Quantifying the natural aerosol diffuse radiation fertilisation effect

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Aerosol & biosphere-atmosphere interactions

Aerosol particles affect:

- atmospheric radiative fluxes
  - Direct effects
  - Indirect effects
- atmospheric chemistry
- land and ocean biogeochemistry

(Mahowald et al., 2011)
Natural aerosol radiative effects

- largest DRE for sea-salt: -0.25 Wm\(^{-2}\)
- largest CAEs for DMS- (-0.94 Wm\(^{-2}\)) & volcanic (-0.62 Wm\(^{-2}\)) sulfate
- sea-salt CAE much lower than existing estimates
- substantial variability in CAE/DRE ratio
- substantial variability in natural aerosol radiative efficiency [W/g]: secondary vs. primary aerosol species

(Rap et al., 2013)
Diffuse radiation and plant productivity

Changes in radiation have a net effect on photosynthesis that depends on the balance between the reduction in total radiation and the increase in its diffuse fraction.

- plant productivity increases with irradiance
- photosynthesis is more efficient under diffuse light

(Kanniah et al., *Progress Phys. Geog.*, 2012)
Global dimming and the land carbon sink

- a) increase in diffuse fraction during the 20th century
- b) the diffuse fraction increase influence on land carbon sink becomes important after 1950
- c) 1950-1980 changes in diffuse fraction
- d) 1950-1980 impact on regional land sink

- increases in diffuse fraction have enhanced the global land carbon sink by 24% between 1960 and 1999

(Mercado et al., 2009)
Methodology

GFEDv3
(van der Werf et al., 2010)

GEIA
(Guenther et al., 1995)

GLOMAP
(Spracklen et al., 2005)
(Mann et al., 2010)

Aerosol emissions

Meteorology

ECMWF

Clouds, albedo, GHGs

ISCCP, ECMWF

EU WATCH

SOCRATES
(Edwards & Slingo, 1996)
(Rap et al., 2013)

JULES
(Mercado et al., 2007)
(Best et al., 2011)
(Clark et al., 2011)

Land-surface model

Radiation model

Aerosol model
GPP response to PAR regimes
- Model and observations -

- GPP increases with increased PAR, saturating at high PAR

- for the same amount of PAR, both observed and simulated GPP are increased by ~45% under diffuse compared to direct light conditions

- the model simulates the observed increase in photosynthesis in tropical forests of the Amazon basin under diffuse sunlight.

(Rap et al, 2015)
Amazon biomass burning aerosol
- Model and observations -

- 1×BBA simulated AOD underestimates the observed values (normalized mean bias (NMB) = −41%)
- 3×BBA typically overestimates AOD (NMB = 19%)
- We use these two simulations as a rough lower and upper bound estimate of BBA emissions.

Radiation and GPP measurements:
- Tapajos: 2002-2005, every 60 mins
- Guyaflux: 2006-2007, every 30 mins

(Rap et al., 2015)
Impact of Amazon fires on PM2.5, surface radiation, GPP and NPP

- The Amazon-basin NPP enhancement is \( \sim 115 \text{ Tg C a}^{-1} \), offsetting \( \sim 50\% \) of the annual regional carbon emissions from biomass burning.

- This NPP increase occurs during the dry season and mitigates \( \sim 40-50\% \) of the moisture generated decline in NPP in dry years.

- We estimate that 30-60 Tg C a\(^{-1}\) of this NPP enhancement is within woody tissue, accounting for 8-16% of the observed carbon sink across mature Amazonian forests.

(Rap et al., 2015)
Secondary Organic Aerosol (SOA)

How does SOA affect plant productivity via changes in the surface radiation regime?

(Scott et al, 2014)
BVOC emissions

GEIA database:

- Isoprene 503 Tg C a\(^{-1}\)
- Monoterpenes 127 Tg C a\(^{-1}\)

JULES:

- Isoprene 515 Tg C a\(^{-1}\)
- Monoterpenes 42 Tg C a\(^{-1}\)

SOA production rate:

- 13-121 Tg a\(^{-1}\) (AEROCOM, Tsigaridis et al., 2014)
- 18-185 Tg a\(^{-1}\) (range of our sensitivity simulations)
  - best estimate is 55 Tg a\(^{-1}\)
  - best agreement with observed AOD for 37-74 Tg SOA a\(^{-1}\)
  - consistent with AeroCom models estimate: median=51 Tg a\(^{-1}\), mean=59 Tg a\(^{-1}\), \(\sigma=38\) Tg a\(^{-1}\) (Tsigaridis et al. 2014)
Evaluation of SOA emissions
- modelled & observed AOD -

• best agreement with AERONET AOD measurements for the 2xSOA simulation

(Rap et al, 2017, submitted)

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SOA changes on surface radiation
- 2 competing effects -

Reduction in direct radiation

\[ \Delta \text{surf rad [Wm}^{-2}] \text{ from 2xSOA} \]

Direct: -1.13Wm^{-2}

Increase in diffuse radiation

Diffuse: 1.05Wm^{-2}

The net effect on GPP depends on the balance between the reduction in direct & increase in diffuse radiation

(Rap et al., 2015)
SOA changes on GPP

- Substantial increases over tropical regions
- Slight decreases over some boreal regions

GPP changes caused by anthropogenic aerosol pollution

(Strada & Unger, 2016)
The terrestrial biosphere benefits from the emission of BVOCs, with an NPP enhancement that is ~2.5 times greater than the initial carbon investment on what is emitted to the atmosphere.

- Annual mean global NPP enhancement of 1.32 Pg C a\(^{-1}\) (0.61-1.95 Pg C a\(^{-1}\), when allowing for uncertainty in SOA formation)
- Most of the NPP enhancement comes from lower latitudes (30°N-30°S)
- Largest increase in July, partly due to a substantial contribution from mid 30°-60° (30%) and boreal 60°N-90°N (10%) latitudes
Natural aerosol – radiative effects and diffuse radiation fertilisation

Preliminary results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Direct RE [Wm$^{-2}$]</th>
<th>Indirect RE [Wm$^{-2}$]</th>
<th>$\Delta$NPP [Pg C a$^{-1}$]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anthropogenic</td>
<td>-0.46</td>
<td>-0.95</td>
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<td>DMS</td>
<td>-0.23</td>
<td>-0.76</td>
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<td>Sea-salt</td>
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<td>0.34</td>
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<td>Volcanic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biogenic SOA</td>
<td>-0.33</td>
<td>-0.04</td>
<td>1.32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wildfires</td>
<td>-0.01</td>
<td>-0.09</td>
<td>0.25</td>
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</tbody>
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