Atmospheric inversions using satellite observations (synthesis)

Frédéric Chevallier, Marine Remaud, Philippe Peylin and Anne Cozic (LSCE)

Christopher W. O'Dell and David Baker (Colorado State Univ.)





Laboratoire des sciences du climat & de l'environnement



Global Carbon Budget 2018 (Le Quéré et al., ESSD, 2018)

- Air-sample measurements only
- 4 global inversion systems
- C natural budget in the Tropics vs. in the NH extra-Tropics
- Use independent aircraft measurements to "rank" the inversions?
 - Stephens et al., 2007
 - Houweling et al., 2015
 - etc.

GLOBAL CARBON project



Ensemble of six CO₂ inversions

3 assimilation datasets

- SURF = surface from Obspack, RAMCES, WDCGG, 2000 2018
- GOSAT = C3S from Univ of Leicester, April 2009 Dec 2016
- OCO-2 = NASA v9 over land, Sep 2014 July 2018
- 2 transport model versions
 - LMDZ5A (LMDz code ID 1649, made in 2012) nudged to ERA-Interim
 - LMDZ6A (LMDz code ID 3353, made in 2018) nudged to ERA-5
- 4-6 weeks of computation per inversion.

Extra: Poor man's inversion that corrects a recent bottom-up estimate (ORCHIDEE TrendyS3 + Landschützer et al. + GFED + GCP) with NOAA's growth rate estimate × 2.086 GtC·ppm⁻¹.

Time series of Inferred natural CO₂ annual flux between 2004 and 2017: globe



Inversions with LMDz5A (LMDz6A) are shown in continuous (dashed) coloured lines.

Time series of Inferred natural CO₂ annual flux between 2004 and 2017: TransCom land



Inversions with LMDz5A (LMDz6A) are shown in continuous (dashed) coloured lines.

Time series of Inferred natural CO₂ annual flux between 2004 and 2017: TransCom ocean



Inversions with LMDz5A (LMDz6A) are shown in continuous (dashed) coloured lines.

Grid-point budget of the natural CO₂ fluxes for the year 2015







Location of the aircraft measurements in the free troposphere for the two verification periods



The two periods overlap by 22 months, so that many data appear on both maps. Free troposphere = 2-7 km asl.

All data from Obspack GV+4.0 and INPE_RESTRICTED_v2.0.



Model-minus-observation $|\delta|$ and σ over the GOSAT period



Poor man's inversion results appear as a shaded area

(ORCHIDEE TrendyS3 + Landschützer et al. + GFED + GCP + NOAA's growth rate estimate).

Model-minus-observation $|\delta|$ and σ over the GOSAT period



Poor man's inversion results appear as a shaded area.

Inversions with LMDz5A (LMDz6A) are shown in continuous (dashed) coloured lines. The number of measurement per campaign varies between 113 (BNE) and 901,846 (CON).

Model-minus-observation $|\delta|$ and σ over the GOSAT period



Poor man's inversion results appear as a shaded area.

Inversions with LMDz5A (LMDz6A) are shown in continuous (dashed) coloured lines. The number of measurement per campaign varies between 113 (BNE) and 901,846 (CON).

Model-minus-observation $|\delta|$ and σ over the OCO-2 period



Poor man's inversion results appear as a shaded area.

Inversions with LMDz5A (LMDz6A) are shown in continuous (dashed) coloured lines. The number of measurement per campaign varies between 133 (CRV) and 211,358 (CON).

Model-minus-observation $|\delta|$ and σ over the OCO-2 period



Poor man's inversion results appear as a shaded area.

Inversions with LMDz5A (LMDz6A) are shown in continuous (dashed) coloured lines. The number of measurement per campaign varies between 133 (CRV) and 211,358 (CON).



- SURF and OCO-2 inferred fluxes are close to each other.
 GOSAT fluxes (and Poor man's) are quite different.
- SURF and OCO-2 perform similarly wrt aircraft.
 GOSAT (and Poor man's) perform less well.
- Ranking/selection approach is desirable and may be possible now based on aircraft data, at least for long inversions.
 - May help decision-making, even for a given inversion system.
- No improvement brought by the more complex and more recent transport model version.
- Uncertainty in the inferred natural fluxes remain large.
- Both OCO-2 and SURF locate the recent terrestrial sink in the NH extratropics.
 - There are regional differences though, mostly in the Tropics.

Thank you for your attention