

ADDENDUM

Estimates of natural flows in the MPO model

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Summary

- The quantification of the four natural flows is based primarily on measurements of $[CO_2]$, $\delta^{13}C$, and SSTi. These observations were made in both hemispheres between 1980 and 2025. The $[CO_2]$ measurements, collected at the [four NOAA baseline observatories](#), are used to determine the average mass of carbon in the atmosphere = $X(t)$.
- The estimates of the four natural flows proposed by the MPO model remain broadly similar ($\pm 25\%$ except for F1) to those proposed by the IPCC in the Arx WG1 reports (see Fig. 3).

The **MPO** model (**M**ixed **P**roportional **O**cean) complies with the three compartments and four natural flows used in IPCC reports. This simplification is implemented here over a limited period, covering the years **1980 to 2025**.

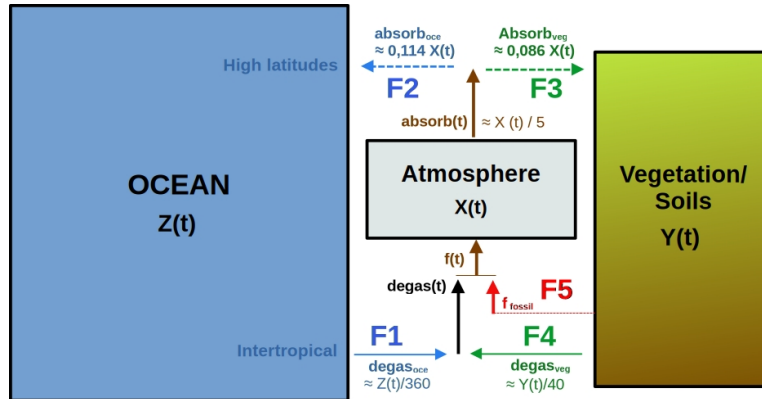


Figure 1: Ratings of the five flows and stocks in the three compartments (Figure 15 in [Revisiting the carbon cycle](#))
Stocks X,Y,Z: 1 ppm = 0,0001% → 7,8 Gt-CO₂ = 7,8 x 10¹² kg of CO₂ → 2,12 Gt-C = 2,12 x 10¹² kg of carbon
Flows F1, F2, F3, F4, F5: 1ppm/year → 2,12 Gt-C/year ; 1 Gt-C/year → 3,67 Gt-CO₂/year → 0,47 ppm/year

1. Flows leaving the atmosphere F2 and F3

1.1 Dimensioning of F3

Flow 3 is calibrated so as to:

- correspond to NPP estimates according to [Haverd et al 2009](#).
- be proportional to atmospheric CO₂ concentration.
- be virtually compatible with the 6 WG1 reports of the IPCC → $F3 \approx 0.078 X(t)$

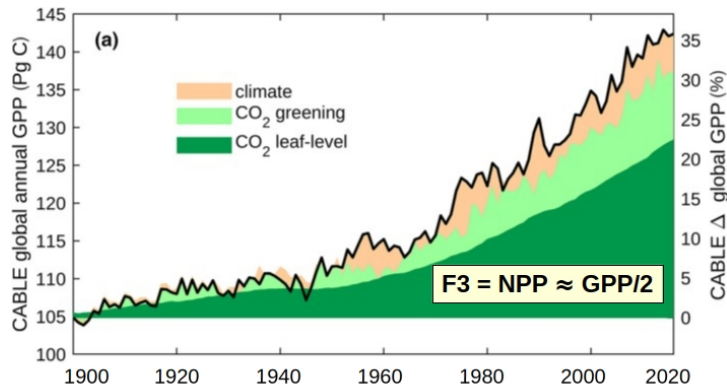


Figure 2: $GPP \approx 2 * NPP$ according to Figure 2 in [Haverd et al, 2019](#) <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdfdirect/10.1111/gcb.14950>

For **effective multi-year** carbon sequestration by vegetation, i.e., F3, **Net Primary Production** → $NPP \approx GPP/2$ must be used, where **GPP = Gross Primary Production** ([see here](#)).

Dates	Assessment Report	Flow in Gt-C / yr					X(t) → [CO ₂] in Gt-C	Residence time (year) = X(t) / (flow 2 + flow 3)	
		Flow 2	F2/X(t)	Flow 3 if GPP	Flow 3 if NPP	F3/X(t)		if flow 3 = GPP	if flow 3 = NPP
1990	AR1 fig 1.1	92	12,3 %	102	51	6,8 %	750	3,87	5,24
1995	AR2 fig 2.1	92	12,3 %	GPP ?	61,8	8,2 %	750	GPP ?	4,88
2001	AR3 fig 3.1a	90	11,9 %	120	60	7,9 %	730? 755	3,60	5,03
2007	AR4 fig 7.3	92,2	12,1 %	122,6	61,3	8,0 %	762	3,55	4,96
2013	AR5 fig 6.01	80	9,7 %	123	61,5	7,4 %	829	4,08	5,86
2021	AR6 fig 5.12	79,5	9,1 %	142	71	8,2 %	870	3,93	5,78
Average (F2+F3) / X(t) = 19 % = 1 / 5,3 11,2 % + 7,8 % = 19 %		11,2 % = Average		Average = 7,8 %		average residence time (year)	3,8	5,3	

Figure 3: According to the six WG1 reports of the IPCC, on average $F2 \approx 0.112 X(t)$ and $F3 \approx 0.078 X(t)$

We finally adopt $F3 = 0.086 X(t)$, which is consistent with [Haverd 2009](#) and close to $0.078 X(t)$, the average of the six WG1 reports of the IPCC.

1.2 Dimensioning of F2

Flow 3 is calibrated so as to be :

- proportional to atmospheric CO₂ concentration.
- virtually compatible with the [figure 3.1a](#) AR3 WG1 report of the IPCC → $F2 \approx 90 \text{ Gt-C/year} \pm 25\%$ around 2000 .
- compatible with the previous choice of $F3 = 0.086 X(t)$.

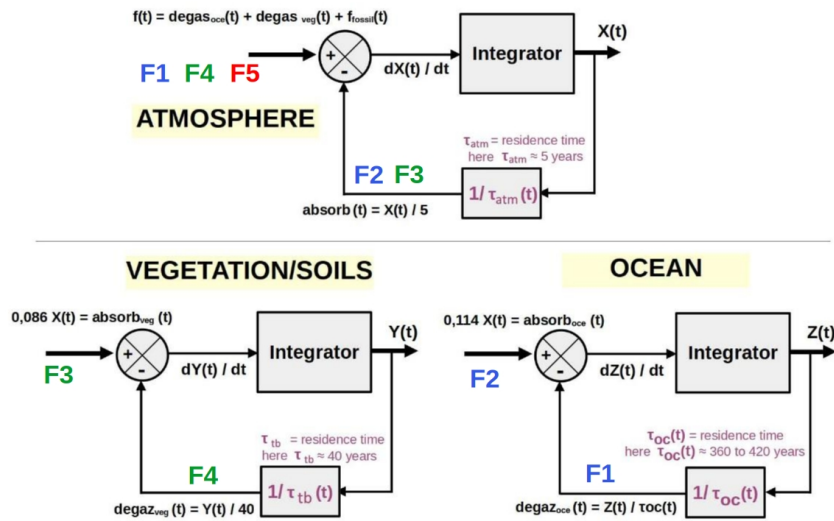


Figure 4: The three compartments have a common simple model but different residence times → $\tau = \text{Stock} / \text{outgoing flow}$ (based on Figure 14 in [Revisiting the carbon cycle](#))

The MPO model adopts a residence time in the atmosphere of 5 years.

We therefore have $(F2 + F3) = X(t)/5 = F2 + 0.086 X(t)$. We finally adopt $F2 = 0.114 X(t)$.

2. Flows entering the atmosphere F1 and F4

We follow the simple models shown in Figure 4: flows will be calculated using an expression based on stocks $Y(t)$ and $Z(t)$ and the residence time of the compartment. The calculations will use observations of atmospheric CO₂ (ratio and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$) from 1980 to 2025.

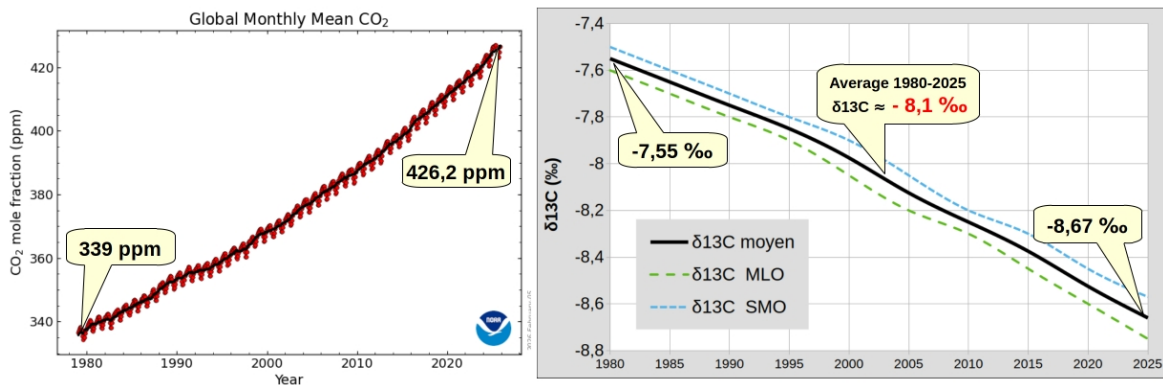


Figure 5 : **Global** atmospheric CO₂ levels according to [NOAA](#) (1 ppm → 2,12 Gt-C); $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ in the atmosphere according to [Scripps CO₂](#)

Between 1980* and 2025, the CO₂ level in the atmosphere will increase: $426.2 - 339 = +87.2$ ppm, representing a net contribution of +185 Gt-C. This net contribution must be such that $\delta^{13}\text{C} = -13.0\text{‰}$, because between 1980 and 2025 we have:

$$\text{ppm} : (339 * -7,55) + (87,2 * -13,0) = (426,2 * -8,67)$$

$$\text{Gt-C} : (719 * -7,55) + (185 * -13,0) = (904 * -8,67)$$

* 1980 because we need to have measurements of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and CO₂ levels in both hemispheres.

[Koutsoyiannis 2024a](#), reports similar values in Fig. 10 for net contributions: $-12.9\text{‰} > \delta^{13}\text{C} > -13.3\text{‰}$

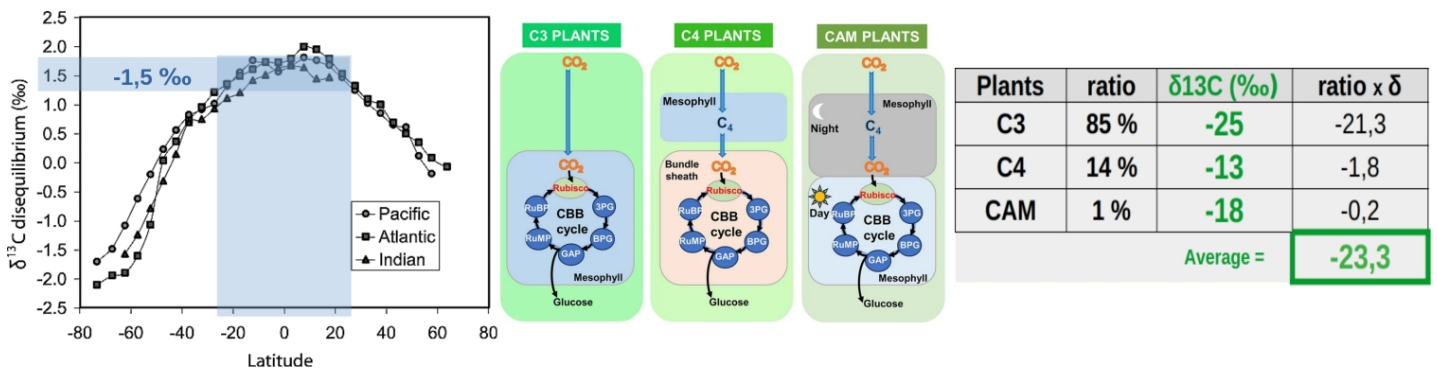


Figure 6: For $\delta^{13}\text{C}$, the net intertropical ocean contribution is $< 1.5\text{‰}$ to the atmosphere (fig 8 Quay et al., 2003) $\rightarrow -8,1 - 1,5 \approx -9,6\text{‰}$
 For net vegetation/soil input, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ depends on the type of vegetation \rightarrow on average, $\delta^{13}\text{C} \approx -23.3\text{‰}$

2.1 Estimating net contributions to the atmosphere for oceans and vegetation/soils

• Between 1980 and 2025, anthropogenic emissions will contribute 360* Gt-C to the atmosphere, but growth will only be 185 Gt-C. According to the IPCC model, the Ocean and Vegetation/Soil compartments would absorb about half of the 360 Gt-C of anthropogenic carbon, thereby offsetting the 185 Gt-C increase observed in the atmosphere.

* $\sim 1260 \text{ Gt-CO}_2$, or $\sim 343 \text{ Gt-C}$ according to [World Energy Outlook](#), but the IPCC adds approximately 5% LUC $\rightarrow 343 * 1.05 \approx 360 \text{ Gt-C}$.

• Let z be the net contribution from the ocean and y the net contribution from vegetation/soils. According to the IPCC model, we would therefore have $z \approx y \approx -(360-185)/2 = -87.5 \text{ Gt-C}$ (both compartments are carbon sinks). The table below shows that observations contradict this IPCC model.

Balance sheet 1980-2025	Anthropogenic	Ocean	Vegetation /soils	Net contribution
Atmosphere in (Gt-C)	360			
Atmosphere out (Gt-C)				
Net (Gt-C)	360	-87,5	-87,5	185 Gt-C
$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (‰)	-29	-9,6	-23,3	-40,9 ‰
Net x $\delta^{13}\text{C}$	-10440	837	2040	-7563
Min (‰)	-31	-6,0	-20,0	-48,0 ‰
Net x $\delta^{13}\text{C}$	-11160	525	1750	-8885
Max (‰)	-27	-12,0	-28,0	-33,6 ‰
Net x $\delta^{13}\text{C}$	-9720	1050	2450	-6220

Figure 7a: The IPCC model does not allow for a net input of 185 Gt-C with $\delta^{13}\text{C} = -13\text{‰}$
 $360 + -87.5 + -87.5 = 185$; but $-10440 + 837 + 2040 = -7563$ and $-7563 / 185 = -40.9\text{‰}$

In the lower part, for a wide range of values $\delta^{13}\text{C}$, it is shown that $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ net contribution **remains far** from -13‰ (-48‰ to -33.6‰).
 See also pages 22-24 in [The Cause Of Earth's Climate Change Is The Sun](#).

• According to the MPO model, which contradicts the IPCC model, the ocean is a net source with respect to the atmosphere, i.e., z is positive $\rightarrow F1 > F2$.

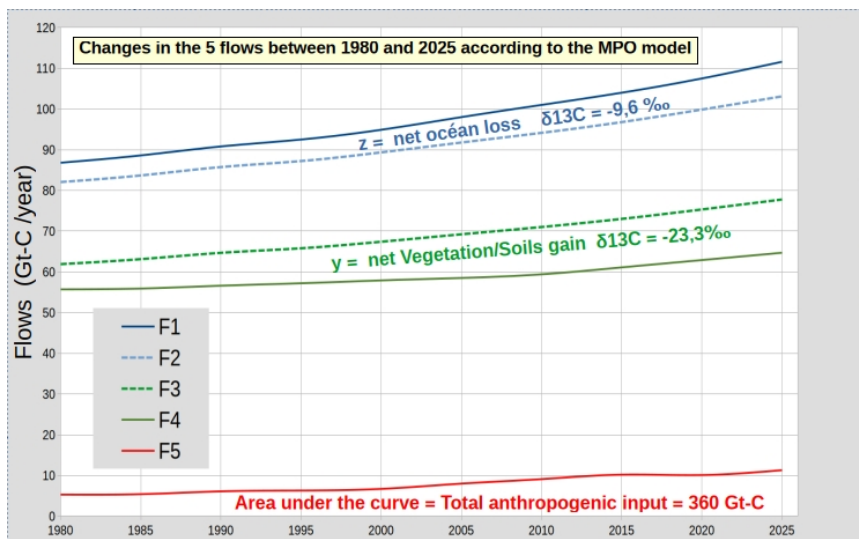


Figure 7b: According to MPO, the ocean is a net source for the atmosphere ($F1 > F2$), while vegetation/soil is a sink ($F3 > F4$). However, the sum (ocean + vegetation/soil) is **overall a sink** ($y > z$) with respect to the atmosphere.

In order to comply with the observations in Fig. 5 (which imply a total net input of 185 Gt-C with $\delta^{13}\text{C} = -13.0\text{‰}$), we must simultaneously have (Gt-C) :

$$360 + z + y = 185$$

$$(360 * -29) + (z * -9,6) + (y * -23,3) = (185 * -13,0)$$

Solving the system of two equations gives: $z = 288 \text{ Gt-C}$ and $y = -463 \text{ Gt-C}$. We have $(y+z) = -463 + 288 = -175$. The net contribution of the ocean = z is positive, but nature is overall a sink because $(y + z)$ is negative. These two net contributions y and z between 1980 and 2025 allow us to place a constraint on each of the flows F1 F4.

2.2 Dimensioning of F1

F1 will be almost compatible with [figure 3.1a](#) of the AR3 WG1 report, which proposes $F1 \approx 90 \text{ Gt-C/year} \pm 25\%$ around 2000.

Constraint 1: The ocean must provide a net input of 288 Gt-C over 45 years ($F1 > F2$).

Rough estimate in Gt-C/year: $288 / 45 = 6.4 \rightarrow$ with $F1 \approx F2 + 6.4$, we comply with a net input of 288 Gt-C over 45 years.

Note that F2 is estimated by $F2(t) = 0.114 X(t)$.

Rather than using a rough estimate, we ultimately adopt $F1 = Z(t) / \tau_{oc}$ with a variable residence time (for 1980-2025, $\tau_{oc} \approx 340$ to 440 years). The residence time allows us to comply with constraint 1 but also to have τ_{oc} as a function of SSTi (intertropical sea surface temperature). To do this, we use the partial pressure of CO_2 in the ocean ($p\text{CO}_2$ is proportional to $\text{SSTi}^{12.5}$).

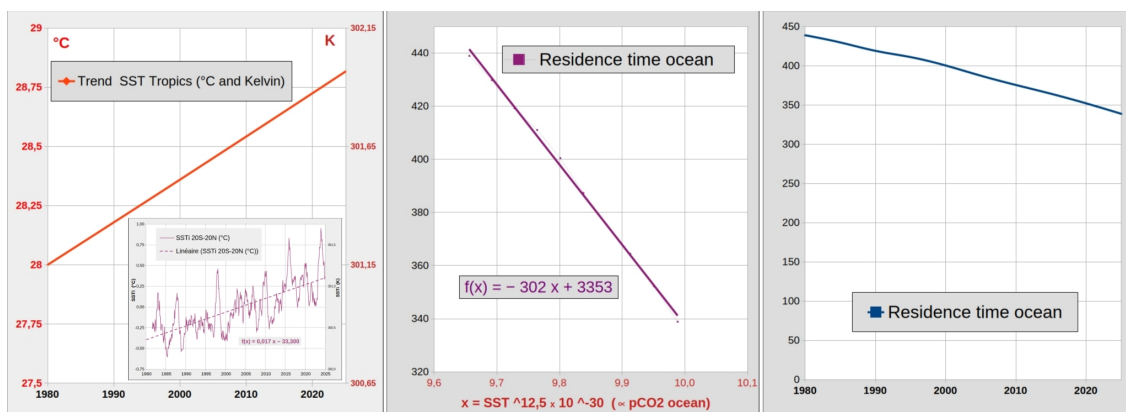


Figure 8: Determination of ocean residence time based on SST Tropics

2.3 Dimensioning of F4

Constraint 2: Vegetation/Soil must provide a net input of -463 Gt-C over 45 years ($F3 > F4$).

Rough estimate in Gt-C/year: $-463 / 45 = -10.3 \rightarrow$ with $F4 \approx F3 - 10.3$, the net contribution of -463 Gt-C over 45 years is respected. Note that F3 is estimated by $F3(t) = 0.086 X(t)$ in accordance with [Haverd et al 2009](#).

Rather than the rough estimate, we ultimately adopt $F4 = Y(t) / \tau_{veg}$ with $\tau_{veg} \approx 40$ years, which allows us to meet constraint 2.

The Revisiting the Carbon Cycle Model

[Part 1](#) of the article explains the reasons behind the model (study of correlations and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$).

[Part 2](#) of the article presents the model used in Figures 14 and 15 of § 6 of *de 'Revisiting the carbon cycle'*.

[Part 3](#) provides illustrations to help readers better understand the model and addresses the most common objections.

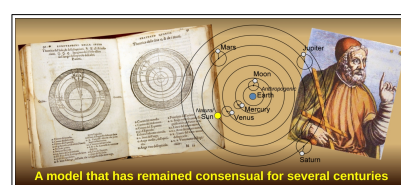
These three sections are also available for download as PDF files : [1/3](#), [2/3](#), [3/3](#).



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