Spatial and temporal resolution of satellite-based biomass burning emission inventories for the global aerosol model (GOCART)

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### Motivation



4 - East Boreal Shield; 5 - East Taiga Shield; 6 - Hudson Plains

A. Soja, 2006, pers. Comm.

10

- 7 Taiga Cordillera; 8 Taiga Plain
- 9 West Boreal Shield; 10 West Taiga Shield

MODIS average aerosol optical thickness, July 2004



GOCART 550 nm AOD July monthly average













# Estimating biomass burning emissions

#### Bottom-up approach

Dry Mass (DM)

 $M_i = A * B * C * F_i$  (Seiler & Crutzen, 1980)

- *M<sub>j</sub>* mass of emitted gas/aerosol species *j* ;
  (g)
- A burned area; (m<sup>2</sup>)
- B density of available biomass (kg/m<sup>2</sup>)
- C combustion completeness (unitless fraction)
- *F<sub>j</sub>* species-specific emission factor; (g<sub>j</sub> / kgDM)

*M<sub>j</sub>=C<sub>j</sub>* \**FRE* (Ichoku & Kaufman 2005)

- Mj mass of emitted gas/aerosol species j ;
  (g)
- FRE fire radiative energy; (W)
- C<sub>j</sub> species-specific emission coefficient; (kg<sub>j</sub>/W) (0.368 × 10<sup>-6</sup> Wooster et al., 2005)

#### Top-down approach

- *Inverse modeling* estimate source strength starting from resultant measurements of
  - CO by MOPITT (Arellano et al, 2004);
  - AOD by MODIS & AERONET (Dubovik et al., 2008)

# Estimating Burned Area (A)

10 Kilometers



Landsat ETM+ Image showing fire and burned area on July 21, 2000

12 February 2000 Landsat ETM+, during the wet season

Active fires as captured by Modis during 8-day period fom July 20 to July 27, 2000



Data Sources: Landasat ETM+ p169 r065 12-02-2000, Landsat ETM+ p169 r065 21-07-2000 MODIS/TERRA THERMAL ANOMALIES/FIRE 8-DAY L3 GLOBAL 1KM GRID

FIGURE 5.7. A comparison of MODIS Active Fire and Landsat ETM+ data for detecting total area burned by a July 21, 2001 fire in Ruaha National Park, Tanzania. (Map by: J. Forrest, WCS)

http://www.cbd.int/ts32/ts32-chap-5.shtml

Ground observations by forest & fire services

 Satellite instruments detect fire-induced spectral changes:

- Surface reflectance
- Surface brightness
- Leaf area index
- Vegetation indices

### **Burn area (A) detection**



Geostationary Satellites: SEVIRI instr. Temporal resolution: 15 min Spatial resolution: 3 km 900 ha

**Polar Orbiting satellites: MODIS** instr.

- **Temporal resolution:** 
  - 2-4+ meas. daily
- products : 1+ days Spatial resolution:
  - Fire detection (thermal channel) – 1 km 100 ha
  - Burned area (reflectance from vis & IR channels) – 500 m 25 ha

LandSat Enhamced Thematic Mapper (ETM+) Temporal resolution: 16 days Spatial resolution: 30 – 60 m

# Some statistics of fire occurence





#### Things to keep in mind:

- Detectable active fire is ~x1000 smaller than the min. detectable burned area (Giglio et al., 2006)
- Active fires and BA are often sub-pixel
- temporal vs. spatial resolution, different commission and omission errors

http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/iffn/country/rus/rus\_19.htm

#### Biomass density (B) & Combustion completeness (C)



# Available Biomass: satellite-based classification of land cover

17 standard land cover types incl. 11 veg. types defined by the International Geosphere- Biosphere Programme (IGBP) (subsequently multiplied by empirically-determined biomass density)

1-km SPOT/VEGETATION LCT (GLC2000 product)

MODIS (500 m - 0.5°, yearly) SPOT/VEGETATION (1 km, "yearly")

Figure from http://bioval.jrc.ec.europa.eu/products/glc2000/glc2000.php

### Available Biomass estimates: biogeochemical models

CASA model (Carnegie Ames Stanford Approach) (GFED3: Van der Wef et al, 2010)

- $\rightarrow$  0.5°, monthly
- Simulates biomass dynamics
- Estimates fire emissions from fraction of carbon pool combusted (estimates combustion completeness), and LCT-dependent emis. factors

Inputs: temp., precipitation 1°x1° solar radiation (1 km - 2°,daily – climatology) LCT (500 m)

## **Emission factors**

- Usually static (no time resolution)
- Derived from biomass burning in the lab or in field experiments
- Currently globally possible F<sub>j</sub> for each of 11 vegetation types (GLC, Liousse et al.)

• 
$$F_{OC} = ~4-8 \ g/kg_{DM}$$
  
•  $F_{BC} = ~0.6-1 \ g/kg_{DM}$   
•  $F_{CO_2} = ~1600 \ g/kg_{DM}$ 

Excited about the new (since Andreae & Merlet, more comprehensive compilation of emission factors!



- Resultant resolution of the BB emissions inventories, possible down to 500 m (finest of all parameters) daily
- Sub-daily (diurnal cycle) possible
- Emission datasets are usually aggregated to a coarser spatial grid (0.5+°) to meet the needs of the global modeling community

## **GOCART** model resolution

- is determined by meteorological fields GEOS-4 GEOS-5
- 1° lat x 1.25° lon 55 (30) vertical layers

o.5° lat x o.625° lon 72 (47) vertical layers

30 min time step

30 min time step

### Case study: Fires in Russia 20 July 2006



MODIS visible image Sinusoidal projection

Study area **Cylindrical equidistant projection** 



Green AOD

#### **GOCART AOD**



#### MODIS AOD and GOCART AOD July 2006 month averages





# Summary

- Finer resolution emission input into the model produces AOD output, which compares better with MODIS AOD
- Current spatial resolution of inventories are well compatible with the global models, finer temporal resolution is desired

# **Concluding remarks**

- I'm playing with GOCART and different daily emission inputs with case studies - also explore model capabilities and regional differences & importance
- We use MODIS fire counts as daily BA estimate, but keep in mind the shortcomings
- Expecting GFED<sub>3</sub> daily
- Also, waiting for an updated emission factors dataset
- Diurnal cycle & shorter than daily input work in progress (FLAMBE looks attractive, E. Elicott)
- Global distribution of plume vertical resolution based on observations is a long shot – parameterizations are being developed

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