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[Understanding spatio-temporal](https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fevo.2023.1332116/full) [variation of autumn phenology in](https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fevo.2023.1332116/full) [temperate China from 1982](https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fevo.2023.1332116/full) [to 2018](https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fevo.2023.1332116/full)

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Land surface phenology plays a crucial role in accurately parameterizing interactions between land ecosystems and the atmosphere. Changes in autumn phenology directly impact the length of vegetation growing season and year-to-year changes in carbon uptake. Previous studies have often focused solely on the end of growing season when characterizing autumn phenology, neglecting the onset and duration of autumn. Here, we extracted the annual autumn phenological metrics, i.e., the start of brown-down phase (SOB), the end of brown-down phase (EOB), and the length of brown-down phase (LOB), for temperate China from 1982 to 2018 based on our self-developed global LSP dataset. We conducted a comparative analysis of SOB, EOB, and LOB in the field of their spatial distribution, temporal trends, and performance on various categories of vegetated regions (i.e., forests, grasslands, croplands, and vegetated areas in urban lands (V_Urban)). The results showed a significant negative correlation between the timing of autumn phenological metrics and latitude in temperate China. Between 1982 and 2018, there were significant positive increasing trends in EOB and LOB in V_Urban, as well as in LOB in forests in temperate China. However, the annual mean SOB, EOB, and LOB did not show significant trends across the entire study area. At the local pixel scale, SOB, EOB, and LOB exhibited a combination of advanced and delayed trends within various vegetated categories. The trends of the same phenological metric were not uniform across these diverse vegetated regions. For instance, the majority of pixels with significant trends in SOB exhibited delayed trends in forests and croplands, while displaying advanced trends in grasslands and V_Urban. In this study, employing three metrics (SOB, EOB, and LOB) to describe autumn phenology enhances our understanding of the impacts of global climate change on ecosystems, offering a more comprehensive and detailed perspective. In the future, satellite-based monitoring and phenological modeling should contemplate incorporating additional potential phenological metrics.

KEYWORDS

autumn phenology, the start of brown-down phase (SOB), the end of brown-down phase (EOB), the length of brown-down phase (LOB), temporal trends, temperate China

1 Introduction

Phenology is defined as recurring biological events influenced by environmental factors, such as leaf budding and flowering ([Morisette et al., 2009;](#page-9-0) [Liu et al., 2017](#page-8-0); [Liu et al., 2020](#page-8-0)). Land surface phenology (LSP) controls seasonal variations in land surface vegetation, governing photosynthesis and other ecosystem processes ([Richardson et al., 2012](#page-9-0)). It also plays a key role in regulating feedbacks from the biosphere to the climate system ([Richardson et al., 2018a\)](#page-9-0). Moreover, LSP significantly influences carbon cycling, the water cycle, and the exchange of energy [\(White](#page-9-0) [et al., 2009](#page-9-0); [Keenan et al., 2014;](#page-8-0) [Seyednasrollah et al., 2019\)](#page-9-0). Consequently, the dates of phenological events are frequently employed to assess the effects of global climate change on ecosystems [\(Korner and Basler, 2010](#page-8-0); [Bolton et al., 2020\)](#page-8-0). To comprehend the effects of global climate change, it is imperative to closely examine the variation patterns of LSP [\(Liang et al., 2021;](#page-8-0) [Li et al., 2023a\)](#page-8-0).

Notably, a study highlighted the significance of leaf senescence date in determining the length of the vegetation growing season ([Garonna et al., 2014\)](#page-8-0). The start, end, and length of the autumn brown-down phase in vegetation all hold substantial implications for the annual variations in vegetation growth and carbon uptake ([Piao et al., 2008](#page-9-0); [Wu et al., 2022\)](#page-9-0). However, in comparison to spring phenology, autumn phenology is influenced by multiple factors such as temperature, precipitation, and photoperiod, requiring further observation and understanding [\(Archetti et al.,](#page-8-0) [2013;](#page-8-0) [Xie et al., 2018;](#page-9-0) [Nagai et al., 2020](#page-9-0); [Shin et al., 2021a\)](#page-9-0). Previous studies have employed various methods to observe autumn phenology of vegetation, including satellite-based observations ([Garonna et al., 2014](#page-8-0); [Nagai et al., 2015](#page-9-0); [Wu et al., 2021;](#page-9-0) [Tsutsumida et al., 2022\)](#page-9-0), model simulations [\(Zhu et al., 2019;](#page-9-0) [Gauzere et al., 2020;](#page-8-0) [Shin et al., 2021b](#page-9-0)), visual assessments of trees ([Klosterman and Richardson, 2017](#page-8-0); [Klosterman et al., 2018;](#page-8-0) [Xie et al., 2018\)](#page-9-0), fixed-point observations with phenology cameras ([Nagai et al., 2018](#page-9-0); [Richardson et al., 2018b](#page-9-0); [Xie et al., 2018](#page-9-0)), nearground observations with unmanned aerial vehicles ([Klosterman](#page-8-0) [and Richardson, 2017;](#page-8-0) [Klosterman et al., 2018;](#page-8-0) [Xie et al., 2018](#page-9-0)), and analysis of phenological information published on the Internet ([Nagai et al., 2020](#page-9-0); [Tsutsumida et al., 2022](#page-9-0)) and social media ([Shin et al., 2021a\)](#page-9-0). However, most of these studies focus on the date of leaf fall or leaf color change, overlooking the duration from the onset of leaf color change to the end of the growing season.

Owing to the rapid advancement in remote sensing technology, the constraints in LSP studies at both spatial and temporal scales have consistently been overcome [\(White et al., 1997](#page-9-0); [Zhang et al.,](#page-9-0) [2003;](#page-9-0) [Piao et al., 2019\)](#page-9-0). Comprehensive comprehension of the autumn phenology in terrestrial vegetation is unattainable without the support of high-quality LSP dataset. The MODIS LSP product (MCD12Q2) provides estimations of the dates of key phenophase across global terrestrial vegetation [\(Zhang et al.,](#page-9-0) [2003\)](#page-9-0). This product enjoys extensive utilization ([Ganguly et al.,](#page-8-0) [2010](#page-8-0); [Xin et al., 2015;](#page-9-0) [Moon et al., 2019](#page-9-0)). Nevertheless, the MCD12Q2 product is limited to data from 2001 onwards and cannot support extended time-series phenology investigations. In our previous study, we independently developed a global annual LSP dataset (GLSP) using AVHRR land surface reflectance data ([Wu et al., 2023](#page-9-0)). GLSP provides estimations of the dates of key phenophase, including the start of vegetation growing season (SOG), maturity, senescence, and the end of growing season (EOG). This dataset provides information for two vegetation growing seasons annually on a global scale, encompassing the period from 1982 to 2018. It incorporates outcomes from four phenology retrieval techniques that can be tailored to user requirements. In summary, it is imperative to examine the interplay between the start of the brown-down phase (SOB), the end of the brown-down phase (EOB), and the length of the browndown phase (LOB) by utilizing extensive time series of remote sensing data. This analysis is vital for gaining a deeper insight into how autumn phenology responds to climate changes.

This study examines the extensive spatial and temporal changes in autumn phenology within temperate China [\(Figure 1\)](#page-2-0) over an extended time period. Firstly, we extracted the annual SOB, EOB, and LOB for temperate China from 1982 to 2018 based on the GLSP dataset. Subsequently, we conducted an analysis of the spatial distribution of the mean SOB, EOB, and LOB from 1982 to 2018. Thirdly, we extracted the long-term trend patterns of SOB, EOB and LOB from 1982 to 2018. Finally, we quantified the long-term trends in autumn phenology across various categories of vegetated areas at a local pixel scale. Utilizing multiple phenological metrics has enhanced our understanding of the large-scale spatiotemporal changes in autumn phenology.

2 Materials and methods

2.1 Study area

We focused on temperate China as the designated study area ([Figure 1](#page-2-0)). When conducting phenology retrieval research, temperate China offers several advantages, including well-defined seasons, a variety of land cover types, and satellite observations that are less influenced by solar zenith angle effects [\(Slayback et al., 2003;](#page-9-0) [Piao et al., 2006](#page-9-0)). Therefore, the analysis of autumn phenology in this study excludes tropical and subtropical areas covered by evergreen vegetation.

2.2 Satellite data acquisition

In this study, we used an independently developed GLSP dataset ([Wu et al., 2021](#page-9-0); [Wu et al., 2023\)](#page-9-0). The dataset provides estimates for key phenophase dates, including SOG, maturity, senescence, and EOG. We utilized four phenology retrieving methods to extract phenological metrics from AVHRR 2-band enhanced vegetation index (EVI2) time series and evaluated the performances of different phenological metrics using ground-based phenological observations (including the USA National Phenology Network and the Pan European Phenology Database), flux tower data (including measured LAI time series and Harvard Forest phenological records) and remote sensing phenological observations (including MCD12Q2 and phenological metrics extracted based on Landsat images). This

product provides science data sets that map global LSP metrics at a spatial resolution of 1/20 degrees and a yearly time interval. Users can flexibly choose the phenological metrics derived by different methods according to the actual situation.

Additionally, we utilized the Collection 6 MCD12Q1 product. This product delivers yearly land cover classifications with a spatial resolution of 500 meters and includes a total of five classification systems. We selected the International Geosphere Biosphere Programme (IGBP) classification scheme ([Loveland and Belward,](#page-8-0) [1997\)](#page-8-0), which defines seventeen land cover types, for extracting terrestrial vegetated regions.

2.3 Land surface autumn phenology extraction

The GLSP dataset provides multiple phenological metrics (namely, SOG, maturity, senescence, and EOG) for two growing seasons annually. As assessed by [Wu et al. \(2023\)](#page-9-0), the timing of senescence and EOG, retrieved using the second-order derivative method (SOD), exhibited significant alignment with ground phenology network. In this study, we used senescence and EOG retrieved using SOD for the initial vegetation growth period in each year within the GLSP dataset. Autumn vegetation growth corresponds to a brown-down phase, which is a period during which the vegetation index time series monotonically decreases. Senescence represents the start of the brown-down phase (SOB), while EOG denotes the end of the brown-down phase (EOB). To improve the precision of phenology estimation, we employed a logistic function to characterize the vegetation brown-down phase. ([Zhang et al., 2003](#page-9-0); [Wu et al., 2021;](#page-9-0) [Wu and Xin, 2023](#page-9-0)). SOD is based on identifying points in the fitted curves where local slopes change at the fastest and slowest rates [\(Sakamoto et al., 2005\)](#page-9-0)

(Figure 2). Specifically, SOB is determined as the timing when the first local minimum occurs in the SOD curve during the browndown phase. EOB is determined as the point when the first local maximum is reached in the SOD curve during the brown-down phase. The length of the brown-down phase (LOB) is computed as the time interval between EOB and SOB.

2.4 Extraction of vegetated regions

As our primary focus was on the dynamics of autumn vegetation, we excluded regions lacking vegetative cover using the

FIGURE 2

Principle of extracting autumn phenological metrics using the second-order derivative method.

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IGBP classification scheme. In addition, we straightforwardly classified vegetated regions within the study area into four distinct categories: forests, grasslands, croplands, and vegetated areas in urban lands (V_Urban), based on their land cover types. Subsequently, distinct analyses were carried out to investigate the spatial and temporal patterns of autumn phenology within each of these categories.

3 Results

3.1 Spatial distribution of autumn phenology

Figure 3 illustrates the spatial distribution of the mean SOB, EOB, and LOB in temperate China spanning the years 1982 to 2018, revealing some variability among them. SOB occurs relatively early (before Day of Year (DOY) 220) in the northwest, central, and northeast regions of the study area, but it takes place relatively late (after DOY 270) in the southern region of the study area (Figure 3A). EOB occurs relatively early (before DOY 280) in the northeastern region of the study area, but it happens relatively late (after DOY 320) in the northwest, central, and southwestern regions of the study area (Figure 3B). LOB is notably brief (less than 60 days) in the eastern and northeastern portions of the study area, while it is considerably extended (more than 80 days) in the northwestern and southwestern regions of the study area (Figure 3C).

In terms of latitude, the mean SOB, EOB, and LOB all exhibit comparable trends from 1982 to 2018 ([Figure 4](#page-4-0)). As latitude increases, both SOB and EOB demonstrate significantly advanced trends at rates of 1.365 days per degree ($r = 0.866**$, RMSE = 7.051 days) and 0.8557 days per degree $(r = 0.845**$, RMSE = 4.858 days), as indicated in [Figures 4A,](#page-4-0) B, respectively. In [Figure 4C,](#page-4-0) there is a notable trend of LOB significantly shortening with increasing latitude, at a rate of approximately 0.8336 days per degree ($r =$ $0.839**$, RMSE = 4.850 days).

3.2 Temporal trends analysis

[Figure 5](#page-4-0) presents the trends of the annual mean SOB, EOB, and LOB in temperate China from 1982 to 2018. From 1982 to 2018, the annual mean SOB and EOB exhibit insignificantly advanced trends $(p > 0.05)$ of 0.061 days yr^{-1} and 0.0406 days yr^{-1} , respectively ([Figures 5A,](#page-4-0) B). The annual mean LOB shows an extended trend (0.0428 days yr^{-1} , $p > 0.05$, [Figure 5C\)](#page-4-0).

To further understand the trend variations in autumn phenology within the study area, we extracted the trends (1982– 2018) of the annual mean SOB, EOB, and LOB for four categories of vegetated regions: forests, grasslands, croplands, and V_Urban ([Figure 6\)](#page-5-0). None of the four categories of vegetated regions exhibit statistically significant changes in SOB from 1982 to 2018 ([Figure 6A](#page-5-0)). [Figure 6B](#page-5-0) shows the trend in annual mean EOB across the four categories of vegetated regions from 1982 to 2018. Notably, in V_Urban, there is a statistically significant delayed trend in

annual mean EOB, amounting to 0.1717 days yr^{-1} (p < 0.01). In forests, grasslands, and croplands, the annual mean EOB exhibits non-significant trends. [Figure 6C](#page-5-0) illustrates the trend in annual mean LOB for the four categories of vegetated regions. Between 1982 and 2018, the annual mean LOB shows significantly extended trends of 0.1102 days yr^{-1} ($p < 0.01$) and 0.1798 days yr^{-1} ($p < 0.05$) in forests and V_Urban, respectively. However, annual mean LOB shows no statistically significant changes in grasslands and croplands.

Furthermore, we calculated the temporal trends of SOB, EOB, and LOB at each pixel for various vegetated regions in temperate China [\(Figure 7](#page-6-0)). From 1982 to 2018, autumn phenological metrics at the pixel level across the four categories of vegetated regions exhibited mixed local trends. As listed in [Table 1,](#page-6-0) the autumn phenology in forests exhibits significant trends mainly in the southern, southwestern, northeastern, and central parts of temperate China. The autumn phenology in grasslands shows

significant trends primarily in the southwestern, western, northwestern, northern, and central parts of the study area. The autumn phenology in croplands demonstrates significant trends mainly in the eastern, northwestern, northeastern, and central parts of temperate China. The autumn phenology in V_Urban manifests significant trends primarily in the eastern and northeastern parts of temperate China.

To further quantify the localized trends in phenological metrics, we computed the percentage of pixels displaying significant trends in SOB, EOB, and LOB within various vegetated regions from 1982 to 2018 ([Table 2\)](#page-7-0). It was observed that the percentage of

significantly delayed SOB_F (8.28%) and EOB_F (6.55%) pixels is nearly double that of significantly advanced SOB_F (4.24%) and EOB_F (3.47%) pixels, respectively. Furthermore, the percentage of significantly extended LOB_F (6.98%) pixels is greater than the percentage of significantly shortened LOB_F (5.26%) pixels. Conversely, in grasslands, SOB and EOB exhibited different trends compared to forests. The percentages of significantly advanced SOB_G (9.39%) and EOB_G (8.45%) pixels are nearly double those of significantly delayed SOB_G (4.31%) and EOB_G (4.32%) pixels, respectively. However, the results for LOB in grasslands are consistent with those in forests. The percentage of

significantly extended LOB_G (6.06%) pixels exceeds the percentage of significantly shortened LOB_G (5.85%) pixels. In croplands, the percentage of significantly delayed SOB_C (11.19%) pixels is greater than the percentage of significantly advanced SOB_C (7.24%) pixels. Conversely, the percentage of significantly advanced EOB_C (17.48%) pixels is substantially greater than the percentage of significantly delayed EOB_C (7.55%) pixels. The percentage of significantly shortened LOB_C (16.98%) pixels is over three times higher than the percentage of significantly extended LOB_C (5.15%) pixels. In V_Urban, the percentage of significantly advanced SOB_U (6.49%) pixels is more than the

percentage of significantly delayed SOB_U (5.90%) pixels. Conversely, the percentage of significantly delayed EOB_U (21.09%) pixels is significantly higher than the percentage of significantly advanced EOB_U (7.08%) pixels. The percentage of significantly extended LOB_U (13.57%) pixels exceeds the percentage of significantly shortened LOB_U (3.39%) pixels by more than four times.

4 Discussion

Recently, the examination of variations, attributions, and prediction related to autumn phenology has garnered significant attention in the realm of climate change research ([Liu et al., 2016;](#page-8-0) [Shen et al., 2020](#page-9-0)). The timing of EOG is frequently employed to account for autumn phenology [\(Wang et al., 2019](#page-9-0); [Xin et al., 2020\)](#page-9-0). However, some studies have pointed out that the dates of senescence, in addition to the date of EOG, have important implications for vegetation growing season length and annual carbon uptake [\(Garonna et al., 2014;](#page-8-0) [Garonna et al., 2016;](#page-8-0) [Wu](#page-9-0) [et al., 2022\)](#page-9-0). Therefore, we recommend that the initiation, termination, and duration of the brown-down phase in vegetation should be collectively employed to characterize the autumn phenology of terrestrial vegetation. In this study, we utilized the GLSP dataset to extract annual SOB, EOB, and LOB data for temperate China spanning from 1982 through 2018. The spatial distributions of the mean SOB, EOB, and LOB (1982–2018) do not exhibit complete consistency. For instance, mean SOB exhibits relatively early timing in the northwest, northeast, and central regions of temperate China, whereas EOB is only relatively early in the northeast ([Figures 3A,](#page-3-0) B). Furthermore, the mean LOB displays a spatial distribution pattern characterized by shorter duration in the east and longer duration in the west of temperate China [\(Figure 3C\)](#page-3-0). Latitude, topography, and vegetation type are likely the key factors influencing the emergence of this spatial distribution pattern ([Atkinson and Porter, 1996;](#page-8-0) [White et al.,](#page-9-0) [1997](#page-9-0); [Zhang et al., 2004;](#page-9-0) [Piao et al., 2006\)](#page-9-0). Along the latitudinal axis, all three metrics (i.e., mean SOB, EOB, and LOB) show significant negative trends as latitude increases. Note that there are fewer SOB and EOB pixels available for analysis in the lowlatitude region (< 30°N), which contributes to larger errors ([Figures 4A,](#page-4-0) B).

In recent decades, numerous studies have consistently reported a significant delay in autumn phenology, particularly EOG, in the Northern Hemisphere [\(Julien and Sobrino, 2009](#page-8-0); [Piao et al., 2019;](#page-9-0) [Piao et al., 2020](#page-9-0); [Liang et al., 2021](#page-8-0)). However, the annual mean SOB, EOB and LOB for temperate China extracted in this study did not show significant trends from 1982 to 2018 ([Figure 5](#page-4-0)). One possible explanation is the observed global warming hiatus between 1998 and 2012 ([Medhaug et al., 2017;](#page-9-0) [Wang et al., 2019](#page-9-0)). Given the variations in how different categories of vegetated regions respond to climate change, we also analyzed the trends in annual mean SOB, EOB, and LOB for the four categories of vegetated regions: forests, grasslands, croplands, and V_Urban, for the period from 1982 to 2018 (Figure 6). Our analysis revealed a significant delay in EOB for

Temporal trends in SOB (A-D), EOB (E-H) and LOB (I-L) at pixel scale across the four categories of vegetated regions (forests, grasslands, croplands and V_Urban) from 1982 to 2018. Note that the trends in (A–L) are all significant at the 5% level.

V_Urban at a rate of 0.1717 days yr^{-1} (p < 0.01, [Figure 6B\)](#page-5-0). Additionally, the LOB in V_Urban and forests extended significantly at a rate of 0.1798 days yr^{-1} (p < 0.05) and 0.1102 days yr^{-1} (p < 0.01), respectively ([Figure 6C\)](#page-5-0). No significant trend was observed in grasslands and croplands. However, a study suggests a long-term delay trend in grasslands in temperate China ([Ma et al., 2022\)](#page-8-0). One possible reason is the difference in vegetation indices and phenology retrieval methods used. It is worth noting that in specific regions, such as Inner Mongolia, [Liu et al. \(2016\)](#page-8-0) found a long-term trend of early EOS in grasslands, similar to the results in this study (Figure 7F, Table 1). Furthermore, human

activities play a crucial role in the long-term trends of autumn phenology, especially in urban and cropland areas. For instance, [Li et al. \(2017a\)](#page-8-0) and [Jia et al. \(2021\)](#page-8-0) noted that EOS in urban areas is later than surrounding regions, and an increase in urban size leads to a significant delay in autumn phenology. [Li et al. \(2017b\)](#page-8-0) found a long-term delay trend of 0.5 days/year in EOS in urban areas. [Liu](#page-8-0) [et al. \(2018\)](#page-8-0) discovered a significant advance in wheat autumn phenology from 1981 to 2010 under the combined influence of climate change and crop management.

It is important to note certain limitations in this study. Firstly, we solely relied on a one-year land cover map to extract forests,

TABLE 1 Significance statistics of the temporal trends (1982–2018) for SOB, EOB and LOB across the study area.

+ denotes positive trends, − denotes negative trends, and * indicates p < 0.05.

TABLE 2 Percentage of pixels with significant trends in SOB, EOB, and LOB across the four categories of vegetated regions.

grasslands, croplands, and V_Urban in temperate China. Long-term land use changes may adversely affect phenological analyses ([Ma](#page-8-0) [et al., 2022](#page-8-0)). Secondly, the spatial resolution of the remote sensing data used in this study is 0.05 degrees. Each pixel may encompass various types of vegetation, providing only a rough reflection of vegetation phenology within a certain region [\(Motohka et al., 2010;](#page-9-0) [Shen et al., 2022](#page-9-0); [Li et al., 2023b\)](#page-8-0). Particularly in urban areas, caution should be exercised in interpreting the acquired autumn phenological information. Future efforts should further enhance the use of high spatial resolution remote sensing data, such as 30m Landsat and 10m Sentinel-2 ([Claverie et al., 2018;](#page-8-0) [Bolton et al., 2020\)](#page-8-0), as well as hightemporal-resolution remote sensing data, like observations every 10 minutes from Himawari-8 [\(Miura et al., 2019](#page-9-0); [Yan et al., 2019\)](#page-9-0), to reduce the uncertainty in satellite-based phenological retrievals. Thirdly, the GLSD dataset used in this study lacks an evaluation of ground-based phenological observations in temperate China. Future research should utilize various available data sources, such as phenology cameras [\(Richardson et al., 2009](#page-9-0); [Nasahara and Nagai,](#page-9-0) [2015](#page-9-0)), in-situ phenological observations [\(Nagai et al., 2014;](#page-9-0) [Nagai](#page-9-0) [et al., 2017](#page-9-0); [Vitasse et al., 2018;](#page-9-0) [Xin et al., 2020](#page-9-0); [Ruan et al., 2021\)](#page-9-0), and internet-published phenological information ([Nagai et al., 2020;](#page-9-0) [Tsutsumida et al., 2022\)](#page-9-0), to effectively assess satellite-retrieved phenological metrics.

In summary, there are significant variations in the autumn phenology across the different categories of vegetated regions. Therefore, future large-scale phenology studies should categorize and analyze data based on land cover types, instead of relying solely on statistical analysis within study areas. In addition, the spatial distributions and temporal trends of SOB, EOB, and LOB do not exhibit full consistency at both regional and pixel scales. To further understand global climate change and improve the accuracy of carbon

and water flux modeling, it is imperative to incorporate SOB, EOB, and LOB collectively in future autumn phenology estimation.

5 Conclusions

This study extracted annual autumn phenological metrics, including SOB, EOB, and LOB, for temperate China from 1982 to 2018 using the self-developed GLSP phenology product. We conducted a comparative analysis of SOB, EOB, and LOB in relation to their spatial distribution, temporal trends, and various categories of vegetated regions. The following are our findings: (1) Despite that SOB, EOB, and LOB are not completely consistent in their spatial distribution, all of them show significant negative trends with increasing latitude. (2) From 1982 to 2018, annual mean SOB, EOB and LOB in temperate China do not exhibit significant trends. However, EOB and LOB in V_Urban, as well as LOB in forests, exhibit significant positive trends. (3) At the local pixel scale, SOB, EOB, and LOB exhibit mixed trends across various vegetated region categories. Note that the trends of the same phenological metric are not entirely consistent among different vegetated region categories.

In conclusion, this study examined the commonalities and disparities in autumn phenology among different categories of terrestrial vegetated regions. The interconnection and independence of the SOB, EOB, and LOB metrics drive the long-term changes and development of autumn phenology. The use of multiple phenological metrics enhances our comprehensive understanding of how autumn phenology responds to climate change. For future large-scale phenology estimation and numerical modeling, it is advisable to incorporate additional potential phenological metrics to explore the impacts of climate change on vegetation ecosystems.

Data availability statement

Publicly available datasets were analyzed in this study. This data can be found here: [https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.](https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.20375394.v2)figshare.20375394.v2.

Author contributions

SW: Conceptualization, Funding acquisition, Methodology, Writing – original draft. WW: Conceptualization, Methodology, Software, Visualization, Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing.

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Conflict of interest

The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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