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**Optimal estimation of  
the surface fluxes of  
methyl chloride**

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# Optimal estimation of the surface fluxes of methyl chloride using a 3-D global chemical transport model

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Received: 28 September 2009 – Accepted: 29 November 2009 –

Published: 23 December 2009

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Published by Copernicus Publications on behalf of the European Geosciences Union.

## Abstract

Methyl chloride ( $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$ ) is a chlorine-containing trace gas in the atmosphere contributing significantly to stratospheric ozone depletion. Large uncertainties in estimates of its source and sink magnitudes and temporal and spatial variations currently exist.

5 GEIA inventories and other bottom-up emission estimates are used to construct a priori maps of the surface fluxes of  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$ . The Model of Atmospheric Transport and Chemistry (MATCH), driven by NCEP interannually varying meteorological data, is then used to simulate  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$  mole fractions and quantify the time series of sensitivities of the mole fractions at each measurement site to the surface fluxes of various  
10 regional and global sources and sinks. We then implement the Kalman filter (with the unit pulse response method) to estimate the surface fluxes on regional/global scales with monthly resolution from January 2000 to December 2004. High frequency observations from the AGAGE, SOGE, NIES, and NOAA/ESRL HATS in situ networks and low frequency observations from the NOAA/ESRL HATS flask network are used to  
15 constrain the source and sink magnitudes. The inversion results indicate global total emissions around  $4100 \pm 470 \text{ Gg yr}^{-1}$  with very large emissions of  $2200 \pm 390 \text{ Gg yr}^{-1}$  from tropical plants, which turn out to be the largest single source in the  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$  budget. Relative to their a priori annual estimates, the inversion increases global annual fungal and tropical emissions, and reduces the global oceanic source. The inversion implies  
20 greater seasonal and interannual oscillations of the natural sources and sink of  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$  compared to the a priori. The inversion also reflects the strong effects of the 2002/2003 globally widespread heat waves and droughts on global emissions from tropical plants, biomass burning and salt marshes, and on the soil sink.

## 1 Introduction

25 Methyl chloride ( $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$ ) is the largest, natural source of stratospheric chlorine, contributing 15–16% of current stratospheric chlorine content (Montzka and Fraser, 2003;

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Clerbaux and Cunnold, 2006). Methyl chloride is expected to play an increasing role in determining future levels of stratospheric chlorine as the impact of the anthropogenic Montreal Protocol species declines. The mean mole fraction of CH<sub>3</sub>Cl in the remote troposphere is typically 550 ppt (Yokouchi et al., 2000, 2002; Cox et al., 2003; Simmonds et al., 2004). Measurements also show latitudinal variations in CH<sub>3</sub>Cl concentrations, specifically with higher values in the tropics than at the poles (570 vs. 500 ppt, Yokouchi et al., 2000), presumably caused by large tropical terrestrial sources. Khalil and Rasmussen (1999) reported a northern tropical seasonal cycle with an amplitude of about 10%, while Cox et al. (2003) found a clear but much smaller annual cycle at Cape Grim with an amplitude of 25 ppt (5%), explicable mainly in terms of seasonal changes in the abundance of the hydroxyl (OH) radical, which is the dominant sink of CH<sub>3</sub>Cl in the troposphere.

Mole fractions for methyl chloride in firn air from Antarctica dating back to the early 1900s were only 5–10% lower than the present day (Butler et al., 1999), which is consistent with predominantly natural emissions. Trudinger et al. (2004) also reconstructed CH<sub>3</sub>Cl levels back to before 1940 from firn data, and associated its evolution mostly with the biomass burning source. Recent research has focused on identifying and quantifying CH<sub>3</sub>Cl natural sources and sinks (e.g., Cox et al., 2004), including newly identified sources from tropical plants (Yokouchi et al., 2002). Keppler et al. (2005) used stable carbon isotope ratios to study and quantify CH<sub>3</sub>Cl formation from abiotic methylation of chloride, which exists ubiquitously in terrestrial ecosystems and results in more CH<sub>3</sub>Cl emissions from tropical plants during hot periods (Hamilton et al., 2003). The anthropogenic sources (coal combustion, incineration, and industrial processes) were quantified in the Reactive Chlorine Emissions Inventory (RCEI) (McCulloch et al., 1999) and sum to 160 Gg yr<sup>-1</sup> (1 Gg=10<sup>9</sup> g), which is only about 5.4% of the total estimated sources. The oceans were once thought to be the dominant source of CH<sub>3</sub>Cl until the net flux was revised sharply downward in 1996 by Moore et al. (1996). Current oceanic flux estimates account for 20% of the total. Yokouchi et al. (2002) later suggested that CH<sub>3</sub>Cl emissions from tropical plants might be the largest known source. They

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determined that a specific group of ferns and trees in Southeast Asia alone produce  $910 \text{ Gg yr}^{-1}$ , using the average emission rate from three species of Dipterocarpaceae and the leaf biomass reported for mature tropical lowland rainforest. Considering the large variability of  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$  emissions among species of a family and among individual plants of a species, this estimate is expected to have a very large uncertainty. Moreover, only contributions from Dipterocarpaceae in Southeast Asia were listed in this inventory. Little is known about  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$  emissions from Dipterocarpaceae elsewhere in the world, as well as from other  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$ -emitting tropical plants. This global vegetation source certainly warrants additional investigation which is one of the main goals of this paper.

Reaction with the OH radical is the dominant pathway for removal of  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$  from the atmosphere, resulting in an OH-removal “process” lifetime of 1.5 years (a “process” lifetime is defined as the total atmospheric content divided by the rate of removal by that process) (Montzka and Fraser, 2003). Other minor loss processes include reaction with chlorine radicals in the marine boundary layer (13-year lifetime), microbially mediated uptake by soils (28-year lifetime), and uptake in polar oceans (70-year lifetime). These processes in total result in an atmospheric lifetime of 1.3 years (Montzka and Fraser, 2003), while the latest scientific assessment on ozone depletion stated that the atmospheric lifetime of  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$  is 1.0 years based on a revised loss (Clerbaux and Cunnold, 2006). The current best estimate of the magnitude of the identified  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$  sources is about 25% less than the best estimate of the magnitude of the better quantified known sinks (Cox et al., 2003). This suggests that there are still missing and/or underestimated  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$  sources. Moreover, due to the complicated natural behavior of the known sources, significant uncertainties exist in their magnitudes and in their variations due to seasonal and climatic changes. Using a 3-D global model of atmospheric  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$ , Lee-Taylor et al. (2001) were able to reproduce the observations of Khalil and Rasmussen (1999) by using a massive tropical terrestrial source of  $2500 \text{ Gg yr}^{-1}$  and reducing previous estimates of emissions from Southeast Asia.

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In this work we use the inverse modeling approach to optimally deduce the magnitudes and regional and seasonal distributions of the surface fluxes of CH<sub>3</sub>Cl by adjusting the fluxes in a 3-D chemical transport model to fit the CH<sub>3</sub>Cl observations using a Kalman filter. The unknown variables to be estimated are the aseasonal and seasonal surface fluxes from several different regions and processes between 2000 and 2004 at monthly time resolution. Descriptions of the observations, the model, the inversion methodology, inversion results and the conclusions are presented in Sects. 2–6 below.

## 2 Observations

The accuracy of the inverse modeling is highly dependent on the availability, accuracy and precision of the measurements. We use both high frequency in situ and low frequency flask observations of the mole fractions of CH<sub>3</sub>Cl. These two sampling strategies represent two complementary approaches to global sampling: high sampling frequency (in situ) and high spatial coverage (flasks). High frequency in situ CH<sub>3</sub>Cl measurements are available from: the Advanced Global Atmospheric Gases Experiment (AGAGE) (Prinn et al., 2000); the System for Observation of Halogenated Greenhouse Gases in Europe (SOGE) and the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) in Japan, which are both affiliated with AGAGE; and the Halocarbons and other Atmospheric Trace Species (HATS) In Situ Monitoring Program of NOAA/ESRL (<http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/hats/insitu/cats/>). Low frequency observations are available from the HATS Flask Sampling Program at NOAA/ESRL (Montzka et al., 1999, 2000) and from NIES. Figure 1 shows the locations of the observing sites used in this study, and additional information is listed in Table 1. We used observations from January 2000 to November 2005 from these networks (where available) in order to estimate the monthly surface fluxes during 2000–2004. In this time frame, AGAGE data were from two instruments, the ADS GC-MS (gas chromatograph-mass spectrometer with an adsorption-desorption system) for 2000–2004 and the Medusa

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GC-MS for 2005; the two instruments were intercompared (and agreed well), and used the same calibration scale.

The networks listed in Table 1 are using different calibration scales. The AGAGE and SOGE networks use the AGAGE Scripps Institution of Oceanography 2005 (SIO-05) CH<sub>3</sub>Cl scale. Regular comparisons of data between AGAGE/SOGE and the other networks provide estimates of the ratios of the scales used by the other laboratories to the SIO-05 scale (Krummel et al., 2009) as shown in Table 1. While an objective assessment of the errors in these inter-network ratios is not available, we have tested the sensitivity of our inversions to errors in these ratios by repeating the inversions assuming that the percentage differences in mole fractions between AGAGE and each of the other networks are a significant factor of 1.5 (i.e., 50%) larger than the Krummel et al. (2009) values (see Table 1 for adjusted ratios and Sect. 5.3 for discussion of the results of the inversions using these adjusted ratios). We note that the actual differences between the networks are only 0.6 to 2% for CH<sub>3</sub>Cl.

Our inverse methods use monthly mean mixing ratios ( $\chi$ ) and estimates of their uncertainties ( $\sigma$ ). The  $\chi$  values of the high frequency data are directly computed from the measurements made in each month at each site. For the low frequency flask measurements, only a few (weekly or bi-weekly) measurements are taken in each month. Although  $\chi$  values are also calculated from the available sparse flask data, larger uncertainties are assigned to these flask means as described below. The variances ( $\sigma^2$ ) of the monthly means for both in situ and flask data are estimated as the sum of the variances from: (1) the measurement error; (2) the error associated with the frequency of sampling used to define the monthly mean; and (3) the “mismatch” or “representation” error associated with equating the local point observations with the model grid volume average (Chen and Prinn, 2006). This assumes reasonably that these errors are uncorrelated. The measurement error includes those associated with instrumental, sampling, and inter-calibration imperfections. The instrumental precision varies slightly between different laboratories. The sampling frequency error accounts for how well the observational monthly mean is defined given a finite number of measurements;

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the flask data have larger errors of this kind due to their low sampling frequency. The “mismatch” or “representation” error may either be considered a model error due to the failure of the model to represent a point measurement, or an observational error due to the failure of a point measurement to represent the model volume average. For implementation purposes in the Kalman filter we choose to put the uncertainty associated with mismatch into the total observational errors. The standard deviations of the high frequency in situ measurements provide reasonable estimates of the mismatch errors, because during each month the site samples a substantial fraction of the air mass from the large volume of air in the grid cell box containing that site (Prinn, 2000). For the flask measurements, since only weekly or bi-weekly air masses are sampled, we estimate the mismatch error at each site using the standard deviation of the modeled mole fractions ( $y$ ) at the nine grid cells surrounding and containing the site (Chen and Prinn, 2006). Note that this standard deviation is therefore dependent on the site location and time. We use the 3-D model output to estimate the sampling frequency and mismatch errors following the approach of Chen and Prinn (2006).

There is generally a lower uncertainty associated with the high frequency measurements due to their capability to better capture sub-monthly temporal variations and thus better define monthly means. Although the monthly means from flask measurements therefore have larger assigned errors than those from the high frequency measurements (i.e., they have larger error covariance matrices,  $\mathbf{R}$ ; see Appendix A), the greater proximity of some of the flask sites to some of the emitting regions can make them more sensitive to those regions (i.e., they can have larger sensitivity matrices,  $\mathbf{H}$ ; see Sect. 4) which can help offset the effects of larger  $\mathbf{R}$  in the calculation of the Kalman gain matrix,  $\mathbf{K}$ , that determines the effectiveness of each measurement in improving the emission estimates (see Appendix A).

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### 3 The MATCH model

The Model of Atmospheric Transport and Chemistry (MATCH) is an off-line transport model developed at NCAR (Rasch et al., 1997; Mahowald, 1996; Mahowald et al., 1997a, b). In this work, MATCH is driven by NCEP reanalysis meteorology. The specific meteorological data used for the model are temperature, surface pressure, meridional and zonal wind speeds and surface wind stresses, and the surface latent and sensible heat fluxes at regular (typically 6-h) intervals. All other meteorological parameters (e.g., vertical velocities, cloud fractions, and convective mass fluxes) are computed on-line based on these meteorological data. The horizontal resolution of the analysis data is chosen to be T42, or approximately  $2.8^{\circ} \times 2.8^{\circ}$  ( $64 \times 128$  grid points). Due to the very large number of simulations needed to compute model sensitivities to monthly emission pulses in the inverse modeling, T42 is a reasonable compromise between numerical efficiency and accuracy. In the vertical, MATCH uses a hybrid coordinate, which consists of a terrain-following sigma coordinate combined with (optional) constant pressure level values. The NCEP data are on 28 sigma levels. The model time step is 40 min for the T42 resolution. The archived data are linearly interpolated between the neighboring time intervals to obtain the values for each time step.

Although MATCH can be extended to simulate the complicated photochemistry in the atmosphere (e.g., Lawrence et al., 1999; von Kuhlmann et al., 2003; Lucas and Prinn, 2005), only simple chemistry using offline OH concentrations needs to be incorporated into the basic MATCH model for the simulation of  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$  because it is not a major sink for OH or source of  $\text{HO}_x$ . The predominant removal process in the troposphere for  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$  is oxidation by the OH radical, which is the primary oxidizing chemical in the atmosphere. The relevant reaction is (Sander et al., 2003):



The temperature-dependent rate constant for reaction with the OH radical is given in the Arrhenius form:

$$k(T) = A \exp[(-E/R)(1/T)] \quad (\text{R2})$$

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where  $A$  is the pre-exponential factor ( $\text{cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ),  $E$  ( $\text{J mol}^{-1}$ ) is the activation energy,  $R$  is the universal gas constant, and  $T$  (K) is the temperature. In the model simulation,  $k(T)$  is updated each time step based on the ambient conditions (temperature, pressure, etc.) in the grid cells.

The offline OH fields chosen are from the output generated using the version of MATCH-MPIC described in Lawrence et al. (1999), Jöckel (2000), and von Kuhlmann et al. (2003). This MATCH version incorporates a full photochemical component, representing the major known sources (e.g., industry, biomass burning), transformations (chemical reactions and photolysis), and sinks (e.g., wet and dry deposition) for studies of ozone and hydrocarbons in the troposphere. Chen and Prinn (2005, 2006) used the monthly mean MATCH-MPIC 3-D OH fields at T63 resolution adjusted to fit global AGAGE methyl chloroform ( $\text{CH}_3\text{CCl}_3$ ) observations (we reduced these T63 fields to T42 for this work). Finally, a diurnal cycle linked to the solar zenith angle is further applied to the daily average OH concentrations interpolated by MATCH from the monthly mean OH concentrations. This ensures zero nighttime values while maintaining the daily average OH concentrations (Chen and Prinn, 2005, 2006). Since the annual and global average OH did not change much (within 3%) over the period of 2000–2004 (Fig. 2, Prinn et al., 2005), we used annually repeating OH fields. This allows us to assess the effect of the interannually varying transport (captured in the NCEP data) on the concentrations of  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$ .

In the stratosphere, methyl chloride is oxidized by the hydroxyl radical and also photodissociates. However, the stratospheric sink is small for  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$  (7.6% of the total atmospheric loss, Cox et al., 2003), and most of the stratospheric loss arises from OH attack (Seinfeld and Pandis, 1998), which is accounted for by the above 3-D OH fields in MATCH.

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## 4 Methodology for inverse modeling

The inversion methodology used follows the approach of Chen and Prinn (2006) and the detailed methodology is described in Appendix A. The method is based on the Kalman filter (Prinn, 2000), which is adapted to estimate time-varying fluxes at monthly resolution for transient sources and invariant aseasonal fluxes for more steady sources. For this purpose, it is adequate to use monthly mean observations to constrain the monthly surface fluxes. What we actually estimate are the magnitudes of the regional or global fluxes by location and/or process, assuming we know their spatial distributions within each region (referred to here as the reference or a priori maps). Specifically, the state vector  $x$  in the Kalman filter contains variables representing the regional or global magnitudes of the surface fluxes of  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$  for the time period of 2000–2004 with month-to-month variations allowed for seasonal processes. In the adaptation of the Kalman filter, the full state vector including the elements for the surface fluxes of the total 60 months is truncated when using the observations step by step (see the appendix).

We use the MATCH model to compute the sensitivities (the matrix  $\mathbf{H}$ ) of the mole fractions at different sites to the state vector elements by finite differences. A straightforward approach for computing  $\mathbf{H}$  for an  $n$ -dimensional state vector  $x$  is to do a single model run with  $n+1$  chemically identical (but separately labeled) chemical species. One of the chemical species uses a reference (e.g., a priori best estimate) of  $x$ , while the other  $n$  species use values of  $x$  with one element slightly perturbed from its reference value.

We use different procedures to generate the aseasonal and seasonal sensitivities. For aseasonal fluxes we perturb a single process/region above the reference level by 1% and run it over the entire data period. The sensitivities are then determined by subtracting the perturbation and reference runs, and then dividing by the total emission perturbation to produce a time series of sensitivities of the mole fractions in terms of parts per trillion (ppt)/(Gg yr<sup>-1</sup>). The aseasonal sensitivity elements thus contain the

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influence of all previous months from the very beginning of the period. For seasonal fluxes we calculate the sensitivities to each single month by perturbing a single process/region above the reference level for only that month and then tracking the tracer within the model after that month for a subsequent period over which the emission pulse decays due to atmospheric dispersion and chemical loss. We call this the “unit pulse method.” For the period of 2000–2004 we have performed 5 years  $\times$  12 months = 60 monthly pulse runs, each being a separate multi-tracer run starting at a different month. The global mixing (dispersion) time in the model is about one year (Chen and Prinn, 2006). Therefore we run each of the 60 monthly pulses for 12 months instead for the full 2000–2004 period with the pulse affecting only the global average after 12 months.

Figure 2 shows examples of calculated sensitivities for individual sites to an individual monthly pulse as functions of time, specifically a January 2000 uniform emission pulse of  $10 \text{ Ggy}^{-1}$  from the tropical plants in Africa. Results are shown at: (a) the model time resolution and (b) the monthly time resolution of the deduced fluxes. The sensitivities are largest in the first 3–4 months and then decrease because of dispersion due to atmospheric mixing. Responses at different sites show different behaviors because of their different location relative to the source region and due to the global wind patterns. Ragged Point, Barbados and Cape Matatula, American Samoa are located in the tropical east wind region and are downwind of Africa, and therefore respond rapidly to the plant emission pulse with sharp peaks. Ragged Point is closer to Africa than Cape Matatula, and shows the more rapid response. The other three sites are either further away from the source region and/or not in the same wind regime as the source region. Therefore their responses are less sharp and relatively slow. All the responses include continuous decreases due to reaction of  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$  with the OH radical. Note that the responses at different sites tend to converge to a single value after one year which is consistent with an emission pulse into a well-mixed atmosphere. These monthly seasonal sensitivities, along with the monthly aseasonal sensitivities, are used to construct the time dependent sensitivity matrix **H** used in the inversions.

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## 5 Inversion for methyl chloride

In this section we present inversion results for CH<sub>3</sub>Cl surface fluxes using the methodology described in Sect. 4. The optimized surface fluxes include seasonal, annual, and interannual values for specific emitting and depleting processes and regions. The inversion results are presented and discussed in sequence, with a particular emphasis on possible emission and depletion anomalies associated with the 2002/2003 globally wide-spread heat and drought which was partly caused by the minor 2002/2003 El Niño event. We also test the sensitivity of the inversion results to different combinations of observations.

### 5.1 Definition of the state vector and its a priori flux maps

In the inverse modeling methodology, a priori flux distributions are needed as the initial guesses for the unknown surface fluxes. It is important to know the spatial distributions of the reference regional or process-based fluxes as accurately as possible, but not their magnitudes or time dependence since these will be estimated in the inversion.

Considerable effort has been put into estimating anthropogenic and natural emissions of reactive chlorine to the atmosphere (e.g., Graedel and Keene, 1995, 1996; Singh, 1995; Khalil, 1999; Keene et al., 1999). The Reactive Chlorine Emissions Inventory (RCEI) carried out under the auspices of the International Global Atmospheric Chemistry Program's Global Emissions Inventory Activity (GEIA) (Graedel and Keene, 1999) is particularly relevant. It provides high resolution (1°×1° latitude, longitude) annual emission fields for major reactive tropospheric Cl species integrated across source types (terrestrial biogenic and oceanic emissions, biomass burning, industrial emissions, fossil-fuel combustion, incineration, etc.) for the reference year 1990. Lee-Taylor et al. (2001) modified and extended these estimates in their 3-D modeling of CH<sub>3</sub>Cl by parameterizing month by month seasonal variations. These emissions represent our best initial guess of CH<sub>3</sub>Cl fluxes before optimization of individual regions or processes.

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As suggested by Yokouchi et al. (2002), CH<sub>3</sub>Cl emissions from tropical plants might be the largest known source, but they are not however included in this GEIA inventory. We assumed in this study that tropical plants have a significant role in CH<sub>3</sub>Cl production and incorporated this process into the inversion to estimate its magnitude and seasonality on regional scales. For our reference emissions, we attribute the imbalance of the global CH<sub>3</sub>Cl budget between known sources and sinks (Cox et al., 2003) to this tropical plant process and spatially distribute the resulting global emission estimate proportionally to published net primary productivity (NPP) estimates of tropical plant ecosystems in each MATCH grid square (McGuire et al., 2001). The measurements of Yokouchi et al. (2000) show close correlations between local enhancements of CH<sub>3</sub>Cl and a biogenic compound  $\alpha$ -pinene, emitted by tropical plants. Foliar emissions of  $\alpha$ -pinene have been argued to be proportional to foliar density, temperature, and available light (Guenther et al., 1995). Therefore it is reasonable to assume that CH<sub>3</sub>Cl fluxes are also proportional to the foliar density of the emitting plants. Guenther et al. (1995) further argue that foliar density is proportional to the NPP of the relevant species. The monthly tropical plant NPP database (0.5° × 0.5° latitude, longitude) estimated by McGuire et al. (2001) represents the net production of organic matter in tropical ecosystems and accounts for the influences of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, and seasonal and climatic changes in temperature, precipitation, and available light.

These flux maps have been interpolated to the MATCH T42 grid system (2.8° × 2.8°) while conserving their global magnitudes by using the SCRIP (Spherical Coordinate Remapping and Interpolation Package) software. Figures 3 and 4 show the annually averaged reference spatial distributions of the surface fluxes from tropical plants, oceans, biomass burning, anthropogenic activities, and other processes. Tropical emissions are divided into three regions, America, Asia, and Africa, for the inversions, denoted as Trop AM, Trop AS, and Trop AF, respectively. Emissions from biomass burning are further divided into Western (North and South America) and Eastern (Africa, Europe, Asia, and Australia) regions, denoted as BB West and BB East, respectively. Oceans are a source at lower latitudes and a sink at higher latitudes for CH<sub>3</sub>Cl and

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correction factors for its reference map are only estimated globally. We also estimate correction factors for the maps of global emissions from salt marshes and the global uptake rates by soils (soil sink). Emissions from freshwater wetlands are very small and are kept at their reference values with assumed seasonal changes that are not estimated here. Seasonal variations of the relatively small fungal emissions are not considered here (as in Lee-Taylor et al., 2001) and its global emissions are solved only as an aseasonal flux. The small annual industry/incineration flux is not estimated here because of its spatial correlation with the fungal emissions. The corresponding state vector at time k can be expressed as:

$$\mathbf{x}_k = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_k^{\text{as}} \\ \mathbf{x}_k^{\text{s}} \\ \mathbf{x}_{k-1}^{\text{s}} \\ \dots \\ \mathbf{x}_{k-T}^{\text{s}} \end{bmatrix} \quad (1)$$

where

$$\mathbf{x}_k^{\text{as}} = \mathbf{x}_k^{\text{fungal}}, \text{ and } \mathbf{x}_k^{\text{s}} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_k^{\text{tropam}} \\ \mathbf{x}_k^{\text{tropas}} \\ \mathbf{x}_k^{\text{tropaf}} \\ \mathbf{x}_k^{\text{bbeat}} \\ \mathbf{x}_k^{\text{bbwest}} \\ \mathbf{x}_k^{\text{ocean}} \\ \mathbf{x}_k^{\text{salt}} \\ \mathbf{x}_k^{\text{soil}} \end{bmatrix} \quad (2)$$

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We use data and calculate estimates for the period from 2000 to 2004 (total of 60 months). The global magnitudes of the reference emissions and their mode of incorporation in the state vector are listed in Table 2. The a priori errors for the state vector elements are  $\pm 30\%$  to  $\pm 50\%$  of their reference values. If both high frequency in situ data and low frequency flask data are available for the same site, the high frequency measurements were chosen as they capture intra-monthly temporal variations much better.

## 5.2 State vector evolution

The equations used in the Kalman filter inversions are given in Appendix A (Prinn, 2000). There are hundreds of monthly flux elements in the state vector, but to illustrate the inversion process we focus here on a subvector representing a single month of fluxes (specifically September 2002). Figure 5 shows the evolution of this subvector, or equivalently how the estimates for the fluxes in a given single month change with each new month of data. As mentioned before, only 12 months of subsequent observations are used to constrain the fluxes of a given single month. The adjustments to the reference value (unity) are shown, so the initial value for each seasonal process is therefore zero with an a priori (blue) error bar of either  $\pm 30\%$  or  $\pm 50\%$ . With each new month of observations, the adjustments change and the error decreases. The amount of the error decrease depends on the errors in the data ( $\mathbf{R}$  matrix, see Appendix A) and on the sensitivities of each observing station to the emissions ( $\mathbf{H}$  matrix, see Appendix A) for each emission region or process. Note that the changes and the error reductions for a given process are greatest in the first few months, because the strongest sensitivities of the observations to the emission pulse occur in that time frame. In the final few months, the estimated flux values and uncertainties stabilize even with the addition of new data. The optimized inversion results for September 2002 fluxes are the final values in Fig. 5. These final (a posteriori) values represent the adjustments to the reference (a priori) fluxes that minimize the estimation error variances. As noted earlier, because only 12 months of data have been used, these final values are phased out

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of the inversion and stored when a new subvector (in this case representing September 2003 fluxes) enters the inversion process. The optimized estimates are then tested using a forward run of MATCH which is compared to the observations. These tests will be presented after the inversion results.

### 5.3 Inversion results

Here we present the results with all of the available observations used in the Kalman filter (i.e., all AGAGE, NOAA, NIES and SOGE in situ data plus all NOAA and NIES flask data at sites where there are no in situ measurements). We have also tested the sensitivities of the inversion results to the chosen data by using several different subsets of the observations from the various networks (see Sect. 5.3.2).

Figure 6 shows the optimized monthly fluxes (red lines) from January 2000 to December 2004, compared to the annually repeating reference values (blue lines). There are significant deviations from the reference case for some emission regions and processes. Overall there are larger seasonal oscillations than seen in the reference for almost all of the seasonal processes.

The optimized fluxes also show significant interannual variability, of which the flux anomalies for the period of 2002/2003 for several processes are noteworthy. There were unusual 2002/2003 decreases in  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$  emissions from American tropical ecosystems, unusually high emissions from the eastern biomass burning source in the late spring of 2003, unusually large emissions from the western biomass burning source in late 2002, an anomalous emission rise from global salt marshes in the summer of 2002 through early 2003, and an unusual reduction in the global soil uptake in the northern summer of 2003.

These anomalies are likely attributable to the significant 2002/2003 globally widespread heat waves and droughts which were partly associated with the 2002/2003 El Niño that lasted from September 2002 to August 2003. Recent studies show a consistent link between El Niño and drought in the tropics (Lyon, 2004) and mid-latitudes

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(Zeng et al., 2005). While the El Niño during this time was moderate compared to the extreme 1997/1998 El Niño, the period of 2002/2003 appears unusual because global land precipitation was very low, leading to very dry and hot conditions (Knorr et al., 2007).

5 Ciais et al. (2005) deduced that there was a reduction in net plant primary productivity apparently caused by the heat and drought in 2003. This reduction in primary productivity is the probable cause of the reductions in tropical plant emissions because of the correlation of primary productivity and foliar emission as noted earlier (Guenther et al., 1995).

10 The extremely dry and hot season might also lead to increased insect damage to vegetation and increased susceptibility of the boreal biome to fire (Kobak et al., 1996; Ayres and Lombardero, 2000). Using measurements of burned forest area in Central Siberia ( $\approx 79\text{--}119^\circ\text{ E}$ ,  $51\text{--}78^\circ\text{ N}$ ), Balzter et al. (2005) showed that 2002 and 2003 were the two years with the largest fire extent in Central Siberia since 1996. This is the region within our Biomass Burning (BB) East map. These enhanced fire events are expected to increase  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$  emissions. This is supported by the study of Simmonds et al. (2005), which shows that Siberian fires caused a growth rate anomaly in Mace Head baseline  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$  values in 2002–2003.

20 Methyl chloride is produced in coastal salt-marsh regions by plants or microflora intimately associated with the plants, with greater emissions in the growing season than in the non-growing season (Rhew et al., 2000). For these regions, temperature plays a more dominant role than the moisture in plant growth, because tidal sea water always provides the required soil moisture for plants to grow. Therefore the anomalous hot summers might have led to increased salt-marsh plant growth in the summer of 2002, thus increasing the production of  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$ .

25 Methyl chloride is degraded in soils by microbial activity. Lee-Taylor et al. (2001) parameterized soil uptake of  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$  by assuming: (1) proportionality to a methyl bromide ( $\text{CH}_3\text{Br}$ ) soil sink extrapolation (Lee-Taylor et al., 1998); (2) observations of Shorter et al. (1995); and (3) a microbial activity/soil temperature relationship (Cleveland et al.,

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1993; Holland et al., 1995) with stronger microbial activity at higher temperatures. This is why the reference global soil uptake rate is greatest in the summer of the Northern Hemisphere. However, the inversion indicates an unexpected decrease of the soil sink in the summer of 2003. The microbial activity/soil temperature relationship neglects the influence of soil moisture on microbial activity and uptake efficiency. Laboratory and field experiments by Shorter et al. (1995) did show a general relationship of decreasing  $\text{CH}_3\text{Br}$  uptake activity with decreasing moisture and organic matter content. Therefore the anomalously low global soil uptake might have been caused by the extremely widespread drought conditions in 2003.

If future climate in the Northern Hemisphere evolves toward increasingly dry and hot summers caused by a substantial increase in variability of temperature and precipitation in response to greenhouse forcing (e.g., Schär et al., 2004), this may lead to increased probability of decreased NPP (and hence decreased tropical  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$  emissions), increased emissions from biomass burning, increased salt marsh plant emissions, and decreased soil organic matter and microbial activity (and hence decreased  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$  consumption by soils).

Figure 7 shows the corresponding uncertainties of the optimized estimates by superimposing the optimized (a posteriori) uncertainties (red bars) on top of the reference (a priori) uncertainties (blue bars). Note that the inversion always reduces the initial uncertainty by amounts depending on the value of the observations in constraining each emission process or region. Uncertainties for Trop AM plants and Oceans decrease the most, those for Trop AS plants, Trop AF, and BB East have smaller reductions, while the uncertainties for BB West, Salt Marshes, and the Soil Sink have the least reductions, relative to their corresponding initial uncertainties.

As noted in Sect. 2, we also carried out inversions using adjustments to the best-estimate calibration ratios between the networks (see Table 1), in order to ascertain the sensitivity of our inversions to these ratios. The sensitivity is very small with the average root-mean-square percentage difference between the emission estimates with and without the adjustments being only 2%. This is due both to the small differences

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between the network calibrations, and to the dominant contribution of the mismatch or representation error on the overall measurement error used in the inversions.

### 5.3.1 Average seasonal results

To obtain a single representative seasonal cycle for each seasonally varying processes, we calculated the arithmetic average of each month during the five year period. The corresponding associated uncertainties are

$$\bar{\sigma}_t = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{n=1}^N \sigma_{t,n}^2}{N}} \quad (3)$$

where  $t$  represents a particular month (e.g., January) and  $n=1$  to  $N=5$ , for the five years of the inversion.

Figure 8 shows the averaged seasonal cycle results (red lines) compared to the reference ones (blue lines), and Fig. 9 shows their corresponding uncertainties. For the tropical plant emissions, the seasonal variations differ somewhat from the reference for the three regions, with the most significant differences occurring for the tropical American region which exhibits two emission peaks. One is in March (early spring) when the available sunlight is the strongest during the year at the equator, and the other is in August (summer) when the northern tropical temperature is the highest during the year. While emissions from tropical plants in Africa also have a maximum in the spring, they have a minimum in the summer. This is probably because in Africa the summer is very dry and plant growth activity (NPP) is inhibited.

Deduced biomass burning emissions retain approximately the temporal variations present in their a priori (reference) values. To study the seasonal behavior of the biomass burning source, we examine in Fig. 10 the partitioning of the deduced seasonal cycles of the Eastern and Western sources (BB East and BB West in Fig. 8) into the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. Note that the Northern spring (April and

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May) peak of the Eastern biomass burning source originates from the Northern Hemisphere, and that the Southern spring (October and November) peak originates from the Southern Hemisphere. The Western biomass burning emission peak in Southern spring (November) originates from Southern America. For both Hemispheres the biomass burning emissions are strongest during the spring season which is associated with dry conditions and strong biomass burning activity (Hao and Liu, 1994). Relative to the reference, the inversion increased the BB Eastern emission peak in the Northern Hemisphere in spring, and decreased the BB Eastern emission peak in the Southern Hemisphere in spring. The inversion also increased the BB Western emission peak in the Southern Hemisphere in spring.

Global ocean optimized emissions retain some of the seasonal variability seen in the reference, but with an overall reduction. The highest emission rates occur during the spring, resulting from the combined effects of the high monthly mean wind speeds and sea surface temperatures (Lee-Taylor et al., 2001). The peak in the global salt marsh emissions shifts from August to June. Finally, the peak in the global soil sink shifts from August to September.

### 5.3.2 Average annual results

The inversion results are finally averaged over the entire period between 2000–2004 to illustrate the global budget of  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$  (Fig. 11 and Table 3). We have aggregated the regional tropical plant and biomass burning emissions in Table 3; their individual regional fluxes are listed in Table 4. The multi-year averages for the seasonal processes are derived by averaging the results shown in Fig. 6. The inversion has directly solved for the aseasonal fungal process emissions as multi-year average values. Figure 11 and Table 3 also include the optimized emission errors, which are always less than the reference errors due to their reduction by the observations in the Kalman filter. For the seasonal processes, Eq. (3) has been extended to all months to determine the annual average errors. In Fig. 11, the aseasonal fungal uncertainty is taken from the last step of the Kalman filter. Note that the final error for the fungal emission estimate is much

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smaller than for the seasonal flux estimates. This is because the inversion solves the global fungal emission as a time-invariant variable over the entire period, thus allowing error reduction at every monthly time step. To provide a more realistic uncertainty estimate for the fungal emissions, we have multiplied the initial uncertainty estimate by the averaged percentage standard deviation reduction computed for the eight seasonal processes/regions to obtain the final error estimate shown in Table 3. The seasonal processes, in contrast, have been solved as monthly fluxes which already add greater uncertainty to their five-year averages.

The inversion results indicate large  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$  emissions of  $2197 \pm 394 \text{ Gg yr}^{-1}$  from tropical plants in the best estimate (Case 1 in Table 3), which account for  $54 \pm 10\%$  of the total emissions. The second largest emissions originate from biomass burning accounting for  $22 \pm 5\%$ . The other source strengths are relatively small, and their percentages are  $11 \pm 2\%$  for the oceans,  $4 \pm 3\%$  for the fungi,  $4 \pm 2\%$  for the salt marshes, 4% for the industry/incineration, and 1% for the wetlands. The total global emissions are  $4089 \pm 471 \text{ Gg yr}^{-1}$  in the best estimate (Case 1 in Table 3). Relative to their a priori magnitudes, the inversion increases global fungal emissions, increases emissions from tropical plants and the western biomass burning source, and slightly reduces the global oceanic source and the eastern biomass burning source. The optimized global salt marsh emissions and soil sink show little change from their a priori values.

We also tested the sensitivity of the inversion results to 7 other alternative combinations of the observations used in the Kalman filter (Table 3). In general the inversion results in the 7 alternative cases studied agree within their errors with the results from the best estimate (Case 1), in part because of the consistency of the measurements from the different networks when placed on a common calibration scale.

The forward model has been run with the final optimal emission estimates, and the predicted mole fractions have been compared with the measurements. Figure 12 shows the residuals between the optimized and observed monthly mean mole fractions, compared to the residuals between the reference and observed monthly mean mole fractions at each observing site. The optimization lowers the residuals at many

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but not all of the sites. These differences are caused by a combination of the sensitivity of each site to the emitting regions and the precision and frequency of the measurements at the site. The average root-mean-square difference between the observed mole fractions and those calculated in the model run using the reference emissions is 31 ppt and this difference is lowered to 24 ppt using the model run with optimized emissions.

## 6 Summary and discussion

In this paper we solved for monthly, annual, and interannual surface fluxes for the various source and sink categories of atmospheric methyl chloride during 2000–2004 using measurements from the AGAGE, NOAA/ESRL, SOGE, and NIES sampling networks, the MATCH 3-D global chemical transport model, and a Kalman filter with monthly pulses. The state vector in the Kalman filter includes scaling factors which multiply maps of the a priori estimates of each source and sink at monthly time resolution. The final optimally estimated sources and sink were used as input for a forward run of the MATCH model to test the inversion results.

Large  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$  emissions of  $\sim 2200 \pm 390 \text{ Gg yr}^{-1}$  are estimated for tropical plants, which confirms the suggestion of Yokouchi et al. (2002) that tropical plants are the largest global source of  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$ . Relative to the a priori estimates, the inversion estimates indicate increases in global fungal and tropical plant emissions, and reductions in global ocean emissions. Our revised budget indicates that a substantial fraction of the  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$  sources reside in the tropics (Fig. 13). Of our 20 independent observing sites, only 3 are tropical (Barbados, Samoa and Hawaii), which implies the need for more tropical (preferably in situ) observing sites in order to improve our understanding of the dominant tropical terrestrial sources.

Regarding the temporal variability of the deduced fluxes, the inversion generally implies greater seasonal oscillations of the natural sources and sink of  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$  compared to the a priori estimates. The inversion also reflects strong effects of the 2002/2003

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globally wide-spread warm episodes and droughts on the global soil sink and on the emissions from tropical plants, biomass burning, and global salt marshes. While the 2002/2003 El Niño was moderate compared to the 1997/1998 El Niño, the global land precipitation appeared unusually low during this time period. There is evidence that the unusually dry land conditions have led to a strong NPP decrease, which can be expected to have caused a decrease in emissions of  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$  from tropical plants. The anomalously dry and hot climate may also have led to increased insect damage to vegetation and they have increased the susceptibility of the biomass to large-scale burning, leading to an increase in global biomass burning emissions of  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$ . Furthermore, decreased organic matter content and microbial activity in soils associated with the dry conditions may be the reason for a reduction in global soil consumption. Possible future climate change involving increasingly dry and hot summers may lead to increased occurrence of reductions in emissions from the tropical biosphere and in uptake by soils, and increases in emissions from salt marshes and biomass burning. Therefore future  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$  levels will probably be dependent on climate change and will contribute to the future trend in stratospheric chlorine. Future studies involving coupled climate change/climate dependent  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$  emissions may be necessary to more precisely predict global ozone recovery over the next 50 years.

Our inversions for the interannual variability of different source or sink categories of  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$  are unavoidably affected by the uncertainties in other model parameters which were not included in the inversions. We have used interannually varying meteorological data from observed meteorological reanalyses to minimize the uncertainty caused by transport, because interannual variations of transport can strongly affect calculated mole fractions (Chen and Prinn, 2005). Another uncertainty originates from interannual variability of OH concentrations. In the inversions we used annually repeating OH fields. A change of a few percent in the global average OH concentrations in the period 2000–2004 would cause an uncertainty of the same magnitude in the total deduced sources which is well within the errors of our emission estimates.

Finally, although the inverse modeling approach can be used to quantitatively estimate the magnitudes of sources and sinks of CH<sub>3</sub>Cl, field and laboratory experiments are still necessary to improve the understanding of the mechanisms for the biochemical processes that control its natural sources and sinks. Keppler et al. (2005) studied the abiotic methylation of chloride in terrestrial ecosystems, and calculated a global soil sink for CH<sub>3</sub>Cl of more than 1000 Gg yr<sup>-1</sup>, which is much larger than our estimate thus inviting further process studies of this sink.

## Appendix A

### The Kalman filter

The Kalman filter has been used in a number of studies to estimate the atmospheric lifetime or global sources of chlorofluorocarbons (e.g., Cunnold et al., 1983; Hartley and Prinn, 1993; Mahowald et al., 1997b; Mulquiney and Norton, 1998; Prinn et al., 2000) and other trace gases (e.g., Xiao et al., 2007). It processes all available measurements, accounting for their precision, to estimate the current values of the quantities of interest (the states), with use of: (1) knowledge of the system and measurement instrument dynamics; (2) the statistical description of the system errors, measurement noise, and uncertainty in the dynamics models; and (3) any available information about the initial conditions of the state variables of interest. The covariance matrix, **P**, of the error in the state estimate is also computed.

An introduction to the Kalman filter for application to estimating sources and sinks for atmospheric trace gases can be found in Prinn (2000), in which the Kalman filter recursion from time k-1 to time k consists of two steps:

#### Step 1: State vector extrapolation

$$\mathbf{x}_k^f = \mathbf{M}_{k-1} \mathbf{x}_{k-1}^a \quad (\text{A1})$$

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$$\mathbf{P}_k^f = \mathbf{M}_{k-1} \mathbf{P}_{k-1}^a \mathbf{M}_{k-1}^T + \mathbf{Q}_{k-1} \quad (\text{A2})$$

Step 2: State vector improvement

$$\mathbf{x}_k^a = \mathbf{x}_k^f + \mathbf{K}_k [\mathbf{y}_k^o - \mathbf{H}_k \mathbf{x}_k^f] \quad (\text{A3})$$

$$\mathbf{P}_k^a = \mathbf{P}_k^f - \mathbf{K}_k \mathbf{H}_k \mathbf{P}_k^f \quad (\text{A4})$$

5 where

$$\mathbf{K}_k = \mathbf{P}_k^f \mathbf{H}_k^T [\mathbf{H}_k \mathbf{P}_k^f \mathbf{H}_k^T + \mathbf{R}_k]^{-1} \quad (\text{A5})$$

is the Kalman gain matrix. In the equations  $\mathbf{x}_k$  is the state vector (the superscripts  $f$  and  $a$  refer to the values before (forecast) and after (analysis) the use of the  $k$ -th measurement  $\mathbf{y}_k^o$ ).  $\mathbf{R}_k$  is the associated measurement error covariance matrix, and  $\mathbf{H}_k$  is the sensitivity matrix that relates emission changes at different regions to mole fraction changes at observation sites. The matrices  $\mathbf{Q}$  and  $\mathbf{M}$  are discussed later.

Here we use the unit pulse method of Chen and Prinn (2006), in which we adapt the Kalman filter to estimate  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$  surface fluxes from different sources and sinks at monthly time resolution on regional or global scales. Suppose we have  $n_{\text{as}}$  time invariant (aseasonal) and  $n_{\text{s}}$  seasonally varying surface flux variables for  $N$  years. The full state vector is therefore composed of  $n_{\text{as}} + N \times 12 \times n_{\text{s}}$  elements. This is a large number and imposes a large demand on computer time. However, because the global horizontal mixing time in the model is about 1 year, an observation cannot meaningfully provide information about monthly fluxes that occur more than one year before the observation (Chen and Prinn, 2006). Hence, it is a good approximation to use a specific monthly observation at time  $k$  to deduce not all but only those monthly fluxes from time  $k$  back to time  $k-T$  (where  $T=11$  months).

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The resultant down-sized state vector was given earlier in Eq. (2):

$$\mathbf{x}_k = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_k^{\text{as}} \\ \mathbf{x}_k^{\text{s}} \\ \mathbf{x}_{k-1}^{\text{s}} \\ \dots \\ \mathbf{x}_{k-T}^{\text{s}} \end{bmatrix} \quad (\text{A6})$$

where  $\mathbf{x}_k^{\text{as}}$  is a subvector containing all the  $n_{\text{as}}$  aseasonal flux variables, and  $\mathbf{x}_k^{\text{s}}$  is a subvector containing all the  $n_{\text{s}}$  monthly/seasonal flux variables at time  $k$ . Notice that  $\mathbf{x}_{k-T}^{\text{s}}$  contains the “oldest” seasonal fluxes that the observation  $\mathbf{y}_k^{\text{o}}$  can provide meaningful information about. Therefore it contains the final, optimized solution for fluxes at time  $k-T$  and is then removed from the state vector before a new observation  $\mathbf{y}_{k+1}^{\text{o}}$  is included. To achieve this removal, Chen and Prinn (2006) borrow the mathematics (but not the underlying concepts) used for extrapolation of the state vector and its error covariance matrix – Eqs. (A1) and (A2). A constant transition matrix is used with the following form:

$$\mathbf{M} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I}_{n_{\text{as}}} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbf{I}_{n_{\text{s}}} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \mathbf{I}_{n_{\text{s}}} & 0 & 0 \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \mathbf{I}_{n_{\text{s}}} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (\text{A7})$$

where  $\mathbf{I}_{n_{\text{as}}}$  and  $\mathbf{I}_{n_{\text{s}}}$  represent square identity sub-matrices of sizes  $n_{\text{as}}$  and  $n_{\text{s}}$  corresponding to  $n_{\text{as}}$  aseasonal fluxes and  $n_{\text{s}}$  seasonal fluxes, respectively. The 0's

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represent matrices with all zero elements. The transition matrix operates on the state vector as follows:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I}_{n_{as}} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbf{I}_{n_s} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \mathbf{I}_{n_s} & 0 & 0 \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \mathbf{I}_{n_s} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{X}_k^{as} \\ \mathbf{X}_k^s \\ \mathbf{X}_{k-1}^s \\ \dots \\ \mathbf{X}_{k-T+1}^s \\ \mathbf{X}_{k-T}^s \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{X}_k^{as} \\ 0 \\ \mathbf{X}_k^s \\ \mathbf{X}_{k-1}^s \\ \dots \\ \mathbf{X}_{k-T+1}^s \end{bmatrix}$$

$\mathbf{X}_{k-T}^s =$  optimized fluxes (A8)

5 Multiplying  $\mathbf{x}_k$  by  $\mathbf{M}$  not only removes  $\mathbf{X}_{k-T}^s$  which is saved as the final, optimized solution, but also introduces a new  $\mathbf{X}_{k+1}^s$  whose initial guess is its (unity) a priori value. For the aseasonal components, the transition matrix retains the previous values, which is consistent with the estimation of time invariant fluxes over all time steps.

10 Operation of  $\mathbf{M}$  on the error covariance matrix  $\mathbf{P}_k^a$  of  $\mathbf{x}_k$  has similar effects as on  $\mathbf{x}_k$  by removing the error covariances of  $\mathbf{X}_{k-T}^s$ , but it introduces zeros for the initial error covariances of  $\mathbf{X}_{k+1}^s$  to be estimated. This problem is solved by including the matrix  $\mathbf{Q}_k$  in the following form:

$$\mathbf{Q}_k = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & E[\mathbf{e}_k \mathbf{e}_k^T] & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

(A9)

15 where  $E[\mathbf{e}_k \mathbf{e}_k^T]$  represents the choice of the initial error covariances associated with the new seasonal flux adjustments ( $\mathbf{X}_{k+1}^s$ ).

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*Acknowledgements.* We thank David Kicklighter and Julia Lee-Taylor for sharing their research results as the a priori inputs into this work. The inversions and the AGAGE measurements were supported by a variety of sources, including: NASA grants NNX07AE89G, NAG5-12669 and NAG5-12099 (and associated NCCS computer support), and NSF grant ATM-0120468 (and associated NCAR computer support) to MIT; NASA grants NNX07AF09G and NNX07AE87G, to SIO; the Australian Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO-MAR; and DEFRA grants EPG 1/1/159, CPEG 24, and GA01081 to Bristol University. The HATS flask and HATS high frequency in situ measurements were supported by NOAA-ESRL. Financial support for the Zeppelin measurements is acknowledged from the Norwegian Pollution Control Authority (SFT). NIES measurements were supported by the Global Environment Research Fund (Ministry of the Environment of Japan).

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**Table 1.** Location of the CH<sub>3</sub>Cl measuring sites and their assumed calibration factors (CF) relative to the SIO-05 CH<sub>3</sub>Cl scale used by the AGAGE network. Data at each site were divided by the listed calibration factor in order to combine them under a common scale. Calibration factors in parentheses are used in a sensitivity exercise and are calculated by multiplying the interlaboratory differences (CF-1) by 1.5 (i.e., increasing the differences by 50%).

Number	ID	Location	Latitude	Longitude	Altitude	Network	Calibration factor (CF)
High Frequency Observations							
1	MHD	Mace Head, Ireland	53.3° N	9.9° W	25	AGAGE/SOGE	1
2	THD	Trinidad Head, California	41.0° N	124.0° W	140	AGAGE	1
3	RPB	Ragged Point, Barbados	13.0° N	59.0° W	42	AGAGE	1
4	SMO	Cape Matatula, American Samoa	14.3° S	170.6° W	42	AGAGE	1
5	CGO	Cape Grim, Tasmania	41.0° S	145.0° E	94	AGAGE	1
6	JUN	Jungfrauoch, Switzerland	46.5° N	8.0° E	3580	SOGE	1
7	MTE	Monte Cimone, Italy	44.2° N	10.7° E	2165	SOGE	1
8	ZEP	Zeppelin Station, Norway	78.9° N	11.9° E	474	SOGE	1
9	HAT	Hateruma, Japan	24.1° N	123.8° E	47	NIES	1.0100 (1.0150)
10	BRW	Pt. Barrow, Alaska	71.3° N	156.6° W	8	NOAA	1.0212 (1.0318)
11	MLO	Mauna Loa, Hawaii	19.5° N	155.6° W	3397	NOAA	1.0212 (1.0318)
12	NWR	Niwot Ridge, Colorado	40.0° N	105.5° W	3018	NOAA	1.0212 (1.0318)
13	SMO	Cape Matatula, American Samoa	14.3° S	170.6° W	77	NOAA	1.0212 (1.0318)
14	SPO	South Pole, Antarctica	89.9° S	24.8° W	2810	NOAA	1.0212 (1.0318)
Low Frequency Observations							
15	MHD	Mace Head, Ireland	53.3° N	9.9° W	25	NOAA	1.0102 (1.0153)
16	CGO	Cape Grim, Tasmania	41.0° S	145.0° E	94	NOAA/NIES	1.0102 (1.0153)
17	THD	Trinidad Head, California	41.0° N	124.0° W	140	NOAA	1.0102 (1.0153)
18	HAT	Hateruma, Japan	24.1° N	123.8° E	27	NIES	1.0064 (1.0096)
19	ALT	Alert, Northwest Territories, Canada	82.5° N	62.5° W	210	NOAA	1.0102 (1.0153)
20	BRW	Pt. Barrow, Alaska	71.3° N	156.6° W	11	NOAA	1.0102 (1.0153)
21	LEF	WLEF tower, Wisconsin	46.0° N	90.3° W	470	NOAA	1.0102 (1.0153)
22	HFM	Harvard Forest, MA	42.5° N	72.2° W	340	NOAA	1.0102 (1.0153)
23	NWR	Niwot Ridge, Colorado	40.1° N	105.6° W	3472	NOAA	1.0102 (1.0153)
24	MLO	Mauna Loa, Hawaii	19.5° N	155.6° W	3397	NOAA	1.0102 (1.0153)
25	KUM	Cape Kumukahi, Hawaii	19.5° N	154.8° W	3	NOAA	1.0102 (1.0153)
26	SMO	Cape Matatula, American Samoa	14.2° S	170.6° W	77	NOAA	1.0102 (1.0153)
27	PSA	Palmer Station, Antarctica	64.9° S	64.0° W	10	NOAA	1.0102 (1.0153)
28	SPO	South Pole, Antarctica	89.98° S	102.0° E	2841	NOAA	1.0102 (1.0153)

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**Table 2.** Reference annual average strengths of the sources and sinks of CH<sub>3</sub>Cl and their incorporation in the inversion. Y = YES and N = NO.

Source/Sink Type (reference)	Estimated Monthly	Strength (Ggyr <sup>-1</sup> )	In State Vector?
Biomass burning (Lobert et al., 1999)	Y	918	Y (2 regions)
Wood-rotting fungi (Watling and Harper, 1998; Khalil et al., 1999; Moore et al., 2005)	N	128	Y
Industry/incineration (McCulloch et al., 1999)	N	162	N (reference)
Oceans, NCEP 10 m winds (Khalil et al., 1999; Lee-Taylor et al., 2001)	Y	477	Y
Salt marshes (Rhew et al., 2000)	Y	170	Y
Soil sink (Keene et al., 1999; Khalil and Rasmussen, 1999)	Y	-256	Y
Freshwater wetlands (Varner et al., 1999)	Y	48	N (reference)
Tropical plants (Yokouchi et al., 2002)	Y	2089	Y (3 regions)
Total source (soil sink excluded)	Y	3992	-
Net source (soil sink subtracted)	Y	3736	-

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**Table 3.** Reference and optimally estimated five-year averaged surface fluxes and their errors for aseasonal and seasonal processes ( $\text{Gg yr}^{-1}$ ) obtained by using different combinations of data from the sampling networks. Total emissions are the sum of the estimated sources, the constant industrial source, and the annual average wetland emissions (with soil sink excluded).

Flux type	Reference	(1) In situ + NOAA & NIES flask <sup>1</sup>	(2) Case (1) without in situ SPO <sup>2</sup>	(3) In situ <sup>3</sup>	(4) In situ without SPO <sup>4</sup>	(5) Only AGAGE <sup>5</sup>	(6) Only NOAA flask <sup>6</sup>	(7) In situ without NIES <sup>7</sup>	(8) In situ without SOGE <sup>8</sup>
Fungal	128±153	165±117	148±117	206±122	169±123	186±132	91±119	206±122	212±123
Tropical	2089±511	2197±394	2211±395	2092±398	2121±400	2130±435	2360±406	2093±399	2088±400
Bio. Burn.	918±247	917±198	939±199	938±206	974±207	910±226	922±201	937±207	931±208
Oceans	477±143	430±100	440±101	427±112	452±117	475±133	480±106	427±112	426±113
Salt marsh	170±85	170±67	172±67	175±68	179±68	171±69	171±68	175±68	175±68
Soil sink	-256±131	-259±92	-254±92	-245±103	-238±103	-258±108	-260±89	-245±103	-248±104
Total Emi.	3992±625	4089±471	4119±473	4049±483	4106±486	4082±529	4233±485	4049±484	4041±485

<sup>1</sup> Using data from all in situ sites, the NIES HAT flask site, and the PSA, KUM, ALT, LEF, and HFM NOAA flask sites. This is the “best estimate” inversion case shown in the Figures.

<sup>2</sup> Inversion case (1) with NOAA in situ SPO site excluded.

<sup>3</sup> Using data from all in situ sites listed in Table 1.

<sup>4</sup> Inversion case (3) with NOAA in situ SPO site excluded.

<sup>5</sup> Using data only from AGAGE sites MHD, THD, RPB and CGO (the SMO measurements began after the time period of 2000–2005 addressed here).

<sup>6</sup> Using data from all 13 NOAA flask sites listed in Table 1.

<sup>7</sup> Inversion case (3) with NIES data excluded.

<sup>8</sup> Inversion case (3) with SOGE data excluded.

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**Table 4.** Reference and optimally estimated five-year averaged surface fluxes and errors for emissions from tropical plants and biomass burning in Table 3.

Flux type	Reference	(1) In situ + NOAA & NIES flask	(2) Case (1) without in situ SPO	(3) In situ	(4) In situ without SPO	(5) Only AGAGE	(6) Only NOAA flask	(7) In situ without NIES	(8) In situ without SOGE
Trop AM	862±259	918±207	912±208	867±211	860±212	891±239	1000±221	868±211	868±211
Trop AS	686±346	698±256	716±257	673±260	704±260	688±284	753±262	672±260	671±260
Trop AF	541±273	580±215	583±216	552±217	558±218	551±227	607±218	553±217	549±217
BB East	743±227	727±184	751±184	753±190	791±191	729±210	723±187	751±191	745±192
BB West	175±97	190±75	188±75	186±79	183±80	181±81	198±73	186±79	185±80

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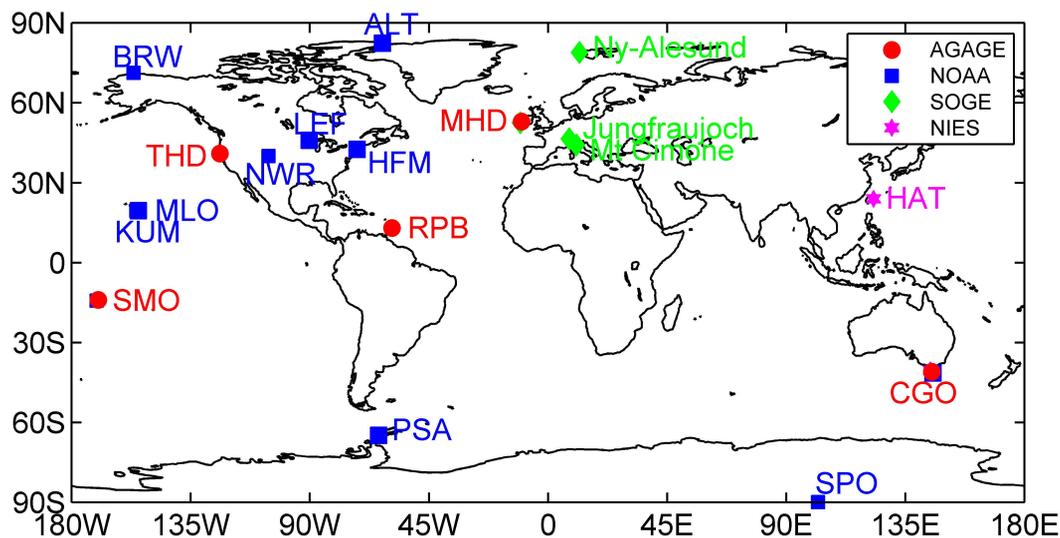
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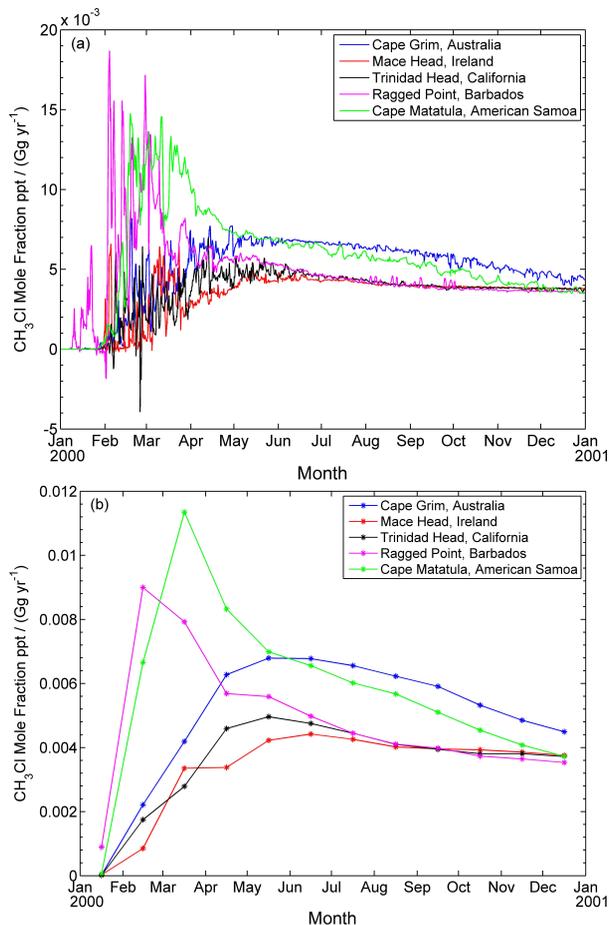


**Fig. 1.** Location of  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$  observing sites from different surface networks.

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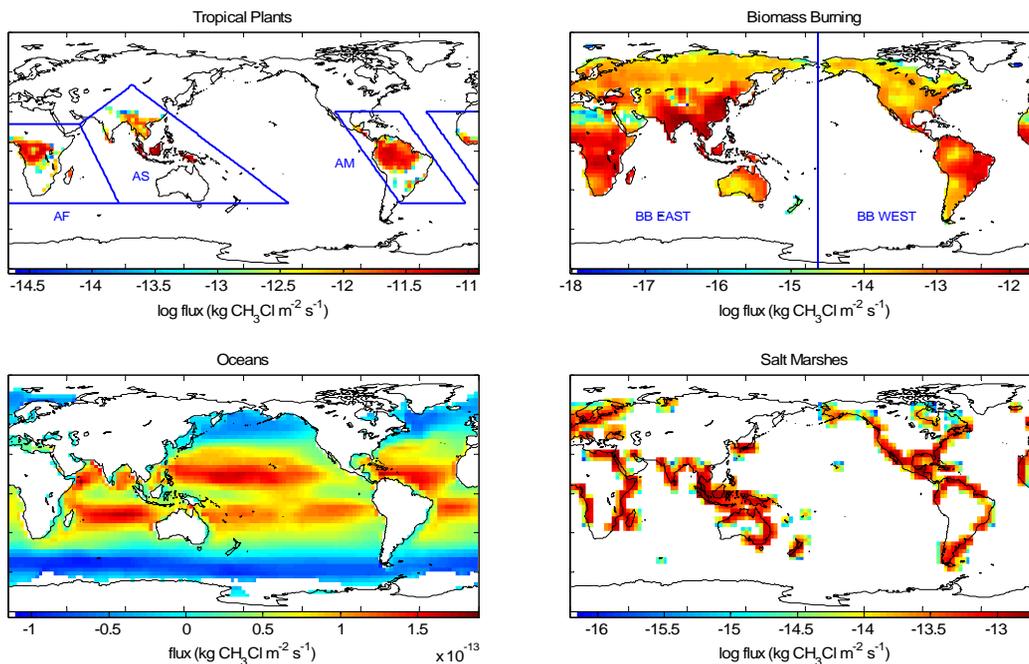


**Fig. 2.** MATCH-modeled sensitivities of  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$  high frequency (a) and monthly mean (b) mole fractions at each AGAGE site to a January 2000 emission pulse from African tropical plants. Eventually the mole fractions reach similar values for each site consistent with a  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$  emission pulse into a well-mixed atmosphere. In addition to dispersion, the sensitivities are affected by a slow  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$  decrease due to reaction with the OH radical.

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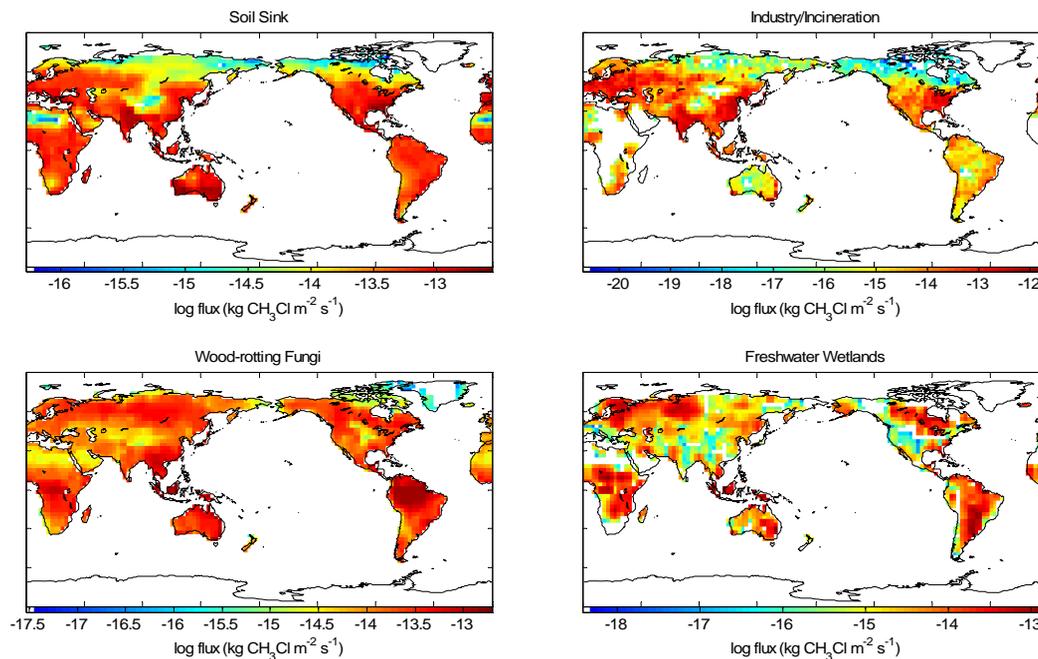


**Fig. 3.** Annual average distributions of reference  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$  emissions. Emission magnitudes and patterns vary by month. Tropical plants (America, Asia, and Africa) and biomass burning (East and West) have been further subdivided for the inversion. Note that the maps are on a log scale except for the oceans which have a linear scale.

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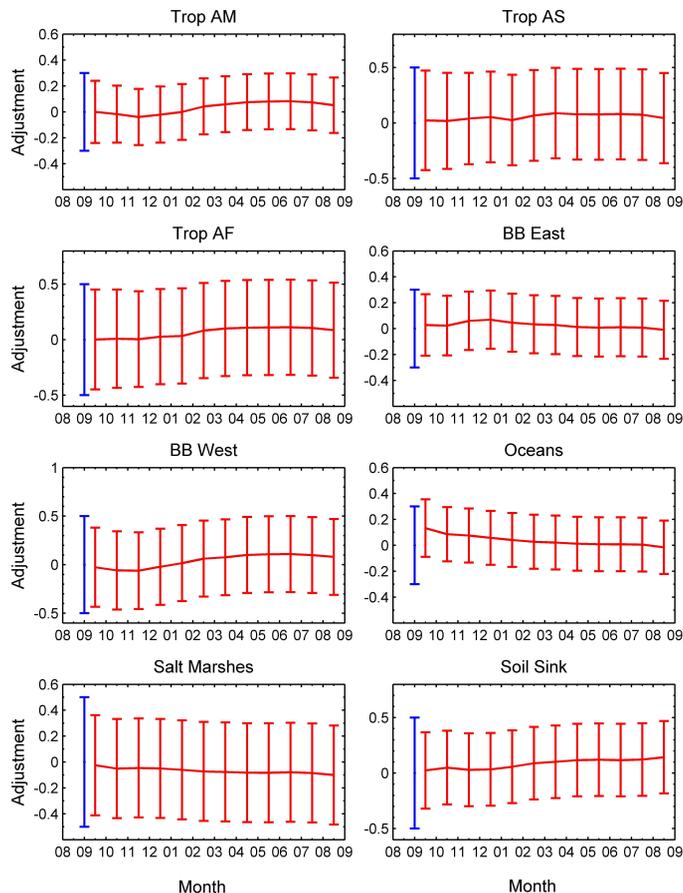


**Fig. 4.** Annual average distributions of additional  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$  monthly varying emissions and the soil sink. Note that the small industrial, incineration and wetland sources are assumed to be equal to their references and are not estimated. Seasonal variability of the small fungal emissions is not considered in the inversion.

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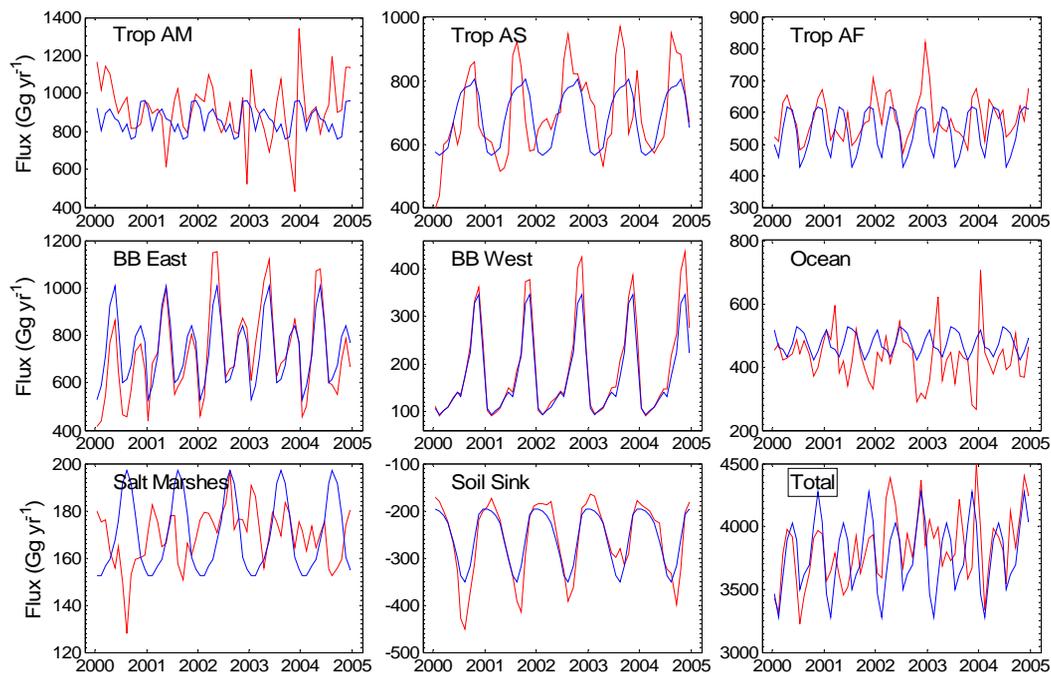


**Fig. 5.** The recursive estimation of  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$  surface fluxes for a single month (September 2002) obtained with the use of monthly observations from September 2002 to August 2003 (horizontal axis). The vertical axis corresponds to the dimensionless adjustment from the reference value (unity). The blue line shows the a priori error bar (either  $\pm 0.3$  or  $\pm 0.5$ ) for the September 2002 surface flux. The final optimized results are taken as the values at the last step at which time the inversion has stabilized.

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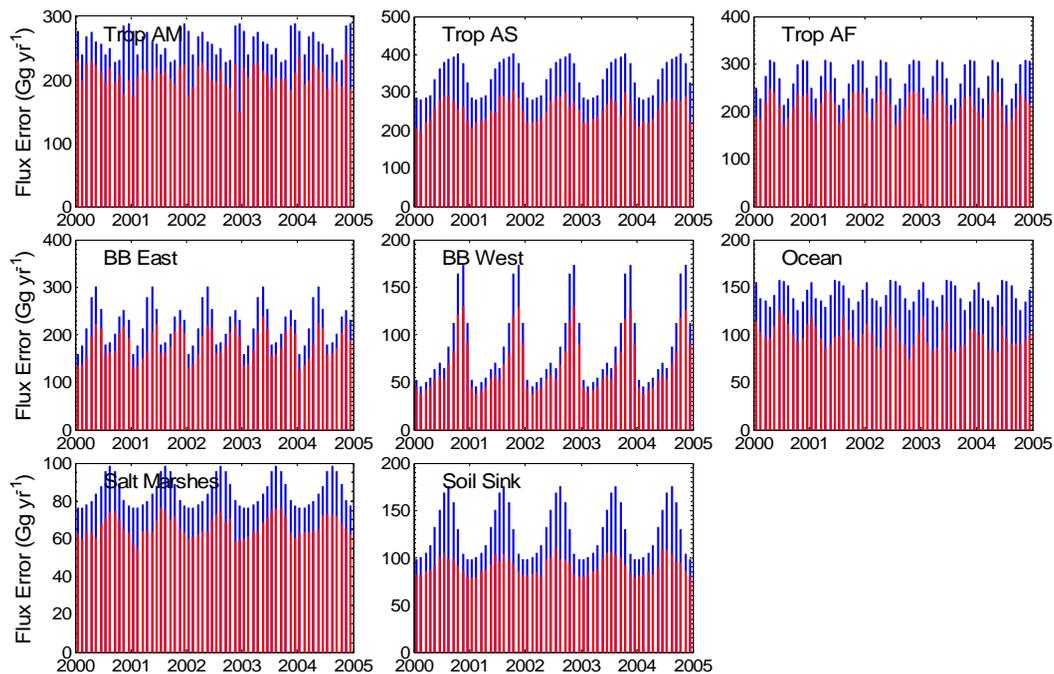


**Fig. 6.** Inversion results for the eight seasonally varying processes for emissions of  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$ . Blue lines show the reference magnitudes, which are annually repeating. Red lines show the optimized estimates, which show interannual variability. The total value is the sum of the emissions from the eight seasonal processes, the assumed time invariant aseasonal fungal emissions, and the reference industrial and wetland emissions.

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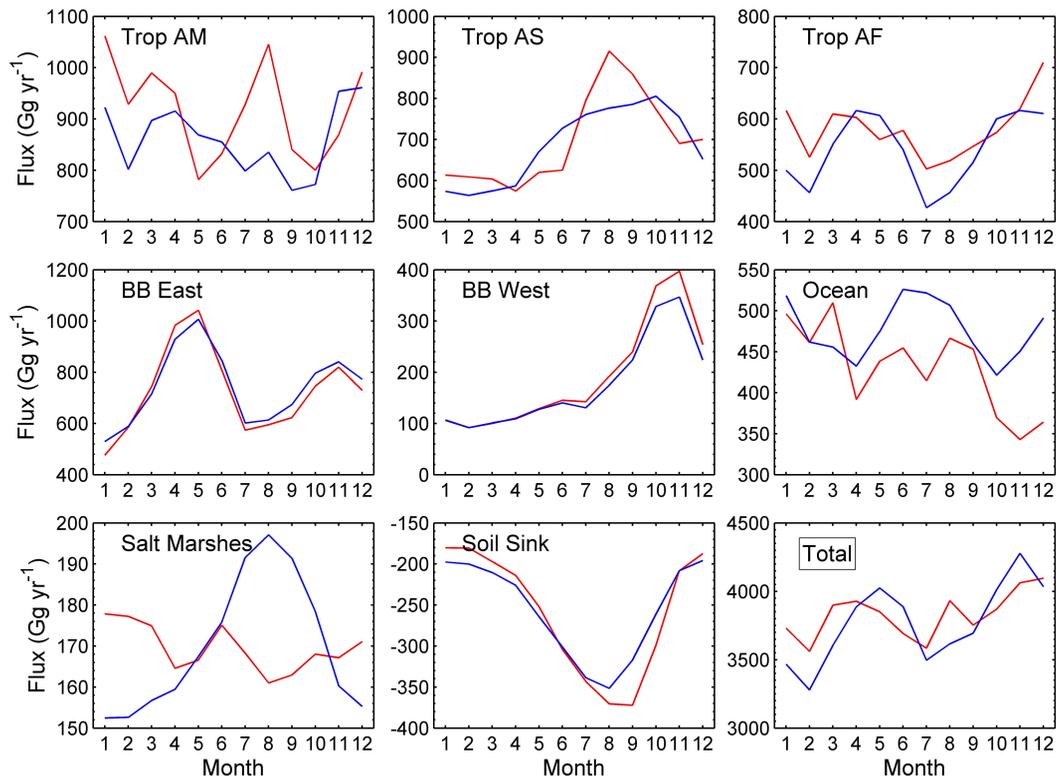


**Fig. 7.** The corresponding uncertainties ( $1\sigma$  error bars) of the inversion results in Fig. 6, with the optimized error bars (red) superimposed upon the reference error bars (blue).

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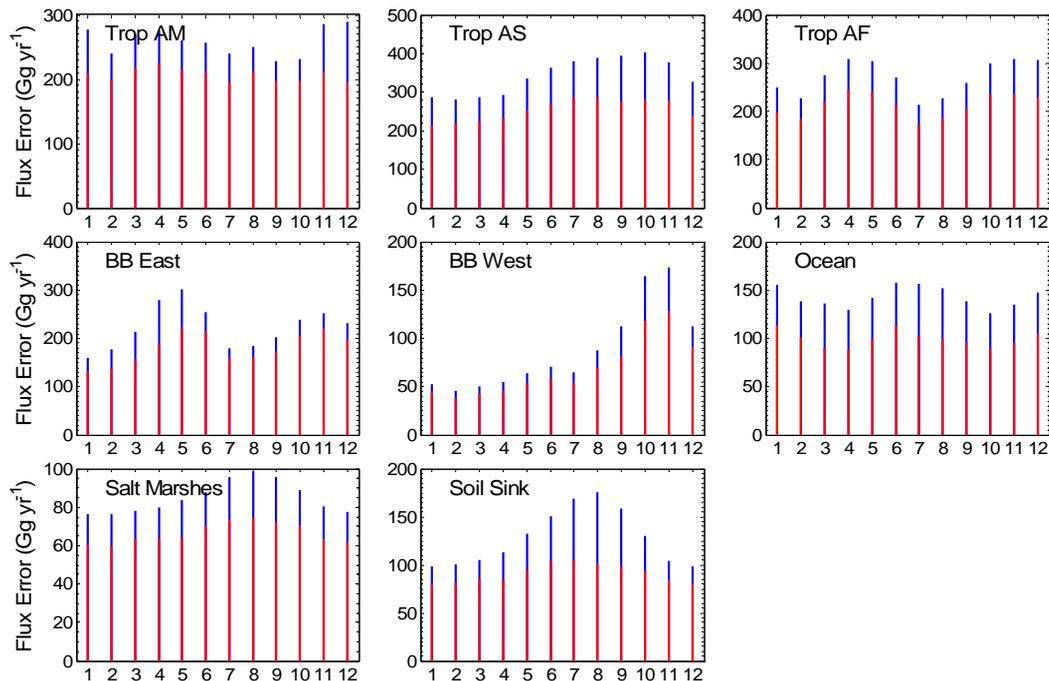


**Fig. 8.** Five-year averaged results for the 8 seasonally varying emission processes of  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$ . Blue lines show the reference magnitudes. Red lines show the optimized estimates.

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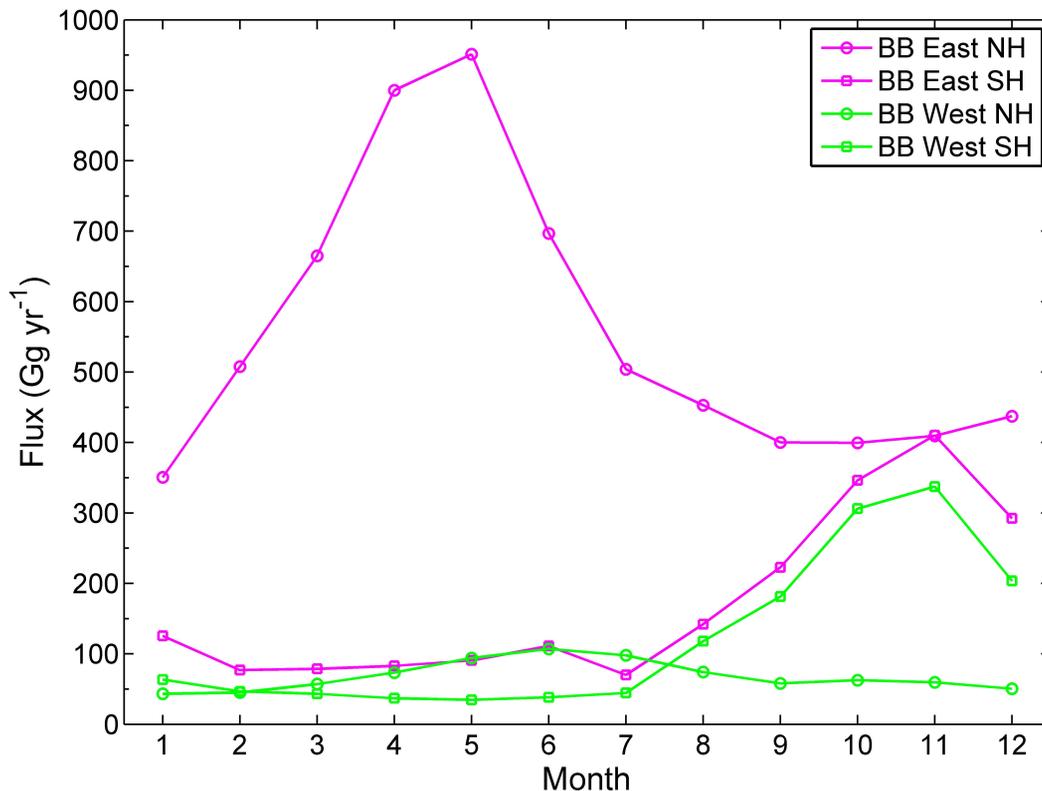


**Fig. 9.** The corresponding uncertainties ( $1\sigma$  error bars) of the inversion results in Fig. 8, with the optimized error bars (red) superimposed upon the reference error bars (blue).

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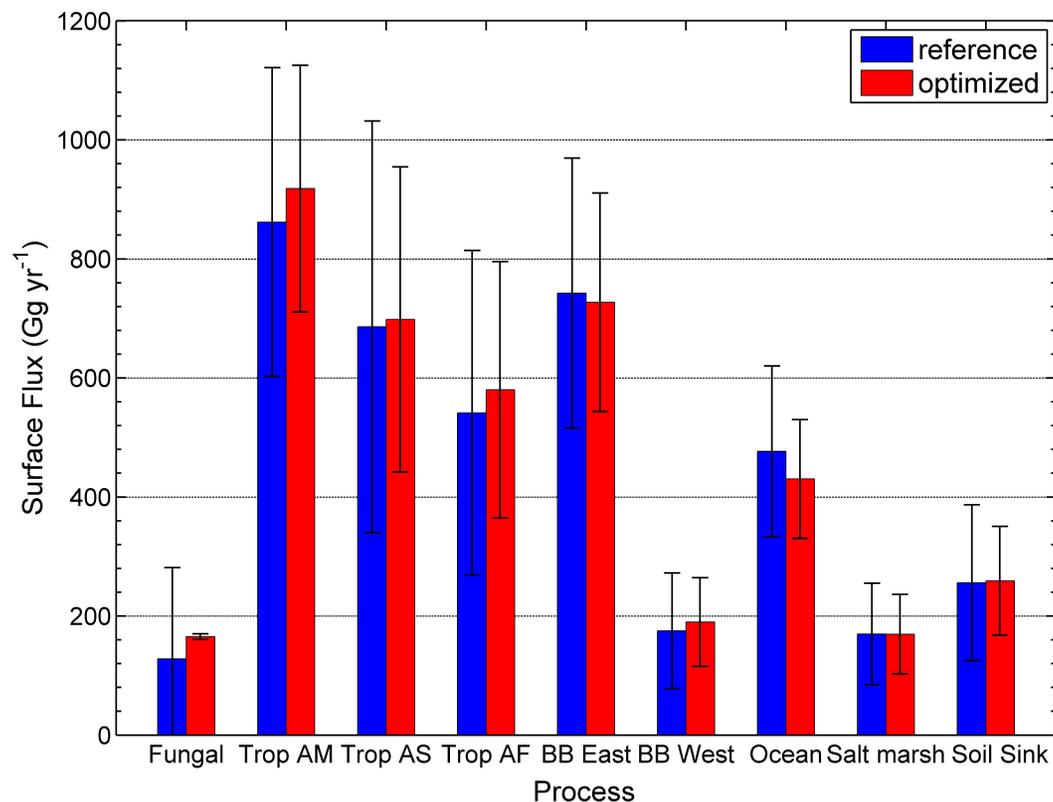


**Fig. 10.** Partitioning of the deduced average seasonal cycles of the Eastern and Western biomass burning sources into the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. Note the dominance of the Eastern Northern Hemispheric emissions of  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$ . Also note the emission peaks of the Northern and Southern Hemispheres occur in the respective spring seasons consistent with dry conditions leading to increase biomass burning activity.

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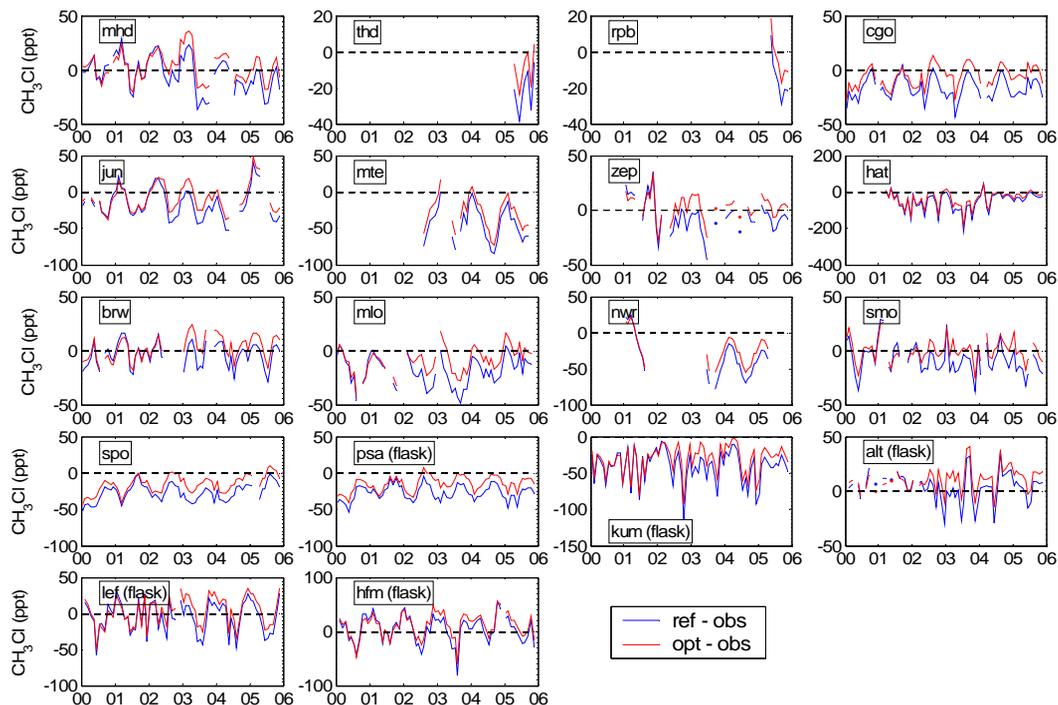


**Fig. 11.** Annual average  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$  surface flux magnitudes. Shown are the reference (blue bars) and optimized (red bars) values with their  $1\sigma$  error bars (black). The errors on the references are the assumed a priori inversion uncertainties of  $\pm 30\%$  to  $\pm 50\%$ .

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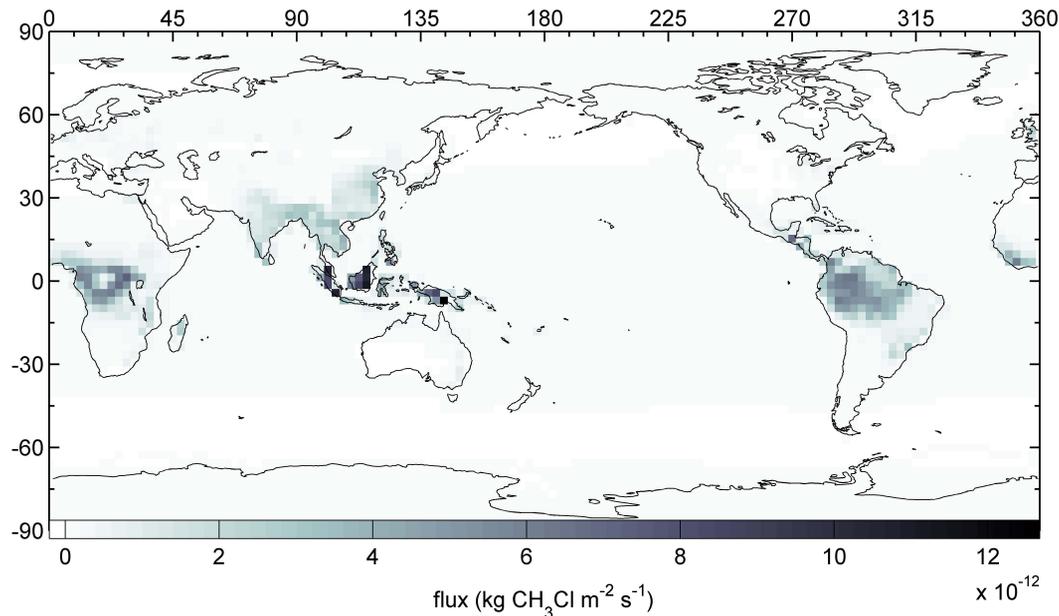


**Fig. 12.** Residuals between the optimized and observed monthly mean mole fractions of  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$  (red lines), compared to the residuals between the reference and observed monthly mean mole fractions (blue lines) at each observing site.

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**Fig. 13.** A posteriori annual average distribution of combined  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$  surface fluxes from the estimated sources and sink, the constant industrial source, and the annual average wetland emissions.

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