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Deriving a sea surface climatology of CO₂ fugacity in support of air–sea gas flux studies

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Abstract

Climatologies, or long-term averages, of essential climate variables are useful for evaluating models and providing a baseline for studying anomalies. The Surface Ocean Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) Atlas (SOCAT) has made millions of global underway sea surface measurements of CO₂ publicly available, all in a uniform format and presented as fugacity, f_{CO_2} . f_{CO_2} is highly sensitive to temperature and the measurements are only valid for the instantaneous sea surface temperature (SST) that is measured concurrent with the in-water CO₂ measurement. To create a climatology of f_{CO_2} data suitable for calculating air–sea CO₂ fluxes it is therefore desirable to calculate f_{CO_2} valid for climate quality SST. This paper presents a method for creating such a climatology. We recomputed SOCAT's f_{CO_2} values for their respective measurement month and year using climate quality SST data from satellite Earth observation and then extrapolated the resulting f_{CO_2} values to reference year 2010. The data were then spatially interpolated onto a 1° × 1° grid of the global oceans to produce 12 monthly f_{CO_2} distributions for 2010. The partial pressure of CO₂ (p_{CO_2}) is also provided for those who prefer to use p_{CO_2} . The CO₂ concentration difference between ocean and atmosphere is the thermodynamic driving force of the air–sea CO₂ flux, and hence the presented f_{CO_2} distributions can be used in air–sea gas flux calculations together with climatologies of other climate variables.

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

Observations demonstrate that dissolved CO₂ concentrations in the surface ocean have been increasing nearly everywhere, roughly following the atmospheric CO₂ increase but with large regional and temporal variability (Takahashi et al., 2009; McKinley et al., 2011). In general, tropical waters release CO₂ to the atmosphere, whereas

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estimate their own air–sea fluxes (e.g., Kettle et al., 2005, 2009; Fangohr and Woolf 2007; Land et al., 2013). The datasets from Takahashi et al. (2002, 2009) and Sabine et al. (2013) are calculated using in situ SST obtained at depth (SST_{depth}) for the construction of ocean CO₂ flux climatology (in situ f_{CO_2} is derived from f_{CO_2} measured in the shipboard equilibrator using the difference between the temperature of sea water in the equilibrator and SST_{depth}). Because f_{CO_2} is highly sensitive to temperature fluctuations, an instantaneous measurement of f_{CO_2} is only really valid for its concurrent in situ SST_{depth} measurement. Takahashi et al. (2009) explain that under-sampling and their interpolation method lead to differences between their p_{CO_2} values with the true climatological mean values. They estimate a mean +0.08 °C temperature difference, introducing a systematic bias of about +1.3 μatm in the mean surface water p_{CO_2} over all monthly mean values obtained in their study. Takahashi et al. (2009) also acknowledge that by using SST_{depth} in their calculations, surface-layer effects could introduce systematic errors in the sea-air p_{CO_2} differences but leave that for future research. Additional SST biases are introduced by different measurement systems that measure SST at sea and that are each associated with typical measurement biases. All biases in SST, and hence in f_{CO_2} , contribute to uncertainties in the true monthly means of f_{CO_2} . A true monthly mean value of f_{CO_2} should therefore be estimated by calculating f_{CO_2} for a monthly mean value of SST; using these values a climatology of f_{CO_2} applicable to air–sea gas flux climatology can then be derived.

The focus of this paper is to critically assess f_{CO_2} calculations and the application of f_{CO_2} for CO₂ ocean gas flux climatology development, in particular the need to properly address the implications of using different SST. We first review the importance of SST on the calculation of f_{CO_2} and the use of satellite SST data. We then review the monthly composite SST data provided by SOCAT and compare those to satellite observations of SST. In Sect. 2 we describe the SOCAT data set and methods, followed by an explanation of our alternative approach to computation of in situ f_{CO_2} to climatological f_{CO_2} (Sect. 3). In Sect. 4 the spatial interpolation using ordinary block kriging is detailed and in Sect. 5 the resulting f_{CO_2} climatology and a range of possible errors

are discussed. Our application of the recently released SOCAT version 2 data set is the subject of Sect. 6. In the conclusion (Sect. 7) the different data products and their uses are compared. The month January is used as an illustrative example of the data treatment throughout this paper.

1.2 Complexities of in situ SST measurements and implications for f_{CO_2}

As already discussed, f_{CO_2} is highly sensitive to temperature. Similarly accurate knowledge of SST and, to a lesser extent, salinity, is essential when calculating air–sea gas fluxes. SST vertical profiles are complex and variable. SST can also vary over relatively short time scales within relatively small regions and variations in the temperature measured can also arise from the method and instrumentation used for measuring it. All of these issues can cause problems when using in situ data to construct an f_{CO_2} climatology. These issues are now discussed.

The structure of the upper ocean (~ 10 m) vertical temperature profile depends on the level of shear driven ocean turbulence and the air–sea fluxes of heat, moisture and momentum. Thus, every SST observation depends on the measurement technique and sensor that is used, the vertical position of the measurement within the water column, the local history of all components of the heat flux conditions and, the time of day the measurement was obtained (Donlon et al., 2002). The subsurface SST, $\text{SST}_{\text{depth}}$ (see Donlon et al., 2007) will encompass any temperature within the water column where turbulent heat transfer processes dominate. Such a measurement may be significantly influenced by local solar heating, the variations of which have a time scale of hours and typically varies with depth. This diurnal warming occurs at the sea surface when incoming shortwave radiation leads to stratification of the surface water in the absence of wind-induced mixing and temperature differences of > 3 K can occur across the surface warm layer (Ward et al., 2004), which in turn will enhance the out-gassing flux of CO_2 (Jeffery et al., 2007, 2008; Kettle et al., 2009) that reduces the oceanic carbon uptake (Olsen et al., 2004). Consequently to help address this sort of issue the international Group on High Resolution Sea Surface Temperature (GHR SST)

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(Merchant et al., 2008, 2012). We used ARC SST values from the Along Track Scanning Radiometers, ATSRs, Reprocessing for Climate project, ARC, (Merchant et al., 2012). This climate data record is a global, long-term, homogenous, highly stable SST dataset based on satellite derived SST observations.

The difference in the fugacities of CO₂ across the diffusive sub-layer at the ocean surface is the driving force behind the air–sea flux of CO₂. As discussed above in situ sub-surface seawater fugacity is normally measured several meters below the surface. Implied in the use of these measurements for deriving air–sea fluxes is the assumption that the measured fugacity values at depth are the same as those at the bottom of the diffusive boundary layer. Diurnal stratification of the surface ocean further complicates this situation. At wind speeds of approximately 6 m s⁻¹ and above, the relationship between the SST (at the sea skin) and SST (at depth and below the diffusive sub layer), is well characterized for both day- and night-time conditions by a cool bias (e.g. Donlon et al., 2002). Therefore a skin temperature value from EO with an appropriate correction for the cool skin bias can be used to describe the temperature below the diffusive sub layer. This means that this temperature value can be used to correct the f_{CO_2} from depth to the value below the diffusive sub layer.

1.4 A comparison between SST datasets

In air–sea gas flux calculations an estimate of the water side f_{CO_2} , and hence the temperature, is required at the base of the mass boundary layer. However, ARC SST is measured at the sea surface skin, SST_{skin}, which is characteristically cooler than the water just below it during the night but subject to local diurnal variability and thermal stratification during the day. We derived subskin SST (the SST at the base of the thermal boundary layer) from ARC SST by accounting for the “cool skin effect”. Since gas transfer velocities are low in low wind speeds, it is more important to have a reasonably accurate estimate of the thermal skin effect in moderate and high wind speeds. Donlon et al. (1999) reported a mean cool skin $\Delta T = 0.14 (\pm 0.1)$ K for wind speeds in excess of 6 m s⁻¹. We used subskin SST as an

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approximation of the water temperature in the meters below the surface, SST_{depth} (Donlon et al., 1999; 2002). According to Kettle et al. (2009) the difference between f_{CO_2} for the temperature at the base of the mass boundary layer, and f_{CO_2} for SST_{depth} is negligible so we calculated f_{CO_2} using subskin SST to estimate f_{CO_2} at the base of the mass boundary layer. The ARC dataset provides SST_{skin} from infrared imagery gridded to a 0.1° latitude–longitude resolution (Merchant et al., 2012). For each year from August 1991 to December 2010 Oceanflux GHG derived 12 monthly mean SST_{skin} distributions, averaged over a 1° × 1° grid without differentiating between day- and night-time measurements (<http://www.oceanflux-ghg.org/Products/OceanFlux-data/Monthly-composite-datasets>). These SST_{skin} grid points were linearly interpolated to the SOCAT measurement locations (SST_{skin,i}). We defined T_{ym} as the single year, monthly 1° × 1° grid box mean of $T_{\text{ym},i} = \text{SST}_{\text{skin},i} + 0.14$. The f_{CO_2} values were re-computed from in situ SST to $T_{\text{ym},i}$ for our climatology (Sect. 3.2).

With SST the corresponding grid box mean of SOCAT's in situ SST (generally obtained at 5 m nominal depth) and using all data from the years 1991 to 2007, a histogram of $dT = T_{\text{ym}} - \text{SST}$ was produced (Fig. 1). It shows dT was distributed around a mean of -0.09 with a standard deviation of 0.55. This difference implied that the gridded in situ SST systematically overestimated T_{ym} . The corresponding histogram of our correction $f_{\text{CO}_2}(T_{\text{ym}}) - f_{\text{CO}_2}(\text{SST})$ (not shown) revealed a similar distribution around $-1.12 \mu\text{atm}$. The temperature differences were found to be positive as well as negative (Fig. 1). Positive dT can be a consequence of diurnal warming when the top layer heats up by solar radiation during the day. This heat is lost again during the night. Cooling of the top layer (negative dT) is a less described phenomenon but can be expected in colder environments. We found more negative dT during the winter months and at high latitudes. The temperature profile in the sea depends on wind speed as wind mixes the water column, i.e. for strong winds SST is expected to be more constant in the vertical. We illustrate the wind speed dependence of dT for the North Atlantic because this region has the highest SOCAT data density. For each dT we retrieved the monthly 1° × 1° grid box mean of 10 m wind speed, U_{10} (m s^{-1}), from Oceanflux

carbon science community. The history and organisation of SOCAT is described in Pfeil et al. (2013). SOCAT version 1.5 includes 6.3 million measurements from 1968 to 2007 and was made publicly available in September 2011 at <http://www.socat.info/SOCATv1/>. SOCAT data is available as three types of data products: individual cruise files, gridded products and merged synthesis data files. For our study we used the latter and we downloaded the individual regional synthesis files from <http://cdiac.ornl.gov/ftp/oceans/SOCATv1.5/>. The content of these files (parameter names, units and descriptions) are described in Table 5 in Pfeil et al. (2013). The data can be displayed in the online Cruise Data Viewer (Fig. 3) and downloaded in text format.

2.2 The SOCAT computation of SOCAT fugacity in seawater

The collected CO_2 concentrations are expressed as mole fraction, x_{CO_2} , partial pressure, p_{CO_2} , or fugacity, f_{CO_2} , of CO_2 . SOCAT's re-computation is to achieve a uniform representation of the CO_2 measurements and all measurements are converted to fugacity in seawater $f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{is}}$ (fCO2_rec) for in situ sea surface, SST (temp). The parameters in brackets refer to their SOCAT version 1.5 names (Table 5 in Pfeil et al., 2013). SST is the intake temperature which signifies $\text{SST}_{\text{depth}}$. The shipboard measurements were taken at equilibrator temperature T_{eq} (Temperature_equi) and equilibrator pressure, P_{eq} (Pressure_equi). SOCAT calculates $f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{is}}$ from $p_{\text{CO}_2,\text{is}}$, partial pressure in seawater corrected for the difference between SST and the temperature at the equilibrator, using Eqs. (1) and (2)

$$p_{\text{CO}_2,\text{is}} = p_{\text{CO}_2}(T_{\text{eq}}) \exp(0.0423(\text{SST} - T_{\text{eq}})) \quad (1)$$

$$f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{is}} = p_{\text{CO}_2,\text{is}} \exp \left(\frac{\left[B(\text{CO}_2, \text{SST}) + 2(1 - x_{\text{CO}_2,\text{wet}}(T_{\text{eq}}))^2 \delta(\text{CO}_2, \text{SST}) \right] P_{\text{eq}}}{R \cdot \text{SST}} \right) \quad (2)$$

with $B(\text{CO}_2, \text{SST})$ and $\delta(\text{CO}_2, \text{SST})$ calculated from Weiss (1974):

$$B(\text{CO}_2, T) = -1636.75 + 12.0408T - 3.27957 \times 10^{-2}T^2 + 3.16528 \times 10^{-5}T^3 \quad (3)$$

$$\delta(\text{CO}_2, T) = 57.7 - 0.118T \quad (4)$$

(Pfeil and Olsen, 2009). In Eqs. (1)–(4) f_{CO_2} and p_{CO_2} are in μatm , P_{eq} in hPa, temperatures are in kelvins and $x_{\text{CO}_2, \text{wet}}(T_{\text{eq}})$ is the wet mole fraction as parts per million (ppm) of CO_2 at equilibrator. The gas constant $R = 82.0578 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ atm (mol K)}^{-1}$. How $p_{\text{CO}_2}(T_{\text{eq}})$ is measured, the temperature correction (Eq. 1) and the necessarily different starting points of the computation are discussed in respective Sects. 2.3–2.5. Our conversion, from the given $f_{\text{CO}_2, \text{is}}$ calculated for in situ measurements to climatological $f_{\text{CO}_2, \text{cl}}$ in 2010 is explained in Sect. 3.

2.3 Measurements of $p_{\text{CO}_2}(T_{\text{eq}})$

The measurement method of p_{CO_2} in seawater described by Takahashi et al. (2009) is summarized in the following. On board the ship carrier gas is equilibrated with streaming seawater in the headspace of an equilibrator and the concentration of CO_2 in the equilibrated carrier gas is measured. When a dry carrier gas is analysed, seawater $p_{\text{CO}_2}(T_{\text{eq}})$ in the equilibrator chamber is computed using

$$p_{\text{CO}_2}(T_{\text{eq}}) = x_{\text{CO}_2, \text{dry}}(P_{\text{eq}} - P_{\text{w}}) \quad (5)$$

where P_{eq} is the pressure at the equilibrator, P_{w} water vapour pressure at T_{eq} and salinity (S), and $x_{\text{CO}_2, \text{dry}}$ the mole fraction of CO_2 in dry air. P_{w} is calculated with

$$P_{\text{w}} = \exp(24.4543 - 67.4509(100/T_{\text{eq}}) - 4.8489(\ln(T_{\text{eq}}/100) - 0.000544S) \quad (6)$$

with T_{eq} in Kelvin and S the sample salinity (Pfeil and Olsen, 2009). When mixing ratios in a wet carrier gas (100 % humidity) are determined, P_{w} is set to zero

$$p_{\text{CO}_2}(T_{\text{eq}}) = x_{\text{CO}_2, \text{wet}}P_{\text{eq}} \quad (7)$$

2.4 Temperature handling

There are different methods to correct for the difference in partial pressure at intake and equilibrator temperature. SOCAT uses the simple Eq. (1) (Pfeil and Olsen, 2009); they refer to more complicated methods but disregard these because they require knowl-
5 edge of the total dissolved inorganic carbon, T_{CO_2} , and alkalinity, T_{Alk} , and are not determined for isochemical conditions. Takahashi et al. (2009) use

$$p_{\text{CO}_2,\text{is}} = p_{\text{CO}_2}(T_{\text{eq}}) \exp \left(0.0433(\text{SST} - T_{\text{eq}}) - 4.35 \times 10^{-5} (\text{SST}^2 - T_{\text{eq}}^2) \right) \quad (8)$$

with SST and T_{eq} in °C. Equations (1) and (8) correct for the effect of slight warming before measurement at the equilibrator on an isochemical transformation (T_{CO_2} and T_{Alk} are unchanged but pH and aqueous CO_2 concentration may vary). Equation (8) is an
10 integrated form of

$$\delta \ln(p_{\text{CO}_2}) / \delta T = 0.0433 - 8.7 \times 10^{-5} T$$

while in Eq. (1) a mean coefficient of $0.0423 \text{ } ^\circ\text{C}^{-1}$ is used. Equation (8) was therefore expected to give more accurate $p_{\text{CO}_2,\text{is}}$ estimates.

2.5 Starting points of the SOCAT computation

Different measured parameters are available in different records to use as starting point for the SOCAT re-computation of $f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{is}}$ (Table 4 in Pfeil et al., 2013). Therefore SOCAT applies the following strict guidelines:

1. recalculate f_{CO_2} whenever possible;
- 20 2. order of preference of the starting point is: x_{CO_2} , p_{CO_2} , f_{CO_2} ;
3. minimize the use of external data.

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The majority of the cases (57.5%) is derived from $x_{\text{CO}_2, \text{dry}}(T_{\text{eq}})$. However, in many cases only $f_{\text{CO}_2, \text{is}}$ (8.4%) or $p_{\text{CO}_2, \text{is}}$ (13.8%) was provided so that it is not certain that Eq. (1) was used by the cruise scientists to convert $p_{\text{CO}_2}(T_{\text{eq}})$ to $p_{\text{CO}_2, \text{is}}$. Moreover, if only $f_{\text{CO}_2, \text{is}}$ was reported, but pressure and salinity were not, $f_{\text{CO}_2, \text{is}}$ is not recalculated and $f_{\text{CO}_2, \text{is}}$ is taken as provided. The regional synthesis files only contain re-computed $f_{\text{CO}_2, \text{is}}$ values and don't give direct information about starting points other than which one was used (fCO2_source). However, each record contains a field "doi", indicating the digital object identifier to a publically accessible online data file in the PANGAEA database (<http://www.pangaea.de/>) where the original measurements before re-computation can be found. The individual cruise data files also contain various x_{CO_2} , p_{CO_2} , and f_{CO_2} data (Table 5 in Pfeil et al., 2013). Because we wanted to use SOCAT's uniform database, and not re-create it, we estimated $f_{\text{CO}_2, \text{cl}}$ from the $f_{\text{CO}_2, \text{is}}$ values in the merged synthesis files as explained in Sect. 3. An estimation of the errors in re-computed $f_{\text{CO}_2, \text{cl}}$ due to varying starting points is given in Sects. 5.6 and 5.7.

3 Our re-computation for climatological fugacity in the year 2010

3.1 Inversion: conversion of $f_{\text{CO}_2, \text{is}}$ to $p_{\text{CO}_2}(T_{\text{eq}})$

We used Eqs. (2) and (8) (with $\text{SST} = T_{\text{ym}, i}$) to calculate $f_{\text{CO}_2, \text{ym}, i}$ but because mole fraction $x_{\text{CO}_2, \text{is}}$, and partial pressures $p_{\text{CO}_2, \text{is}}$ and $p_{\text{CO}_2}(T_{\text{eq}})$ are not given in the SOCAT regional synthesis files, the first step was to estimate the original measurement of $p_{\text{CO}_2}(T_{\text{eq}})$. First $p_{\text{CO}_2, \text{is}}$ was derived from $f_{\text{CO}_2, \text{is}}$ by inverting Eq. (2):

$$p_{\text{CO}_2, \text{is}} = f_{\text{CO}_2, \text{is}} \exp \left(- \frac{[B + 2(1 - x_{\text{CO}_2, \text{wet}}(T_{\text{eq}}))^2 \delta] P_{\text{eq}}}{R \cdot \text{SST}} \right) \quad (9)$$

with $B = B(\text{CO}_2, \text{SST})$ and $\delta = \delta(\text{CO}_2, \text{SST})$ from Eqs. (3) and (4) and SST the SOCAT measurement. Defining $x_{\text{CO}_2, \text{wet}}(T_{\text{eq}})$ as $p_{\text{CO}_2}(T_{\text{eq}})/P_{\text{eq}}$ (Eq. 7) and writing $p_{\text{CO}_2}(T_{\text{eq}})$ in 1907

terms of $p_{\text{CO}_2,\text{is}}$ (Eq. 1), Eq. (9) leads to

$$p_{\text{CO}_2,\text{is}} = f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{is}} \exp \left(- \frac{\left[B + 2 \left(1 - \frac{p_{\text{CO}_2,\text{is}} \exp(-0.0423(\text{SST} - T_{\text{eq}}))}{P_{\text{eq}}} \right)^2 \delta \right] P_{\text{eq}}}{R \cdot \text{SST}} \right). \quad (10)$$

Equation (10) was solved with an iterative calculation

$$[p_{\text{CO}_2,\text{is}}]_{n+1} = f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{is}} \exp(g([p_{\text{CO}_2,\text{is}}]_n, \text{SST}, T_{\text{eq}}, P_{\text{eq}})) \quad (11)$$

(with g a function describing the exponent). In the first iteration the initial guess of $[p_{\text{CO}_2,\text{is}}]_1$ was $f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{is}}$ and the result $[p_{\text{CO}_2,\text{is}}]_2$ was put back in the right hand side of Eq. (11). This step was repeated until $|[p_{\text{CO}_2,\text{is}}]_N - [p_{\text{CO}_2,\text{is}}]_{N-1}| < 2^{-52}$. Using Eq. (1) we could then estimate the original $p_{\text{CO}_2}(T_{\text{eq}})$,

$$p_{\text{CO}_2}(T_{\text{eq}}) = p_{\text{CO}_2,\text{is}} \exp(-0.0423(\text{SST} - T_{\text{eq}})) \quad (12)$$

3.2 Conversion of $p_{\text{CO}_2}(T_{\text{eq}})$ to $f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$ in the year 2010

The next step was to convert partial pressure at equilibrator temperature to partial pressure at $T_{\text{ym},i}$ for each SOCAT measurement. Because ARC ATSR data were available from August 1991 we converted SOCAT data from then onwards. As a consequence 95249 (1.4 %) of valid f_{CO_2} observations were not used from the SOCAT v1.5 dataset (from 119 cruises spread all over the globe). We note that the ESA CCI project is now working on an extended SST climate data record from satellite extending back to 1981 which is expected in 2015. Following Takahashi et al. (2009) we used Eq. (8) to correct for the difference between climatological and equilibrator temperature

$$p_{\text{CO}_2,\text{ym},i} = p_{\text{CO}_2}(T_{\text{eq}}) \exp \left(0.0433(T_{\text{ym},i} - T_{\text{eq}}) - 4.35 \times 10^{-5} (T_{\text{ym},i}^2 - T_{\text{eq}}^2) \right) \quad (13)$$

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The subscript “ym” indicates a “single year monthly composite” and “i” interpolated to SOCAT sample location (Sect. 1.4). Equation (8) was applied because an isochemical transformation between SST and T_{ym} was a reasonable assumption, i.e. total carbon and alkalinity in the ocean surface was not expected to vary significantly during one month. Next, monthly composite estimations of $f_{CO_2,ym,i}$ were calculated from $p_{CO_2,ym,i}$ according to Eq. (2),

$$f_{CO_2,ym,i} = p_{CO_2,ym,i} \exp \left(\frac{\left[B + 2 \left(1 - \frac{p_{CO_2}(T_{eq})}{P_{eq,ym}} \right)^2 \delta \right] P_{eq,ym}}{R \cdot T_{ym,i}} \right) \quad (14)$$

with $B = B(CO_2, T_{ym,i})$ (Eq. 3) and $\delta = \delta(CO_2, T_{ym,i})$ (Eq. 4). We estimated $P_{eq,ym}$ from sea level pressure estimated at closest grid value from 6 hourly NCEP/NCAR as given in SOCAT’s merged synthesis files (ncep_slp). To account for the overpressure that is normally maintained inside a ship 3 hPa was added ($P_{eq,ym} = ncep_slp + 3$ hPa) (Takahashi et al., 2009). Note that we recomputed SOCAT’s f_{CO_2} for monthly composite SST and atmospheric pressure, but not for monthly composite salinity. However, in situ salinity was not provided by the investigator, SOCAT used a monthly composite sea surface salinity from the World Ocean Atlas 2005 (woa_sss) for their computation of $f_{CO_2,cl,i}$. The consequences of missing salinity values are assessed in Sect. 5.7. For all years $p_{CO_2,ym,i}$ and $f_{CO_2,ym,i}$ were extrapolated to the year 2010, producing $p_{CO_2,cl,i}$ and $f_{CO_2,cl,i}$ referenced to 2010, using the same mean rate of change ($1.5 \pm 0.3 \mu\text{atm yr}^{-1}$) as Takahashi et al. (2009) used for p_{CO_2} . Takahashi et al. (2009) extrapolate to the year 2000, so if the rate of change has increased since then ours could be a low estimate. Finally, the $f_{CO_2,cl,i}$ and $p_{CO_2,cl,i}$ data were grouped by month and averaged over $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$ squares. Not all $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$ grid boxes were filled and we horizontally interpolated between filled values to produce global $p_{CO_2,cl}$ and $f_{CO_2,cl}$ distributions (Sect. 4).

3.3 Missing values

We dealt with missing SOCAT variables following Pfeil and Olsen (2009):

1. we only used “good” records (WOCE_flag = 2);
2. we only used records with valid $f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{is}}$ and SST;
3. if T_{eq} was invalid we used SST;
4. if P_{eq} was invalid we used atmospheric pressure, P_{atm} , +3 hPa;
5. if P_{eq} and P_{atm} were invalid we used ncep_slp + 3 hPa.

4 Horizontal extrapolation using ordinary block kriging

Unlike Takahashi et al. (2009), our climatology includes data from El Niño years and coastal locations. We added $p_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$ for those who prefer to use partial pressure; $p_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$ levels were slightly higher (less than $2 \mu\text{atm}$) than $f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$. For the spatial interpolation of the gridded data on a $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$ mask map of the global oceans we used gstat, an open source computer code for multivariable geostatistical modelling, prediction and simulation (gstat home page: <http://www.gstat.org/>). Gstat finds the best linear unbiased prediction (the expected value) with its prediction error for a variable at a location, given observations and a model for their spatial variation (Pebesma, 1999). We quantified the prediction error as standard deviation (square root of the variance given by gstat). First, we modelled the variogram for $f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$ for each month using gstat’s interactive user interface (Pebesma, 1999). A variogram describes how the data varies spatially and can be represented by a plot of semivariance against distance. The variograms best fitted combinations of a nugget and a spherical model, $a \text{Nug}(0) + b \text{Sph}(c)$, and for each month variogram parameters a , b and c were derived (e.g., Fig. 4). The fitted variogram models were applied in the kriging of both $f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$ and $p_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$. For $p_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$ we

used the same variogram as for $f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$ because the difference with $f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$ was negligible compared to the spatial variation.

We applied ordinary kriging on mask map locations because it is the default action when observations, variogram, and prediction locations are specified (Pebesma, 1999). We performed local ordinary block kriging on a $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$ mask map of the global oceans with $\text{min} = 4$, $\text{max} = 20$, and $\text{radius} = 60$. Thus, after selecting all data points at (euclidian) distances from the prediction location less or equal to 60, the 20 closest were chosen when more than 20 were found and a missing value was generated if less than 4 points were found. The data were smoothed by averaging over square shaped 5×5 sized blocks. Thus gstat produced the $f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$ (and $\rho_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$) prediction and variance values located at the grid cell centres of the (non-missing valued) cells in the grid map mask. These results were compared with results from different kriging options min, max, radius and block size (Sect. 5.3).

Our approach was simpler than the spatial interpolation on a $4^\circ \times 5^\circ$ grid of Takahashi et al. (2009). For each day they increase pixel size to four neighbouring pixels over 3 days (past, present and future day). The values of the pixels that are still without observations after this procedure are computed by a continuity equation based on a 2-D diffusion–advection transport equation for surface waters. All daily pixel values are used to calculate monthly mean values. Takahashi et al. (2009) estimate that the global mean surface water $\rho_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$ obtained in their study may be biased by about $+1.3 \mu\text{atm}$ due to under sampling and the interpolation method. The spatial interpolation method we applied is expected to give unbiased results (Pebesma, 1999).

5 Results

5.1 Monthly global maps

The prediction distributions of $f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$ produced by the ordinary block kriging are shown in Fig. 5 for all 12 months. The maps showing the standard deviations of the kriging

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for January (all months) are shown in Fig. 6 (Fig. A1). The 12 monthly global distribution data have been made available in 12 netCDF-3 files in the Supplement related to this article. These files contain $f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$, $p_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$, their spatial interpolation errors, and ARC's SST_{skin} for the year 2010, all on a $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$ grid. The variable names are respectively fCO2_2010_krig_pred, pCO2_2010_krig_pred, fCO2_2010_krig_std, pCO2_2010_krig_std, and Tcl_2010 (T_{ym} as defined in Sect. 1.4 for the year 2010). Monthly gridded values of atmospheric CO₂ dry air mole fractions in 2010, made available by the NOAA ESRL Carbon Cycle Cooperative Global Air Sampling Network (Dlugokencky et al., 2014), are also given as variable vCO2_2010. These were not used in our conversion but can help calculate air-sea gas CO₂ fluxes (Takahashi, 2009). The important differences with the Takahashi climatology are summarized in Table 1.

A range of errors needs to be considered when interpreting the final monthly maps. It is difficult to be complete but we considered the following errors. The spatial interpolation errors were estimated by taking the square root of the variances of the kriging. The different kriging approaches themselves were evaluated by calculating the mean and standard deviations of the varying $f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$ kriging results using the options shown in Table 2. The cruises were bootstrapped to investigate if certain cruises dominated the mapped results. Other errors that were analysed were the “temporal extrapolation error”, the “inversion error” related to the different starting points, the consequences of the missing values, and the propagations of the uncertainties in the SOCAT measurements and $T_{\text{ym},i}$. These errors are discussed in the next sub sections and the final sub section gives a summary overview.

5.2 Spatial interpolation errors

The standard deviations (SD) of the applied kriging were calculated by taking the square root of the variance values produced by gstat (Pebesma, 1999). Kriging errors were obviously related to the available SOCAT data density in the measurement month (e.g., Fig. 3). The $f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$ kriging SD mapped for all months are illustrated in Fig. A1. The monthly SD over all grid points was $20 \pm 5 \mu\text{atm}$ on average (mean over all monthly

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estimate the variability of the mean monthly $f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$ distributions. The complete SOCAT data set was too big to bootstrap at once. We therefore bootstrapped in two steps, first by cruise ID for each year and region, and then by year and region. Each of the 10 resulting $f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$ datasets were kriged as described in Sect. 4 (for each month in each synthetic dataset a different variogram model was fitted and applied). The mean monthly distributions showed that in regions of fewer cruises (outside the North Atlantic and North Pacific) significant variation in $f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$ could occur, with up to $50 \mu\text{atm}$ standard deviation (Figs. 8 and A3). It was therefore likely that certain cruises were indeed more important than others. High variability in the east-central equatorial Pacific could be a consequence of not excluding the El Niño years.

5.5 Temporal extrapolation error

The $1.5 \mu\text{atm yr}^{-1}$ rate of change in p_{CO_2} has an estimated precision of $\pm 0.3 \mu\text{atm yr}^{-1}$ (Takahashi et al., 2009) and $\Delta f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}} = \Delta p_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$ (Eq. 14). The error in $f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$ in 2010 due to uncertainty of the $p_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$ trend was therefore estimated as $\pm (2010 - \text{year}) \cdot 0.3 \mu\text{atm yr}^{-1}$, ranging between $\pm (0.9 - 5.7) \mu\text{atm}$. These extrapolation errors for the month of January and for all months are shown in respective Fig. 9 and Fig. A4. The error was on the high side in the Indian Ocean and in the western Southern Ocean because fewer cruises were performed there in recent times. The absolute monthly mean extrapolation error over all grid points was estimated at $3 \pm 0.1 \mu\text{atm}$ (average over all monthly means \pm standard deviation). This implies that if in reality the rate of change since 1991 was 1.8 instead of $1.5 \mu\text{atm yr}^{-1}$, $f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$ would be underestimated by $\sim 3 \mu\text{atm}$ on average. Recent research has shown that this is probable, as Takahashi et al. (2014) present an updated oceanic p_{CO_2} trend of $1.9 \mu\text{atm yr}^{-1}$, a value supported by McKinley et al. (2011).

7 Conclusions

SOCAT f_{CO_2} (and ρ_{CO_2}) predictions and standard deviations for a reference year 2010, recomputed for a SST suitable for climate change research of air–sea gas exchange and interpolated to a global $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$ grid, have been made available. Two climatology datasets are presented as an online Supplement to this paper, each consisting of 12 monthly NetCDF files: one using all SOCATv1.5 data and one using all data of the recent update SOCATv2. We identified and calculated various possible errors. The errors due to the spatial interpolation, closely related to data density, dominated and some areas showed higher errors of all kinds than others. The data quality/density in the North Atlantic and North Pacific proved to be superior. Our dataset based on SOCAT version 2 is mostly similar to the one based on version 1.5, but if it is used to focus on outliers version 2 should be used because the data quality is better. For future SOCAT versions: it would benefit climatological applications if additional climatological values of f_{CO_2} were directly calculated using the difference between the temperature of sea water in the equilibrator and monthly composite temperatures such as from ARC (Eq. 13), so to avoid the inversion step.

The Supplement related to this article is available online at doi:10.5194/osd-11-1895-2014-supplement.

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Table 1. Differences between Takahashi climatology and climatology presented in this paper.

	Takahashi et al. (2009)	This study
Reference year	2000	2010
Resolution	4° × 5°	1° × 1°
Data	Excludes El Niño and coastal data	Includes El Niño and coastal data
Spatial Interpolation	Involves continuity equation based on a 2-D diffusion–advection transport equation for surface waters	Simple block kriging without continuity equation
Parameter	p_{CO_2} (= f_{CO_2})	f_{CO_2} (and p_{CO_2})
f_{CO_2} taken at	instantaneous intake temperature SST _{depth}	monthly composite sub skin SST from ARC

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Table 2. The different kriging options that were applied to the monthly data sets of $f_{\text{CO}_2, \text{cl}}$ for 2010; ordinary block kriging was applied with min, max, radius, dx and dy as explained in Sect. 4.

min	max	radius	dx	dy
4	20	60	5	5
4	20	40	5	5
4	20	100	5	5
4	20	60	1	1
4	20	60	10	10
4	10	60	5	5
4	40	60	5	5
2	20	60	5	5
10	20	60	5	5

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Table 3. Error estimations of the parameters involved in the $f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$ computation and their consequent errors $\Delta f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$ (μatm).

Parameter x	error	$\Delta f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$
ΔSST	$\pm 0.05^*$	± 0.75
ΔT_{eq}	$\pm 0.05^*$	± 0.015
ΔP_{eq}	$\pm 0.5^*$	~ 0
$\Delta f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{is}}$	$\pm 2^*$	± 2
$\Delta T_{\text{ym},i}$	± 0.2	± 3

* for SOP data (Pfeil et al., 2013).

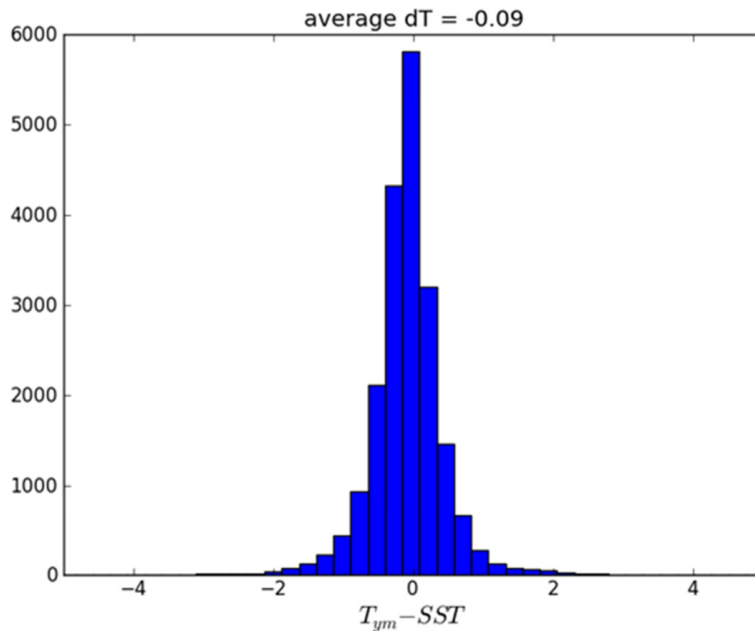


Figure 1. Histogram of temperature difference between monthly gridded data of subskin SST derived from ARC, T_{ym} , and in situ SST from SOCAT version 1.5 using global data from all available years.

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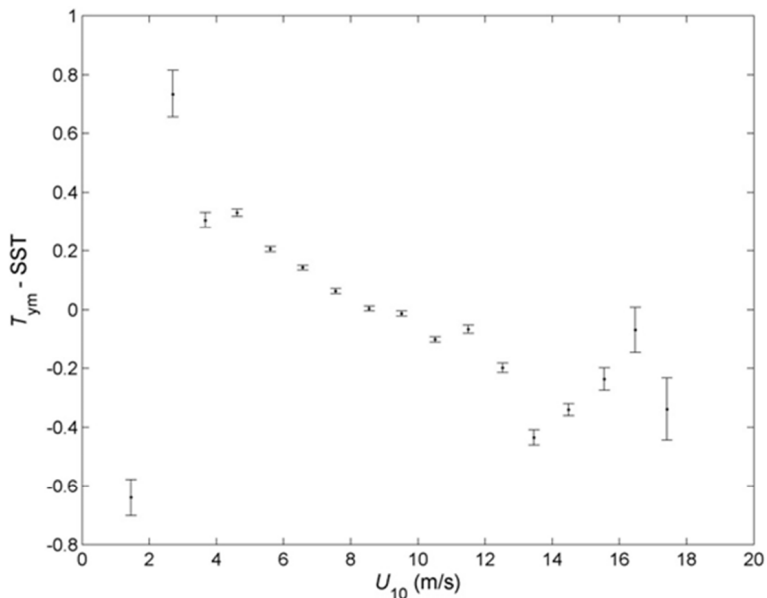


Figure 2. Scatter plot of temperature difference between monthly gridded data of subskin SST derived from ARC, T_{ym} , and in situ SST from SOCAT version 1.5, using data from all available years in the North Atlantic, binned in 1 m s^{-1} U_{10} bins. The error bar indicates the standard error of the mean.

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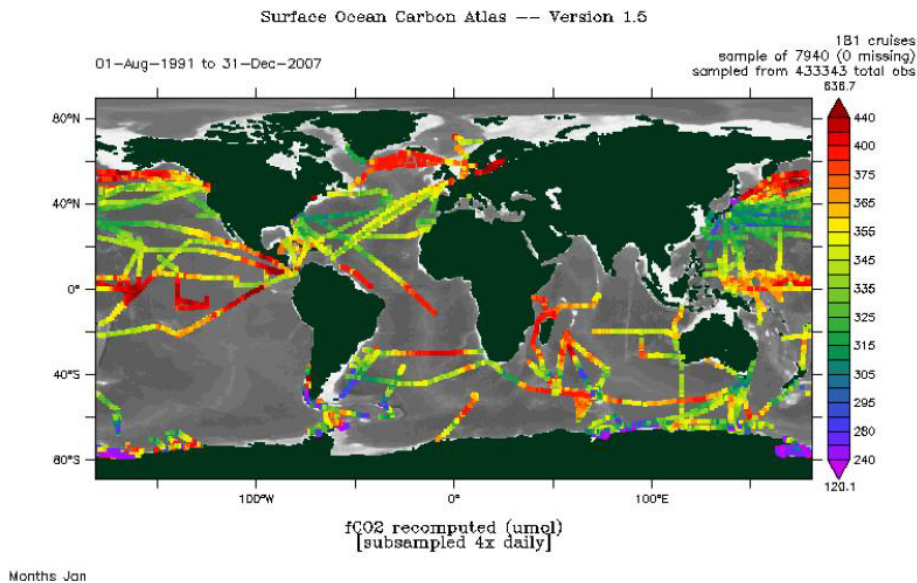


Figure 3. SOCAT CO₂ fugacity (µatm) data shown in the online Cruise Data Viewer for the month January; all data from 1 August 1991 to 31 December 2007.

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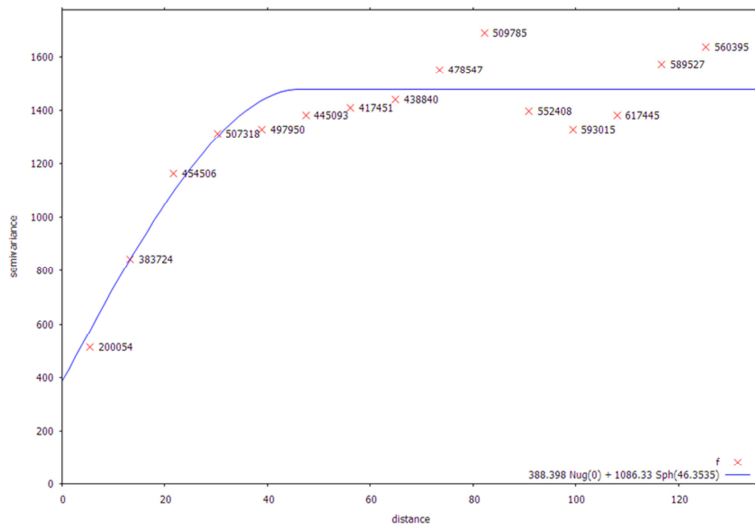


Figure 4. Variogram for global $f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$ data in 2010 for the month January, derived from $f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{is}}$ shown in Fig. 3. The numbers next to each data point are the number of data pairs.

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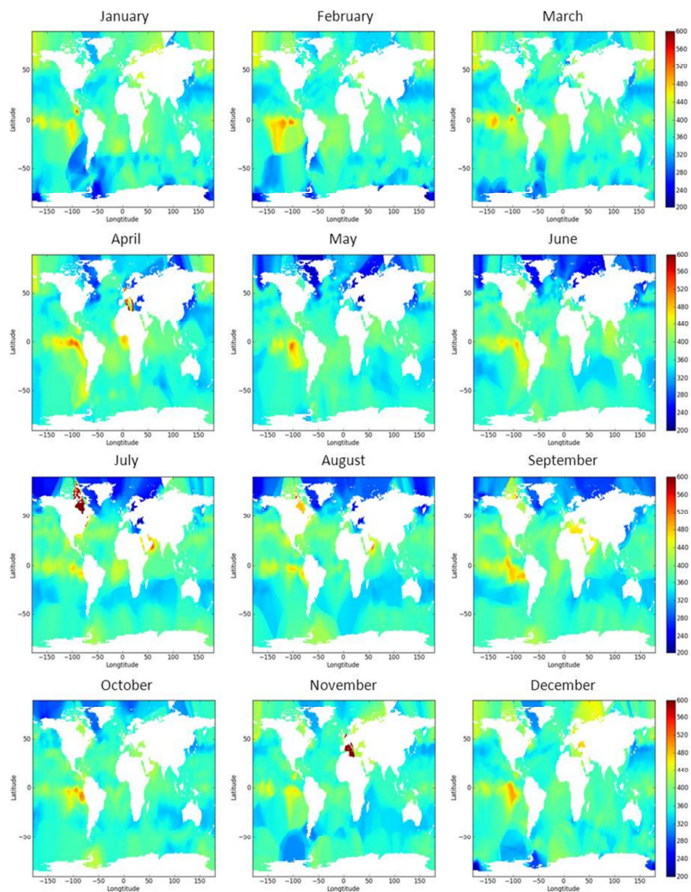


Figure 5. Monthly $f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$ values in the global oceans estimated for 2010 for January (top left) to December (bottom right) on a 200–600 μatm scale; data were interpolated to a $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$ grid using ordinary block kriging with $\text{min} = 4$, $\text{max} = 20$, $\text{radius} = 60$ and $\text{block size} = 5 \times 5$.

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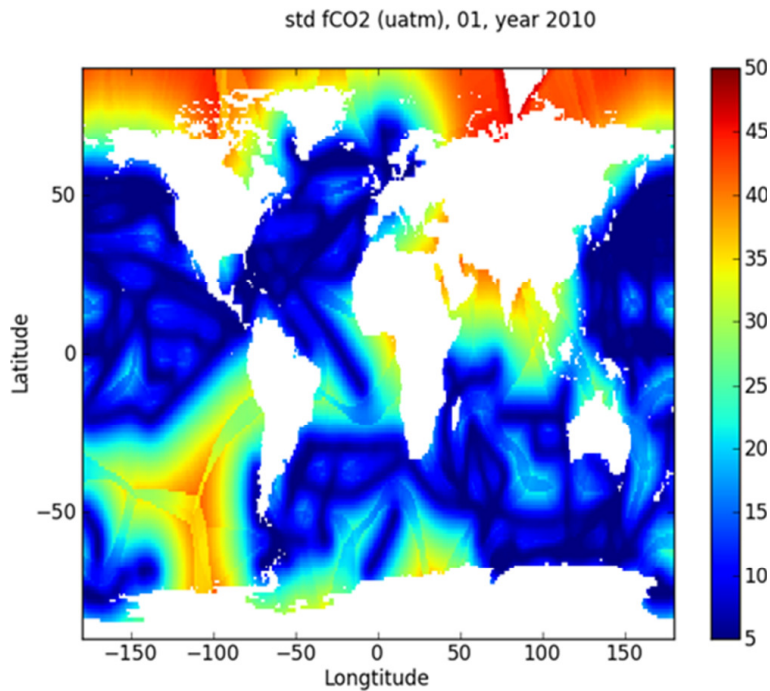


Figure 6. Standard deviation in $f_{\text{CO}_2, \text{cl}}$ estimated for January 2010 on a 5 to 50 μatm scale, associated with the ordinary block kriging shown in Fig. 5.

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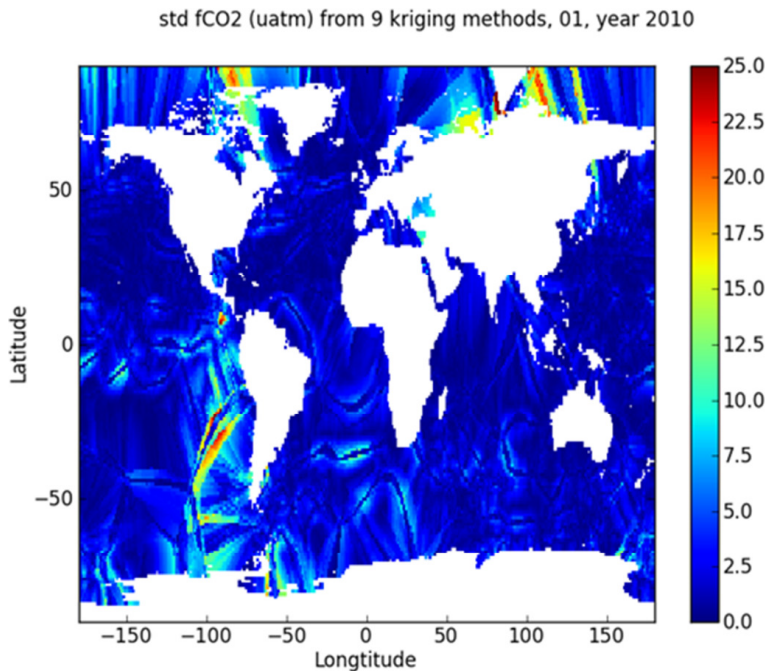


Figure 7. Standard deviations of the mean over nine different kriging results of $f_{\text{CO}_2, \text{cl}}$ estimated for January 2010, using the range of options shown in Table 2; on a 0 to 25 μatm scale.

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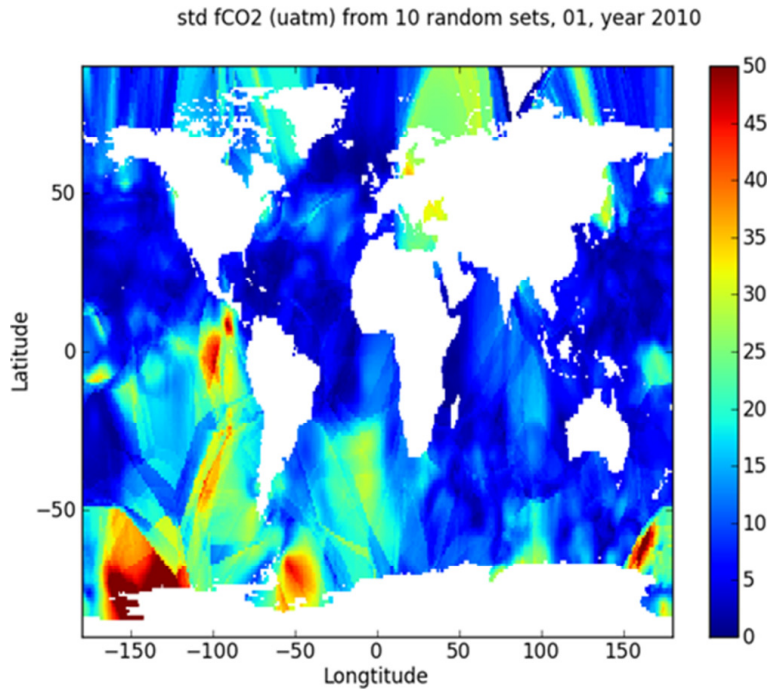


Figure 8. Standard deviations of the mean over 10 bootstrapped datasets of $f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$ estimated for January 2010; on a 0 to 50 μatm scale.

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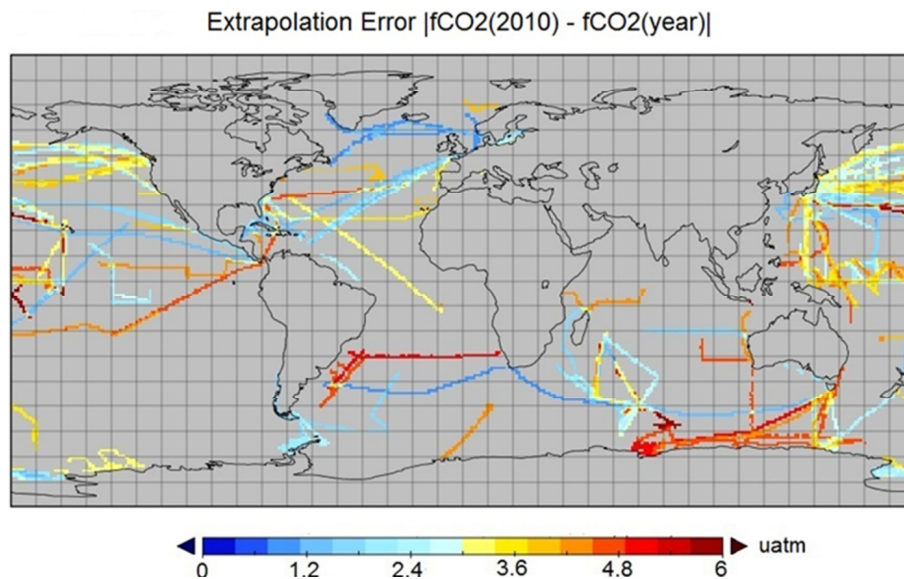


Figure 9. Calculated propagation of the “temporal extrapolation error” in $f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$ estimated for January 2010 due to uncertainty in p_{CO_2} trend; on a 0 to 6 μatm scale.

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Inversion Error $f_{\text{CO}_2(\text{inv})} - f_{\text{CO}_2(\text{SOCAT})}$

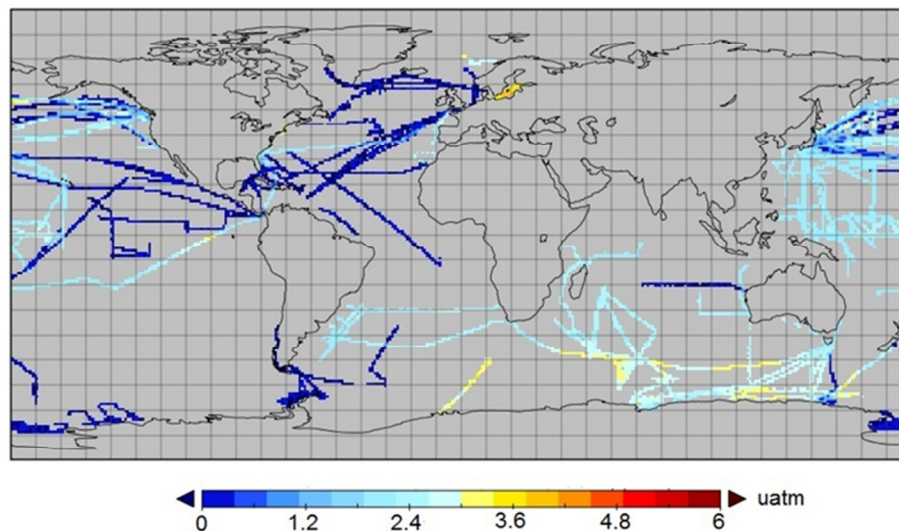


Figure 10. Calculated “inversion error” in $f_{\text{CO}_2, \text{cl}}$ estimated for January 2010, on a 0 to 6 μatm scale.

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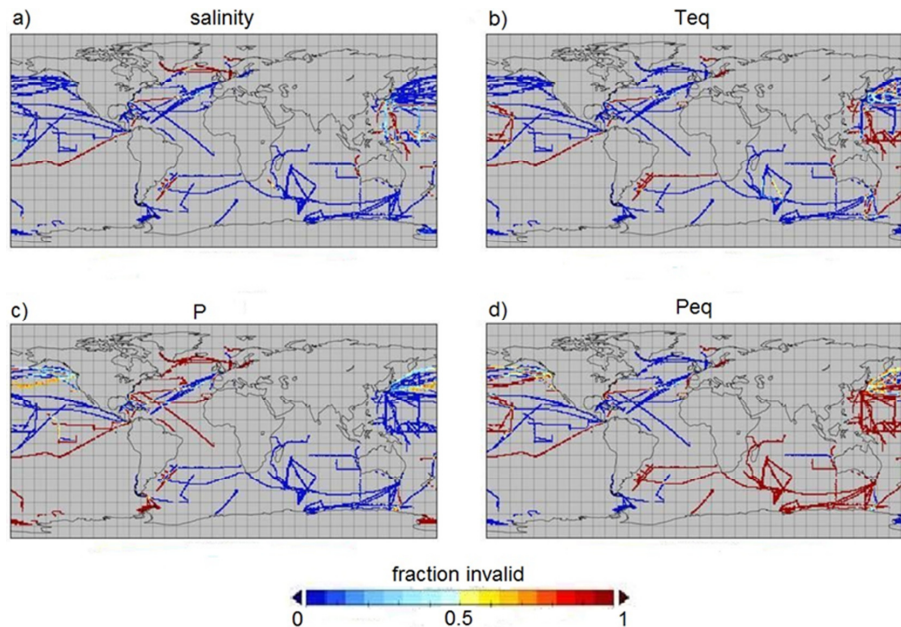
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Figure 11. Fractions of $f_{\text{CO}_2, \text{cl}}$ estimated for January 2010, calculated with missing value (a) salinity, (b) T_{eq} , (c) P , and (d) P_{eq} ; on a 0 to 1 scale.

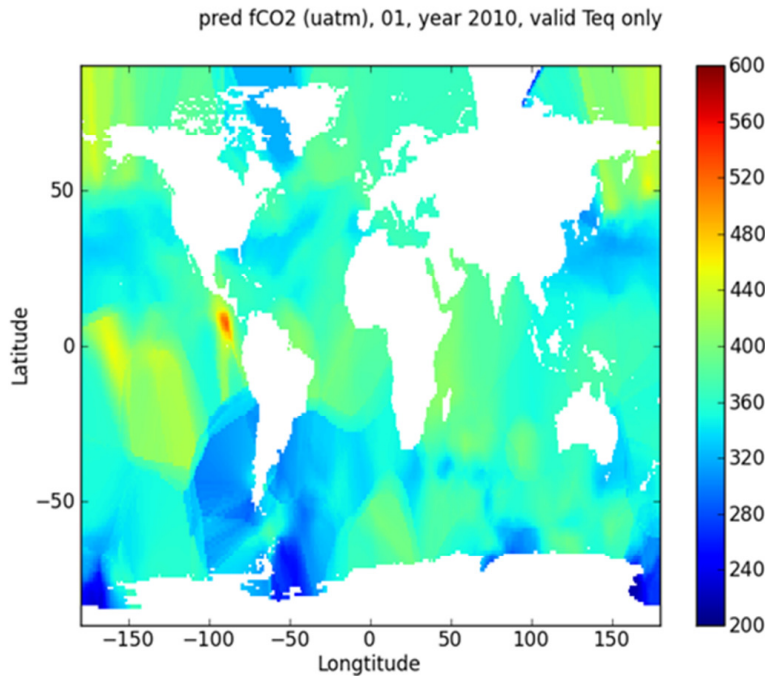


Figure 12. As Fig. 5, January, but using only data points with valid T_{eq} .

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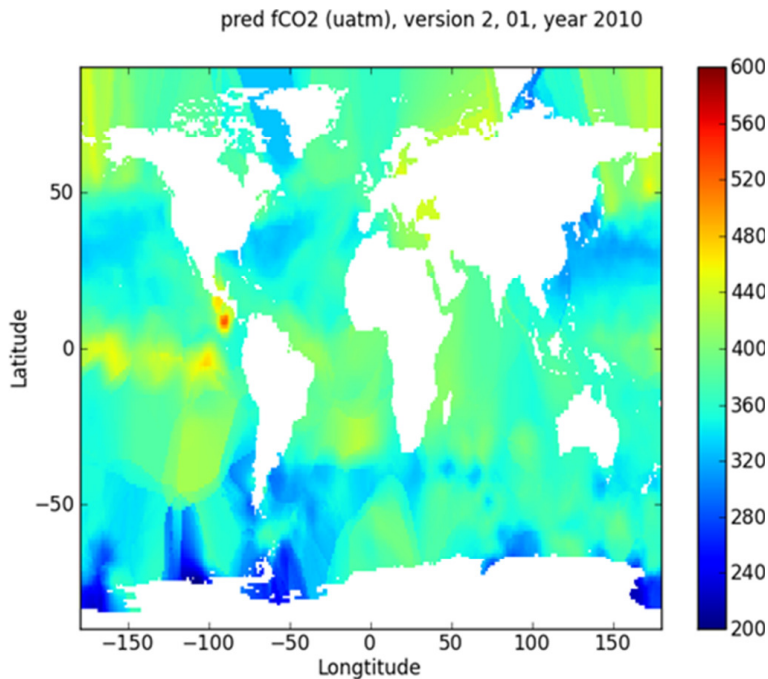


Figure 13. As Fig. 5, January, but using SOCAT version 2 data.

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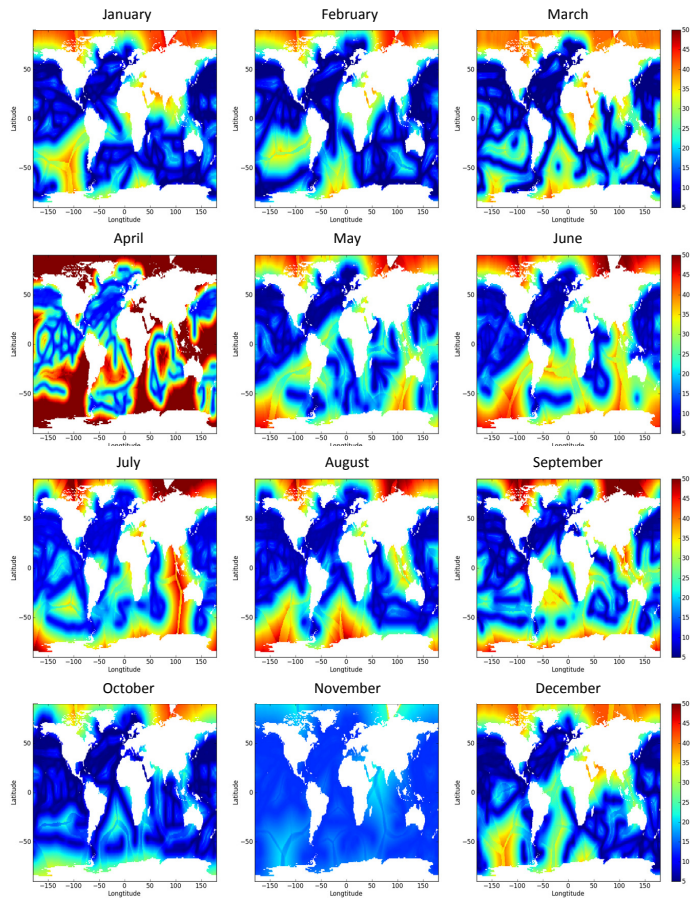


Figure A1. Spatial interpolation errors in estimations of $f_{\text{CO}_2, \text{cl}}$ in 2010. Standard deviation in $f_{\text{CO}_2, \text{cl}}$ estimated for 2010 associated with the ordinary block kriging results shown in Fig. 5; on a 5 to 50 μatm scale.

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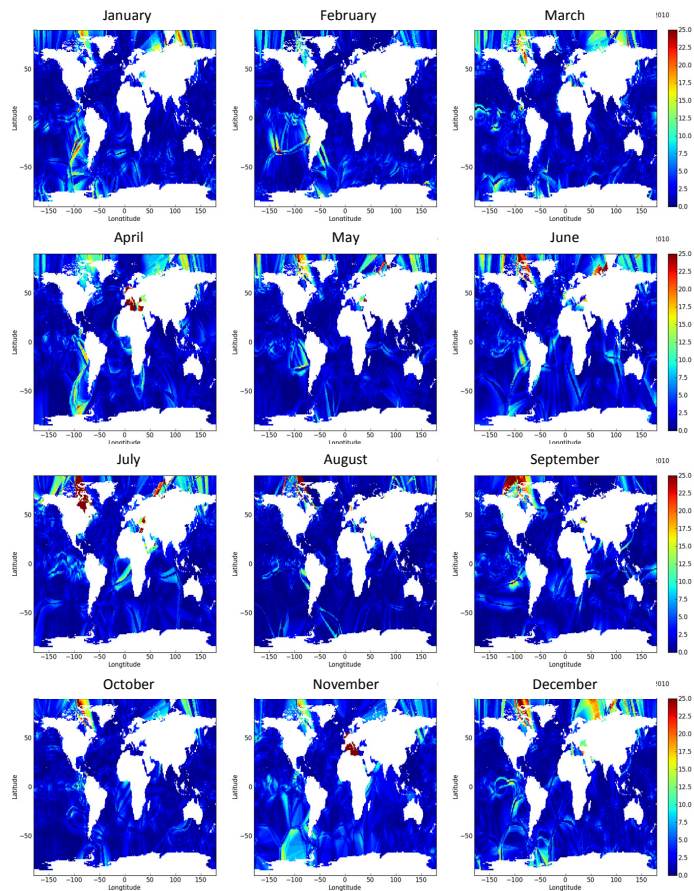


Figure A2. Variation in $f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$ in 2010 distributions due to different kriging approaches. Standard deviations of the mean over the different kriging results of $f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$ estimated for 2010, using the range of options shown in Table 1; on a 0 to 25 μatm scale.

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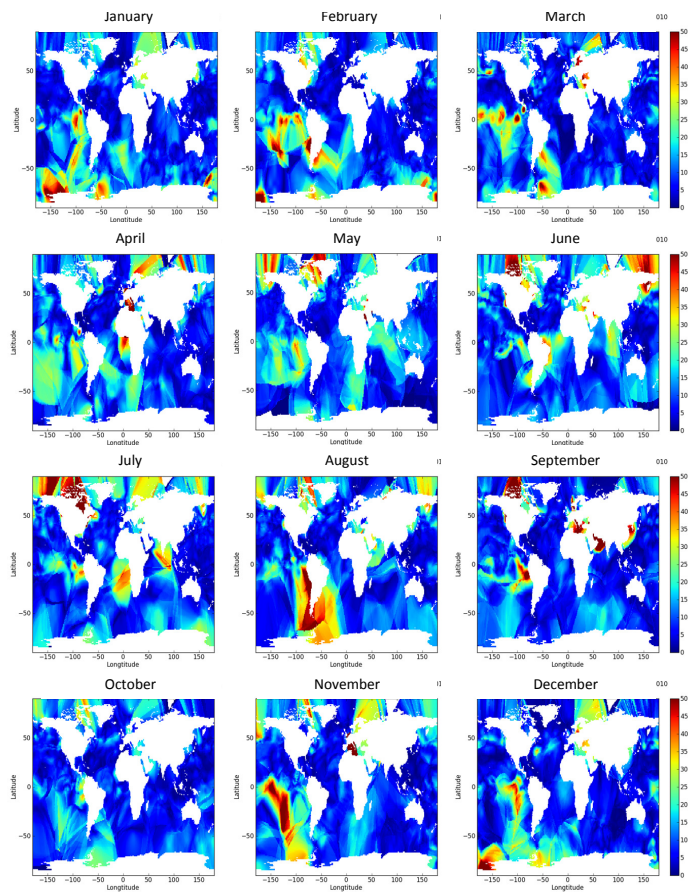


Figure A3. Errors in $f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$ in 2010 by bootstrapping cruises. Standard deviations of the mean over 10 bootstrapped datasets of $f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$ estimated 2010; on a 0 to 50 μatm scale.

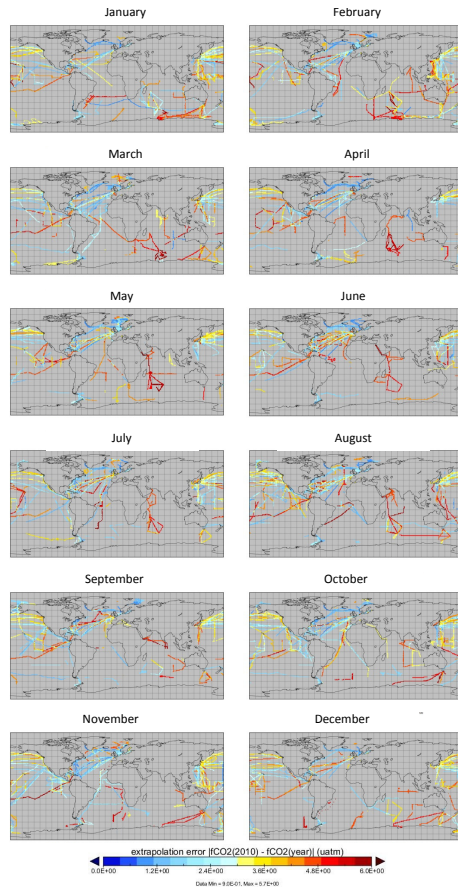


Figure A4. Estimated errors in $f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$ in 2010 due to the extrapolation to the year 2010. Calculated propagation of the “temporal extrapolation error” in $f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$ estimated for 2010 due to uncertainty in p_{CO_2} trend, on a 0 to 6 μatm scale.

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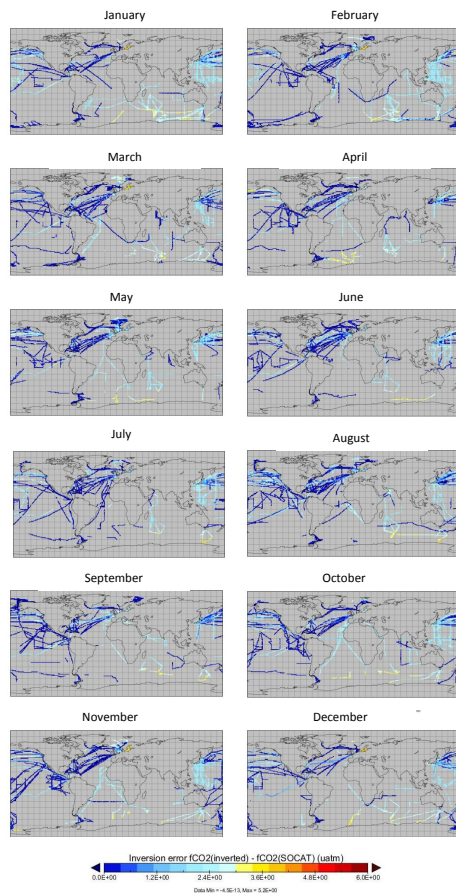


Figure A5. Estimated errors in $f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$ in 2010 due to the inversion step. Calculated propagation of the “inversion error” in $f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$ estimated for 2010, on a 0 to 6 μatm scale.

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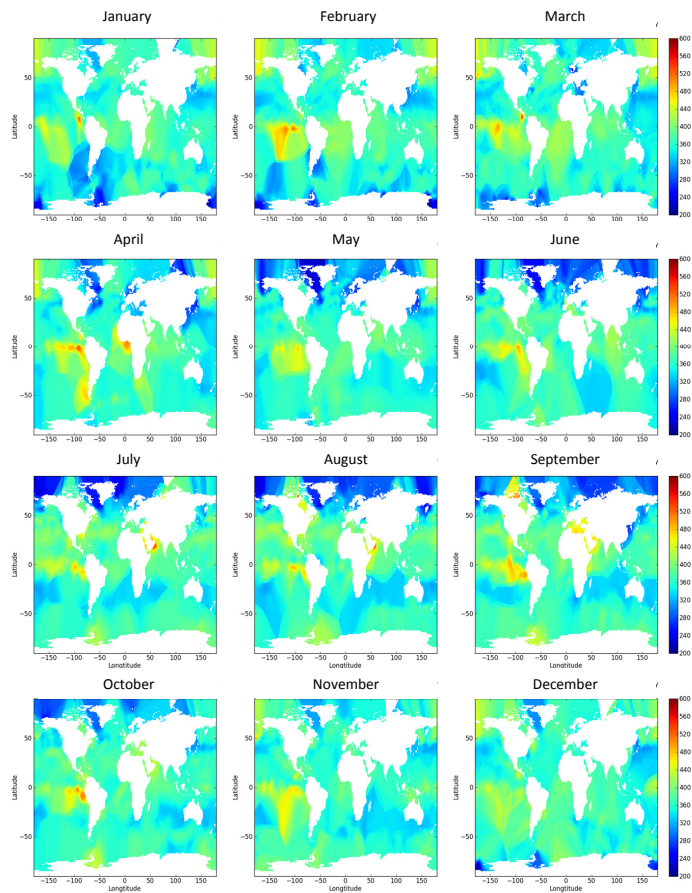


Figure A6. Monthly global distributions of $f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$ in 2010, using data points with T_{eq} only. As Fig. 5, but for data points with valid T_{eq} values only.

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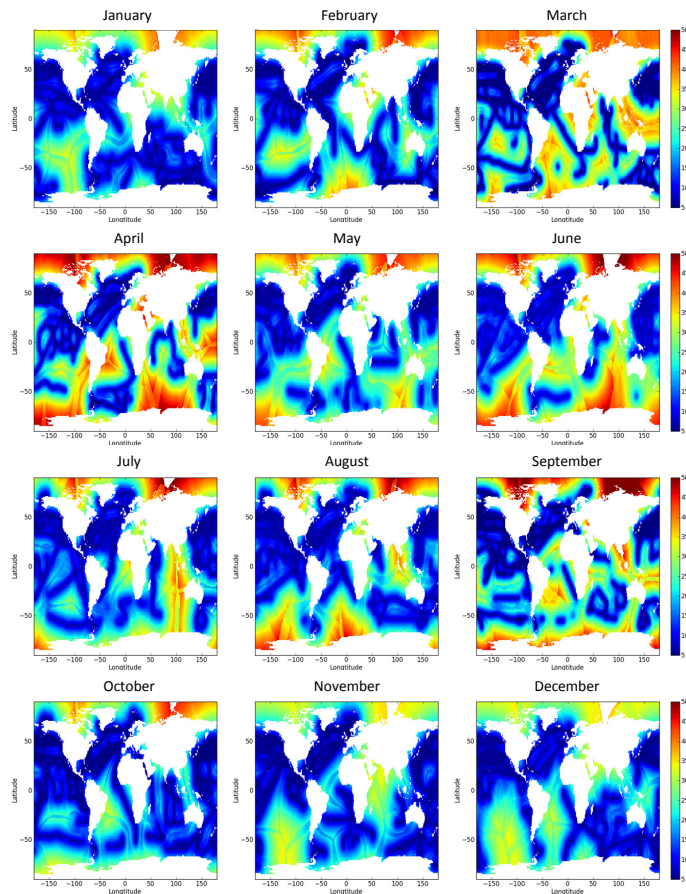


Figure A7. Spatial interpolation errors in estimations of $f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$ in 2010, using data points with T_{eq} only. As Fig. A1, but for data points with valid T_{eq} values only.

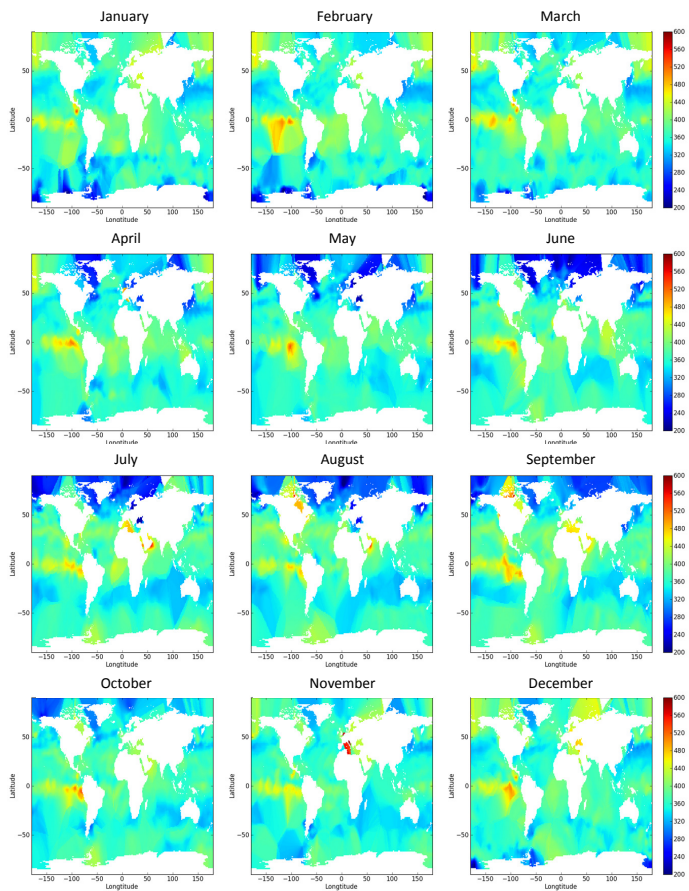


Figure A8. Monthly global distributions of $f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$ in 2010 from SOCAT version 2. As Fig. 5, but for SOCAT version 2 instead of version 1.5.

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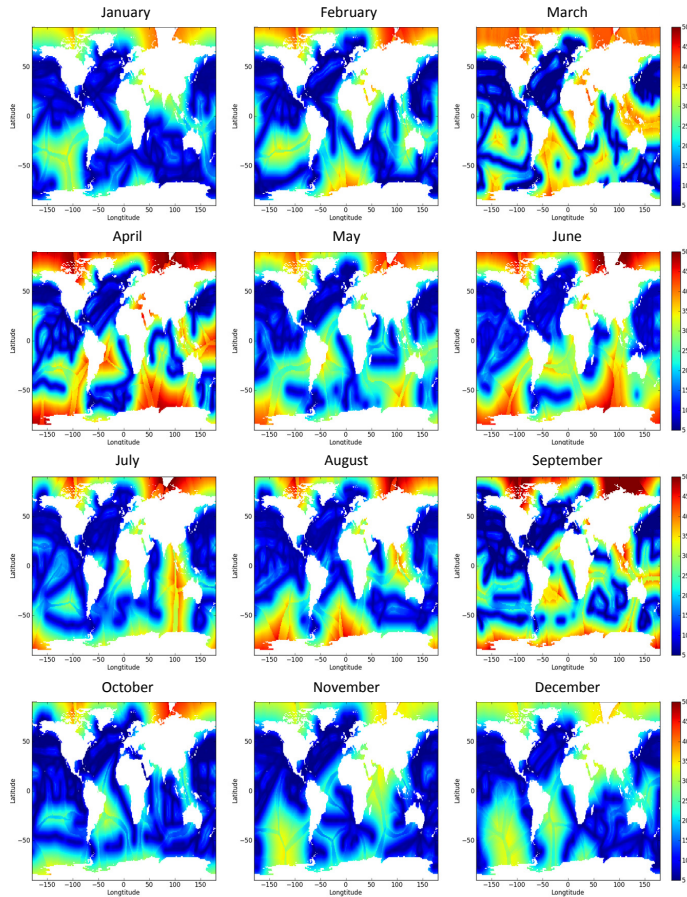


Figure A9. Spatial interpolation errors in $f_{\text{CO}_2,\text{cl}}$ in 2010 using SOCAT version 2. As Fig. A1, but for SOCAT version 2 instead of version 1.5.

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