

The manuscript was significantly improved since its last version. I would like to thank authors for addressing all my comments in great details. Below I have several minor editorial comments after which would suggest the manuscript for the publication.

L349. Remove second 'further'.

L 367-378. I felt that there are some redundancies in the paragraph.

L 381 ... large scale teleconnections. Add a reference.

L 420 ... while no **systematic** relationship is evident with SND. Saying that there is no relationship assumes the independence of SND, when we know that SND significantly affect ground temperatures. Please feel free to choose a better word to finish that sentence.

Figure 4C. Choose different color for -0.008- -0.004 interval

Figure 8 Combine -1.6- -1.2 and < -1.6 intervals into one.

The relationship of SFD with respect to latitude shows nice correlation both for East and West parts of China. I am leaving that up to the authors to consider that plot in the manuscript.