Wind Data above Navajo Lake site



Wind Profiler Near Farmington





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April 20, 2015 Early morning Loop



- Counter-clockwise loop <u>4am to 9am</u>
- Dome of methane with "local" short or broad plumes superimposed
- PFP sampled every 15 minutes







N-S Gradient in ethane:methane



- ~ 300 discrete air samples were analyzed at NOAA Boulder lab for over 50 species. CH₄ using GC-FID (NOAA MAGGIC) and NMHC using GC-MS (NOAA Perseus).
- Both ground and aircraft samples show a N-S gradient in CH_4 to C_2H_6 enhancement ratios
- CH₄ plumes in CO (mostly CBM) show very low ethane except in a processing plant plume.

Aircraft Data Analysis





In-situ Methane (Picarro) and Ethane (Aerodyne)

SA Flight operations: Steve Conley, Stefan Schwietzke, Colm Sweeney, Sonja Wolter, Tim Newberger

Aircraft ethane & methane analysis



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Aircraft in-situ ethane & methane analysis



Multiple plumes with different ethane to methane slopes.

Note latitudinal gradient in slopes.

➔ High resolution Flight Data Analysis

→ Calculate ethane-tomethane slope for segments of track

QA/QC: In-Situ versus Flask data



Five SA Survey flights – April 2015



- Wind from SW to W depending on day
- Mean Wind Speed
 - Minimum 3.5 m/s on April 9
 - Maximum 11.5 on April 20
- Ground covered (at altitude < 3,000 masl):
 - CO Total 1493 km
 - NM Total 4091 km

Detected Methane Plumes – Survey flights



Size of symbol scales with size of plume

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Detected Ethane Plumes – Survey flights





Size of symbol scales with size of plume

Ethane to Methane R² < 0.5



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Zoom on Colorado



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Cumulative distribution of <u>methane</u> enhancements as a function of slope



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Cumulative distribution of <u>ethane</u> enhancements as a function of slope



Conclusions

- April 2015 was a successful campaign. Thanks to dedicated science teams and support from many local agencies, companies and individuals.
- San Juan Basin CH₄ regional anomaly is an example of night-time/early morning emissions trapping in a topographical basin with "known" CH₄ sources.
 - 10 am satellite overpass will capture some of the highest atmospheric CH₄ columns when low surface wind conditions prevail (often)
- Methane and NMHCs accumulate at night and early morning in low-lying areas
- Different sources have different emission compositions esp. different ethane to methane slopes.
- Aircraft survey data analysis shows:
 - majority of detected CH_4 plumes have correlated CH_4 and C_2H_6 .
 - Majority of detected CH₄ and C₂H₆ plumes were over NM
- Scientific Paper should be available later this year

ADDITIONAL SLIDES



NOAA Mobile Lab April 20, 2015 7am Stop at gas station in Ignacio, SUIT Land, CO

What does methane look like in northern hemisphere remote location?







Mean Diurnal Cycle of Horizontal Wind Direction Mean April 2015 Data from EPA AQS (SUIT, States, NFS, NPS)





Keeping tabs on sources: a real challenge

CO : Compressor Stations Missing facilities in GHGRP and State databases



Until 2015 gas gathering stations were not covered by EPA subpart W and often did not meet reporting requirements for subpart C. State databases do not have all facilities and often do not include facilities on Tribal Lands.

NM : Plugged & Abandoned Wells

> 10,000 known plugged and abandoned wells





Current EPA GHGI inventory does not include emissions from abandoned wells. Only published work on this in the US was done in Pennsylvania.



D04302

SCIAMACHY CH₄ atmospheric column retrievals

D04302

Global Product FRANKENBERG ET AL.: SCIAMACHY TOTAL COLUMN METHANE



Figure 6. The 2003–2008 average of methane column-averaged mixing ratios retrieved from SCIAMA-CHY. Gridding has been performed on $1/3^{\circ}$ by $1/3^{\circ}$. White boxes indicate regions where a separate time series of averaged SCIAMACHY data are shown in Figures 8–12. (The dashed white line indicates the east-west or north-south division in the respective time series figures.) The locations of some NOAA ground-based cooperative air sampling sites are shown as crosses.



- total CH₄ column (x,y,2003-2009) over land pixels [Frankenberg et al, JGR, 2011]
- 10am overpass time

From total columns to regional anomalies





