CO2 GREENHOUSE UPDATE 1985

• Lamont-Doherty Research

• CRSL Research
  + Contribution to DOE State of the Art Report
  + Oceanic effects on transient climate change

• Budget Status, Proposal

• DOE and other reports

• Recent research developments

October 4, 1985
New York City
B. P. Flannery
SEASONAL STUDY OF THE CO2 AND TRACER DISTRIBUTIONS IN THE HIGH LATITUDE ATLANTIC, W. Broecker and T. Takahashi

- Goal: gain better understanding of the air-sea exchange of CO2 in high latitude surface waters

- First systematic study of seasonal CO2 chemistry in North Atlantic

- Field studies complete March 1985

- Related studies
  + North Pacific (DOE support)
  + South Pacific (EXXON, DOE)
SAMPLING POSITIONS IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC

- Transport Freight Limited ships, Greenland stations
LARGE SEASONAL VARIATION IN P(CO2)

- Previously only summer data available, low values assumed to persist all year.
PRINCIPAL FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS

- Large, unexpected seasonal variation in P(CO2) in high latitude surface waters

- Standard thermodynamic models for CO2 variation cannot explain observations
  + Biology and mixing required

- Implication for CO2 uptake by ocean two sided
  + Lower exchange from air to surface ocean
  + Higher exchange from surface to deep water

- Results need to be assessed in quantitative models of oceanic carbon cycle
AVAILABLE COMPILATION OF OCEANIC P(CO2)

- GEOSECS data (Atlantic 72, Pacific 73, Indian 78)

- No information on seasonal variation

- Much additional data acquired, but not compiled
LAMONT PROPOSAL 1986: SEASONAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL MAP OF P(CO2) IN SURFACE WATERS

• Compilation of seasonal P(CO2) map
  + All available data
  + 10 x 10 degree grid
  + February, August

• Objectives
  + Differentiate regional behavior, important effects
  + Develop a seasonal model to explain variation
  + Re-examine oceanic carbon cycle
DOE STATE-OF-THE-ART REPORT
MODEL PROJECTIONS OF TIME DEPENDENT RESPONSE TO INCREASING CARBON DIOXIDE
M.I. HOFFRERT (NYU) and B.P. FLANNERY

- Observational data for modern climate (1850-1980)
- Elements of transient climate models
- Disagreement among results for steady state models
- Hindcasting for model verification
- Forecasting of future change, first effects
- Conclusions and Recommendations
HISTORICAL DATA FOR TRANSIENT MODEL VERIFICATION

VARIATION OF GLOBAL MEAN TEMPERATURE 1880-1980

- Temperature change +0.5 C (1980-1880)
- Factors besides CO2 must operate
  + volcanoes, solar variability, oceanic upwelling
- Other archived data exist, Sea Ice, Regional Temperature, ...
  + Less reliably predicted by models
  + Display more variability, as measured
**ELEMENTS OF STEADY STATE AND TRANSIENT MODELS**

- **Steady State response CO2 addition**
  - IR decreases, temperature rises
  - Additional feedbacks
    - Atmospheric water vapor
    - Snow/ice cover
    - Cloudiness amounts, types

- **Transient evolution, timescales**
  - +Land, 1 week
  - +Atmosphere, 1 month
  - +Ocean mixed layer, 8 yrs
  - +Deep ocean, (1-10) thousand yrs
GENERAL CIRCULATION MODELS DISAGREE ON
STEADY STATE RESPONSE 2xCO2

- Basic results
  + Global mean temperature rise 1.5-4.5 C
  + Warming greater at poles

- Major disagreement between models

- Sources of disagreement
  + Treatment of oceanic transport
  + Treatment of cloudiness feedback

- Recent models show 4-5 C Global warming
  + Include other trace gasses
HINDCASTING RESULTS / VERIFICATION

- Models claim to detect CO2 effect, but required other types of forcing
  + volcanoes, solar variation, (oceanic upwelling)
- Spurious agreement in conclusions
  + Treatment of forcing differs
  + Observational data differs
- Consensus view CO2 warming not yet confirmed by observation
FORECASTING RESULTS/ PREDICTION AND FIRST EFFECTS

- Requires forecast of future CO2 emissions

- Ocean delays CO2 warming
  + As yet unrealized warming could be substantial

- Results from General Circulation Model still unavailable
  + Inclusion oceanic transport challenging task
CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Modern climate is forced by factors other than CO2
- Oceanic response delays warming by at least 10 years
- Consensus prediction 1 C warming (1860-2000), 2-5 C (2100)
- To date models do not provide unique forecasts
- Model development:
  + GCM results display substantial discrepancies
  + Research requires a hierarchy of climate models
  + Reliable GCM results are at least 10 years away
- Must develop improved understanding of oceanic transport
- Must develop observationally based strategies for model verification
CR RESEARCH 1984-85

- Continuing role in the environmental impact assessment of the Natuna Gas Project

- Preparation of the "Transient Climate Models" chapter of the DOE State of the Art Report on CO2 Research

- Role of oceanic effects on climate change
  + Collaborative development of a sophisticated Energy Balance Climate model (Livermore, NYU)
  + Studies of thermal lag from oceanic effects
EMERGING DILEMMA FOR CLIMATE MODELS:
WHY HASN'T WARMING BEEN OBSERVED?

- Recent GCM models predict greater sensitivity
  warming 2xCO2 (1850-1980)
    2-3 C  0.8 C marginally detectable
    4-5 C  1.6 C readily detectable

- Proposed solution, delay from oceanic thermal buffering
  much greater than found in previous studies

- Requires strong thermal coupling between surface
  and deep ocean
MODELS INCLUDING ENERGY TRANSFER TO DEEP OCEAN PREDICT LONG DELAYS FOR ATMOSPHERIC WARMING

- Purely Diffusive (PD) Model (Hansen 1984)

- Pattern of global response
  + Average lag time 125 years
THE UPWELLING DIFFUSION MODEL FOR HEAT TRANSFER INTO THE MIXED LAYER AND DEEP OCEAN

- Schematic of model (Hoffert, Callegari, Hseih 1980)

- Timescales
  + Mixed layer heat exchange, 10 years (heat capacity)
  + Diffusion time 5000 years
  + Upwelling time 1000 years
COMPARISON OF STEADY STATE SOLUTIONS
UPWELLING DIFFUSION (UD) AND PURELY DIFFUSIVE (PD) MODELS

- Current climate, average surface temperature 15°C

- Models with 3°C surface warming
COMPARISON OF STEADY STATE SOLUTIONS
UPWELLING DIFFUSION (UD) AND PURELY DIFFUSIVE (PD) MODELS

- Current climate, average surface temperature 15°C

- Temperature change vs depth for 3°C surface warming
  + PD models require maximum heating
TRANSIENT EVOLUTION, COMPARISON WITH HANSEN

- Addition of upwelling decreases response time

- Recalibrate Diffusion coefficient using UD model

- Lag time decades
HISTORICAL AND FORECAST CO2 INCREASE 1850-2100

- CO2 record and forecasts from Weubbles (SOA Report)

- Corresponding change in equilibrium temperature

\[ +\Delta T = \Delta T(2\times\text{CO2})\times\ln(\text{CO2 ppm}/540 \text{ ppm}) \]
TEMPERATURE CHANGE WITH UD MODEL

- Surface temperature variation
  + Lag time 30 years in 1983
  but increases with time
  (poorly defined concept)

- Profile of ocean warming (year 2100)
TEMPERATURE CHANGE FOR VARIOUS CO2 FORECASTS

- Surface temperature variation
  + (1850-1985) 0.52 C
  + 1 C warming (2007, 2018, 2033)

- Lag time decades, not hundreds of years
CONCLUSIONS FROM 1D OCEAN MODEL

- Purely diffusive models overestimate response time
  + Improper steady state solution
  + Overestimate diffusion coefficient

- Lag time poorly defined concept to express delay in warming caused by oceans

- Response delayed by decades, 30 years, not centuries

- Simple models can contribute to understanding of oceanic effects
CR PROGRAM 1986

- Present results Transient Climate models
  + Ocean modelling conference Woods Hole late 1985
  + Manuscript in preparation

- Continuing development of Coupled atmosphere ocean EBM

- Monitor research and reports (SOA)
## CO2 GREENHOUSE BUDGET, PROPOSAL

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