The role of tropical cyclones on the global CO₂ flux: an observation based approach

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Tropical cyclones



- Rapidly rotating storms
- Form over bodies of warm water
- High wind speeds
- Low pressure core
- Local Ekman pumping
- Heavy rainfall

Extreme weather events in observation based flux estimates

- Global fluxes are often made at monthly resolution on 1° x 1° grids.
- Extreme weather events are infrequent and occur on the order of days to weeks.
- To capture wind speed variability, the second moment <U₁₀²> of the monthly averaged
 6-hourly 0.25° winds are used.

How do tropical cyclones impact flux

$$FCO_2 = k k_0 (pCO_{2 (sea)} - pCO_{2 (air)})$$

- 1. High wind speeds
- 2. Changes to SST
- 3. Changes to SSS
- 4. Changes to atmospheric pressure
- 5. Precipitation
- 6. Upwelling of nutrients and DIC

Gas exchange parameterisations at high wind speeds

Saffir–Simpson scale



(Garbe et.al 2014).

Gas exchange parameterisations at high wind speeds

 $k = 14 + 0.0002925 * (U_{10})^{3.742}$



(McNeil & D'Asaro 2006).

(Krall et.al 2019).

Previous estimates

A number of studies have used *in situ* pre and post storm data to infer the impact of individual storms on the flux.

A comprehensive approach is needed to address all the competing factors.

Levy *et.al* 2012 use a modelling approach to estimate the impact on the flux for all the storms using a storm atlas.

MAXSS Atlas

Advancements in remote sensing and reanalysis products mean it is possible to attempt an observation based estimate.

The Marine Atmosphere eXtreme Satellite Synergy (MAXSS) storm Atlas includes observational data for every storm from 2010 – 2020.

MAXSS ATLAS contents

- Wind –MAXSS L4- hourly grid size 0.25 degree
- SST ESACCI daily
- SSS ESACCI weekly
- Pressure ERA5 hourly reanalysis
- Precipitation ERA5 hourly reanalysis

- pCO2 data Woolf 2019 monthly
- atmospheric pCO2 data NOAA -monthly



Video plays here.

How does the integrated flux change over time?





What is the net impact of the TC

Net impact =
$$\int_{t=end}^{t=1} MAXSS_RUN - \int_{t=end}^{t=1} MAXSS_REF$$







Conclusions

• Framework developed for calculating the flux of tropical cyclones.

• Can calculate the net impact of the storm and can attribute the contribution from different drivers.

• Season, storm location, storm duration and storm intensity are important.







Interannual change in air-sea flux of CO_2 (in PgC yr⁻¹) due to DpCO₂ (blue), wind speed (black) and cold wake (red).

(Schuster & Jones 2017) – Unpublished Oceanflux results

Updates to the Atlas

• CD or U* will be included in the next version of the Atlas .

• We can then include high wind parameterisations (Krall *et.al* 2019) & (Deike *et.al* 2018).

• Include rain effects (Harrison *et.al* 2012).

What about upwelling?



A global monthly climatology of total alkalinity: a neural network approach

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Thankyou for listening



Any questions?