Where in the World is Ocean Carbon Data?

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Abstract

Efforts to validate, monitor, and verify ocean-based carbon dioxide removal (CDR) will require a rich understanding of the ocean carbon system. Ocean observations anchor this understanding, but we know that some ongoing observations are precariously funded, that data products like SOCAT rely on volunteer effort, that regions essential to our understanding of the ocean carbon system are under-observed, and that some observation data is under-used. This presentation will be a progress report on our efforts to identify and document ocean carbon data flows using systematic literature reviews and examination of ocean data repositories. These data flows are essential to identify what data the scientific community already relies on; what data and observation gaps exist; and what data might be under-used. We examined variables of interest based on GOOS EOVs, including Oxygen (and supporting variables), Stable Carbon Isotopes (and supporting variables), Ocean Surface Stress (and supporting variables), and Ocean Surface Heat Flux (and supporting variables). Commonly observed supporting variables include O2, alkalinity, pCO2, pH, temperature, and near-surface air temperature, humidity, pressure, and wind speed.

Plain-language Summary

Efforts to validate, monitor, and verify ocean-based carbon dioxide removal (CDR) will require a rich understanding of the ocean carbon system. Ocean observations anchor this understanding, but we know that some ongoing observations are precariously funded, that data products like SOCAT rely on volunteer effort, that regions essential to our understanding of the ocean carbon system are under-observed, and that some observation data is under-used. We tried to identify what ocean observation data already exists, and how it is being used internationally. This will help us identify where we need more data in order to build a complete picture of the ocean carbon system.

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We can all agree that ocean-based CDR needs good ocean observation data, yes?



What data does the scientific community rely on?

• Step 1: What publications use observation data relevant to the carbon cycle from the North Atlantic Ocean (past 10 years)?

Advanced search

Basic Search Advanced

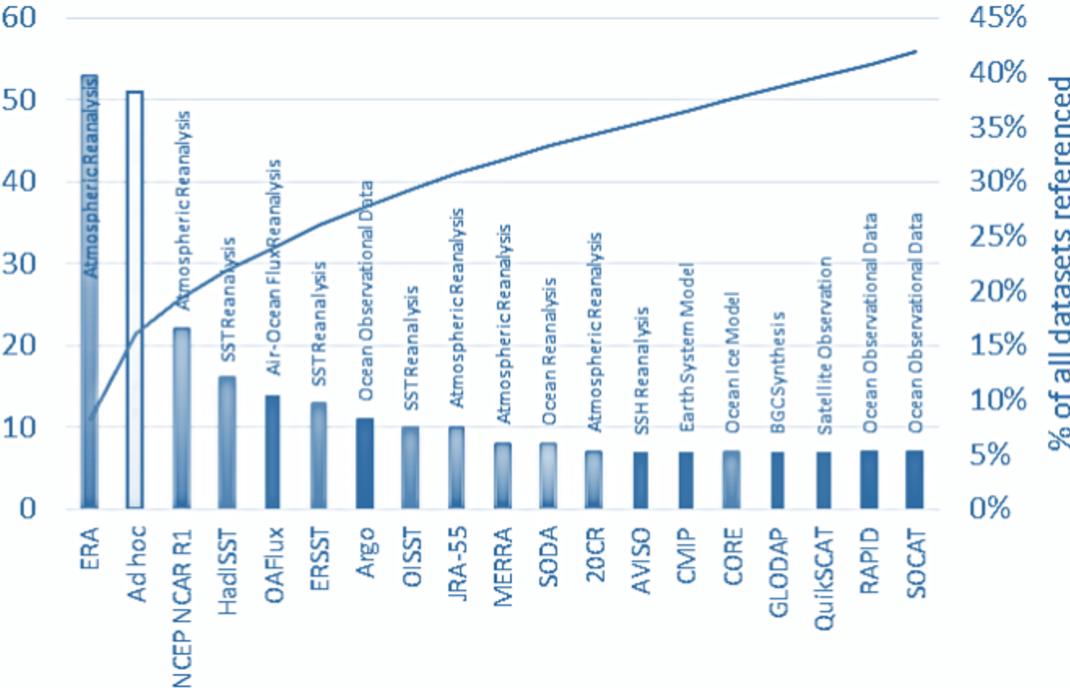
Search tips ?

Enter query string

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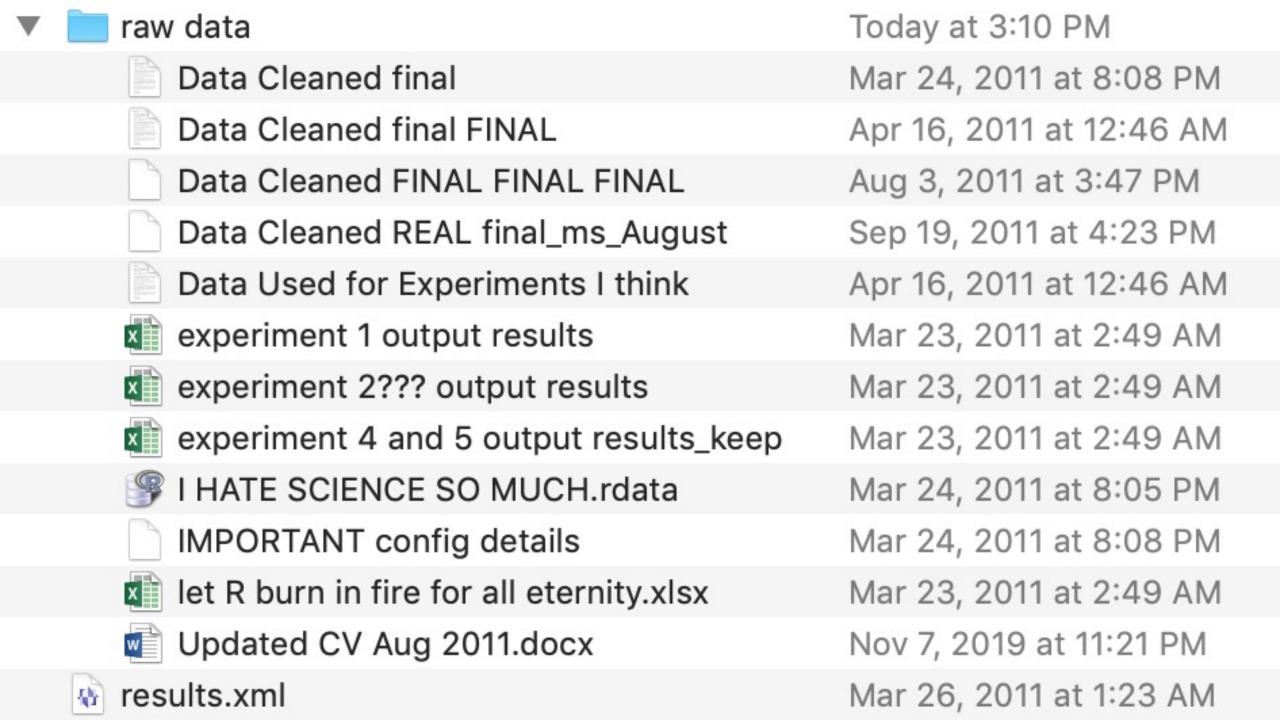


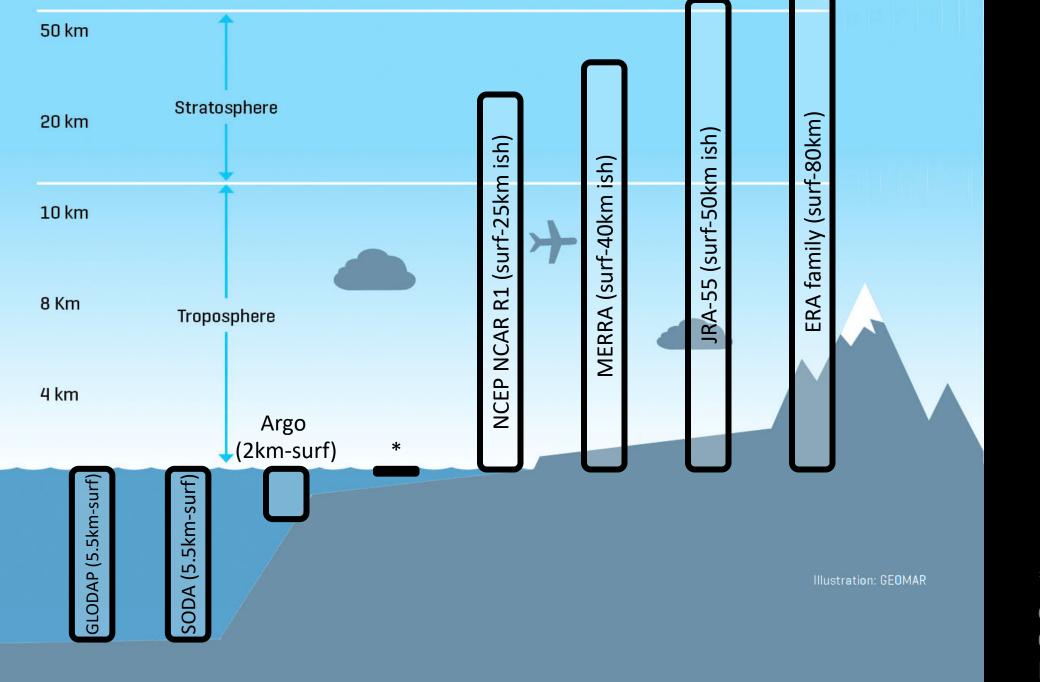
- 281 unique identifiable datasets.
 - Not counting data used only for that paper



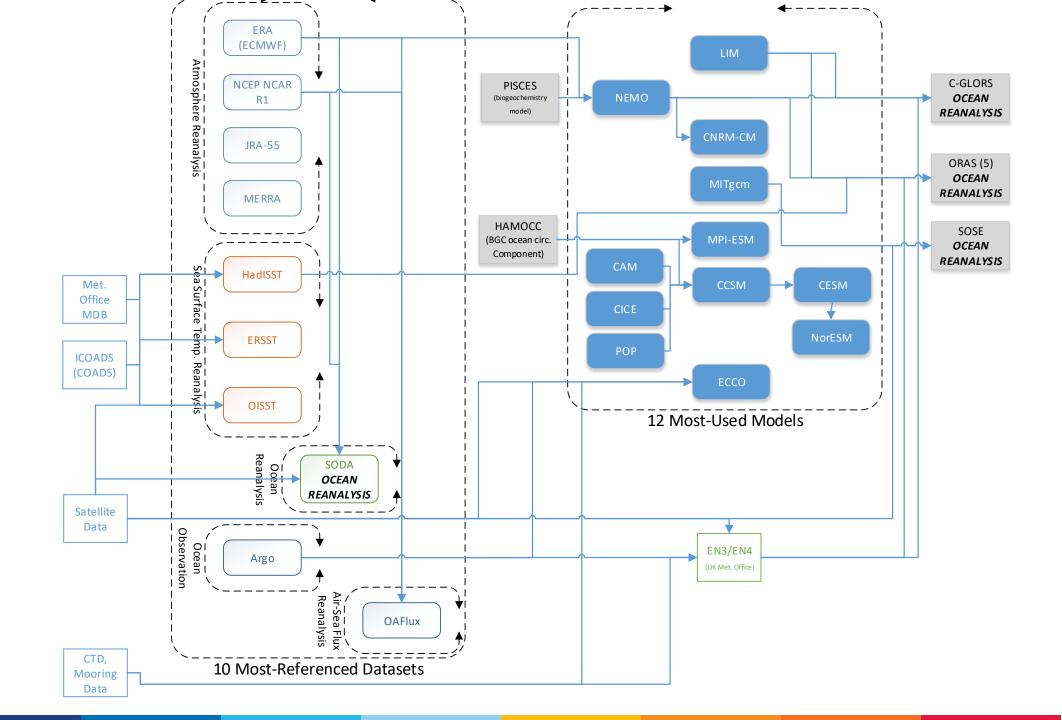
of instances dataset is referenced

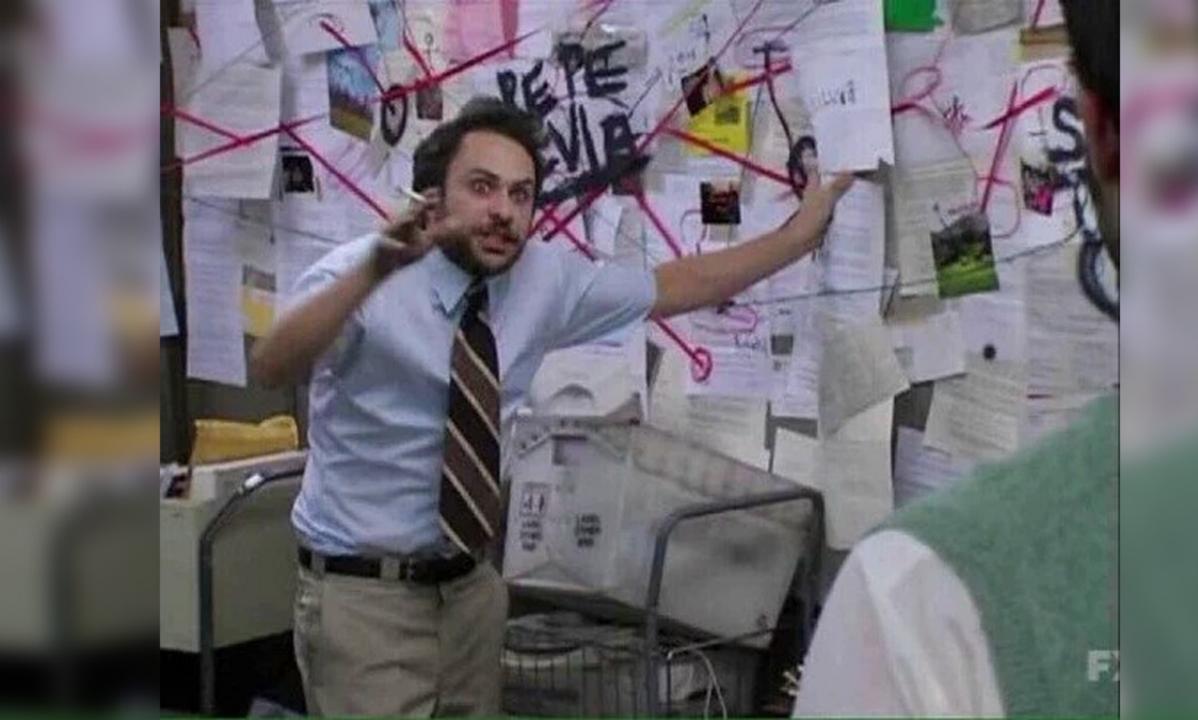
% of all datasets referenced





* Sea surface datasets include OAFlux, HadISST, ERSST, OISST, SOCAT







- Now looking for data "in the wild" (in a repository but not a paper)
- Talking to people with more expertise about the "why"
 - Would you like to be one of them?

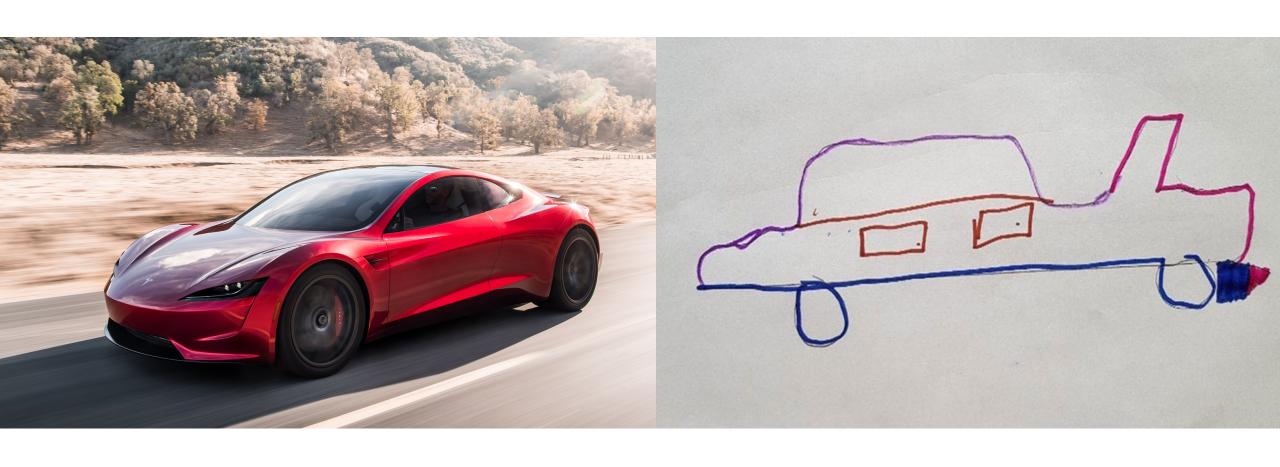
But I have some early thoughts...

• ... on the implications for ocean data systems in the context of ocean CDR.





Standards: don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good.







Data Trusts

For when open data just isn't possible.





North Atlantic Carbon Observatory

Transform Climate Action transformclimateaction.ca



Thank you!







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