



Optimizing Black Carbon emissions with TM5MP-CTDAS

Angelos Gkouvousis, PhD Candidate, Department of Chemistry, University of Crete

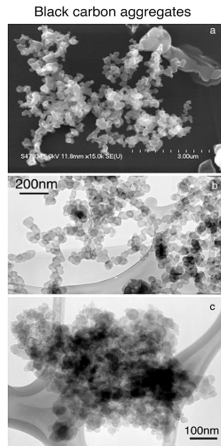
✉ a.gkouvousis@uoc.gr

37th International TM5 Meeting, 3 September 2026, Heraklion, Greece



Black Carbon

- Climate forcer (warms the atmosphere)
- Affecting Health (emerging pollutant)
- Produced by incomplete combustion

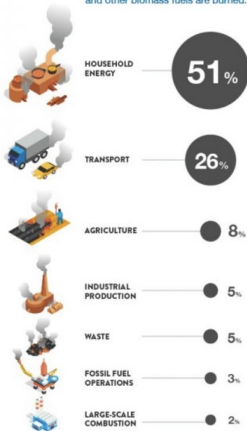


Bond et al.,2013

Sources and Impacts

SOURCES

Black carbon is one of many particles and gases that are emitted when diesel, coal, and other biomass fuels are burned.



IMPACTS

CLIMATE

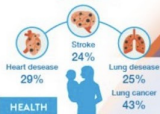


Absorbs sunlight and converts it to heat

LIFETIME IN ATMOSPHERE: UP TO 2 WEEKS

Since black carbon does not last long in the atmosphere, efforts to reduce it will bring immediate benefits for the climate and human health.

Deaths from



7 million pollution-related deaths every year

HEALTH

WEATHER

- Prevents clouds from being formed
- Alters regional weather patterns and rainfall

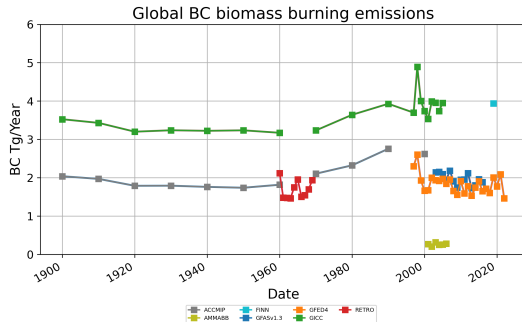
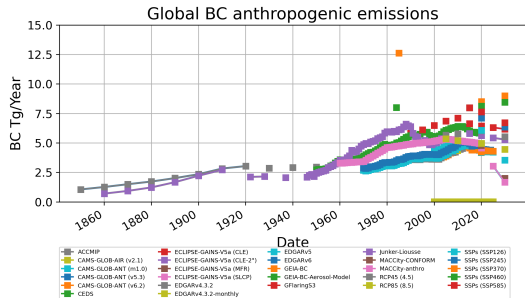
SNOW & ICE

Accelerates the melting of snow and ice

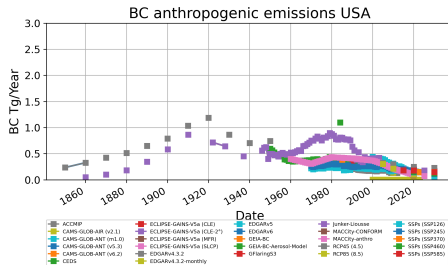
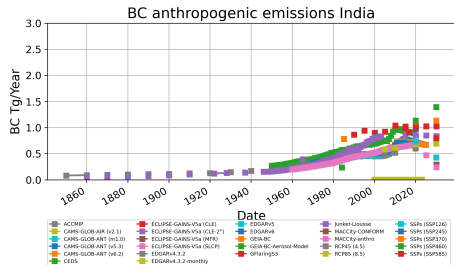
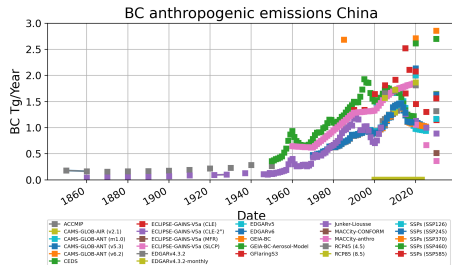
AGRICULTURE & ECOSYSTEMS

- Reduces sunlight
- Affects plant health and productivity

Emission Inventories (data from eccad.aeris-data.fr)

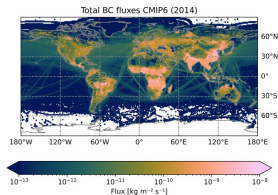


Emission Inventories (data from eccad.aeris-data.fr)



This study aims to improve inventory estimates using ground based measurements

Initial flux estimate (prior)

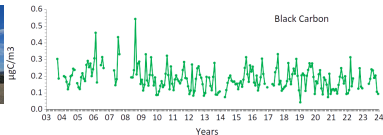


TM 5

CTDAS
Ensemble
Kalman
Filter

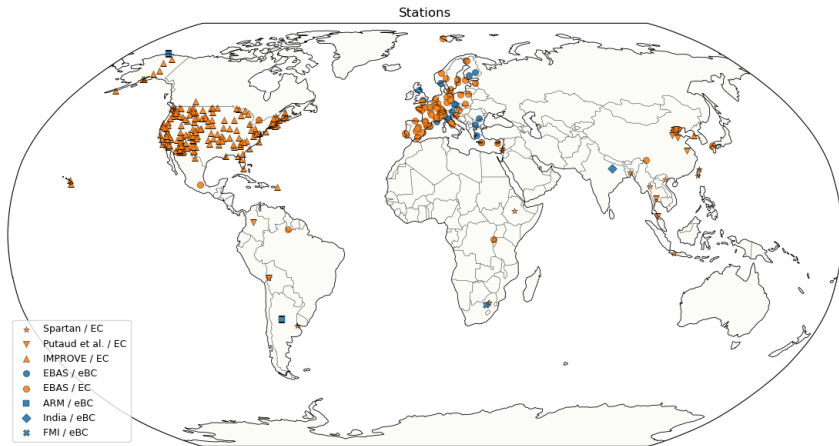
Optimized fluxes
(posterior)

Observations



Observations

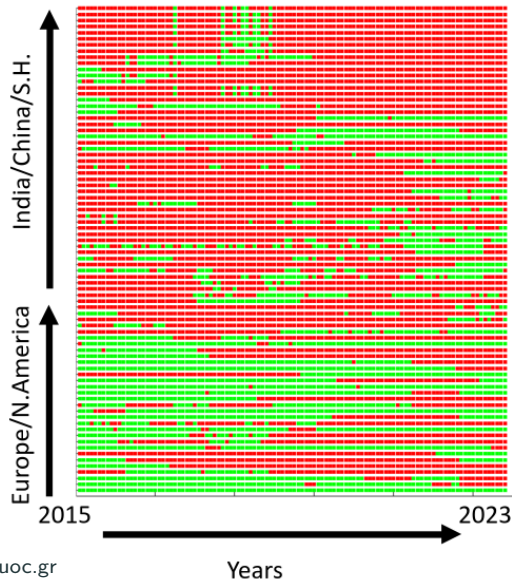
Measurements used are filter based and from aethalometers (EC,eBC)



Observations

- Observations hard to obtain
- Non homogeneous geographical distribution
- Often poor temporal resolution

Figure by Dr. Sabine Eckhardt



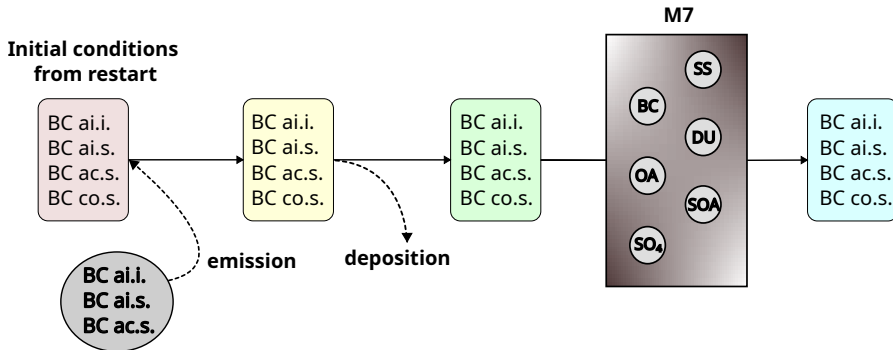
TM5-MP:

- Meteorology ERA5 (Hersbach et al. 2020)
- $1^{\circ} \times 1^{\circ}$ horizontal resolution x 34 vertical levels
- Anthropogenic emissions CMIP6 SSP3-7.0 (Feng et al.2020)
- Biomass Burning CMIP7 from 2016
- Chemistry (mCB05) (Williams et al. 2017)

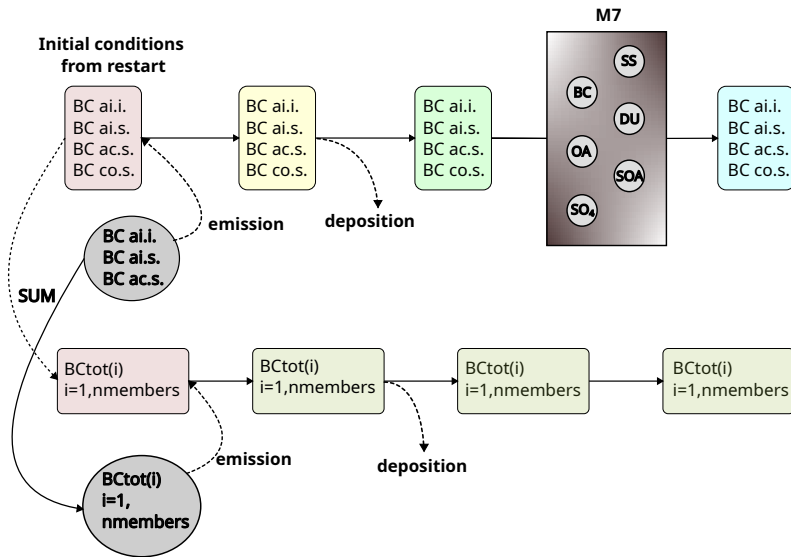
Simulations:

- Simulation Period 2015-2023
- 50 ensemble members of total BC emissions
- Assimilation window of 1 week
- Lag 2 weeks
- Sampling window of 1 day
- No localization

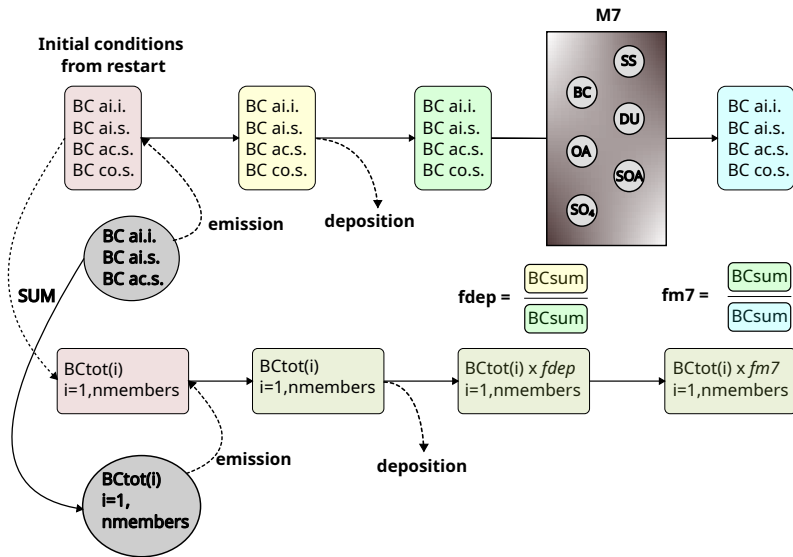
Approach in TM5



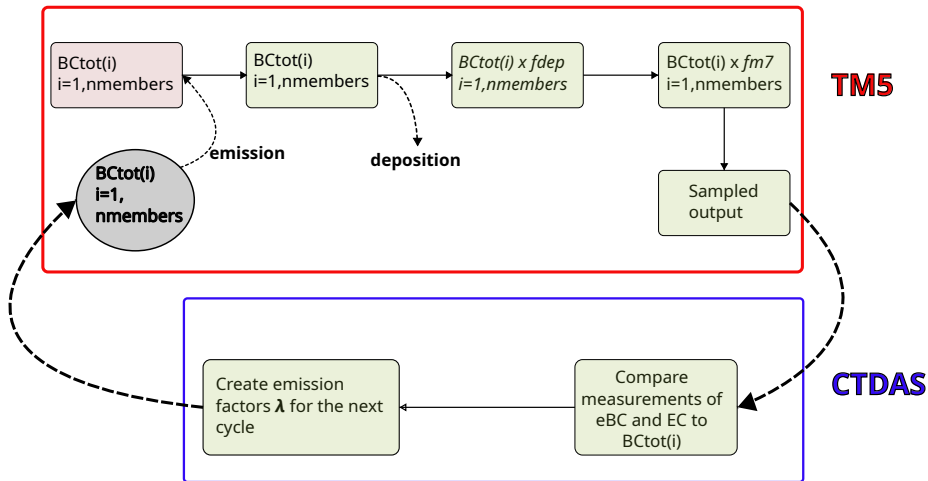
Approach in TM5



Approach in TM5

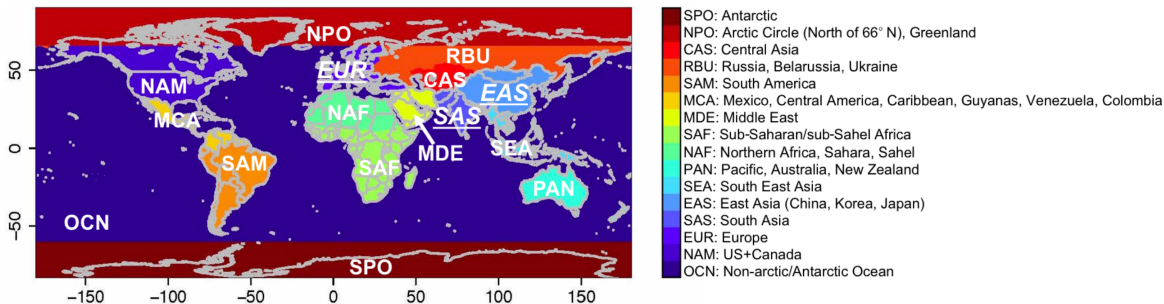


TM5 - CTDAS coupling

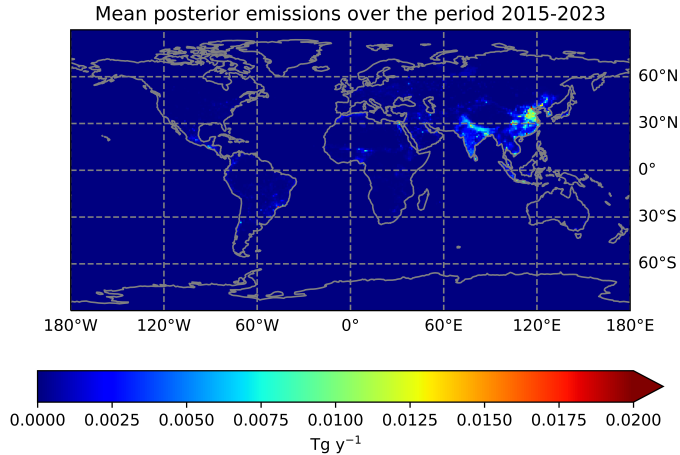


Regions of optimization

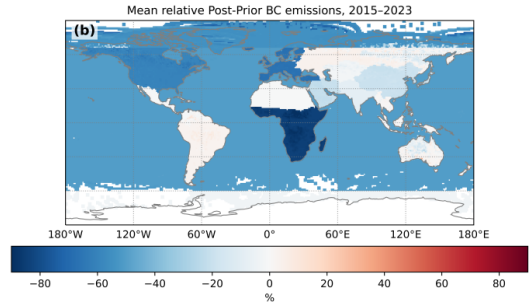
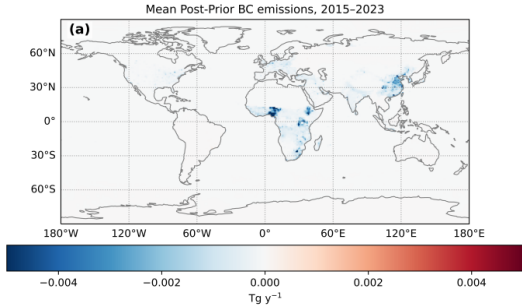
A scaling factor λ is created for each of the 16 HTAP source regions



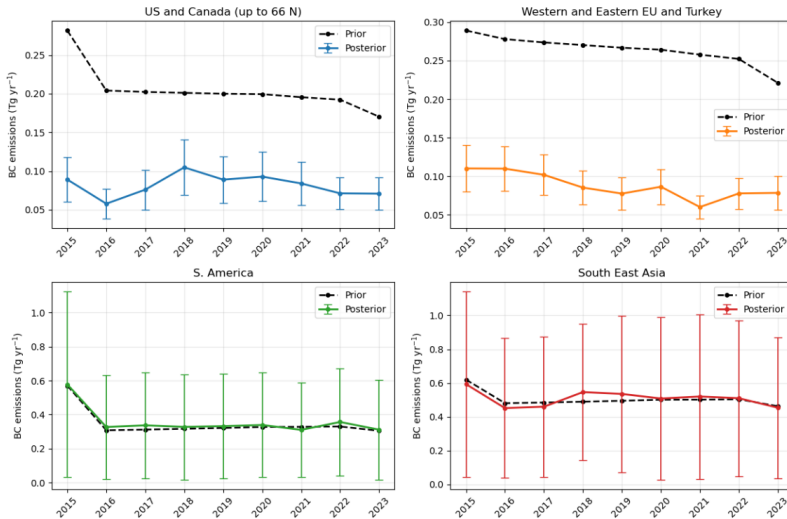
Results



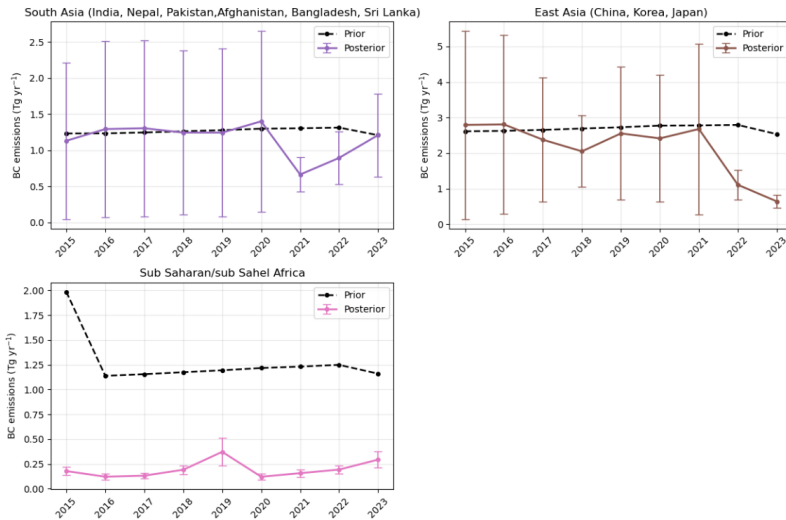
Results

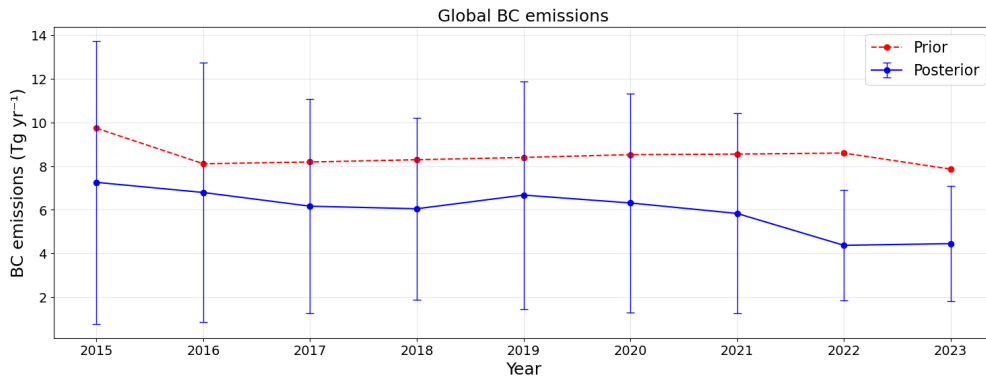


Results



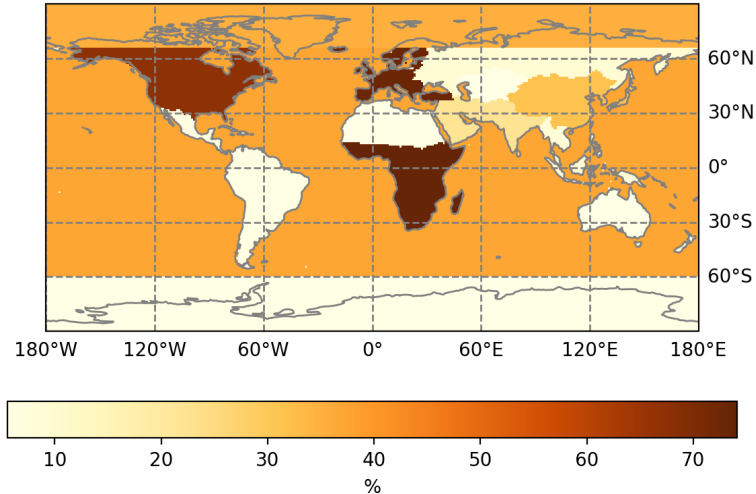
Results





Results

Mean uncertainty reduction over the period 2015-2023



- Running with LRTAP anthropogenic emissions & GFAS biomass burning
- Testing inversions with more ensemble members
- Testing inversions with Gaussian localization

Thank you for your attention!

contact: a.gkouvousis@uoc.gr

The development/simulations are carried out on the HPC cluster Aether at the University of Bremen

- Prof. Maria Kanakidou
- Nikos Gialesakis
- Alexis Drosos
- Ioannis Maris
- Dr. Nikos Daskalakis
- Dr. Martin Vojta
- Anne-Wil van den Berg
- Dr. Aki Tsuruta
- Dr. Sabine Eckhardt
- Dr. Ville Vakkari
- Dr. Pieter van Ziel
- Dr. Abhay Kumar Singh
- Dr. Tirthankar Banerjee