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Numerical simulations of winter cold damage to citrus fruits using the WRF model

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Abstract. To numerically assess winter cold damages of citrus fruits, a cold duration of sub-zero temperature was simulated using a high resolution configuration (500 m horizontal grid spacing) of the WRF numerical weather prediction system. Japanese citrus is often cultivated on slopes made of a small hill and a valley. Hence, a high resolution spatial configuration is needed to simulate cold durations at complex micro-topographies. In this study, detailed cold duration maps for sub-zero temperatures were produced to assess the spatial difference of cold duration, as an example of a winter cold surge attack in west Japan in 2011. Our findings suggest that the recorded temperature (by automatic observation of the Japan Meteorological Agency), which was observed at a flat coastal plain, may underestimate cold damage risk for citrus fruit on narrow slopes, valleys and hilly areas.

1 Introduction

In Japan, a strong cold surge (cold air outbreak by a synoptic pressure pattern) in winters has often damaged citrus fruits cultured in outdoor open fields, leading to a reduction in yields (e.g., Nakagawa et al., 1965; Ikeda, 1982; Matsumoto et al., 2018). An example of large-scale cold damage is the economic damage of JPY 750 million (EUR 6.1 million) reported in December 2005 in the west region of Ehime Prefecture which is a major production area of citrus fruits (Ehime Newspaper, 2005). This cold event induced a decrease in the production yield exceeding 6000 t. In general, many citrus varieties are known as being vulnerable to sub-zero temperature conditions (e.g., Konakahara, 1984; Jackson, 1992; Inch et al., 2014). The past cold attacks from December to February have caused freeze damage to citrus fruits and physiological disorders of citrus rind, afflicting major Japanese citrus farmers. Figure 1 shows a relationship between yearly yields of lemon (*Citrus limon*) and “Iyokan” as Japanese name (*Citrus iyo*) against cold duration defined as integrated hours of sub-zero temperature. The yearly yield data in this figure was provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) in Japan. As can be seen in this figure, the long exposure of sub-zero temperature decreases citrus

yields. Moreover, the global warming progress is likely to lead to a severe cold winter in mid-latitude Eurasian (Mori et al., 2014).

As many citrus orchards are locally spread and scattered on the slope sides of small hills and mountains in Japan, it is difficult to know how cold conditions affect actual orchard fields. The outdoor surface air temperature is continuously observed by the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA), by their Automated Meteorological Data Acquisition System (AMeDAS). In fact, most AMeDAS observatories that are close to major produce regions of citrus fruits are located at lowland sites near the coast.

A numerical weather prediction (NWP) model has been utilized for the purpose of understanding the spatial distribution of near-surface meteorological elements, such as wind speed, air temperature, and humidity in numerous fields of study as well as agrometeorology. The NWP model output has the potential to evaluate the cold damage risk on complex and micro-scale terrain. Hence, we examine an application of a high-resolution NWP model to quantitatively assess winter cold damages of citrus fruits.

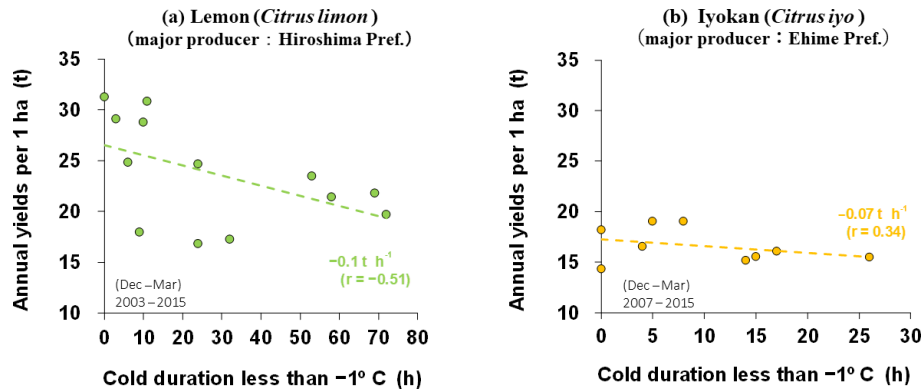


Figure 1. Relationship between the annual cold duration (h) less than -1°C and citrus yield amount (ton per 1 ha) for (a) lemon (2003–2015) and (b) Iyokan (2007–2015).

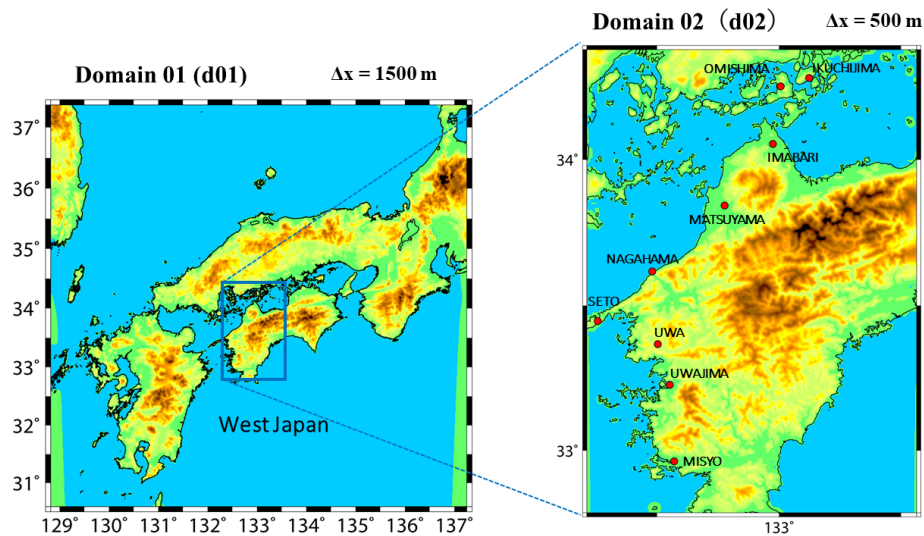


Figure 2. Calculation areas and geographies of coarse resolution (d01) and fine resolution (d02) domains.

2 Numerical model and calculation settings

In this study, the Weather Research and Forecasting Model (Ver. 3.8.1 of WRF-ARW; Skamarock et al., 2008) was used to simulate a field exposure of sub-zero temperature. A simulation period from 15 to 16 January 2011, was chosen as an example of strong cold surge. Fruit (mainly citrus) damage amounts of 839 t (652 ha) were reported during the winter of this year in Ehime Prefecture (Official Statics of Japan, 2012). Simulation domains included Ehime Prefecture in the west of Japan at which a citrus cold damage was reported by Ehime Prefecture (2012). A coarse resolution was spatially resolved at 1500 m, while the finer resolution was done at 500 m (Fig. 2). For a vertical resolution, stretched grids were provided with the lowest height of 22 m up to 100 hPa. Our model settings are summarized in Table 1. An initial time of calculation was set to 09:00 Japan Standard Time (JST) on 14 January 2011. The outputted data every 10 min were anal-

ysed from 09:00 JST on 15 January to 12:00 JST on 16 January.

Initial and boundary conditions of the model were assigned by the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP, 2019) final analysis, JMA meso-analysis (JMA, 2019), and UKMO operational sea surface temperature and ice analysis (OSTIA; Donlon et al., 2012) data every 3 h. The land use (100 m resolution) and topographic data (50 m resolution) of the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan (GIAJ, 2019) were used in the model. Data assimilation was not carried out in this study.

3 Results and discussion

3.1 Model validation

Figure 3 shows the simulated and actual observed cold durations between -2 and -1°C , those between -3 and -2°C , and those less than -3°C at Omishima, Seto, and Misyo sites

Table 1. Model setting of grids, boundary condition, and physics for d01 and d02.

	d01_pbl (Domain 1)	d02_les (Domain 2)
Horizontal grids	1500 m	500 m
Vertical grids	44, 67, 112, 121, 153, 194 m ...	
The number of grids	500 (we) × 500 (sn) × 34 (vert)	250 (we) × 355 (sn) × 34 (vert)
Initial and boundary conditions	JMA Meso analysis (5 km) and UKMO OSTIA SST (0.05°) data	
Model top level	100 hPa	
Cloud microphysics	Morrison double-moment (Morrison et al., 2009)	
Radiations	Shortwave Dudhia (1989) Longwave RRTM (Mlawer et al., 1997)	
Surface layer	Monin-Obukhov (Janjic Eta)	
Land surface process	Noah LSM	
Atmospheric boundary layer	PBL scheme of Mellor-Yamada-Nakanishi-Niino (Nakanishi and Niino, 2009)	Large eddy simulation (full diffusion)
Urban canopy	None	
Others	One-way nesting, slope shadow effect, fog gravitational settling	

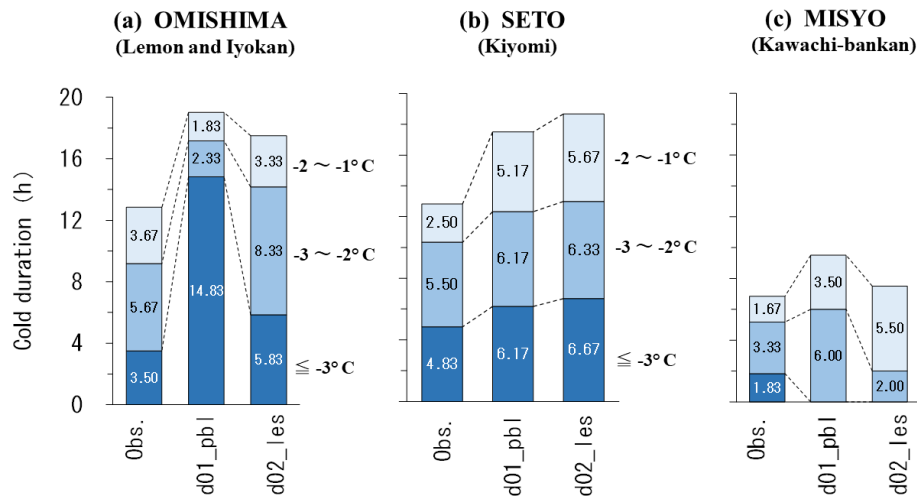


Figure 3. Cold durations (h) recorded between -2 and -1 °C, those between -3 and -2 °C, and those less than -3 °C at (a) Omishima, (b) Seto, and (c) Misyo sites by the AMeDAS observation data, simulated d01, and d02 results.

(ref., each site location in Fig. 2). This cold duration was integrated during a period of the above-mentioned 09:00 JST on 15 January–12:00 JST on 16 January. The Omishima area has major citrus producers of lemon and Iyokan, while the Seto area has major “Kiyomi” (*Citrus unshiu* × *sinensis*) producers, and the Misyo area has “Kawachi-bankan” in Japanese name (*Citrus kawachiensis*) producers. Figure 3 indicates the calculation results at model grids, including the AMeDAS observational site in the d01 and d02 domains. Omishima (Fig. 3a) altitudes of observational site, d01 grid, and d02

grid are 16, 86, and 15 m above sea level (a.s.l.), respectively. Seto (Fig. 3b) altitudes of observational site, d01 grid, and d02 grid are 140, 121, and 145 m a.s.l., respectively. Misyo (Fig. 3c) altitudes of observational site, d01 grid, and d02 grid are 17, 27, and 12 m a.s.l., respectively. The surface air temperature in the model is a value obtained at a height of 2 m above ground level (a.g.l.), which is diagnostically estimated from the Bulk parameterisation for surface heat flux. The AMeDAS temperature is also measured at a height of 1.5 m a.g.l.

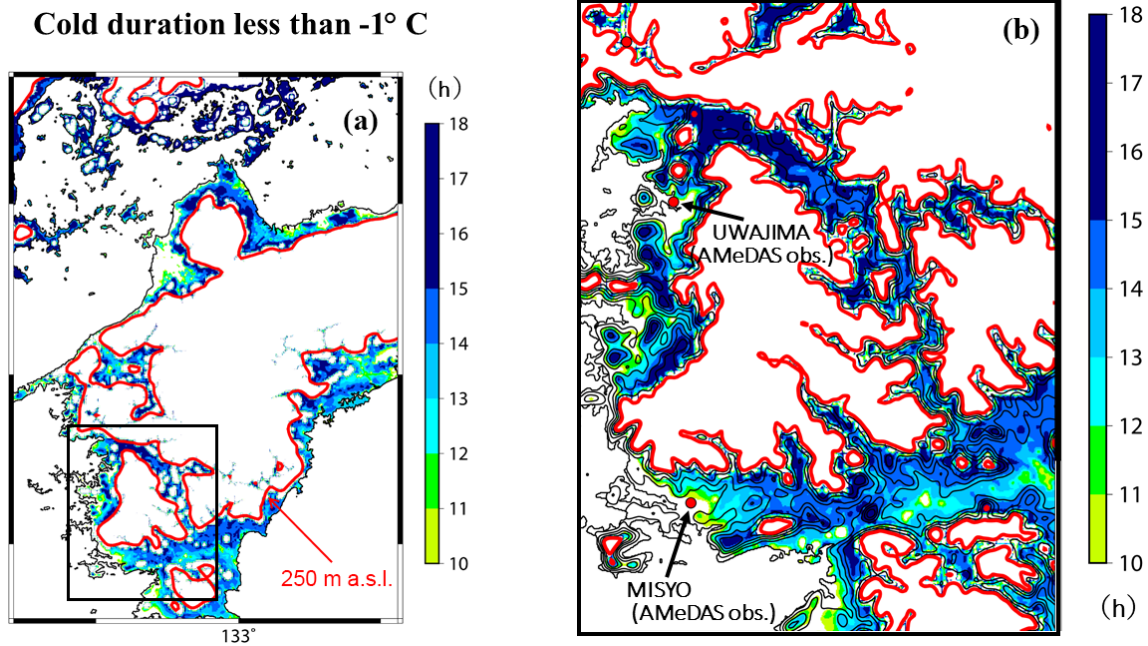


Figure 4. Simulated maps of cold duration (h) less than -1°C , which were produced for the (a) d02 entire domain and (b) enlarged rectangle area in the left figure.

At the Seto area (Fig. 3b), the cold duration especially less than -3°C was well reproduced by both d01 and d02. Although there seems to be not a large difference between d01 and d02 results at Seto and Misyo (Fig. 3c), a cold duration of d02 at Omishima agreed with the observed that better than that of d01 (Fig. 3a). This may be because the Omishima site is located at the narrow valley of a small island. In fact, the d01 grid including the AMeDAS site has a significantly higher altitude than those of the d02 grid and actual site and includes not only the narrow valley but also the surrounding hills. Therefore, a finer grid setting in the model is required for simulating cold meteorological conditions on complex micro-topographies, which will include narrow slopes, valleys, and hilly areas where citrus fruits are cultivated.

3.2 Cold duration mapping

Here, calculated cold duration maps were produced to assess a spatial difference of cold duration less than -1°C , using the d02 output data (Fig. 4). As an example, a region including the Misyo site was focused on the right side of Fig. 4. These maps were drawn using the GMT software in which the tone mapping is interpolated by the bicubic method. In these figures, only areas less than 250 m a.s.l. were visualized because of a cultivate elevation limit of citrus fruits. This was achieved by using a land-use GIS map developed by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) in Japan. The figure revealed that the cold duration tended to be longer at the foot of mountains, whereas the areas including the AMeDAS observatories of Misyo and Uwajima,

which were located on the plain near the coast (as can be seen on the right-side figure), were estimated as having the shortest cold duration. The results suggest that temperatures observed by AMeDAS sites may underestimate the risk of cold damage for citrus fruit from the monitored temperature data.

Figure 5a shows the cold durations simulated at slope grids (A and B) in addition to the simulated and observed cold durations at the Misyo site on the plain. The Misyo AMeDAS site is located on at elevation of 12 m a.s.l., while elevations of A and B are 126 and 83 m a.s.l., respectively, where citrus cultivation fields spread (Fig. 5b). Simulated cold durations less than -3°C recorded 4.5 h at both slope grids. This extreme cold condition was not simulated at the AMeDAS grid. A relationship between air temperature observed at Misyo site and the yearly yield of Kawachi-bankan in Ehime Prefecture was analysed in the same manner as Fig. 1. That result showed a yield decrease of 1.5 t ha^{-1} for recorded temperatures (at Misyo site) of less than -2°C for 10 h. The cold surge event also observed 5.2 h of temperatures less than -2°C at the Misyo AMeDAS. In this manner, visualizing a cold temperature by maps provides knowledge of a spatial heterogeneity of cold risk for citrus fruits.

4 Summary

In this study, winter cold damage of citrus fruits by cold surge attack was simulated using a high resolution configuration of the WRF NWP model. Japanese citrus is often cultivated on slope lands with a small hill and valley. Here, detail cold du-

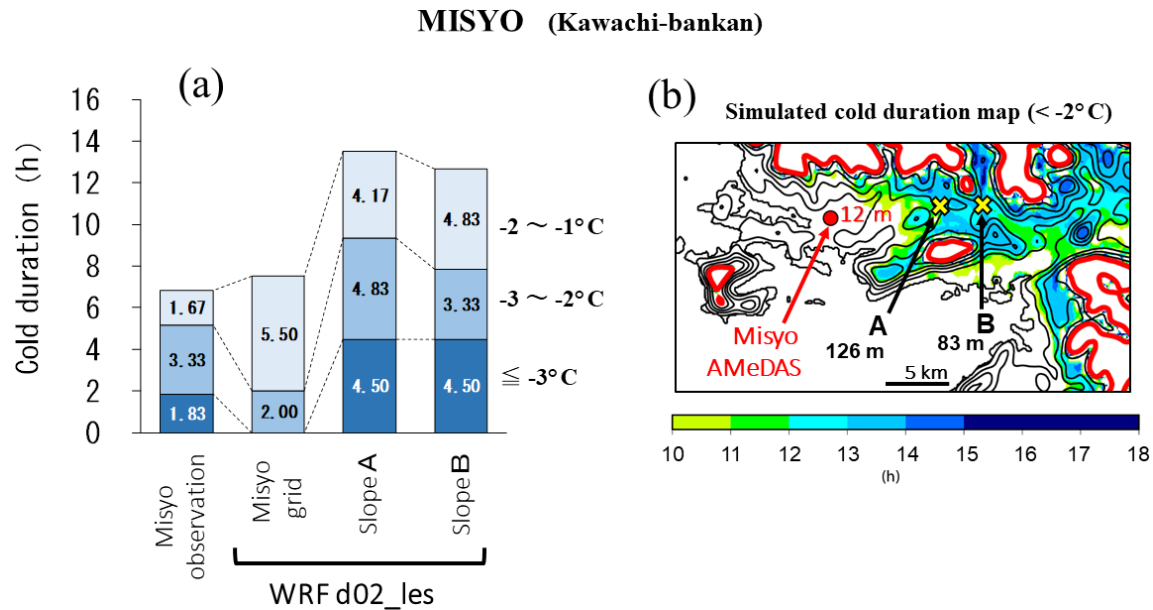


Figure 5. (a) Cold durations (h) observed at the Misyo AMeDAS site and simulated at the grids including the AMeDAS site, slope A, and slope B. (b) Simulated cold duration map (with temperature less than -2°C) and locations of AMeDAS, slope A, and slope B.

ration maps for sub-zero temperatures were produced to simulate a spatial heterogeneity of cold duration in west Japan during the winter of 2011. The simulation results demonstrated that the temperature measured at AMeDAS sites at coastal locations underestimated the risk of cold damage for cultivated citrus fruits on narrow slopes, valleys, and hilly areas. This fact suggests a necessity for a numerical meteorological model for predicting cold damage, which can resolve complex micro-topographies where citrus fruits are cultivated. A higher resolution configuration such as of 100–200 m may improve the accuracy of the sub-zero temperature maps further.

Data availability. Data are available via e-mail request to the corresponding author.

Author contributions. HU provided the idea and motivation of this study and YO carried it out. YO performed the simulations and prepared the manuscript.

Competing interests. The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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