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RECEIVED 23 March 2024

ACCEPTED 23 May 2024

PUBLISHED 20 June 2024

CITATION

Li Y, Yang S, Luo Y, Zhang Z and He P (2024),
Influence of color steel buildings on urban land
surface temperature: a case study in Urumqi,
Xinjiang, China.
Front. Environ. Sci. 12:1405581.
doi: 10.3389/fenvs.2024.1405581

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Influence of color steel buildings on urban land surface temperature: a case study in Urumqi, Xinjiang, China

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Introduction: Highly clustered color steel buildings (CSB) have become new impervious surfaces and heat island areas in cities due to their materials, especially in the Northwest. However, the extent of the influence of CSB on land surface temperature (LST) and how they are quantitatively related to each other have not been explored.

Methods: Therefore, this paper takes Urumqi city, which is densely populated with CSB and has a unique topography, as an example. We obtained LST data and CSB data based on Landsat and Google Earth images, and quantitatively analyzed the warming effect of the CSB on the urban LST and the characteristics of regional variability.

Results and discussion: The results of the study showed that from 2005 to 2020, the scale of CSB in Urumqi City has been expanding, with high-density aggregation shifting from urban areas to the suburbs. The urban area of Urumqi city shows a “cool island effect”, with higher temperatures in CSB. The high-density distribution of CSB roughly coincides with the high temperature areas of the city. The density of CSB is highly positively correlated with LST, with the correlation coefficient reaching 0.973 in 2010. For every 0.2 increase in cluster density, the corresponding temperature can rise by 0.4°C. At the same density of aggregation, the average temperature of urban CSB is lower than that in the suburbs. The contribution index of suburban CSB to LST reaches 0.512, significantly higher than the surrounding other buildings, marked it one of the main contributors to the thermal environment in the suburbs. The research results can provide a reference and data support for the sustainable development and planning of cities.

KEYWORDS

color steel buildings (CSB), land surface temperature (LST), spatial and temporal evolution, contribution index (CI), correlation

1 Introduction

The increasing areas of impervious surfaces in cities accelerate the rise of localized land surface temperature (LST) in cities (Liu et al., 2023), which negatively affects the comfort and health of urban residents and significantly impacts energy demand, air quality, and overall environmental sustainability (Guo et al., 2020; Fuladlu and Altan, 2021; Chen Y.

et al., 2023; Tabatabaei and Fayaz, 2023). Color-coated steel sheets are steel sheets with organic coatings, consisting of a filler material sandwiched between two color-coated steel layers. The substrates of color-coated steel sheets include cold-rolled substrate, hot-dip galvanized substrate, and electro-galvanized substrate. Color steel buildings (CSB) have been used on a large scale in urban villages and industrial parks because of their low cost and fast construction (Yang S. et al., 2018; Wang et al., 2019). The highly aggregated CSB have become the new impervious surfaces and heat sources in cities. Among commonly used building materials, asphalt has a specific heat capacity of 1.55 kJ/(kg·K) and a thermal conductivity of 0.093 W/(m·K), while structural steel has a specific heat capacity of 0.48 kJ/(kg·K) and a thermal conductivity of 58.2 W/(m·K), and cement mortar has a specific heat capacity of 1.05 kJ/(kg·K) and a thermal conductivity of 0.93 W/(m·K). A higher specific heat capacity and lower thermal conductivity result in slower temperature increases. Therefore, in hot summers under sunlight, CSB heat up faster compared to cement buildings and asphalt roads, leading to prolonged high temperatures and contributing to the “heat island effect”. It is essential to study the influence of the CSB on the LST to improve the urban thermal environment and the development planning of industrial parks.

The surface temperatures reflected by different media of urban impervious surfaces vary (Yuan et al., 2018), different land cover types exhibit varying thermal responses to LST (Fuladlu, 2022; Patle and Ghuge, 2024). The area changes of impervious surface can reflect the spatial and temporal processes of urban heat islands (Hua et al., 2020) and can be used as an indicator to quantify the urban surface heat island (Coseo and Larsen, 2019; Shi et al., 2023). Among the various types of impervious surfaces that contribute to urban heat islands, urban buildings are one of the most significant influencing factors (Yang J. et al., 2018), and many studies focus on the relationship between LST and buildings (Hasan et al., 2023). The orientation and height-to-distance ratio of buildings were used to assess the suitability of the living environment (Salehi and Nasrollahi, 2024). Differences in building geometry and surface materials produce different thermal patterns (Nichol, 1996). For example, the absorption of solar radiant energy by roofs leads to a higher urban LST than that of ambient air (Rani et al., 2018). In contrast, using reflective (cold) surfaces on roofs with increased surface albedo can significantly reduce LST (Tahooni et al., 2023). Moreover, the effects of building height and density on the thermal environment are also a research hotspot (Yang and Li, 2015; Li et al., 2022; Wang Z. et al., 2023). Studies have shown that lower building densities improve ground-level heat dissipation, whereas higher building densities improve roof-side heat dissipation. In comparison, a higher building density improved the heat dissipation on the roof surface (Yang et al., 2021a). Due to the materials, CSB have a more pronounced impact on environmental temperatures than other buildings.

Existing studies on the relationship between urban buildings and heat islands are mostly carried out from the aspects of building materials, geometric shapes, building density, and building height (Song et al., 2020; Yang et al., 2021b; Wang and Xu, 2021; Zhu et al., 2021; Luo et al., 2023). All of them are based on the overall urban buildings as the research object. Minimal studies are focusing on the influence of a typical functional building on the urban heat island effect. At the same time, most of the current research on CSB revolves around CSB extraction, fire accident analysis, coating

materials and other aspects (Sun et al., 2020; Hou et al., 2021; Samat et al., 2022; Wang W. et al., 2023). While the research on the impact of CSB in shaping the urban microclimate environment is very limited. Zhang et al. (2022) initially explored the response of the CSB to the urban heat island. Analyzing the entire study area at the urban scale tends to underestimate the variations in local temperature differences (Wang and Ouyang, 2017). Therefore, existing research lacks fine-scale, small-scale studies, leading to insufficient exploration of local temperature heterogeneity.

In summary, this paper aims to study the correlation between CSB and LST, and further analyze the differences in the influence of CSB on LST at a regional scale. The impact of the density of CSB on the LST is investigated with Pearson's correlation coefficient, regression analysis, the contribution index, and other methods. The LST was extracted by Landsat image, combined with the data of CSB. We explored the degree of temperature increase of CSB in different regions and the heterogeneity of the contribution of CSB, and other landscape types to the LST at a fine scale. The results can provide a reference basis for the development of urbanization and urban planning.

2 Study area and data

2.1 Study area

Urumqi (86°37'33"E–88°58'24", 42°45'32"N–45°00'00"N) is located in the hinterland of the Asian-European continent (Chen B. et al., 2023). The city is surrounded by mountains on three sides, with a high relief in the southeast and a low relief in the northwest. It is with a temperate continental arid climate with long winter and summer seasons. The temperature difference between day and night is significant (Xing et al., 2022). The topography of the urban area slopes from southeast to northwest, with an average elevation of 800 m and a drop of 300–400 m (Ayitikan et al., 2023). In order to study the impact of CSB on urban LST, we chose areas with high CSB coverage, including Midong District, Toutunhe District, New Downtown District, Shayibak District, Tianshan District and Shuimogou District. The location of the study area is shown in Figure 1. It can be seen that the CSB are concentrated in the city's suburbs, and the city center is sporadically distributed with fewer CSB. The CSB occupy a certain proportion of the city and are a representative type of buildings in Urumqi.

2.2 Data

2.2.1 Land surface temperature data

The LST data was acquired from the Google Earth Engine (GEE) platform through the integration code provided by Ermida (Ermida et al., 2020). LST is computed with the Statistical Mono-Window (SMW) algorithm. The SMW algorithm calculates LST by representing the empirical relationship between the apparent bright temperature of the atmosphere and the LST obtained from a single thermal infrared band by means of a simple linear relationship. The algorithm is derived using the same calibration database for each Landsat coefficient, thus ensuring consistency between satellites. Validation based on *in situ* LST obtained at 12 stations shows that

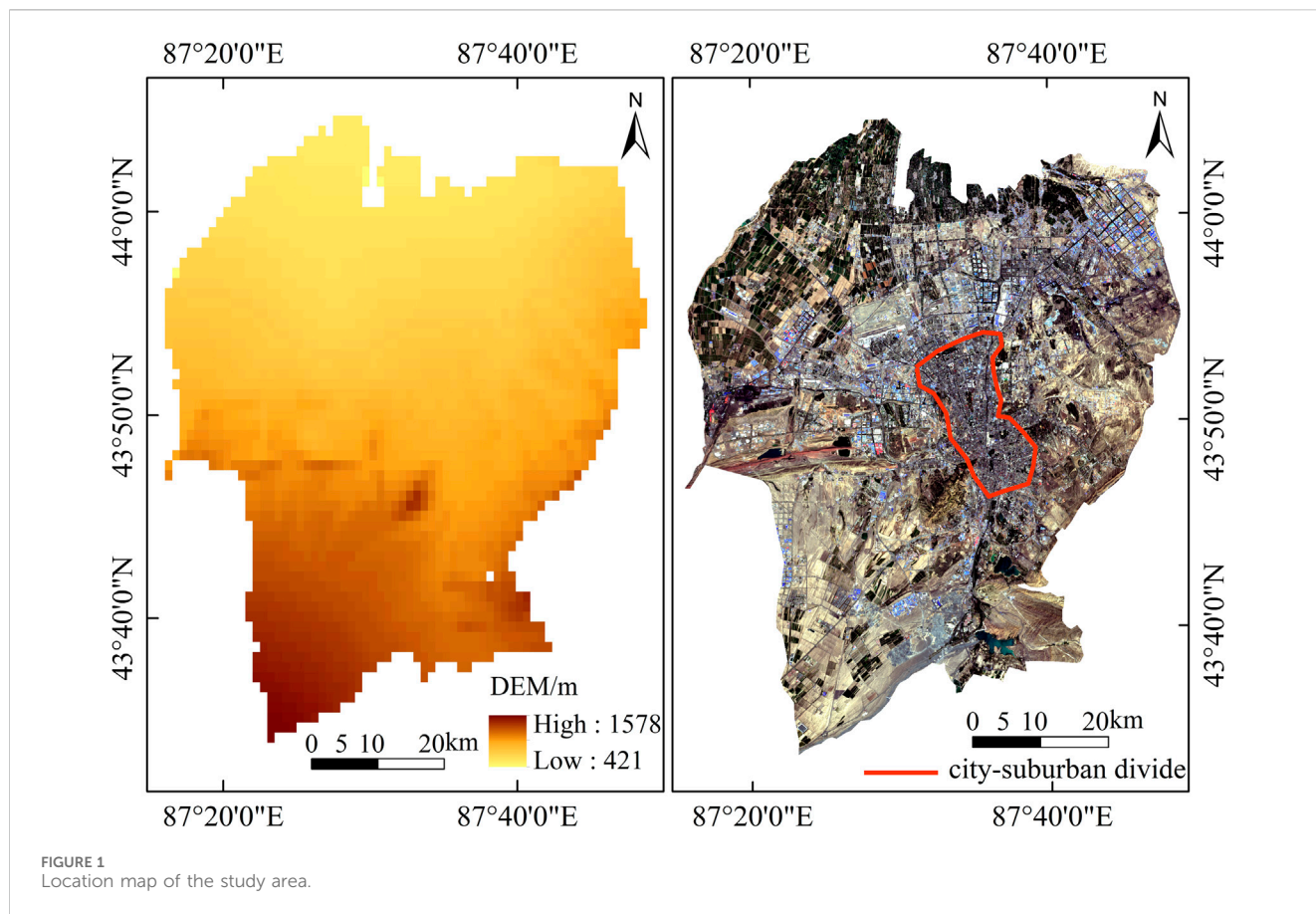


FIGURE 1 Location map of the study area.

TABLE 1 Image transit time.

Collection	Cell size (m)	year	month	day
L4-5 TM	30	2005	June	3/12/19/28
			July	5/21/30
			Aug	15
L4-5 TM	30	2010	June	10/26
			July	3/19/28
			Aug	4/13/19/20
L8 OLI/TIRS	30	2015	June	8/15/24
			July	1/10/17/26
			Aug	2/18/27
L8 OLI/TIRS	30	2020	June	1/12/21/28
			July	7/14/23/30
			Aug	7/15/24

at the overall accuracy is 0.5 K. Esearch Fuladlu et al. (2021) indicates that scenes in summer months have the least cloud coverage, the most stable meteorological conditions, and can better distinguish between forested, agricultural, and urban areas. Additionally, due to the unique material of CSB, they heat up quickly and maintain high temperatures for a long-time during summer, causing localized temperature

increases in the city. Table 1 shows the resolution of all images as well as specific information on transit times.

We used station data to validate LST. Two stations in Urumqi, numbered 51463 (D1) and 51369 (D2), were selected for daily temperature data collection during the summer months of June to August. This data included daily average temperature, daily maximum temperature, and daily minimum temperature. Since LST are derived by averaging summer image temperatures, we calculated the daily average values from the station observations for June to August. We invert the Land Surface Temperature (LST) data for June-August of each biennial period from 2005 to 2020, obtaining the maximum, minimum, and average temperatures for each year. These inversion results are then fitted to the observational station data to ensure the accuracy of the research findings.

From the trend lines (Figure 2), although there are differences in spatial distribution and numerical values between the LST inversion results and the monitored temperature data, the trend lines of the inverted temperatures for minimum, maximum, and average values closely approximate the observed temperature trends. This indicates that the algorithm’s temperature inversion results are stable, suggesting a high reliability of the LST inversion results in this study, which can be used for subsequent analyses.

2.2.2 Color steel buildings data

In this paper, the improved U-net model improved by deep learning based on Google Earth images can effectively extract the information of CSB. This model is an enhanced version of the U-net

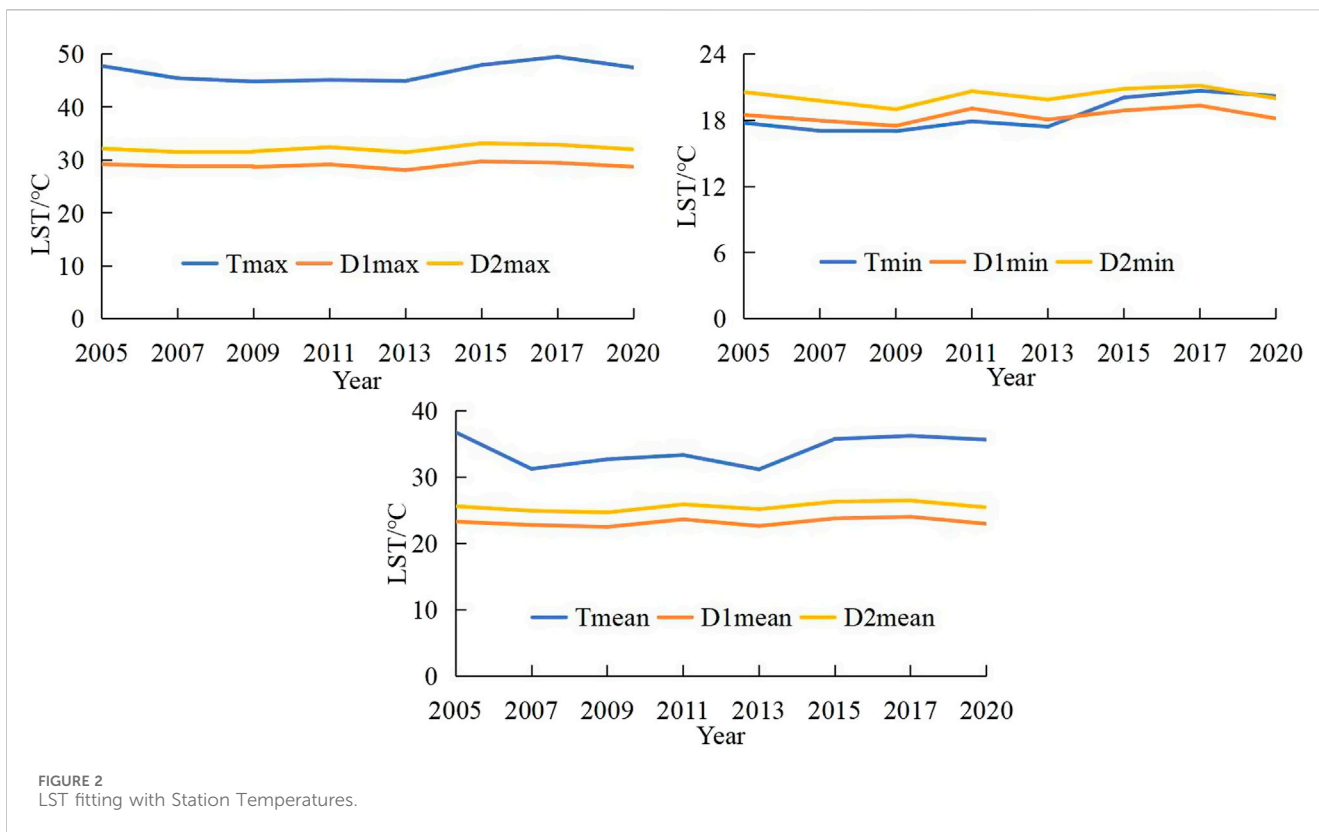


TABLE 2 Local extraction effect of CSB.

Google earth images			
CSB extraction results			

model, incorporating scSE (spatial squeeze and channel excitation) and SPP (spatial pyramid pooling) pooling techniques. The network still adheres to the fundamental U-net framework, with the inclusion of scSE attention modules after each convolutional layer to emphasize CSB building features. Moreover, by utilizing pooling layers with strides of 2, 4, and 8, it's possible to mitigate high-frequency information interference and maintain change invariance. This approach involves pooling the input feature map to derive multi-scale features of the CSB. Subsequently, these features are connected to features of the same size in the coding path via skip connections, facilitating the integration of deep semantic and

shallow information from remote sensing images. This integration improves the transfer of target features and detail information along the coding path, reducing losses due to convolution and pooling operations, thereby enhancing the CSB extraction efficiency. Specific realization process with reference to Shen (2022). The extraction results for CSB were 25,273 in 2020, 26,678 in 2015, 18,906 in 2010, and 2,087 in 2005. The local extraction effect of CSB is shown in Table 2.

Three areas in Urumqi City are selected as test areas. Mean Intersection over Union (MIoU), Precision, Recall and Mean Pixel Accuracy (MPA) are applied to evaluate the precision of extraction

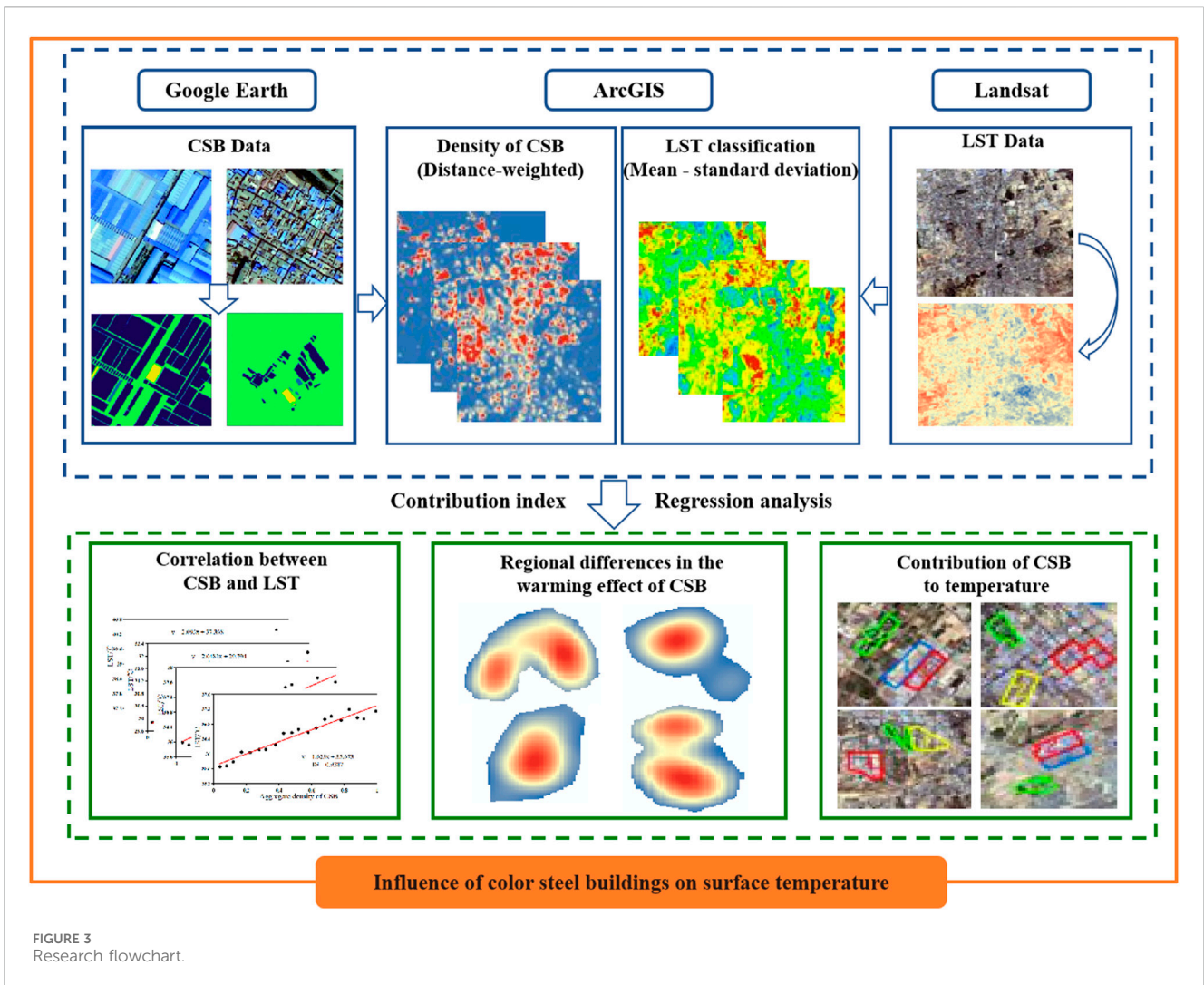


FIGURE 3 Research flowchart.

results. The evaluation indexes are $mIoU = 87.58$, $mPc = 92.22$, $mPrecision = 94.96$, $mRecall = 92.22$, respectively, indicating that the application of improved U-net neural network can extract the CSB accurately and retain the detail features of the CSB better, and its extraction accuracy rate is more than 92%. Then we conducted field surveys in Urumqi, Xinjiang, and other cities in Northwest China. We measured and statistically analyzed the number and area of CSB in the extraction areas, which were found to be largely consistent with the extraction results.

3 Methods

In this paper, Landsat images were retrieved and inverted for LST with GEE during 2005–2020. Google Earth images were used to extract CSB data. The density of the CSB and the Mean-standard deviation were adopted to analyze the evolution of the CSB and the spatial trends of the LST. The correlation between LST and density of CSB was investigated by Pearson correlation analysis and regression analysis. The differences in the warming effect of CSB in urban and suburban areas were analyzed by

comparing the statistical data. At the same time, the contribution index was used to estimate the contribution of various feature types to LST in the suburbs. The flowchart of the study is shown in Figure 3.

3.1 LST class classification

In order to accurately present the number and distribution characteristics of LST values in the study area, it is necessary to select a suitable method to classify the temperature data obtained from the inversion. In particular, the mean-standard deviation method shows the difference between the values of elemental attributes and the mean. The use of equivalent ranges proportional to the standard deviation to create classification intervals shows the different temperature classes and spatial distribution patterns, which better reflect the differences in LST in different impervious surface. In this paper, the LST distribution range is set to be between 0 and 1 with the goal to reflect the LST distribution in the study area more systematically (Liu et al., 2020). The calculation formula is as follows:

TABLE 3 LST class classification.

Temperature level	Temperature interval
Low temperature (LT)	$T_s \leq T_{mean} - 1.5std$
Sub-low temperature (SLT)	$T_{mean} - 1.5std < T_s \leq T_{mean} - 0.5std$
Medium temperature (MT)	$T_{mean} - 0.5std < T_s \leq T_{mean} + 0.5std$
Sub-high temperature (SHT)	$T_{mean} + 0.5std < T_s \leq T_{mean} + 1.5std$
High temperature (HT)	$T_{mean} + 1.5std < T_s$

$$NLST_i = \frac{T_i - T_{\min}}{T_{\max} - T_{\min}} \quad (1)$$

where $NLST_i$ is the value of the normalized image element i , T_i is the LST inversion value of the image element i , T_{\min} and T_{\max} are the minimum and maximum values of LST within the map width, respectively.

Based on the actual LST inversion result values, a 1x standard deviation equivalent classification interval was created to classify the LST into five different classes (Shi et al., 2015; Liu et al., 2020), and the specific classification method is shown in Table 3 (T_{mean} is the normalized LST mean value and std is the standard deviation).

3.2 Distance-weighted

Densely populated building areas have higher thermal intensity (Chen et al., 2024), and the contiguous distribution of buildings can lead to an increase in local LST (Morabito et al., 2017), and it is found that the aggregation density of buildings significantly affects the LST. Density (R) of aggregation of CSB is the degree and density of distribution of CSB in the area around the pixel within a specific radius. The distance-weighted approach substitutes the value of the average aggregated density of CSB within the radius for the value of the region, which was weighted by the distance and reduced from the center pixel point to the surrounding (Meng et al., 2018). This method can measure the density of the distribution of CSB within the radius. The calculation formula is as follow:

$$D(R) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^m P_i \cdot (1 - d_i/2R)}{\sum_{i=1}^m (1 - d_i/2R)} \quad (2)$$

where P_i and d_i are the value (0 or 1) of the i th image element within radius R and the Euclidean distance between its centroid image elements, respectively; m is the total number of image elements within radius R .

3.3 Impact of CSB with LST

For the purpose of study, the contribution of Urumqi's CSB to the urban LST and to compare and analyze the difference between the Contribution of the CSB and other typical land use types to the LST. We adopts the Contribution Index (CI) constructed by

YuanBin C (Chen et al., 2020; Cai et al., 2021). The formula is as follows:

$$CI = (\overline{LST}_i - \overline{LST}) \times \left(\frac{S_i}{S}\right) \quad (3)$$

Where \overline{LST}_i and \overline{LST} refer to the mean LST of the region i and the mean LST of the whole area, respectively; i refer to different surface landscape types, respectively. S_i and S refer to the area of the region i and the area of the whole study area. Suppose $CI > 0$, it means that the region i positively contributes to the LST elevation of the whole study area, which is a warming effect. In contrast, $CI < 0$ it means that the region i negatively contributes to the LST elevation of the whole study area, which is a cooling effect.

4 Results

4.1 Spatial and temporal evolution of CSB

4.1.1 Overall changes in the CSB

The study summarized the overall evolution of color steel buildings (CSB) in Urumqi city from 2005 to 2020, presenting statistical data on the number and area of CSB (Figure 4). During the period of 2005–2015, the number of CSB increased from 2087 to 26,678, representing a 12.7-fold increase. While the CSB area exhibited a year-on-year growth trend, there was a slight decrease in the number from 2015 to 2020. The new urban area had the highest CSB count annually, averaging 30%. Midong District showed the most significant growth in CSB area, followed by Toutunhe, attributed to active industrial development since 2010. Industrial parks emerged, utilizing color steel plate materials extensively.

Since 2015, there has been a slight decrease in the number of CSB. The combination of high-resolution imagery and field research indicates that many small-scale CSB have been removed from certain urban areas since 2015, while the number of large-scale CSB used for industrial and other purposes in suburban areas has increased. As a result, the total number of CSB in 2020 was fewer than in 2015.

4.1.2 Changes in the density of CSB

This study utilizes the distance weighting method to determine the gathering density of the CSB for the purpose of examining the gathering area and spatial distribution condition of the CSB. The paper had employed the binarization process on the CSB vector map. In this binarized map, a specific image element point had been the center, with distance as the weight. Using the radius R as the calculation window, the average value of CSB image element values had been identified, representing the aggregation density $D(R)$ of CSB within the radius R . In the study, to ensure that the extraction scale of the CSB is close to the scale of the surface temperature map, the pixel value size and the search radius r of the binary image output are both set to the size of the image resolution. The results of the aggregation density calculation of the CSB were shown in Figure 5. According to the proportion of the density value, the aggregation areas were divided into three levels, $D(R) > 0.5$ is high-density (hd), $0.25 < D(R) \leq 0.5$ is medium-density (md), $0.02 < D(R) \leq 0.25$ is low-density (ld).

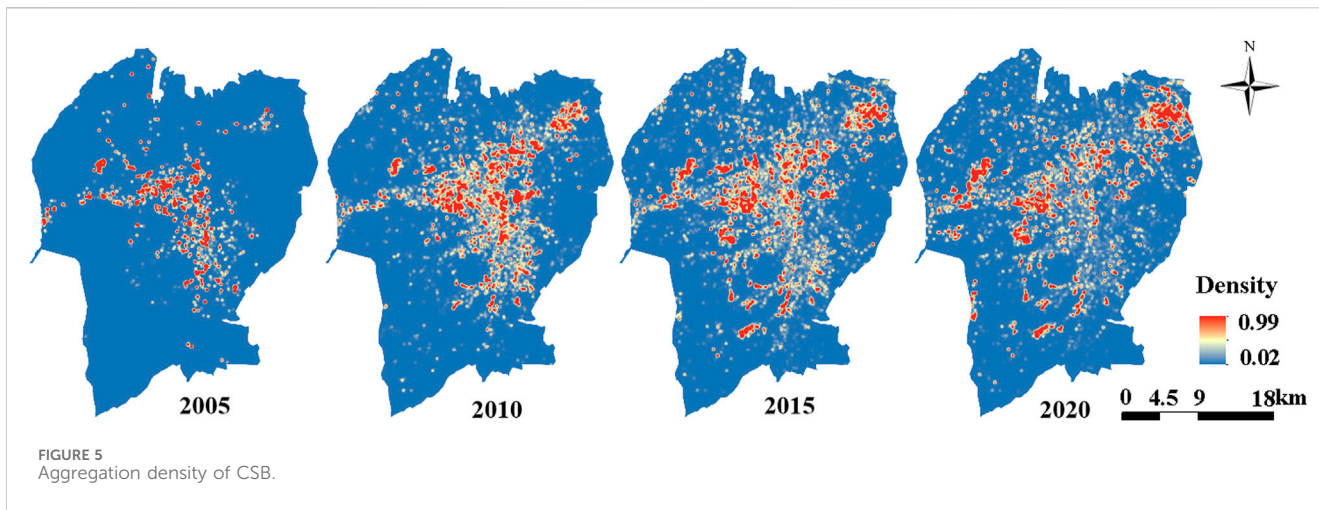
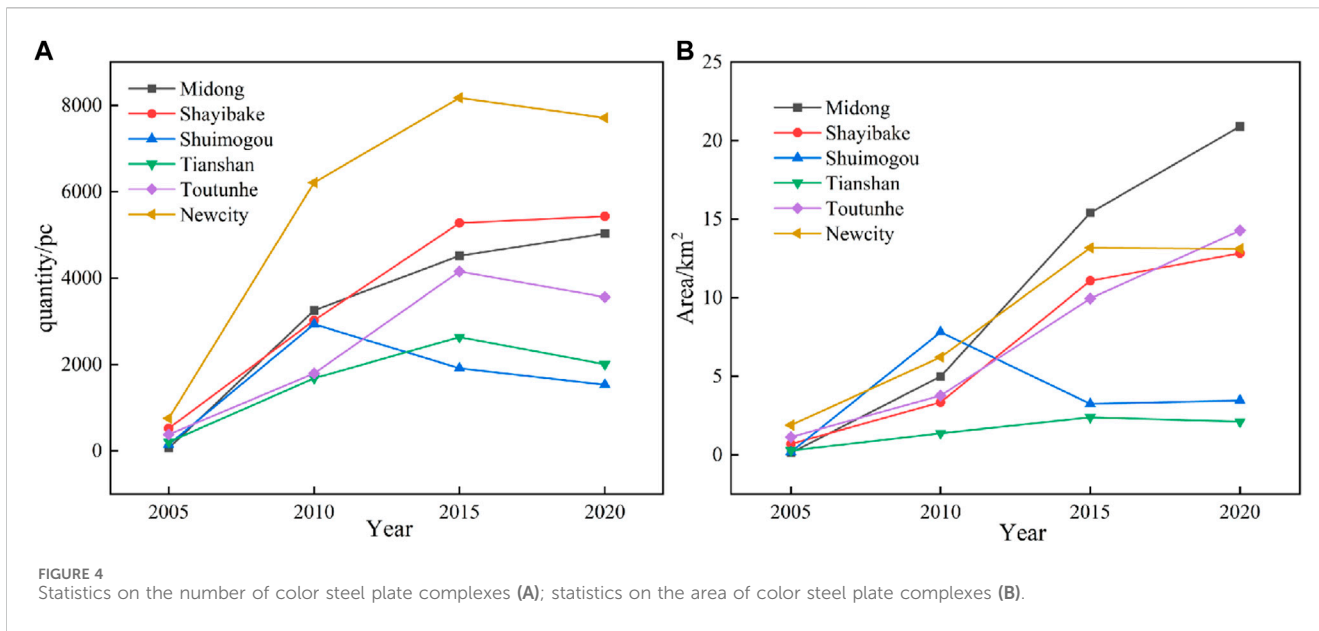


Figure 5 showed that in 2005, CSB were mainly gathered in the urban area, especially near the international airport in the new downtown area and the Tutunhe Industrial Park as the main high-density gathering area. After 2005, CSB gradually expanded to the suburbs, and by 2010, there was a noticeable increase in the medium-low-density and high-density gathering areas, and the urban area is dotted with CSB. Among them, the newly identified high-density gathering areas were in the northern suburb and along the S104 and S107 roads. Google map shows these two areas have many industrial parks, logistics parks, and entrepreneurial parks, so the CSB in the above areas have been widely used.

High-density CSB in urban areas decreased significantly in 2015, while in suburban areas still increased. Meanwhile, medium-density and low-density agglomerations increased throughout the study area, indicating a more comprehensive range of CSB uses. Due to the temporary nature of CSB and their tendency to cause fires and

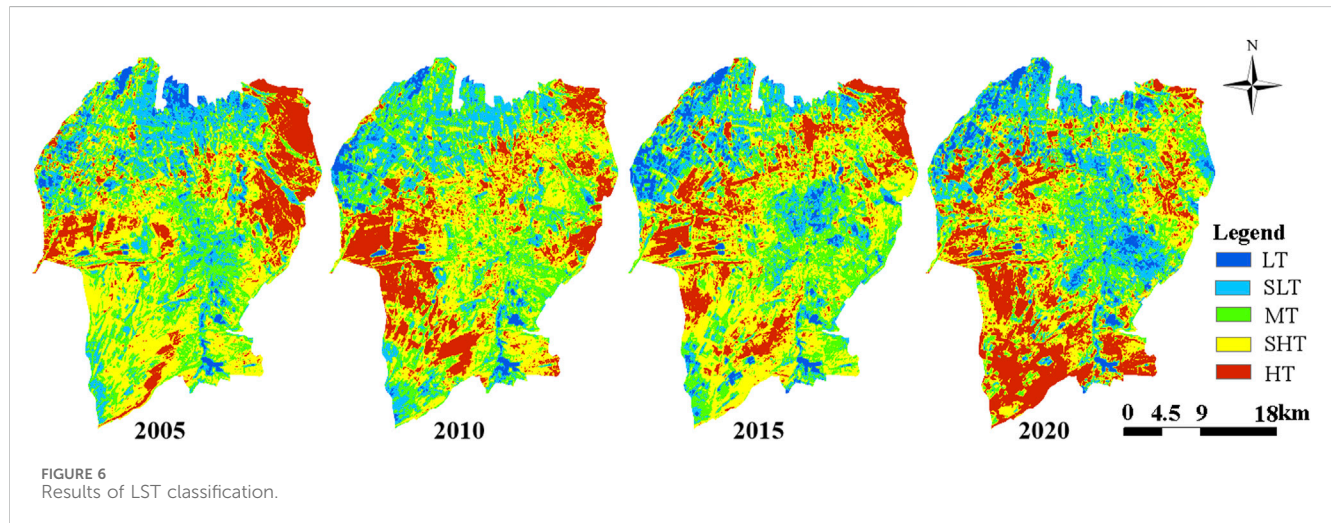
affect the cityscape, they were removed in large amounts in urban areas, so the main high-density aggregation areas of CSB in 2020 were in the suburbs. High-density, medium-density, and low-density aggregation areas in urban regions were all significantly reduced. Overall, from 2005 to 2020, the cluster of CSB has shifted from an urban aggregation state to a suburban dispersal expansion, with high-density aggregation areas moved from the city to the suburbs.

4.2 Temporal and spatial evolution of LST

The LST in Urumqi city was high in summer. Based on the GEE platform, the paper selected the summer June-July images of 4 years, 2005, 2010, 2015, and 2020, respectively, for the inversion of the LST mean. Mean value calculation is also utilized to eliminate the chance effect of cloudy and rainy weather. The temperature range of each

TABLE 4 LST statistics.

Year	LST _{max} /°C	LST _{min} /°C	LST _{mean} /°C	Temperature range of CSB/°C
2005	49.53	17.76	38.17	27.61–46.20
2010	41.70	10.15	29.09	19.86–39.09
2015	47.91	20.06	35.75	29.10–46.79
2020	47.44	20.20	35.64	21.23–47.29



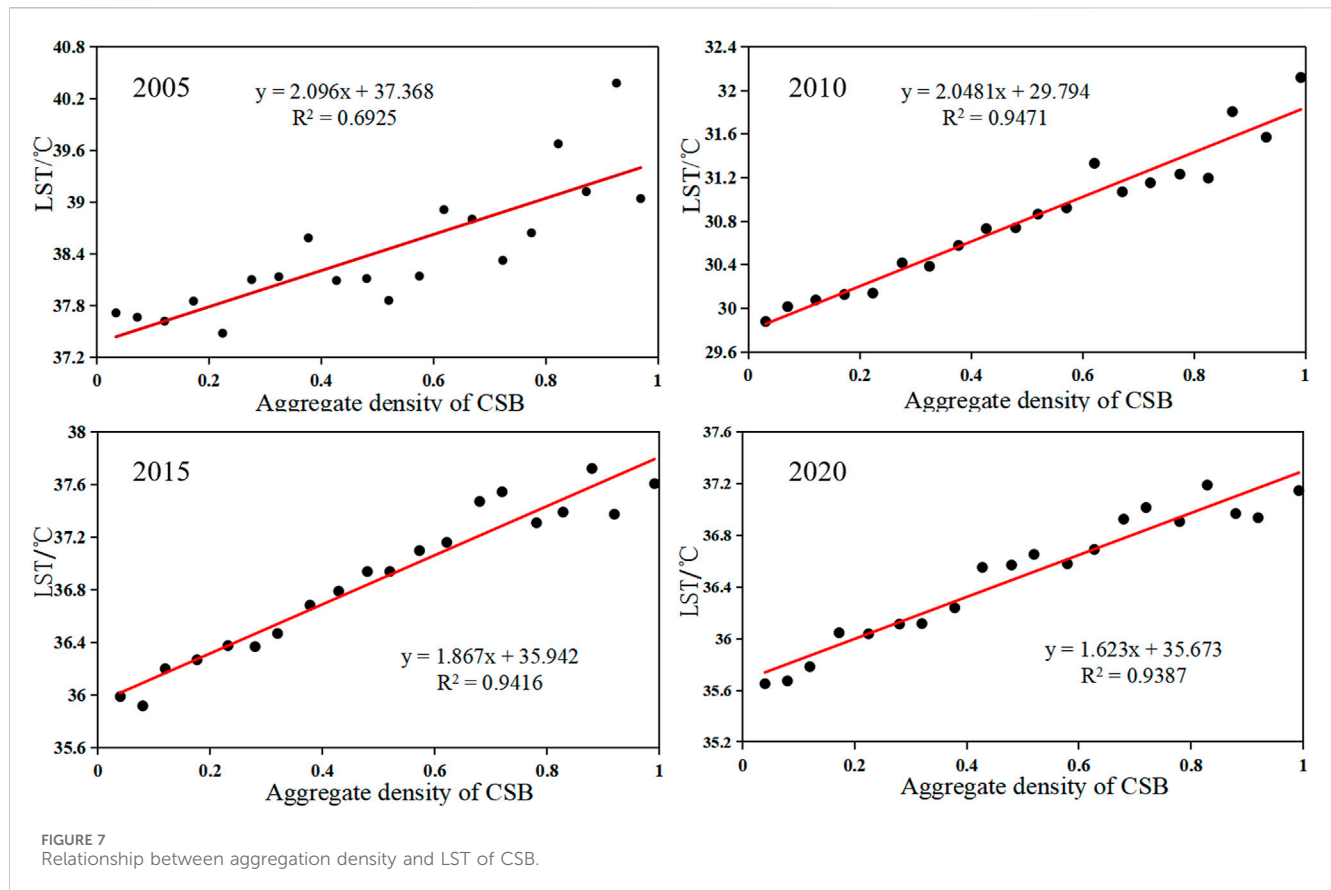
year was further counted and classified into temperature classes according to the mean, standard deviation method (Table 4). The results showed that the average temperature from 2005 to 2020 decreased first and then increased. The maximum and mean of the LST in 2005 were the highest, and the temperature in 2010 was generally lower than in other years. There was not much difference between the LST in 2015 and 2020, however, the average temperature in 2020 was higher than that in 2015. The temperature difference value of the CSB was around 20°C, and the maximum value reached 47.29°C. Influenced by the local weather, building shading, and other factors, there was an extensive range of temperature differences in the CSB, most of which were high temperatures.

The results of the spatial distribution of heat islands in Urumqi City from remote sensing inversion from 2005 to 2020 were shown in Figure 6. Further analysis revealed that the heat island grades showed an irregular ring-shaped distribution. LST grades can be roughly divided into three levels: the first level is the mountainous terrain, which is dominated by high-temperature zones; the second level is the mountainous basins and hills, which is dominated by low and medium temperatures; and the third level is the plains, which is dominated by low-temperature zones. The highest temperatures were all found in rocky mountainous areas with large areas of bare land and in areas with dense industrial buildings, such as Steamed Bun Mountain, Yamalik Mountain, and Midong Industrial Park. Some waters and the northwestern and northern agricultural growing areas have the lowest temperatures. According to the three-phase time-series map comparison, it was found that from 2005 to 2020, the sub-high-temperature areas and high-temperature

areas alternated in their patterns of change, and the built-up areas exhibited a “cold-island effect”.

In 2005, the urban heat island in Urumqi City covered a small area; the average summer LST in the urban heat island area was 38.17°C. The LST grading map showed that the high LST area was concentrated in mines in the northeastern part of Midong District and Xishan Katsuwa Stone Factory in Tutunhe District. The maximum LST reached 49.53°C, which contrasted with the “cold source” in the urban area, with a difference of 20.3°C in LST. 2010 high-temperature zone coverage in the built-up area was expanded in an irregular ring compared with 2005. Although the average LST was 9.08°C lower than that of 2005, most of the urban center area is covered by heat islands, with high-temperature, sub-high-temperature, and medium-temperature zones accounting for the significant part. The economic and technological development zone, the Toutunhe Industrial Park, and the business district of the railway station in the city are apparent high-temperature agglomeration zones, with the highest LST of 41.7°C. In 2015, the heat island effect was more evident in the form of a circle; the area of the cold island is increased, and the heat island effect in the city is weakened, with some of the densely built-up areas being low-temperature zones. By 2020, the low-temperature zone in the urban area of Urumqi had further expand, with the lowest temperature close to 20°C, while the southern mountain range still dominated the high-temperature zone.

Overall, the central city of Urumqi was characterized by low and sub-low temperature zones, and most suburban mountains were characterized by high or sub-high temperature zones. In addition, green areas and water bodies in the urban area also showed lower



temperatures. This indicated that the temperature in the central urban area of Urumqi was significantly affected by factors such as altitude and geographic location, and the central urban area presented a cold island effect.

4.3 The response of LST to CSB

4.3.1 Correlation between CSB and LST

By analyzing the temporal and spatial variation rules of CSB and LST, it can be found that the LST grade is high in the area with a high density of CSB. However, it can only be seen from the space that the distribution of high-density and high-temperature areas has a sure consistency. However, it is not possible to determine the specific correlation between the two. In order to explore the influence of the aggregation density of CSB on LST, this paper further determines the correlation between the two through the calculation of the Pearson correlation coefficient. The correlation coefficients were 0.832, 0.937, 0.970, and 0.969 for the years 2005–2020 at $p < 0.01$. Pearson's correlation coefficients of all 4 years reached a high positive correlation, in which the correlation increased significantly from 2005 to 2010, and the correlation decreased slightly from 2010 to 2020, which was related to the change in the number and area of the CSB.

In order to more accurately quantify the influence of the CSB on the LST, the density of the CSB aggregation is divided into 20 grades, with an interval of 0.05, and the average density value of each grade and the corresponding average temperature value of the interval are

found respectively. The regression analysis is utilized to further explore the degree of correlation between the two, and the results are shown in Figure 7.

Analysis of Figure 7 shows that between 2005 and 2020, the density of aggregation of CSB and the LST shows a high positive correlation, indicating that the higher the degree of aggregation of CSB, the stronger the warming effect on the surface. The warming effect of the CSB in different stages shows that the temperature rises 0.21°C, 0.4°C, 0.38°C, and 0.33°C for every 0.2 of the aggregation densities of the CSB.

From the fitting results, the point of 2005 is more discrete, and R^2 is 0.6925, indicating that the influence of the CSB on the LST in this period is negligible. The reason is that in 2005, the number of CSB was small and primarily distributed in the city center; its high gathering density does not coincide with the distribution of high-temperature areas in the city, so it has less influence on the LST. 2010, the CSB gradually developed to the suburbs, but the overall center of gravity was still in the urban area. During the same period, the LST in the urban area was dominated by medium and high temperatures. Hence, the density of CSB has the highest degree of influence on LST in this period—the highest degree of influence. From 2015 to 2020, the center of gravity of the CSB shifted to the suburbs, which coincides with the high-temperature region more, so the degree of influence is slightly reduced compared with 2010. Overall, R^2 increases and decreases, which is consistent with the change in density of CSB and Pearson's correlation coefficient, which further indicates that the warming effect of CSB is very significant.

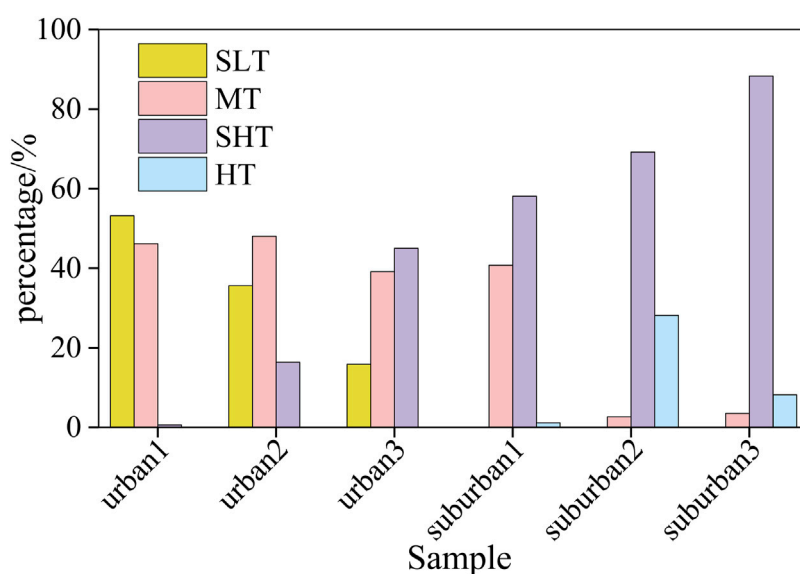


FIGURE 8
Percentage of sample temperature levels.

4.3.2 Regional variability of the warming effect of CSB

Some studies indicate significant differences in land surface temperature between urban and rural areas (Badugu et al., 2023; Ramsay et al., 2023), while the heat island effect varies across the urban-rural gradient (Xie et al., 2024). Urban areas generally exhibit higher temperatures compared to suburban areas (Raj et al., 2020). The differences in land surface temperature between urban and rural areas arise from variations in land cover types (Yang et al., 2020). However, the urban area of Urumqi exhibits a “cool island effect,” suggesting that there may be differences in the warming effect of CSB between the urban and suburban areas of Urumqi. Suburbs refer to areas within urban regions, outside the boundaries of major central cities, with lower land use density (De Vidovich, 2019). Research on the division between suburbs and urban areas involves various aspects, such as built-up area, population density, block density, and more (Airgood-Obrycki et al., 2021). Some studies determine their own criteria based on their research focus. Ding (Ding et al., 2024) use the ratio of undeveloped land in buffer zones to total area to distinguish suburban and urban attributes. However, traditional suburban definitions do not apply to the scope of this study. Therefore, we have classified the main urban area and urban outskirts of Urumqi in 2020 based on PD (population density) data, where $PD \geq 10000 \text{ km}^2$ are considered the main urban area, and areas with $PD < 10000 \text{ km}^2$ are considered suburbs. The boundaries of the urban and suburban divisions are visible in Figure 1.

In order to explore the heat island effect of CSB in different regions in a refined way, we take 2020 as an example. Three high-density aggregations ($D(R) > 0.5$) samples were selected in each of the urban and suburban, respectively, with the sample image value of 749, and the proportion of the heat island intensity within the sample area was statistically shown in Figure 8.

As can be seen from Figure 8, under the same aggregation density, the temperature corresponding to the CSB of the urban

sample is mainly concentrated in the sub-low temperature and medium temperature, of which the sub-low temperature accounts for 34.9%, the medium temperature accounts for 44.4%. The sub-high temperature accounts for 20.7%. The temperatures of the suburban sample are concentrated in sub-high and medium temperatures, with the proportion of sub-high temperatures as high as 71.8%, which is almost three times as high as the sum of medium and high temperatures. By comparing the temperatures of the urban and suburban samples, it was found that the warming effect of the urban CSB was significantly lower than that of the suburban CSB, indicating that the warming effect of the suburban CSB on the surface was more significant. This result is consistent with the overall temperature distribution in Urumqi city.

4.3.3 Differences in the contribution of localized CSB

There are temperature differences between different built-up areas and regions of other land cover types (Khamchiangta and Dhakal, 2019). In order to deeply understand the warming effect of the CSB on the LST, different types of areas in the suburbs are selected to compare with the CSB. The suburban landscape is divided into areas with and without CSB, and typical landscape types are selected. Four samples were selected for each of the four landscape categories: CSB, other buildings, bare soil, and vegetation. In order to minimize the errors caused by elevation and other natural factors, we try to select similarly numbered samples close to the sample areas of the CSB to make comparisons. The locations of these sample zones in the original image, LST, and aggregated density maps are shown in Figure 9.

The sample zone statistics are shown in Table 5. From the average and maximum and minimum values of the sample temperatures, the temperatures are in descending order: bare soil, CSB, other buildings, and vegetation. The maximum value of the sample temperature of CSB reaches 47°C , and the range of temperature values belongs to the sub-high and high-temperature

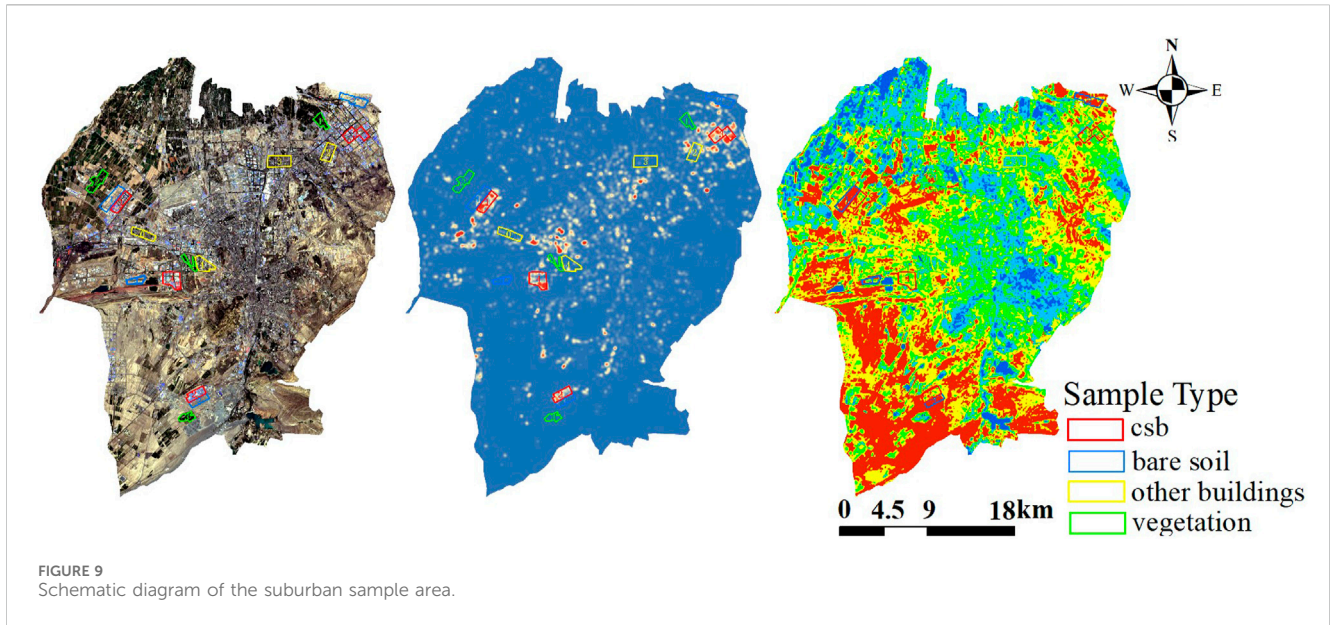


FIGURE 9 Schematic diagram of the suburban sample area.

TABLE 5 Suburban sample contribution index.

Sample	Area/km ²	Area proportion (%)	LST mean/°C	LST max/°C	LST min/°C	CI
csb1	5.79	6.83	38.25	44	34	0.150
csb2	4.96	5.86	38.06	42	34	0.117
csb3	7.22	8.53	37.12	44	32	0.105
csb4	7.77	9.17	37.66	47	30	0.147
bare soil 1	7.57	8.93	40.82	45	35	0.425
bare soil 2	6.20	7.32	40.74	44	35	0.342
bare soil 3	3.43	4.05	41.2	43	37	0.208
bare soil 4	3.11	3.67	40.25	45	34	0.154
vegetation 1	3.76	4.44	31.25	37	27	-0.213
vegetation 2	6.09	7.19	29.87	39	22	-0.445
vegetation 3	3.13	3.69	31.23	38	28	-0.178
vegetation 4	2.53	2.99	30.09	37	27	-0.179
Other buildings 1	4.07	4.81	35.26	39	29	-0.038
Other buildings 2	5.26	6.21	36.36	41	30	0.019
Other buildings 3	7.92	9.35	33.25	39	29	-0.263
Other buildings 4	5.89	6.95	34.17	39	30	-0.131

zones. By comparison, it is found that all the samples in the CSB samples have a positive Contribution, and the contribution index is around 0.1. Other buildings have three negative contributions and one positive Contribution; all four samples of bare soil have positive contributions, and the opposite is true for the vegetation.

Due to the random nature of the sample selection, there is no guarantee that the sample area is uniform in size. Table 5 shows that the contribution value of sample CSB is relatively uniform, while there are significant differences in the contribution value of other

landscape types. In order to effectively compare the difference in Contribution to LST between the CSB and other landscape types, we assumed that the sample area is of uniform size, the total area of the color plate sample is used as a reference, and the other types of samples are multiplied by a scale factor. We obtained a contribution index of 0.512 for the CSB area, -0.407 for the other buildings, 1.470 for the bare soil, and -1.707 for the vegetation area. The contribution of bare rock areas is the greatest, and existing studies have shown that LST increases with the expansion of bare land and

human settlements, and there is a significant positive correlation between LST and bare land (Tabassum et al., 2023).

Under the same coverage area, the positive Contribution of bare soil is much higher than that of other areas. At the same time, vegetation plays a noticeable cooling effect on the LST. The index of the Contribution of other buildings to the temperature is negative, and this result is inconsistent with that in other studies, i.e., urban buildings can increase the LST to varying degrees (Hao et al., 2016; Morabito et al., 2017; Zheng et al., 2023). The reason for this phenomenon is that the overall high temperature in the suburbs of Urumqi, surrounded by mountains on three sides and covered by large areas of bare soil and rock, is the main factor for the increase in LST in the suburbs. In contrast, the temperature of other buildings is much lower than that of bare earth and rocks, so the other buildings area shows a negative contribution. Overall, except for the bare soil sample, the warming effect of the CSB zone on LST is much higher than that of other surrounding factors, which further indicates that the CSB has a significant degree of influence on surface warming and is a factor that cannot be ignored for the healthy development of the city.

5 Discussions

This paper takes CSB as an entry point to quantitatively study their impact on LST through their aggregation density and evolution pattern, and comparatively analyzes the difference between the temperature increasing effect of CSB in urban and suburban areas. The article strongly proved that the CSB is related to the LST increase. CSB are made of special materials, and the steel absorbs heat quickly and dissipates it quickly. Chiu mentioned in their study that steel plate buildings, such as science and technology factories and large construction companies, have high indoor temperatures in the middle of the day during the summer due to solar radiation (Chiu and Cheng, 2012). In terms of material, the argument that CSB contribute to the increase in LST is feasible.

The conclusion that the higher the density of aggregation of CSB, the higher the LST, is related to the search radius R . We set the search radius to 10 m, 30 m, 60 m and 90 m. By comparison, we found that the correlation R^2 between the aggregated density of CSB and LST reaches the maximum when $R = 30$ m. When $R > 30$ m, the correlation decreases significantly with the increase of radius, indicated that the greater the density of the coverage of CSB, the stronger the warming effect is within $R = 30$ m. The correlation between the density of the aggregated density of CSB and LST reaches the maximum. This may be related to the resolution of the LST image. Since the extraction of the CSB is based on Google Earth images, and the temperature inversion is based on the conventional Landsat series images, the spatial resolution of the two is quite different. Therefore, we used resampling to unify the color steel plate data at the same scale, which may also result in the best results at the 30-m scale for the correlation between the two.

Furthermore, we know that the urban heat island effect is the result of a combination of multiple influences (Hao et al., 2016; He et al., 2020). Airborne particulate matter (Biswas et al., 2020), urban form, building density and street configuration have a decisive influence on the local urban climate, especially during heat waves (Stache et al., 2022). The temperatures of the CSB in the suburbs of

Urumqi are all higher than those in the urban area. Considering the suburban differences, we found through our research as well as press materials that the urban area's CSB are more fine-grained, dominated by temporary factories or residential areas, and the area of individual CSB is smaller. The gathering area of CSB in the suburbs is dominated by large factory parks. Color steel plate is mainly used to build warehouses, large-scale factory buildings and so on, and the area of single-color steel room is large. Therefore, the size and compactness of the CSB itself will make a difference in the warming effect.

In addition to differences in the area size of the CSB themselves, building heights in the suburbs may also contribute to suburban differences. Taller monolithic buildings create larger shadow areas (Han et al., 2023). Considering the lower LST in the shaded area, all the CSB in urban areas are lower than other surrounding buildings. Therefore, CSB in urban areas may have low temperatures. In suburban areas, which are relatively empty and do not have a large number of other buildings around the CSB, the shadow coverage is small, and the contribution of the CSB to the temperature is more pronounced. The research indicates a significant relationship between landscape indices and land surface temperature (Ding et al., 2024). Therefore, studying the relationship between landscape indices of CSB and LST is also a part that needs to be considered in subsequent research.

One of the most important and dominant reasons may be the differences caused by differences in elevation. Altitude is usually taken into account as a factor affecting the urban heat island (Mathew et al., 2016). Mathew's study showed that the LST in the study area tended to increase with increasing altitude (Mathew et al., 2017). Urumqi is surrounded by mountains on three sides, and the elevation of the suburbs is higher than that of the urban area, so the temperature of CSB in the suburbs is higher than that of the urban area. The article only superficially discusses the influence of CSB on LST, and in the future, the building height, building layout and environment of CSB can be taken into account to more comprehensively and accurately analyze the influence of CSB on LST.

Although the aggregation density of CSB and LST as a whole shows a positive relationship, but in the local area there is a non-correlation of special cases, the reason may be related to a certain range of building layout or vegetation coverage (Mohajerani et al., 2017; Yao et al., 2018). The results of the article show that the contribution index of the samples in the vegetation coverage area is negative, and we know that water bodies and vegetation usually can mitigate the urban heat island when they are used as blue-green space in cities (Pan et al., 2023; Zhou et al., 2023). Suburban CSB are less affected by blue-green covered areas. In addition, some studies have shown that the temperature in urban areas is higher than that in non-urban areas, while the opposite is true for Urumqi, which may also explain the localized non-positive correlation between the two. Further exploration of the more complex inner-city structure is needed to achieve a more refined study of the CSB.

6 Conclusion

Taking the stage buildings that appeared in the development process of Urumqi City as the research object, this study focuses

on analyzing the influence of the spatial pattern and spatial and temporal changes of the CSB, which are the typical building clusters, on the LST of the city. The study qualitatively analyzes the spatial distribution of CSB and LST using the distance-weighted method and the mean-standard deviation method. The results show that during the period of 2005–2020, the scale of the CSB is enlarged, and the spatial distribution is gradually dispersed from the center to the surrounding area, and the high-density gathering area is gradually shifted from the urban area to the suburban area. The high-density gathering area of CSB and the high LST area of Urumqi city show the consistency of spatial distribution, which qualitatively indicates that there is a certain correlation between the CSB and the increase of urban LST.

It was further observed that the density of CSB was highly positively correlated with LST, indicating that their dense distribution would exacerbate LST. Notably, at equivalent densities, temperatures of CSB in urban areas were lower than those in suburban areas. Consequently, urban planners may need to focus on planning and distributing large industrial areas, reasonably controlling the density of CSB, and mitigating the concentrated distribution of CSB to enhance the local thermal environment. Furthermore, the contribution index to LST from CSB samples in suburban areas reached 0.512, significantly higher than in other building areas, suggesting that these clusters are a key factor driving LST increases in suburban regions. Therefore, reducing the thermal impact of CSB emerges as a crucial strategy in mitigating the urban heat island effect. This necessitates improving the influence of CSB on LST through initiatives such as energy-efficient building design, utilization of green building technologies, and enhancement of building materials and colors.

Data availability statement

The original contributions presented in the study are included in the article/supplementary material, further inquiries can be directed to the corresponding author.

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Funding

The author(s) declare that financial support was received for the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article. This research work is co-funded by National Natural Science Foundation of China (No. 42161069), the National Key R&D Program of China (Grant No. 2022YFB3903604) and Gansu Province Outstanding Graduate Student Innovation Star Project (2023CXZX-507).

Acknowledgments

We are very grateful to the editors and anonymous reviewers for their valuable comments and suggestions.

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