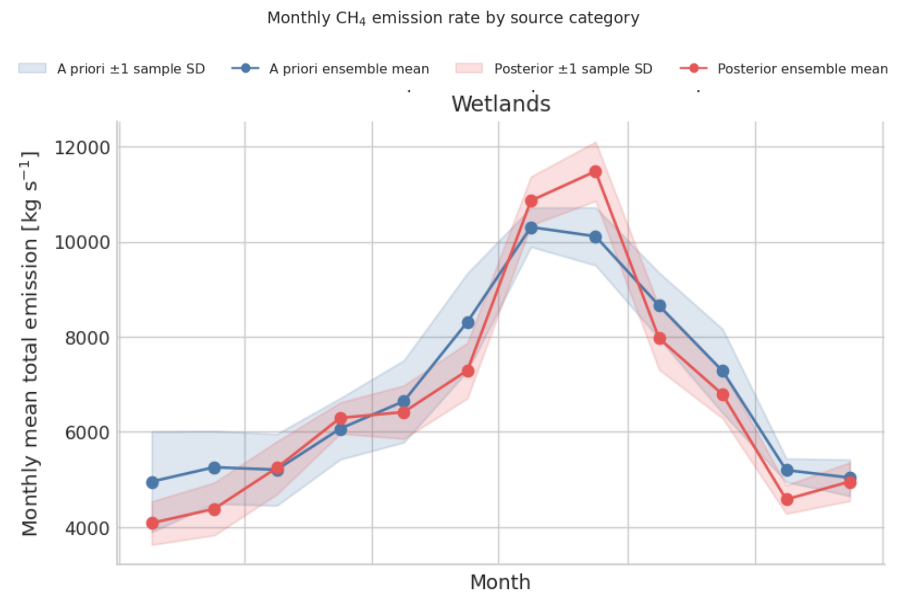
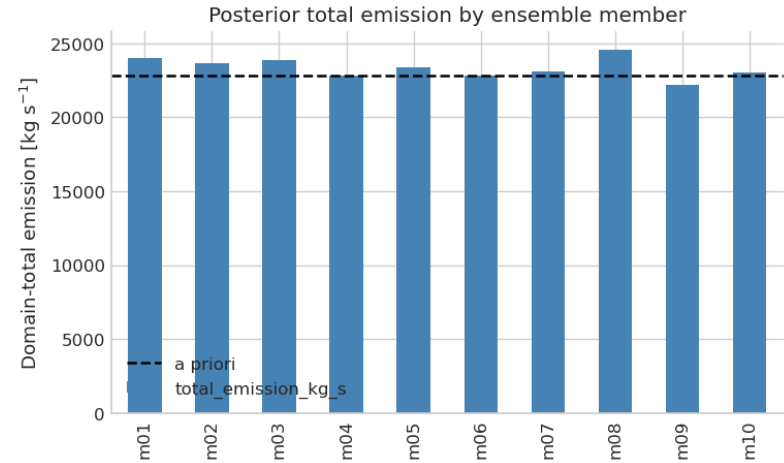


# Ensemble 4D-Var

For posterior uncertainty estimates

Arjo Segers, Tyler Wizenberg (TNO)



# Ensemble-4DVar

**Standard** 4D-Var optimisation minimizes cost function:

$$J(x) = -\frac{1}{2}(x - x_b)^T B^{-1}(x - x_b) - \frac{1}{2}(y - Hx)^T R^{-1}(y - Hx)$$

The  $x_a$  that minimizes  $J(x)$  depends on the background  $x_b$  and observations  $y$ .

Ensemble-4DVar minimizes  $N$  times the cost function for perturbed input:

$$J(x) = -\frac{1}{2}(x - x_b + \delta x_i)^T \mathbf{B}^{-1}(x - x_b + \delta x_i) - \frac{1}{2}(y - Hx + \delta y_i)^T \mathbf{R}^{-1}(y - Hx + \delta y_i)$$

with:

$$\delta x_i \sim N(\mathbf{o}, \mathbf{B}), \quad \delta y_i \sim N(\mathbf{o}, \mathbf{R}), \quad i = 1, \dots, N$$

providing  $N$  different solutions  $x_{a,i}$

*Not to be confused with "4D-Ensemble-Var" !  
That describes the background covariance  $B$  using an ensemble ...*

# Branches and documentation

Two code branches:

- TM5-4DVAR: `ajs/cams-ch4_ens`
- TM5-MP : `ajs/cams_ch4_ens`

In User-Guide of TM5-4DVAR,  
chapter "[Ensemble 4D-Var](#)"

*(not online on gitlab-pages, that holds  
the user-guide from the master branch)*

The screenshot shows a web page titled "TM5-4DVAR v0.1 documentation » Ensemble 4D-Var". The page has a sidebar on the left with navigation links: "Table of Contents", "Previous topic", "Next topic", "This Page", and "Quick search". The main content area is titled "Ensemble 4D-Var" and contains the following text:

This chapter describes the implementation of Ensemble-4D-Var, e.g. running a number of inversions in parallel. Each ensemble member is an inversion similar to the base inversion, but uses:

- perturbed prior emissions (drawn from the uncertainties specified for the emissions);
- perturbed observations (drawn from the uncertainties specified for the observations).

The end result is a number of perturbed posterior emission estimates, from which statistics could be calculated.

**Source packages**

The following source packages are used for current implementation.

- TM5-4DVar inversion system.

Clone the `ajs/cams-ch4_ens` branch using:

```
mkdir TM5-4DVAR
cd TM5-4DVAR
git clone --branch=ajs/cams-ch4_ens git@ci.tno.nl:tm5/tm5-4dvar.git ajs/cams-ch4_ens
cd ..
```

- TM5-MP global transport model.

Clone the `ajs/cams-ch4_ens` branch using:

```
mkdir TM5-MP
cd TM5-MP
git clone --branch=ajs/cams-ch4_ens git@ci.tno.nl:tm5/tm5-mp.git ajs/cams-ch4_ens
cd ..
```

**Example configuration**

A configuration following the CAMS v25r2 configuration (period 1983-2025, produced in 2026).

See the latest technical description and the quality evaluation document for the v24r2 release:

- [Description of the CH4 inversion production chain](#)
- [Evaluation and Quality Control document for observation-based CH4 flux estimates for the period 1983 - 2024](#)

The configuration settings are available in:

# State perturbation

State vector contains emission perturbation factors:

Goal: generate  $N$  state perturbations:

$$\delta \mathbf{x}_i \sim N(\mathbf{o}, \mathbf{B})$$

From the *pre-conditioner* we have available the covariance factorization:

$$\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{B}^{1/2} \mathbf{B}^{T/2}$$

Draw normal distributed *pre-conditioned* state vectors:

$$\mathbf{w}_i \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{o}, \mathbf{I})$$

then the transformed states have the required statistics:

$$\delta \mathbf{x}_i = \mathbf{B}^{1/2} \mathbf{w}_i$$

(Same operation is used in the pre-conditioning)

| state                                        |                 | units | shape          | $x^b$ | $\sigma$ | correlation length scales |          |                        |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------|----------------|-------|----------|---------------------------|----------|------------------------|
| main element                                 | sub element     |       |                |       |          | horizontal (Gaussian)     | vertical | temporal (exponential) |
| emission deviation values (semi-exponential) | wetlands        | 1     | (lon,lat,time) | 0     | 100%     | 500 km                    | -        | 0                      |
|                                              | rice            | 1     | (lon,lat,time) | 0     | 100%     | 500 km                    | -        | 0                      |
|                                              | biomass burning | 1     | (lon,lat,time) | 0     | 100%     | 500 km                    | -        | 0                      |
|                                              | other           | 1     | (lon,lat,time) | 0     | 50%      | 500 km                    | -        | 9.5 month              |

$$E_{i,j,t}(\gamma_{i,j,t}) = \begin{cases} E_{i,j,t}^b \exp(\gamma_{i,j,t}), & \gamma_{i,j,t} < 0 \\ E_{i,j,t}^b (1 + \gamma_{i,j,t}), & \gamma_{i,j,t} \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

Expansion from state to emissions.

# Observation representation perturbation

Generate  $N$  observation representation perturbations:

$$\delta y_i \sim N(\mathbf{o}, \mathbf{R})$$

NOTE: not just perturbation of measurements  $\mathbf{y}$ , but perturbation of meas. minus model  $\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{x}$  !

Observation representation error  $\mathbf{R}$  has contributions from:

- observation error:
  - measurement error
  - temporal sampling error
- model representation error:
  - spatial sampling error
  - temporal sampling error

*Implementation: added array with perturbation factors to "point\_input.nc4", applied when computing gradient forcing*

```
netcdf point_input {
dimensions:
    id = 1468 ;
    member = 11 ;
...
variables:
    ...
    double mixing_ratio(id) ;
    double mixing_ratio_stdv(id) ;
    double mixing_ratio_error(id) ;
    ...
    double perturb(id, member) ;
        perturb:units = "1" ;
        perturb:long_name = "perturbation factor out of N(0,1) per ensemble member" ;
}
```

# Ensemble definition

Convention: *"Always run ensemble, first member is unperturbed"*

Special case: micro-ensemble of 1 member)

Definition of ensemble by member names and tracer names:

```
! ensemble names:
ens.members      : m00 m01 m02 m03 m04 m05 m06 m07 m08 m09 m10
! ensemble tracer names:
ens.tracers      : CH4 CH4_m01 CH4_m02 CH4_m03 CH4_m04 CH4_m05 CH4_m06 CH4_m07 CH4_m08 CH4_m09 CH4_m10
```

default member and tracer (unperturbed)

# Implementation in job-tree

```
tmvar
  .setup
    .emis
    .covar
  .xb
  ...

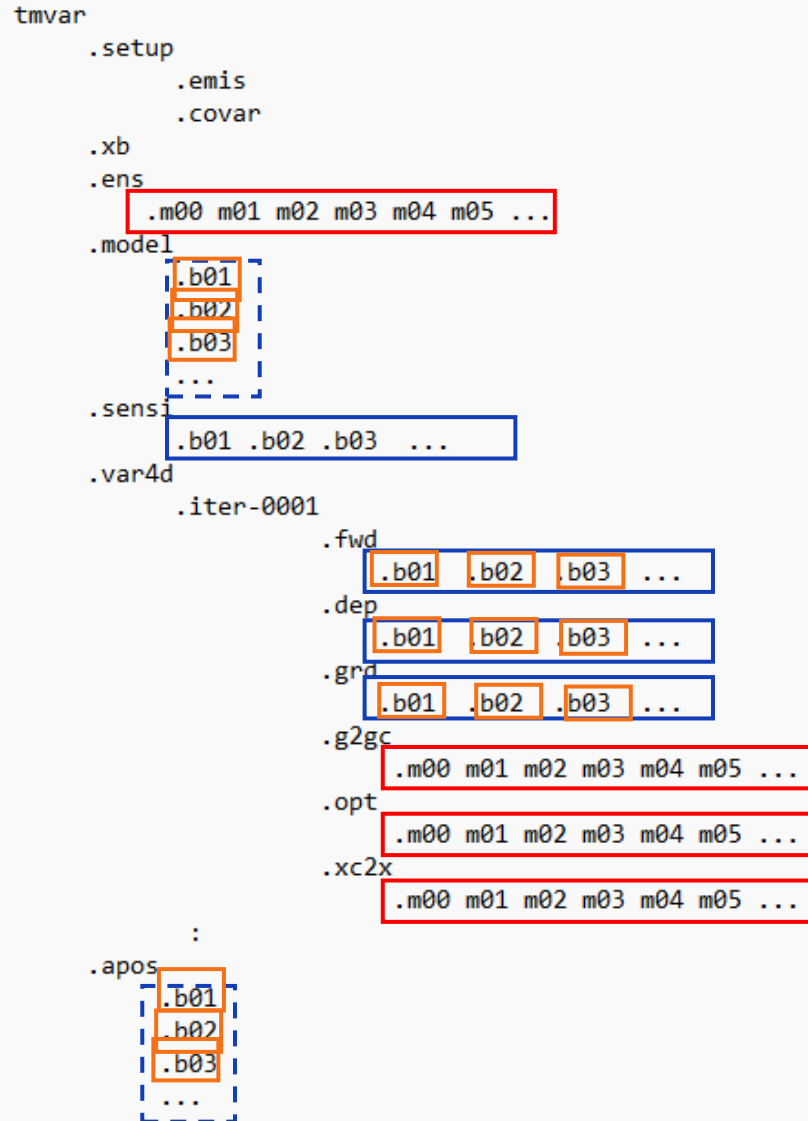
  .model
    .b01
    .b02
    .b03
    ...
  .sens
    .b01 .b02 .b03 ...
  .var4d
    .iter-0001
      .fwd
        .b01 .b02 .b03 ...
      .dep
        .b01 .b02 .b03 ...
      .grd
        .b01 .b02 .b03 ...
      .g2gc
      .opt
      .xc2x

    :
  .apos
    .b01
    .b02
    .b03
    ...
```

Parallelism in single inversion:

- time parallel blocks (Pandey et al.)
- model simulations with domain decomposition

# Implementation in job-tree



Parallelism in single inversion:

- time parallel blocks (Pandey et al.)
- model simulations with domain decomposition and multiple tracers (1 per ensemble member)
- ensemble member processed in parallel

# Ensemble simulation in TM5-MP

Changes in "chem\_param.F90":  
*tracer per ensemble member:*

```
! ntrace: number of tracers for chemistry
integer, parameter          :: ntrace = 11

integer, parameter          :: tracer_name_len = 8
character(len=tracer_name_len), parameter :: names(maxtrace) = (/ &
    'CH4      ', &
    'CH4_m01  ', &
    'CH4_m02  ', &
    'CH4_m03  ', &
    'CH4_m04  ', &
    'CH4_m05  ', &
    'CH4_m06  ', &
    'CH4_m07  ', &
    'CH4_m08  ', &
    'CH4_m09  ', &
    'CH4_m10  ' /)


```

This file is now *generated* from the settings  
(similar as the "dims\_grid.F90" file ...)

*names of ensemble members:*

```
! ensemble size, incl. base:
integer, parameter          :: nens = 11

! member names:
character(len=8), parameter :: ens_name(nens) = (/ &
    'm00      ', &
    'm01      ', &
    'm02      ', &
    'm03      ', &
    'm04      ', &
    'm05      ', &
    'm06      ', &
    'm07      ', &
    'm08      ', &
    'm09      ', &
    'm10      ' /)


```

*mapping from ensemble members to tracers:*

```
! number of tracers per ensemble member:
integer, parameter          :: ens_ntrace = 1

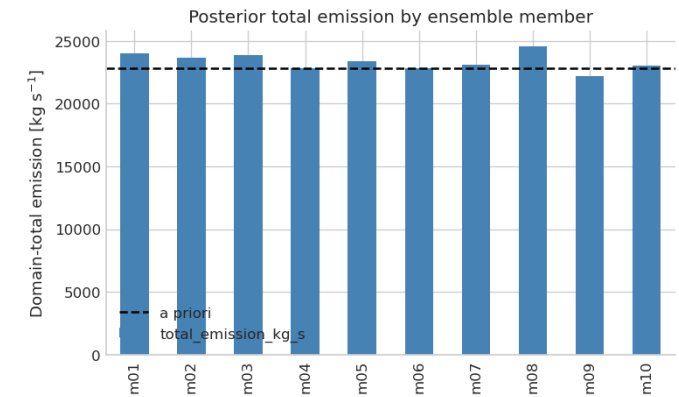
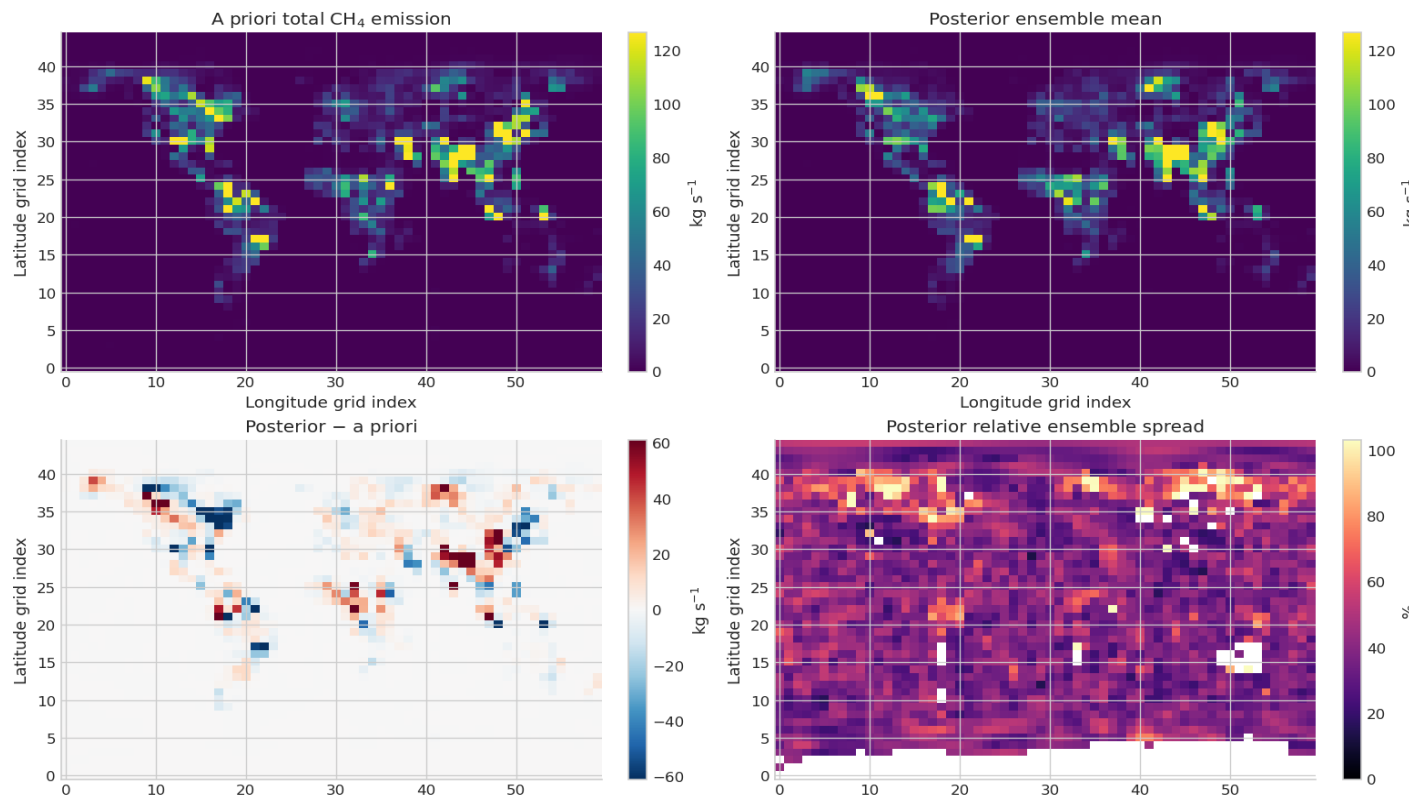
! mapping to tracer index:
integer, parameter          :: ens_itrace(nens,ens_ntrace) = reshape( (/ &
    1, &
    2, &
    3, &
    4, &
    5, &
    6, &
    7, &
    8, &
    9, &
    10, &
    11 /), (/nens,ens_ntrace/) )


```

# Prior and posterior uncertainties

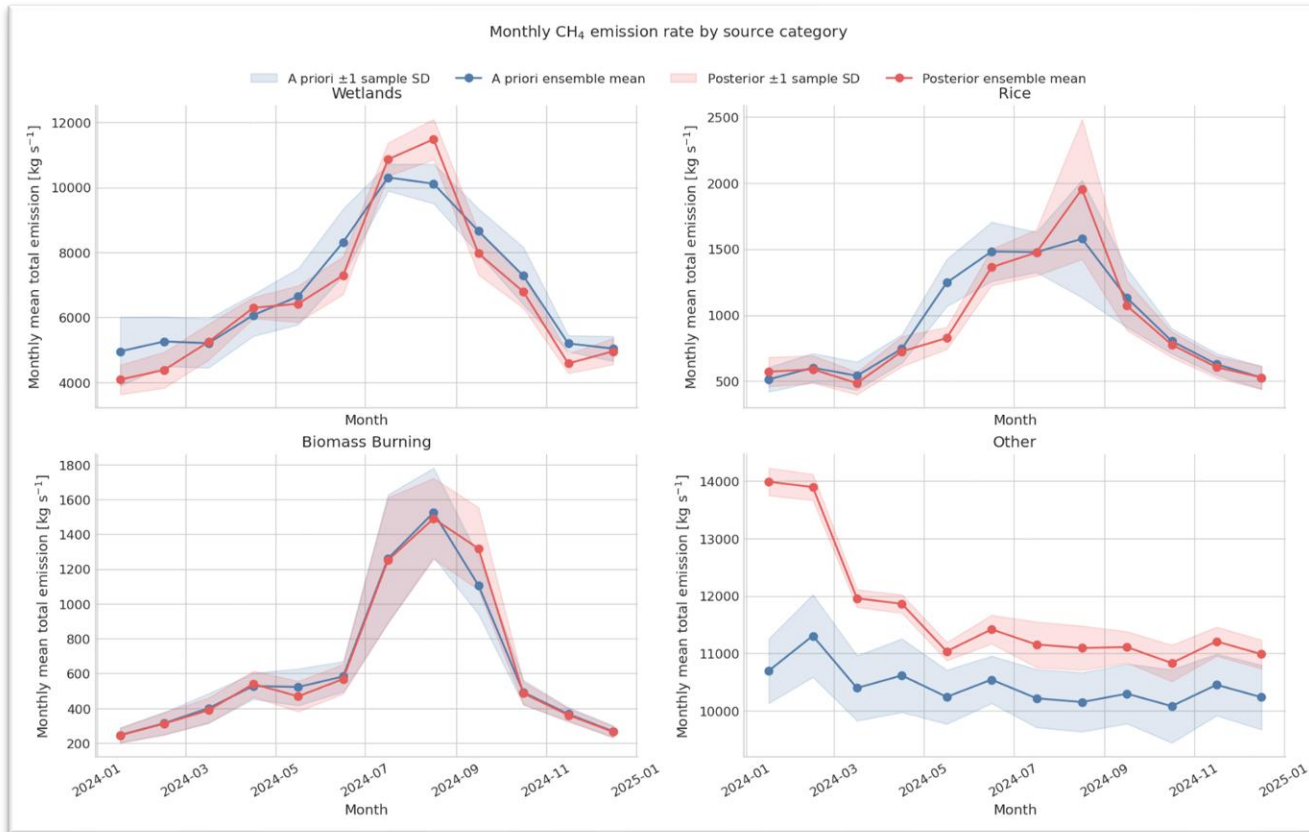
Tested on coarse resolution (6x4 deg.) and short period (1 year), 1+10 members

- Basic checks: does prior ensemble have the correct statistics?
  - relative std.dev: **ok**
  - spatial correlation: **ok**
  - temporal correlation: **ok**
- Example of emissions:

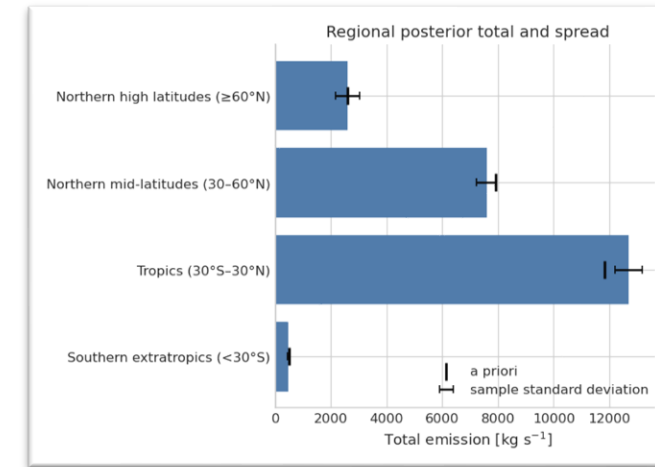


# Prior and posterior uncertainties

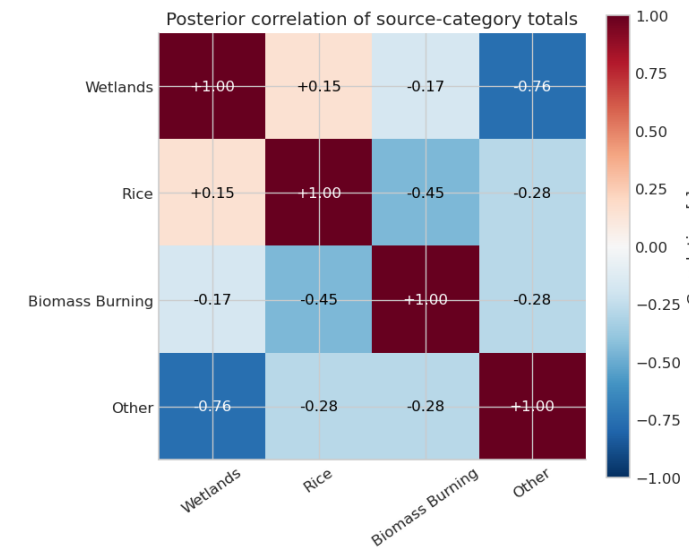
Drawing aggregated statistics from ensembles:



*Time series of monthly global emissions per category.*



*Aggregation per zonal band.*



*Correlation between optimized categories*

# Summary and outlook

- Implemented ensemble in TM5-4DVar
  - First results ok (coarse resolution, 1 year)
  - *Minor fixes needed: time-parallel-block processing*
- Practical use in CAMS/CH<sub>4</sub> inversions:
  - Too expensive on 1x1 resolution (*Fortran version ...*)
  - Apply on coarser resolution:
    - *sufficient for aggregated emissions*
  - Apply on short period (1 year), use for all years?
    - *uncertainties are consistent in time?*
- Use the prior ensemble to tune uncertainties?  
*Observation-minus-simulation statistics should match with uncertainties*
- *"Faster model? Let's spent the time on an ensemble!"*

