

## **Weather forecast sensitivity to changes in urban land covers using the WRF model for central México**

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Received April 4, 2011; accepted September 28, 2011

### **RESUMEN**

En este trabajo se estudia el impacto en la temperatura superficial, de 1993 a 2009, debido al crecimiento urbano en el centro de México y la sensibilidad del pronóstico a cambios en la cobertura de suelo con base en simulaciones numéricas de alta resolución. El modelo Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) emplea datos de cobertura de la tierra global Global Land Cover Characteristics (GLCC) creados a partir de imágenes del satélite NOAA-AVHRR tomadas entre 1992 y 1993. Sin embargo, de 1990 a 2010 la población del país ha crecido en un 29%, lo cual representa un incremento importante en la extensión de las zonas urbanas, particularmente en la parte central de la República, donde en lugares como el Estado de México o Tlaxcala la población ha crecido en un 34% y 33% respectivamente. Debido a lo anterior, con base en el mapa de uso de suelo del 2009 del Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI), en este trabajo se actualiza la cobertura urbana en los datos de cobertura de la tierra usados por el modelo WRF para la malla con resolución de 30". A partir de dos simulaciones se hace un análisis de sensibilidad del pronóstico de temperatura para la ciudad de México y su zona conurbada, así como para las ciudades de Puebla y Tlaxcala. Se analizaron ocho sitios en donde el uso de suelo cambió de cobertura vegetal a cobertura urbana y se encontró que la temperatura se incrementó entre 0.5 y 5.0 °C. El promedio de las diferencias máximas en temperatura a lo largo del ciclo diurno es de 2.61 °C y el promedio de las diferencias en temperatura a lo largo del periodo es de 0.66 °C. Las diferencias máximas se registran entre las 10:00 y 15:00 horas (hora local). La temperatura máxima promedio obtenida empleando los nuevos datos de cobertura urbana es de 26.96 °C, mientras que empleando los datos de cobertura urbana GLCC-1993 es de 25.63 °C. El incremento promedio de la temperatura máxima diaria es de 1.33 °C y para la temperatura mínima diaria de 0.12 °C. La hora en la que se alcanza la temperatura máxima ocurre entre las 13:00 y 15:00 horas, mientras que la temperatura mínima se alcanza entre las 4:00 y 6:00 horas. El rango promedio diario usando nuevos datos urbanos es de 16.0 °C, mientras que usando datos de GLCC-1993 es de 14.9 °C. Estos resultados muestran que el cambio de cobertura vegetal a cobertura urbana ha incrementando la temperatura de las cuatro zonas de estudio.

### **ABSTRACT**

The impact on temperature of the urban growth in central Mexico from 1993 to 2009 and the sensitivity of forecast to change in land cover are studied using high resolution numerical simulations. The mesoscale at-

mospheric Weather Research and Forecasting model (WRF) uses Global Land Cover Characteristics (GLCC) data created from NOAA-AVHRR satellite images from 1992 and 1993. However, from 1990 to 2010 the population of the country grew 29%, which represents an important increase in the extension of urban areas, particularly in the central part of the country, where the population in places like State of Mexico and Tlaxcala has grown around 34 and 33%, respectively. Due to the above, using the 2009 land use map of the Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI, by its abbreviation in Spanish), in this study an update of the 30" resolution urban coverage data used by the WRF model is performed. A sensitivity study is carried out for Mexico City and its suburbs, and for the cities of Puebla and Tlaxcala. Eight sites are analyzed where changes from vegetation cover to urban cover occur and temperature increases between 0.5 and 5.0 °C. The average of the maximum differences in temperature throughout the diurnal cycle is 2.61 °C and the mean of the differences in the whole period is 0.66 °C. The maximum difference in temperature is registered between the 10:00 and 15:00 hours (local time). The average maximum temperature using new urban data is 26.96 °C, whereas using GLCC-1993 urban data is 25.63 °C. The average increase in daily maximum temperature is 1.33 °C, and for the daily minimum temperature is 0.12 °C. The maximum temperature is reached between 13:00 and 15:00 hours, whereas the minimum temperature is reached between 4:00 and 6:00 hours. The mean daily range using new urban data is 16.0 °C whereas using GLCC-1993 data is 14.9 °C. Results show that the change from vegetal cover to urban increased the temperature in the study area.

**Keywords:** WRF, land cover, urban cover, weather forecast, temperature fworecast, Mexican Republic.

## 1. Introduction

The Weather Research and Forecasting model (WRF) (NCAR, 2009) is a mesoscale numerical weather prediction system designed to serve both operational forecasting and atmospheric research purposes. The effort to develop the WRF is a collaborative partnership between research centers, government institutions and United States universities (NCAR, 2009). Static land cover data included in the model to perform the forecast were obtained from the Global Land Cover Characteristics (GLCC) database (Sertel *et al.*, 2009) generated by the United States Geological Survey (USGS). This database defines 24 classes and has been obtained from satellite images taken in 1992 and 1993 (Ran *et al.*, 2010; Chen, 2007).

The exponential growth of the population is one of the various transformations that have occurred in recent years in central Mexico. Between 1990 and 2010 there was a change in the urban development of the country. In 1990 the country recorded a population of 83.97 million inhabitants, and for 2010 there were about 108.40 (CONAPO, 2010). In particular, the states of Puebla, Tlaxcala, Mexico and the Federal District are examples of different growth rates in the country. Figure 1 shows the evolution that occurred in the four states mentioned above, for the period 1990-2010.

The impact of urbanization on climate of cities is well documented in the literature (Oke, 1973; Jáuregui, 2005). As cities grow, the rural-urban thermal contrast increases (Oke, 1973; Jáuregui, 2005; Estrada *et al.*, 2009); the temperature in the city rises compared to rural settings, creating a phenomenon called heat island (Jáuregui, 2005; Estrada *et al.*, 2009). In addition, research on heat island events has concluded that as the cities become bigger, with less green areas, more intense and more frequent is the urban heat island effect (Jáuregui, 2005; Estrada *et al.*, 2009).

Although the WRF model is relatively new, a variety of studies to investigate the performance of the model to changes in land cover has been conducted (Grossman-Clarke *et al.*, 2005; Ran *et al.*, 2010), however this kind of work has not been applied to the case of Central Mexico located at tropical latitudes and at average altitude of 2400 m above mean sea level. Studies using new

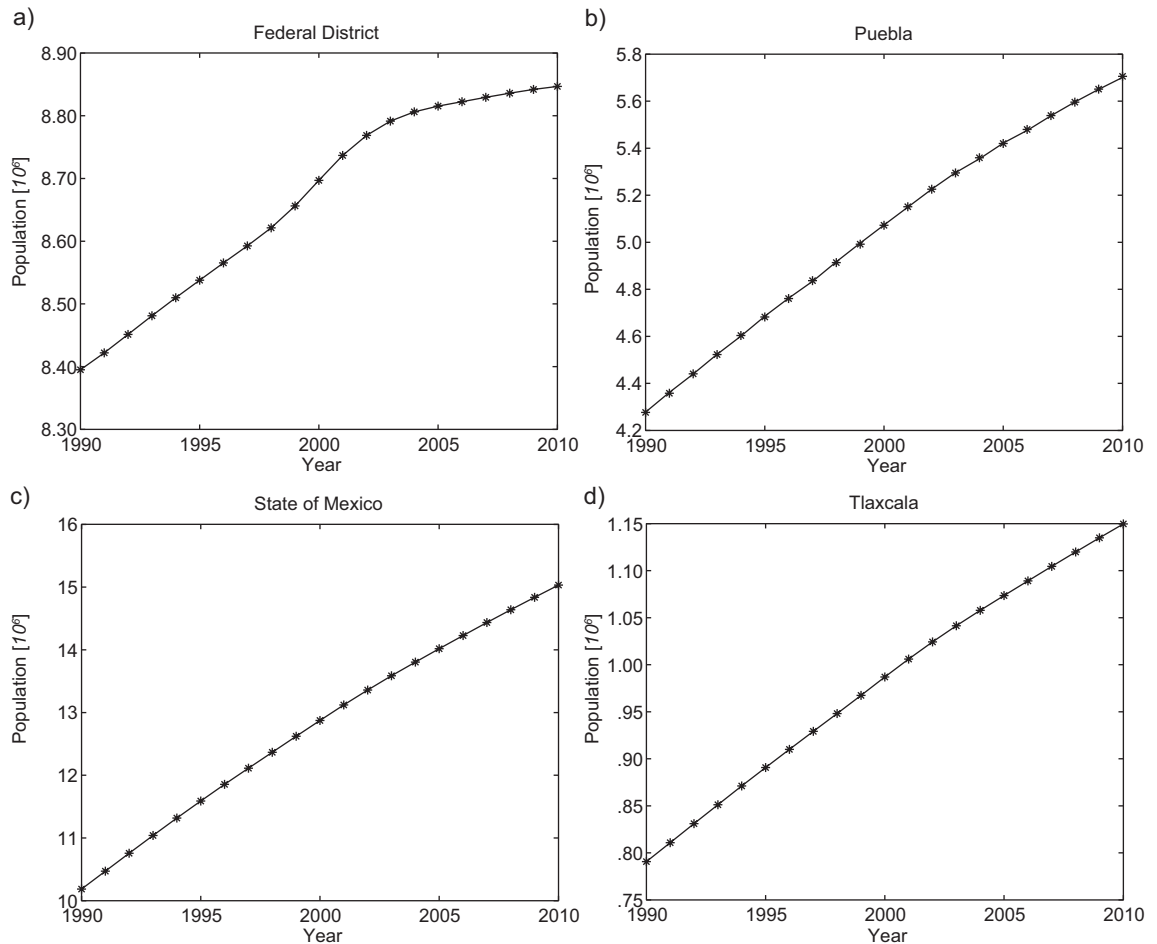


Fig. 1. Population growth for the period 1990-2010. a) Federal District, b) State of Mexico, c) Puebla and d) Tlaxcala.

land cover data collections like IGBP (International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme) based on images taken in 2001, suggest greater accuracy in forecast outputs (Ran *et al.*, 2010). Considering the remarkable growth experienced by the urban land cover since 1993, the rather old GLCC land cover data, and the urban coverage that currently exists, it is expected that weather, specifically temperature, should be modified in the forecast when new urbanization data is used.

Therefore, using the WRF model, this study examines the sensitivity of temperature forecast to changes in urban coverage for a selected group of Mexican locations in the states of Puebla, Tlaxcala, Mexico and the Federal District (Fig. 2), which are representative of the urban population growth in recent decades.

## 2. Land cover data in the WRF model

Currently, the WRF model version 3.0.1 has GLCC data from USGS as input parameter for land cover. This data is based on images of the NOAA-AVHRR (Advanced Very High Resolution Radiometer) satellite for the period April 1992 to March 1993. Available resolutions in this data

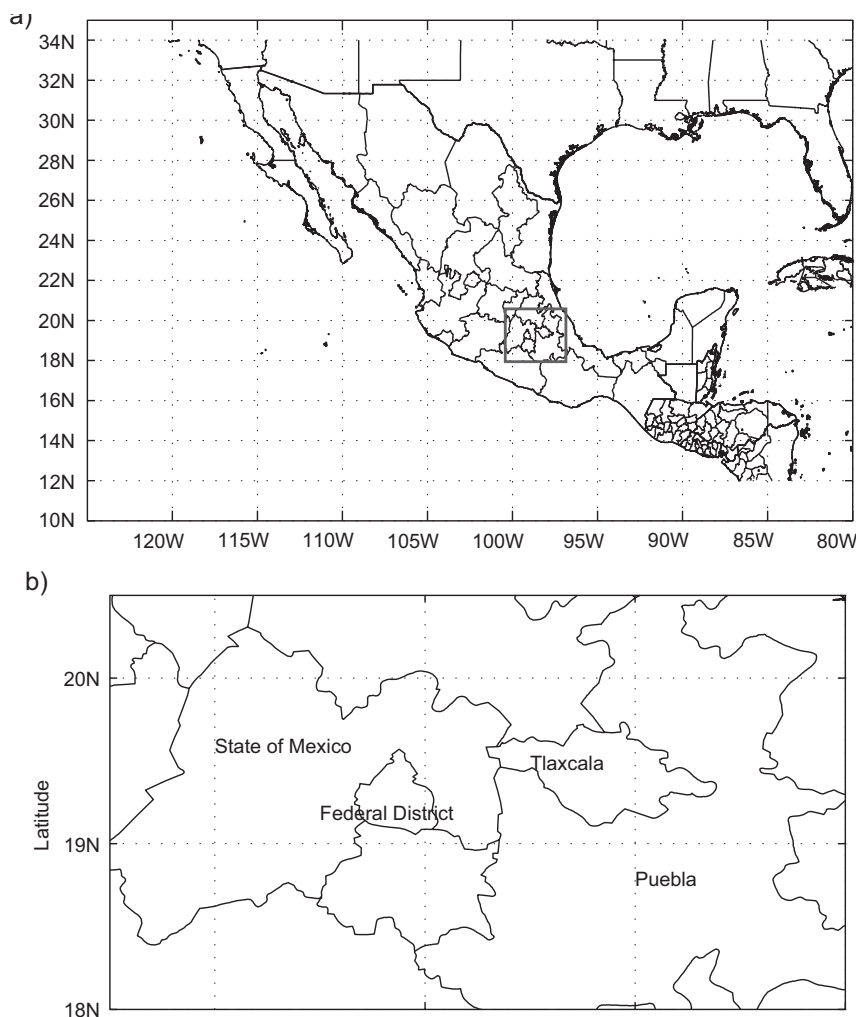


Fig. 2. Map with study region.

collection are 30'' (around 1 km), 2' (around 3.7 km), 5' (around 9.25 km), and 10' (around 18.5 km). This dataset defines 24 classes which are presented in Figure 3.

The GLCC land cover of the WRF model is distributed in binary files that specify the static geographical data used by the pre-processing program GEOGRID (NCAR, 2009). The GEOGRID program defines the model domain and interpolates the geographic data mentioned above to the grid defined by the user. The static geographic data sets of land cover interpolated with GEOGRID are stored as 2-dimension (2D) or 3-dimension (3D) arrangements written in a simple binary raster format. To interpret this raster format, the program GEOGRID makes use of the files GEOGRID.TBL and INDEX (NCAR, 2009). 2D arrays are written to a file without a header row by row. In particular, for the resolution of 30'', the GLCC land cover is divided into  $1200 \times 1200$  arrays where each array represents a  $10^\circ \times 10^\circ$  subset.

To convert GLCC land cover data into a thematic map format, it is necessary to interpret the binary files from GEOGRID. For Mexico 12 of the 648 binary files defined in the WRF model static data are used. The resulting thematic map is shown in Figure 3.



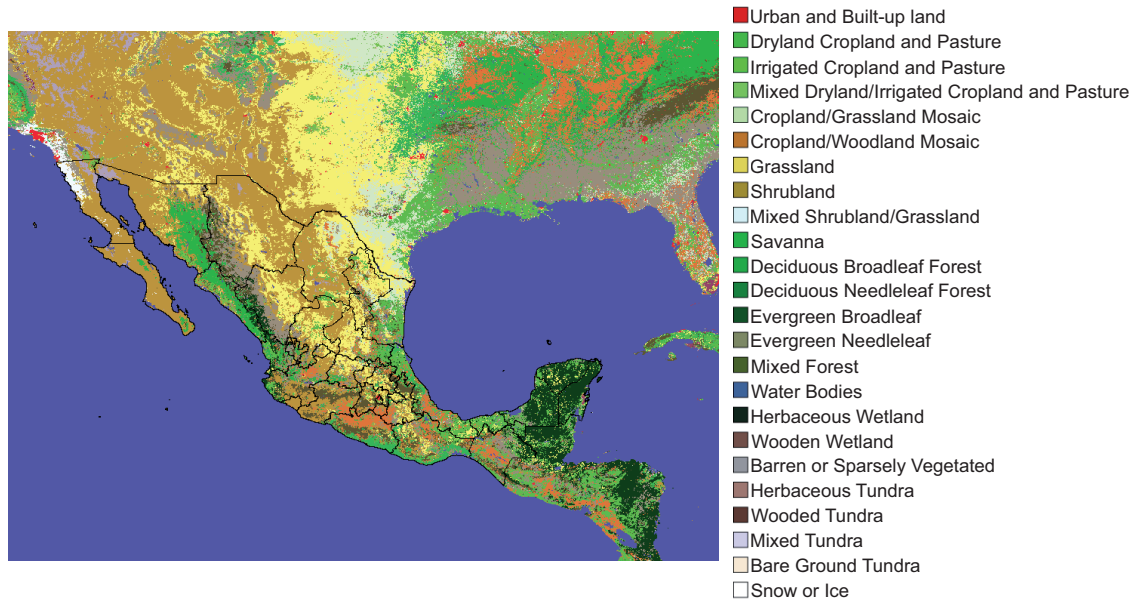


Fig. 3. Land cover thematic map and classes defined by GLCC in the WRF model.

### 3. New data of urban locations for Mexico

There is a large difference in the urbanization of central Mexico between the year 1993 and the current urbanization. The population change between 1993 and 2009 (CONAPO, 2009) is shown in Table I. The State of Mexico is the most populated region of the country with around 14 million inhabitants (14% of the national population); it has a total area of 22 357 km<sup>2</sup> covering 1.1% of the surface of the country. On the other hand, the Federal District, which is the seat of the Federal Government and is the political and economic center of the country, covers an area of 1 452 km<sup>2</sup> representing 0.1% of the surface of Mexico, with a population of eight million. Another region with a large number of people is the state of Puebla; it has a population of more than five million in an area of 34 290 km<sup>2</sup>. Finally, Tlaxcala has an area of 3 991 km<sup>2</sup> representing 0.2% of the surface of the country with a population of about one million.

Table I. Evolution of the population in Mexico and central Mexico states.

Locality	1993	2009	% increase
Mexico	88 752 014	107 550 697	21.18
Tlaxcala	851 167	1 134 844	33.33
Puebla	4 522 723	5 651 371	24.95
Federal District	8 481 066	8 841 916	4.25
State of Mexico	11 040 075	14 837 208	34.39

The webpage of the INEGI provides the 2009 municipal geostatistical framework (INEGI, 2009), in which urban locations can be found in shapefile format. The geographic data has a Lambert Conformal Conic projection (CCL) with ITRF92 reference datum. Using this product

and comparing it with the urbanization obtained in the GLCC-1993 land cover (default WRF land cover), the difference between the two land cover products is evident (Fig. 4).

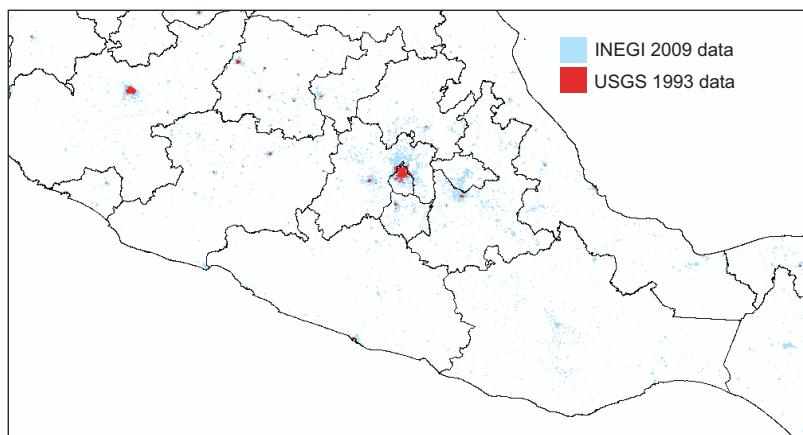


Fig. 4. Comparison of the urban cover in GLCC 1993 and INEGI 2009. In red the WRF default cover, based on GLCC 1993; in blue the urban area from INEGI 2009 data.

#### 4. Configuration of numerical experiments

The model used to perform the simulation for this study was the Advanced Research WRF (ARW) version 3.0.1. The simulation was performed using three nested domains (Fig. 5) covering all of Mexico. The highest resolution domain has a grid of  $541 \times 371$  points and approximately 1 km of horizontal resolution; both land cover data sources for this domain, GLCC-1993 and INEGI-2009, have a resolution of  $30''$ .

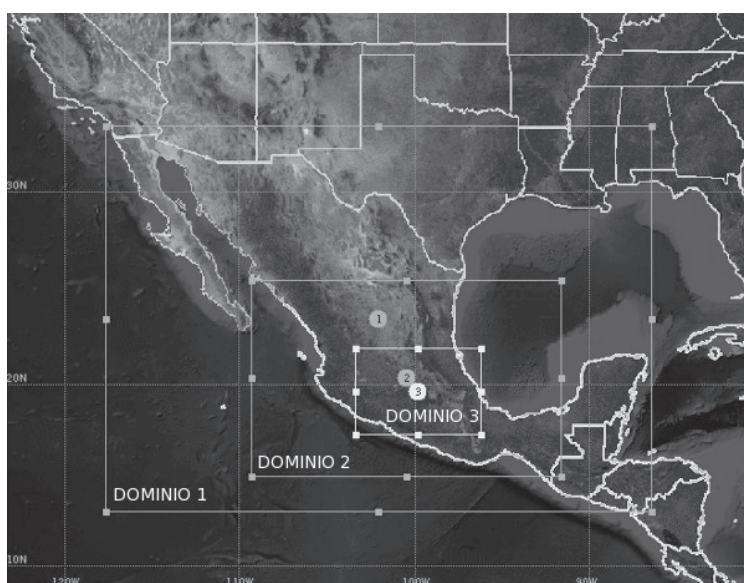


Fig. 5. Domains defined for the numerical experiments. The first domain with a dimension of  $157 \times 110$  points and a resolution approximately of 20 km, the second domain with a dimension of  $268 \times 169$  points and grid resolution of 6.7 km, and the third domain with a dimension of  $541 \times 371$  grid points with approximately 1 km of resolution.

A 120 hour simulation was performed in forecast mode with hourly outputs beginning July 27, 2010 at 0Z and ending August 1, 2010 at 0Z. This period was chosen since there were no extreme events that could have caused strong winds or precipitation, abducting the heat island effect. It was a typical period of the second half of July with a high pressure over the Gulf of Mexico and the presence of easterly waves coming from the Caribbean Sea. On July 27, when the numerical simulations begin, there was a high pressure system with center over the western Atlantic Ocean with the maximum pressure located north of the Bahamas and extending into the Gulf of Mexico. On the Mexican coasts of the Gulf of Mexico there were predominant southeasterly winds and the presence of a tropical wave over the Yucatan Peninsula. Another tropical wave was over central Mexico with a weak low pressure associated to it. During the simulation period the wave on the Yucatan Peninsula moved westward during 27, crossing the Bay of Campeche and reaching the middle of the country by July 28 at 0:00Z. A high pressure system also developed over the northeastern Gulf of Mexico which remained there during the rest of the simulated period, with small erratic movements west-southwestward. This high pressure caused the tropical waves to move west-northwestward crossing Mexico.

For the simulations the WRF model configuration uses a Mercator projection, with a time-step of 90 s, 35 vertical levels defined as in Figure 6 and one-way nesting. Schemes used in the model physics are: Kain-Fritsch cumulus parameterization, Thermal Diffusion Scheme as Land Surface Model, RRTM (Rapid Radiative Transfer Model) for longwave radiation, Dudhia for shortwave radiation and Yonsei University (YSU) scheme for the boundary layer (NCAR, 2009). The initial and boundary conditions were taken from the GFS global model, specifically 0Z data, which are available openly (GFS, 2008). An analysis for surface (2 m) temperature and vertical level different temperature is performed here.

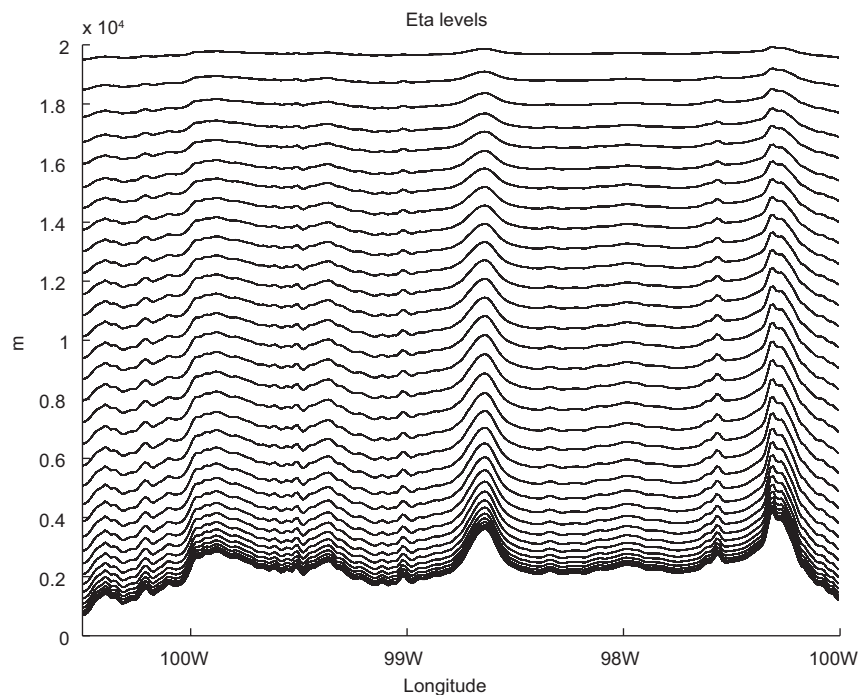


Fig. 6. Vertical levels defined in the model.

Table II. Localization of the study sites for each region.

Localization	Latitude/Longitude	
State of Mexico (EM1)	19° 30' 56.8"	−99° 13' 51.2"
State of Mexico (EM2)	19° 29' 28.3"	−99° 16' 12.3"
Federal District (DF1)	19° 32' 25.8"	−99° 09' 8.6"
Federal District (DF2)	19° 11' 42"	−99° 00' 30.5"
Puebla (PUE1)	19° 07' 15.2"	−98° 18' 7.9"
Puebla (PUE2)	19° 19' 50.8"	−98° 29' 54.2"
Tlaxcala (TLAX1)	19° 17' 37.6"	−98° 14' 59.6"
Tlaxcala (TLAX2)	19° 07' 15.2"	−98° 11' 4.1"

## 5. Results

The numerical simulation was performed mainly to study four regions in central Mexico (Fig. 2). Eight sites were analyzed where there has been a change from vegetation cover to urban cover. The location of each site is shown in Table II and a map with these sites can be seen in Figure 7. Particularly, the two sites discussed for the State of Mexico are on the Naucalpan county. The first site identified as EM1 is part of an urbanized area in INEGI-2009 data and in GLCC-1993 the site is identified as part of a grassland cover. The second site analyzed, EM2, on INEGI-2009 urban cover data is part of a residential area that borders Naucalpan while in GLCC-1993 is part of grassland coverage. The first site in the Federal District, DF1, is located in the northeast limits of the Gustavo A. Madero county. In INEGI-2009 land cover this site is part of a residential area while in GLCC-1993 this site is part of an area covered by trees. The second site, DF2, is located in the Milpa Alta county, south of the Federal District. In INEGI-2009 this site is inside a residential area while in GLCC-1993 the site has grass coverage. Both sites are located at the outskirts of the Federal District, one to the north and the other to the south. The first site analyzed for Puebla, PUE1, is located in the town of Santa Maria Coronango. The site is currently part of an urbanized area while in GLCC-1993 has vegetation coverage. The second site analyzed, PUE2, is located in San Matias Tlalancaleca located at the northwest of Puebla city, now with crop land cover while in GLCC-1993 has grassland coverage. In the state of Tlaxcala the site TLAX1 is located near the road to Nativitas in a region with woodland coverage. In GLCC-1993 data this site has shrub cover. The last site TLAX2 is located in San Pablo del Monte, in southern Tlaxcala inside a farmland cover. In GLCC-1993 data the site has grass coverage.

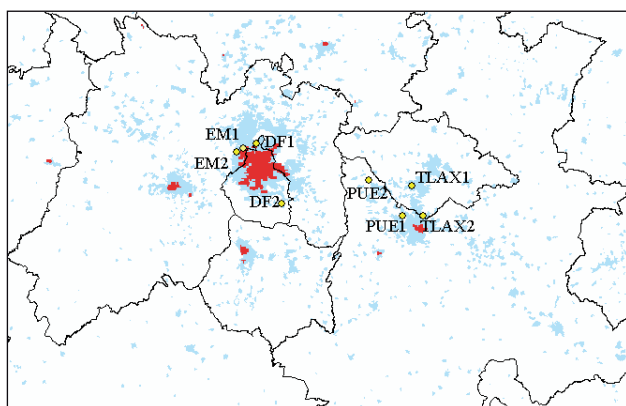


Fig. 7. Location of the eight sites of study over the urban cover. INEGI-2009 (blue) and GLCC-1993 (red).

Table III shows the maximum temperatures recorded in the five days studied period. In general, an average increase is observed in the daily maximum temperature of 1.33 °C, which occurs between 13:00 and 15:00 hours (local time). Table IV shows the minimum temperatures and for the daily

Table III. Maximum temperature recorded in the simulation period for each one of the study sites.

Localization	°C / Hour (local time)												Average difference
	27/07/10			28/07/10			29/07/10			30/07/10			Average
	INEGI	GLCC		INEGI	GLCC		INEGI	GLCC		INEGI	GLCC		
EM1	27.5 14:00	26.4 14:00		27.5 13:00	25.9 15:00		27.1 13:00	26.0 14:00		27.3 14:00	25.8 14:00		27.39 25.98 1.41
EM2	26.7 14:00	25.6 15:00		26.0 15:00	25.2 15:00		26.6 13:00	25.6 14:00		26.4 14:00	25.1 14:00		26.55 25.38 1.17
DF1	27.5 14:00	26.7 15:00		27.8 15:00	26.4 15:00		27.6 13:00	26.6 14:00		27.1 14:00	26.2 14:00		27.54 26.46 1.08
DF2	26.7 14:00	25.5 15:00		25.9 13:00	24.5 14:00		27.3 14:00	25.4 14:00		26.8 14:00	26.2 15:00		26.6 25.37 1.22
PUE1	27.9 13:00	26.5 14:00		27.5 14:00	24.8 13:00		27.9 14:00	26.7 14:00		28.3 14:00	27.3 14:00		27.9 26.36 1.54
PUE2	26.4 14:00	25.2 15:00		25.1 12:00	24.3 13:00		25.6 13:00	25.0 13:00		25.9 14:00	25.0 14:00		26.05 25.03 1.01
TLAX1	27.1 13:00	25.7 14:00		25.3 13:00	23.2 13:00		26.2 13:00	25.1 14:00		26.1 14:00	24.8 14:00		26.51 24.81 1.69
TLAX2	27.1 14:00	25.5 13:00		27.4 14:00	25.7 13:00		27.0 14:00	26.0 14:00		27.2 14:00	25.9 15:00		27.18 25.66 1.52

minimum temperature the average increase is 0.12 °C and this is reached between 4:00 and 7:00 hours (local time). Table V shows the mean range change for each site. The daily temperature range in average using new data is 16.0 °C whereas using old data is 14.9 °C. Table VI illustrates the maximum

Table IV. Minimum temperature recorded in the simulation period for each one of the study sites.

Localization	°C / Hour (local time)												Average		Average difference
	27/07/10		28/07/10		29/07/10		30/07/10		31/07/10		INEGI	GLCC			
	INEGI	GLCC	INEGI	GLCC	INEGI	GLCC	INEGI	GLCC	INEGI	GLCC					
EM1	10.7	11.4	12.3	6:00	11.7	12.3	9.8	10.3	9.8	9.8	11.06	11.14	-0.09		
	6:00	5:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00					
	10.1	10.5	11.7	10.9	12.1	11.6	9.5	8.9	9.1	9.1	10.53	10.25			
EM2	6:00	6:00	5:00	6:00	6:00	4:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00			0.28		
	11.3	11.4	12.8	12.9	11.6	11.4	11.4	11.4	10.7	10.4	11.71	11.55			
	6:00	5:00	7:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	7:00	6:00	6:00	6:00					
DF1	10.4	10.1	11.4	11.3	10.3	10.1	10.4	9.8	11.2	11.7	10.74	10.61	0.16		
	5:00	5:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	3:00	7:00					
	11.7	11.1	12.4	11.9	12.7	12.3	12.5	12.1	12.6	11.6	12.41	11.84			
PUE1	5:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	4:00	3:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00			0.57		
	9.1	9.3	10.6	10.8	9.1	9.1	9.2	9.0	9.4	9.5	9.49	9.55			
	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00					
PUE2	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00			-0.06		
	10.7	10.6	11.5	11.6	12.6	12.3	11.0	10.7	10.6	10.8	11.28	11.22			
	4:00	4:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	5:00	4:00	6:00	6:00	6:00					
TLAX1	9.0	9.2	11.6	11.6	9.9	9.7	8.4	8.6	9.5	9.8	9.69	9.8	0.06		
	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00					
	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00					
TLAX2	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00			-0.11		



Table V. Mean diurnal temperature range change for each one of the study sites.

Localization	INEGI-2009	GLCC-1993	$\Delta T$
	(°C)		
EM1	16.33	14.84	1.49
EM2	16.03	15.13	0.9
DF1	15.83	14.91	0.92
DF2	15.86	14.76	1.1
PUE1	15.49	14.52	0.97
PUE2	16.55	15.48	1.07
TLAX1	15.23	13.59	1.64
TLAX2	17.49	15.86	1.63

Table VI. Maximum differences in temperature between the two simulations during the entire period for each one of the sites studied. Numbers in bold indicate the overall maximum difference in temperature and the local time when it was reached, for each of the sites.

Localization	27/07/10	28/07/10	29/07/10	30/07/10	31/07/10	Average
	°C / Hour (local time)					
EM1	3.0 / 11:00	3.1 / 11:00	3.1 / 12:00	2.4 / 11:00	<b>3.2 / 12:00</b>	3.0
EM2	2.0 / 12:00	2.4 / 11:00	<b>2.6 / 12:00</b>	2.2 / 11:00	2.6 / 13:00	2.4
DF1	3.2 / 10:00	3.4 / 11:00	<b>3.9 / 18:00</b>	2.3 / 11:00	3.6 / 11:00	3.3
DF2	2.3 / 10:00	<b>3.2 / 13:00</b>	2.5 / 13:00	2.2 / 13:00	2.4 / 11:00	2.5
PUE1	2.3 / 10:00	<b>5.3 / 14:00</b>	2.0 / 12:00	2.0 / 13:00	2.4 / 13:00	2.8
PUE2	1.9 / 10:00	1.6 / 9:00	<b>3.5 / 16:00</b>	1.6 / 10:00	1.7 / 14:00	2.1
TLAX1	2.2 / 12:00	<b>3.0 / 14:00</b>	1.5 / 12:00	1.5 / 11:00	2.6 / 14:00	2.2
TLAX2	2.6 / 11:00	<b>3.6 / 15:00</b>	2.6 / 10:00	2.0 / 9:00	2.9 / 11:00	2.7

differences in temperature recorded between the two simulations for the five days of simulation for each of the surveyed sites. The difference is obtained by subtracting the temperature field obtained using GLCC-1993 data from the temperature field obtained using INEGI-2009 temperature data. The average of the daily maximum differences in temperature is 2.61 °C and the average of the differences is 0.66 °C. The maximum differences in temperature are registered between 10:00 and 15:00 hours (local time).

Figures 8 through 11 show the details of the time evolution of the temperature and the change in the simulation for particular sites. The temperature series evolution using GLCC-1993 and INEGI-2009 urban cover data can be seen in panels b of Figures 8, 9, 10 and 11, for sites EM2, DF2, PUE1a, TLAX1 respectively and the difference between these two temperature series is presented in panels of Figures 8, 9, 10 and 11. In general, the temperature is higher most of the time when the INEGI-2009 urban cover is used. Also, note that the change from soil surface to urban coverage increased the temperature.

Results for the eight sites show a diurnal cycle with greater amplitude and higher maximum temperatures when data from 2009 urban locations is used. Largest temperature differences are observed in the morning, when the temperature is rising (Figures 8-11).



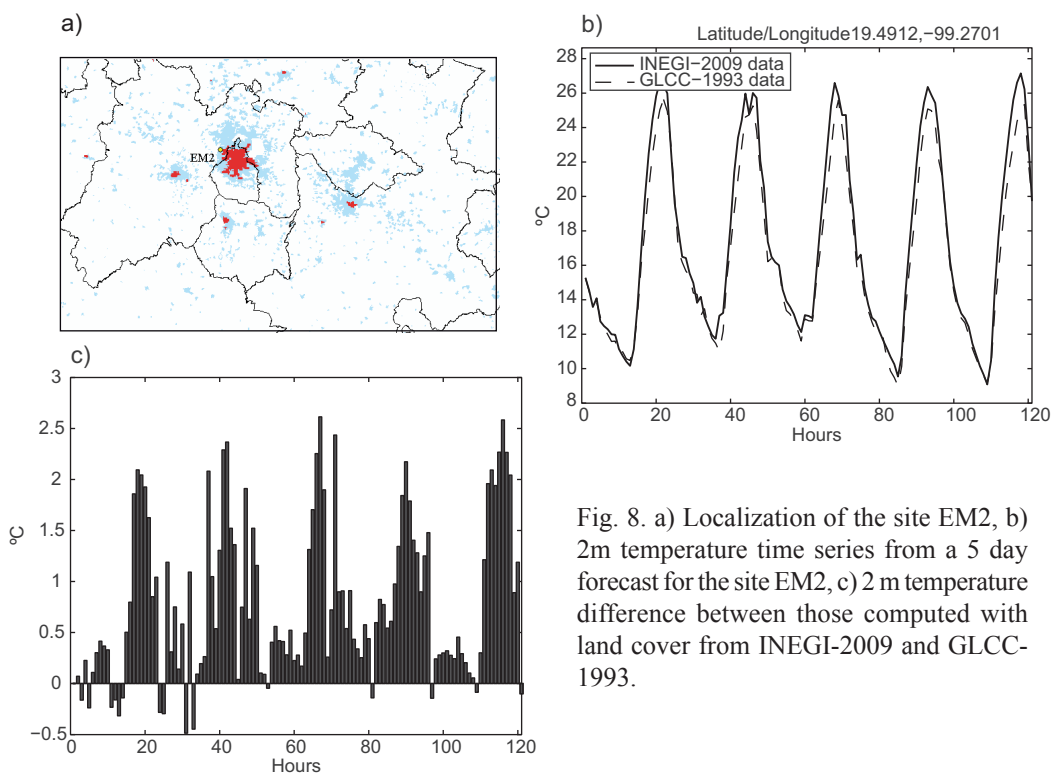


Fig. 8. a) Localization of the site EM2, b) 2m temperature time series from a 5 day forecast for the site EM2, c) 2 m temperature difference between those computed with land cover from INEGI-2009 and GLCC-1993.

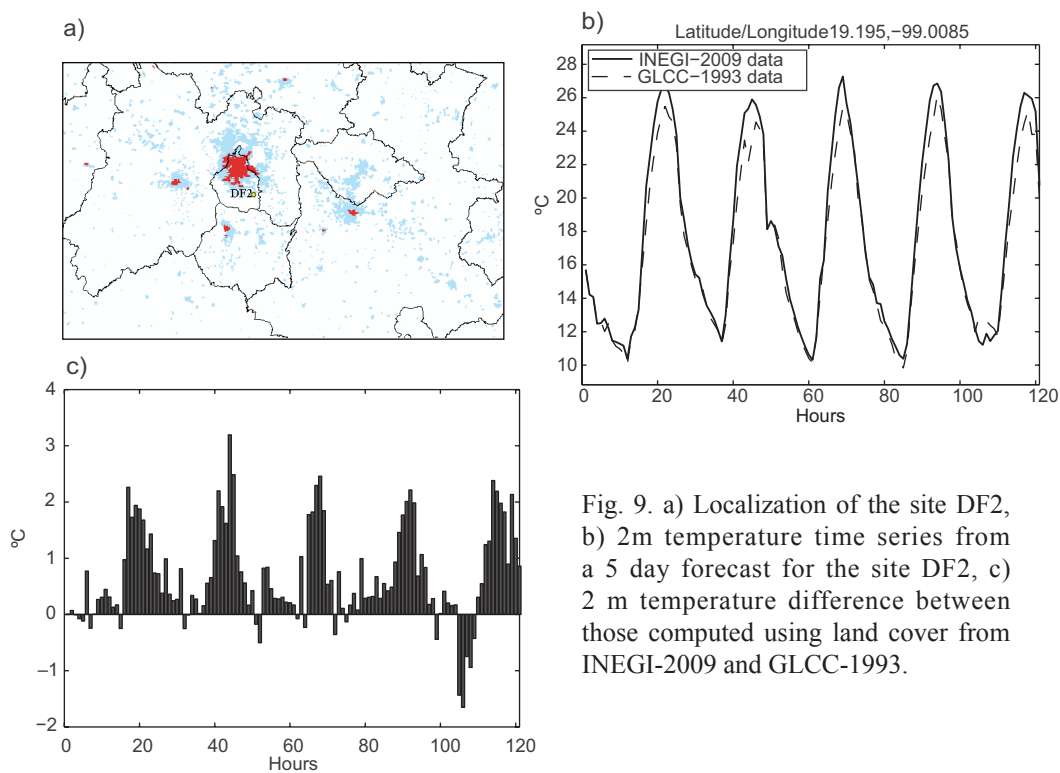


Fig. 9. a) Localization of the site DF2, b) 2m temperature time series from a 5 day forecast for the site DF2, c) 2 m temperature difference between those computed using land cover from INEGI-2009 and GLCC-1993.

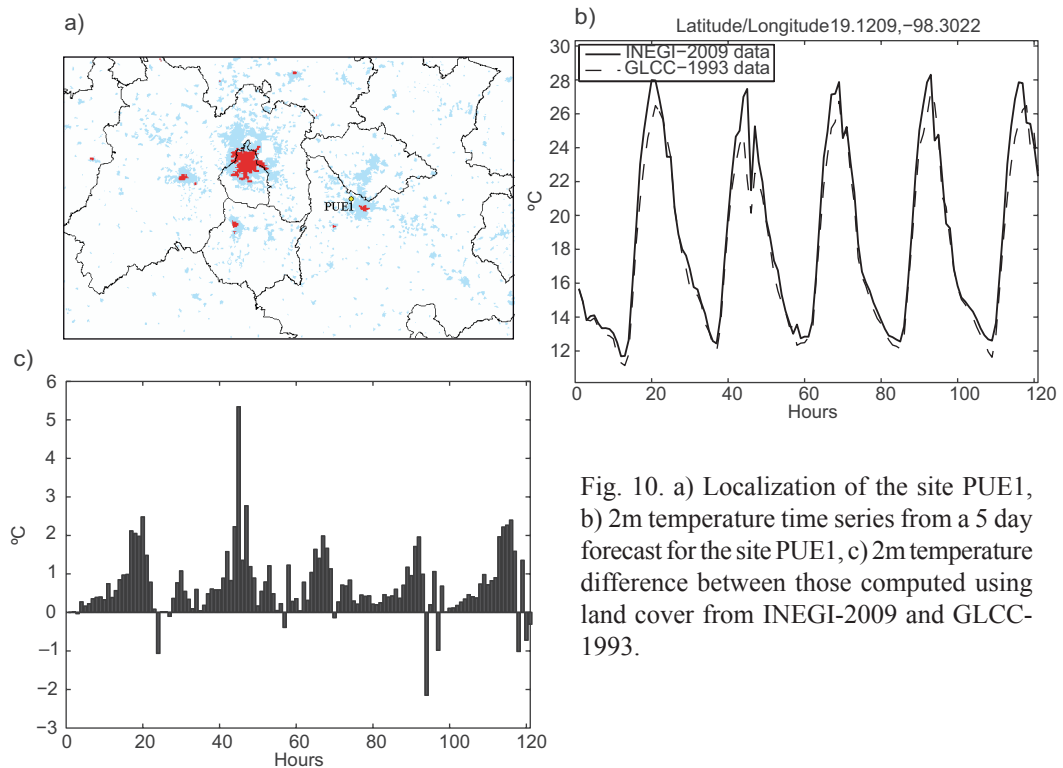


Fig. 10. a) Localization of the site PUE1, b) 2m temperature time series from a 5 day forecast for the site PUE1, c) 2m temperature difference between those computed using land cover from INEGI-2009 and GLCC-1993.

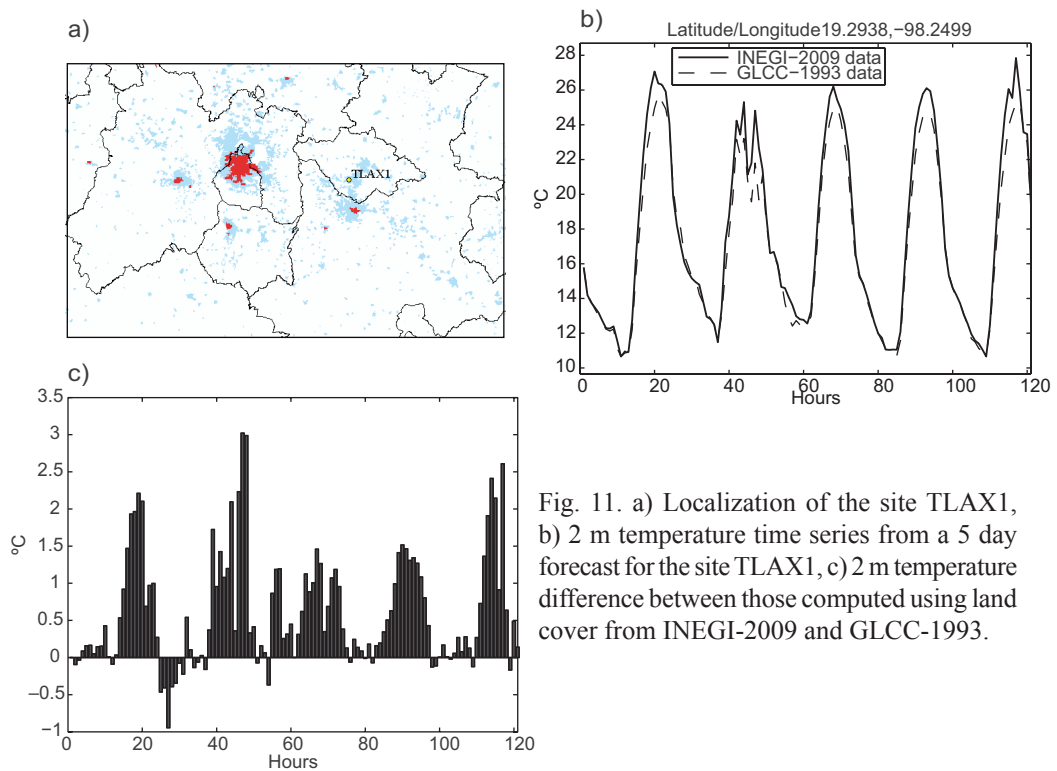


Fig. 11. a) Localization of the site TLAX1, b) 2 m temperature time series from a 5 day forecast for the site TLAX1, c) 2m temperature difference between those computed using land cover from INEGI-2009 and GLCC-1993.

Table VII. Mean differences of temperatures in the simulation period for each of the eight sites of study.

Mean differences (°C)	
EM1	0.69
EM2	0.79
DF1	0.72
DF2	0.68
PUE1	0.70
PUE2	0.37
TLAX1	0.61
TLAX2	0.71

Table VII presents the average differences considering the entire temperature series for each of the eight sites of study. These results show that the temperature increases by more than 0.5 °C when INEGI-2009 urban cover data is used.

Figure 12 presents hourly maps, from 10:00 to 15:00 hours (local time), of the temperature difference for day four of the simulation. The maps show the evolution of the temperature difference in Mexico City and the State of Mexico. The heat island begins to form around 8:00 hours and begins to fade around 16:00 hours, spreading from east to west. It can be observed that in places where there was already urban coverage (central and northern Mexico City) the temperature is barely affected although these areas are surrounded by those that changed land use. Figure 13 shows the temperature difference at 11:00 hours for each of the five days of the simulation. It can be seen that in most of the new urban areas, included in INEGI-2009 urban cover, temperature tends to be higher. Temperature increase varies from 0.5 to 5 °C; also it can be observed that the temperature rise is higher in large urban centers compared to rural areas, as shown in Jauregui (2005) the urbanization is producing a heat island which is contributing to climates with higher temperatures.

In Figure 14 the heat island is shown for the 11 hours (local time) for the five-day simulation at different vertical levels. The heat island remains from 30 to 4700 m approximately (or model levels 1-8).

Figures 15 and 16 show the temperature in vertical cross-sections for specific latitudes and longitudes. Here the temperature anomaly is observed up to around 800 m above surface or model level 7.

### 5.1 Analysis of historical data

A historical data analysis to investigate the trends of the maximum and minimum temperatures for sites with similar land use change to the eight sites previously studied is performed. Figure 17 and Table VIII show the locations of the 15 stations analyzed and the observed period.

The analysis was carried out to study the long-term trends for 15 weather stations distributed in the four study regions, three located in the Federal District, seven in the State of Mexico, two in Puebla and three in Tlaxcala. The analysis considered the monthly averages for the month of July, which is the month of simulation, for maximum and minimum temperature obtained by the Servicio Meteorológico Nacional (SMN, by its abbreviation in Spanish).

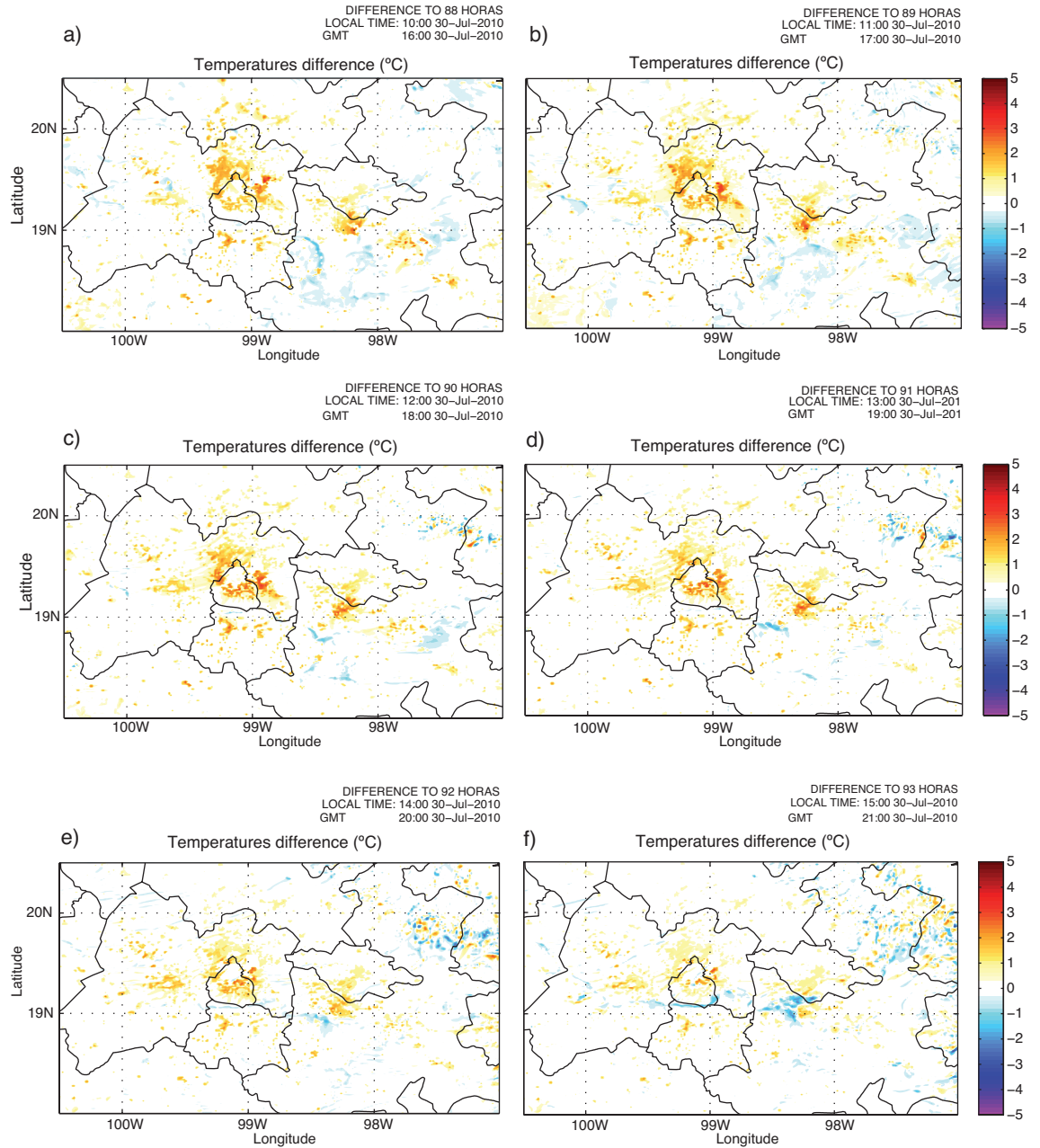


Fig. 12. Evolution of 2 m temperature difference observed in the simulations a) 10:00 hours, b) 11:00 hours, c) 12 hours, d) 13:00 hours, e) 14:00 hours and f) 15:00 hours.

We identified time series covering longer periods and the trend was estimated considering only the records that contain data from 31 days of July. In order to calculate the trends, we used the method of least squares and the uncertainty of the slope was calculated at 95% confidence (Zavala-Hidalgo *et al.*, 2010). The trend, i.e. the average increase per month is calculated by the following equation:

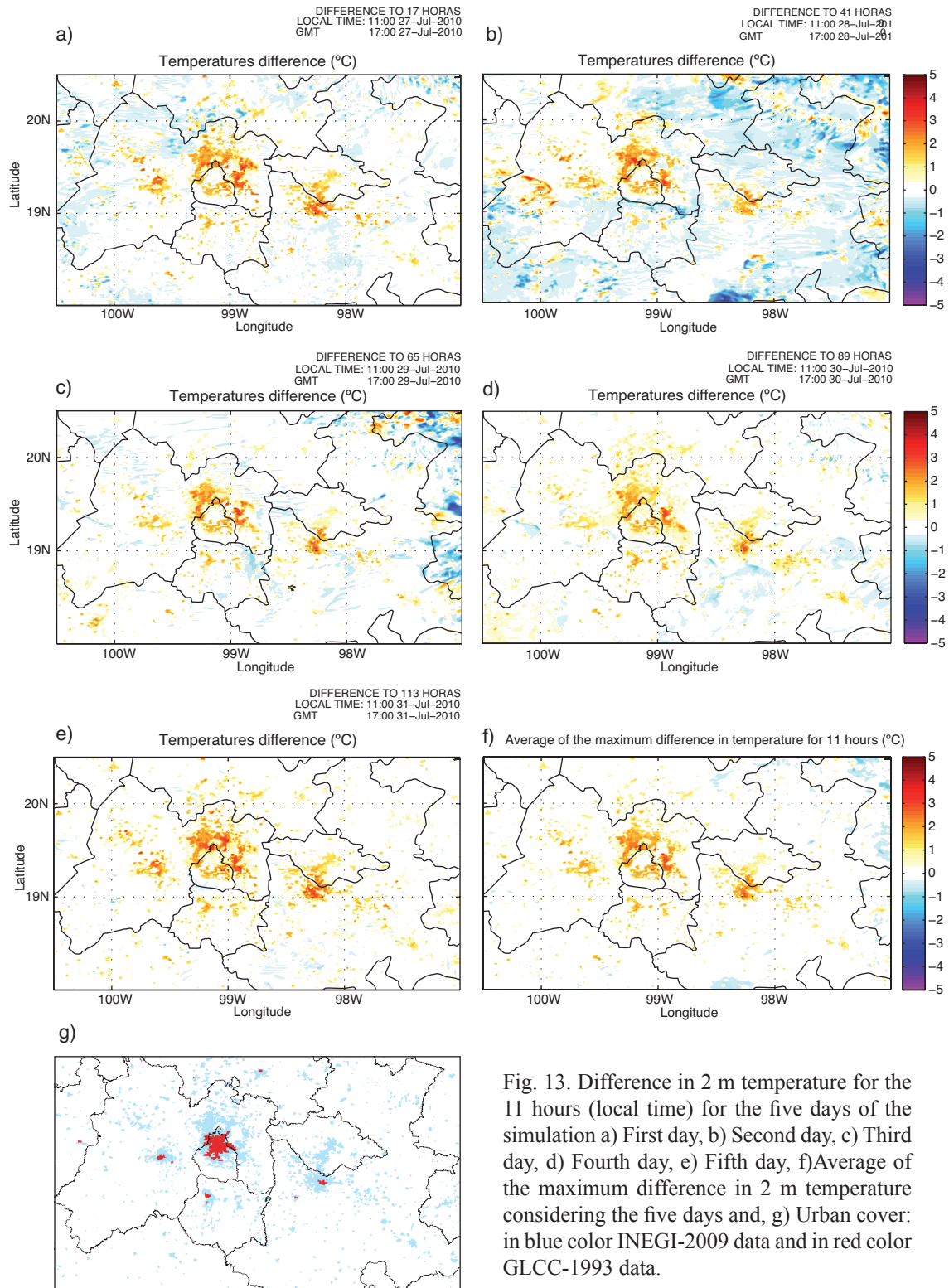


Fig. 13. Difference in 2 m temperature for the 11 hours (local time) for the five days of the simulation a) First day, b) Second day, c) Third day, d) Fourth day, e) Fifth day, f) Average of the maximum difference in 2 m temperature considering the five days and, g) Urban cover: in blue color INEGI-2009 data and in red color GLCC-1993 data.



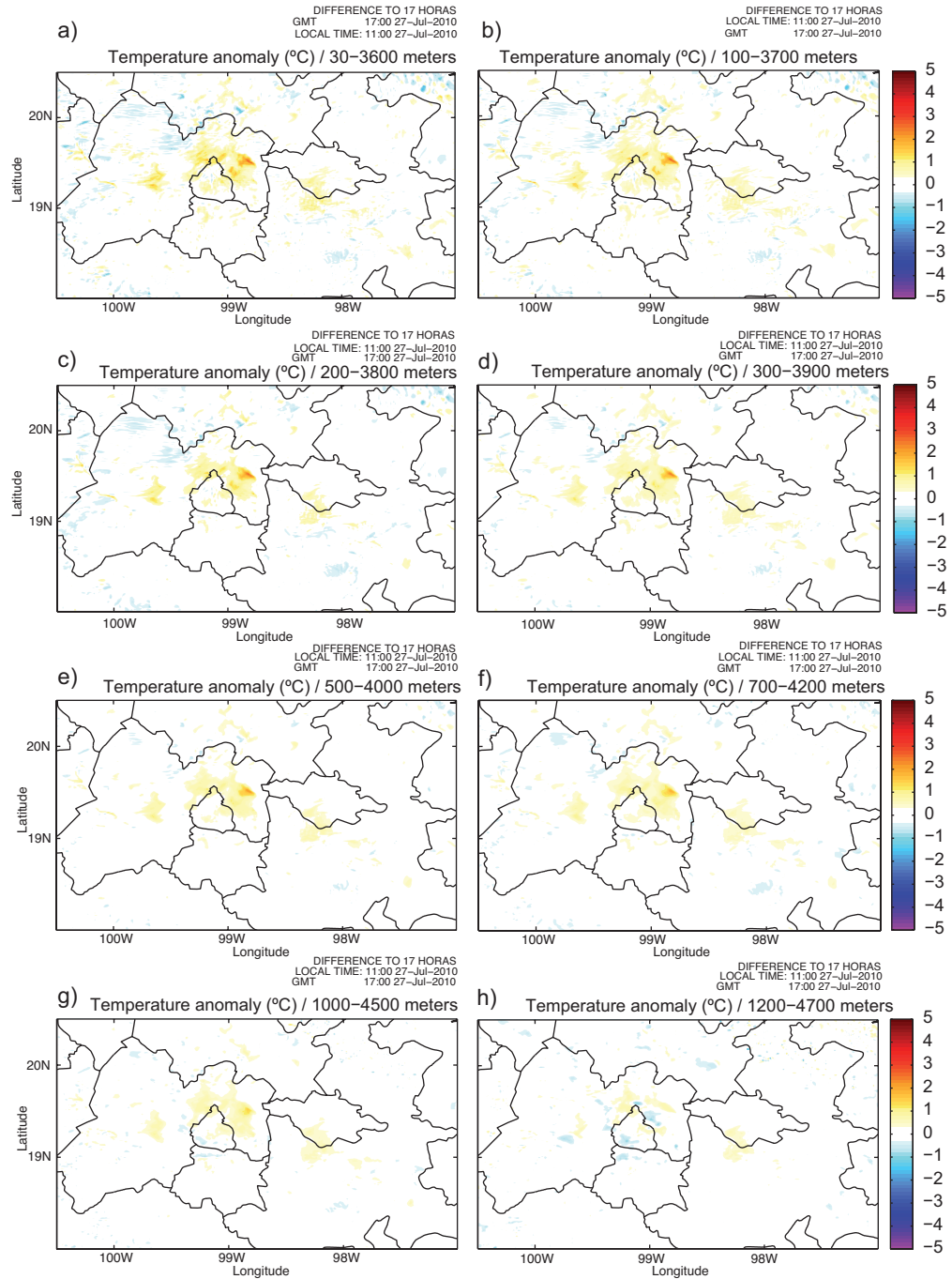


Fig. 14. Evolution of the heat islands through of different vertical levels for first-day simulation for the 11:00 hours (local time). a) eta level 1 between 30 and 3600 m, b) eta level 2 between 100 and 3700 m, c) eta level 3 between 200 and 3800 m, d) eta level 4 between 300 and 3900 m, e) eta level 5 between 500 and 4000 m, f) eta level 6 between 700 and 4200 m, g) eta level 7 between 1000 and 4500 m and h) eta level 8 between 1200 and 4700 m.

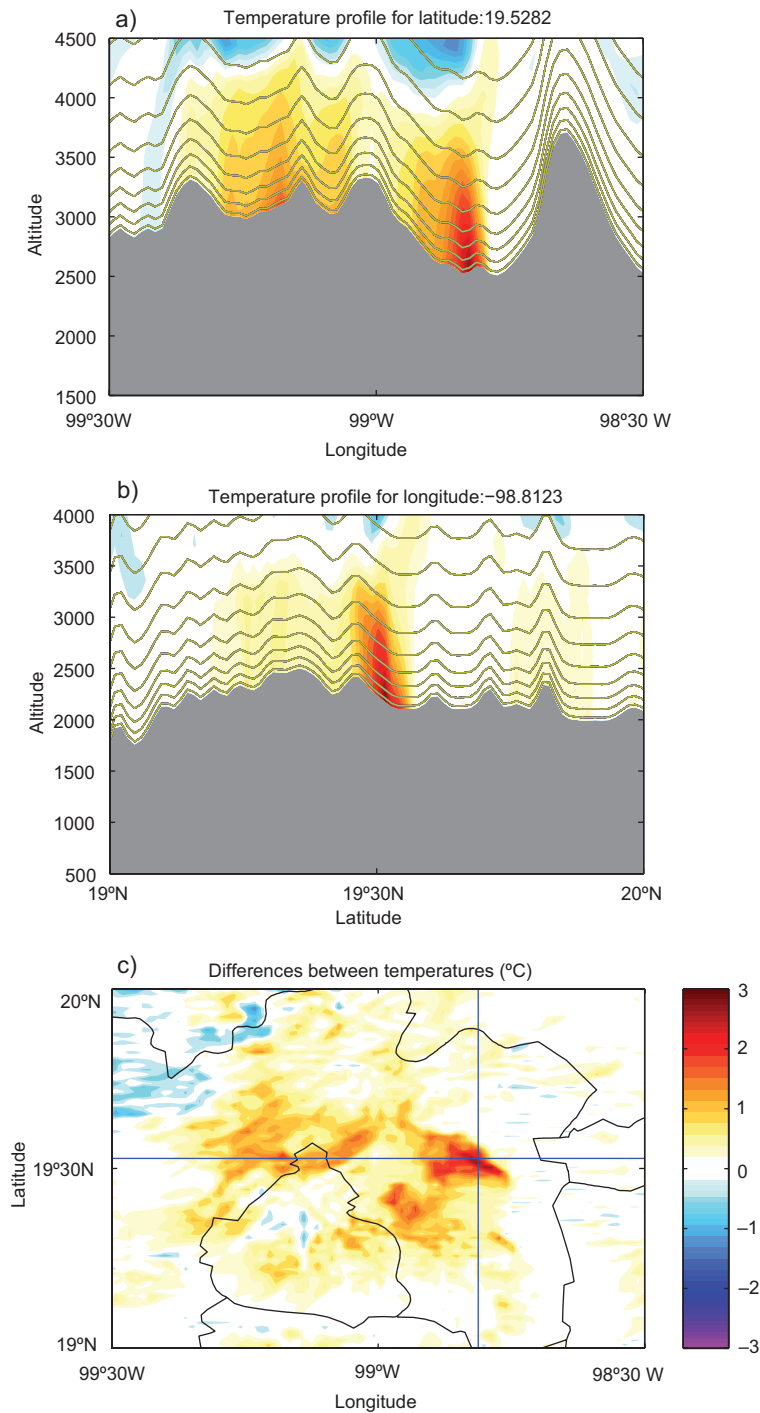


Fig. 15 a). Temperature cross section for latitude 19.52, b) Temperature cross section for longitude  $-98.81$ , c) Map with temperature difference for first-day simulation, the solid lines indicate the location of the vertical cross sections in a) and b).



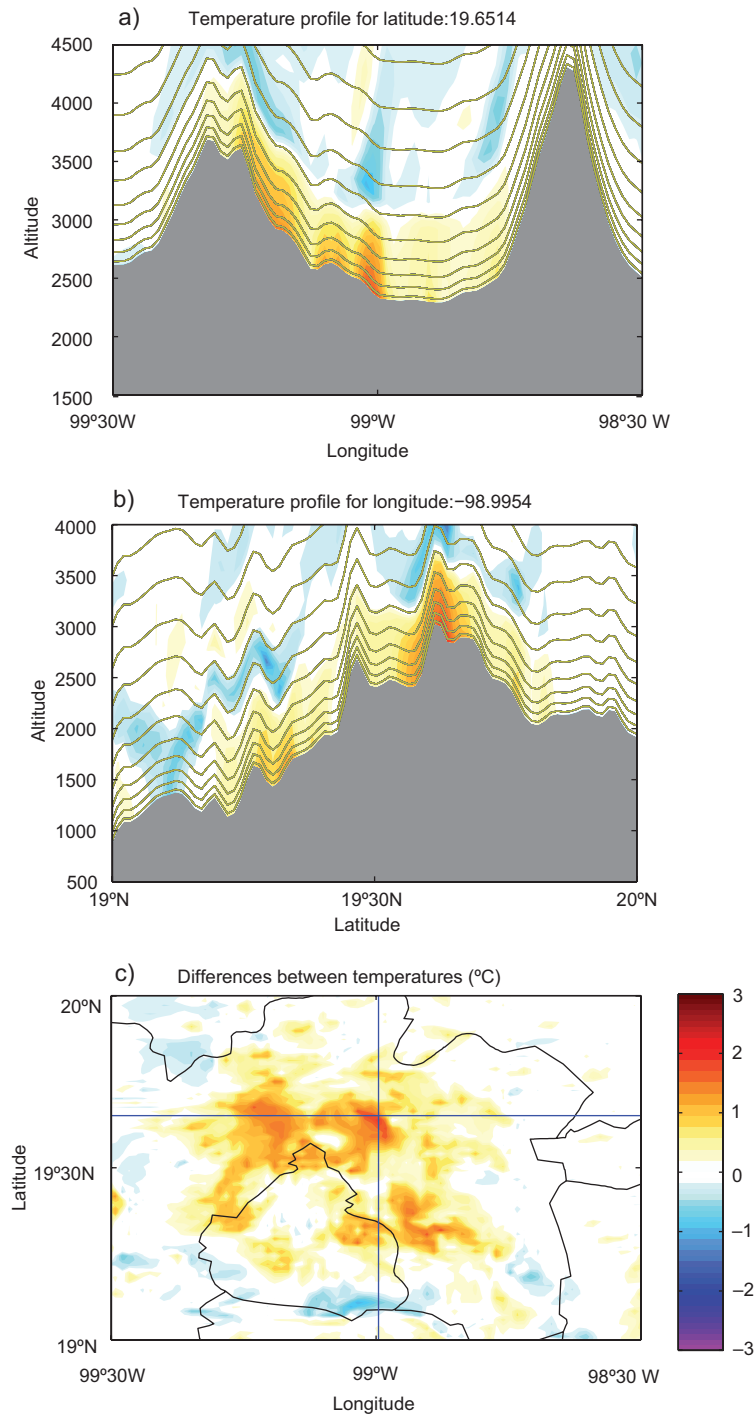


Fig. 16 a). Temperature cross section for latitude 19.65, b) Temperature cross section for longitude -98.99, c) Map with temperature difference for first-day simulation, the solid lines indicate the location of the vertical cross sections in a) and b).

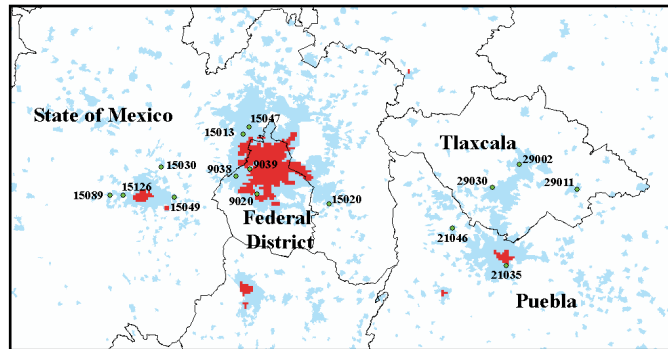


Fig. 17. Location of climatological stations.

Table VIII. Station locations and data period.

Region	Station	Latitude	Longitude	Period
Federal District	9020	19° 17' 48.9"	−99° 10' 55.9"	1967-2008
Federal District	9038	19° 22' 00"	−99° 16' 00"	1954-1988
Federal District	9039	19° 23' 49.9"	−99° 12' 45"	1954-1988
State of Mexico	15013	19° 32' 03"	−99° 14' 21.9"	1961-2008
State of Mexico	15020	19° 15' 29.9"	−98° 53' 44.9"	1967-2007
State of Mexico	15030	19° 24' 18"	−99° 33' 47"	1961-2006
State of Mexico	15047	19° 33' 46"	−99° 12' 56.9"	1969-2008
State of Mexico	15049	19° 17' 4.9"	−99° 30' 42.9"	1943-2007
State of Mexico	15089	19° 17' 31.9"	−99° 46' 04"	1939-2006
State of Mexico	15126	19° 17' 27.9"	−99° 42' 51"	1968-2006
Puebla	21035	19° 00' 44.9"	−98° 11' 35"	1954-2006
Puebla	21046	19° 09' 42.9"	−98° 24' 23"	1946-1998
Tlaxcala	29002	19° 24' 56"	−98° 08' 24"	1951-2004
Tlaxcala	29011	19° 18' 56.9"	−97° 54' 39.9"	1945-2004
Tlaxcala	29030	19° 19' 26"	−98° 14' 48"	1962-2004

$$Trend = \frac{\sum (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y})}{\sum (x_i - \bar{x})^2} \quad (1)$$

where  $x_i$  are the dates on which there are observations,  $y_i$  the observations,  $\bar{x}$  and  $\bar{y}$  are the average of  $x_i$  and  $y_i$ , respectively.

The uncertainty in the slope was calculated as the product of the standard error (SE) and the critical value (CV) obtained from the *t-Student* distribution with  $n-2$  degrees of freedom, where  $n$  is the number of observations:

$$Uncertainty = SE \times CV \quad (2)$$

Standard error was calculated using the following equation:

$$SE = \sqrt{\frac{\sum (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2}{(n-2) \sum (x_i - \bar{x})^2}} \quad (3)$$

where  $\hat{y}_i$  are the values estimated from the straight-line fit by method of least squares.

The analysis of trends for minimum and maximum temperature for the different stations is shown in Figures 18-21. In these figures the monthly average for July by year is indicated by black dots

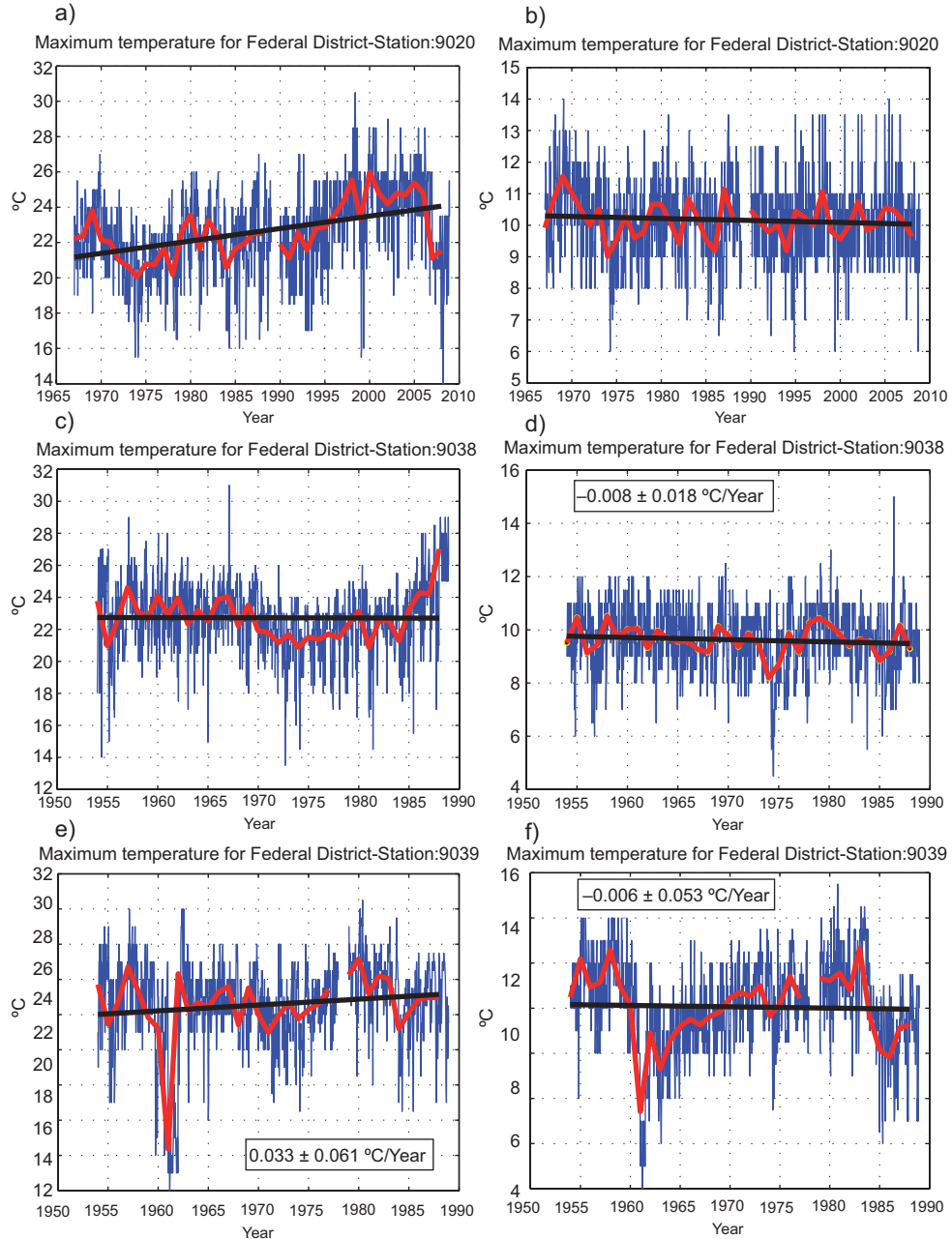


Fig. 18. Trends of maximum and minimum temperature for stations 9020, 9038, 9039 in Federal District. a), c), e) Maximum temperature trends and b), d), f) Minimum temperature trends. See Fig. 17 for location of the sites.

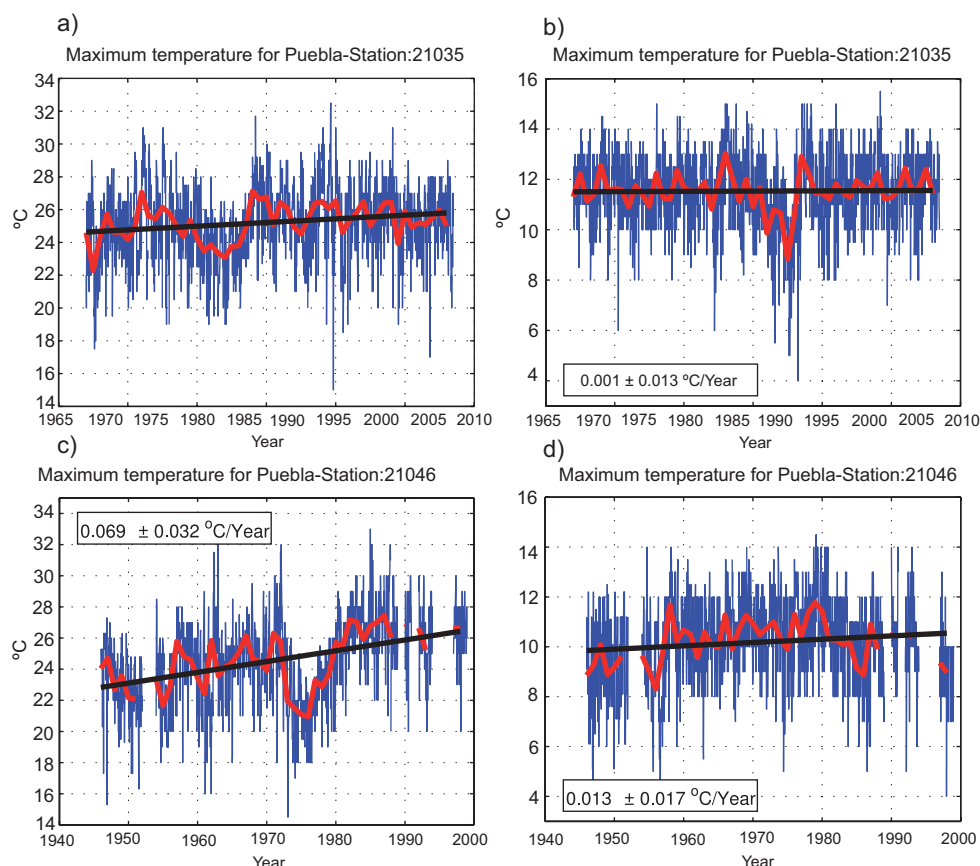


Fig. 19. Trends of maximum and minimum temperature for stations 21035 and 21046 in Puebla. a), c) Maximum temperature trends and b), d) Minimum temperature trends. See Fig. 17 for location of the sites.

and red line, the maximum temperature for the 31 days of each July is shown in blue line and the estimated trend is shown in thick black lines. Table IX summarizes the trends for maximum and minimum temperatures for the 15 stations analyzed.

It is noteworthy that the stations analyzed have a positive trend in maximum temperature while in minimum temperature positive and negative trends are obtained, but there are more frequent negative trends.

Results show for maximum temperature a lower positive trend in the station 15020 with  $0.004 \pm 0.027$  °C year<sup>-1</sup> and the largest positive trend in the station 15126 with  $0.090 \pm 0.028$  °C year<sup>-1</sup>, both in the State of Mexico. Four stations have negative trends (9038, 15049, 15089, 29011); the trend in stations, 9038 and 15049 is  $-0.001$  °C year<sup>-1</sup>, that is smaller than the negative trends in stations 15089 and 29011. For minimum temperature the trends are between  $-0.078 \pm 0.022$  °C year<sup>-1</sup> and  $0.034 \pm 0.021$  °C year<sup>-1</sup>.

The average trend for maximum temperature is  $0.03$  °C year<sup>-1</sup> and  $0.0$  °C year<sup>-1</sup> for minimum temperature. These trends, with more increase in the maximum than in the minimum temperatures are consistent with the simulations results. Moreover, Englehart and Douglas (2005) showed for

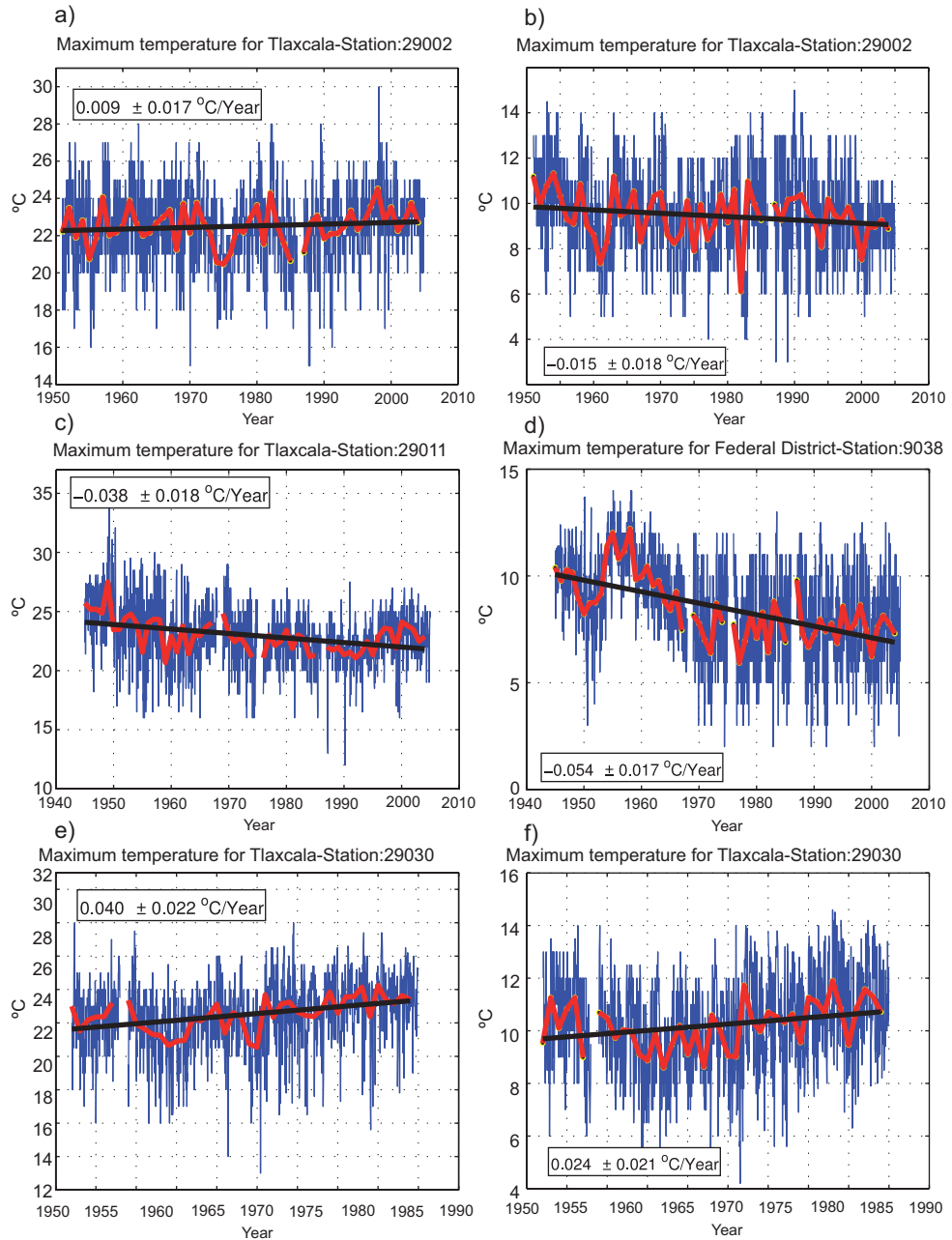


Fig. 20. Trends of maximum and minimum temperature for stations 29002, 29011, 29030 in Tlaxcala. a), c), e) Maximum temperature trends and b), d), f) Minimum temperature trends. See Fig. 17 for location of the sites.

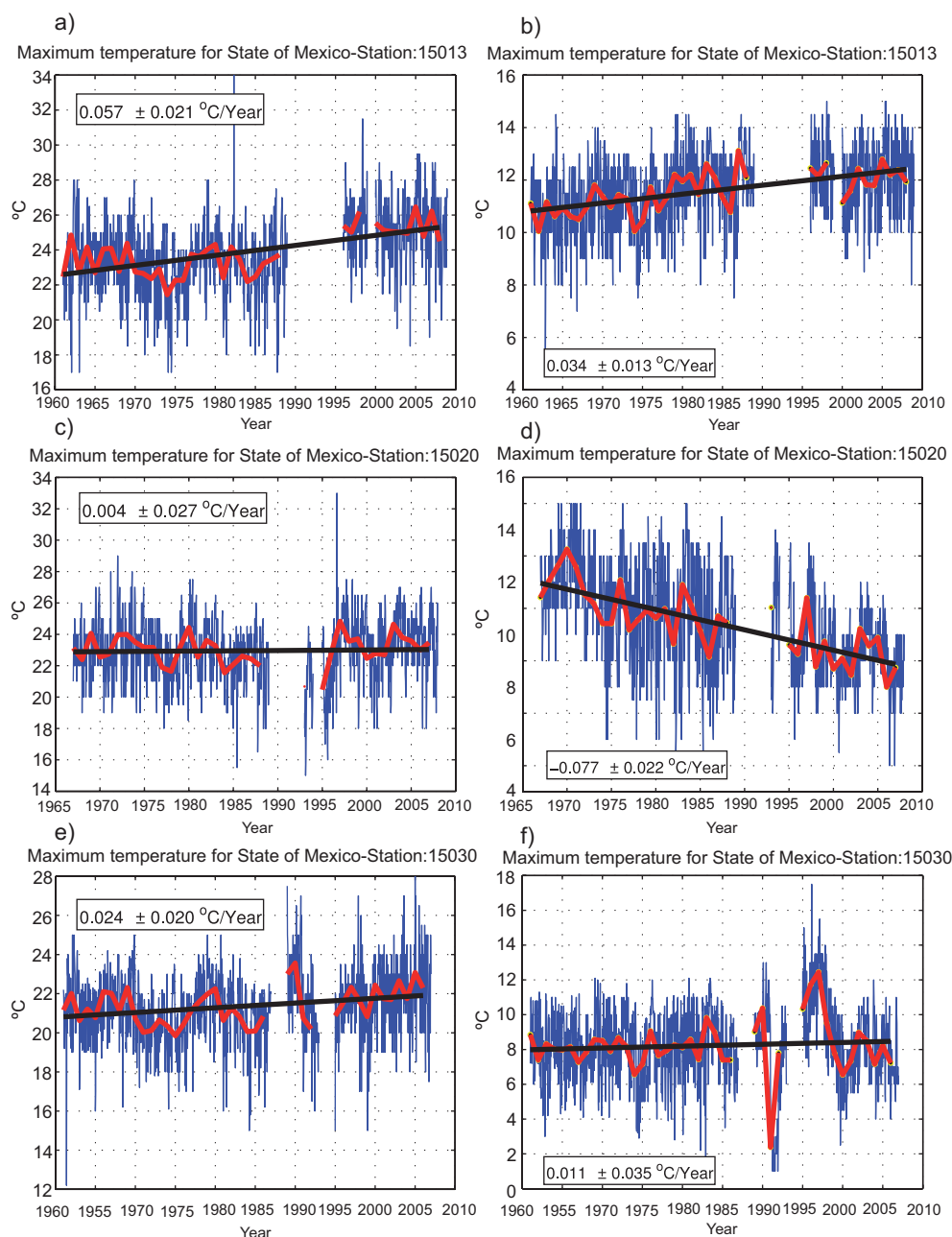


Fig. 21. Trends of maximum and minimum temperature for stations 15013, 15020, 15030, 15047, 15049, 15089, 15126 in State of Mexico. a), c), e), g), i), k), m) Maximum temperature trends and b), d), f), h), j), l), n) Minimum temperature trends. See Fig. 17 for location of the sites.

Mexico that the trend of diurnal range in surface temperatures (DTR = maximum – minimum temperature) is significantly positive and therefore the daily maximum temperature increase faster than the daily minimum temperature. One possible explanation given is that regional land use and land cover changes are identified as potential forcing mechanisms responsible for at least part of the observed DTR behavior.

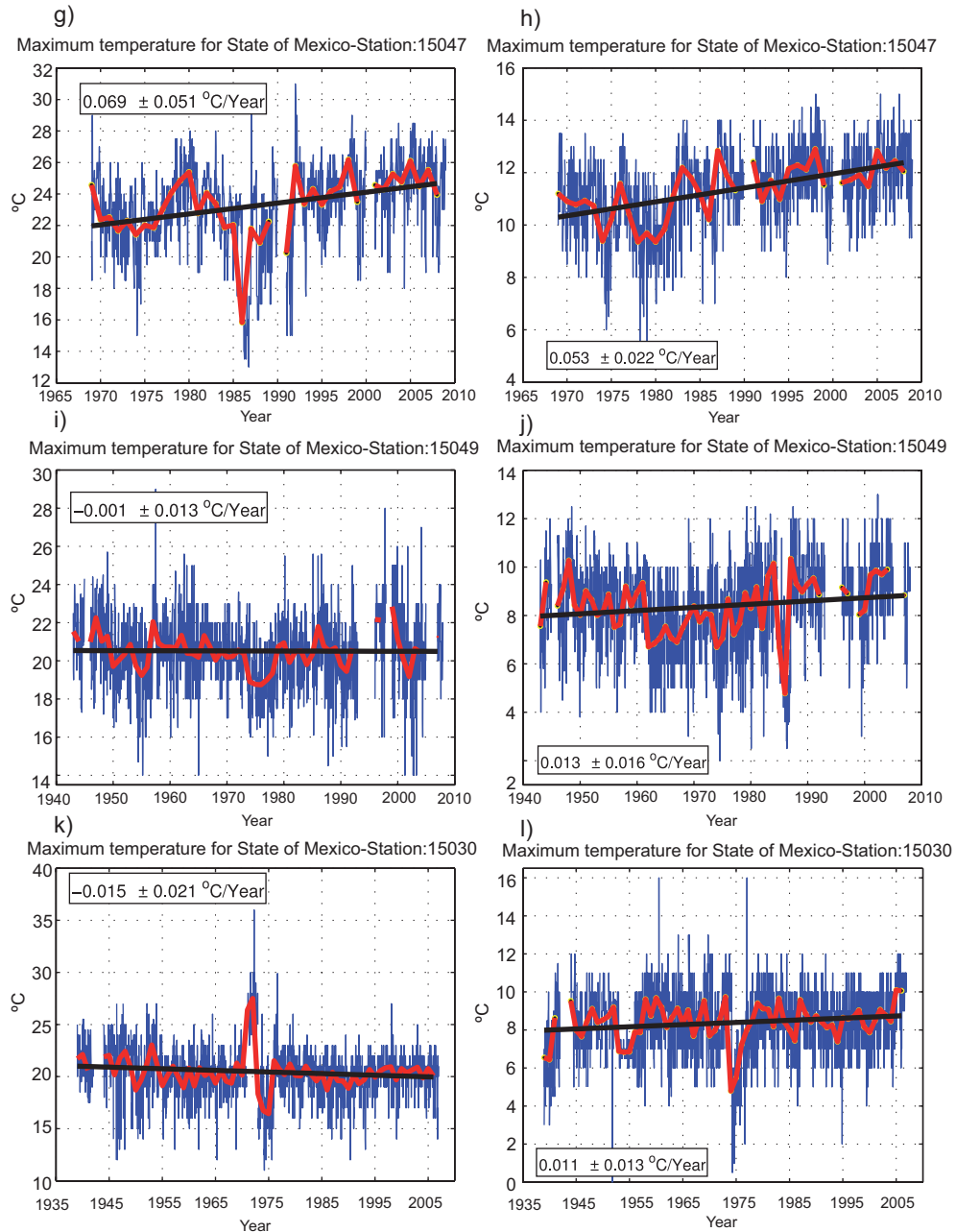


Fig. 21. Continue

## 6. Conclusions

Land cover in the central part of Mexico had considerable changes in a relatively short time, extending the urban areas and causing a temperature increase. Based on simulations using the WRF model with a new urban cover data, it is shown that regions that changed their vegetation cover into urban areas have higher temperatures with a larger diurnal temperature range and maximum temperature. Specifically, for four entities in the center of the country: State of Mexico, Federal



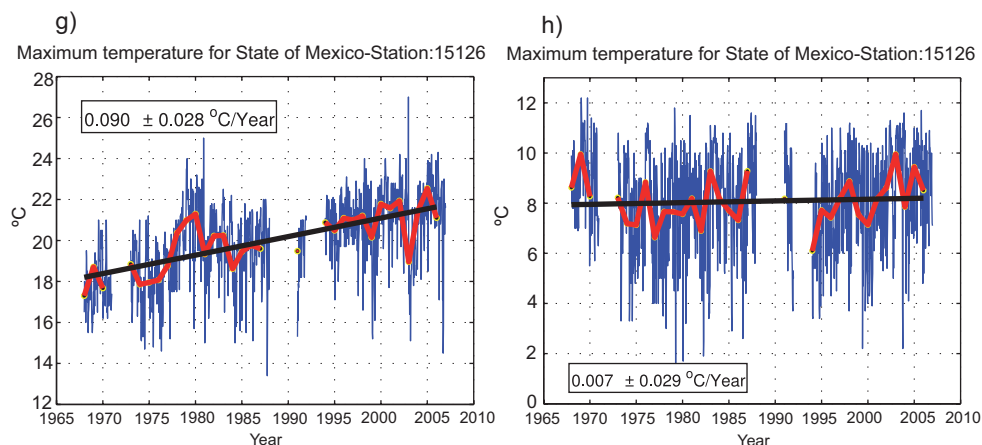


Fig. 21. Continue

Table IX. Trends of minimum and maximum temperature for the 15 stations analyzed

Station	Trend [ $^{\circ}\text{C year}^{-1}$ ]	
	Maximum temperature	Minimum temperature
9020	$0.070 \pm 0.034$	$-0.006 \pm 0.015$
9038	$-0.001 \pm 0.046$	$-0.008 \pm 0.018$
9039	$0.033 \pm 0.062$	$-0.006 \pm 0.053$
15013	$0.057 \pm 0.021$	$0.034 \pm 0.013$
15020	$0.004 \pm 0.027$	$-0.078 \pm 0.022$
15030	$0.024 \pm 0.020$	$0.011 \pm 0.035$
15047	$0.069 \pm 0.051$	$0.053 \pm 0.022$
15049	$-0.001 \pm 0.013$	$0.013 \pm 0.016$
15089	$-0.016 \pm 0.021$	$0.011 \pm 0.013$
15126	$0.090 \pm 0.028$	$0.007 \pm 0.029$
21035	$0.022 \pm 0.019$	$0.001 \pm 0.013$
21046	$0.069 \pm 0.033$	$0.013 \pm 0.017$
29002	$0.009 \pm 0.017$	$-0.015 \pm 0.018$
29011	$-0.038 \pm 0.018$	$-0.054 \pm 0.017$
29030	$0.040 \pm 0.022$	$0.024 \pm 0.021$

District, Puebla and Tlaxcala, the temperature rises between 0.5 and 5  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  in urban areas. Also the average temperature increase of a set of sites is larger for the daily maximum temperature (1.33  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) than for the daily minimum temperature (0.12  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ).

In particular the heat island in Mexico City and the State of Mexico is formed with temperature anomalies that extend approximately 800 m from the surface.

In addition, the results of the analysis of historical data show generally increasing trends in maximum temperature between  $0.004 \pm 0.027$   $^{\circ}\text{C year}^{-1}$  and  $0.090 \pm 0.028$   $^{\circ}\text{C year}^{-1}$ , while the minimum temperature trends are both positive and negative, but there are more frequent negative trends. The average trend for the maximum temperature is 0.03  $^{\circ}\text{C year}^{-1}$ , while that for the minimum temperature is 0.0  $^{\circ}\text{C year}^{-1}$ .

The WRF model has different options for Land Surface Models (LSM) like the Simple Soil Thermal Diffusion, the NOAH scheme, and the Rapid Update Cycle. Previous studies have shown that processes at the surface of the earth greatly affect the temperature forecast (Jin *et al.*, 2010). Future work should study such schemes on simulations in forecast mode combined with the new land cover product in the central part of Mexico, in order to improve model performance.

### Acknowledgments

This research was supported by a postdoctoral grant from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. The first author wishes to thank Elena Osorio-Tai (CCA-UNAM) for his technical assistance.

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