

**Characterization of albedos of complex land systems from a climate modeler's viewpoint
and how their measurement can be used to constrain structural details of a model**

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Abstract

Details of the absorption of solar radiation are key for the functioning of the land surface. How much radiation is absorbed depends on fraction of the surface shaded by canopies and on the reflectance of the underlying soil. Measurement of albedo provides a very important constraint on these details that can be combined with modeling to characterize the partitioning of the absorbed solar radiation between soil and canopy and geometric and structural details of the canopy, such as its LAI and fractional coverage. How this can be done is described.

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