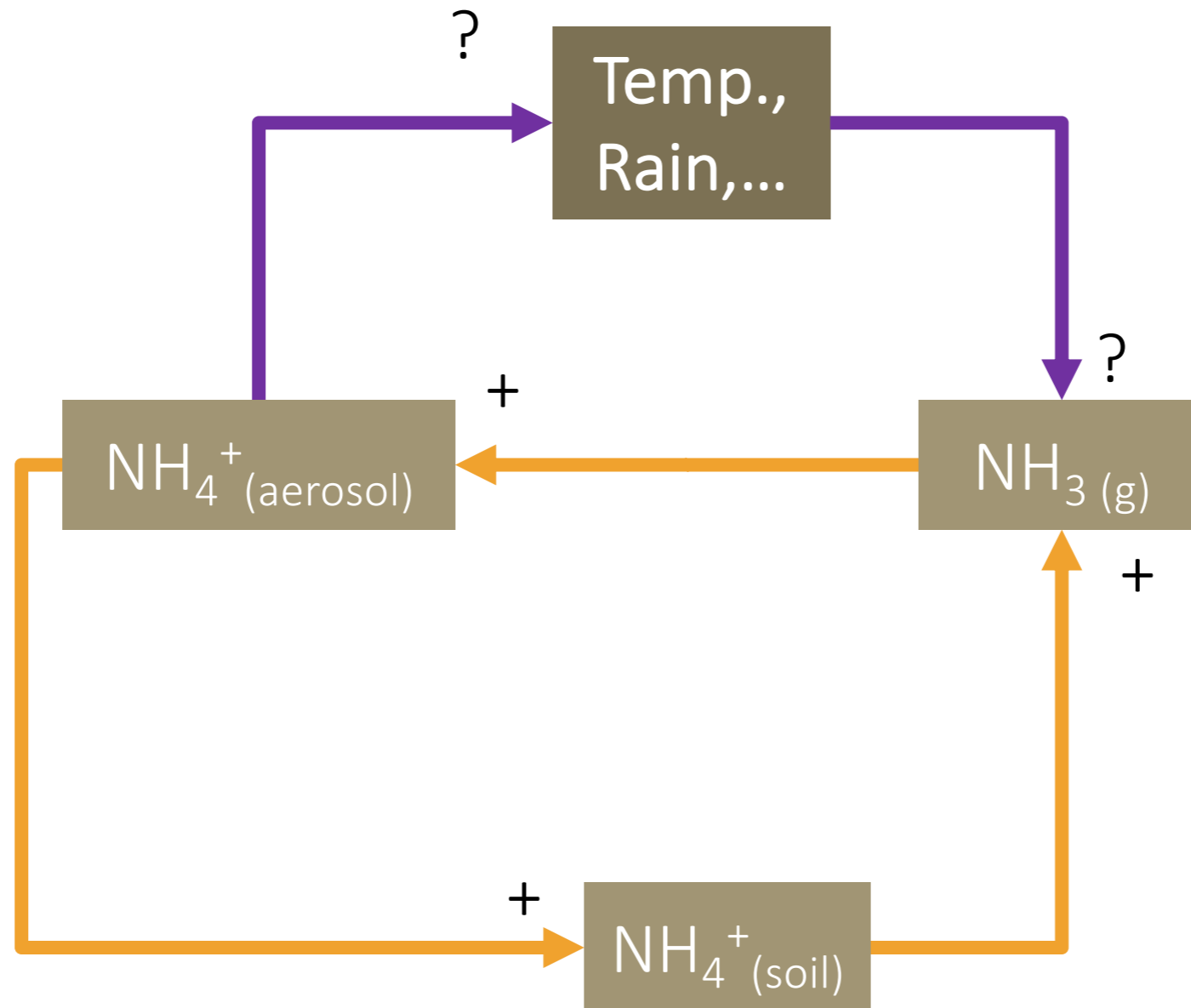
Colormaps are saturated at respective values.

Atmospheric NH_3 is less biased comparing to observations than default CESM2

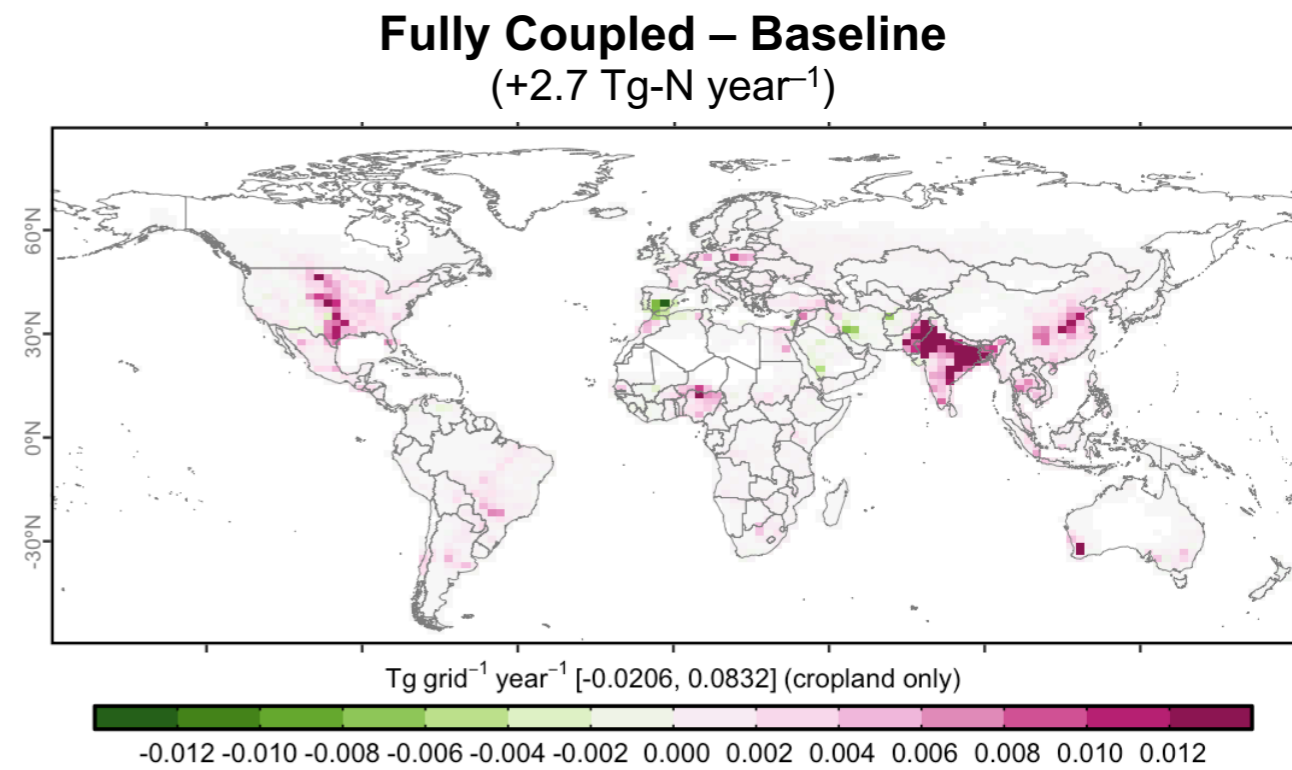
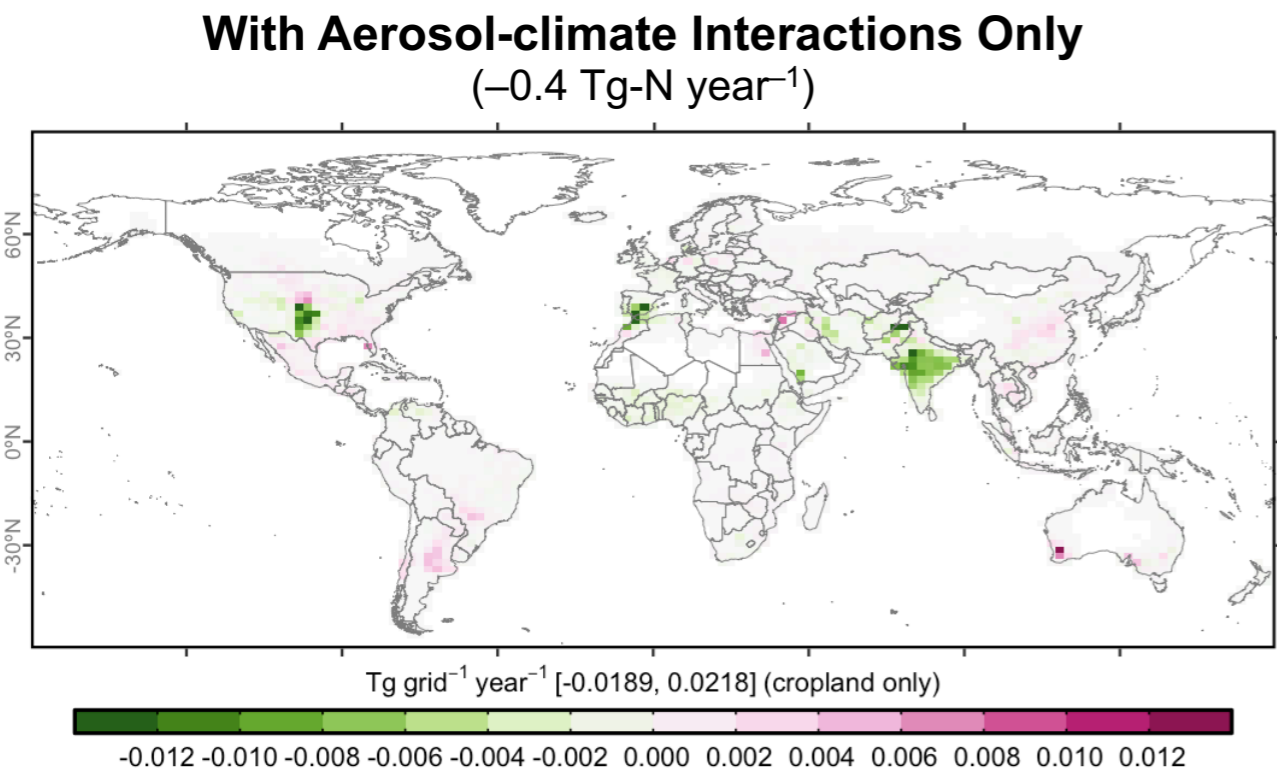
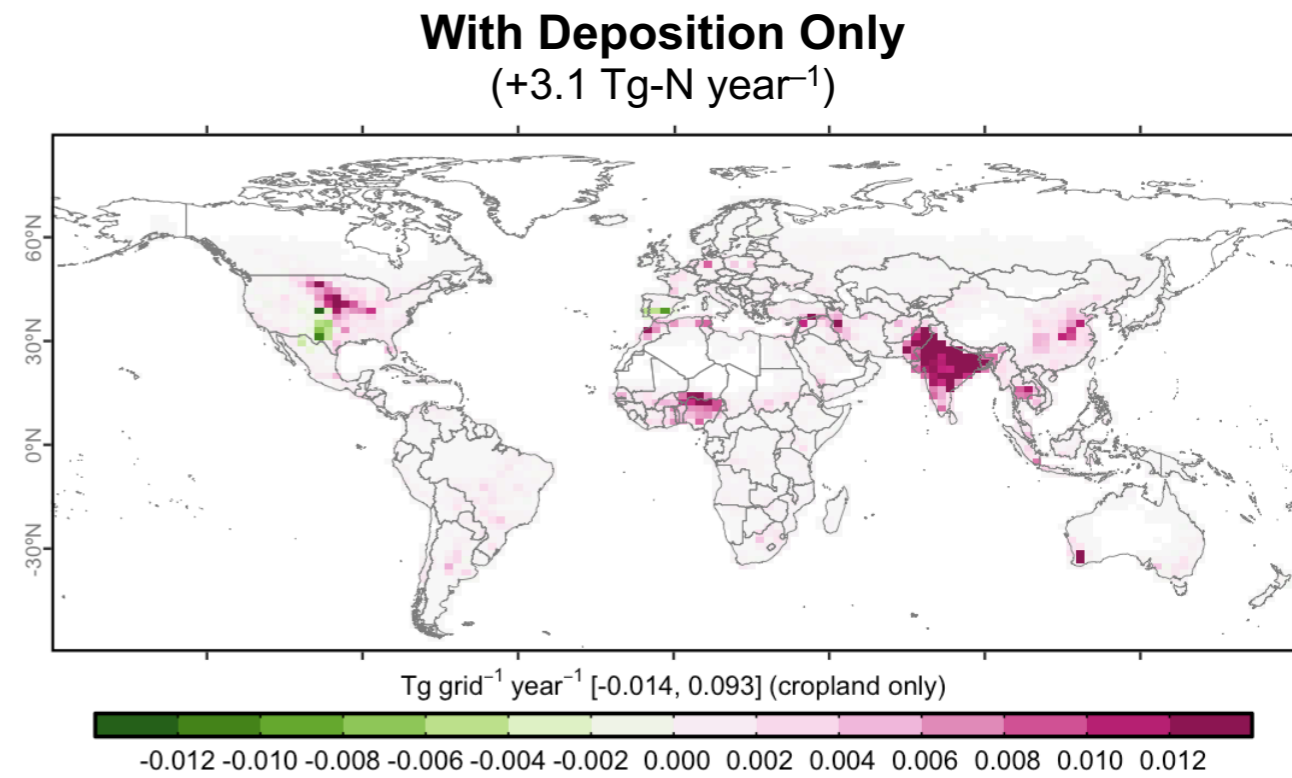
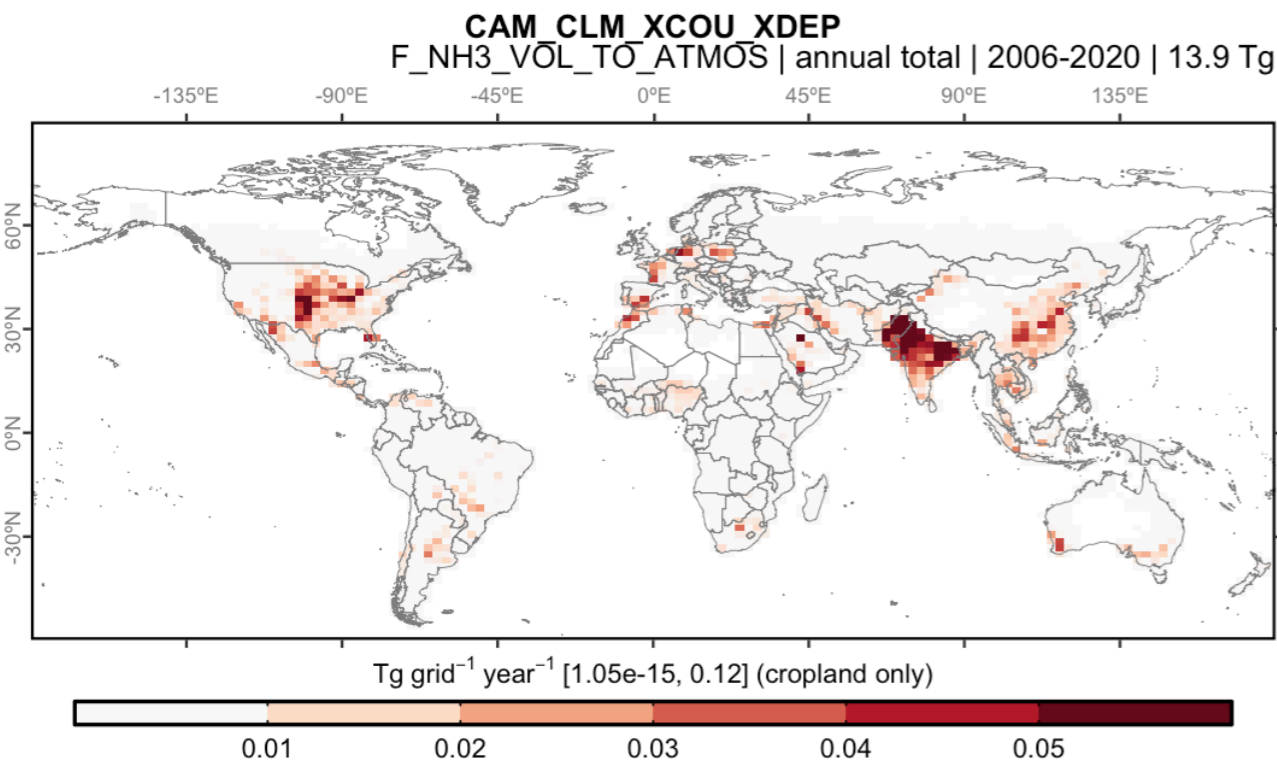


Colormaps are saturated at respective values.

Experiment 1: Feedbacks between NH_3 , aerosol, and climate

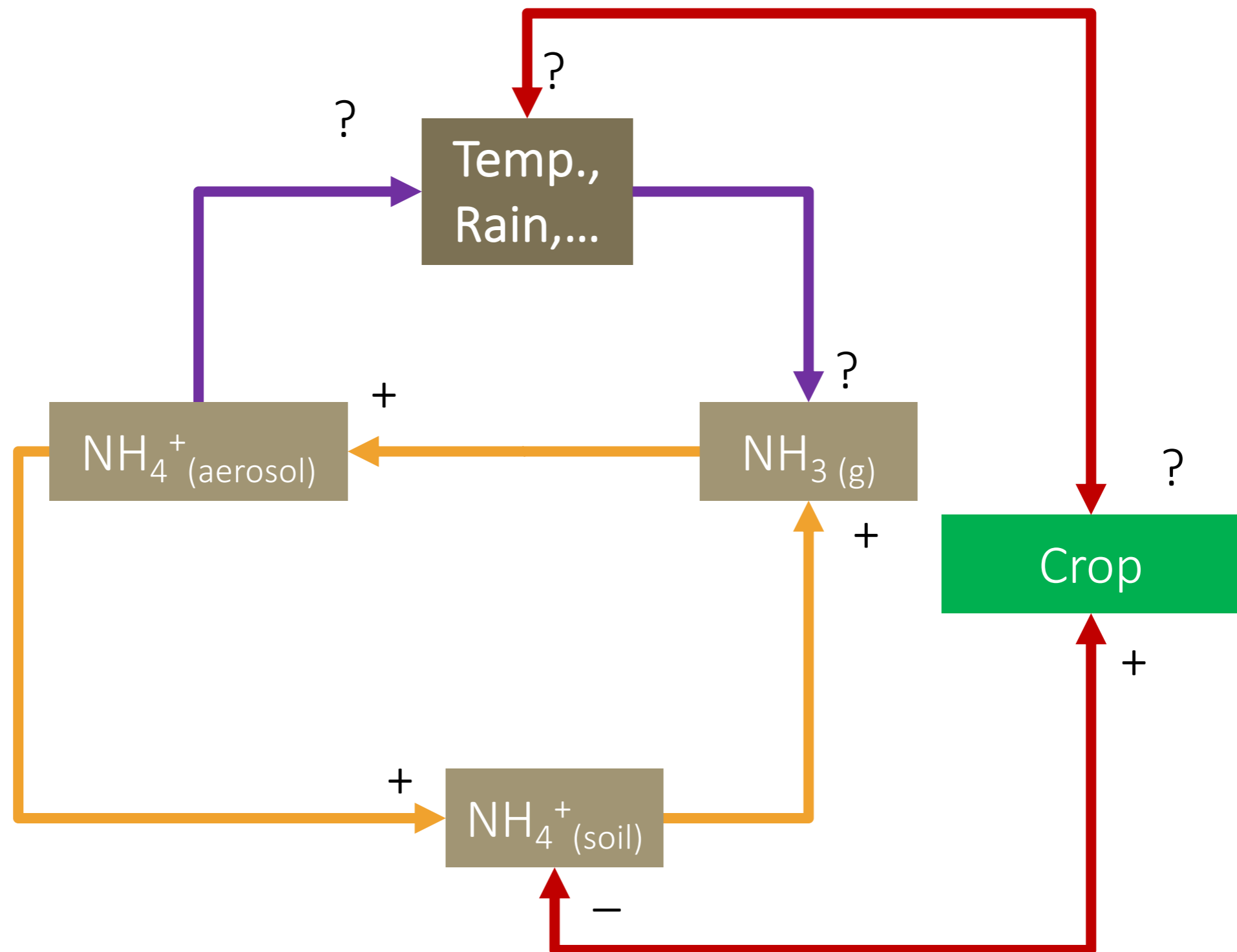


Cropland NH₃ emission raised by N deposition, but suppressed by aerosol-climate interactions



Colormaps are saturated at respective values.

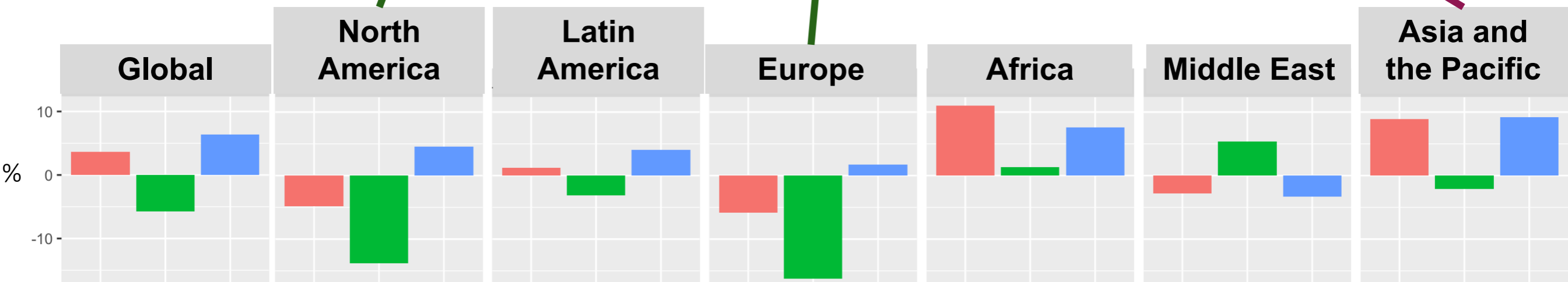
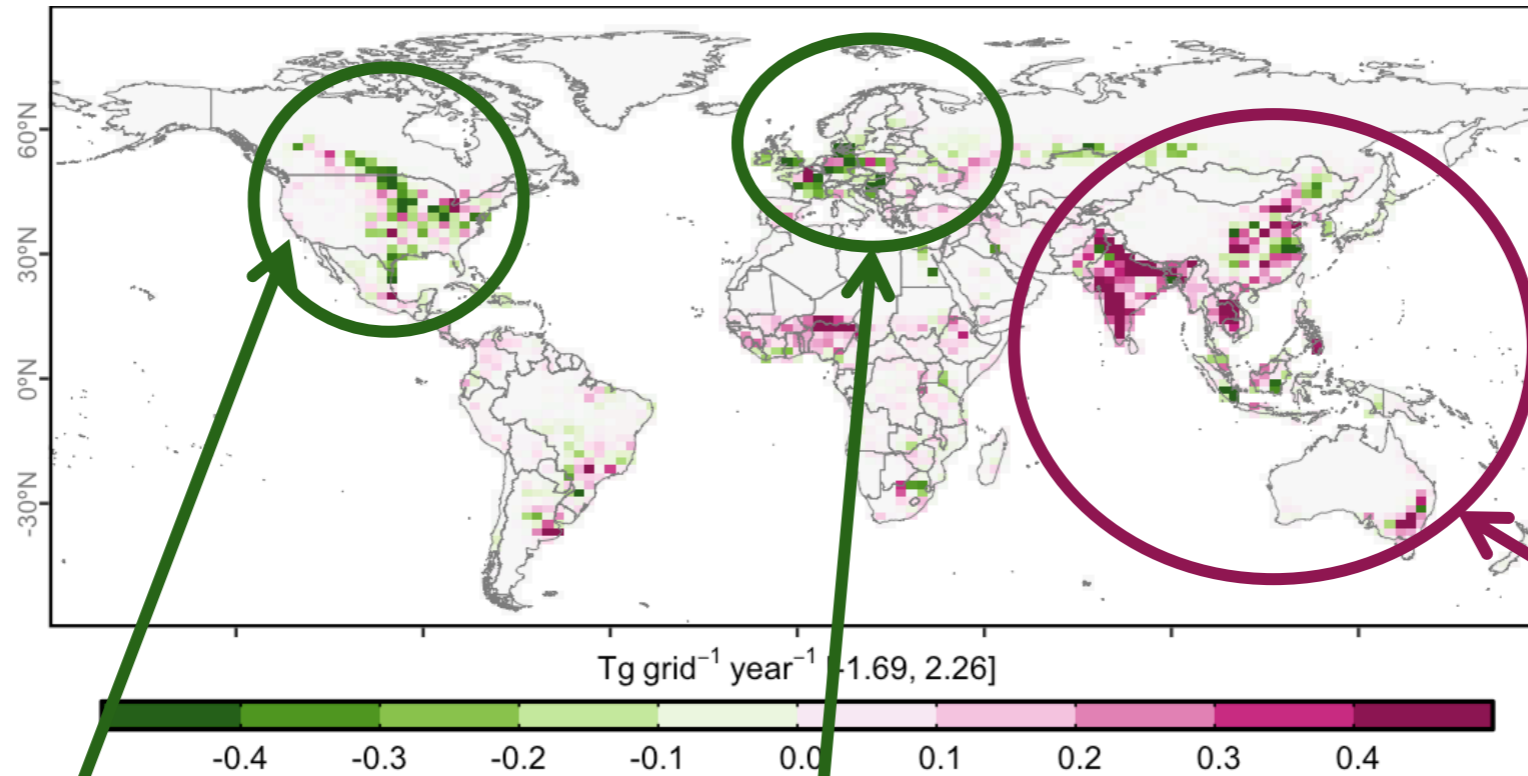
Experiment 2: Impacts of the feedbacks on crop production



Diverging effects on grain production: ups in Asia, downs in the US and Europe

Fully Coupled – Baseline: Grain Production

(Global Total = +47 Mt-C year⁻¹ / +3.5 %)



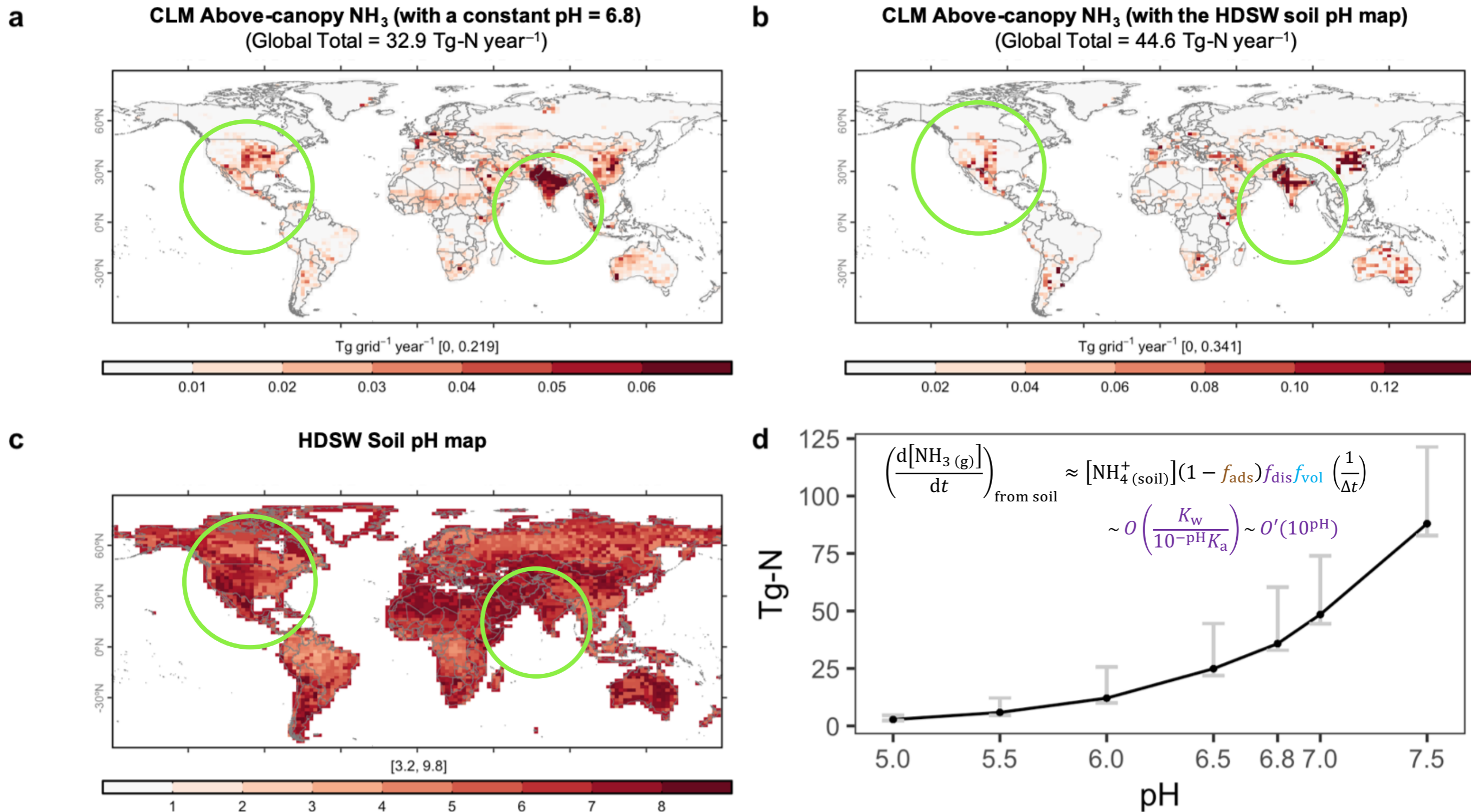
Grain-C production relative to the baseline, annual total (%)

Fully Coupled

Aerosol-climate
Interactions Only

Deposition
Only

Uncertainty: NH_3 emission is highly sensitive to soil pH



Uncertainty: Canopy capture process of emitted NH_3

$$\left(\frac{d[\text{NH}_3(\text{g})]}{dt}\right)_{\text{thru. canopy}} = \left(\frac{d[\text{NH}_3(\text{g})]}{dt}\right)_{\text{from soil}} (1 - f_{\text{capturing}})$$

Derived from DNDC (Li *et al.*, 2012) and CMAQ (Pleim *et al.*, 2013), fraction of NH_3 captured by canopy is estimated as:

Effect of canopy height; $b = 14 \text{ m}^{-1}$ here

$$f_{\text{capturing}} = b(h_{\text{top}} - h_{\text{bot}}) \times$$

Snow-free
one-sided
leaf area
index (LAI)

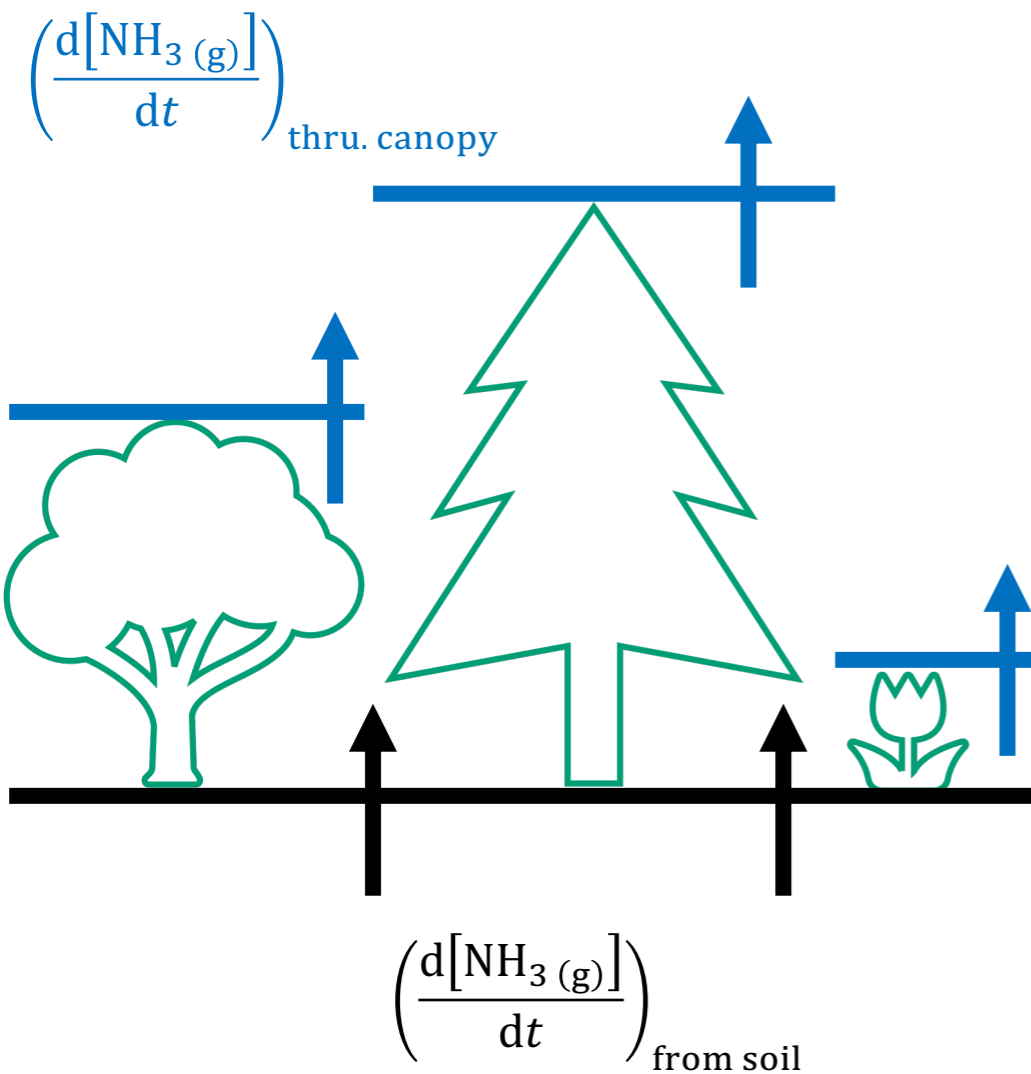
$$\text{TLAI} \times \frac{1}{v_{\text{fric}}} \times$$

friction velocity
(m s^{-1})

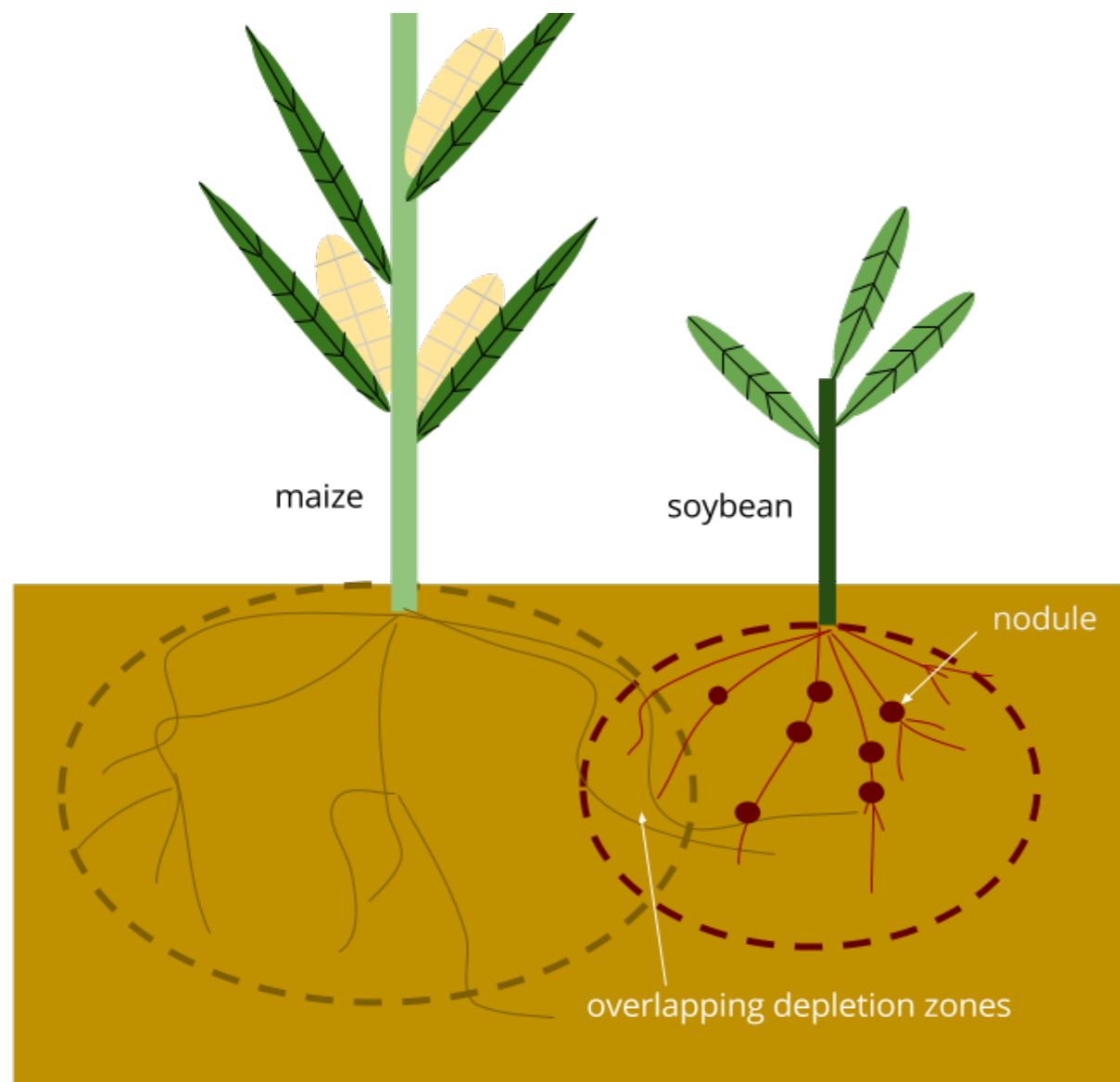
$$\text{RH}_{\text{canopy}} \times v_{\text{NH}_3}$$

Relative
humidity
within
canopy

Deposition
velocity of
 NH_3 on leaves
(0.05 m s^{-1}
here)



On-going: modeling sustainable farming alternatives, such as intercropping (already implemented into CLM4.5)



Fung et al. (in prep.)

1. Assuming surface area of a crop's root is proportional to its mass, a crop's competition factor (CF) is then defined as:

$$CF_{\text{crop}} = \frac{\text{total root surface area a crop}}{\text{total root surface area of both crops}}$$

$$\approx \frac{\text{mass}_{\text{root,crop}} \cdot \text{weighting}_{\text{crop}}}{\sum_{\text{system}} \text{mass}_{\text{root,crop}} \cdot \text{weighting}_{\text{crop}}}$$

2. The amount of soil N a crop can take up is co-limited by its demand and accessible soil N:

$$N_{\text{uptake,crop}} = \min \left(N_{\text{demand,crop}}, CF_{\text{crop}} \cdot \sum_{\text{system}} N_{\text{deployed,crop}} \right)$$

Thank you!

Please visit <https://kamingfung.wordpress.com> for more.
*Special thanks to the NCAR LMWG Travel Support,
and other supports from Colette Heald's Group*

Summary

- **Coupled NH_3 emission and NH_4^+ deposition** between CLM5 and CAM-chem6
 - Cropland NH_3 emission agrees well with CMIP6 inventory
 - Modeled atmospheric NH_3 is less biased than the default simulation when comparing with IASI NH_3 observations
- Feedbacks of N deposition and aerosol-climate interaction
 - **NH_3 emission** raised by N deposition (+22%) but suppressed by aerosol-climate interactions (−3%)
 - **Grain production** is lower in North America & Europe (−5%) likely due to dryer & warmer regional climate, but higher in Asia and Africa primarily because of N enrichment by deposition (+10%)
- Next steps:
 - **Dynamic soil pH**
 - Finetuning the **canopy capture** scheme
 - Investigate whether NH_3 -aerosol-climate feedbacks would hinder sustainable farming under future scenarios and climate conditions