

# Trace Compositions of the Atmosphere

from global climate change to regional air pollution

Yuzhong Zhang (张羽中)

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A blanket of air surrounding Earth

Wind, rain, cloud, lightning, hurricane

Climate, Air quality

# Composition of the air

TABLE 10-1. Average composition of dry air (Seinfeld and Pandis 2016).

Gas	Parts per million by volume (ppmv)
N <sub>2</sub>	781 000
O <sub>2</sub>	209 000
Ar	9340
CO <sub>2</sub> <sup>a</sup>	406
Ne	18
He	5.2
CH <sub>4</sub> <sup>b</sup>	1.85
H <sub>2</sub>	0.58
N <sub>2</sub> O <sup>c</sup>	0.33
CO	0.1
O <sub>3</sub> (troposphere)	0.01–0.10
O <sub>3</sub> (stratosphere)	0.5–10.0
Non-methane hydrocarbons	0.005–0.02
Halocarbons	0.001
Nitrogen oxides (NO <sub>y</sub> )	0.000 01–0.2

<sup>a</sup> Dlugokencky and Tans (2018).

<sup>b</sup> Dlugokencky (2018).

<sup>c</sup> NOAA (2018).



Henry Cavendish  
1731–1810

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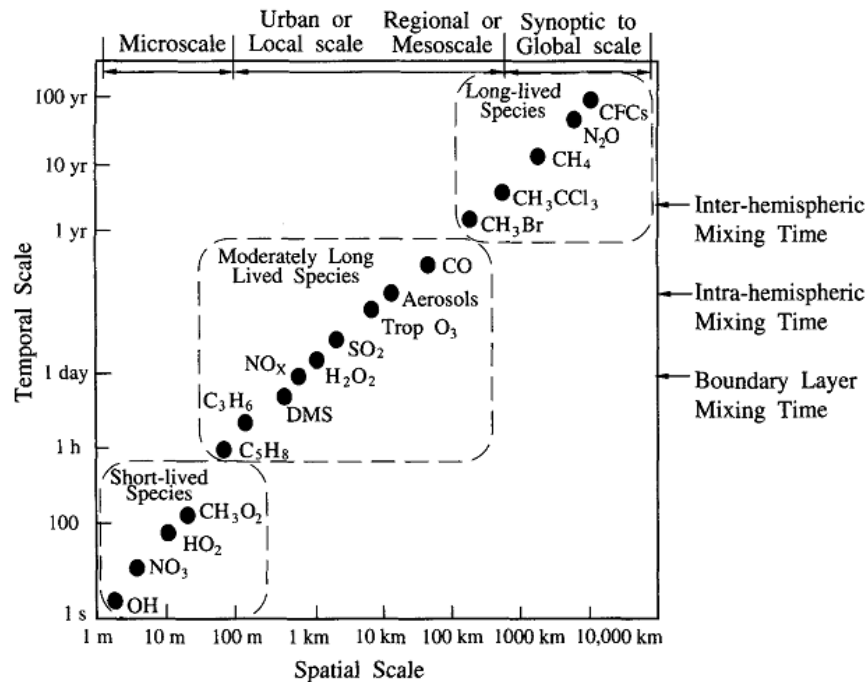
<sup>b</sup> [Dlugokencky \(2018\)](#).

<sup>c</sup> [NOAA \(2018\)](#).

Chemically and  
radiatively  
interesting trace  
compositions

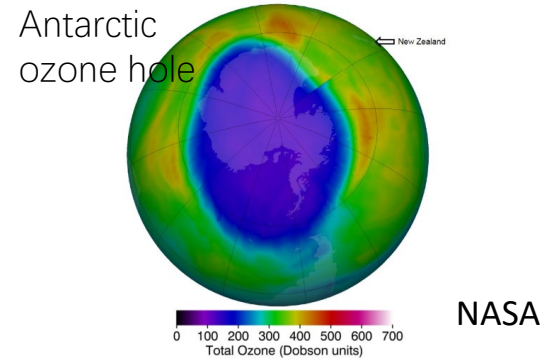
# Understand their spatial & temporal distributions

## Spatial & temporal scales of trace gases

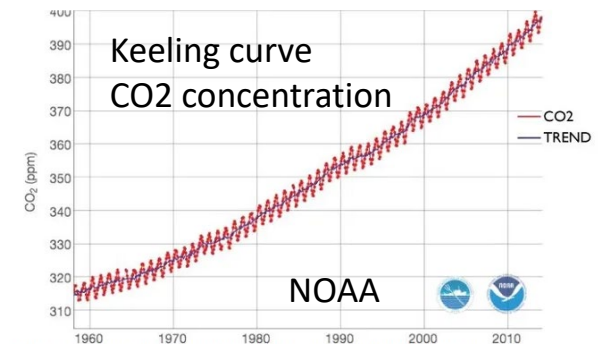


Seinfeld and Pandis, 2016

## Spatial distribution



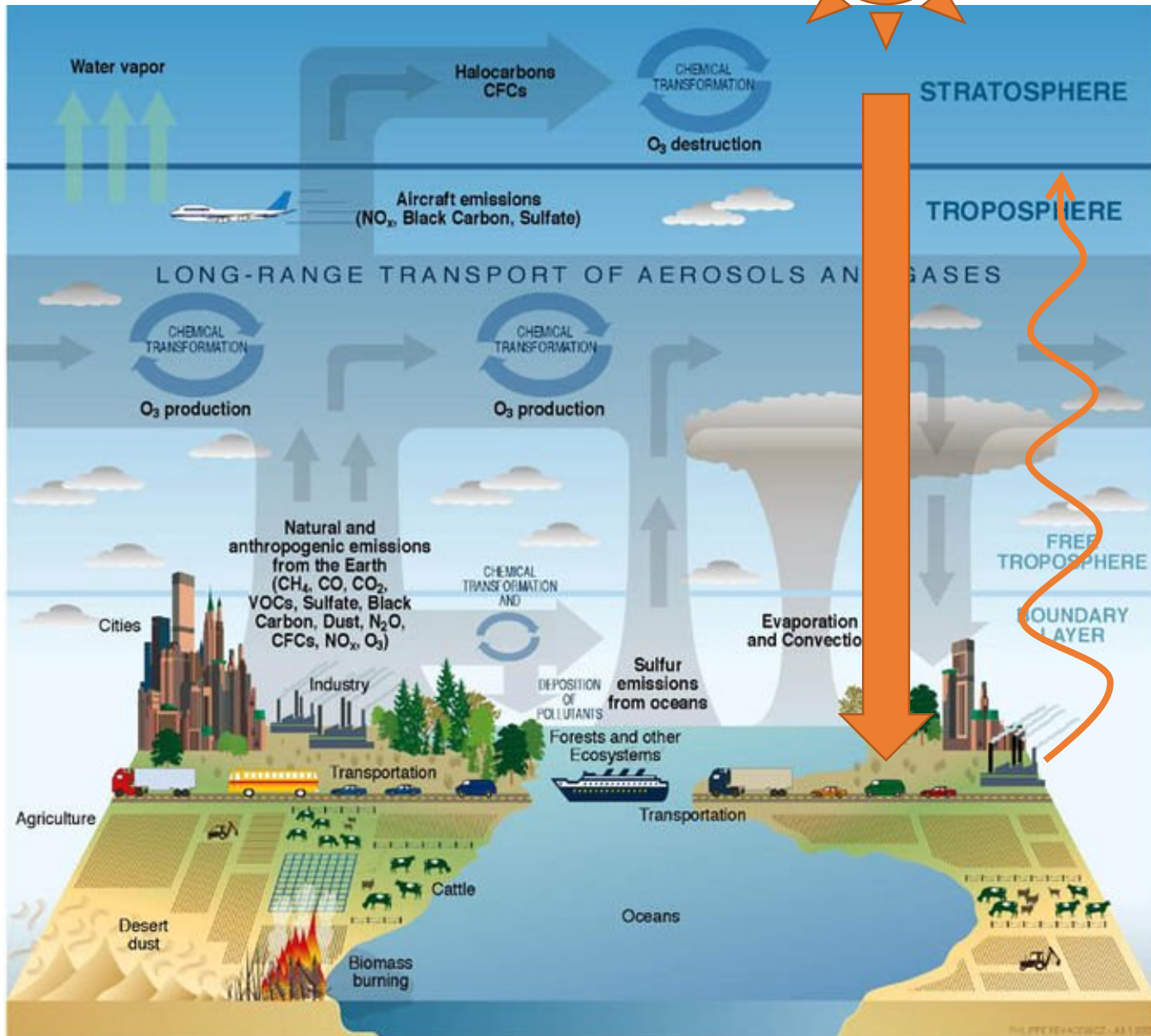
## Temporal changes



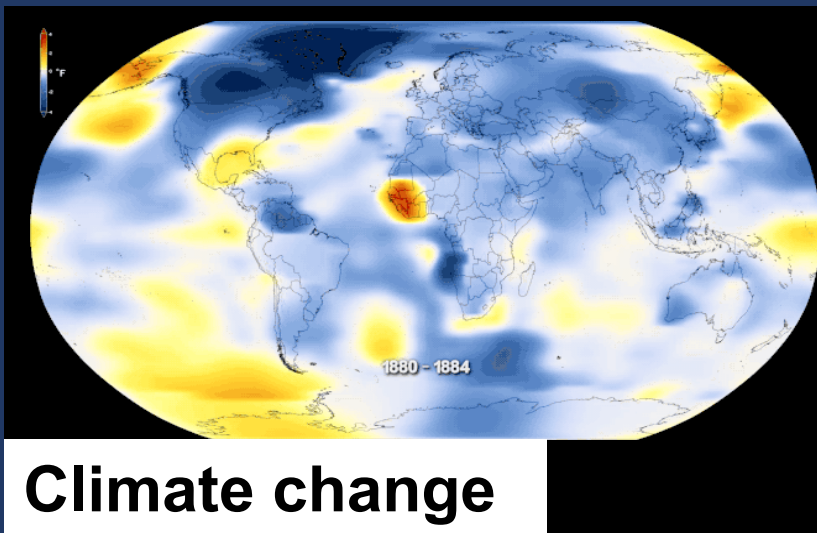
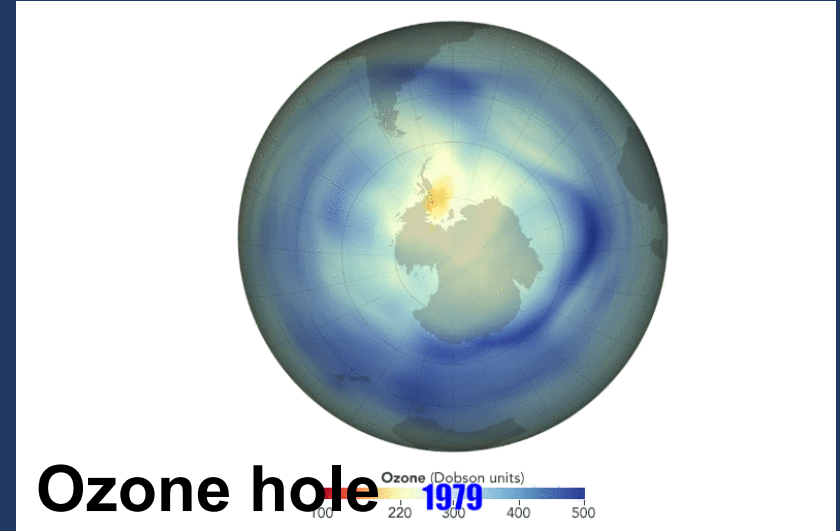
The Keeling curve shows levels of carbon dioxide at Mauna Loa in Hawaii. NOAA Earth System Research Laboratory/Script Institute Of Oceanography



# Transdisciplinary



# Problem driven



A large yellow crane is positioned on a pile of coal, lifting a bucket. The background shows a vast landscape of coal piles under a clear blue sky.

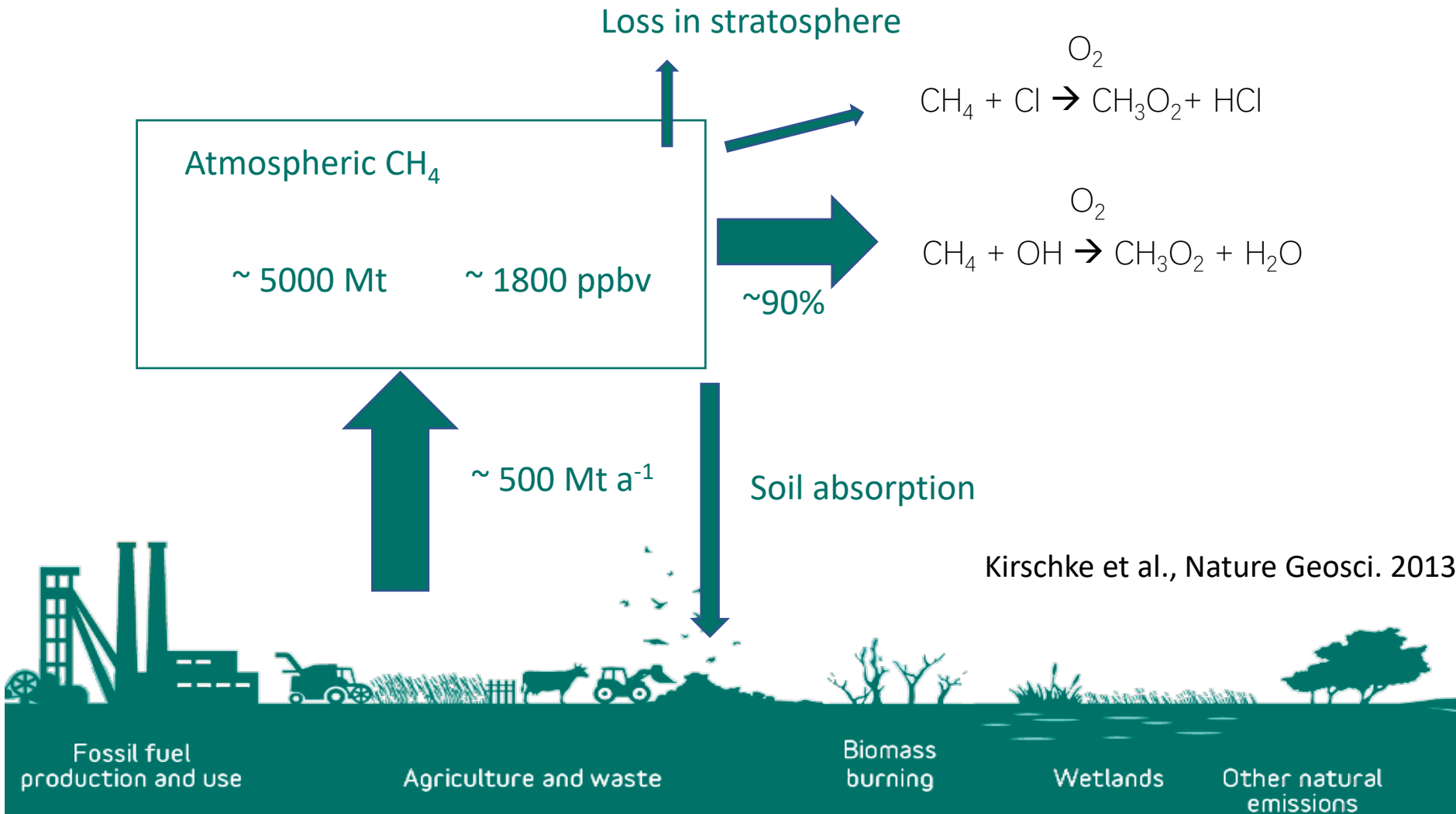
**Greenhouse Gas: Methane**

A city skyline is visible through a thick layer of smog or haze. The buildings are mostly obscured, with only the tops and some architectural details visible. The sky is a uniform, pale grey.

**Regional air pollution  
(surface  $O_3$ ,  $PM_{2.5}$ )**



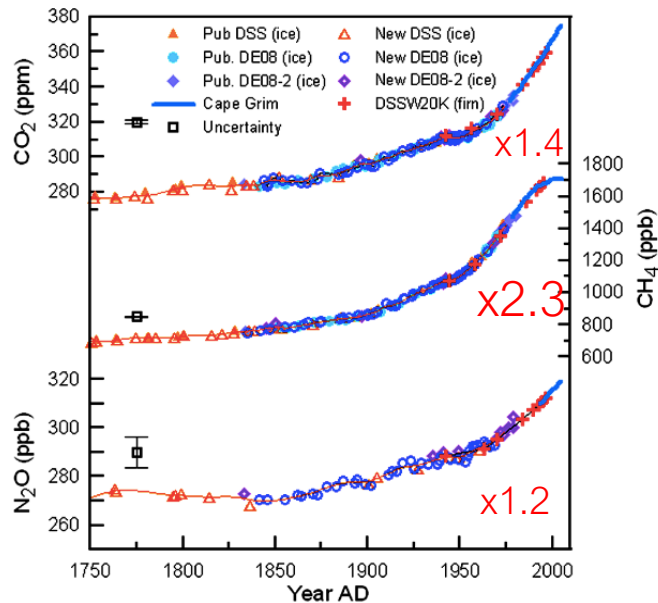
# Greenhouse gas – Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>)



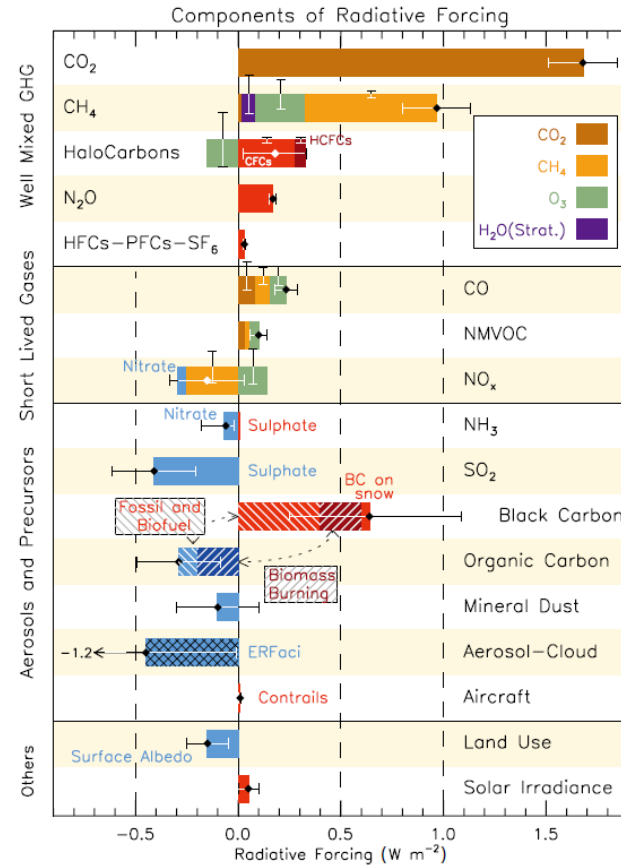
# Potent greenhouse gas - Methane

## Climate effects since industrialization

### Ice core record



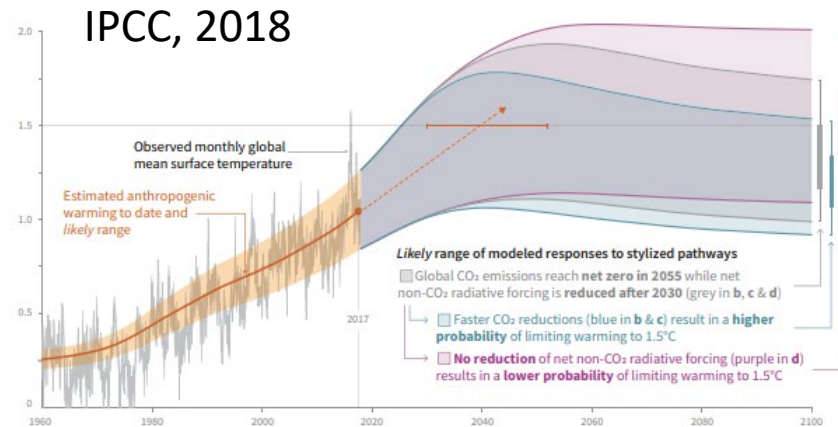
MacFarling Meure et al., 2006



IPCC assessment report 5, 2013

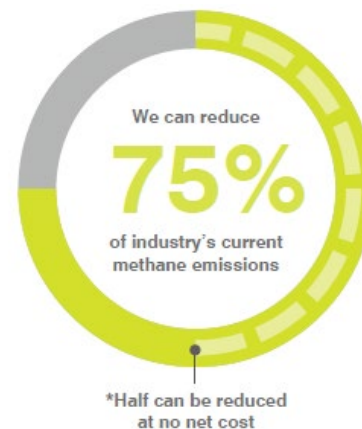
# Why it is important to study methane?

Necessary supplement to controlling CO<sub>2</sub> to meet climate goal



Relative low-hanging fruit

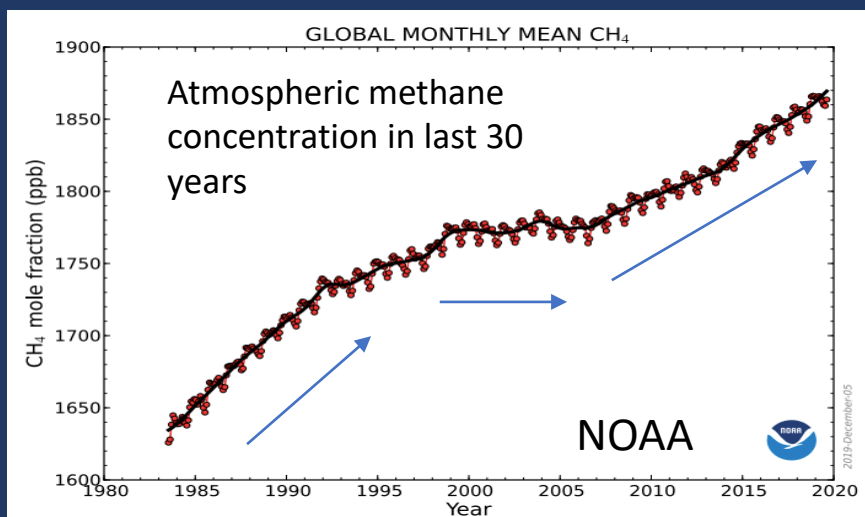
- oil/gas industry makes money
- existing legal structure



International Energy Agency

# Knowledge gap

## 1. Understanding global methane budget and its changes



↑ wetland/rice emissions ( $^{13}\text{CH}_4$ )

Schaefer et al., 2016, Science

Nisbet et al., 2016, Global Biogeochem. Cycles

↑ oil/gas emissions (ethane)

Rice et al., 2016, PNAS

Hausmann et al., 2016, Atmos. Chem. Phys.

No significant trend in the U.S.

Lan et al., 2019, Geophys. Res. Lett

↓ fire emissions ( $^{13}\text{CH}_4 + \text{CO}$ )

Worden et al., 2017, Nature Communications

↓ decreasing sink by OH ( $\text{CH}_3\text{CCl}_3$ )

Rigby et al., 2017, PNAS

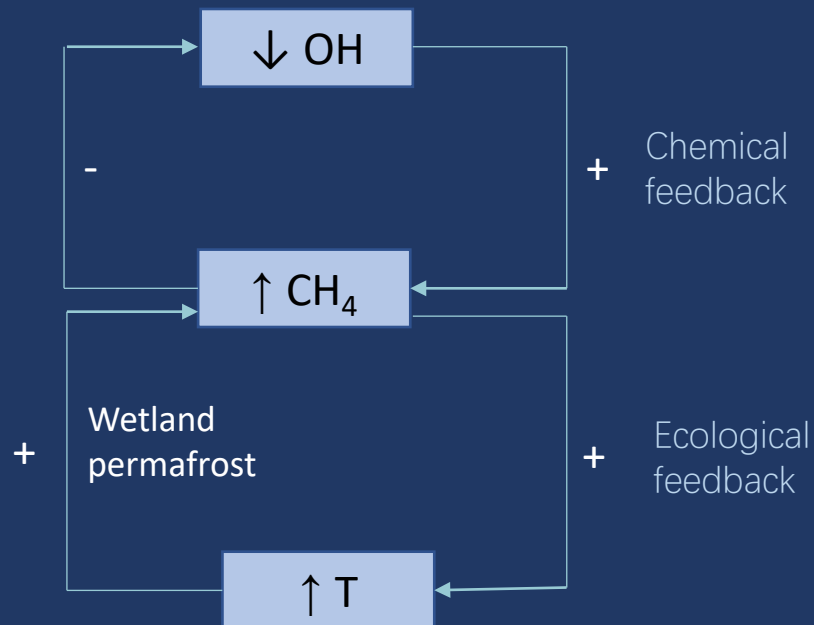
Turner et al., 2017, PNAS



# Knowledge gap

## 1. Understanding global methane budget and its changes

### Potential positive climate feedback involving $\text{CH}_4$



# Knowledge gap

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## 2. Information for actions



**Paris agreement**

National determined contributions (NDCs)

Important to have a monitoring platform to track, validate the implementation of NDCs

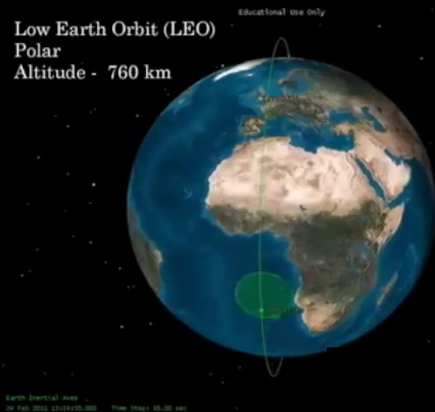


Identify hotspots at facility level

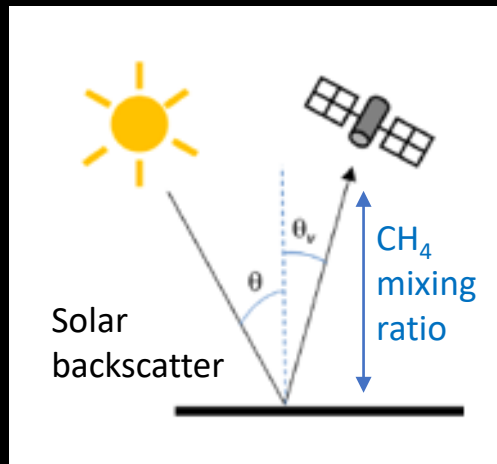
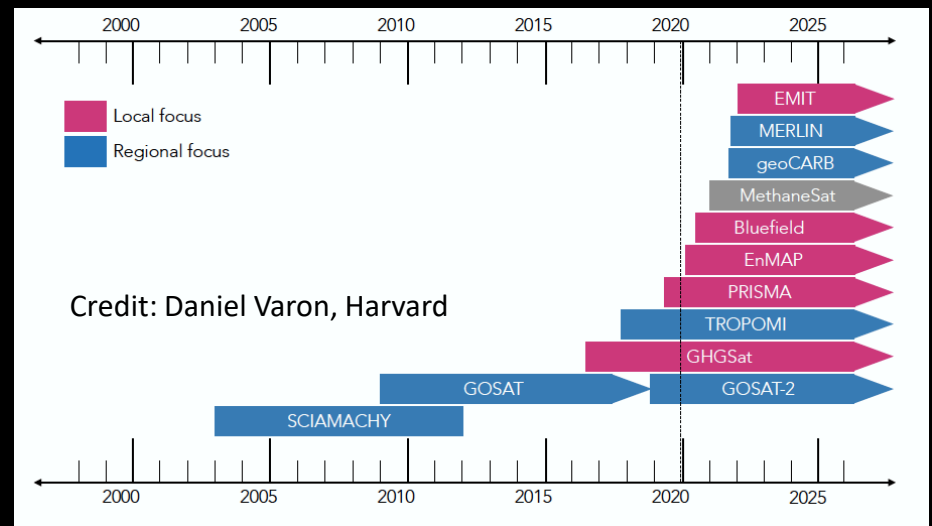
Detection & monitoring system that informs the operators where to look



# Satellite-based observations: solution?



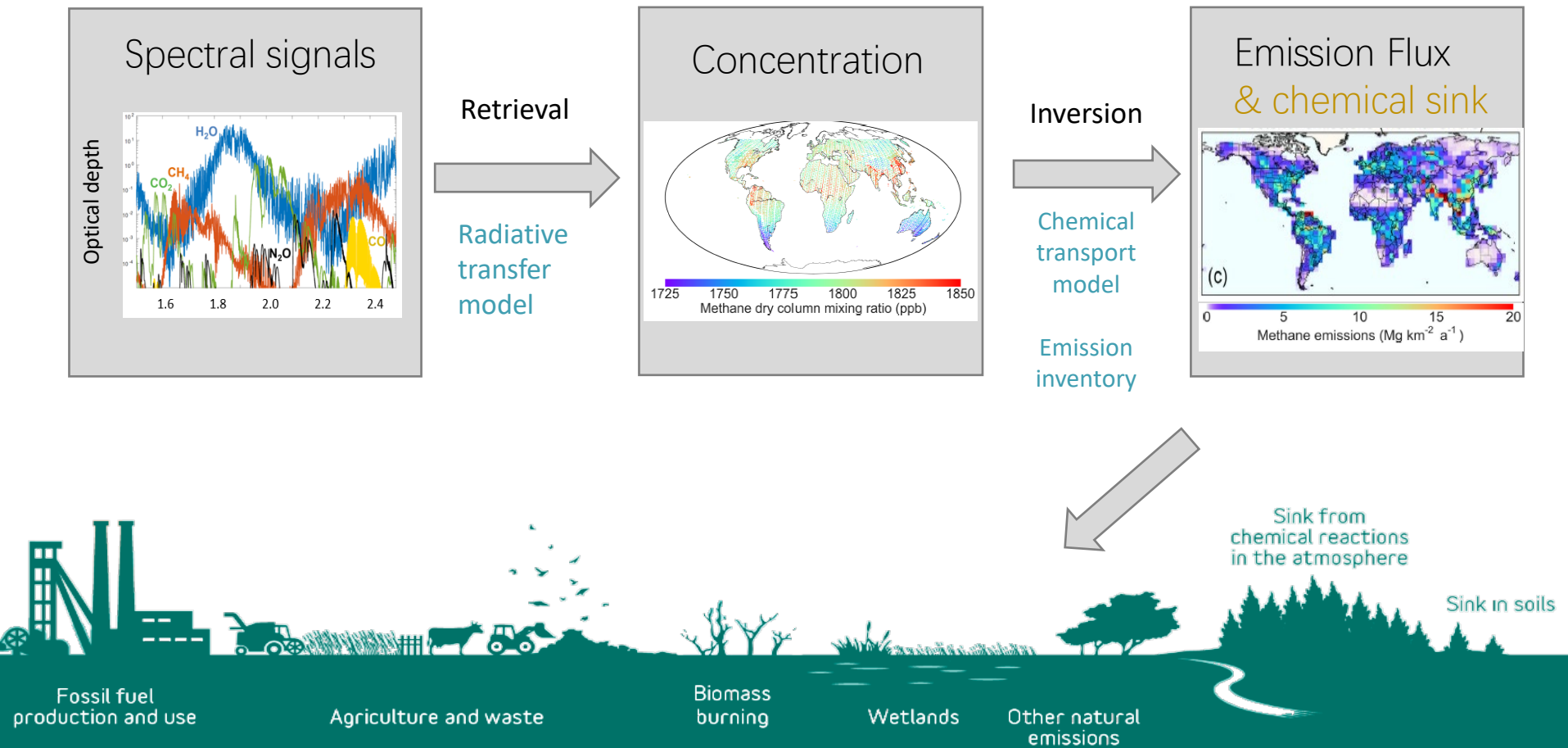
## Existing and planned satellite for CH<sub>4</sub> measurements



Jacob et al., 2016



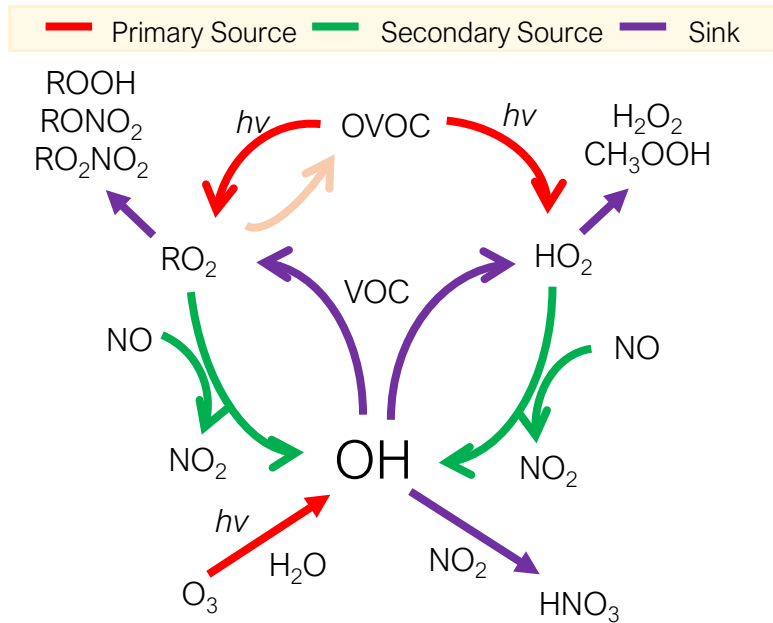
# Monitor methane emissions from space



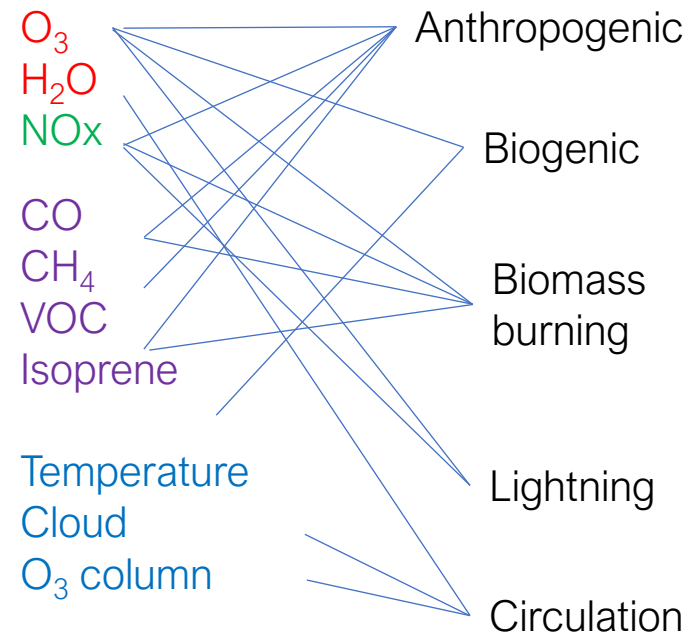
Turner et al., 2015; Zhang et al., 2018; Maasakkers et al., 2019; Zhang et al., in prep; Lu et al., in prep

# Hydroxyl radical (OH): most important oxidant in the air

## Central role of OH in $O_3$ - $NO_x$ -VOC photochemistry



## Chemicals and factors controlling global OH concentration



# Monitor hydroxyl radical concentration from space ?

## Surface measurements

### Sparse measurements & lack of source information

→ Methylchloroform ( $\text{CH}_3\text{CCl}_3$ )

Prinn et al., Science, 2001  
Montzka et al., Science, 2011

Hydrofluorocarbons

Liang et al., JGR, 2017

$^{14}\text{CO}$

Manning et al., 2005, Nature  
Murray et al., 2019, IGC9

## Satellite measurements

### Insensitive to global temporal changes

$\text{CO}$

Gaubert et al., GRL, 2017

$\text{HCHO}$  over remote ocean

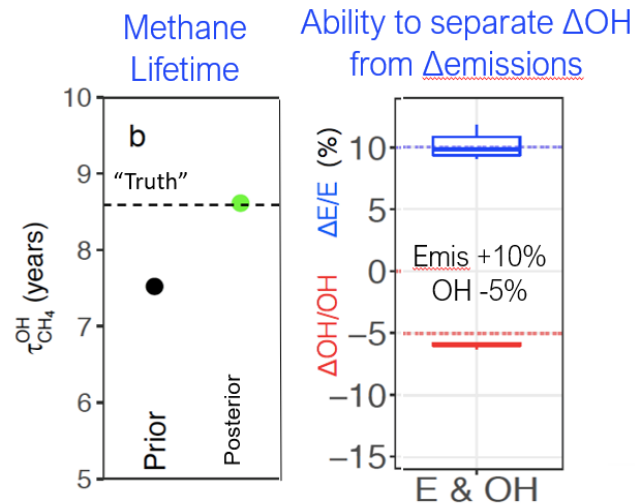
Wolfe et al. PNAS, 2019

→  $\text{CH}_4$

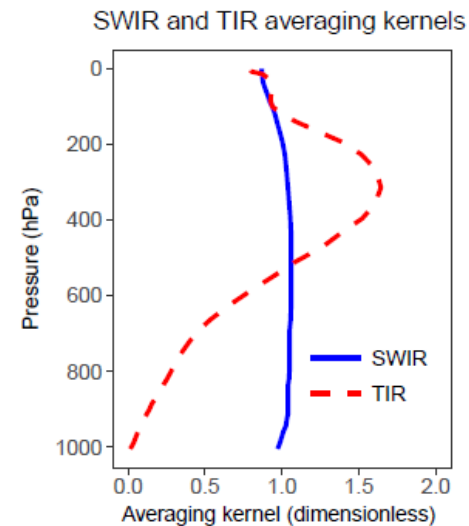
Zhang et al. ACP, 2018

# Monitor hydroxyl radical concentration from space

Global OH concentration can be inferred from satellite methane observations

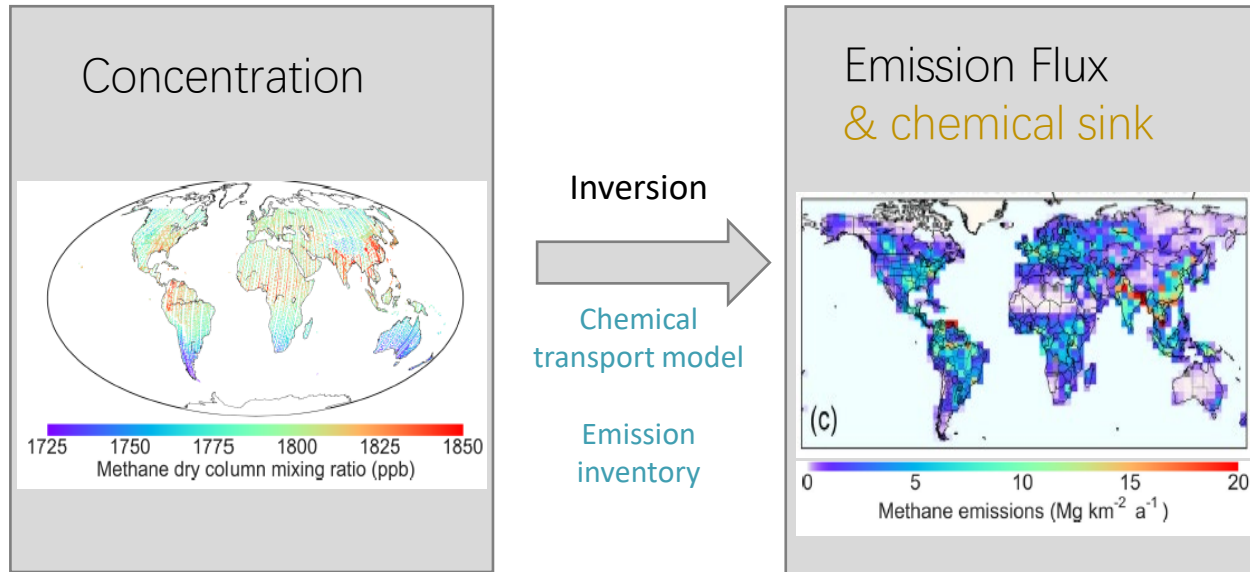


Two-band methane observations enhance the detectability



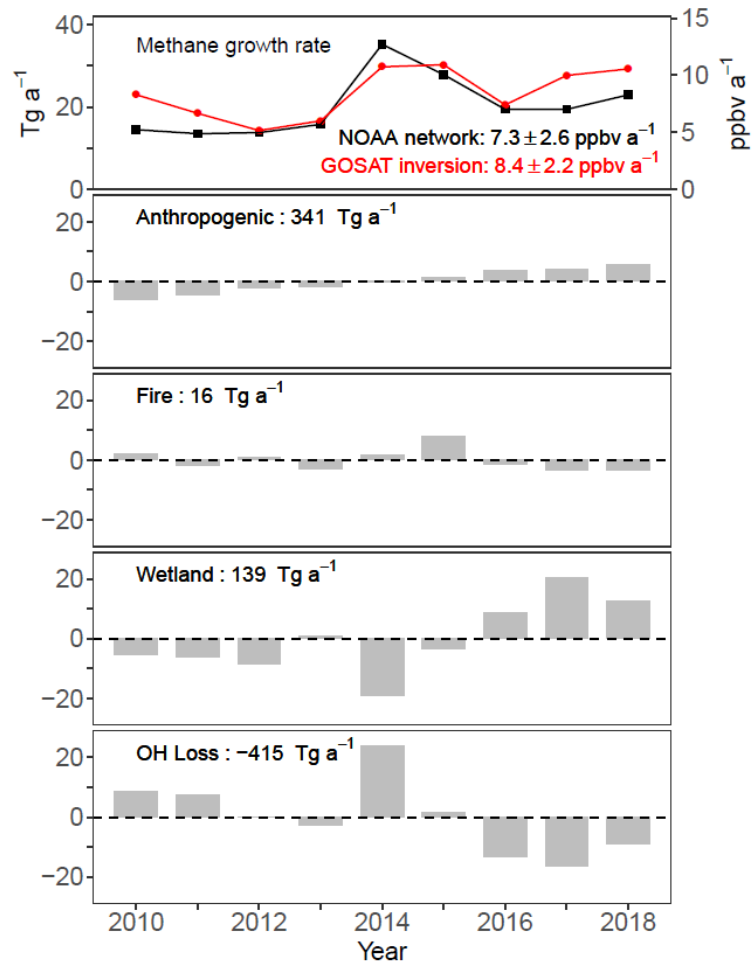


# Monitor methane emissions from space

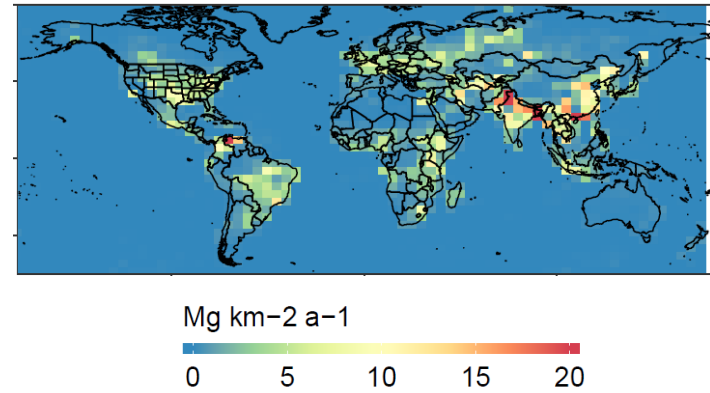


# Global methane budget analysis

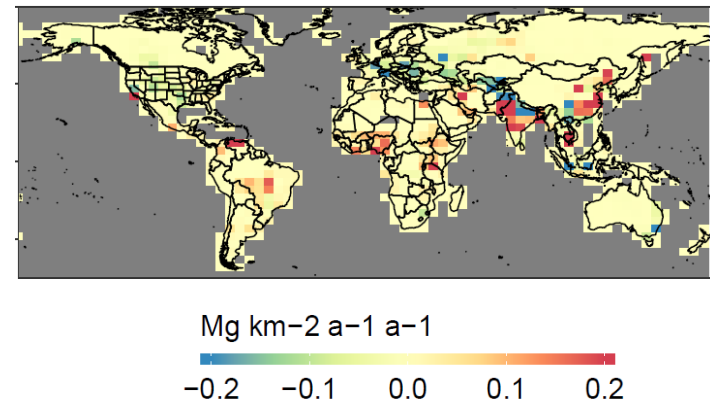
## Budget attribution



## Anthropogenic emissions

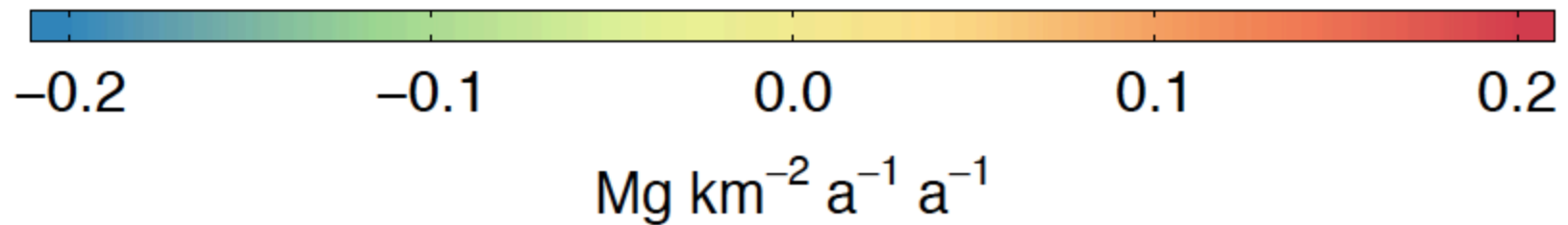
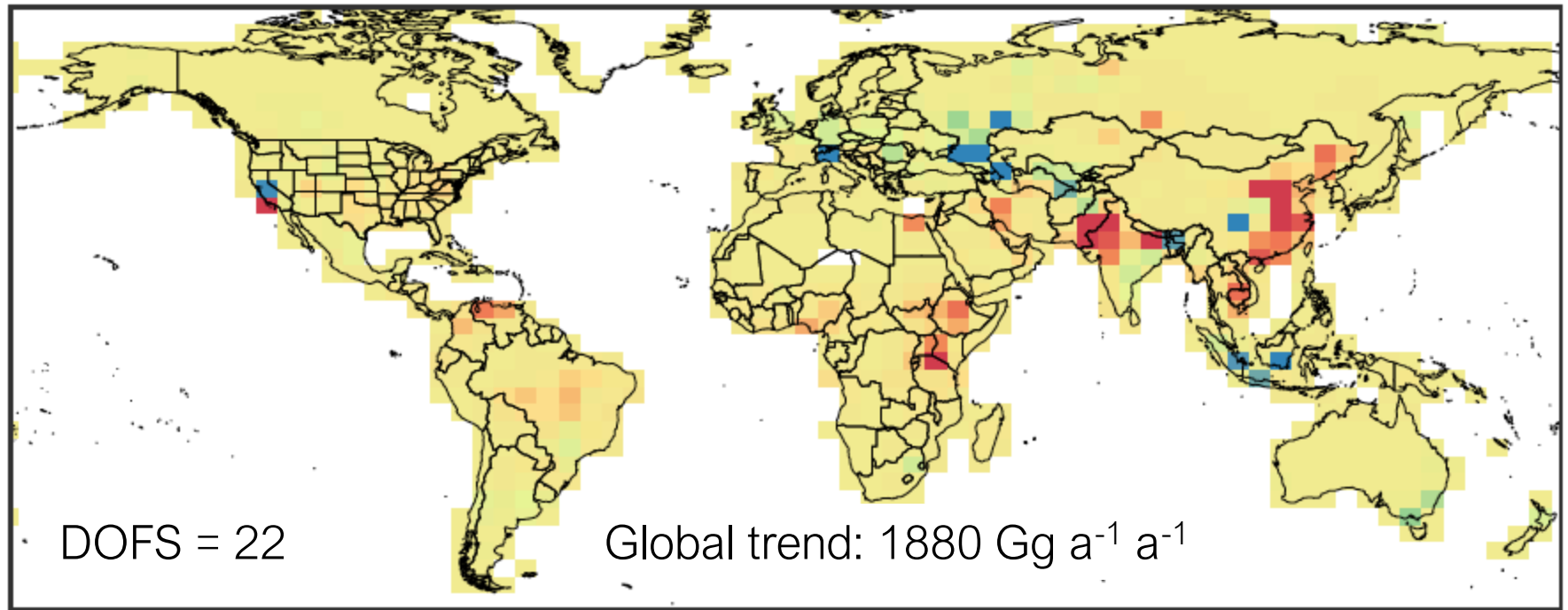


## Anthropogenic emission trends



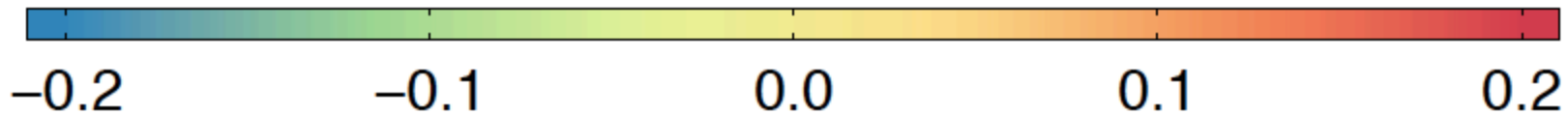
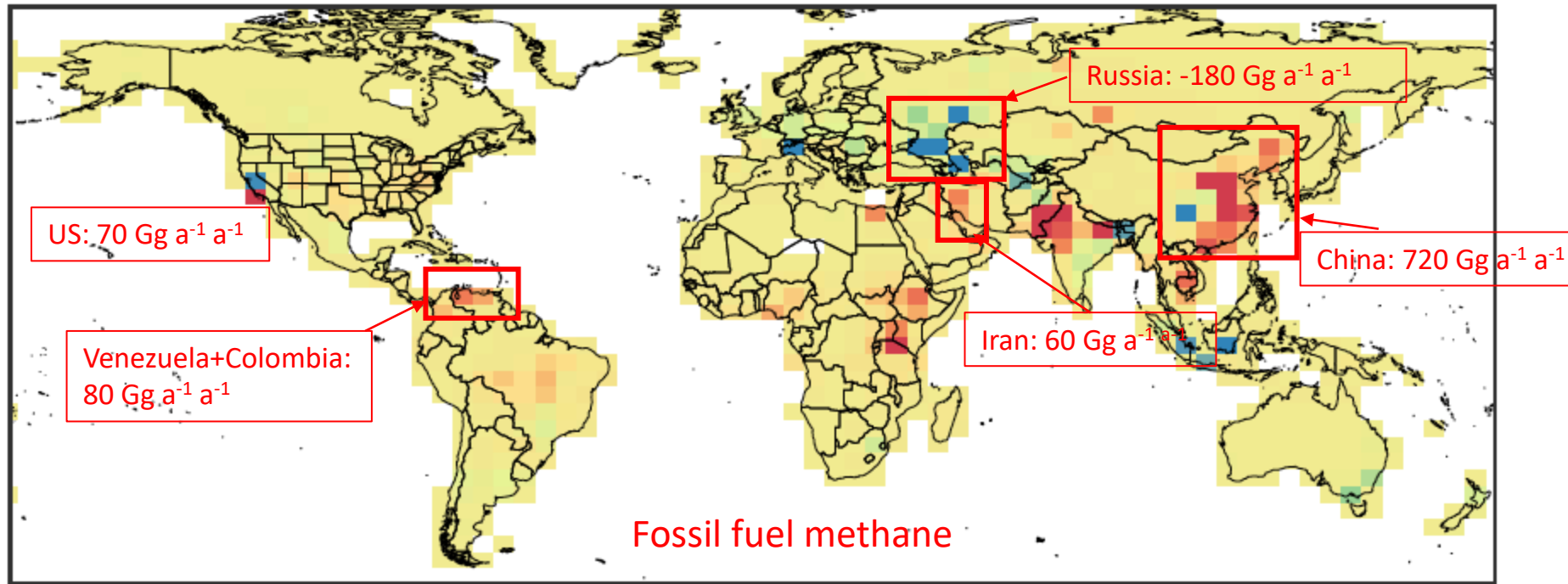
# Changes in anthropogenic methane emissions

## Linear trends of anthropogenic emissions during 2010-2016



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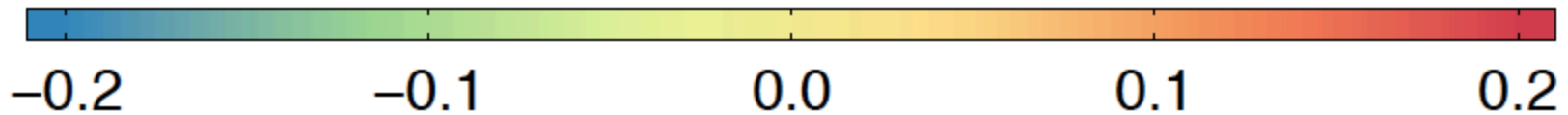
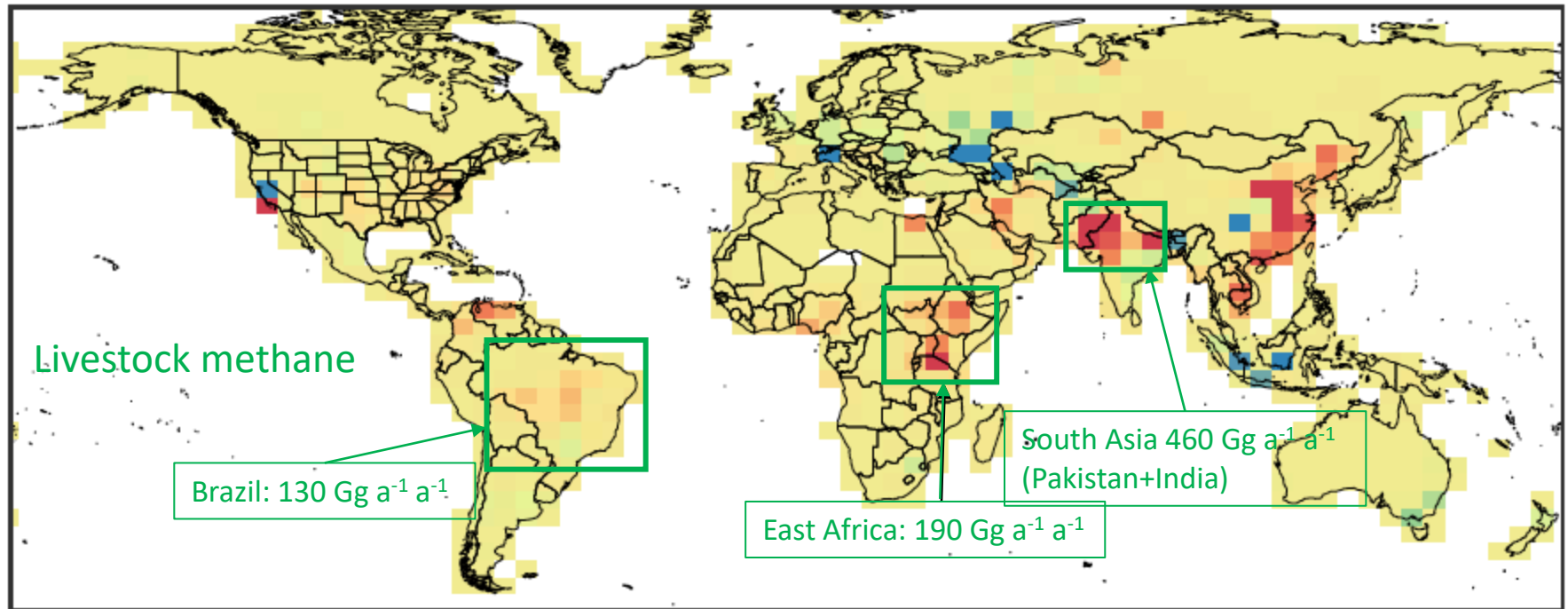
Global trend:  $1880 \text{ Gg a}^{-1} \text{ a}^{-1}$

$\text{Mg km}^{-2} \text{ a}^{-1} \text{ a}^{-1}$



# Changes in anthropogenic methane emissions

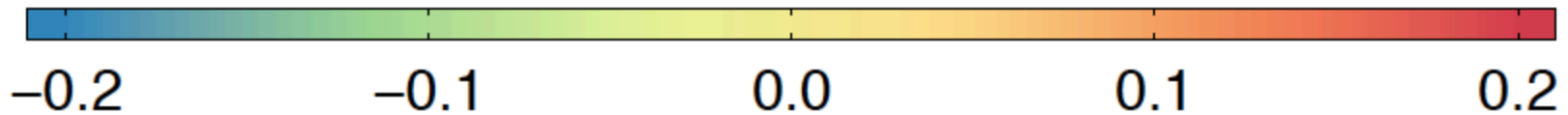
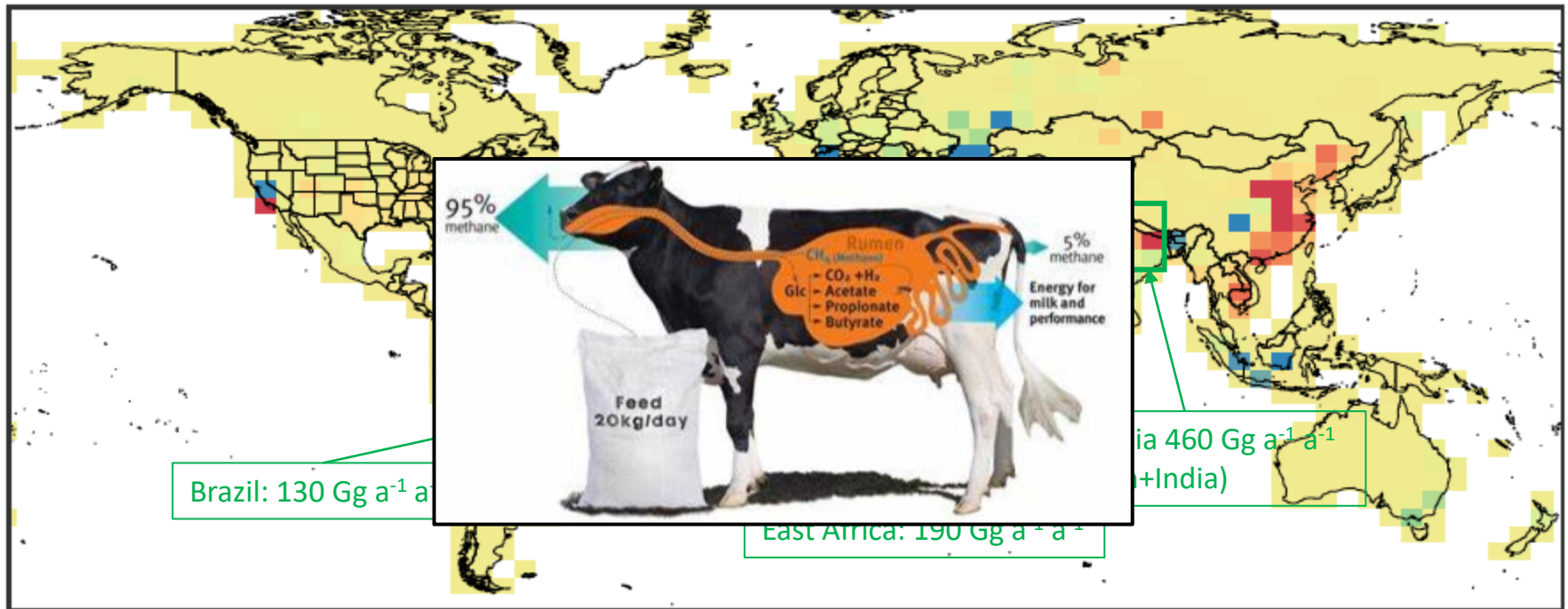
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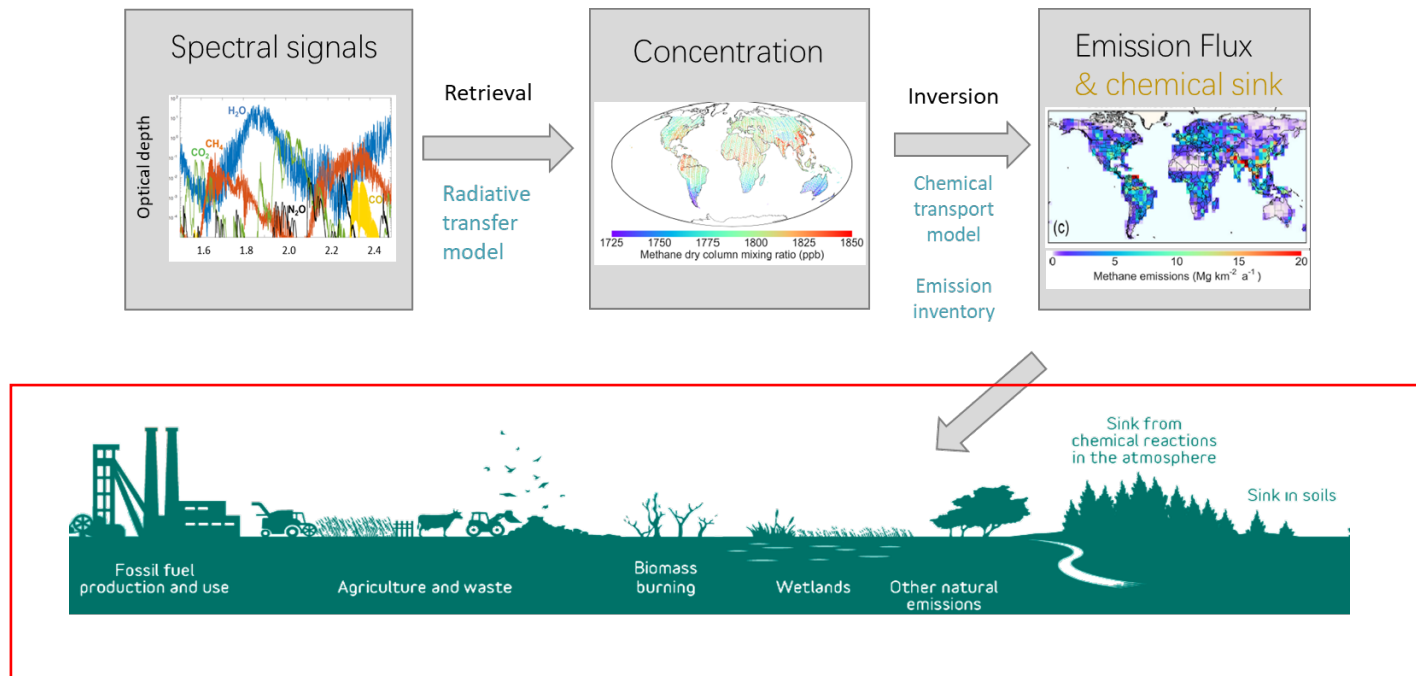
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Global trend: 1880 Gg a<sup>-1</sup> a<sup>-1</sup>      Mg km<sup>-2</sup> a<sup>-1</sup> a<sup>-1</sup>

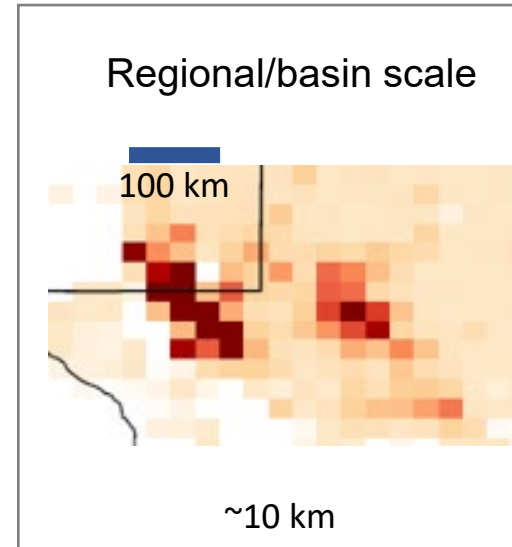
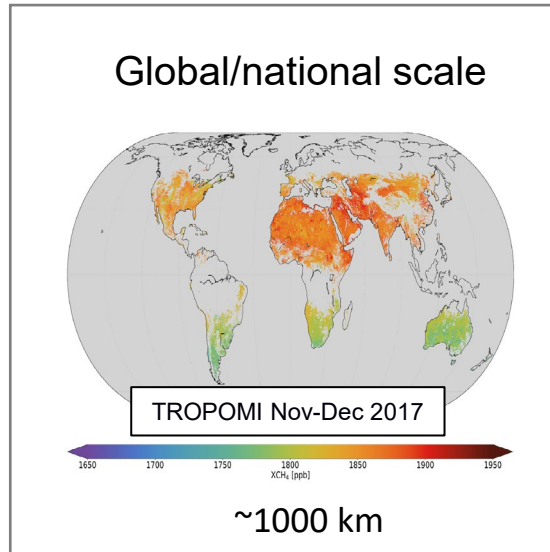
# What next?

Use the constraints provided by satellite observations to improve our understanding of each budget terms



# Information for actions

- Efficiently assimilate huge amount of satellite data
- Provide information relevant to government and operators



# Permian basin

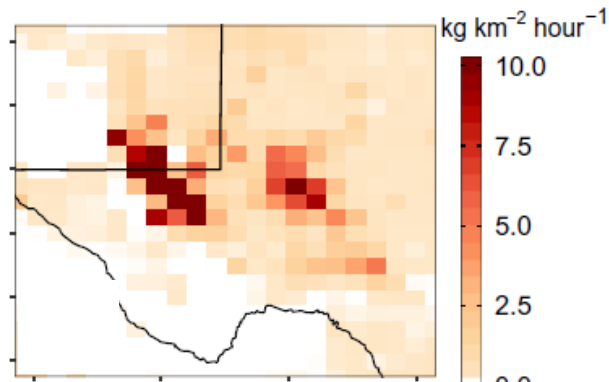


$5.5 \times 10^5 \text{ m}^3 \text{ a}^{-1}$  crude oil  
 $3.2 \times 10^8 \text{ m}^3 \text{ a}^{-1}$  natural gas

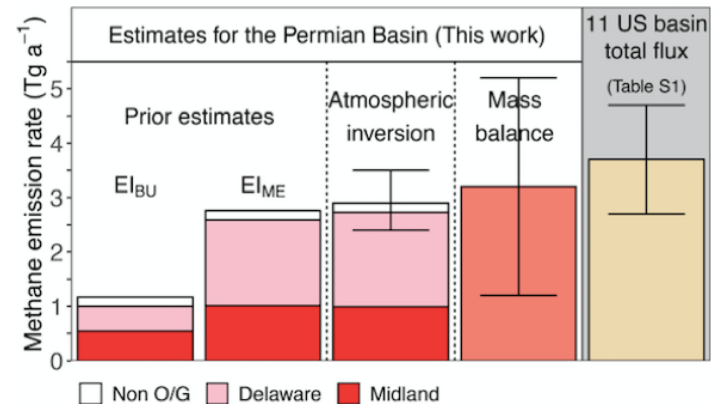
150,000 oil/gas wells

# Largest methane emitting oil/gas basin in U.S.

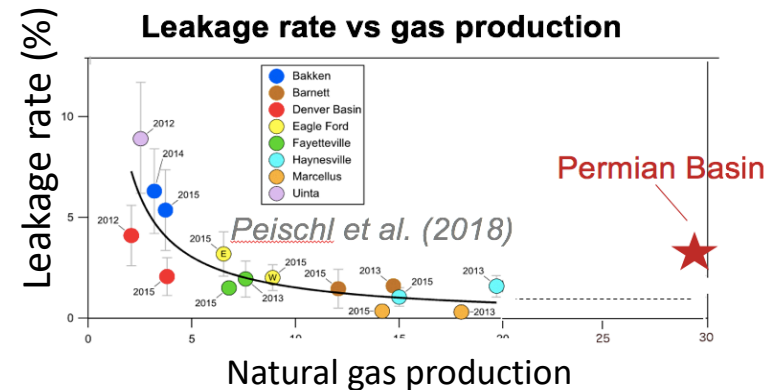
Spatial distributions



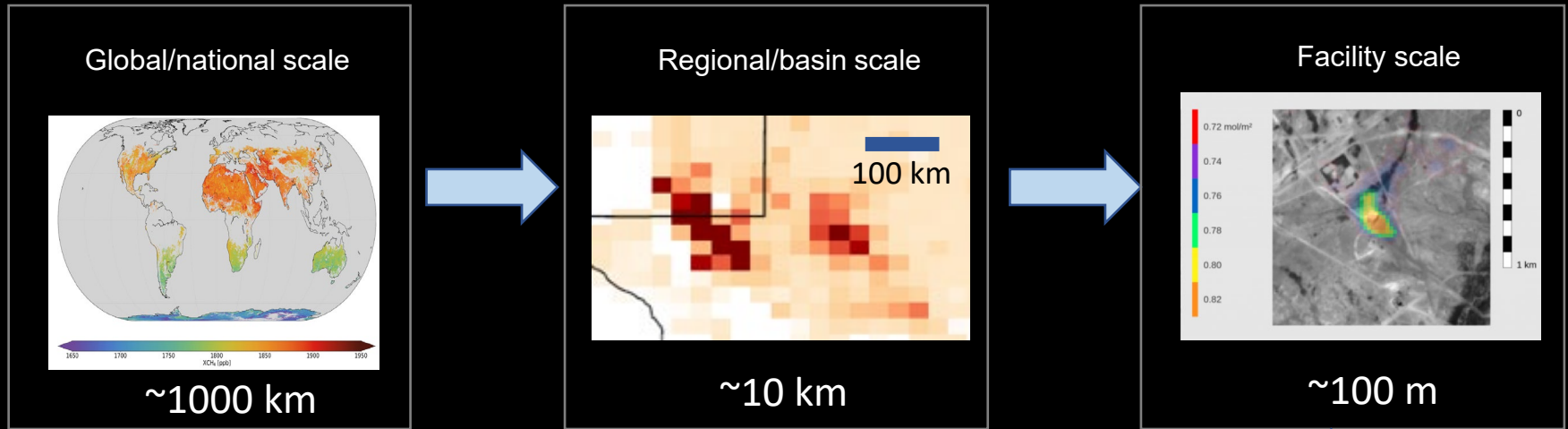
Comparable to 11 basins combined



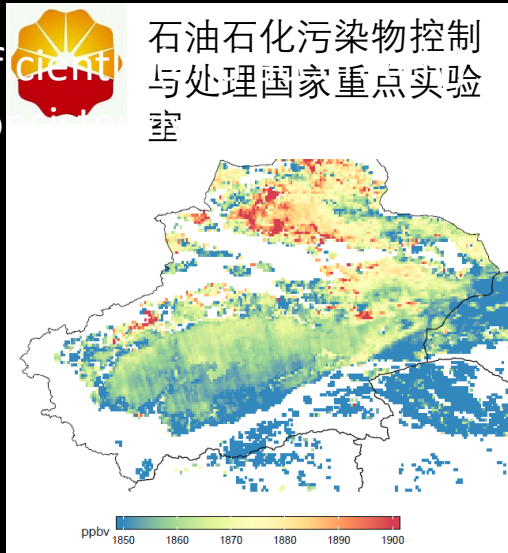
High leakage rate indicates lag in natural gas infrastructure



# Next: Actionable environmental monitoring data



- Efficient
- Cost-effective



Process large amount of satellite data  
Multiple sources of information






# Summary: greenhouse gas methane

Analysis of satellite observations of CH<sub>4</sub> are set to provide

- Valuable constraints to understand the global balance of methane concentration
- Useful information to inform actions to flight climate change



**Greenhouse Gas: Methane**

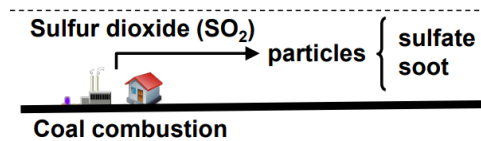


**Regional air pollution  
(surface  $O_3$ ,  $PM_{2.5}$ )**

# Air pollution

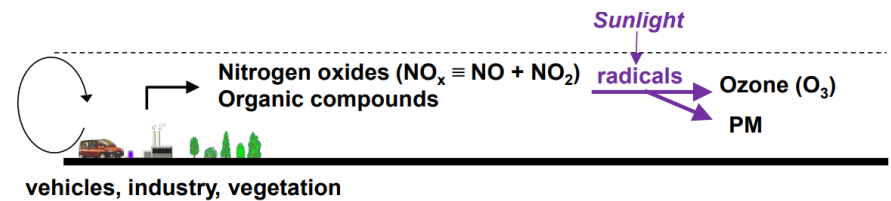
## London fog (PM<sub>2.5</sub>)

"Killer fog" of December 1952 caused 10,000 deaths in 4 days



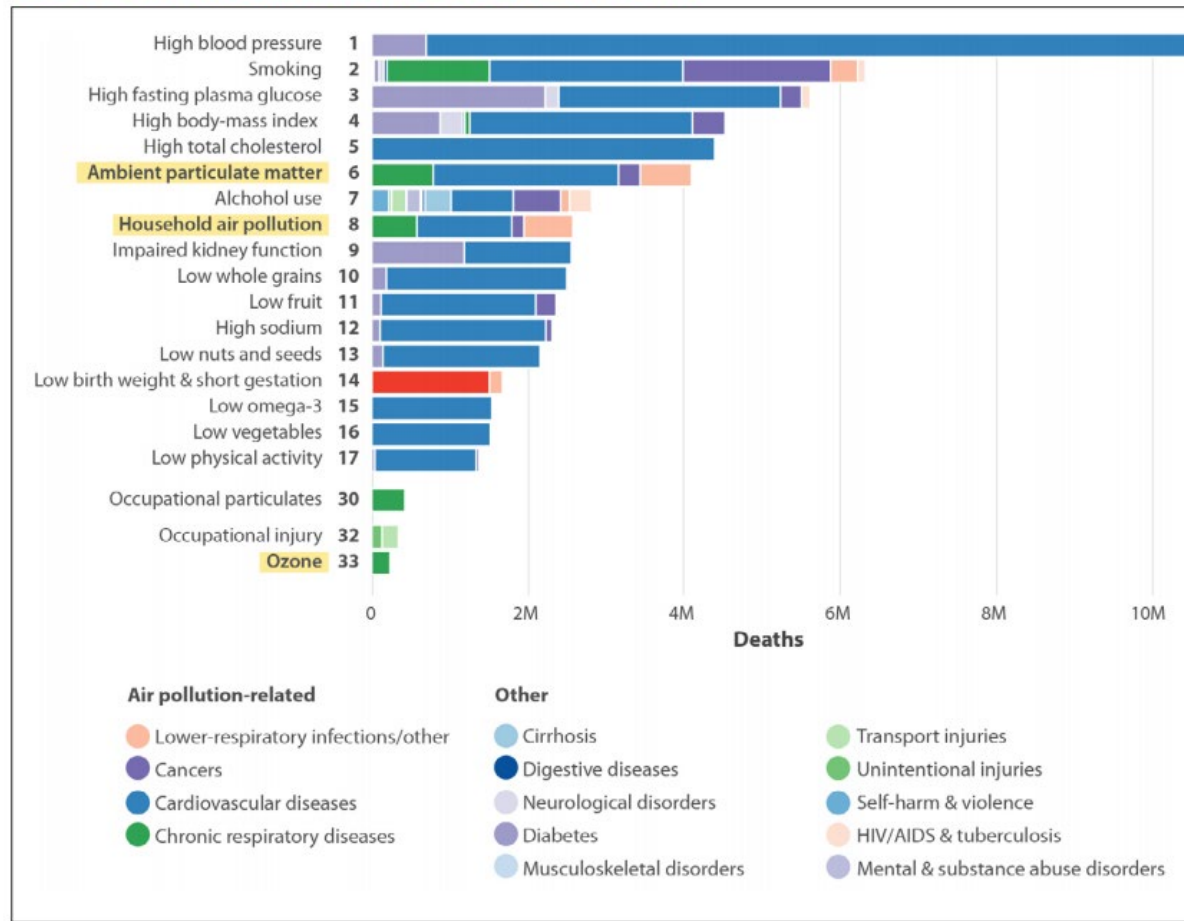
## Los Angeles smog (ozone)

~ 1970's



# Air pollution

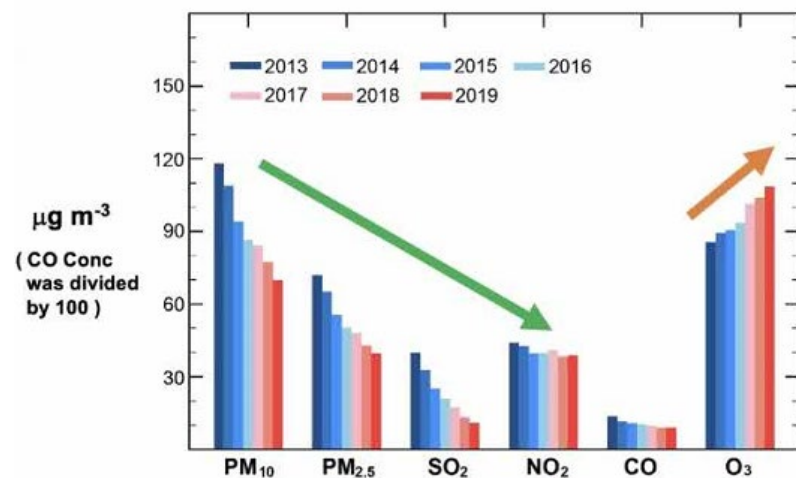
**Figure 1. Global ranking of risk factors by total number of deaths from all causes for all ages and both sexes in 2016.**



Explore the rankings further at the [IHME/GBD Compare site](#).

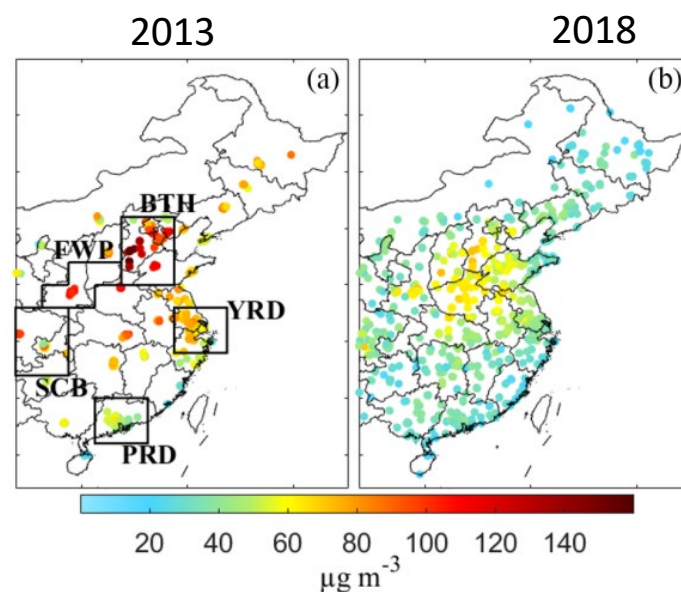
# Regional air pollution in China

**Averaged concentrations of air pollutants at 74 urban sites**



Hong Liao, NUIST

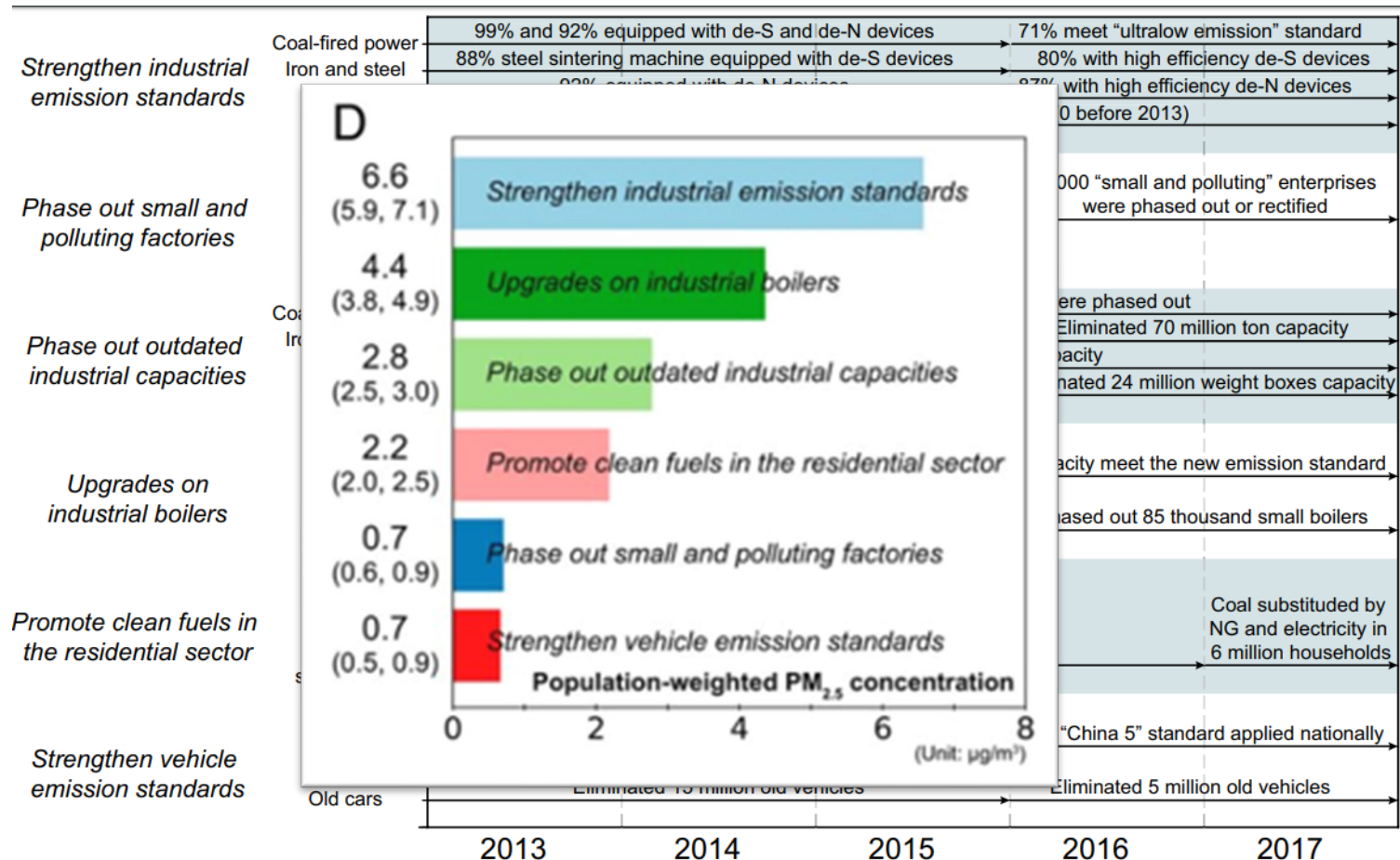
**Annual mean  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$**



Zhai et al., Atmos. Chem. Phys. 2019

- What are effective measures that led to the reduction in pollution?
- What should we do to further reduce  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ ?
- Why ozone is increasing?

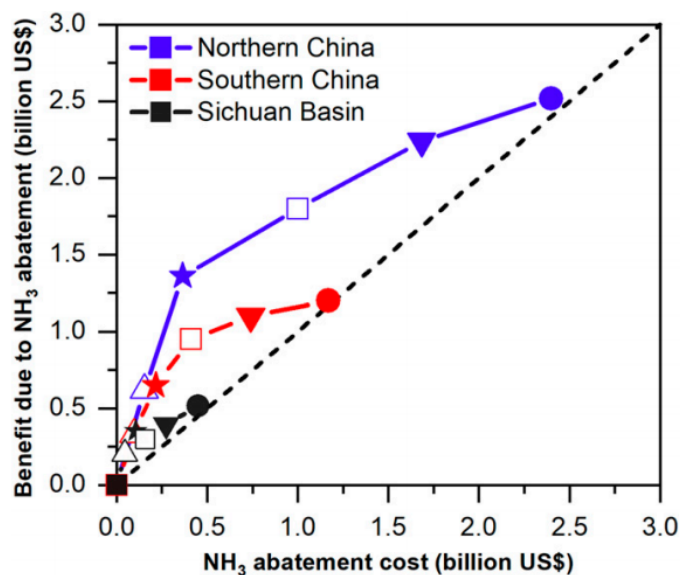
# Measures taken since 2013





# What is the pathway forward for PM2.5

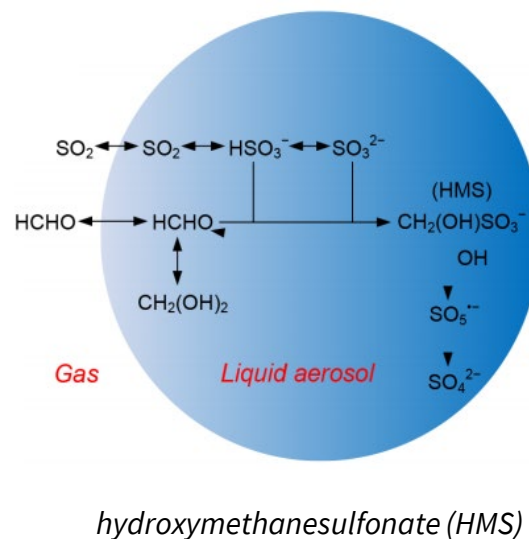
Control ammonia emissions to further reduce PM2.5



Liu et al., PNAS, 2019

Zheng et al., Geophys. Res. Lett., 2019

Novel mechanisms for secondary particle formation



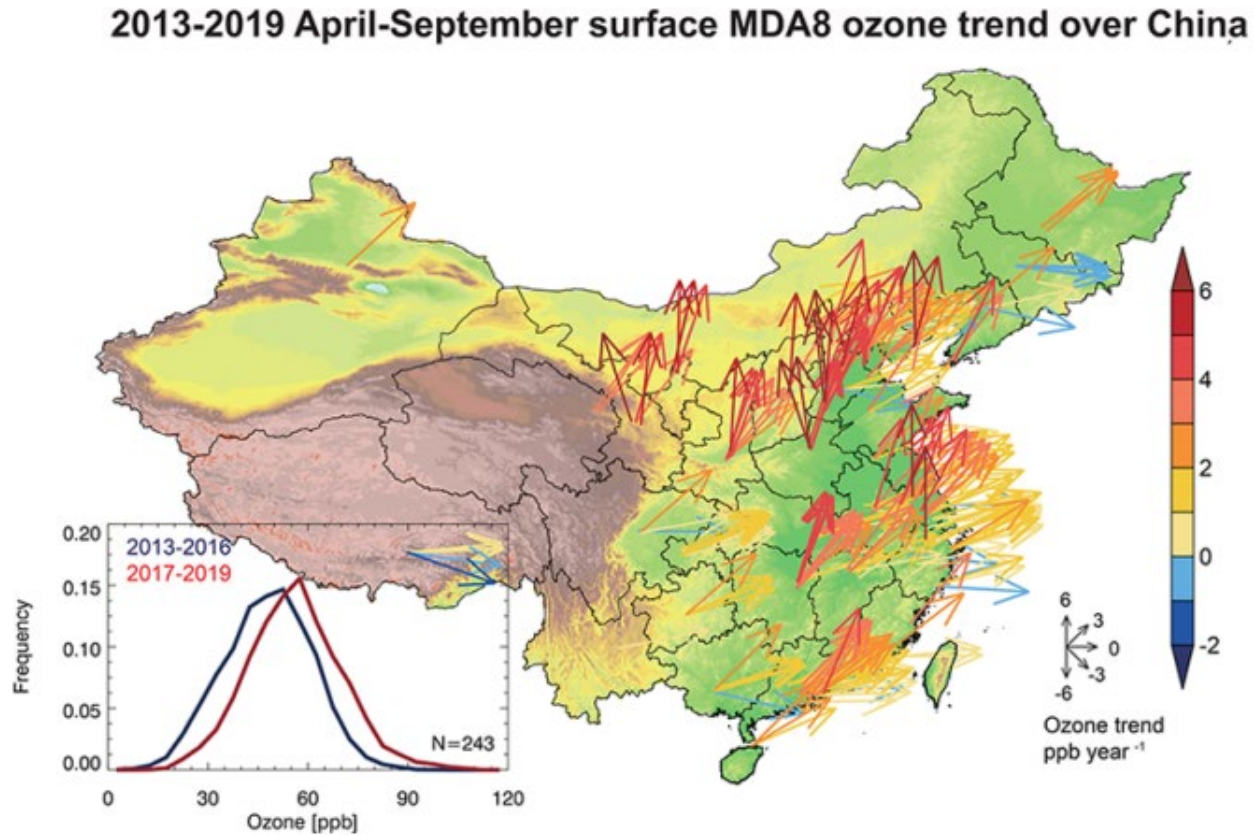
Song et al., Atmos. Chem. Phys., 2019

Moch et al., Geophys. Res. Lett., 2019

Ma et al., Atmos. Chem. Phys., 2020



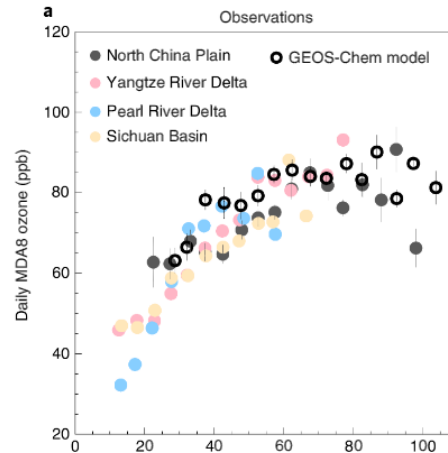
# Ozone getting worse. Why?



Lu et al., 2020

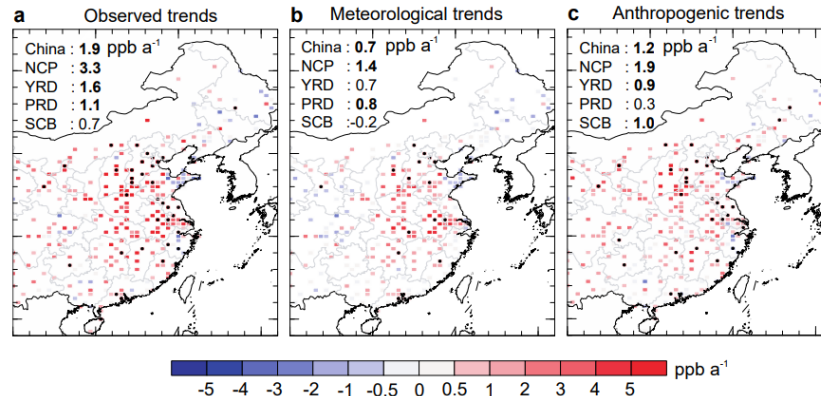
# Ozone getting worse. Why?

Interaction  
between pollutants



PM2.5 suppresses  
radicals in the air

Interaction with  
meteorology

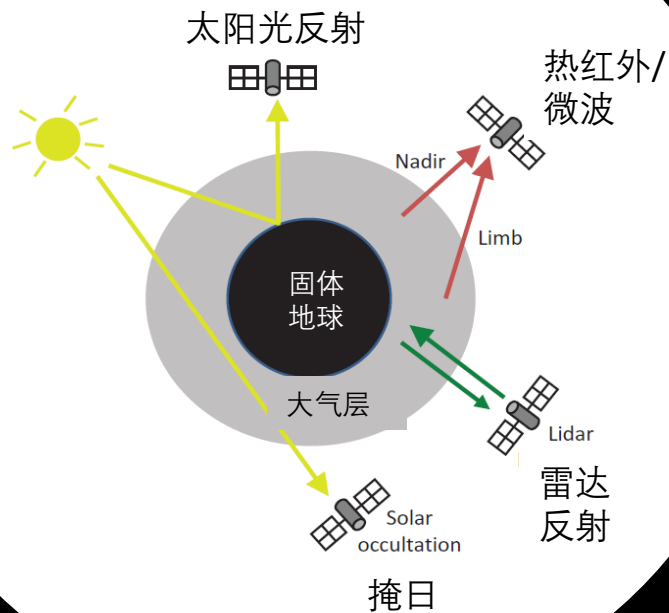


# Summary: regional air pollution

- Air quality in China has improved significantly in last 5 years, as results of strict control measures
- Ozone concentrations have been increasing, likely because interactions with other pollutants and meteorology
- NH<sub>3</sub> control has been proposed to reduce PM<sub>2.5</sub> in next 5 years
- Scientific studies help elucidate pathways to further improvement

# 卫星环境监测的独特优势

不同类型的卫星观测



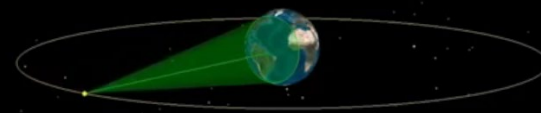
覆盖范围广

极轨轨道 500-1000 km 高度

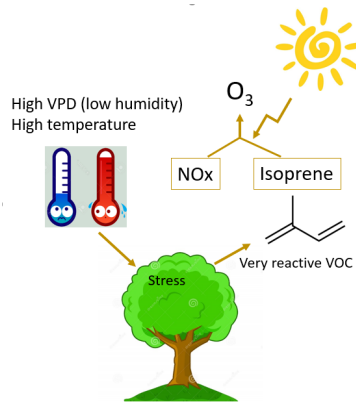
Polar  
Altitude - 760 km



地球同步轨道 36,000 km 高度



# Coupling: pollution and climate



Zhang and Wang, 2017

