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Sun-induced chlorophyll fluorescence is more strongly related to absorbed photosynthetically active radiation than gross primary productivity in a rice paddy

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서울대학교 대학원
협동과정 농림기상학
Kaige Yang
Sun-induced chlorophyll fluorescence is more strongly related to absorbed photosynthetically active radiation than gross primary productivity in a rice paddy

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF
PROFESSOR YOUNGYREL RYU

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Chair

_________________________ (Seal)
Prof. Hyunseok Kim

Vice Chair

_________________________ (Seal)
Prof. Youngyrel Ryu

Examiner

_________________________ (Seal)
Prof. Kwangsoo Kim
Abstract

Sun-induced chlorophyll fluorescence (SiF) is increasingly used as a proxy for vegetation canopy photosynthesis. While ground-based, airborne, and satellite observations have demonstrated a strong linear relationship between SiF and gross primary production (GPP) at seasonal scales, their relationships at high temporal resolution across diurnal to seasonal scales remain unclear. In this study, far-red canopy SiF, GPP, and absorbed photosynthetically active radiation (APAR) were continuously monitored using automated spectral systems and an eddy flux tower over an entire growing season in a rice paddy. At half-hourly scale, strong linear relationships between SiF and GPP ($R^2=0.76$) and APAR and GPP ($R^2=0.76$) for the whole growing season were observed. We found that relative humidity, diffuse PAR fraction, and growth stage influenced the relationships between SiF and GPP, and APAR and GPP, and incorporating those factors into multiple regression analysis led to improvements up to $R^2=0.83$ and $R^2=0.88$, respectively. Relationships between $\text{LUE}_p (=\text{GPP/APAR})$ and $\text{LUE}_f (=\text{SiF/APAR})$ were inconsistent at half-hourly and weak at daily resolutions ($R^2=0.24$). Both at diurnal and seasonal time scales with half-hourly resolution, we found considerably stronger linear relationships between SiF and APAR than between either SiF and GPP or APAR and GPP. Overall, our results indicate that regardless of temporal resolution and time scale, canopy SiF in the rice paddy is above all a very good proxy for APAR and that therefore SiF-based GPP estimation needs to take into account relevant environmental information to model $\text{LUE}_p$. These findings can help develop mechanistic links between canopy SiF and GPP across multiple temporal scales.

**Keyword**: Sun-induced chlorophyll fluorescence (SiF); gross primary production (GPP); absorbed photosynthetically active radiation (APAR); light use efficiency ($\text{LUE}_f$); fluorescence yield ($\text{LUE}_p$)

**Student Number**: 2016-24596
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1. Introduction

1.1. Study Background

Measuring sun-induced chlorophyll fluorescence (SiF) using remote sensing platforms has opened up new opportunities to quantify the photosynthetic activity of terrestrial ecosystems (Christian et al. 2011; Porcar-Castell et al. 2014). SiF is emitted from the photosynthetic machinery in the spectral range of about 650 to 800 nm, with two peaks in the red and far-red spectral regions (Buschmann et al. 2000; Meroni et al. 2009). It is driven by absorbed photosynthetically active radiation (APAR), and shares the same excitation energy with photochemistry and non-photochemical quenching (NPQ) (Baker 2008). Therefore, the magnitude of SiF is not only closely related to the amount of APAR but also to the actual light use efficiency of photosynthesis (LUE$_p$), which are two crucial factors in remote sensing-based estimations of gross primary production (GPP) (Jiang and Ryu 2016; Monteith 1972; Ryu et al. 2011; Sellers 1985).

Recently, strong empirical linear relationships between canopy SiF and GPP have been widely reported at seasonal scales. These studies include retrievals from satellite (Christian et al. 2011; Guanter et al. 2012; Guanter et al. 2014; Joiner et al. 2014; Verma et al. 2017; Wagle et al. 2016; Zhang et al. 2016a), airborne (Zarco-Tejada et al. 2013a; Zarco-Tejada et al. 2013b), and ground-(Zhang et al. 2016a)based measurements (Rossini et al. 2010; Yang et al. 2017; Yang et al. 2015). Furthermore, as the revisit frequencies of satellite SiF observation increase, studies on short time scales are needed to verify results from satellite observations. The Tropospheric Emissions: Monitoring of Pollution geostationary mission, for instance, will be able to provide hourly SiF observations from space (Zoogman et al. 2017). In this case, the relationship between SiF and GPP on a diurnal time scale actually matters.
When relating canopy SiF to GPP on short temporal scales (e.g., sub-daily), however, their relationships remain unclear. First, studies on short time scales found weaker empirical linear relationships between SiF and GPP compared with seasonal scales (Cheng et al. 2013; Goulas et al. 2017; Liu et al. 2017). Cheng et al. (2013), for instance, compared GPP estimates from flux tower records with SiF retrievals from ground-based spectral measurements over four growing seasons. They found that when linking half-hourly SiF with GPP using linear regression, values of the coefficient of determination ($R^2$) were much lower ($R^2 \leq 0.3$) compared with values found in seasonal scale studies. Second, both model simulations (van der Tol et al. 2014; Zhang et al. 2016b) and ground based (Zhang et al. 2016b) as well as airborne measurements (Damm et al. 2015; Zarco-Tejada et al. 2016) have demonstrated that the relationship between SiF and GPP can be non-linear on short temporal scales. Zarco-Tejada et al. (2016), for example, assessed the relationships between SiF from airborne observations and field-measured leaf CO$_2$ assimilation over two years in a citrus crop field. They found statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) relationships between SiF and leaf carbon assimilation on a diurnal scale using second order polynomial regressions at different phenological stages throughout the season.

Observed relationships between SiF and GPP can be explained with the formulation based on the concept of light use efficiency (Monteith 1972):

$$\text{GPP} = \text{APAR} \times \text{LUE}_p$$  \hspace{1cm} (1)

where LUE$_p$ is the light use efficiency of photosynthesis, which represents the efficiency of energy conversion for gross CO$_2$ assimilation. Similarly, SiF can be expressed as:

$$\text{SiF} = \text{APAR} \times \text{LUE}_f$$  \hspace{1cm} (2)
where LUE$_f$ is the effective light use efficiency of canopy fluorescence, which accounts for both the fluorescence yield and the fraction of emitted photons escaping the canopy (Damm et al. 2015).

Currently, it remains unclear to what extent the relationship between SiF and GPP is due to APAR and/or light use efficiency at different temporal scales (Yang et al. 2015).

The relative variabilities of APAR, LUE$_p$ and LUE$_f$ differ strongly at short time scales. At the diurnal time scale APAR could vary from 0 to more than 2000 μmol m$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$ for high LAI and sunny conditions and LUE$_p$ is known to vary by a factor of about four to eight at the leaf-level (van der Tol et al. 2009). On the other hand, LUE$_f$ was reported to have very conservative diurnal variation with less than a factor of two between minimum and maximum values at the leaf scale (van der Tol et al., 2014). This implies that the APAR variation is expected to strongly dominate over the LUE$_f$ variation if diurnal dynamics are included, while GPP is known to show strong saturation with high APAR (Von Caemmerer 2000). It therefore appears plausible that for sub-diurnal temporal resolution observations at the canopy scale, SiF shows a strong linear correlation to APAR and hence the relationship between SiF and GPP will closely resemble the relationship between APAR and GPP. A consequence of this is that the slope and curvature of relationships between SiF and GPP can change on short time scales and depend strongly on the environmental conditions (Damm et al. 2015; Flexas et al. 2000) as LUE$_p$ depends on APAR, temperature and relative humidity (Farquhar et al. 1980; van der Tol et al. 2016).

At the seasonal scale and subdiurnal temporal resolution, seasonal variation is superposed with diurnal variation which is expected to increase the dominant role
of APAR due to its large seasonal changes. If seasonal observations are considered at coarser temporal resolution such as the daily scale, however, the APAR variation is considerably reduced such that the LUE\(_f\) term is expected to play a more important role in explaining GPP and SiF relationships. Nevertheless, the effects of APAR and LUE\(_p\) could still be dominant. Furthermore, based on recent theoretical and modelling results by Yang and van der Tol (2018), the seasonal variation of LUE\(_f\) is expected to be dominated by the fraction of SiF escaping the canopy although the latter was assumed constant in previous studies (Guanter et al. 2014).

Previous results from both experimental (Miao et al., 2018) and combined experimental-modelling studies (Du et al., 2017) at the canopy level seem to partly confirm the strong SiF-APAR relationship at short time scales but were limited to either part of a growing season (Miao et al., 2018) or only studied the SiF – APAR relationship without including results on the SiF-GPP relationship (Du et al., 2017). In addition, Zhang et al. (2016a) found results consistent with our above reasoning on APAR dominance using the process-based SCOPE model (van der Tol et al. 2009). To the best of our knowledge, the responses of the SiF – GPP relationship to environmental variables such as relative humidity and temperature as well as phenology have not yet been studied quantitatively using continuous, long-term, high-temporal resolution observations at the canopy scale. While effects of diffuse PAR were studied to some degree in Yang et al. (2015), Goulas et al. (2017) and Miao et al. (2018), only sunny and cloudy days or high and low diffuse PAR fraction were distinguished and possible confounding effects such as reduced APAR on cloudy days were not taken into account.

1.2. **Purpose of Research**
In this study, our goal is to quantify the relationships between SiF and GPP on multiple time scales in a rice paddy. For comprehensive assessment of their relationships, we integrated a range of field observation data including canopy SiF, eddy flux measurements, canopy structure, leaf gas exchange, and meteorological variables. The main scientific questions that will be addressed in this study are: 1) is the SiF-GPP relationship indeed dominated by APAR and is this consistent on both diurnal and seasonal time scales. 2) Can we find quantitative evidence that environmental conditions and phenology significantly influence the relationship between SiF and GPP on the one hand, and LUEₚ and LUE₇ on the other hand in the rice paddy observations?
2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Study Site

Our study site was a rice paddy located in Cheorwon, Gangwon province, South Korea (38.2013°N, 127.2506°E) registered in the Korea Flux Network (KoFlux) (Figure 1). The region experiences a continental climate with hot humid summers and cold dry winters, which allows for only one growing season per year. In 2016, the mean annual temperature was 11.2 °C; the lowest temperature was -12.2 °C in January and the highest temperature was 31.0 °C in August (Korea Meteorology Administration). Annual precipitation was 1180.9 mm, of which two-thirds typically falls during the monsoon period from June to August (Korea Meteorology Administration).

In the rice paddy, the predominant species was Oryza sativa L. ssp. Japonica Odea1 and it was grown intermittently irrigated, with a water depth of about 5 cm.
Soil fertilization only occurred once along with transplantation; 12.02 g N m$^{-2}$ fertilizer was applied at a ratio of 18:7:9 (nitrogen: phosphoric acid: potassium). The entire growing season in 2016 lasted for around four months, from transplantation at the end of April [Day of Year (DOY), 120] to harvest in early September (DOY, 248) (Huang et al. 2018). The phenology of rice is commonly divided into three growth phases: vegetative (DOY 120 to 180); reproductive (DOY 180 to 220); and ripening (DOY 220 to harvest) (Maclean et al. 2013). The vegetative phase is characterized by a gradual increase in leaf emergence and plant height. The reproductive phase is characterized by culm elongation and a decline in tiller number. The ripening phase starts at flowering and ends when the grain is mature to be harvested. During the whole growing season, we visited the study site every one to two weeks, 14 times in total.

2.2. **Sun-induced Chlorophyll Fluorescence**

To continuously measure the canopy spectrum for SiF retrieval, we deployed an automated field spectroscopy system (Figure 2). The system includes as main parts a QE Pro spectrometer, two fiber optics and a 2×2 fiber optic dual switch (all components from Ocean Optics, Dunedin, FL, USA). The spectrometer covers the spectral range of 730–790 nm, with a spectral resolution of 0.17 nm, a spectral sampling interval of 0.07 nm, and a signal to noise ratio of around 1000. To avoid dark current drift, the spectrometer was housed in a National Electrical Manufacturers Association 4X enclosure, which was equipped with a thermoelectric air conditioner (400 BTU (DC); EIC Solutions, Warminster, PA, USA) and desiccant, keeping the internal temperature at 25 °C and the humidity mostly at a low level. Two fiber optics, pointing toward the zenith (sky) and nadir (rice canopy) directions, respectively, were mounted at around 5 m above the canopy and connected with the spectrometer through the fiber optic dual switch.
Both optics were equipped with cosine correctors (CC-3; Ocean Optics, Dunedin, FL, USA) to measure bi-hemispheric irradiance. While the downward field-of-view therefore also included the light-weight tower structure, we assume that its contribution to the total footprint is minimal and that the only effect is a small underestimation of retrieved SiF. Using a custom-written software based on Omni Driver development kits (Ocean Optics, Dunedin, FL, USA), we sequentially recorded upward and downward readings every 10 s from 06:00 to 18:00 (local solar time), and corrected for dark currents and CCD detector nonlinearity for each reading pair. Dark current correction was conducted using values from permanently dark detector pixels. We verified that dark current did not show clear spectral variation and the use of the dark pixels was therefore justified.

Several strategies were applied to assure high data quality. Following the standard method proposed by the spectrometer manufacturer, we conducted spectral calibrations using an HG-1 Mercury Calibration Source (Ocean Optics, Dunedin, FL, USA) before installing the system. Furthermore, radiometric calibration was conducted with an HL-2000-CAL Light Source (Ocean Optics, Dunedin, FL, USA) in the field around every one to two weeks. Next to the QE Pro spectrometer, we installed another spectrometer system (based on Jaz spectrometers; Ocean Optics, Dunedin, FL, USA) to record the sky and the canopy spectrum within the spectral range of 350–1033 nm. We double checked the reliability of QE Pro measurements by frequently comparing averaged downwelling and upwelling irradiance over 730-780 nm from QE Pro and Jaz.
We retrieved SiF values in the spectral range of 745 to 780 nm using the singular vector decomposition method (SVD) (Ganter et al. 2012; Guanter et al. 2013) (a detailed explanation is provided in the Supplementary Materials A). The fiber optic dual switch appeared to be the cause of a small spectral shift between irradiance spectra from the two fiber optics. To eliminate the influence of this spectral shift as well as artefacts due to high humidity on SiF retrieval, we used the SVD method with appropriate training data and a broad wavelength range. SiF in this study was calculated in units of irradiance based on the bi-hemispheric observation system and reported at 760 nm. We calculated $\text{LUE}_f$ in the unit of $\mu$mol photon emitted @760nm / $\mu$mol photon absorbed @400-700nm based on the quantum nature of the physical process of fluorescence emission where one absorbed photon can lead to an emitted fluorescence photon. Daily mean SiF and $\text{LUE}_f$ were calculated as average of the half hourly values from 08:00 to 18:00 local time.
2.3.  **Eddy Flux Tower**

To quantify gross primary productivity (GPP), we installed a closed-path eddy covariance (EC) system at 9 m above the ground, and processed the data based on the KoFlux data processing protocol. The EC system consists of a three-dimensional sonic anemometer (Model CSAT3, Campbell Scientific Inc., Logan, UT, USA) and a closed-path infrared gas analyzer (Model LI-7200, LI-COR Inc., Lincoln, NE, USA). During the growing season, the peaks of the footprint were located about 30 m south- and northwest of the tower location, while the 80% (50%) contribution to the footprint came from distances within 300 m (100 m) from the tower during the day according to analysis using Kljun et al. (2015)'s flux footprint prediction model. To improve the data quality by eliminating undesirable data, the collected data were examined by the quality control (QC) procedure based on the KoFlux data processing protocol (Hong et al. 2009). This procedure includes the coordinate rotation (double rotation; (Mcmillen 1988)), frequency response correction (Fratini et al. 2012; Horst and Lenschow 2009), humidity correction of sonic temperature (Van Dijk et al. 2004), steady state/developed turbulent condition test (Mauder and Foken 2011), and random sampling error estimation (Finkelstein and Sims 2001). These methods were applied using EddyPro (Version 6, LI-COR Inc.) and additional QC including storage flux calculation and spike detection (Papale et al. 2006) were conducted using the KoFlux standardized data processing program (Hong et al. 2009).

After QC, the final percentage of the data retained was 48.5% for the study period. The data gaps were mostly caused by the unsatisfactory conditions for EC measurement during the nighttime and early morning (e.g., non-steady states and unfavorable developed turbulent conditions). The
missing data were gap-filled using a marginal distribution sampling method (Reichstein et al. 2005). For nighttime CO$_2$ flux correction and its partitioning into GPP and ecosystem respiration (RE), we applied the friction velocity ($u^*$) correction method with the modified moving point test method for determining $u^*$ threshold (Kang et al. 2016; Kang et al. 2017) and extrapolated nighttime values of RE into the daytime values using the RE equation (Lloyd and Taylor 1994) with a short-term temperature sensitivity of RE from the nighttime data (Reichstein et al. 2005). The gap-filling and partitioning methods were applied for each cultivation period (i.e., before transplanting, rice growing, and after harvest) separately to prevent interference effects. Daily mean GPP was calculated as average of the half hourly values from 08:00 to 18:00 local time.

2.4. Measurements of Meteorological Variables and Absorbed PAR

Environmental data were continuously collected every half hour (Figure S3). Air temperature ($T_a$) and relative humidity (RH) were measured at the top of the tower with a commercial instrument (HMP-35, Vaisala, Helsinki, Finland). This data was also used to quantify vapor pressure deficit (VPD). We measured total photosynthetically active radiation (PAR) and diffuse PAR (PAR$_{dif}$) using a quantum sensor (PQS 1; Kipp & Zonen B.V., Delft, The Netherlands) with a custom-made rotating shadow-band. Its prototype was both described and initially tested in previous studies (Michalsky et al. 1986; Michalsky et al. 1988). The value of total PAR was cross checked using incoming shortwave radiation from a CNR4 radiometer (Kipp & Zonen B.V., Delft, The Netherlands). Cloudy days were defined as daily mean fraction of PAR$_{dif}$ larger than 50% (Yang et al. 2015).
We used three light emitting diode (LED) sensors (Ryu et al. 2010a; Ryu et al. 2014) to measure incoming PAR above the canopy, canopy reflected PAR and transmitted PAR through the canopy, respectively. We made three sets of the LED sensor system, and located each set in the footprint of the flux tower. The absorbed PAR (APAR) was then calculated as:

\[
\text{APAR} = \text{PAR}_{\text{incoming}} - \text{PAR}_{\text{reflected}} - \text{PAR}_{\text{transmitted}}
\]

We confirmed that neglecting the upwelling flux from below the canopy in Equation 3 is justified using observations from an LAI-2200 instrument (LI-COR Inc., Lincoln, NE, USA) (Figure S4). The average of APAR from three sets of the LED sensor system was used to represent the whole canopy. To remove potential measurement bias introduced by the location of LED sensors, diurnal patterns of measured APAR was adjusted and data gaps were filled with simulations from PROSAIL (Jacquemoud and Baret 1990; Jacquemoud et al. 2009; Verhoef 1984) which agreed with LAI-2200 derived fraction of APAR estimates (a detailed explanation is provided in the Supplementary Materials C). Daily environmental variables were calculated as average of the half hourly values from 08:00 to 18:00 local time.

2.5. Leaf Area Index and Maximum Carboxylation Rate

We quantified leaf area index (LAI) using a destructive approach. In each field trip, three hills of rice were randomly selected, and then all of the leaves from each hill were scanned to calculate green and yellow leaf area. A rice hill is a group of rice plants directly adjacent to each other because the seeds or seedlings were planted together (Kumar 2008). Finally, the LAI was calculated based on the total leaf area per hill and rice hill density per unit area (17.0 hills m\(^{-2}\)).
To estimate the maximum carboxylation rate ($V_{cmax}$), we measured $A/C_i$ curves using an Li-6400 XT instrument (LI-COR Inc., Lincoln, NE, USA) and fitted the Farquhar-von Caemmerer-Berry model (Farquhar et al. 1980). The same parametrization, cost function and optimization algorithm as in Dechant et al. (2017) was used for the model fitting. However, all of the four main model parameters were left unconstrained and hence fitted here and the protocol for the steps of CO$_2$ reference in the response curve measurements differed from Dechant et al. (2017). For better seasonal comparison, reported $V_{cmax}$ was adjusted to 25 °C using literature values for activation energies from Knorr (2000) and Von Caemmerer (2000). In each field campaign, more than five sunlit leaves were randomly selected and all measurements were collected before 13:00 (local time) to avoid afternoon stomatal depression.

2.6. Statistical Analysis

Both for linear regression and Pearson correlation a significance threshold of 0.05 was used. The Analysis of Covariance (ANCOVA) toolbox and the fitlm function in MATLAB (MathWorks, Inc) were used to test if the effects of environmental conditions and growth stage on regression coefficients were significant. Negative SiF and GPP data were excluded from the analyses. Besides, outliers of $LUE_p$ and $LUE_f$ (beyond $\mu \pm 3\sigma$) on each day were also excluded from the diurnal relationship analysis.
3. Results

3.1. Seasonal Variations of SiF, GPP, LUE₉ and LUEᵣ

The rice canopy showed pronounced seasonal variations in the key structural (LAI) and functional (Vcmax,25) variables (Figure 3a). Leaf Vcmax,25 first increased to 120 μmol m⁻²s⁻¹ until DOY 160 and then decreased in the reproductive and ripening phases. Total LAI (including both green, yellow and senescing leaves in the ripening phase) showed a large increase in the vegetative phase with leaf emergence, and reached its maximum value (6 m²m⁻²) around DOY 180. Subsequently, the LAI slowly decreased in the ripening phase.

Similar seasonal trajectories were observed for SiF and GPP over the whole growing season (Figure 3c). In the seasonal course, daily mean SiF varied from almost 0 to 6 mW m⁻² nm⁻¹, and daily mean GPP varied from 0 to around 30 μmol CO₂ m⁻² s⁻¹. The onset of SiF and GPP occurred on DOY 120, just after rice transplantation. In the vegetative phase, SiF and GPP showed large increases with rice canopy development until approximately DOY 180. During the reproductive phase, SiF and GPP reached their maxima and remained relatively stable except for several days when incoming PAR was low. Both SiF and GPP decreased during the ripening phase (starting approximately at DOY 220) due to leaf senescence until rice harvest. Seasonal variations in APAR explained most of the seasonal variance in SiF and GPP: we found R² = 0.83 and 0.85 for linear regressions between daily mean APAR with GPP and SiF (Figure 3b, Table 1). The relative RMSEs (RMSE / mean value, rRMSE) were 26% and 31% for GPP and SiF, respectively. The seasonal pattern of SiF revealed a strong linear relationship to that of GPP (R²
= 0.87, rRMSE = 25%); Figure 4c). Besides the overall seasonal pattern, SiF also tracked day-to-day GPP variations mostly induced by varying PAR. This can be seen for the decrease of GPP around DOY 201 to 203, for example (Figure 3b, c).

Figure 3. Seasonal variations of measured variables.
(a) Seasonal variations of field measured $V_{\text{cmax,25}}$ and LAI. Error bar indicates standard deviation of all measured samples. We added one day to DOY of LAI measurement to avoid overlapping with measurement of $V_{\text{cmax,25}}$; (b) daily mean absorbed photosynthetically active radiation (APAR); (c) daily mean gross primary productivity (GPP) and sun-induced fluorescence (SiF); (d) daily mean light use efficiency of photosynthesis ($\text{LUE}_p$) and light use efficiency of fluorescence
(LUE<sub>f</sub>). Two solid red lines indicate start (DOY 120) and end (DOY 247) of the growing season, respectively. Two dashed red lines indicate beginning of reproductive and ripening phases, respectively. Daily mean values were calculated as average of half hourly values from 08:00 to 18:00 local time.

In addition, LUE<sub>f</sub> also presented a similar seasonal pattern to LUE<sub>p</sub> (Figure 3d) and a weak positive linear relationship with LUE<sub>p</sub> (R<sup>2</sup> = 0.24, rRMSE = 27%; Table 1). Over the whole growing season, daily mean LUE<sub>p</sub> varied from 0 to around 0.05 μmol CO<sub>2</sub> μmol photon<sup>−1</sup>, and daily mean LUE<sub>f</sub> from 0 to 6×10<sup>−5</sup> μmol photon@760nm μmol<sup>−1</sup> photon@400-700nm. The overall seasonal variations of LUE<sub>p</sub> and LUE<sub>f</sub> did not show strong relationships with canopy structural variables, but there appears to be a weak correlation to LAI for the time after DOY 150. Peak values of LUE<sub>f</sub> and LUE<sub>p</sub> generally appeared on days with low PAR (Figure 3b, d).

Table 1. Fitting goodness of linear regressions between compared variables on daily mean scale.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>compared variables (X:Y)</th>
<th>R&lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>RMSE</th>
<th>rRMSE (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APAR: GPP</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>3.98 (μmolCO&lt;sub&gt;2&lt;/sub&gt; m&lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;s&lt;sup&gt;−1&lt;/sup&gt;)</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APAR: SiF</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>0.56 (mWm&lt;sup&gt;−2&lt;/sup&gt;nm&lt;sup&gt;−1&lt;/sup&gt;)</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SiF: GPP</td>
<td>0.87</td>
<td>3.58 (μmolCO&lt;sub&gt;2&lt;/sub&gt; m&lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;s&lt;sup&gt;−1&lt;/sup&gt;)</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LUE&lt;sub&gt;f&lt;/sub&gt;: LUE&lt;sub&gt;p&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
<td>0.24</td>
<td>0.0077</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.2. Relationships Between SiF and GPP for Different Environmental Conditions and Phenological Stages
A strong linear relationship was found between half hourly SiF and GPP over the whole growing season ($R^2 = 0.76$, rRMSE = 36%; Figure 4a). Considering measurements only on sunny or cloudy days showed stronger linear relationships with higher $R^2$ and lower rRMSE ($R^2 = 0.79$, rRMSE = 36% for both sunny and cloudy days; Figure 4b, c). Furthermore, compared with sunny days, the linear regression on cloudy days had a significantly steeper slope of GPP to SiF (slope = 5.89 ± 0.22 for sunny days; and slope = 6.81 ± 0.22 for cloudy days, uncertainty indicates 95% CI, Figure 4b, c). The significant differences in slopes between sunny and cloudy were also observed when forcing the linear regression to pass the origin ($R^2 = 0.77$, slope = 6.53 ± 0.14 for sunny days; and $R^2 = 0.74$, slope = 8.18 ± 0.16 for cloudy days).

Figure 4. Scatter plots and linear regressions ($y = a \times x + b$) between half hourly SiF and GPP.

(a) all illumination conditions; (b) sunny days only; and (c) cloudy days only. Linear regression lines are shown in red and regression statistics are given. $R^2$ and rRMSE represent the coefficient of determination and the relative RMSE (RMSE / mean) of fitted linear regressions, respectively. Color map represents point density.
The ratio of GPP to SiF showed a significant increasing trend with RH (ANCOVA \( p < 0.05 \), Figure 5). For a more detailed analysis, SiF and GPP data were separated according to certain ranges of \( T_a \) and RH values. In 13 out of 14 cases with available data, the linear regression fitted half hourly values of SiF and GPP well (\( p < 0.05 \); Table S2), with low uncertainty in individual slope values (Figure 5). Moreover, regressions results indicated that even within the relatively narrow ranges of \( T_a \) values, RH significantly impacted the slope between GPP and SiF (GPP: SiF in Figure 6), and the slope generally increased with higher RH values.

![Figure 5](image-url)

Figure 5. Slope of the linear regressions between half hourly SiF and GPP under different environmental conditions.

Slope of the linear regressions (\( y=ax+b \)) symbolized by GPP: SiF between half hourly SiF and GPP over different air temperature (\( T_a \)) and relative humidity (RH) values. Uncertainty indicates 95% CI.

We analyzed the effect of the growth stage on the SiF-GPP relationship and found significant effects (Figure 6). Both slopes and offsets of the linear regression
differed significantly (ANCOVA $p < 0.05$) between growth stages with slope values showing decreasing and intercept values increasing trends over time. The largest part of the variance was explained for the vegetative stage ($R^2=0.82$, Figure 6a), the lowest for the reproductive stage ($R^2=0.61$, Figure 6b) and intermediate values for the ripening stage ($R^2=0.65$, Figure 6c).

Figure 6. SiF-GPP relationships for the vegetative, reproductive and ripening growth stages of rice. SiF-GPP relationships for the vegetative, reproductive and ripening growth stages of rice. Linear regression lines are shown in red and regression statistics are given. $R^2$ and rRMSE represent the coefficient of determination and the relative RMSE (RMSE / mean) of fitted linear regressions, respectively. Color map represents point density.

In order to confirm that there were indeed significant effects of RH, PAR$_{dif}$ proportion and growth stage despite some correlation between them, we conducted a multiple regression analysis to estimate GPP from SiF including all relevant explanatory variables and interactions. The choice of the latter was based on mechanistic considerations such as the drivers of stomatal conductance (Ball et al. 1987) and the effects of diffuse radiation on LUE$_p$ (Gu et al. 2002; Wit 1965) as well as observations from Figure 6 on the seasonal effects. The main results of this analysis are reported in Table 2 where the analogous analysis with APAR instead of SiF as main predictor is also given. We found similar improvements for single explanatory variables for the interactions of SiF with RH and SiF with PAR$_{dif}$
proportion (increase of total growing season $R^2$ from 0.74 to 0.77), while growth stage had a slightly larger effect (increase to $R^2=0.80$). Adding interaction effects of PAR$_{dif}$ proportion with SiF to those of RH did only slightly improve the results despite the significance of all terms.

Table 2. Overview of regression models for GPP estimation from half-hourly data including relevant environmental variables and phenology.

The latter is incorporated in the form of growth stage (S) with three factor levels and environmental variables are relative humidity (RH) and diffuse PAR ratio (PAR$_{dif}$($\%$)). The plus sign indicates additive terms while the colon indicates interaction terms. $R^2$ and rRMSE represent the coefficient of determination and the relative RMSE (RMSE / mean) of fitted regressions models, respectively. The best models based on either environmental predictors or LUE$_{p}$ are highlighted in bold.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Explanatory terms for GPP regression model: X for SiF or APAR</th>
<th>SiF $R^2$ (RMSE, rRMSE %)</th>
<th>APAR $R^2$ (RMSE, rRMSE %)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>0.76 (5.35, 36)</td>
<td>0.76 (5.42, 36)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X:LUE$_{p}$</td>
<td><strong>0.82 (4.57, 31)</strong></td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X + S + X:S</td>
<td>0.80 (4.92, 33)</td>
<td>0.83 (4.58, 31)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X + X:PAR$_{dif}$($%$)</td>
<td>0.79 (5.07, 34)</td>
<td>0.84 (4.38, 29)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X + X:RH</td>
<td>0.79 (5.07, 34)</td>
<td>0.82 (4.73, 32)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X + X:PAR$_{dif}$($%$) + X:RH</td>
<td>0.80 (4.96, 33)</td>
<td>0.86 (4.20, 28)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X + S + X:S + X:PAR$_{dif}$($%$)</td>
<td>0.81 (4.81, 32)</td>
<td>0.87 (3.95, 26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X + S + X:S + X:RH</td>
<td>0.81 (4.78, 32)</td>
<td>0.86 (4.13, 28)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X + S + X:S + X:RH+</td>
<td>0.82 (4.73, 32)</td>
<td>0.88 (3.80, 25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X:PAR$_{dif}$($%$)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X + S + X:S + X:RH + X:RH:S</td>
<td>0.82 (4.65, 31)</td>
<td>0.86 (4.10, 27)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X + S + X:S + X:PAR$_{dif}$($%$) + X:</td>
<td>0.82 (4.70, 31)</td>
<td>0.87 (3.95, 26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAR$_{dif}$($%$):S</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X + S + X:S + X:RH + X:RH:S</td>
<td><strong>0.83 (4.61, 31)</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.88 (3.78, 25)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ X:PAR$_{dif}$($%$)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The effect of growth stage alone was slightly larger than for RH and PAR$_{dif}$ proportion. Combining the effects of the latter with growth stage further improved the results up to an $R^2$ value of 0.81, which was linked to about 14% reduction in
the GPP estimation error (RMSE) compared to the model based exclusively on SiF. While the corresponding results for APAR as main predictor were generally similar, PAR_{dif} proportion seemed to have a slightly bigger effect compared to RH and the overall error reduction was considerably larger (about 30%). For all cases with additional predictors, the APAR-based models showed better performance than the corresponding SiF-based models. The discrepancy in GPP estimation error between the best SiF- and APAR-based models was considerable (rRMSE of 31% and 25%, respectively), while the difference in RMSE for the simplest models was small (< 1%). Furthermore, we also found that the model based on the product of SiF with LUE_p outperformed the best SiF-based model with environmental and growth stage interaction terms. If not indicated otherwise in the tables, all interaction terms were significant. We used the Akaike information criterion (AIC) to verify that the improvement obtained by adding more predictor terms to the models was not offset by the corresponding reduction in degrees of freedom (results not shown).

### 3.3. Diurnal Relationships Between SiF and GPP

On the diurnal scale for individual date, SiF showed linear relationships with GPP over two thirds of individual days over the growing season (Figure 7c), and their relationships were predominantly driven by APAR (Figure 7a, b). We analyzed the diurnal relationships between APAR and GPP, APAR and SiF, SiF and GPP, as well as LUE_f and LUE_p on individual days over the whole growing season. Only days with more than 50% observations from 08:00 to 18:00 local time were considered. Among 126 available days, GPP showed significant linear relationships to APAR on 81% of individual days (R^2: 0.19-0.96, Figure 8a). More than 70% of the days that had no significant APAR-GPP relationship occurred in the early stages of the growing season (DOY <143), which was characterized by
low numbers of available GPP measurements per day. Over the whole growing season, 90 days were available for SiF data. Around 84% of those days showed significant linear APAR-SiF relationships (Figure 8b), which was a slightly higher fraction than that for GPP, and their $R^2$ ranged from 0.20 to 0.98. The mean $R^2$ over days with significant relationship was 0.65 for APAR-GPP, and 0.76 for APAR-SiF. Furthermore, we found significant linear relationships between SiF and GPP on around 70% of individual days (Figure 8c), and their $R^2$ ranged from 0.19 to 0.92, with a mean value of 0.60.

![Figure 7](image.png)

Figure 7. Coefficients of determinations ($R^2$) of linear regressions ($y = a \times x + b$) between half-hourly measurements.

(a) APAR and GPP; (b) APAR and SiF; (c) SiF and GPP; and (d) LUE$_f$ and LUE$_p$ on individual days over the whole growing season. Vertical dashed lines represent individual days when SiF is not significantly related to GPP, while both SiF and GPP show significant linear relationships with APAR. Blue ‘*’ indicates negative correlations between compared variables.

Among 90 available days for SiF and GPP, 27 days of them presented no significant linear relationship between SiF and GPP (Figure 8c). Most of these instances (74%) were from days before DOY 150 which also showed no significant relationships between APAR with either GPP or SiF. Besides, there were cases for which even though both SiF and GPP were linearly related to APAR, the absence
of strong relationships between $\text{LUE}_f$ and $\text{LUE}_p$ seemed to lead to weak SiF-GPP relationships (see individual days with vertical dashed lines in Figure 8). Over the whole growing season, $\text{LUE}_f$ only showed linear relationships with $\text{LUE}_p$ on around 22% of individual days ($p < 0.05$, Figure 8d), and their $R^2$ ranged from 0.19 to 0.54, with a mean value of 0.34. In addition, on around one third of the days with significant relationships, $\text{LUE}_f$ showed negative relationships with $\text{LUE}_p$.

### 3.4. Relationships Between $\text{LUE}_f$ and $\text{LUE}_p$ on Clear Sky Days

To investigate the effects of phenology on $\text{LUE}_f$ and $\text{LUE}_p$ relationships, clear sky days (daily mean proportion of beam direct PAR > 0.7) from three growth phases were chosen (10, 12, 8 days in vegetative, reproductive and ripening phases, respectively), and the mean diurnal courses of $\text{LUE}_f$ and $\text{LUE}_p$ were calculated (Figure 8a–f). We then analyzed diurnal correlations between $\text{LUE}_f$ with $\text{LUE}_p$ (Figure 8g–i) over different phenological phases. Across the three growth phases, $\text{LUE}_p$ followed a typical diurnal cycle under clear sky conditions, where values showed a steady decrease during morning hours and a subsequent increase after solar noon (13:00 local time) (Figure 8a–c). In the vegetative and reproductive phases, we observed qualitatively similar diurnal courses for $\text{LUE}_f$ and $\text{LUE}_p$ (Figure 8d, e), which decreased from early in the morning until solar noon, and slowly increased afterwards. Significant $\text{LUE}_f$-$\text{LUE}_p$ relationships were observed in the vegetative ($r = 0.54$) and reproductive ($r = 0.82$) phases (Figure 8g–i). In the ripening phase, $\text{LUE}_f$ and $\text{LUE}_p$ showed decoupled diurnal variations: in contrast to $\text{LUE}_p$, the diurnal course of $\text{LUE}_f$ was highly asymmetric with almost constant values in the morning and showed qualitatively similar behavior as $\text{LUE}_p$ only in the afternoon (Figure 8c). This resulted in an overall non-significant relationship between $\text{LUE}_f$ and $\text{LUE}_p$ in the ripening stage, while the relationship for only the afternoon hours was strong ($r = 0.95$) and significant (Figure 8i).
Figure 8. Averaged diurnal courses on clear sky days (daily mean direct PAR proportion > 0.7).

(a–c) LUE_p and (d–f) LUE_f (circles represent averaged values, and shaded bands represent standard deviation), as well as correlations between averaged LUE_p and LUE_f over the whole day at different growing stages (g–i). In (g–i), ‘r’ denotes Pearson correlation. From left to right, each column represents vegetative, reproductive, and ripening phase, respectively.

To understand the relationships of LUE_f and LUE_p with relevant environmental variables across different phenological stages, we applied partial correlation analysis for half-hourly APAR, PAR_dif proportion, and VPD data on the dates that were used in Figure 8. In contrast to LUE_f, LUE_p was significantly and
positively correlated to PAR\textsubscript{dif} proportion in all phenological stages. LUE\textsubscript{f} showed significant negative correlations to APAR except for the vegetative stage where the correlation was positive. In the ripening stage, a significant positive correlation was found between VPD and LUE\textsubscript{f}, while the correlation was always negative for LUE\textsubscript{p} in all the three growing stages.

Table 3. Partial correlations between LUE and the environmental variables.

Partial correlations between half-hourly LUE (LUE\textsubscript{p} or LUE\textsubscript{f}) and the environmental variables: absorbed PAR (APAR), diffuse PAR proportion, and vapor pressure deficit (VPD) between 0800hh and 1800hh on clear sky days (daily mean direct PAR proportion > 0.7). Bold font indicates significant correlation ($p < 0.05$).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Growing phase</th>
<th>APAR</th>
<th>Diffuse PAR proportion</th>
<th>VPD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vegetative</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LUE\textsubscript{p}</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td>0.11</td>
<td>-0.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LUE\textsubscript{f}</td>
<td><strong>0.59</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.17</strong></td>
<td>-0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reproductive</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LUE\textsubscript{p}</td>
<td>-0.19</td>
<td>0.31</td>
<td>-0.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LUE\textsubscript{f}</td>
<td>-0.31</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td>-0.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ripening</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LUE\textsubscript{p}</td>
<td>-0.32</td>
<td>0.58</td>
<td>-0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LUE\textsubscript{f}</td>
<td>-0.23</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td><strong>0.53</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Discussion

In this study, we retrieved SiF values from automatic ground-based observations and investigated the relationships between canopy SiF and GPP from eddy covariance measurements at seasonal and diurnal scales in a rice paddy. More importantly, we analyzed how environmental conditions influenced the relationship between SiF and GPP, as well as explored the response of $\text{LUE}_f$ and $\text{LUE}_p$ to environmental variations at different rice phenological stages. We believe this is the first study that reported continuous observations of GPP and SiF over the whole growing season in rice paddy.

4.1. Relationships Between SiF and GPP on Different Temporal Scales

At the seasonal scale, daily mean SiF tracked temporal variations of daily mean GPP well (Figure 3c), and showed a strong linear relationship with GPP, which is comparable to APAR ($R^2 = 0.83$, $r\text{RMSE} = 26\%$ for APAR-GPP; $R^2 = 0.87$, $r\text{RMSE} = 25\%$ for SiF-GPP. Table 1). This finding demonstrated that the linear relationship between seasonal patterns of SiF and GPP was mostly explained by the strong APAR-SiF relationship ($R^2 = 0.85$, Table 1), which is similar to the result of Yang et al. (2015) who observed higher SiF-APAR ($R^2 = 0.79$) than SiF-GPP ($R^2 = 0.73$) correlation. Nevertheless, we also found a weak but significant relationship between daily mean of $\text{LUE}_f$ and $\text{LUE}_p$ over the growing season ($p < 0.05$, $R^2 = 0.24$, Figure 3d, Table 1). This finding is consistent with Yang et al. (2015) that found a slightly higher correlation at daily temporal resolution ($R^2 = 0.38$). Rossini et al. (2010), however, found a strong linear relationship between $\text{LUE}_f$ and $\text{LUE}_p$ ($R^2 = 0.74$) in a rice paddy with data from 15 measurement campaigns over two years, and demonstrated that this relationship could be used to considerably improve LUE-based GPP models.
On the diurnal scale, we found that SiF was linearly related with GPP on more than two thirds of individual days, with a mean $R^2$ value of 0.60 (Figure 7c). Besides, similar to the seasonal scale, the SiF-GPP relationship on the diurnal scale was also predominantly explained by APAR (Figure 7). In general, APAR performed slightly better than SiF in tracking diurnal variations in GPP, which had more days with significant linear relationships (81% for APAR-GPP, and 70% for SiF-GPP) and a slightly higher mean value of explained variance ($R^2 = 0.65$ and 0.60 for APAR and SiF, respectively). Moreover, the significant linear relationships between $LUE_f$ and $LUE_p$ were only found on 22% with a rather low mean value ($R^2 = 0.34$). The higher correlation of $LUE_f$ and $LUE_p$ at the seasonal scale with daily temporal resolution implies that the effects of more seasonally varying properties such as pigment contents, photosynthetic capacity and canopy structure on $LUE_p$ is better captured by SiF than the effects of short-term variations of environmental conditions on $LUE_p$. The poorer performance of SiF to track GPP in the early growing stage might be associated with the decoupled diurnal variation of $LUE_f$ and $LUE_p$ in most of the days (> 80%) (Figure 7d).

While both model simulations and ground based observations have demonstrated that relationships between SiF and GPP tend to be more linear at coarser temporal scale (Damm et al. 2015; Goulas et al. 2017; Zhang et al. 2016b), we found that the linear relationships between half hourly SiF and GPP were comparable to the corresponding daily relationships ($R^2 = 0.76$ for half hourly SiF and GPP, Figure 4a; $R^2 = 0.87$ for daily mean SiF and GPP, Table 1). Zhang et al. (2016b), for instance, reported that the $R^2$ of the linear regression between SiF-GPP at the Harvard Forest increased from 0.42 over 0.74 to 0.84 after aggregating from hourly over daily to 16-days. Both results are not contradictory when considering the variation of GPP to APAR. The linearization effect is caused
mainly by the decrease of APAR values due to averaging such that the saturation effects for GPP tend to get weaker or even entirely disappear (Damm et al. 2015; Zhang et al. 2016b), which is in accordance with well-known observations that temporal averaging tends to linearize the response between GPP and APAR (Baldocchi and Amthor 2001; Ruimy et al. 1995). However, in the rice paddy, saturation of GPP with APAR and GPP with SiF was not as clearly observed at half hourly time scale (linear regression: $R^2 = 0.73$, rRMSE = 34% for APAR-GPP) as in other studies (e.g. Zhang et al., 2016a). Hence the mechanism of the linearization effect described above could only lead to moderate improvements in the linear SiF-GPP relationship on daily scale ($R^2 = 0.85$, rRMSE = 26%) that were comparable to the change from daily to 16 day averages in Zhang et al. (2016a). Addition of fertilizer and the erectophile canopy of rice might explain the absence of strong saturation effects of GPP with APAR.

4.2. Effects of Environmental Factors and Phenology on the Relationship Between SiF and GPP

Half hourly SiF was strongly and linearly related to half hourly GPP over the whole growing season in the rice paddy ($R^2 = 0.76$), but the slope of their linear regressions was found to vary depending on environmental conditions such as PAR$_{\text{diff}}$ fraction and RH (Figures 4, 5, S4) as well as the growth stage (Figure 6).

We found that sky conditions had two effects on the relationship between SiF and GPP. First, the GPP to SiF ratio was higher on cloudy days (Figure 4b, c). Greater proportion of diffuse light that allows more evenly distributed light over different canopy layers is well known to increase canopy $LUE_p$ by enhancing photosynthesis in shaded leaves which are light limited (Alton et al. 2007; Gu et al. 2003). The effects of diffuse light on $LUE_f$ should also be considered in this context.
According to the escape ratio formula for far-red SiF by Yang and van der Tol (2018), LUE\textsubscript{f} is expected to increase with PAR\textsubscript{dif} fraction due to the increase in the canopy near-infrared reflectance (e.g. Ryu et al., 2010a) while the canopy interceptance is not much affected for a closed canopy. This effect, however, would tend to decrease the GPP:SiF ratio on cloudy days, which is not the observed pattern and hence, the LUE\textsubscript{p} effects seem to dominate over LUE\textsubscript{f} effects in the response to diffuse light. Second, the linear relationship was stronger considering only sunny or cloudy days separately, while the correlation on sunny and cloudy days are comparable (Figure 4b, c). In contrast to our result, Zhang et al. (2016b) also found that the SiF-GPP relationship became stronger during sunny days in Harvard forest (R\textsuperscript{2}=0.79 for sunny, R\textsuperscript{2}=0.74 for cloudy) and Miao et al. (2018) confirmed this tendency for soybean (R\textsuperscript{2}=0.65 for sunny, R\textsuperscript{2}=0.52 for cloudy). Goulas et al. (2017), however, found that in a winter wheat field the relationship between half-hourly SiF and GPP slightly weakened if measurements under sunny conditions were considered. The canopy structure of a rice paddy, deciduous forest, and winter wheat field differ substantially in terms of LAI and leaf inclination angle but effects of PAR\textsubscript{dif} were observed in all cases. Our multiple regression analysis also confirmed that incorporating PAR\textsubscript{dif} proportion with SiF improved GPP prediction (Table 2). Overall, these findings suggest that at the canopy scale, not only light intensity but also the PAR\textsubscript{dif} fraction should be considered when linking SiF to GPP.

Furthermore, we found that the ratio of GPP to SiF generally increased with RH in the rice paddy (Figure 5). This trend was generally consistent across each phenological stage (data not shown). A C3 leaf biochemical fluorescence model predicted that GPP:SiF ratio increased with RH and \( T_a \) (van der Tol et al. 2014) (Figure 9). We used the model with diverse ranges in PAR and \( V_{cmax,25} \), which all produced increasing trends of the GPP:SiF ratio with RH, which supports our in-
situ data. The model results revealed that increase of RH led to higher stomatal conductance, and hence intercellular CO$_2$ concentration, and GPP whereas SiF was relatively insensitive to RH. This implies that GPP:SiF relationship against RH is dominantly controlled by LUE$_p$, not LUE$_f$. Multiple regression analysis also confirmed that combining RH with SiF improved GPP prediction (Tables 2, 3). There is still ongoing debate whether RH or VPD is the direct driver of stomatal limitation of photosynthesis (e.g.) (Sato et al. 2015). We therefore compared multiple regression analyses using either RH or VPD and found consistent results with very small differences. This can also be attributed to the high correlation of RH and VPD for our dataset ($R^2=0.78$).

Figure 9. Simulated leaf-level values of the ratio of photosynthesis (GPP) to sun-induced chlorophyll fluorescence (SiF) against relative humidity and temperature. Data presented here used a C3 leaf biochemical photosynthesis model (van der Tol et al. 2014) at $V_{cmax,25}=80$ μmol m$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$, CO$_2$=400 ppm, O$_2$=21%. PAR=1500 μmol m$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$ for solid lines and PAR = 500 μmol m$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$ for dashed lines.
We found clear evidence of a seasonally changing SIF-GPP relationship (Figure 6), which could be related to canopy structure effects affecting the fraction of emitted SiF escaping the canopy. Recently published results including both simulations and field observations showed strong effects of canopy structure on the APAR-SiF relationship (Du et al. 2017), which in turn will also affect the GPP-SiF relationship. In the rice paddy, mean leaf inclination angle, which was measured using a leveled digital camera photography method (Ryu et al. 2010b), changed in the course of the growing season with variations from 50 to 70 degrees (data not shown) and this together with changes in LAI as well as leaf senescence in the ripening stage is expected to affect the fraction of SiF escaping the canopy. Multiple regression analysis confirmed that incorporating phenological stage information into SiF improved GPP predictions (Tables 2, 3). Therefore, accounting for the escape fraction that depends on canopy structure may be necessary to improve SiF-based GPP estimation. Recently, a simplified approach to calculate the escape fraction was presented by Yang and van der Tol (2018) that seems promising for future application. Furthermore, anisotropy effects have been shown to play a role also for SiF (Liu et al. 2016; Pinto et al. 2017). While a study of the latter goes beyond the scope of our work, they should be addressed in more detail in the future.

4.3. Effects of Environmental Factors and Phenology on Light Use Efficiencies on Clear Sky Days

Studying the relationships of LUE$_f$ and LUE$_p$ on clear sky days is important as airborne campaigns are typically conducted on such days and satellite data acquired on cloudy days tend to suffer from data quality limitations. LUE$_f$ and LUE$_p$ responded differently to APAR and VPD on clear sky days across vegetative, reproductive, and ripening stages (Table 3). We found that LUE$_f$ showed positive
correlation to APAR only in the vegetative stage while correlations were negative in the other stages (Table 3). Leaf level simulation using the SiF leaf model (van der Tol et al. 2014) implemented in the widely used SCOPE model (van der Tol et al. 2009) reported that LUE$_f$ increased then decreased with APAR, and with greater V$_{cmax,25}$, the inflection point moved towards right (i.e. higher APAR) (Frankenberg and Berry 2018; van der Tol et al. 2014). In the vegetative stage, V$_{cmax,25}$ approached peak values around 120 μmol m$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$ and APAR was relatively lower than the other stages (Figure 3). We assume the higher V$_{cmax,25}$ with lower APAR led to the positive correlation between LUE$_f$ and APAR (Figure 3, Table 3). In the reproductive and ripening stages, V$_{cmax,25}$ gradually decreased while keeping a high level of APAR, which is likely to explain the negative correlations between LUE$_f$ and APAR. The photosynthesis model based on Farquhar et al. (1980) and Collatz et al. (1991) implemented in SCOPE predicted a consistent decrease of LUE$_p$ with APAR regardless of V$_{cmax,25}$ values. This agreed very well with our result that LUE$_p$ was negatively correlated to APAR across all phenological stages that experienced a large seasonal variation in V$_{cmax,25}$ (Table 3, Figure 3a). While the latter finding is expected to also hold at the canopy level (Knohl and Baldocchi 2008), the apparently good agreement of leaf-level LUE$_f$-APAR relationships with canopy observations is somewhat surprising as the low APAR values at the beginning of the season are due to low overall LAI and not due to low APAR for individual leaves. That is, individual leaves might be light saturated, which implies mostly negative correlation of LUE$_f$ with APAR at the leaf-level. Therefore, an overall negative correlation of LUE$_f$ with APAR might also be expected at the canopy level. Further experimental studies and simulations are needed to investigate this.

We found VPD was positively correlated only to LUE$_f$ in the ripening stage (Table 3). The LUE$_p$:LUE$_f$ ratio substantially decreased in the afternoon of the ripening stage (Figure 8i) indicating that, relatively speaking, the rice canopy
converted a larger proportion of APAR into SiF than it used for photochemical reactions compared to the morning hours. In the ripening stage, low values of $V_{\text{cmax,25}}$ and greater VPD in the afternoon would lead more of the absorbed energy to be dissipated in processes other than photosynthesis such as NPQ and fluorescence. Diurnal hysteresis effects involving changes in the $\text{LUE}_p:\text{LUE}_f$ ratio were previously reported (Porcar-Castell et al. 2014), although with lower LUE$_f$ in the afternoon in contrast to our findings. However, leaf senescence was shown to affect LUE$_p$ and NPQ in previous studies (Lu et al. 2001; Wingler et al. 2004) and this might also affect the diurnal relationships. We are cautious in our interpretation as the canopy includes up to 30% yellow leaves in the ripening stage (data not shown), which still partly contribute to APAR but do not play any direct role in photochemistry, fluorescence and NPQ. However, they can contribute to changes in the SiF escape fraction and thus modify the effective LUE$_f$, which could not be corrected for with our observations.

4.4. Synthesis and Implications of Statistical Analysis of APAR-GPP, SiF-GPP and LUE$_p$-LUE$_f$ Relationships

Overall, we found that for 30 min temporal resolution, APAR-based models outperformed SiF-based models for GPP estimation in all cases, both for the whole growing season (Table 2) and for the separate growth stages (results not shown). Furthermore, the improvements when including environmental and growth stage effects were substantially larger for APAR-based than SiF-based models (Tables 2 and 3). In addition, we found that the LUE$_f$ -LUE$_p$ relationship was very weak at high temporal resolution and that using the product of SiF with LUE$_p$ rather than SiF directly considerably decreased the GPP estimation errors (Tables 2, 3). The above-mentioned findings all suggest that SiF observed in the rice paddy should be considered primarily as proxy for APAR rather than a more direct link to
photosynthesis that contains considerable information on $\text{LUE}_p$. This is consistent with the experimental results of Miao et al. (2018) for soybean that reported stronger relationships between SiF and APAR than SiF and GPP at half-hourly temporal resolution. All these findings seem to contradict other studies that reported canopy escaping SiF as proxy for photosynthetic electron transport rate (ETR), which is the product of APAR with the efficiency of photosystem II (Guan et al. 2016; Zhang et al. 2014).

Our results have important implications for SiF-based GPP estimation at large scales. From the observation that canopy-level retrieved SiF in the rice paddy contains almost exclusively information on APAR, it follows that the SiF-GPP relationship corresponds to the APAR-GPP relationship and hence needs to be modified for well-known $\text{LUE}_p$ effects related to RH or VPD, $\text{PAR}_{\text{dif}}$, temperature and phenology (Jenkins et al. 2007; Knohl and Baldocchi 2008; Running et al. 2004). Satellite remote sensing enables us to monitor those key variables such as $\text{PAR}_{\text{dif}}$ proportion (Figure 4) (Ryu et al. 2018), RH (Figure 5) (Hashimoto et al. 2008; Ryu et al. 2008), and phenology information (Figure 6) such as LAI, clumping index, and mean leaf angle (He et al. 2016; Myneni et al. 2002; Zou and Mõttus 2015) across multiple spatial and temporal scales, which offers new opportunities for monitoring GPP through SiF and $\text{LUE}_p$. 
5. Conclusion

We investigated the relationships of SiF retrieved from high-resolution spectrometer observations with GPP over an entire growing season in a rice paddy. We found strong linear relationships between SiF and GPP both at half-hourly and daily temporal resolutions, but that these were almost exclusively driven by the strong relationships between SiF and APAR. On the diurnal scale, the SiF-APAR relationships were considerably stronger than the SiF-GPP relationships. The relationships between LUE\(f\) and LUE\(p\) were generally weak and inconsistent on both seasonal and diurnal scales at high temporal resolution, but showed clear dependence on environmental factors as well as plant phenology on clear sky days. We demonstrated that including effects of RH and the diffuse PAR fraction as well as growth stage into statistical models of SiF- and APAR-based GPP estimation considerably improved the performance. This is consistent with commonly used approaches to model photosynthetic light use efficiency based on environmental variables and indicates that at least at high temporal resolution, canopy-level SiF for rice is essentially only a good proxy for APAR and does not contain much relevant information on LUE\(p\). This has important implications for future studies aiming at using SiF information to improve large scale GPP estimation, no matter if process-based or empirical approaches are applied.
References


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multi-instrument and multi-model approach. *Agricultural and Forest Meteorology, 150*, 63-76


**Supplementary Materials**

**A. SiF Retrieval Method**

In this study, SiF values were retrieved in the range of 745 to 780 nm using the singular vector decomposition method (SVD) (Guanter et al. 2012; Guanter et al. 2013). In SVD, upwelling irradiance can be expressed as

\[ I_{\text{out}} = I_{\text{in}} \sum_{i=0}^{n} a_i \lambda^i + h_F F_s \]  

(S1)

Where \( I_{\text{out}} \) corresponds to upwelling irradiance; \( I_{\text{in}} \) represents downwelling irradiance above the canopy; \( \lambda \) is the vector of measured wavelengths; \( h_F \) is a fixed vector which accounts for the spectral shape of fluorescence; and \( F_s \) is a scalar representing magnitude of fluorescence at a predetermined wavelength. The polynomial in \( \lambda \) describes the low spectral frequency contribution because of vegetation reflectance. SiF values are calculated by solving Equation S1 for \( F_s \) using linear regression. With the ground-based measurements, \( I_{\text{out}} \) and \( I_{\text{in}} \) are known, and \( h_F \) is generated from leaf level measurement from Global Ecology Lab at Carnegie Institution of Washington. Then the retrieval state vector consists of the polynomial coefficients \( a_i \) and \( F_s \).

\( I_{\text{in}} \) is reconstructed using several spectral vectors derived by SVD method from a training set without contribution of fluorescence. To model the vegetation reflectance, the first and second singular vectors carrying most of the spectrum...
information are convolved with a polynomial accounting for low frequency changes in the continuum. The resulting forward model can be written as

\[ I_{out} = v_1 \sum_{i=1}^{n} a_i \lambda^i + v_2 \sum_{i=1}^{n} b_i \lambda^i + \sum_{i=1}^{n_v} c_i v_i + h_F F_s \]  

(S2)

where \( v_i \) are singular vectors derived from training set; \( n \) is the degree of the polynomial; and \( n_v \) is the number of singular vectors used to reconstruct incoming irradiance (Guanter et al. 2012). The Equation S2 can be solved by means of standard least squares fitting.

In this paper, we derived all parameters in Equation S2 from our ground measurements. The training dataset (Figure S1) included downwelling irradiance spectrum from uplooking probe, and upwelling irradiance spectrum from downlooking probe when there was no rice planted, including bare soil, water and snow signals. We used the same training dataset for the whole growing season that included all relevant variations (diurnal and seasonal variations of solar spectrum, and spectra shift of fiber optics with time). In particular, the spectra before the rice transplanting were found to be necessary to account for the spectral differences between up- and downward pointing fiber readings. We analyzed the influence of singular vectors number on retrieving SiF, and found that the relative RMSE of reconstructed spectrum decreased with singular vector numbers and SiF retrievals stabilized when singular vectors were around 300. We then extracted the top 300 singular vectors to reconstruct the spectrum without fluorescence contribution. Consistent with Guanter et al. (2013), we also found that for a broad spectral fitting window (745-780 nm), cubic polynomial performed better than quadratic polynomial function to represent low spectral frequency changes in the continuum due to surface reflectance. We therefore set the degree of both polynomial functions as cubic.
Figure S1. Training dataset composition used in the SVD SiF retrieval. In total, around 210 days for incoming irradiance and around 180 days for outgoing irradiance were included.

Furthermore, we evaluated the SiF retrieval method on simulated upwelling irradiance spectra with known reflectance and known fluorescence magnitudes. The simulated upwelling irradiance was calculated as

\[ I_{\text{out}}^{\text{sim}} = I_{\text{in}}^{\text{mea}} \times r_{\text{ref}}^{\text{sim}} + SiF_{\text{sim}} \]  

(S3)

where \( I_{\text{in}}^{\text{mea}} \) is measured downwelling irradiance from uplooking probe; \( r_{\text{ref}}^{\text{sim}} \) is simulated canopy reflectance using the PROSAIL model; and \( SiF_{\text{sim}} \) represents canopy fluorescence with known magnitude and fixed spectral shape. We used two sets of simulated upwelling irradiance with different temporal variations to calculate SiF. In the first simulation, SiF has an apparent seasonal variation but no diurnal variation, and its values range continuously from 0 to around 7 mWm\(^{-2}\)s\(^{-1}\). In the second simulation, SiF has a consistent diurnal variation over the whole growing season, and its value changes discretely from 0 to around 10 mWm\(^{-2}\)s\(^{-1}\). Derived SiF values were compared with the true magnitude (Figure S2).

The calculation method was demonstrated to be able to retrieve canopy SiF. To ensure data quality, retrieved SiF values whose rRMSE of reconstructed irradiance spectrum was larger than 0.15% or whose relative error of retrieved SiF was larger than 25% were excluded (Figure S2 a, b, c, d). From simulation one, we found that computed SiF well tracked the seasonal variations of true SiF values, and they showed a strong 1:1 linear relationship (R\(^2\) = 0.97, Figure S2e). For simulation two, retrieved SiF also presented the same diurnal courses with its true
values ($R^2 = 0.94$, Figure S2f). Although given the same true SiF value, computed SiF showed a considerable variation, the mean of computed SiF was always around 90% of its true value and the standard deviations were consistent over different SiF values (around 5%). Therefore, we were confident that the random variation had no significant influence on the seasonal or diurnal patterns of canopy SiF (SiF values were reported at 760 nm).

Figure S2. Temporal variations of relative RMSE (RMSE / mean) between simulated (from Equation S3) and reconstructed upwelling irradiance using SVD method (from Equation S2) (a, b). Relative error ($\sqrt{(y_{sim,reference} - y_{sim,retrieved})^2 / y_{sim,reference}}$) between the reference values of the SiF simulation (from Equation S3) and SiF retrieval using SVD method.
(from Equation S2) (c, d). Comparison between simulated and retrieved SiFs, and only filtered values are shown (e, f). Error bars in (f) represent standard deviation.

**B. Temporal Variations of Environmental Measurements**

![Graph showing temporal variations of environmental measurements](image)

Figure S3. Temporal variations of (a) photosynthetically active radiation (PAR); (b) diffuse PAR proportion; (c) air temperature and (d) relative humidity in 2016. Light gray line represents half hourly measurements. Red line represents daily mean of half hourly measurements from 08:00 to 18:00 local time.

**C. Simulation of Absorbed PAR**

The diurnal patterns of measured absorbed PAR were adjusted and data gaps were filled with PROSAIL simulations. Since LED sensors used to measure
transmitted PAR were located between rice rows, the diurnal absorbed PAR had a clear tendency to be underestimated, especially at noon. Input parameters for PROSAIL model had three sources. The first one was field measurements in 2016. The second one was field measurements in 2017. Since the general growing environments were quite similar in 2016 and 2017, field measurements in 2017 was also used to simulate absorbed PAR in 2016. The final one was the LOPEX93 database (http://opticleaf.ipgp.fr). Input parameters were shown in the following table (Table S1).

Table S1. Input parameters for PROSAIL model.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chlorophyll ab content</td>
<td>Field measurement in 2017</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carotenoid content</td>
<td>Field measurement in 2017</td>
<td>25% of chlorophyll ab content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown pigment content</td>
<td>Field measurement in 2016</td>
<td>Yellow leaf fraction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaf water equivalent layer</td>
<td>LOPEX93 database</td>
<td>0.0104 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry matter content</td>
<td>Field measurement in 2016</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaf thickness parameters</td>
<td>LOPEX93 database</td>
<td>1.7544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaf area index</td>
<td>Field measurement in 2016</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaf inclination angle</td>
<td>Field measurement in 2017</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Seasonal variations of measurements from LAI-2200 and PROSAIL simulations agreed well with each other (Figure S4). A clear underestimation from LED measurements could be observed from around DOY 170 to 190. The $R^2$ of linear regression between automatically measured and simulated APAR ranged from 0.18 to 0.91 on individual dates, with a mean value of 0.56 over the whole growing season. Diurnal APAR measurements were modified with linear regressions between measurements and simulations on individual days.
D. Influence of Air Temperature and Relative Humidity on Relationship Between SiF and GPP

Figure S5. Scatter plot of half hourly SiF and GPP given different ranges of air temperature (T<sub>a</sub>) and relative humidity (RH) over the whole growing season.

Table S2. Coefficients of determination of fitted linear regressions (\( y = a \times x \)) between half hourly SiF and GPP over different air temperature and relative humidity values. ‘/’ indicates absence of data corresponding to certain range of air temperature and relative humidity. \( p \)-values are less than 0.05 except for ‘*’ (\( p > 0.05 \)).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Air temperature (°C)</th>
<th>Relative humidity (%)</th>
<th>20-40</th>
<th>40-60</th>
<th>60-80</th>
<th>80-100</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15-20</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>0.67</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>0.67</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-25</td>
<td>-0.78</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>0.40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-30</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>0.67</td>
<td>0.35</td>
<td>0.52</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
국문 초록

태양 유도 엽록소 형광 (SiF)은 총 일차 생산량 (GPP)의 직접적인 지표로 최근들어 각광받고 있다. 지상 관측, 항공기 및 위성 관측 연구에 따르면 계절규모에서 SiF 와 GPP 사이의 강한 선형 관계를 보여 주지만, 일별에서 계절적 규모에 걸친 고해상도 시간 해상도에서의 관계는 분명하지 않다. 이 연구에서, 벼눈 군락 SiF, GPP 및 흡수 된 광합성 유효복사 (APAR)을 철원 농경지에서 2016 년 전체 생장 기간 동안 자동화 된 스펙트럼 시스템 및 에디 플럭스 타워를 사용하여 지속적으로 모니터링하였다. 30 분 단위로 봉때, 전체 성장기간 동안 SiF 와 GPP ($R^2 = 0.76$) 및 APAR 과 GPP ($R^2 = 0.76$) 간의 강한 선형 관계가 관찰되었다. 상대 습도, 산란 PAR 비율 그리고 벼 생장단계가 SiF 와 GPP, APAR 및 GPP 사이의 관계에 영향을 미치는 것을 발견하였다. 이 요인들을 다중 회귀 분석에 반영했을때 $R^2 = 0.83$ (SiF:GPP) 및 $R^2 = 0.88$ (APAR:GPP) 까지 각각 향상된다는 것을 발견했다. LUE$_{p}$ (= GPP / APAR)와 LUE$_{f}$ (= SiF / APAR) 사이의 관계는 30 분 해상도에서는 나타나지 않았고 일평균 해상도에서도 약하게 나타났다 ($R^2 = 0.24$). 30 분 단위로 분석할때 SiF 와 GPP 또는 APAR 과 GPP 보다 SiF 와 APAR 간의 선형 관계가 훨씬 강하다는 사실을 발견했다. 전반적으로, 우리의 결과는 시간 해상도와 시간 규모에 관계없이 논 군락의 SiF는 APAR를 반영하였으며, 따라서 SiF를
이용하여 GPP 를 추정하기 위해서는 LUEp 를 모델링해야함을 나타냈다. 이러한 결과는 여러 시간 규모에서 군락 SiF 와 GPP 간의 관계를 기작에 기반하여 이해하는데 기여할 것이다.
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