

新一代火星大气模式GoPlanet-Mars V1的研制

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摘要 火星探测是当前国家高科技竞争力的标志, 世界航天强国均研制火星大气模式, 为登陆探测提供气象环境保障. 本文描述了我国新一代火星大气模式(global open planetary atmospheric model for Mars, 缩写GoPlanet-Mars, 简称GoMars)的研制, 其中的动力框架完全自主研发, 具有二阶精度、能保证质量守恒. GoMars引进并耦合了美国宇航局艾姆斯研究中心的火星物理过程, 具备模拟沙尘、水和CO₂的能力. 基于我国“祝融号”、美国“维京1号、2号”的实测数据以及国际火星大气全球数据集评估了GoMars, 结果表明: GoMars能成功再现3个探测器记录的火星大气独特的地表气压“两峰两谷”特征; 在全球地表温度、纬向急流、极区CO₂冰和沙尘方面, GoMars也具备良好的模拟性能, 可为我国火星探测计划实施提供新的气象环境保障手段.

关键词 火星, 大气模式, 气象环境, 祝融号

深空探测的驱动力源于人类探索未知的天性, 其目标包括探索宇宙和生命的起源、寻找地外宜居环境和生命, 它推动太空技术的发展, 同时也是当代科学研究的前沿领域之一^[1]. 火星探测是当前太阳系探测和行星科学的焦点, 经过近60年的发展, 探测次数多达50余次^[2,3]. 火星大气低压低温, 水汽极少, 沙尘变幻莫测^[4-7]. 严酷的大气环境条件是火星登陆探测的重大挑战之一^[8-10]. 2022年, 美国“洞察号”(InSight)和中国“祝融号”火星车均因强沙尘停工, 美国“毅力号”(Perseverance)火星车的测风仪也因沙尘暴卷起的鹅卵石而损伤^[3]. 为保障火星登陆探测任务的顺利实施, 从

20世纪60年代至今, 欧美等国持续致力于自主火星大气模式的研制^[11-14]. 2021年, 美国宇航局采用来自加拿大、法国和美国的5个火星模式联合保障Mars 2020“毅力号”的登陆^[15]. 另一方面, 火星探测难度大、实测资料少, 使用火星模式研究大气环境典型特征已经成为火星大气科学研究的国际最新范式. 近期, 基于最新的火星探测数据(“毅力号”和“希望号”), 国际上开展了“毅力号”巡视区尘卷风特征的高分辨率数值模拟, 以及“希望号”环绕器温度观测的资料同化等工作^[16,17]. 由此可见, 火星大气模式是保障探测任务顺利实施和利用珍贵探测数据的强有力科学基石.

我国“天问一号”探测任务采用国际通用大气环境数据集(MarsGRAM等)及美国MarsWRF的模拟结果, 联合开展气象环境保障. 我国已计划实施“天问三号”探测任务, 目标是完成人类第一次火星采样返回^[18]. 相比“天问一号”, “天问三号”的登陆, “天问三号”还需在火星表面采样、起飞和返回, 对精细化火星大气环境条件的需求更为迫切. 纵观全球, 国际火星大气模式正处于加速发展期, 多国已升级原有火星模式, 包括加拿大GEM-Mars、美国NASA Ames Legacy Mars Global Climate Model(NASA模式)和法国LMD Mars PCM^[13,14,19]. 2023年, 许多成熟的地球大气模式也纷纷推出其

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火星版本,包括英国UM-Mars和美国MarsMPAS^[20,21]。然而,我国在火星大气理论研究和探测保障方面,主要使用MarsWRF等国外模式,研究沙尘-水-大气波动的相互作用、沙尘的气候效应及参数化方案的评估和改进等^[22-24]。截至目前,我国尚未有自主研发的包含沙尘、水和CO₂循环的火星大气模式,这与我国的火星探测工程任务很不相称。

研发我国自主的火星大气模式,能为火星登陆探测提供稳定可靠的气象环境数据支撑。与地球大气模式类似,火星大气模式包含动力框架和物理过程两个主要组件,通过初始化或同化系统驱动模式运行。其中,动力框架是核心,承担求解方程组的任务,其研发可分为设计“计算网格”和“时空离散方案”两方面。物理过程则计算动力框架求解的方程组未包含的(如太阳辐射过程、水或CO₂的成云致雨过程)以及计算网格尺度未分辨的(如大气边界层的湍流活动、地形重力波对环流的影响)大气热动力过程。

本文描述了我国新一代火星大气模式,即全球开放行星大气模式-火星版本(global open planetary atmospheric model for Mars,简称GoMars)的研制,重点介绍

动力框架的自主研发、动力物理耦合以及新模式性能的基础评估。图1展示了新一代火星大气模式GoMars的基本组成要素,包括构建动力框架的计算网格及其网格分辨不了的次网格物理过程。作为全球模式,其计算网格在水平方向使用经典的经纬网格,垂直方向使用地形追随坐标,便于描述火星高大地形;次网格过程包含太阳辐射、陆面过程、沙尘、水以及CO₂循环等。

(i) GoMars动力框架的自主研发。球面经纬网格具有网格正交、结构规则、访存高效等诸多优点,广泛用于地球和火星大气模式的构建中^[11,12,20,25]。GoMars模式选择球面经纬网格,并采用有限差分 and 有限体积混合的数值方案构建模式动力框架。为应对火星高大地形和南北半球地形高度差异大的问题,模式采用多种垂直坐标,包括经典地形追随坐标、混合坐标和平缓坐标。此外,对于经纬网格的经线汇集于南北两极带来的“奇点问题”,GoMars模式使用纬向高斯卷积滤波器对预报量的时间倾向进行滤波。相比于传统纬向快速傅里叶变换或数字递归滤波,GoMars使用的高斯卷积核宽度随纬度连续变化,克服了不连续变化导致计算解扭曲的问题,由此

极大提高了显式格式的计算稳定性和时间效率。在此基础上,进一步通过优化并行计算策略,避免传统方案并行可扩展性低的问题,由此实现新框架的高效稳定积分。

(ii) GoMars的动力物理耦合。GoMars模式耦合了美国宇航局艾姆斯研究中心开发的火星大气物理过程^[26],包括火星地表属性特征,地表温度计算方案,行星边界层方案,CO₂的凝华和升华过程,对流调整方案,云微物理过程,全预设、半预设和全互动3种沙尘方案,瑞利摩擦,以及基于相关K分布的二流辐射传输方案。物理过程首先计算温压湿风等预报量的物理倾向,而后将其传递给动力框架,完成动力框架的时间积分、更新预报量。此后,动力框架再把更新的预报量传递给物理过程,计算下一步的物理倾向。随着动力框架和物理过程在时间轴上循环接力(动力物理耦合),模式计算得到最终的预报结果。此外,在动力物理耦合中,我们还实现了原NASA串行物理过程的并行优化,极大提高了原物理过程的计算性能。

(iii) GoMars模式性能的基础评估。本文分别应用我国“祝融号”火星车和美国“维京(Viking)1号”“维京2号”着陆器

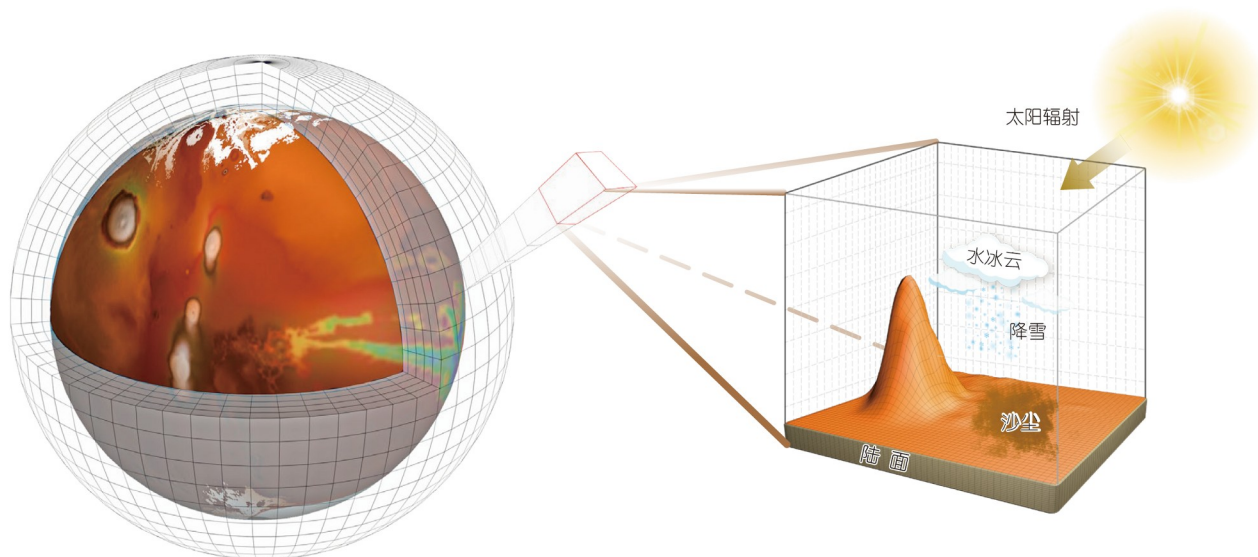


图1 新一代火星大气模式GoMars的示意图

Figure 1 Schematic diagram of the new Martian atmospheric model GoMars

的实测数据, 以及英国开放大学制作的火星大气再分析数据(open access to Mars assimilated remote soundings, 简称OpenMARS^[27])检验GoMars在年平均时间尺度上对火星气象环境变量的全球空间分布, 以及地表气压及沙尘活动年内逐日时间演变特征的模拟性能. 模拟试验的基本参数见表S1. 为了降低火星沙尘活动年际变化的影响, 本文取OpenMARS第26~30火星年(去掉发生

全球沙尘暴的第28年)的平均态作为观测的火星气象环境气候态, 分别从地表气压、地表温度、纬向风、CO₂和沙尘5个方面来评估GoMars的模拟性能.

火星两极的冰盖有显著的季节性凝华和升华现象, 大气同步释放或吸收CO₂气体. 因此, 地表气压在一个火星年呈现“两峰两谷”的振荡特征(图2(b), (c)): 最大(最小)值与南极CO₂的升华(凝华)有

关, 次大(次小)值则与北极有关. GoMars模式成功再现了“祝融号”“维京1号”“维京2号”3个探测器实测的地表气压峰谷演变特征, 特别是北半球夏季(Ls 120°~150°), GoMars模拟结果与祝融号观测较好吻合(图2(a)). 在地表气压空间分布上, 与NASA模式相比, GoMars的模拟结果在塔尔西斯高原、水手峡谷及周边地区更接近OpenMARS资料(图2(d)~(f)), 其原因在于GoMars模式未做地形平滑, 保

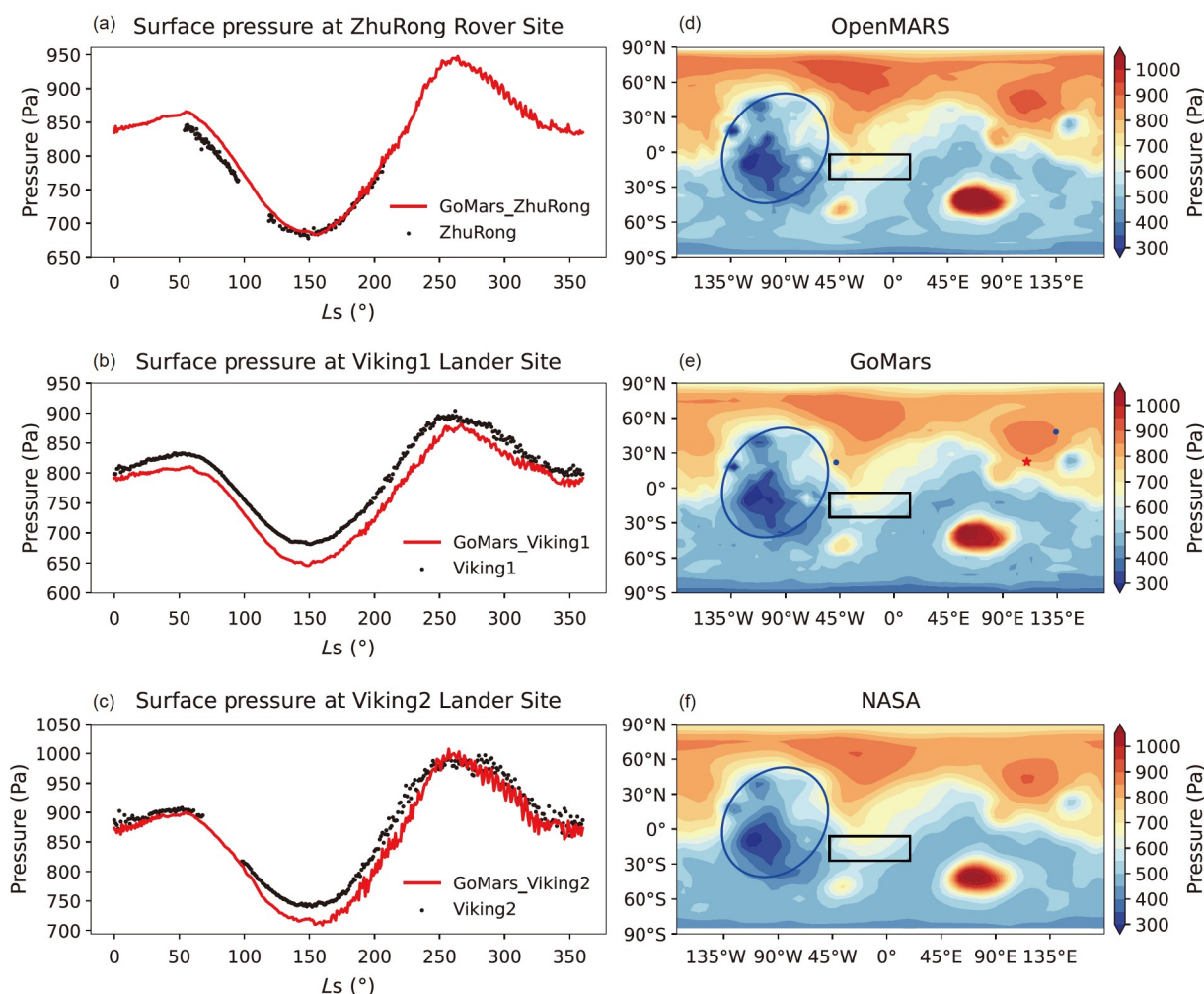


图 2 GoMars和NASA模式模拟的地表气压与“祝融号”“维京1号”“维京2号”观测资料以及OpenMARS资料的对比。“祝融号”火星车(a)、“维京1号”(b)、“维京2号”(c)着陆器观测(黑点)及GoMars模式模拟(红线)地表气压(Pa)随太阳经度(Ls)演变的时间序列. OpenMARS资料(d)、GoMars(e)及NASA(f)模拟的年平均地表气压空间分布. 蓝色椭圆和长方形分别对应塔尔西斯高原、水手峡谷; 红色五角星及蓝色圆点分别对应“祝融号”火星车、“维京1号”(西)、“维京2号”(东)所在位置

Figure 2 Surface pressure simulated by GoMars and NASA models compared to Zhurong, Viking 1, Viking 2 and OpenMARS data. Temporal evolution of surface pressure (Pa) with solar longitude (Ls) by Zhurong rover (a), Viking 1 (b), Viking 2 (c) lander observation (black spot) and GoMars simulation (red line). Spatial distribution of annual mean surface pressure simulated by GoMars (e) and NASA (f) as well as the OpenMARS data (d). Blue ellipses and rectangles corresponding to the Tharsis Plateau and Mariner Canyon, respectively; the red pentagram and blue dots correspond to the locations of the Zhurong rover, Viking 1 (west), and Viking 2 (east), respectively

留了更多地形细节特征。

火星地形复杂、大气稀薄，地表温度空间变化大；在南北半球冬季纬度60°附近的对流层高层存在强西风急流。GoMars模式很好地模拟了火星大气地表温度和纬向风的特征。从温度空间分布来看，GoMars在30°S以北地区与OpenMARS更接近，其偏差集中在-4~4 K，而NASA模式的冷偏差在北半球的部分地区可达-8~-4 K(图3(a)~(c)，图S1)，在南极圈(90°W~5°E)，两个模式均呈现16~20 K的暖偏差(图S1)，这与该地区CO₂冰质量的负偏差一致(图4(d)~(f))。从年平均纬向风垂直分布来看，NASA模式模拟的北半球对流层高层西风急流强度偏弱、急流核高度偏低，而赤道及低纬度地区中间层(mesosphere)的东风急流则偏强、急流核偏低，GoMars的模拟改善了这些偏差，与OpenMARS资料更为接近，这可能得益于其新动力框架(图3(d)~(f))。此外，GoMars模拟的南半球西风急流风速垂直梯度较小，有待进一步改进。

CO₂和沙尘是调制火星大气环境演

变的重要循环，也是模式模拟的难点。GoMars模式具备模拟火星大气CO₂和沙尘循环的能力，但模拟精度需进一步提升。在北极地区，GoMars和NASA模式模拟的地表CO₂冰质量与OpenMARS资料相当(图4(a)~(c))；在南极地区，两个模式的冰质量极值在极点均较OpenMARS资料偏低，在80°S则均偏高(图4(d)~(f))。由于两套模式均使用半预设沙尘参数化方案，即以第24个火星年的热辐射光谱仪(thermal emission spectrometer)观测的沙尘光学厚度作为起沙机制的判断标准，因此应用第24个火星年的OpenMARS沙尘光学厚度(图4(g))检验模拟效果。从沙尘光学厚度逐日演变来看，两个模式均能模拟出南半球暖季(Ls 180°~300°)横跨两个半球大范围的沙尘活动，与OpenMARS资料较为一致，但强度均偏强(图4(g)~(i))。

综上，新研制的GoMars模式对火星大气环境基本变量具有良好的模拟能力。为应对“天问三号”探测任务需求，GoMars将围绕动力框架水平分辨率提升和物理过程改进两方面持续发展。国

际上，火星大气科学正朝着系统性研究火星大气高-中-低层相互作用方向发展，其中电离层是联系低层大气和高层空间环境的关键，也是影响探测器与地球通讯的重要因素之一^[28]，同时，我国也正在规划行星高层大气理论研究和模式研发^[29]。因此，拓展GoMars模式层顶到火星大气高层(约120 km，包含热层和电离层低层)的需求也极为迫切。随着火星探测任务复杂度的逐步提高，对火星天气预报的需求也随之增加。然而相比地球天气预报，火星的预报难度更大，开展火星天气预报是国际行星大气科学领域最前沿的巨大挑战之一^[30]。为此，GoMars团队将迎难而上，自主研发适用于火星大气环境特征的先进资料同化系统，为模式提供高质量初值，使其具备火星典型天气过程(如沙尘暴)定量预报的能力。实现火星数值天气预报需要地球与行星科学相关领域的同行齐心协力，共迎挑战，为我国未来的火星探测、火星移民(载人探火)和资源开发等国家战略提供高质量气象环境保障支撑。

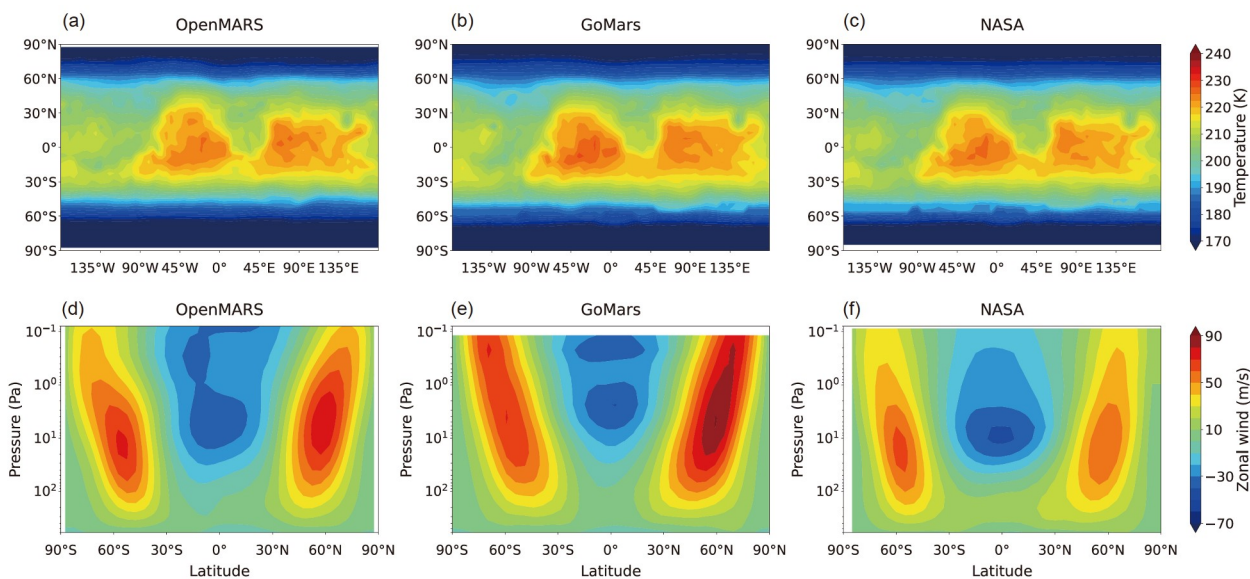


图3 OpenMARS资料、GoMars与NASA火星模式模拟的年平均地表温度(K)空间分布图(a)~(c)和纬向平均纬向风(m/s)高度-纬度分布图(d)~(f)

Figure 3 Spatial distribution of annual mean surface temperature ((a)–(c), K) and altitude-latitude distribution of zonal mean zonal wind ((d)–(f), m/s) simulated by GoMars and NASA model as well as the OpenMARS data

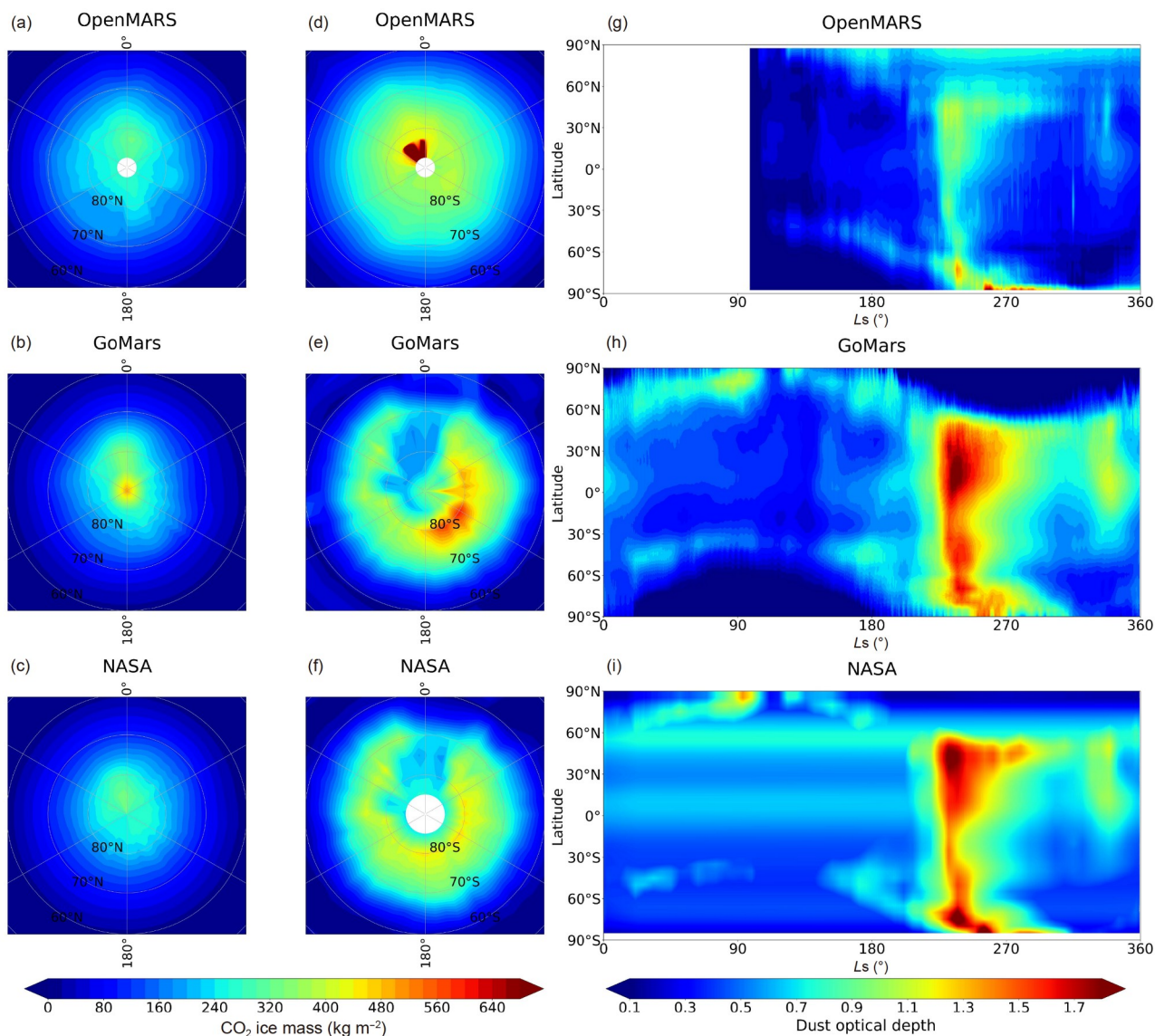


图 4 OpenMARS资料、GoMars与NASA火星模式模拟的北极(a)~(c)、南极(d)~(f)年平均地表CO₂冰质量(kg m⁻²)空间分布, 以及整层沙尘光学厚度随纬度和Ls变化的分布(g)~(i)。其中, (g)图为OpenMARS第24个火星年的数据, 从Ls=98°起始

Figure 4 Spatial distribution of the annual mean surface CO₂ ice mass (kg m⁻²) on the north (a)~(c) and south (d)~(f) polar regions simulated by GoMars and NASA model as well as the OpenMARS data, and the column dust optical depth with latitude and Ls (g)~(i). Note that, the OpenMARS data of the 24th Martian year start from Ls=98° in (g)

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补充材料

表S1 GoMars和NASA模式两组试验的主要参数设置

图S1 GoMars和NASA模式模拟的年平均地表温度与OpenMARS资料温度偏差的空间分布图

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Summary for “新一代火星大气模式GoPlanet-Mars V1的研制”

A new global open planetary atmospheric model for Mars: GoPlanet-Mars V1

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Mars exploration requires a high degree of scientific and technological capability, particularly in the development of a Martian atmospheric model to provide information on the meteorological conditions for landing. In addition, China has planned to implement the “Tianwen-3” exploration mission, with the goal of completing the human’s first sampling return from Mars. Based on these requirements, we developed a new global open planetary atmospheric model for Mars, abbreviated as GoPlanet-Mars (short name: GoMars), in China. We first independently designed the dynamic core of GoMars and then coupled it with the physical parameterizations developed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)’s Ames Research Center in United States of America. Moreover, the dynamic core of GoMars model conserves mass, potential temperature and has second-order accuracy. It solves the fully compressible nonhydrostatic equations of motion using the spherical longitude and latitude grids with mixed finite difference and finite volume discretization. In addition, for the singularity problem caused by the convergence of the meridians of the longitude and latitude grid at the north and south poles, the GoMars model uses a zonal Gaussian convolution filter on the temporal tendency of the predicted quantity. Compared with the traditional zonal fast Fourier transform or digital recursive filtering, the Gaussian convolution kernel width used by GoMars model changes continuously with latitude according to the linear numerical stability condition, which overcomes the problem of computational distortion caused by the discontinuous change, thereby greatly improving the computational stability and efficiency of the explicit scheme. In addition, the GoMars model can stably run without filtering the extremely high Martian topography and has high efficiency for parallel computing.

The GoMars model has the ability to simulate the three critical cycles of the Martian atmosphere: Dust, water, and CO₂ cycles. We preliminarily validated the GoMars model based on the *in situ* observations of China’s Zhurong rover and the USA’s Viking 1 and 2 landers, as well as a common set of global atmospheric reanalysis data for Mars (OpenMARS). Specifically, the GoMars simulation of the global spatial distribution of basic Martian meteorological environmental variables at the annual mean time scale and the diurnal temporal evolution of surface pressure and dust activity were examined. The results showed that the GoMars model successfully reproduced the unique characteristics of surface pressure on Mars as recorded by the Zhurong rover and the two Viking landers, especially in summer in the Northern Hemisphere. The surface pressure simulated by the GoMars model was consistent with the observations of the Zhurong rover. Furthermore, the GoMars model had good performance for the surface temperature, zonal wind, polar CO₂ ice cap and dust process compared with the OpenMARS reanalysis data. In particular, the GoMars model alleviated the cold bias of the temperature north of 30°S simulated by the NASA Ames Legacy Mars Global Climate Model (NASA model). Moreover, the westerly jet stream in the upper troposphere was stronger and higher in the results obtained by the GoMars model compared to those in the NASA model; therefore, their spatial structure in the GoMars model was more consistent with the OpenMARS reanalysis data. The independent development of the Martian atmospheric model and the production of Martian weather forecasts are some of the greatest challenges of the international frontier in planetary atmospheric science and some of the necessary conditions for successful Mars exploration, and earth and planetary science researchers must work together to meet these challenges.

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