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Impact of climate change on wildfire across China, based on plot-level data from national forest inventory

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Background, Motivation and Objectives

 Globally, a century of fire suppression and more recent drought had led to higher intensity

Background

Wildfire is an integral element in naturally regulating forest ecosystem

• Forest fires cost millions of dollars and many lives

 Increased fire frequency and intensity may threat the carbon storage of forest

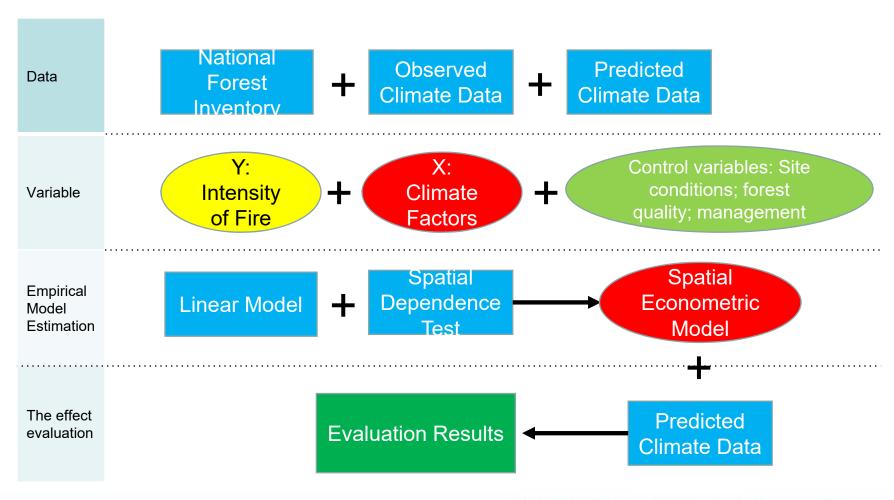
Motivation

- Increased fire frequency and intensity may threat human health
- Climate change is increasing the uncertainty of fires





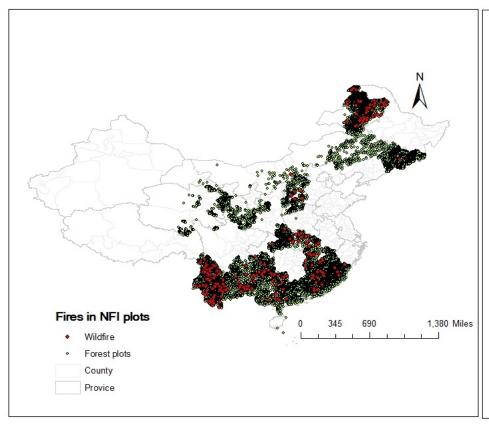
Research design

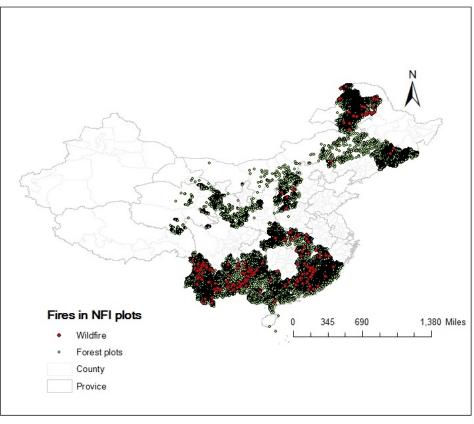






Fire data in 2008 and 2013 (from NFI)





(2008) (2013)





Preliminary conclusions

- The precipitation (average) is the main climate factor that affect wildfire intensity. Under climate change scenarios RCP 2.6 and RCP 8.5 by 2100, the forest fire intensity will decrease by 3.13% and 3.12% respectively due to increased precipitation in the future
- From the historical forest fire data, we can see a clear decrease trend
 of fire activity in China. However, with our research, this decrease
 trend may be due to the climate change but not because of improved
 fire control.





谢谢!

