



**JAPAN AGENCY FOR MARINE-EARTH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE

3173-25 Showa-machi Kanazawa-ku Yokohama-shi

Kanagawa 236-0001 JAPAN

15 February 2015

To,  
The Editor,  
Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics  
European Geophysical Union

Dear Editor,

We are herewith submitting a revised version of the manuscript entitled  
"Variations in global methane sources and sinks during 1910--2010" by Ghosh et  
al. for publication in ACP.

Based on the reviewers' comments we revised the manuscript significantly for  
improving the clarity of the methods, e.g., description of the transport model and the  
isotope calculations. Detailed changes are given as our replies to the comments (in  
grey or lighter colour).

We hope the revised version will meet the standard of an ACP publication.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Prabir K. Patra'.

(Prabir K. Patra on behalf of all coauthors)

Ph: +81-45-778-5727; Fax: +81-45-778-5496

E-mail: [prabir@jamstec.go.jp](mailto:prabir@jamstec.go.jp)

**Encl.**

1. Revised manuscript (LaTeX, figures in PNG, full ms as PDF, supplement in MS Excel)
2. Difference between the ACPD version and this revised version using Unix 'diff' ().
3. Cover letter including the Replies to the reviewers (This file in PDF)

## Reply to Anonymous Referee #1

Thank you very much for appreciating the work and helping us with helpful comments and suggestions for further improving the clarity of the paper. In addition to incorporating changes as per your comments, we have made following major/notable changes; (1) Figure 1 now uses new dating of the air Firn air bubbles in NEEM ice core, (2) Figure 5 is considerably remade by using new air aged NEEM data, and includes the inter-polar differences for individual data points (in addition to corrected observation, calculated from spline fitted line).

### General comments:

This study is able to reproduce well the observed variations in global atmospheric methane over the last century, providing some insight into changes in particular sources (principally biomass burning) and sinks (principally stratospheric atomic chlorine). The authors use a chemistry transport model with initial estimates of anthropogenic emissions taken from bottom up inventories and wetland emissions simulated by a biogeochemical model. A mass balance approach is then used to minimize the difference between the initial forward modeling results and a range of global observations (direct atmospheric measurements, firn and ice core data) and thereby optimize global total emissions. A further constraint, using  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  observations allows the authors to attribute the high  $\text{CH}_4$  growth period largely to increases in biomass burning.

The manuscript is well written, clearly structured and is likely to be of considerable interest to others in the greenhouse gas research community. The referee recommends publication in ACP.

### Minor comments:

P27621, L24: insert 'the' between 'estimate' and 'global'.

P27622, L22: with -> to

P27623, L11: latest -> last

Ans. These changes have been made

P27624, L24: The authors say that the use of zonal mean winds does not affect the long term simulation as it only results in a 5 Tg  $\text{CH}_4/\text{yr}$  higher loss rate than when the model is nudged to JRA-25. Giving this variation in loss rate as a percentage would make it easier for the reader to assess this claim.

Ans. We have added the values in percentage, which is about 1% as the global total loss rate is about 500 Tg/yr for the recent decades.

P27627, L11: insert 'a' between 'used' and 'consistent'.

P27631, L1: insert 'the' before ACTM

P27631, L20: isotopes -> isotopologues

P27632, L5: insert 'the' before ACTM

P27632, L6: suggest replacing 'will' with 'should'

P27633, L15: fractionations effect -> fractionation effects

P27633, L23: insert 'of' after because

P27636, L5: insert 'the' before  $\text{CH}_4$

P27636, L6: insert 'the' before  $\text{CH}_4$

P27637, L15: insert 'the' before 'Antarctic'

P27637, L17: insert 'the' before 'IPD'

P27637, L27: insert 'the' before 'period'

P27639, L8: insert 'the' before 'Global'

P27639, L28: Supplement -> supplement

P27640, L25: leaving -> leave

P27640, L26: suggest changing 'erroneous' to uncertain

P27642, L13: insert 'the' before 1990s.

Ans. These changes have been made

P27656: Frin -> Firn in the legend for NGRIP and NEEM data

Ans. The Figure 2 legend is corrected. We also have modified lines/colour etc. for better clarity.

P27660. Legend difficult to read in Figure 6. Increase font size.

Ans. The Figure 6 is modified for better clarity.

## Reply to Anonymous Referee #2

Thank you very much for appreciating the work and helping us with helpful comments and suggestions for further improving the clarity of the paper. In addition to incorporating changes as per your comments, we have made following major/notable changes; (1) Figure 1 now uses new dating of the air Firn air bubbles in NEEM ice core, (2) Figure 5 is considerably remade by using new air aged NEEM data, and includes the inter-polar differences for individual data points (in addition to corrected observation, calculated from spline fitted line).

This paper presents a reconstruction of the methane emissions from 1910 to 2010 using 1/ an ensemble of methane atmospheric concentrations reconstructed data from polar archives (ice cores and firn) or directly observed in the atmosphere (since 1979), 2/ a chemistry-transport model, 3/ an initial scenario of emissions, and 4/ a massbalance procedure to optimize global emission incrementally from the initial scenario. The addition of  $^{13}\text{C}$  data (also from ice cores, firn and direct observations) allows the authors to propose a partition of the increment in methane emissions between a light source (identified as biogenic) and a heavy source (identified as biomass burning).

### General comments

The paper treats the important aspect to better understand past methane emissions in order to improve 1/ our present understanding of the global methane cycle, and 2/ the future emission scenarios for climate projections.

The main strength and originality of the paper is to bring together  $^{12}\text{C}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  constraints on the global methane budget over a century. Although limited to fully separate all the components of methane emissions, the use of  $^{13}\text{C}$  brings interesting new constraints.

The main weakness is the lack of precision in the writing all along the text, and more specifically in the methodology part (section 2). My recommendation is to re-write the method section with more precision and sometimes more details (see the numerous specific comments below) in order that the reader does not have to guess what is done behind the lines later in the results section. For instance the model description is not clear, the procedure of optimization is unclear, the construction of emission scenario also, only in the result section is clearly mentioned that only Antarctica data only are used for the optimization, a two-box model appear in the middle of the result section, ...

A lot of assumptions are made in such an integrated system. I recommend that, whenever it is possible, the authors mention the impact of choices made on their results: initial conditions, OH field used (constant, NH/SO ratios ?), isotopic signatures chosen, ... See the different specific comments about this point below.

**Ans.** We agree with on the assessment of the weaknesses and appreciate pointing this to us. We have made large amount of modifications to better clarify the presentation of the work. Some of the details are given as replies to the specific comments.

Overall, I recommend publication after addressing all issues raised in my general and specific comments

### Specific comments

Abstract : Replace during the 2000s by in 2010 Replace the causes of the  $\text{CH}_4$  increase by something like "the detailed causes" as we know that emission have increased, although not in detail which category increase when A suggestion : During 1910–2010, the global total  $\text{CH}_4$  emission doubled from 290Tg/yr to 580Tg/yr.

**Ans.** These corrections have been made

P4:

L10: Replace The present-day concentration of CH<sub>4</sub>... by the 2010 concentration of ...

L19: resumed strong growth again starting in 2007 (Rigby et al., 2008; Dlugokencky et al., 2009) : please give the average growth rate since 2007.

L22: in relation with : : and climate change : also mention tropospheric oxidant changes

Ans. Modifications made following above suggestions

P5:

L11: They are not tested for : : : They did not address the latest: : :

L17: can be extended from today back to the mid-20th century : time scale in the two directions was not clear

Ans. Modifications made following above suggestions. The sentence in Line 17 now ends as "...to the mid-20th century from the recent decades"

P6:

L10-14: please rephrase the long sentence to make it more clear.

Ans. Sorry for this long sentence, which contained 4 long acronyms. The sentence sounds fine to us. However, suggestion for modification is welcome.

§2.1: the model description has to be rewritten as it is confusing as it is in the submitted paper. Do you use the offline model (ACTM) of a GCM (AGCM)? If yes, precise how the air mass fluxes are computed. Be more clear that you do not nudge winds in the GCM but that when doing so when analysed winds become available, the differences remain limited.

Ans. Following description is added:

"The basic physical and dynamical features of the AGCM have been described in (Hasumi et al., 2004). Advective transport of moisture and tracers is obtained from a 4th order flux-form advection scheme using a monotonic Piecewise Parabolic Method (PPM) (Colella and Woodward, 1984) and a flux-form semi-Lagrangian scheme (Lin and Rood, 1996).

Subgridscale vertical fluxes of heat, moisture, and tracers are approximated using a non-local closure scheme in conjugation with the level 2 scheme of Mellor and Yamada (1974). The cumulus parameterization scheme is based on Arakawa and Schubert (1974). The updraft and downdraft of tracers by cumulus convection are calculated by using the cloud mass flux estimated in the cumulus parameterization scheme. "

P7:

L16: How do you choose the different scaling factors. As the system is underdetermined, there are many solutions. Please be more precise here. L18-23: It is not clear what the different versions of EDGAR are providing (maps or only totals per sector. I suggest a table here or to clarify the text.

Ans. These scaling factors are applied to the inventory emissions so that the sectorial emissions are in general agreement with those commonly used in the recent publications, and specifically with Patra et al. (2011). We have mentioned here: (please refer to Supplementary Materials, Table S1, for annual total emissions). The data are given as supplementary file. This has been stated in the text as "Scaling factors are chosen to simulate the CH<sub>4</sub> growth rate approximately for the first decade 1901--1910, and are in close agreement with Patra et al. (2011) for the period 1990--2008."

P8:

L8: Do the BBG emissions include biofuel burning? If not, this number seems a bit large if one considers today GFED's emissions.

Ans. Yes, this/GISS biomass burning product accounts for all sources. We have inserted "(including biofuels)" when biomass burning is referred for the first time.

L12-15: Please be more precise on what causes the wetland emission changes: rainfall in which region?, does temperature also plays a role ? I suggest to describe in a few lines how

the VISIT model computes wetland emissions, as it is the largest individual flux.

Ans. In the VISIT model, CH<sub>4</sub> emission from wetland is dependent on substrate availability, water table depth, and temperature. The substrate availability was estimated from decomposition rate of soil organic matter, assuming a certain part of carbon was used for methanogenesis. Water table depth was prescribed on the basis of inundation fraction, which varies seasonally. Aerobic soil fraction (i.e., above water table depth) is a sink of methane due to microbial oxidation, while anaerobic fraction (i.e., below water table depth) is a source of methane. Temperature (input data) affects explicitly methane production rate and implicitly gas diffusivity.

P10:

L17: Why not adjusting on the international reference scale (NOAA04) instead of a local scale? Please precise if offsets remain between cores/firn on one side and direct measurements on the other side when comparing the common period of times.

Ans. The Tohoku University CH<sub>4</sub> scale has been maintained well with long-term self-consistency since Aoki et al. (1992) and is well traceable to the NOAA04 scale through the Round-Robin activity ([www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ccgg/wmorr/wmorr\\_results.php?rr=rr5&param=ch4](http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ccgg/wmorr/wmorr_results.php?rr=rr5&param=ch4)). As seen in Figure 2, all datasets are in agreement within variability after being referenced to the Tohoku University CH<sub>4</sub> scale. The Tohoku University scale is probably the oldest correct scale, and for your kind information the AGAGE network reports all CH<sub>4</sub> data in this scale. Thus it may be unfair to call this scale a 'local scale'.

P11:

L16: 2.8696 : Are all these digits really significant?

L19-20 : the reason of the 3.7

Ans. These are changed to 2.87 (our result) and 2.77 (for Fung). The value in % is approximated as 4%.

P12: \_ (delta) signs are missing in equation (3)

Ans. Sorry for missing this during the proofreading. Now corrected.

Eq (4): more explanations are needed here. Do you correct the trajectory year by year? How do you allocate a global  $\_E$  to the gridded Eini to produce a gridded Eopt? Without the isotopes, is it proportional to the initial source partition? I understand you need to get gridded Eopt to re-run your model and produce the concentrations at Arctic and Antarctic sites, but again this is unclear. Please be much more precise on the procedure used here to get to Eopt.

Ans. We have added this text here:

“The calculation of global total Eopt is performed for each year. Emissions at all latitude-longitude grids are multiplied by a constant scaling factor (Eopt/Eini) to prepare revised emission for running ACTM.”

L9: is known: I suggest to write “is prescribed”

Ans. Suggested change is incorporated.

P13/14

L19:  $12\text{CH}_4$  is approximated by  $\text{CH}_4 = 12\text{CH}_4 + 13\text{CH}_4$  : Does this mean that you assume  $12\text{CH}_4$   $\text{CH}_4$ . Please clarify?

Ans. This sentence is modified as “In the one-box model, we assume that [ $^{12}\text{CH}_4$ ] is identical to [ $\text{CH}_4$ ], which is however sum of [ $^{12}\text{CH}_4$ ], [ $^{13}\text{CH}_4$ ] and other minor isotopologues. We confirmed that this assumption has a negligible effect on our results.”

L10: I suggest to add a sentence announcing what follows in order to help the reader through

§2.6: In the following, we calculate by two methods the isotopic signature for global emissions  $\delta_{13C}$ . First, ... Second,  $\delta_{113C}$  can also be calculated by considering the relative fraction... Simplify lines 4 to 11 in page 14 to  $E = E_{ini} + DE$ , confusing expression  $E(\delta_{13C})$ , ...

Ans. Suggested modifications are incorporated.

L16 in p14: For simplicity, ...: please rephrase: In order to remove the underdetermination, we assume, ...

Ans. Suggested change is incorporated.

P15/16

The discussion on fractionations is interesting but should be in a specific paragraph (2.7) and/or announced p13 line 17 when  $\alpha_i$  are presented. Else it comes too late after the method description.

Ans. We have added a sentence here as “The choice of  $\alpha_i$  used in this work and their uncertainties are addressed later in this section.”

Figure 2

Legend error (FRIN instead of FIRN)

Again there is a lack of precision here on how the transport model is sampled. What do represent Antarctic and Arctic region listed in the legend? Do you extract all model boxes at the surface above 60N for Arctic and below 60S for Antarctic? How sensible is it considering that you gather CGO with ice cores and firn from Antarctica. Please clarify and precise things here how you sample the model outputs (in the model section §2.1).

Use of plain/dashed lines for opt/ini model output would help on this plot. Choose one colour for NH and one colour for SH. If you only apply mass balance using Antarctica, then the Arctic can act as an evaluation of the method? If yes, this should be mentioned.

§3.2 and §3.3: I suggest exchanging these two sections as the reader expects (with the present paper's construction) emission analysis first.

Ans. Suggested changes are incorporated.

At the end of section 2.4 (useful to have the site description for this to be convincing), we have added “The annual mean concentrations of ACTM simulations are sampled at Cape Grim for the Antarctic region and Summit for the Arctic region. The direct measurements at these two sites for the decade of 2000s show good agreements (model-data mismatch less than 3 ppb, discussed later in details) with the ACTM simulation using optimized emissions, and the Cape Grim data are also homogenized with those from Law Dome measurements.”

Suggested changes for replotting Figure 2 are incorporated.

The concept of using Arctic data for evaluation of the optimised emissions using Antarctic data is interesting. However, that is only true only when the latitudinal gradient of emissions is known. We would rather say that match we find for the Arctic data with ACTM simulation using  $E_{opt}$  is a good sign that the latitudinal gradient of emissions prescribed by EDGAR HYDE is reasonable.

We believed simple model details should be discussed first in section 3.2, such as the loss, before going in to emissions so that the rest of the paper can maintain a flow of discussion relating only to emissions. However, exchanging section 3.2 and 3.3 can still be done if so suggested.

P17:

L24: does the mean value of  $[OH]$  is optimized using MCF obs? Please precise if so.

Ans. We have inserted a sentence here “The OH field is scaled by 0.92 for simulating the decay rate of  $CH_3CCl_3$  in Earth's atmosphere (Krol and Lelieveld., 2003).”

P18:

L11: please specify the link between tropospheric air temperature and reaction rates in the

text. Is the impact of temperature larger on OH reaction rate?

Ans. We have added the CH<sub>4</sub> loss reactions and temperature dependent reaction rates in Section 2.3 in this revised version.

L19: in the bottom-up emission data.. could be replace by : in the initial scenario

L19: 380

Table 2: please provide a table S2 (supplementary/appendix material) with annual Eini, Eopt, Burden.

Ans. Suggested to change is made in L19.

We have prepared a Table S2 and cited in the Table 2 caption.

P19

L14-17: very confusing sentence because your optimisation procedure is not well explained before. To me, if you prior Eini is imbalanced, your optimized Eopt is also as you only optimize a global number. Please clarify after improving the optimisation procedure section We redone the calculation of IPD and Figure 5 is now revised significantly. The revised IPD calculation stems from newly estimated 'age of air' for the NEEM data, which is done by Dr. Cathy Trudinger of CSIRO (now a coauthor). The discussion in this paragraph is modified accordingly. Hope the revised Figure 5 and related text now reads better.

L19-22: The irruption of a 2) box model is a bit strange? How did you get the estimates given for NH and SH? Please detail this (possibly in the supplementary/appendix) or remove.

L20: NH-SH emissions gradient is evoked, but what about the NH/SH gradient in OH concentrations, a topic recently published by the same group? What is the NH-SH distribution of the OH fields used here. A short discussion on OH here might be useful.

Ans. We removed the 2-box model results as the revised IPD-observed is in quite good agreement with the ACTM simulation using Eopt. In addition, some changes in OH NH/SH ratio could have taken place in the past century, and that is not addressed in this work (as mentioned in section 3.3).

P20:

L20-25 are a bit redundant with lines 15-20, please rephrase and shorten the paragraph (-60 and -21.8 explanation)

Ans. Changes will be incorporated in the revised version.

P21

L5: (and also p22 lines 15-26) decreasing trend after 1990 for the heavy delta could also be explained by fossil fuel reduction linked to former USSR collapse. Did you try to replace BBG by fossil fuel and redo the analysis still with 2 unknowns? Putting all changes on BBG is a strong assumption. The slower decreasing trend in BBG from Kirschk et al may indicate indeed a fossil fuel contribution as well.

Ans. We have found that the isotope modeling system produce unrealistic results if we run the model with full freedom. However, we can put small degrees of freedom on each of the emissions and come up with a 'positive' solution, which again depends on the individual modeler's choice. Instead we attempted here to constrain only the biomass burning (and a mysterious wetland/animal type of source). In our forward simulation setup the biomass burning emission was kept constant because no formal estimation of trends in this category of CH<sub>4</sub> emission exists. A more sophisticated modeling system should be tested first for the recent years, for a period with measurements from ~100 of sites, to separate multiple source categories and then it may be possible to extrapolate that information backward in time over the past 100 years when measurements are available only at the two polar regions, albeit at larger uncertainties.

L20: how sensible is the result on BBG emissions to the initial conditions taken here. You

start with a high 49Tg/y constant for BBG. What if you start with lower values?

Ans. Same as the previous reply.

L28: similar trends: you wrote before (page 20 l21) that trends were different. Please make this consistent.

Ans. Lines 20-25 in page 20 are now deleted following your earlier suggestion.

L16: would have suppressed the growth of CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from human activities: you mean for BBG emissions? Please precise it.

Ans. Yes, we wanted to refer to BBG due to human activity. Now revised as “the growth of CH<sub>4</sub> emissions due to biomass burning caused by human activities”

## Variations in global methane sources and sinks during 1910–2010

A. Ghosh<sup>1,2</sup>, P. K. Patra<sup>2,3</sup>, K. Ishijima<sup>2</sup>, T. Umezawa<sup>3,4</sup>, A. Ito<sup>2,5</sup>, D. M. Etheridge<sup>6</sup>, S. Sugawara<sup>7</sup>, K. Kawamura<sup>1,8</sup>, J. B. Miller<sup>9,10</sup>, E. J. Dlugokencky<sup>9</sup>, P. B. Krummel<sup>6</sup>, P. J. Fraser<sup>6</sup>, L. P. Steele<sup>6</sup>, R. L. Langenfelds<sup>6</sup>, C. M. Trudinger<sup>6</sup>, J. W. C. White<sup>11</sup>, B. Vaughn<sup>11</sup>, T. Saeki<sup>2</sup>, S. Aoki<sup>3</sup>, and T. Nakazawa<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>National Institute for Polar Research, Tokyo, Japan

<sup>2</sup>Department of Environmental Geochemical Cycle Research, JAMSTEC, Yokohama, Japan

<sup>3</sup>Center for Atmospheric and Oceanic Studies, Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan

<sup>4</sup>Max-Planck Institute for Chemistry, Mainz, Germany

<sup>5</sup>National Institute for Environmental Studies, Tsukuba, Japan

<sup>6</sup>CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere Flagship, Aspendale, Victoria, Australia

<sup>7</sup>Miyagi University of Education, Sendai, Japan

<sup>8</sup>Department of Biogeochemistry, JAMSTEC, Yokosuka, Japan

<sup>9</sup>NOAA Earth System Research Laboratory, Boulder, Colorado, USA

<sup>10</sup>CIRES, University of Colorado, Boulder, USA

<sup>11</sup>INSTAAR, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, USA

*Correspondence to:* A. Ghosh (arindamgr@gmail.com) and P. K. Patra (prabir@jamstec.go.jp)

**Abstract.** Atmospheric methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) increased from ~900 ppb (parts per billion, or nanomoles per mole of dry air) in 1900 to ~1800 ppb in 2010 at a rate unprecedented in any observational records. However, the contributions of the various methane sources and sinks to the CH<sub>4</sub> increase are poorly understood. Here we use initial emissions from bottom-up inventories for anthropogenic sources, emissions from wetlands and rice paddies simulated by a terrestrial biogeochemical model, and an atmospheric general circulation model (AGCM)-based chemistry-transport model (i.e. ACTM) to simulate atmospheric CH<sub>4</sub> concentrations for 1910 to 2010. The ACTM simulations are compared with the CH<sub>4</sub> concentration records reconstructed from Antarctic and Arctic ice cores and firn air samples, and from direct measurements since the 1980s at multiple sites around the globe. The differences between ACTM simulations and observed CH<sub>4</sub> concentrations are minimized to optimize the global total emissions using a mass balance calculation. During 1910–2010, the global total CH<sub>4</sub> emission doubled from ~290 Tg yr<sup>-1</sup> to ~580 Tg yr<sup>-1</sup>. Compared to optimized emission the bottom-up emission dataset underestimates the rate of change of global total CH<sub>4</sub> emissions by ~30 % during the high growth period of 1940–1990, while it overestimates by ~380 % during a low growth period of 1990–2010. Further, using the CH<sub>4</sub> stable carbon isotopic data ( $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ ), we attribute the emission increase during 1940–

1990 primarily to enhancement of biomass burning. The total lifetime of CH<sub>4</sub> shortened from 9.4 yr during 1910–1919 to 9 yr during 2000–2009 by the combined effect of increasing abundance of atomic chlorine radicals (Cl) and increases in average air temperature. We show that changes of CH<sub>4</sub> loss rate due to increased tropospheric air temperature and CH<sub>4</sub> loss due to Cl in the stratosphere are important sources of uncertainty to more accurately estimate the global CH<sub>4</sub> budget from  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  observations.

### 1 Introduction

Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), the second most important anthropogenic greenhouse gas, plays an important role in the chemical and radiative balances in the Earth's atmosphere. Due to its main removal by reaction with hydroxyl (OH) radical, which is a major atmospheric oxidant, CH<sub>4</sub> actively participates in tropospheric air-pollution chemistry. In the stratosphere, CH<sub>4</sub> is the predominant source of water vapour (Jones and Pyle, 1984) and is the primary sink for chlorine radicals (Cicerone and Oremland, 1988). The global warming potential (GWP) of CH<sub>4</sub> is 28 over a time horizon of 100 years (Myhre et al., 2013). Methane is released into the atmosphere from both anthropogenic and natural sources (Patra et al., 2011; Kirschke et al., 2013; and references therein). The 2010 con-

centration of  $\text{CH}_4$  ( $\sim 1800$  ppb) is unprecedented over at least the past 800 000 years (Loulergue et al., 2008). Measurements of  $\text{CH}_4$  in air bubbles trapped in Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets suggest that after a very slow increase (average rate of  $\sim 0.04$  ppb  $\text{yr}^{-1}$ ) during preindustrial times (1–1750 AD),  $\text{CH}_4$  concentrations have increased rapidly (average rate of  $\sim 4$  ppb  $\text{yr}^{-1}$  during 1750–1990 AD) until the early 1990s (Rasmussen and Khalil, 1984; Etheridge et al., 1998; Nakazawa et al., 1993; MacFarling Meure et al., 2006). The rapid rise of  $\text{CH}_4$  levels paused in the 1990s (Dlugokencky et al., 2003) and resumed strong growth of  $\sim 8$  ppb  $\text{yr}^{-1}$  again starting in 2007 (Rigby et al., 2008; Dlugokencky et al., 2009).

The factors responsible for the observed changes of  $\text{CH}_4$  concentration on historic (century to millennium) time scales as well as recent decades remain unclear in relation to  $\text{CH}_4$  emissions from natural and anthropogenic activities, climate change, and tropospheric oxidant changes. The stable carbon isotopic ratio ( $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ ) of  $\text{CH}_4$  is useful for separating different  $\text{CH}_4$  sources, since individual sources have characteristic  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  signatures (e.g., Quay et al., 1999). Ferretti et al. (2005) reported the significant  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  depletion during the last millennium (circa 1000 to 1700 AD) and ascribed it to changes in biomass burning emissions probably influenced by both human activities and natural climate change. Houweling et al. (2008) suggested that the  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  variation could be alternatively explained by increasing anthropogenic  $\text{CH}_4$  emissions over the past millennium, in combination with a shift from non-fossil to fossil sources during the industrial period. Analyzing a Greenland ice core for  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  and applying a two-box model, Sapart et al. (2012) attributed centennial-scale variations in  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  between 100 BC and 1600 AD to changes in pyrogenic and biogenic sources driven by both natural climate variability and changes in human population and land use. It has been also suggested that changes in  $\text{CH}_4$  emission from natural wetlands were the dominant process, in the absence of anthropogenic sources, for  $\text{CH}_4$  variations during the Last Glacial Maximum (18 000 year before present, BP) to preindustrial Holocene (9000–200 year BP) (e.g., Chappellaz et al., 1993). All these studies, with competing theories, are focused on the preindustrial era or before. They did not address the latest century, which is a more complex situation due to the combination of natural and anthropogenic sources of  $\text{CH}_4$ , and is the focus of this study.

The period between 1900 and the 1970s has no precise direct observations of  $\text{CH}_4$  concentration and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ . Ice core studies have succeeded in reconstructing the  $\text{CH}_4$  concentration and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  history until the mid-20th century, and using firn air, the measurement record can be extended back to the mid-20th century from the recent decades (Etheridge et al., 1998; Ferretti et al., 2005; Francey et al., 1999; MacFarling Meure et al., 2006; Sapart et al., 2013). Both the ice core and firn air measurements can have relatively coarse time resolution (the air age spread ( $1\sigma$ )  $\sim 5$  years or longer time, Etheridge et al., 1998; Trudinger et al., 2002) and are mainly

limited to polar regions, except for a recent ice core measurement from the Himalayan glacier which however has potential contaminations for  $\text{CH}_4$  in the air bubbles (Hou et al., 2013). Direct measurements of concentration at high precision were initiated in the late 1970s (e.g., Rasmussen and Khalil, 1984), and the measurement networks have grown to more than 100 sites worldwide (e.g., Cunnold et al., 2002; Dlugokencky et al., 2011). Here we use combined emissions from bottom-up inventories, emissions from wetlands and rice paddies simulated by a terrestrial biogeochemical model, and a 3-dimensional chemistry-transport model to simulate atmospheric  $\text{CH}_4$  for the past 100 years (1910–2010). With limited observations, attempts are made to estimate the optimized global total  $\text{CH}_4$  emissions by using mass balance calculations and to infer the possible variations in biomass burning emissions by introducing an additional constraint based on  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ . The biomass burning estimates are particularly useful for developing Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs) for climate modeling with policy implications, e.g., the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) (Myhre et al., 2013; Lamarque et al., 2010). Section 2 describes the materials and methods, followed by results and discussion in Sect. 3, and finally, conclusions are given in Sect. 4.

## 2 Materials and methods

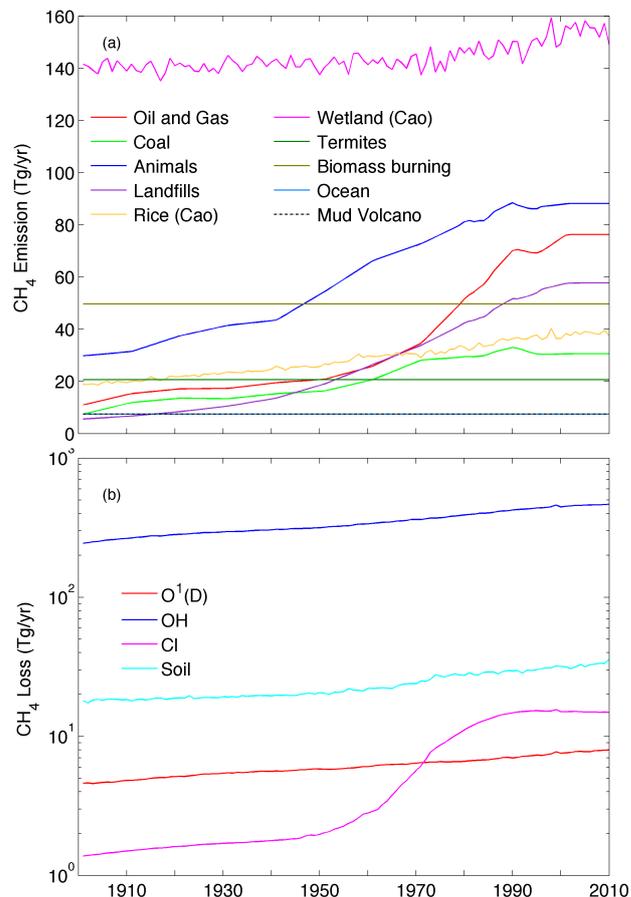
### 2.1 Model description

The Center for Climate System Research/National Institute for Environmental Studies/Frontier Research Center for Global Change (CCSR/NIES/FRCGC) Atmospheric General Circulation Model (AGCM)-based Chemistry Transport Model (i.e., JAMSTEC's ACTM) is used for simulating  $\text{CH}_4$  in the atmosphere (Patra et al., 2009). The model resolutions are T42 spectral truncations ( $\sim 2.8^\circ \times 2.8^\circ$ ) in horizontal and 67 sigma-pressure vertical layers (surface to  $\sim 90$  km). In the control case, the ACTM meteorology is driven by interannually varying (IAV) sea-surface temperature (SST) and sea ice at monthly mean time intervals, based on the gridded analysis by the Hadley Centre (Rayner et al., 2003). The basic physical and dynamical features of the AGCM have been described in (Hasumi et al., 2004). Advective transport of moisture and tracers is obtained from a 4th order flux-form advection scheme using a monotonic Piecewise Parabolic Method (PPM) (Colella and Woodward, 1984) and a flux-form semi-Lagrangian scheme (Lin and Rood, 1996). Subgridscale vertical fluxes of heat, moisture, and tracers are approximated using a non-local closure scheme in conjugation with the

level 2 scheme of Mellor and Yamada (1974). The cumulus parameterization scheme is based on Arakawa and Schubert (1974). The updraft and downdraft of tracers by cumulus convection are calculated by using the cloud mass flux estimated in the cumulus parameterization scheme. We have checked that the AGCM simulated zonal-mean horizontal winds and temperatures in the troposphere are within  $\pm 5 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  and  $\pm 1 \text{ K}$ , respectively, when compared with ACTM simulations nudged to the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) 25 year reanalysis (JRA-25) (Onogi et al., 2007). These differences in meteorology do not appreciably affect our long-term simulation results, because only about  $5 \text{ Tg CH}_4 \text{ yr}^{-1}$  ( $\sim 1\%$ ) higher loss is simulated in the ACTM driven only by SST compared to when the ACTM is nudged to JRA-25. The ACTM also realistically represents interhemispheric transport, stratosphere–troposphere exchange, and SST driven climate variations such as the El Niño Southern Oscillation. Annual mean concentrations are used in this analysis, although the model integration time step is about 20 min.

## 2.2 CH<sub>4</sub> emissions

We constructed global total CH<sub>4</sub> emissions by combining: (1) the interannually varying annual mean anthropogenic emissions from the Emission Database for Global Atmospheric Research (EDGAR) – Hundred Year Database for Integrated Environmental Assessments (HYDE; version 1.4) (van Aardenne et al., 2001) and EDGAR 3.2 (Olivier and Berdowski, 2001), (2) interannually and seasonally varying emissions from rice paddies and wetland simulated by the Vegetation Integrative Simulator for Trace Gases (VISIT) terrestrial ecosystem model (Ito and Inatomi, 2012), and (3) natural emissions, such as those from biomass burning (including biofuels), termites based on the GISS inventory (Fung et al., 1991); emissions due to oceanic exchange near the coastal region (Lambert and Schmidt, 1993); and mud volcano emissions (Etiopie and Milkov, 2004) as the major emission components (Fig. 1a). We apply scaling factors for emissions due to termites, oceanic exchange, mud volcano, biomass burning, rice paddies and wetlands, with values of 0.77, 0.40, 1.00, 0.4, 0.95, and 0.85, respectively (please refer to Supplementary Materials, Table S1, for annual total emissions). Scaling factors are chosen to simulate the CH<sub>4</sub> growth rate approximately for the first decade 1901–1910, and are in close agreement with Patra et al. (2011) for the period 1990–2008. For 1970–2000, interannually varying anthropogenic CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from EDGAR 3.2 and EDGAR 3.2FT data are used and the data have been extended for 1901–1970 following the sector-wise trends recommended in EDGAR HYDE. For 2001–2010, the EDGAR 3.2FT emissions map for 2000 is used. EDGAR 3.2 and EDGAR 3.2FT emis-



**Figure 1.** (a) Time series of CH<sub>4</sub> emission inventory estimates from different categories during our simulation. (b) Chemical loss of CH<sub>4</sub> calculated using ACTM simulation with initial emissions ( $E_{\text{ini}}$ ).

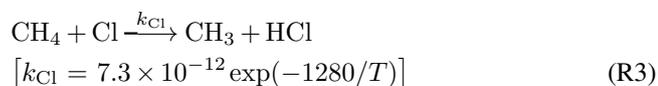
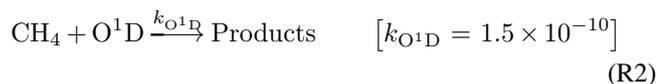
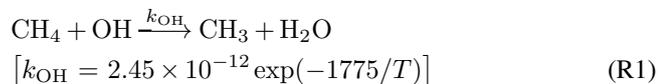
sions for biomass burning and rice sectors (SAV, DEF, AGR, AGL sectors) are excluded from the initial CH<sub>4</sub> emissions ( $E_{\text{ini}}$ ), since they are given from different datasets as described above. The combination of different categories (Table 1) and interpolation/extrapolation of EDGAR dataset are similar to that used by Patra et al. (2011).

All of the 4 main categories of anthropogenic emissions (oil and gas, coal, animals and landfills) have increased steadily in the last 110 years; according to the EDGAR inventories (HYDE, v3.2 and v3.2FT), oil and gas emissions increased from 12 to 78  $\text{Tg yr}^{-1}$ , coal from 9 to 33  $\text{Tg yr}^{-1}$ , animals from 30 to 89  $\text{Tg yr}^{-1}$ , and landfills from 6 to 59  $\text{Tg yr}^{-1}$  for 1901–2010. The highest increases in these emissions took place during 1940–1990. Animal emissions were the dominant contributor to this rapid total increase for 1940–1960, while oil and gas controlled the increasing trend for the next 3 decades (1960–1990). There was a decrease in oil and gas emissions during the early 1990s from the former

Soviet Union (Fig. 1a). We kept annual total biomass burning emissions constant over time ( $49.7 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$ ; monthly varying GISS dataset) because no consensus on the amplitude and trends has been achieved in literature (see Sect. 3.4). The VISIT model simulated  $\text{CH}_4$  emissions from rice paddies and wetlands using a scheme by Cao et al. (1998). In VISIT model,  $\text{CH}_4$  emission from wetland is dependent on substrate availability, water table depth, and temperature. The substrate availability was estimated from decomposition rate of soil organic matter, assuming a certain part of carbon was used for methanogenesis. Water table depth was prescribed on the basis of inundation fraction, which varies seasonally. Aerobic soil fraction (i.e., above water table depth) is a sink of methane due to microbial oxidation, while anaerobic fraction (i.e., below water table depth) is a source of methane. Temperature (input data) affects explicitly methane production rate and implicitly gas diffusivity. The simulated total emissions from rice paddies increased from 18 to  $37 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$  and that from wetlands varied from 141 to  $159 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$  for the period 1901–2010. The trends in emissions from rice paddies are mainly due to the increase in rice cropping, and that for the wetlands are due to warming of the Earth's surface and inundation levels due to rainfall variations (Ito and Inatomi, 2012; Patra et al., 2013). The fraction of paddy field was derived from the cropland fraction in land use data (Hurtt et al., 2006).

### 2.3 $\text{CH}_4$ loss processes

The primary loss process for atmospheric  $\text{CH}_4$  ( $\sim 90\%$ ) is oxidation by hydroxyl radicals (OH), mostly in the troposphere. The remaining  $\sim 10\%$  of the sinks include consumption by methanotrophic bacteria in soils, and reactions with chlorine radicals (Cl) and electronically-excited atomic oxygen ( $\text{O}^1\text{D}$ ) in the stratosphere. Following chemical removal reactions for  $\text{CH}_4$  are prescribed in the ACTM forward simulations.



The temperature( $T$ )-dependent reaction rates ( $k$ ; units:  $\text{cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ) taken from Sander et al. (2006). The climatological monthly mean tropospheric OH concentrations are taken from Spivakovsky et al. (2000), and stratospheric OH and Cl concentrations are obtained from a stratospheric chemistry simulation by the CCSR/NIES AGCM

(Takigawa et al., 1999). Concentration of  $\text{O}^1\text{D}$  is calculated online in ACTM using climatological ozone distribution. Trends in Cl concentration over the period of our simulation are introduced using the estimated changes in Effective Equivalent tropospheric Cl for the period 1992–2012 (Montzka et al., 1999; updates on the NOAA/ESRL website) and by simple extrapolation to 1901 following annual fluorocarbon production report of Alternative Fluorocarbons Environmental Acceptability Study (AFEAS) (www.afeas.org). This method ignores the changes in Cl vertical distribution due to the differences in Cl production rate from different species, which is altitude dependent. A delay of about 5 years between emissions of the halocarbons at Earth's surface and Cl release in the stratosphere is used based on average "age" of stratospheric air in ACTM. No trends in OH are considered in this study because of lack of consensus between models, e.g., 6 out of 14 models show increases in OH concentrations in the period of 1850–1980, even though the models used a consistent set of anthropogenic emissions since the preindustrial era (Naik et al., 2013).

The time series of  $\text{CH}_4$  chemical loss as calculated with ACTM simulation with  $E_{\text{ini}}$  for 1901–2010 is shown in Fig. 1b. Loss due to OH is the dominant contributor ( $244\text{--}466 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$ ), followed by soil ( $18\text{--}36 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$  as simulated by the VISIT model),  $\text{O}^1\text{D}$  ( $4.6\text{--}8 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$ ), and Cl ( $1.4\text{--}15.6 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$ ) over 1901–2010. Consideration of trends in Cl concentration in the ACTM results in a dramatic increase in  $\text{CH}_4$  loss by Cl since the 1950s (Fig. 1b). We show later that the trends in stratospheric feedback of  $^{13}\text{C}$ -enriched  $\text{CH}_4$  cause a large imbalance in the tropospheric budget of the emission categories.

### 2.4 $\text{CH}_4$ observations: ice core/firn air data and direct measurements

The observed  $\text{CH}_4$  concentrations in the Arctic and Antarctic regions were used for evaluating the ACTM simulations for two different emission scenarios. Two different types of data were used in the present study.

#### 2.4.1 Ice core/Firn air measurements of $\text{CH}_4$ concentration

We used the Law Dome ice core records (DSS, DE08 and DE08-2) (Etheridge et al., 1998; Ferretti et al., 2005; MacFarling Meure et al., 2006) (1894–1980), and the firn records from DE08-2 (Etheridge et al., 1998) and DSSW20K (MacFarling Meure et al., 2006 and references therein) (1944–1995). The NEEF firn data (1945–2005) are based on the measurements given in Buizert et al. (2012) with effective ages assigned using an iterative dating method (Trudinger et al., 2002) using the CSIRO firn model (Trudinger et al., 2013) tuned for NEEF with 9 tracers ( $\text{CH}_4$

was not used). The NGRIP firn air data (1951–2001) are obtained from Tohoku University (Umezawa et al., unpublished data). Age to each sampling depth for NGRIP firn data is assigned following the method employed for  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  (Ishijima et al., 2007). This method is based on an “effective age” concept by Trudinger et al. (2002), and uses a firn model by Sugawara et al. (2003). A scaling factor to convert the effective diffusivity of  $\text{CO}_2$  to that of  $\text{CH}_4$  is used as 1.291.

#### 2.4.2 Direct atmospheric measurements from sampling networks or air archive

Direct measurements of atmospheric  $\text{CH}_4$  from two representative sites are used: (1) the Southern Hemisphere high latitude (Cape Grim; CGO;  $40.7^\circ\text{S}$ ,  $144.7^\circ\text{E}$ ) and (2) the Northern Hemisphere high latitude (Summit; SUM;  $72.6^\circ\text{N}$ ,  $38.5^\circ\text{W}$ ). We used station data whenever available from the NOAA Earth System Research Laboratory (NOAA/ESRL) (Dlugokencky et al., 1994); and from the Global Atmospheric Gases Experiment (GAGE) and the Advanced Global Atmospheric Gases Experiment (AGAGE) program (Prinn et al., 2000; Cunnold et al., 2002). Annual mean values are calculated from flask-based or continuous measurement data for these sites available on the World Data Centre for Greenhouse Gases (WDCGG) website (<http://ds.data.jma.go.jp/gmd/wdogg>). The archived air samples (1978–1995) from CGO are taken from Etheridge et al. (1998).

#### 2.4.3 Processing of observation data and sampling of model

We applied scaling factors following Dlugokencky et al. (2005), for harmonizing all  $\text{CH}_4$  data onto the Tohoku University (TU) scale (Aoki et al., 1992; Umezawa et al., 2014). The NOAA04 scale is about 2 ppb lower than the TU scale at  $\text{CH}_4$  concentration of 1700 ppb. It is noted that the ice core and firn air measurements have time resolution of  $\sim 5$  years or more (the air age spread ( $1\sigma$ ), Etheridge et al., 1998; Trudinger et al., 2002), while the direct measurements are available at either weekly or sub-hourly time intervals. The measurement accuracy for air samples is 5 ppb or better (Etheridge et al., 1998; Umezawa et al., 2014; Dlugokencky et al., 1994; Cunnold et al., 2002). To prepare the time series of observed  $\text{CH}_4$  concentration at uniform annual intervals, first the annual average of all observations were estimated and then the annual average data at uneven time intervals (due to data gaps) were interpolated using spline (order 4) fitting. The spline fitting is adopted using the SPLINE-FIT program by Jonas Lundgren ([www.mathworks.com/matlabcentral/fileexchange/13812-splinefit](http://www.mathworks.com/matlabcentral/fileexchange/13812-splinefit)). The smoothing

effect is controlled by the judicious selection of breaks or knots at different years. The knots are needed for finding optimal fit through data at irregular time intervals and changing concentration growth rate.

The annual mean concentrations of ACTM simulations are sampled at Cape Grim for the Antarctic region and Summit for the Arctic region. The direct measurements at these two sites for the decade of 2000s show good agreements (model–data mismatch less than 3 ppb, discussed later in details) with the ACTM simulation using optimized emissions, and the Cape Grim data are also homogenized with those from Law Dome measurements (Etheridge et al., 1998).

#### 2.5 Calculation of optimized $\text{CH}_4$ emission: mass balance

The global mass balance equation for total emissions ( $E$ ), loss ( $L$ ) and burden ( $B$ ) of  $\text{CH}_4$  in the atmosphere is given by:

$$\frac{dB}{dt} = E - L \quad (1)$$

A conversion factor  $H$  can be calculated from the ratio of modeled  $B$  and an average  $\text{CH}_4$  concentration at the lowermost model level ( $[\text{CH}_4]$ ) as follows:

$$B = H \times [\text{CH}_4] \quad (2)$$

This gives the value of  $2.87 \pm 0.003$  (average  $\pm$  interannual variation)  $\text{Tg CH}_4 \text{ppb}^{-1}$  for the conversion factor  $H$  for the period 1910–2010. This value of  $H$  is about 4 % higher than common value of 2.77 calculated by Fung et al. (1991). This is mainly because in the present calculation we have used smaller than global mean  $\text{CH}_4$  concentration from Antarctica.  $L$  is calculated by summing up loss at all ACTM grids. Because our knowledge for developing accurate initial emissions ( $E_{\text{ini}}$ ) is incomplete, the simulated  $[\text{CH}_4]$  time series is likely to deviate from the observation. The “correction” term  $\Delta E$  to initial emission time series is calculated by applying Eq. (1) on the difference ( $\Delta[\text{CH}_4]$ ) between observed and simulated  $[\text{CH}_4]$ :

$$H \frac{d(\Delta[\text{CH}_4])}{dt} + \Delta L = \Delta E \quad (3)$$

where  $\Delta L$  is the difference in loss terms which is calculated using  $\Delta[\text{CH}_4]$  and the ratio  $L/[\text{CH}_4]$  as a conversion factor ( $0.2907 \pm 0.0055$ ) from model simulation for individual years. The optimized emissions ( $E_{\text{opt}}$ ) are given by

$$E_{\text{opt}} = E_{\text{ini}} + \Delta E \quad (4)$$

The calculation of global total  $E_{\text{opt}}$  is performed for each year. Emissions

at all latitude–longitude grids are multiplied by a constant scaling factor ( $\frac{E_{\text{opt}}}{E_{\text{ini}}}$ ) to prepare revised emission for running ACTM.

## 2.6 Isotope analysis

The contribution of different emission categories ( $E_{\text{ini}_i}$ ) to the bottom-up emissions as used in this study is prescribed (Fig. 1a and Table 1). However, the relative contribution of different emission categories to the emission correction  $\Delta E$  is unknown. We thus introduce an additional constraint based on  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  for distributing  $\Delta E$  between two hypothetical source categories with lighter ( $^{13}\text{C}$ -depleted) and heavier ( $^{13}\text{C}$ -enriched) isotopic signatures.

The isotopic ratio of  $^{13}\text{C}$  to  $^{12}\text{C}$  in  $\text{CH}_4$  ( $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ ) is defined as:

$$\delta^{13}\text{C} = \left( \frac{R_{\text{sample}}}{R_{\text{std}}} - 1 \right) \times 1000 \quad (5)$$

$$R = {}^{13}\text{C}/{}^{12}\text{C} \quad (6)$$

where  $R_{\text{sample}}$  is the isotopic molar ratio in the methane sample, and  $R_{\text{std}}$  is the corresponding ratio in the international isotope standard (Vienna Pee Dee Belemnite (VPDB)) with an accepted value of 0.0112372 (Craig, 1957).  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  is expressed in “per mil” (‰) notation.

We use a one-box model (e.g., Lassey et al., 2000) to estimate the isotopic signature for global emission  $E$  ( $\delta^{13}\text{C}_E$ ) using (1) global atmospheric burden ( $B$ ) and loss ( $L$ ) taken from the ACTM simulation and (2) observed atmospheric isotope ratio  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{atmos}}$ . We used  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{atmos}}$  observations from the Law Dome ice core (1885–1976)/firn (1944–1998) records (Ferretti et al., 2005); from air archive samples (1978–1994) (Francey et al., 1999) and NOAA-ESRL network direct observations (1998–2010) at CGO (Miller et al., 2002; White and Vaughn, 2011). Schmitt et al. (2013) reported a possible interfering effect by Kr on  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  measurements using continuous-flow isotope ratio mass spectrometry systems. We assume that possible bias caused by the Kr-interference is not significant in deducing the observed  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  trends over the past century.

The  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  signature for the global source  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_E$  can be calculated in two different ways: top-down and bottom-up methods. First, the top-down estimation is based on using the observed atmospheric isotope ratio  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{atmos}}$  and mass

balance Eq. (1) as follows:

$${}^{13}E = \frac{d}{dt}({}^{13}B) + \sum_{i=1}^{13} L_i \quad (7)$$

$${}^{13}B = (\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{atmos}} \times 0.001 + 1) \times R_{\text{std}} \times B \quad (8)$$

$${}^{13}L_i = L_i \times \alpha_i \times R_{\text{atmos}} \quad (9)$$

$$\delta^{13}\text{C}_E = \left[ \frac{{}^{13}E}{E \times R_{\text{std}}} - 1 \right] \times 1000 \quad (10)$$

where  $L_i$  are the loss processes due to reactions with OH, O( $^1\text{D}$ ), Cl and soil oxidation,  $\alpha_i = {}^{13}k_i/{}^{12}k_i$  is the isotopic fractionation factors for different loss processes,  $k$  is the rate coefficient of chemical reactions. The choice of  $\alpha_i$  used in this work and their uncertainties are addressed later in this section. Superscript 13 refers to the carbon isotopologue  $^{13}\text{C}$  in  $\text{CH}_4$ . In one box model, we assume that burden [ $^{12}\text{CH}_4$ ] is identical to [ $\text{CH}_4$ ], which however is sum of [ $^{12}\text{CH}_4$ ], [ $^{13}\text{CH}_4$ ] and other minor isotopologues. We confirmed that this assumption has a negligible effect on our results. Our results are consistent with the calculation of  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_E$  under non-steady-state conditions (Lassey et al., 2000).

Secondly,  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_E$  can be calculated by considering the relative fractions of individual emission categories ( $E_i$ ) as follows (bottom-up estimation):

$$\delta^{13}\text{C}_E = \sum (\delta^{13}\text{C}_{E_i} \times E_i) / E \quad (11)$$

where  $E = \sum E_i$  and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{E_i}$  is the isotopic signature for emission category  $E_i$ . For the optimized case,  $E = E_{\text{opt}} = \sum E_{\text{ini}_i} + \Delta E$ , and  $L_i = L_{\text{opt}_i}$  and  $B = B_{\text{opt}}$  from the ACTM simulation should represent the observed condition. Using Eqs. (5)–(10), we calculate the isotope signature for  $E_{\text{opt}}$  ( $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{E_{\text{opt}}}$ ). Again  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{E_{\text{opt}}}$  can be estimated using Eq. (11) with  $E_{\text{opt}} = \sum E_{\text{ini}_i} + \Delta E$ . Here we assume that  $\Delta E$  is distributed between two hypothetical emissions  $\Delta E_1$  and  $\Delta E_h$  with lighter ( $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\Delta E_1}$ ) and heavier ( $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\Delta E_h}$ ) isotopic signatures, respectively. The  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{E_i}$  are taken from Monteil et al. (2011) and references therein (Table 1). Using Eq. (11), we obtain,

$$\delta^{13}\text{C}_{E_{\text{opt}}} = \frac{\sum \delta^{13}\text{C}_{E_{\text{ini}_i}} \times E_{\text{ini}_i} + \delta^{13}\text{C}_{\Delta E_1} \times \Delta E_1 + \delta^{13}\text{C}_{\Delta E_h} \times \Delta E_h}{E_{\text{opt}}} \quad (12)$$

And we have an additional constraint on  $\Delta E_1$  and  $\Delta E_h$  as follows:

$$\Delta E = \Delta E_1 + \Delta E_h \quad (13)$$

The value of  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{E_{\text{opt}}}$  as calculated using Eq. (10) is substituted into Eq. (12). There is, however, no unique solution

for Eqs. (12) and (13) as they contain 4 unknown variables ( $\Delta E_h$ ,  $\Delta E_l$ ,  $\delta^{13}C_{\Delta E_h}$  and  $\delta^{13}C_{\Delta E_l}$ ). In order to remove the underdetermination, we assume that  $\delta^{13}C_{\Delta E_h}$  and  $\delta^{13}C_{\Delta E_l}$  represent emissions from biomass burning ( $\delta^{13}C$  is  $-21.8\%$  from Monteil et al., 2011) and residual biogenic sources (e.g., wetland, rice, animals, etc., mean  $\delta^{13}C$  near to  $-60\%$  from Sapart et al., 2012), respectively. Equation (12) can now be modified to:

$$\Delta E_l = \frac{\delta^{13}C_{E_{opt}} \times E_{opt} - \sum \delta^{13}C_{E_{ini_i}} \times E_{ini_i} - \delta^{13}C_{\Delta E_h} \times \Delta E}{(\delta^{13}C_{\Delta E_l} - \delta^{13}C_{\Delta E_h})} \quad (14)$$

Using Eq. (14) we can estimate  $\Delta E_l$  and then  $\Delta E_h$  is calculated using Eq. (13). Estimation of emissions due to biomass burning is our primary interest here because no direct statistics are available over the past century and it was assumed constant at  $49.7 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$  in  $E_{ini}$ . It may be reiterated here that the anthropogenic emissions varied as per the EDGAR inventories, and wetland and rice emissions are taken from a terrestrial ecosystem model simulation.

Although  $\text{CH}_4$  losses due to reactions with Cl and  $\text{O}(^1\text{D})$ , which mainly take place in the stratosphere, are small compared to the total loss, the strong isotopic fractionations ( $\varepsilon_i = (\alpha_i - 1) \times 1000$ ;  $\varepsilon_i$  is also known as “kinetic isotope effect” (KIE)) in these reactions have a large impact on the isotopic budget (Lassey et al., 2007a; Wang et al., 2002). The isotopic fractionation factors ( $\alpha_i$ ) for  $\text{CH}_4 + \text{Cl}$  reaction ( $\alpha_{\text{Cl}} = 0.935$ ) is much smaller than that of  $\text{CH}_4 + \text{OH}$  and  $\text{CH}_4 + \text{O}(^1\text{D})$  reactions, e.g.,  $\alpha_{\text{OH}} = 0.9961$  and  $\alpha_{\text{O}(^1\text{D})} = 0.9872$ , respectively (Saueressig et al., 1995). Previous studies have shown that there exists a large vertical gradient in  $\delta^{13}C$  from the troposphere to the stratosphere due to the stronger fractionation effects in  $\text{CH}_4 + \text{O}(^1\text{D})$  and  $\text{CH}_4 + \text{Cl}$  reactions during passage through the stratosphere (Rice et al., 2003; Röckmann et al., 2011; Sugawara et al., 1997). Stratosphere air returning to the troposphere is enriched in  $^{13}\text{CH}_4$ , but the re-entry flux and consequent  $^{13}\text{CH}_4$  enrichment in the troposphere are not well quantified (Lassey et al., 2007a). In a modeling study, Wang et al. (2002) estimated that the tropospheric  $^{13}\text{CH}_4$  enrichment for 1992 due to stratospheric Cl without assuming steady state was  $0.23\%$  ( $0.18\text{--}0.54\%$ ). If the  $\alpha_i$  for Cl and  $\text{O}(^1\text{D})$  loss processes as mentioned above (Saueressig et al., 1995) are used in the one-box model, because of the strong isotopic fractionations, the isotopic effect of stratospheric  $\text{CH}_4$  loss on the tropospheric  $\delta^{13}C$  budget will be overestimated. To avoid such overestimation, we assume that  $\alpha_i$  in the troposphere are mainly due to OH loss, and a smaller fractionation effect of the stratospheric loss on  $\delta^{13}C$  at the surface. In fact, the magnitude of fractionation during  $\text{CH}_4$  loss, both in the troposphere and stratosphere, is uncertain since the published values of  $\alpha_i$  in the literature are significantly different. The values of  $\alpha_{\text{Cl}}$  ranges from about 0.935 (Saueressig et al., 1995) to 0.966–0.974 (Tanaka et al., 1996; Gupta et al., 1997),  $\alpha_{\text{O}(^1\text{D})}$  from 0.9872 (Saueressig

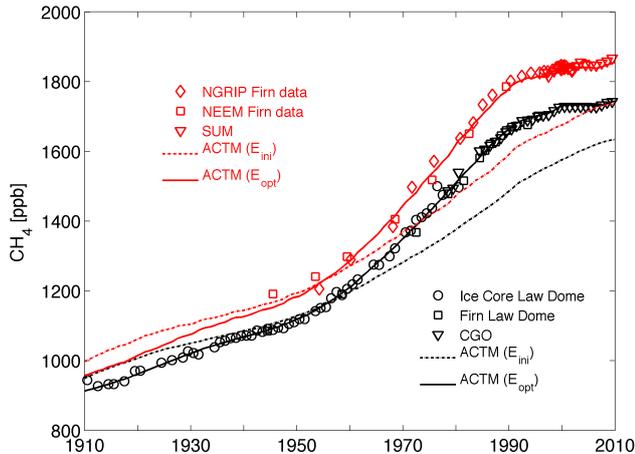
et al., 2001) to 0.999 (Davidson et al., 1987) and  $\alpha_{\text{OH}}$  from 0.9946 (Cantrell et al., 1990) to 0.9961 (Saueressig et al., 2001). In the present study,  $\alpha_{\text{OH}}$  is the mean of two published  $\alpha_{\text{OH}}$  values (Cantrell et al., 1990; Saueressig et al., 2001). We scaled  $\alpha_{\text{Cl}}$  so that the reaction with Cl has an impact of  $+0.23\%$  on surface  $\delta^{13}C$  in 1992, to be consistent with Wang et al. (2002).  $\alpha_{\text{O}(^1\text{D})}$  is also adjusted by keeping the ratio  $(\alpha_{\text{Cl}} - \alpha_{\text{OH}})/(\alpha_{\text{O}(^1\text{D})} - \alpha_{\text{OH}})$  and total loss by reactions with Cl and  $\text{O}(^1\text{D})$  unchanged. The weighted mean isotopic fractionation factor ( $\bar{\alpha}$ ) for all loss processes is 0.9943 and the global mean  $\delta^{13}C_E$  value in 1990 is  $-52.1\%$ , which are in agreement with other estimates, e.g., 0.9941 and  $-52.3\%$ , respectively (e.g., Lassey et al., 2000). The values of  $\alpha_{\text{Cl}}$  and  $\alpha_{\text{O}(^1\text{D})}$  used in this study are now much closer to that of  $\alpha_{\text{OH}}$  producing the smaller fractionation effect of stratospheric loss on the estimation of  $\delta^{13}C$  at the surface (Table 1). Due to the increase in atomic Cl in stratosphere, the effect of  $\alpha_{\text{Cl}}$  on surface  $\delta^{13}C$  is estimated to increase from  $+0.01$  to  $+0.38\%$  during the period 1910–2010.

### 3 Results and discussion

#### 3.1 Model-observation comparisons of $\text{CH}_4$ concentrations

The model simulations are compared with the observed  $\text{CH}_4$  concentration time series constructed from ice core, firn air, air archives and ambient air measurements (Fig. 2). The first 9 years (1901–1909) of the simulation are used to spin-up the ACTM, to guarantee that the results are independent of the initial conditions. The initial ACTM simulation using  $E_{ini}$  (Fig. 2) underestimates the growth rate by  $0.6 \text{ ppb yr}^{-1}$  ( $4.8 \text{ ppb yr}^{-1}$ ) for the period of slow (rapid) growth during 1910–1950 (1950–1990), and it also fails to capture the slowdown of the observed  $\text{CH}_4$  growth rate during the 1990s. Apparently, the  $E_{ini}$  is a better first-guess in the first half of the 20th century compared to the latter half, when the  $\text{CH}_4$  growth rate changed dramatically. The model-observation mismatches are attributed to incomplete knowledge of  $E_{ini}$  as used in the ACTM simulations, assuming no significant uncertainties in chemistry and transport. Thus we have estimated optimized global total  $\text{CH}_4$  emissions using the mass balance calculation as described in Sect. 2.5.

A new ACTM simulation using optimized emissions ( $E_{opt}$ ) was performed and the modeled  $\text{CH}_4$  concentrations for the Arctic and Antarctic regions (blue and green, respectively) are shown in Fig. 2. Simulated and observed  $\text{CH}_4$  are in good agreement for the ACTM using  $E_{opt}$  (see Table 2 for detailed statistics). Observations in the Antarctic region reveal that the growth rates are: moderate ( $5.1 \text{ ppb yr}^{-1}$ ) during 1910–1950; fastest ( $13.6 \text{ ppb yr}^{-1}$ ) during 1950–1990; moderate ( $6.7 \text{ ppb yr}^{-1}$ ) during the 1990s; near-steady in the early 2000s; and moderate again ( $5.7 \text{ ppb yr}^{-1}$ ) since 2007. These are all simulated well by ACTM within the

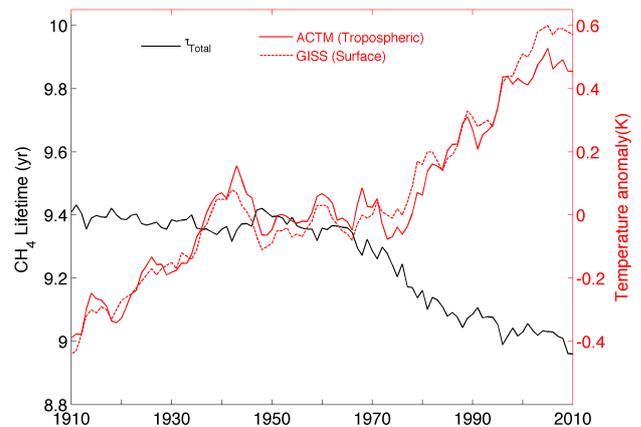


**Figure 2.** ACTM simulations of  $\text{CH}_4$  concentration compared with ice core, firn and direct measurements. ACTM simulated  $\text{CH}_4$  concentrations with  $E_{\text{ini}}$  ( $E_{\text{opt}}$ ) for Arctic and Antarctic regions are shown in magenta (blue) and purple (green), respectively. Red (black) symbol and text are for Arctic (Antarctic) region. Annual average ice core data (Law Dome: DSS, DE08 and DE08-2), firn records (Law Dome (DE08-2 and DSSW20K); NGRIP firn data; and NEEM firn data) and direct observations (CGO: air archive, flask sampling and GAGE/AGAGE; SUM: flask sampling) are prepared and presented separately here. All the observation data are referenced to the Tohoku University (TU)  $\text{CH}_4$  scale (Aoki et al., 1992; Umezawa et al., 2014).

measurement uncertainties of 2–5 ppb.  $\text{CH}_4$  observations in the Arctic region only cover 1945–2010. The ACTM simulated growth rates for the Arctic region follow a similar trend as the Antarctic region:  $5.6 \text{ ppb yr}^{-1}$  during 1910–1950;  $15.2 \text{ ppb yr}^{-1}$  during 1950–1990;  $5.2 \text{ ppb yr}^{-1}$  during the 1990s; near-steady state during the early 2000s; and  $5.8 \text{ ppb yr}^{-1}$  since 2007. The inter-polar difference (IPD) of  $\text{CH}_4$  is, however, smaller in the model simulation ( $102.2 \pm 17.9 \text{ ppb}$ ) compared to observations ( $117 \pm 16.7 \text{ ppb}$ ) for the period 1949–2010. A detailed discussion on IPD is given in Sect. 3.3.

### 3.2 Trends in methane lifetime

As no consensus has been reached for the trends in global mean OH concentration simulated by state-of-the-art CTMs (e.g., John et al., 2012), we used monthly varying climatological OH concentrations for our ACTM simulations. This OH distribution, from Spivakovsky et al. (2000), also fits well with ACTM transport for simulating inter-hemispheric gradients in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CCl}_3$  and  $\text{CH}_4$  for the period 1988–2010 (Patra et al., 2011, 2014). The OH field is scaled by 0.92 for simulating the decay rate of  $\text{CH}_3\text{CCl}_3$  in Earth’s atmosphere (Krol and Lelieveld, 2003). For  $E_{\text{opt}}$  the total  $\text{CH}_4$  lifetime is

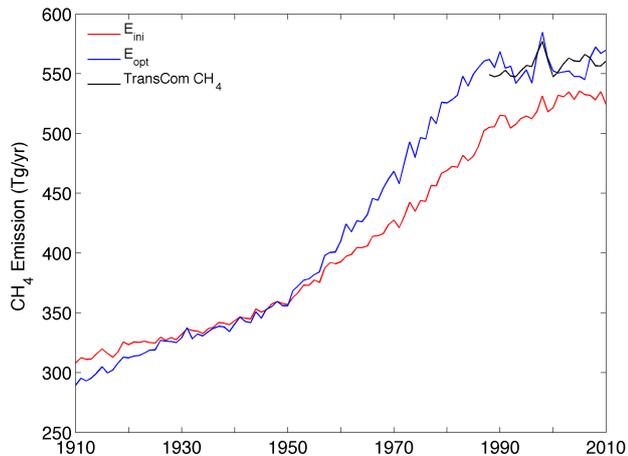


**Figure 3.** Five-year running means of  $\text{CH}_4$  total lifetime and global tropospheric temperature anomaly (with the base period 1951–1980) during 1910–2010.

given by  $\tau_{\text{Total}} = \frac{B_{\text{opt}}}{(E_{\text{opt}} - \frac{dB_{\text{opt}}}{dt})}$ . The trends in  $\text{CH}_4$  lifetime and tropospheric mean temperature anomaly are shown in Fig. 3. The average  $\text{CH}_4$  total lifetime during 1910–1919 and 2000–2009 are  $9.4 \pm 0.09$  and  $9.0 \pm 0.09$  years, respectively. The ACTM simulated air temperature anomaly is very similar to that of the observed temperature anomaly produced at GISS (Hansen et al., 2010). This illustrates that the long-term simulation of  $\text{CH}_4$  by ACTM, driven by analyzed SST only, is close to that simulated by ACTM nudged to the reanalysis meteorology. To examine the factors causing change in the  $\text{CH}_4$  lifetime, we have calculated the temporal change of “apparent reaction rate”  $k_{a,i} = L_i/B$ , where  $i$  is the  $\text{CH}_4$  reaction with OH,  $\text{O}(^1\text{D})$ , Cl or soil oxidation. Between the 1910s and the 2000s, contributions of Cl, OH,  $\text{O}(^1\text{D})$  reactions and soil oxidation to  $\text{CH}_4$  lifetime change are +61.7, +48.7,  $-1.6$  and  $-8.8\%$ , respectively. Thus, the  $\sim 4\%$  shorter average  $\text{CH}_4$  total lifetime from the first to last decades of the last 100 years (1910–2009) is mainly caused by the large increase in Cl concentration and the increase in the tropospheric air temperature.

### 3.3 Estimation of global total $\text{CH}_4$ emissions for improved concentration simulations

Global total  $\text{CH}_4$  emissions are optimized by minimizing the model-observation mismatches of  $\text{CH}_4$  concentrations over the Antarctic region (combined measurements from Law Dome ice core/firn air and direct air sampling from Cape Grim). Figure 4 shows a comparison of both the initial and optimized emissions with TransCom- $\text{CH}_4$  emissions ( $\text{CH}_4\text{-EXTRA}$ ) for 1988–2010 (Patra et al., 2011). The increase rate of global total emissions is underestimated (overestimated) by  $\sim 30\%$  ( $\sim 380\%$ ) during 1940–1989 (1990–2009) in the initial emission scenario. Optimized emissions



**Figure 4.** Time series of initial ( $E_{ini}$ ) and optimized ( $E_{opt}$ ) emissions. Emissions for a shorter period from the TransCom-CH<sub>4</sub> experiment (Patra et al., 2011) are also shown for a comparison.

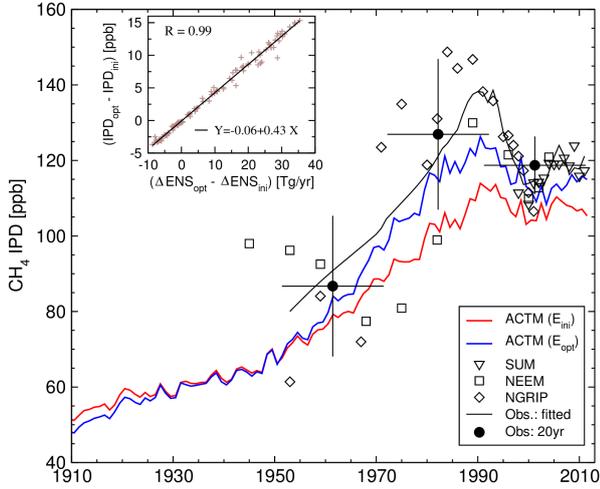
( $E_{opt}$ ) are in overall agreement with TransCom CH<sub>4</sub> emissions for 1988–2010. This indicates robustness of the mass-balance based optimization used in this study. For quantitative assessment of ACTM simulations with all the emissions scenarios ( $E_{ini}$  and  $E_{opt}$ ), the model-observation CH<sub>4</sub> concentration biases and SDs ( $1\sigma$ ) (in ppb) of the biases over the Antarctic region, and averages of  $E_{ini}$ ,  $E_{opt}$  and  $B_{opt}$  for each decade are summarized in Table 2. Both the bias and  $1\sigma$  are reduced drastically when optimized global total emissions are used in ACTM (Table 2). It may be reiterated here that the global total emissions for mass balance is dependent on the CH<sub>4</sub> loss rates as parameterized in ACTM (Eq. 1).

Figure 5 shows inter-polar differences (IPD) of CH<sub>4</sub> concentration using the ACTM simulations with  $E_{ini}$  and  $E_{opt}$  over Arctic and Antarctic regions for 1910–2010. For the observations, we used a combination of datasets from Arctic (NGRIP firn air: 1953–2001, NEEM firn air: 1945–1996 and direct measurements at SUM since 1998) and Antarctic (Law Dome ice cores: 1901–1980, DE08-2 and DSSW20K firn air: 1978–1993, and direct measurements and archive tanks at CGO since 1978) regions. It is noted that no observation for 1910–1945 is available from the Arctic region, so the IPD of observed CH<sub>4</sub> concentration is limited to 1945–2010. Uncertainty in the IPD before direct measurements is of order 20 ppb ( $1-\sigma$ ), as indicated by the vertical uncertainty bars on the 20-year mean values (filled circles in Fig 5). This uncertainty in IPDs is consistent with that arise from the uncertainty (about 1.5 years) in effective age estimation of firn air, considering that CH<sub>4</sub> growth rates were varying between

7–15 ppb in the period of 1950–1990. The ACTM simulation with  $E_{ini}$  generally underestimated the observed CH<sub>4</sub> IPD, and statistically significantly for the period 1970–2011. This underestimation reduces significantly (Fig. 5, refer to the black and blue lines) when the global total emission is optimized ( $E_{opt}$ ) using observations from the Antarctic region. This suggest that the northern-southern hemispheric totals of CH<sub>4</sub> emissions in  $E_{ini}$  were incorrect, particularly for the period of 1970–2011. We assumed that the other factors affecting the IPD of CH<sub>4</sub> concentration such as the latitudinal distribution of CH<sub>4</sub> sinks and the mixing rates between hemispheres remained unchanged. Considering these uncertainties, we conclude that the ACTM simulations using  $E_{opt}$  successfully reproduce the observed CH<sub>4</sub> IPD during 1950–2011. We found a high correlation ( $R=0.99$ ) between differences of IPDs ( $IPD_{opt} - IPD_{int}$ ) and difference of NH-SH emissions ( $\Delta ENS_{opt} - \Delta ENS_{int}$ ) in optimized and initial guess cases (Fig. 5 inset), i.e., the larger the change in difference of NH-SH emissions the larger the change in IPD. The change in latitudinal distribution of emissions is the dominant driver of IPD, which is in agreement with a previous study (Mitchell et al., 2013).

### 3.4 Application of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ for separation of source category in $\Delta E$

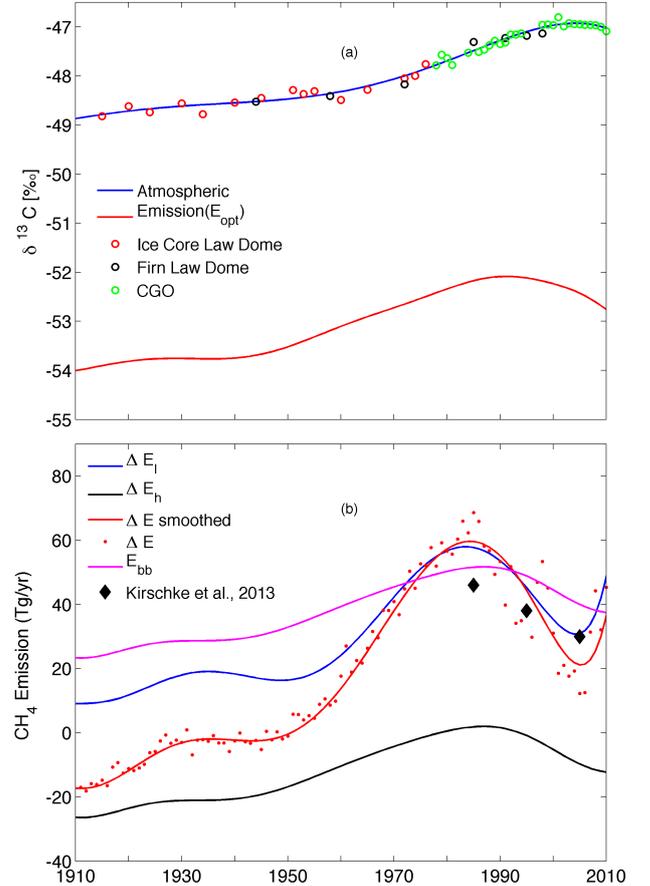
The difference between initial and optimized emissions ( $\Delta E = E_{opt} - E_{int}$ ) ranges from  $-15$  to  $0$  and from  $0$  to  $60 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$  for the first and second halves of the last 100 years, respectively (Fig. 4). Though  $E_{opt}$  reproduces the CH<sub>4</sub> concentration for the last 100 years fairly well, it does not verify how individual source categories have evolved over the period. Here we constrain different emission categories based on evolution of  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  by separating  $\Delta E$  into isotopically lighter and heavier sources (Sect. 2.6). We set the goal here to infer trends in emissions from biomass burning, because this emission category was kept constant over the whole simulation period due to the lack of consensus among different estimations (Mieville et al., 2010; Ito and Penner, 2005). The detailed interannual variability cannot be calculated from  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{atmos}$  over the Antarctic region, because a smoothed fitted curve is used to interpolate between observations. For the sake of consistency, we also fitted smoothed curves for  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{E_{opt}}$  and  $\Delta E$ , and then redistributed the smoothed  $\Delta E$  between  $\Delta E_l$  and  $\Delta E_h$ . Observations and smooth time series of  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{atmos}$  and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{E_{opt}}$  are shown in Fig. 6a. We assumed  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\Delta E_l}$  and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\Delta E_h}$  val-



**Figure 5.** Comparison of model simulated (blue and red lines) and observed (symbols, square) inter-polar differences (IPD) of  $\text{CH}_4$  concentration. The black line is obtained by spline fitting the ice core observations from the Arctic and Antarctic regions (ref. Fig. 2). Also shown are the 20-year mean  $\text{CH}_4$  IPDs (filled circle),  $1-\sigma$  standard deviations (vertical bar) and 20-year range for averaging (horizontal bar). Inset: correlation between difference of IPD ( $\text{IPD}_{\text{opt}} - \text{IPD}_{\text{int}}$ ) and difference of NH-SH emissions ( $\Delta\text{ENS}_{\text{opt}} - \Delta\text{ENS}_{\text{int}}$ ) in optimized and initial guess cases.

ues of  $-60\%$  (representing biogenic sources) and  $-21.8\%$  (representing biomass burning emissions), respectively (Table 1). The corrected biomass burning emission now becomes  $E_{\text{bb}} = 49.7$  (initial biomass burning emission)  $+\Delta E_{\text{h}}$  (correction term)  $\text{Tg yr}^{-1}$ . We have taken this approach because the level of confidence for estimations of emission variations from biomass burning is relatively low compared to all other emission categories, which are either estimated based on statistical data of human activities or model simulations.  $E_{\text{bb}}$  is also shown in Fig. 6b.  $E_{\text{bb}}$  has an increasing trend (varies from 23 to  $51 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$ ) during the period 1910–1990, followed by a decreasing trend (from 51 to  $38 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$ ) from 1990s onward.

The CO based reference for open biomass burning by Ito et al. (2005), which is scaled by using the ratio of  $\text{CH}_4$  and CO emissions from biomass burning based on the Global Inventory for Chemistry-Climate studies (GICC) dataset (Mieville et al., 2010), shows a similar increasing trend. However, both the trend and mean values in the present study are larger than the GICC dataset. The variation in



**Figure 6.** (a) Observations (circles) and smooth time series of  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{atmos}}$  and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{Eopt}}$  (b)  $\Delta E$  (smoothed) is split into  $\Delta E_1$  and  $\Delta E_{\text{h}}$ . Here  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\Delta E_1}$  and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\Delta E_{\text{h}}}$  are assumed to be  $-60\%$  (biogenic sources, a supplementary source) and  $-21.8\%$  (biomass burning emission), respectively. Annual average  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{atmos}}$  observations from Law Dome (ice core (red circle)/firm air (blue circle) records) and CGO (air archive samples and NOAA-ESRL network direct observations; (magenta circle)) are shown separately here. The estimated biomass burning emission is given by  $E_{\text{bb}} = 49.7$  (initial biomass burning emission)  $+\Delta E_{\text{h}}$  (correction term)  $\text{Tg yr}^{-1}$ . A recent estimation of biomass burning emissions (Kirschke et al., 2013) for last three decades is also shown for comparison (filled diamond).

biomass burning emissions during the 20th century is influenced by both the warmer climate and human activities (e.g., agricultural expansion, land-use change, domestic fuel use, fire management). The human population increased at the fastest rate since 1950 as per the United Nations statistics. However, saturation in cropland expansion in Asia, shift in domestic fuel use and improved fire management practices since the late 1980s would have suppressed the growth of CH<sub>4</sub> emissions due to biomass burning caused by human activities (Patra et al., 2013; Li et al., 2002; Hurtt et al., 2006; Sathaye and Tyler, 1991; Montiel and Kraus, 2010). Uncertainties remain in the estimation of biomass burning emissions for the 20th century due to assumptions of  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{E_i}$  and  $\alpha_i$  values. However, a sensitivity analysis using the estimated biomass burning emissions by varying  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\Delta E_1}$  from  $-55$  to  $-65\%$  (Sapart et al., 2012) suggests the trends in CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from biomass burning is robust and only the magnitude of this emission could change by  $\pm (5\text{--}15)\%$  (Appendix A). The decreasing trend in biomass burning emission has also been reported for the recent years but typically at lower absolute levels (Fig. 6) (e.g., Kirschke et al., 2013). The inclusion of  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  in inversions and global mass balances has also in the past yielded higher emissions for global biomass burning than inventories (Miller et al., 2002; Bousquet et al., 2006).

The supplement biogenic source ( $\Delta E_1$ ) follows a similar trend (a slow increasing trend during 1910–1950 and a rapid increase for the period 1950–1980, Fig. 6b) to that of the biogenic sources in the initial emissions ( $E_{\text{ini}}$ ) for the period 1910–1980 (Fig. 1a). Between 1981–2006  $\Delta E_1$  shows a decreasing trend, followed by an increase from 2007 onward (Fig. 6b), which is different from the biogenic sources in  $E_{\text{ini}}$  showing an increasing trend during this whole period (Fig. 1a). Recent studies suggested a likely reduction in emissions from wetlands (e.g., due to more frequent El Niño events in the last three decades compared to the decades before 1980, Hodson et al., 2011, or due to the cooling effect of increased anthropogenic sulfur pollution, Gauci et al., 2004, or volcanic eruptions, Hogan et al., 1994) and changes in rice agricultural practices (Li et al., 2002). The increase in atmospheric CH<sub>4</sub> since 2007 may be ascribed to enhanced emissions from wetlands combined with an increasing trend of fossil fuel use (Dlugokencky et al., 2009; Bousquet et al., 2011; Kirschke et al., 2013; Bergamaschi et al., 2013). Apparently,  $\Delta E_1$  is able to capture these detailed features of biogenic emissions in recent decades, which are otherwise different in  $E_{\text{ini}}$ . On the contrary, the rapid increase in emissions during 1950–1980, which is reflected in both  $\Delta E_1$  and biogenic sources in  $E_{\text{ini}}$ , is likely to be driven by increasing anthropogenic activities (e.g., agriculture, ruminants and termites, organic waste deposits etc.) related to increasing human population during this period.

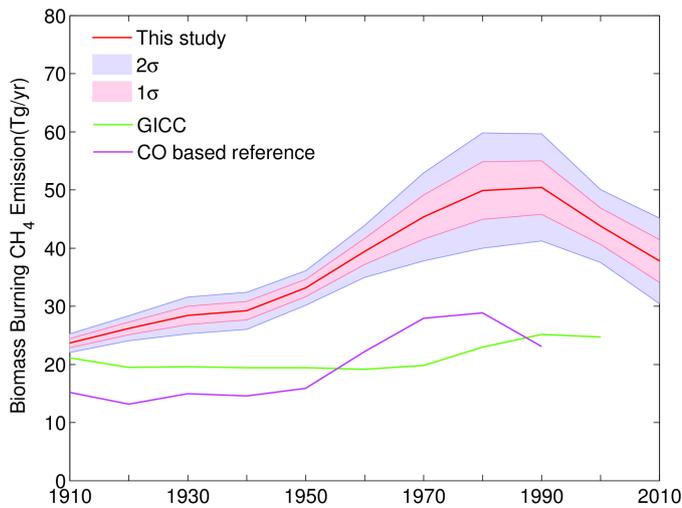
The present analysis limits the unaccounted emissions  $\Delta E$  to be from only biomass burning (heavy) and biogenic (light) sources, but there could be other combinations of different categories of emissions. As we have two Eqs. (12) and

(13), unique solutions are only possible for two unknown categories of emissions assuming rest of the emissions are all known. One reasonable scenario is distributing  $\Delta E$  into biomass burning and biogenic sources as examined in this study. To calculate for other possible combinations, such as fossil fuel (heavy) and biogenic (light) sources, we need to know the correct biomass burning emissions in  $E_{\text{ini}}$  and leave the correction terms  $\Delta E_1$  and  $\Delta E_h$  uncertain. We also attempted a combination of biomass burning and fossil fuel sources, but it produced unrealistic emission values (negative). We need additional constraints such as the  $^{14}\text{C}$  (Lassey et al., 2007b) and hydrogen isotopic ratio ( $\delta D$ ) of CH<sub>4</sub>, which are presently very limited, to find solutions for more than two variables, e.g., distributing  $\Delta E$  among biomass burning, fossil fuel and biogenic sources.

#### 4 Conclusions

We have simulated CH<sub>4</sub> concentration and its  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  for 1910–2010. The major findings of our study are as follows:

1. We used initial emissions ( $E_{\text{ini}}$ ) from bottom-up inventories for anthropogenic sources, emissions from wetlands and rice paddies simulated by a terrestrial biogeochemical model (VISIT), and the ACTM to simulate atmospheric CH<sub>4</sub> concentrations for the period 1910 to 2010. By minimizing the difference between ACTM simulations and observed CH<sub>4</sub> concentrations (over the Antarctic region) using a mass balance calculation, we estimated the optimized global emission ( $E_{\text{opt}}$ ) for atmospheric CH<sub>4</sub> for the past 100 years. The ACTM simulation with the optimized emissions reproduced the moderate ( $5\text{ ppb yr}^{-1}$ ) and rapid ( $14.3\text{ ppb yr}^{-1}$ ) growth rates for 1910–1950 and 1950–1990, respectively, and the drop in growth rate ( $5.3\text{ ppb yr}^{-1}$ ) during the 1990s, near-steady state in the early 2000s, and the regrowth in 2007 ( $5.2\text{ ppb yr}^{-1}$ ) fairly well. However, the ACTM underestimated IPDs, particularly for the period before the 1990s compared to the last 2 decades. Such underestimation in IPD can be corrected by increasing the NH-SH gradient in the optimized emission ( $E_{\text{opt}}$ ), suggesting that the change in latitudinal distribution of CH<sub>4</sub> emissions is the dominant driver of IPD.
2. To further investigate the strength and variability of different CH<sub>4</sub> emission categories, we introduced an additional constraint from  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ . This helps us in inferring the possible trends in biomass burning emissions, which was initially kept constant over the period. The optimized result suggests an increasing biomass burning emissions until 1990 and a decrease afterwards. These variations are comparable with biomass burning emissions previously reported in the literature. We also estimated a supplementary biogenic source, which is likely to fill the incomplete information of biogenic sources in



**Figure A1.** Sensitivity of estimated proposed biomass burning emissions with respect to varying  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\Delta E_1}$  (biogenic sources) from  $-55$  to  $-65\text{‰}$ .

the initial emissions. Further details about  $\text{CH}_4$  sources could not be inferred due to limited observations covering the past 100 years and without measurements of additional constraints on  $\text{CH}_4$  source categories, such as the  $^{14}\text{C}$  and  $\delta D$ .

## Appendix A:

As the splitting of  $\Delta E$  into  $\Delta E_1$  and  $\Delta E_h$  depends on the values of  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\Delta E_1}$  used in the calculation, a sensitivity of estimated proposed biomass burning emission with respect to varying  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\Delta E_1}$ , from  $-55$  to  $-65\text{‰}$  (Sapart et al., 2012), is shown in Fig. A1. Here the estimated biomass burning emission is expressed as a decadal mean so that it is consistent with other datasets (GICC: Mieville et al., 2010; CO based reference: Ito et al., 2005). The uncertainty in estimation of possible biomass burning emissions increases from 1950 onward reaching a peak in 1990s.

**Acknowledgements.** This research is financially supported by the Green Network of Excellence (GRENE) Project by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Japan. We also acknowledge data centers/contributors Tohoku University, Japan; NOAA/ESRL air sampling network; GAGE/AGAGE network; NOAA's National Climate Data Center (NCDC); World Data Centre for Greenhouse Gases (WDCGG); Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center (CDIAC), U.S. Department of Energy; the Australian Bureau of Meteorology/Cape Grim Baseline Air Pollution Station; Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Australia for the dataset used in the present study. CSIRO's contribution was supported in part by the Australian Climate Change Science Program, an Australian Government Initiative.

## References

- Aoki, S., Nakazawa, T., Murayama, S., and Kawaguchi, S.: Measurements of atmospheric methane at the Japanese Antarctic Station, Syowa, *Tellus B*, 44, 273–281, 1992.
- Arakawa, A. and Schubert, W. H.: Interactions of cumulus cloud ensemble with the large-scale environment, Part I, *J. Atmos. Sci.*, 31, 671–701, 1974.
- Baumgartner, M., Schilt, A., Eicher, O., Schmitt, J., Schwander, J., Spahni, R., Fischer, H., and Stocker, T. F.: High-resolution inter-polar difference of atmospheric methane around the Last Glacial Maximum, *Biogeosciences*, 9, 3961–3977, doi:10.5194/bg-9-3961-2012, 2012.
- Bergamaschi P., Houweling, S., Segers, A., Krol, M., Frankenberg, C., Scheepmaker, R., Dlugokencky, E., Wofsy, S., Kort, E., Sweeney, C., Schuck, T., Brenninkmeijer, C., Chen, H., Beck, V., and Gerbig, C.: Atmospheric  $\text{CH}_4$  in the first decade of the 21st century: inverse modeling analysis using SCIAMACHY satellite retrievals and NOAA surface measurements, *J. Geophys. Res.-Atmos.*, 118, 7350–7369, doi:10.1002/jgrd.50480, 2013.
- Bousquet, P., Ciais, P., Miller, J. B., Dlugokencky, E. J., Hauglustaine, D. A., Prigent, C., Van der Werf, G. R., Peylin, P., Brunke, E. G., Carouge, C., Langenfelds, R. L., Lathiere, J., Papa, F., Ramonet, M., Schmidt, M., Steele, L. P., Tyler, S. C., and White, J.: Contribution of anthropogenic and natural sources to atmospheric methane variability, *Nature*, 443, 439–443, doi:10.1038/nature05132, 2006.
- Bousquet, P., Ringeval, B., Pison, I., Dlugokencky, E. J., Brunke, E. G., Carouge, C., Chevallier, F., Fortems-Cheiney, A., Frankenberg, C., Hauglustaine, D. A., Krummel, P. B., Langenfelds, R. L., Ramonet, M., Schmidt, M., Steele, L. P., Szopa, S., Yver, C., Viovy, N., and Ciais, P.: Source attribution of the changes in atmospheric methane for 2006–2008, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 11, 3689–3700, doi:10.5194/acp-11-3689-2011, 2011.
- Buizert, C., Martinerie, P., Petrenko, V. V., Severinghaus, J. P., Trudinger, C. M., Witrant, E., Rosen, J. L., Orsi, A. J., Rubino, M., Etheridge, D. M., Steele, L. P., Hogan, C., Laube, J. C., Sturges, W. T., Levchenko, V. A., Smith, A. M., Levin, I., Conway, T. J., Dlugokencky, E. J., Lang, P. M., Kawamura, K., Jenk, T. M., White, J. W. C., Sowers, T., Schwander, J., and Blunier, T.: Gas transport in firn: multiple-tracer characterisation and model intercomparison for NEEM, Northern Greenland, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 12, 4259–4277, doi:10.5194/acp-12-4259-2012, 2012.
- Cantrell, C. A., Shetter, R. E., McDaniel, A. H., Calvert, J. G., Davidson, J. A., Lowe, D. C., Tyler, S. C., Cicerone, R. J., and Greenberg, J. P.: Carbon kinetic isotope effect in the oxidation of methane by hydroxyl radicals, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 95, 22455–22462, 1990.
- Cao, M., Gregson, K., and Marshall, S.: Global methane emission from wetlands and its sensitivity to climate change, *Atmos. Environ.*, 32, 3293–3299, doi:10.1016/S1352-2310(98)00105-8, 1998.
- Chappellaz, J. A., Fung, I. Y., and Thompson, A. M.: The atmospheric  $\text{CH}_4$  increase since the last glacial maximum, 1, Source estimates, *Tellus B*, 45, 228–241, 1993.
- Cicerone, R. J. and Oremland, R. S.: Biogeochemical aspects of atmospheric methane, *Global Biogeochem. Cy.*, 2, 299–327, 1988.

- Colella, P. and Woodward, P. R.: The Piecewise Parabolic Method (PPM) for Gas-Dynamic Simulations, *J. Comput. Phys.*, 54, 174–201, 1984.
- Craig, H.: Isotopic standards for carbon and oxygen and correction factors for mass spectrometric analysis of carbon dioxide, *Geochim. Cosmochim. Ac.*, 12, 133–149, 1957.
- Cunnold, D. M., Steele, L. P., Fraser, P. J., Simmonds, P. G., Prinn, R. G., Weiss, R. F., Porter, L. W., O'Doherty, S., Langenfelds, R. L., Krummel, P. B., Wang, H. J., Emmons, L., Tie, X. X., and Dlugokencky, E. J.: In situ measurements of atmospheric methane at GAGE/AGAGE sites during 1985–2000 and resulting source inferences, *J. Geophys. Res.-Atmos.*, 107, 4225, doi:10.1029/2001JD001226, 2002.
- Davidson, J. A., Cantrell, C. A., Tyler, S. C., Shetter, R. E., Cicerone, R. J., and Calvert, J. G.: Carbon kinetic isotope effect in the reaction of CH<sub>4</sub> with HO, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 92, 2195–2199, 1987.
- Dlugokencky, E. J., Masure, K. A., Lang, P. M., Tans, P. P., Steele, L. P., and Nisbet, E. G.: A dramatic decrease in the growth rate of atmospheric methane in the Northern Hemisphere during 1992, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 21, 45–48, 1994.
- Dlugokencky, E. J., Houweling, S., Bruhwiler, L., Masure, K. A., Lang, P. M., Miller, J. B., and Tans, P. P.: Atmospheric methane levels off: temporary pause or a new steady-state?, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 30, 1992, doi:10.1029/2003GL018126, 2003.
- Dlugokencky, E. J., Myers, R. C., Lang, P. M., Masure, K. A., Crotwell, A. M., Thoning, K. W., Hall, B. D., Elkins, J. W., and Steele, L. P.: Conversion of NOAA atmospheric dry air CH<sub>4</sub> mole fractions to a gravimetrically prepared standard scale, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 110, D18306, doi:10.1029/2005JD006035, 2005.
- Dlugokencky, E. J., Bruhwiler, L., White, J. W. C., Emmons, L. K., Novelli, P. C., Montzka, S. A., Masure, K. A., Lang, P. M., Crotwell, A. M., Miller, J. B., and Gatti, L. V.: Observational constraints on recent increases in the atmospheric CH<sub>4</sub> burden, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 36, L18803, doi:10.1029/2009GL039780, 2009.
- Dlugokencky, E. J., Nisbet, E. G., Fisher, R., and Lowry, D.: Global atmospheric methane: budget, changes and dangers, *Philos. T. R. Soc. A*, 369, 2058–2072, 2011.
- Etheridge, D. M., Steele, L. P., Francey, R. J., and Langenfelds, R. L.: Atmospheric methane between 1000 A. D., and present: evidence of anthropogenic emissions and climatic variability, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 103, 15979–15993, doi:10.1029/98JD00923, 1998.
- Etiopie, G. and Milkov, A. V.: A new estimate of global methane flux from onshore and shallow submarine mud volcanoes to the atmosphere, *Environ. Geol.*, 46, 997–1002, doi:10.1007/s00254-004-1085-1, 2004.
- Ferretti, D. F., Miller, J. B., White, J. W. C., Etheridge, D. M., Lassey, K. R., Lowe, D. C., MacFarling Meure, C. M., Dreier, M. F., Trudinger, C. M., van Ommen, T. D., and Langenfelds, R. L.: Unexpected changes to the global methane budget over the past 2000 years, *Science*, 309, 1714–1717, doi:10.1126/science.1115193, 2005.
- Francey, R. J., Manning, M. R., Allison, C. E., Coram, S. A., Etheridge, D. M., Langenfelds, R. L., Lowe, D. C., and Steele, L. P.: A history of  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  in atmospheric CH<sub>4</sub> from the Cape Grim Air Archive and Antarctic firn air, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 104, 23631–23643, doi:10.1029/1999JD900357, 1999.
- Fung, I., John, J., Lerner, J., Matthews, E., Prather, M., Steele, L. P., and Fraser, P. J.: Three-dimensional model synthesis of the global methane cycle, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 96, 13033–13065, doi:10.1029/91JD01247, 1991.
- Gauci V, Matthews, E., Dise, N., Walter, B., Koch, D., Granberg, G., and Vile, M. A.: Sulfur pollution suppression of the wetland methane source in the 20th and 21st centuries, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 101, 12583–12587, 2004.
- Gupta, M. L., McGrath, M. P., Cicerone, R. J., Rowland, F. S., and Wolfsberg, M.:  $^{12}\text{C}/^{13}\text{C}$  kinetic isotope effects in the reactions of CH<sub>4</sub> with OH and Cl, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 24, 2761–2764, 1997.
- Hansen, J., Ruedy, R., Sato, M., and Lo, K.: Global surface temperature change, *Rev. Geophys.*, 48, RG4004, doi:10.1029/2010RG000345, 2010.
- Hasumi, H., Emori, S., Abe-Ouchi, A., et al., K-1 Coupled GCM (MIROC) Description, Technical report, CCSR, Kashiwa, Chiba, Japan, 2004.
- Hodson, E. L., Poulter, B., Zimmermann, N. E., Prigent, C., and Kaplan, J. O.: The El Niño–Southern Oscillation and wetland methane interannual variability, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 38, L08810, doi:10.1029/2011GL046861, 2011.
- Hogan, K. B. and Harriss, R. C.: Comment on “A dramatic decrease in the growth rate of atmospheric methane in the Northern Hemisphere during 1992” by E. J. Dlugokencky et al., *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 21, 2445–2446, doi:10.1029/94GL02601, 1994.
- Hou, S., Chappellaz, J., Raynaud, D., Masson-Delmotte, V., Jouzel, J., Bousquet, P., and Hauglustaine, D.: A new Himalayan ice core CH<sub>4</sub> record: possible hints at the preindustrial latitudinal gradient, *Clim. Past*, 9, 2549–2554, doi:10.5194/cp-9-2549-2013, 2013.
- Houweling, S., van der Werf, G. R., Klein Goldewijk, K., Röckmann, T., and Aben, I.: Early anthropogenic CH<sub>4</sub> emissions and the variation of CH<sub>4</sub> and  $^{13}\text{CH}_4$  over the last millennium, *Global Biogeochem. Cy.*, 22, GB1002, doi:10.1029/2007GB002961, 2008.
- Hurtt, G. C., Frohling, S., Fearon, M. G., Moore, B., Shevliakova, E., Malyshev, S., Pacala, S. W., and Houghton, R. A.: The underpinnings of land-use history: three centuries of global gridded land-use transitions, wood-harvest activity, and resulting secondary lands, *Glob. Change Biol.*, 12, 1–22, 2006.
- Ishijima, K., Sugawara, S., Kawamura, K., Hashida, G., Morimoto, S., Murayama, S., Aoki, S., and Nakazawa, T.: Temporal variations of the atmospheric nitrous oxide concentration and its  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  for the latter half of the 20th century reconstructed from firn air analyses, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 112, D03305, doi:10.1029/2006JD007208, 2007.
- Ito, A. and Inatomi, M.: Use of a process-based model for assessing the methane budgets of global terrestrial ecosystems and evaluation of uncertainty, *Biogeosciences*, 9, 759–773, doi:10.5194/bg-9-759-2012, 2012.
- Ito, A. and Penner, J. E.: Historical emissions of carbonaceous aerosols from biomass and fossil fuel burning for the period 1870–2000, *Global Biogeochem. Cy.*, 19, GB2028, doi:10.1029/2004GB00237, 2005.
- John, J. G., Fiore, A. M., Naik, V., Horowitz, L. W., and Dunne, J. P.: Climate versus emission drivers of methane lifetime against loss

- by tropospheric OH from 1860–2100, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 12, 12021–12036, doi:10.5194/acp-12-12021-2012, 2012.
- Jones, R. L. and Pyle, J. A.: Observations of CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O by the Nimbus-7 SAMS: a comparison with in situ data and two-dimensional numerical model calculations. *J. Geophys. Res.*, 89, 5263–5279, 1984.
- Kirschke, S., Bousquet, P., Ciais, P., Saunois, M., Canadell, J. G., Dlugokencky, E. J., Bergamaschi, P., Bergmann, D., Blake, D. R., Bruhwiler, L., Cameron-Smith, P., Castaldi, S., Chevallier, F., Feng, L., Fraser, A., Heimann, M., Hodson, E. L., Houweling, S., Josse, B., Fraser, P. J., Krummel, P. B., Lamarque, J.-F., Langenfelds, R. L., Le Quere, C., Naik, V., O’Doherty, S., Palmer, P. I., Pison, I., Plummer, D., Poulter, B., Prinn, R. G., Rigby, M., Ringeval, B., Santini, M., Schmidt, M., Shindell, D. T., Simpson, I. J., Spahni, R., Steele, L. P., Strode, S. A., Sudo, K., Szopa, S., van der Werf, G. R., Voulgarakis, A., van Weele, M., Weiss, R. F., Williams, J. E., and Zeng, G.: Three decades of global methane sources and sinks, *Nat. Geosci.*, 6, 813–823, doi:10.1038/ngeo1955, 2013.
- Krol, M., and Lelieveld, J.: Can the variability in tropospheric OH be deduced from measurements of 1,1,1-trichloroethane (methyl chloroform)?, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 108, 4125, doi:10.1029/2002JD002423, 2003.
- Lamarque, J.-F., Bond, T. C., Eyring, V., Granier, C., Heil, A., Klimont, Z., Lee, D., Liousse, C., Mieville, A., Owen, B., Schultz, M. G., Shindell, D., Smith, S. J., Stehfest, E., Van Aardenne, J., Cooper, O. R., Kainuma, M., Mahowald, N., McConnell, J. R., Naik, V., Riahi, K., and van Vuuren, D. P.: Historical (1850–2000) gridded anthropogenic and biomass burning emissions of reactive gases and aerosols: methodology and application, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 10, 7017–7039, doi:10.5194/acp-10-7017-2010, 2010.
- Lambert, G. and Schmidt, S.: Reevaluation of the oceanic flux of methane: uncertainties and long term variations, *Chemosph. Global Change Sci.*, 26, 579–589, 1993.
- Lassey, K. R., Lowe, D. C., and Manning, M. R.: The trend in atmospheric methane  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  and implications for isotopic constraints on the global methane budget, *Global Biogeochem. Cy.*, 14, 41–49, 2000.
- Lassey, K. R., Etheridge, D. M., Lowe, D. C., Smith, A. M., and Ferretti, D. F.: Centennial evolution of the atmospheric methane budget: what do the carbon isotopes tell us?, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 7, 2119–2139, doi:10.5194/acp-7-2119-2007, 2007a.
- Lassey, K. R., Lowe, D. C., and Smith, A. M.: The atmospheric cycling of radiomethane and the “fossil fraction” of the methane source, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 7, 2141–2149, doi:10.5194/acp-7-2141-2007, 2007b.
- Li, C., Qiu, J., Frohling, S., Xiao, X., Salas, W., Moore III, B., Boles, S., Huang, Y., and Sass, R.: Reduced methane emissions from largescale changes in water management of China’s rice paddies during 1980–2000, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 29, 1972, doi:10.1029/2002GL015370, 2002.
- Lin, S.-J. and Rood, R.: Multidimensional flux-form semi-Lagrangian transport schemes, *Mon. Weather Rev.*, 124, 2046–2070, 1996.
- Loulergue, L., Schilt, A., Spahni, R., Masson-Delmotte, V., Blunier, T., Lemieux, B., Barnola, J.-M., Raynaud, D., Stocker, T. F., and Chappellaz, J.: Orbital and millennial-scale features of atmospheric CH<sub>4</sub> over the past 800,000 years, *Nature*, 453, 383–386, 2008.
- MacFarling Meure, C., Etheridge, D., Trudinger, C., Steele, P., Langenfelds, R., van Ommen, T., Smith, A., and Elkins, J. W.: Law Dome CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O ice core records extended to 2000 years BP, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 33, L14810, doi:10.1029/2006GL026152, 2006.
- Mellor, G. L. and Yamada, T.: A hierarchy of turbulence closure models for planetary boundary layers, *J. Atmos. Sci.*, 31, 1791–1806, 1974.
- Mieville, A., Granier, C., Liousse, C., Guillaume, B., Mouillot, F., Lamarque, J.-F., Grégoire, J.-M., and Pétron, G.: Emissions of gases and particles from biomass burning using satellite data and an historical reconstruction, *Atmos. Environ.*, 44, 1469–1477, doi:10.1016/j.atmosenv.2010.01.011, 2010.
- Miller, J. B., Mack, K. A., Dissly, R., White, J. W. C., Dlugokencky, E. J., and Tans, P. P.: Development of analytical methods and measurements of <sup>13</sup>C/<sup>12</sup>C in atmospheric CH<sub>4</sub> from the NOAA/CMDL global air sampling network, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 107, ACH 11-1–ACH 11-15, doi:10.1029/2001JD000630, 2002.
- Mitchell, L., Brook, E., Lee, J. E., Buizert, C., and Sowers, T.: Constraints on the Late Holocene anthropogenic contribution to the atmospheric methane budget, *Science*, 22, 964–966, doi:10.1126/science.1238920, 2013.
- Montiel, C. and Kraus, D. (Eds.): *Best Practices of Fire Use: Prescribed Burning and Suppression: Fire Programmes in Selected Case-study Regions in Europe*, European Forest Institute, WS Bookwell Oy, Porvoo, Finland, Report 24, 169 pp., 2010.
- Monteil, G., Houweling, S., Dlugokencky, E. J., Maenhout, G., Vaughn, B. H., White, J. W. C., and Rockmann, T.: Interpreting methane variations in the past two decades using measurements of CH<sub>4</sub> mixing ratio and isotopic composition, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 11, 9141–9153, doi:10.5194/acp-11-9141-2011, 2011.
- Montzka, S. A., Butler, J. H., Elkins, J. W., Thompson, T. M., Clarke, A. D., and Lock, L. T.: Present and future trends in the atmospheric burden of ozone-depleting halogens, *Nature*, 398, 690–694, 1999.
- Myhre, G., Shindell, D., Bréon, F.-M., Collins, W., Fuglestedt, J., Huang, J., Koch, D., Lamarque, J.-F., Lee, D., Mendoza, B., Nakajima, T., Robock, A., Stephens, G., Takemura, T., and Zhang, H.: Anthropogenic and natural radiative forcing, in: *Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis, Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*, edited by: Stocker, T. F. et al., Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK, New York, NY, USA, 659–740, 2013.
- Naik, V., Voulgarakis, A., Fiore, A. M., Horowitz, L. W., Lamarque, J.-F., Lin, M., Prather, M. J., Young, P. J., Bergmann, D., Cameron-Smith, P. J., Cionni, I., Collins, W. J., Dalsøren, S. B., Doherty, R., Eyring, V., Faluvegi, G., Folberth, G. A., Josse, B., Lee, Y. H., MacKenzie, I. A., Nagashima, T., van Noije, T. P. C., Plummer, D. A., Righi, M., Rumbold, S. T., Skeie, R., Shindell, D. T., Stevenson, D. S., Strode, S., Sudo, K., Szopa, S., and Zeng, G.: Preindustrial to present-day changes in tropospheric hydroxyl radical and methane lifetime from the Atmospheric Chemistry and Climate Model Intercomparison Project (ACCMIP), *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 13, 5277–5298, doi:10.5194/acp-13-5277-2013, 2013.
- Nakazawa, T., Machida, T., Tanaka, M., Fujii, Y., Aoki, S., and Watanabe, O.: Differences of the atmospheric CH<sub>4</sub> concentration

- between the Arctic and Antarctic regions in pre-industrial/pre-agricultural era, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 20, 943–946, 1993.
- Olivier, J. G. J. and J. J. M.: Global emissions sources and sinks, in: *The Climate System*, edited by: Berdowski, J., Guicherit, R., and Heij, B. J., A. A. Balkema Publishers/Swets & Zeitlinger Publishers, Lisse, the Netherlands, ISBN 9058092550, 33–78, 2001.
- Onogi, K., Tsutsui, J., Koide, H., Sakamoto, M., Kobayashi, S., Hat-sushika, H., Matsumoto, T., Yamazaki, N., Kamahori, H., Takahashi, K., Kadokura, S., Wada, K., Kato, K., Oyama, R., Ose, T., Mannoji, N., and Taira, R.: The JRA-25 reanalysis, *J. Meteorol. Soc. Jpn.*, 85, 369–432, 2007.
- Patra, P. K., Takigawa, M., Dutton, G. S., Uhse, K., Ishijima, K., Lintner, B. R., Miyazaki, K., and Elkins, J. W.: Transport mechanisms for synoptic, seasonal and interannual SF<sub>6</sub> variations and "age" of air in troposphere, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 9, 1209–1225, doi:10.5194/acp-9-1209-2009, 2009.
- Patra, P. K., Houweling, S., Krol, M., Bousquet, P., Belikov, D., Bergmann, D., Bian, H., Cameron-Smith, P., Chipperfield, M. P., Corbin, K., Fortems-Cheiney, A., Fraser, A., Gloor, E., Hess, P., Ito, A., Kawa, S. R., Law, R. M., Loh, Z., Maksyutov, S., Meng, L., Palmer, P. I., Prinn, R. G., Rigby, M., Saito, R., and Wilson, C.: TransCom model simulations of CH<sub>4</sub> and related species: linking transport, surface flux and chemical loss with CH<sub>4</sub> variability in the troposphere and lower stratosphere, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 11, 12813–12837, doi:10.5194/acp-11-12813-2011, 2011.
- Patra, P. K., Ito, A., and Yan, X.: Climate change and agriculture in Asia: a case study for methane emission due to rice cultivation, in: *Climate Change and Agriculture*, edited by: Bhat-tacharyya, T., Pal, D. K., Sarkar, D., and Wani, S. P., Studium press (India) Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, ISBN978-93-80012-40-7, 328 pp., 2013.
- Patra, P. K., Krol, M. C., Montzka, S. A., Arnold, T., Atlas, E. L., Lintner, B. R., Stephens, B. B., Xiang, B., Elkins, J. W., Fraser, P. J., Ghosh, A., Hints, E. J., Hurst, D. F., Ishijima, K., Krummel, P. B., Miller, B. R., Miyazaki, K., Moore, F. L., Mühle, J., O'Doherty, S., Prinn, R. G., Steele, L. P., Takigawa, M., Wang, H. J., Weiss, R. F., Wofsy, S. C., and Young, D.: Observational evidence for interhemispheric hydroxyl parity, *Nature*, 513, 219–223, 2014.
- Prinn, R. G., Weiss, R. F., Fraser, P. J., Simmonds, P. G., Cunnold, D. M., Alyea, F. N., O'Doherty, S., Salameh, P., Miller, B. R., Huang, J., Wang, R. H. J., Hartley, D. E., Harth, C., Steele, L. P., Sturrock, G., Midgley, P. M., and McCulloch, A.: A history of chemically and radiatively important gases in air deduced from ALE/GAGE/AGAGE, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 105, 17751–17792, doi:10.1029/2000JD900141, 2000.
- Quay, P., Stutsman, J., Wilbur, D., Snover, A., Dlugokencky, E., and Brown, T.: The isotopic composition of atmospheric methane, *Global Biogeochem. Cy.*, 13, 445–461, doi:10.1029/1998GB900006, 1999.
- Rasmussen, R. A. and Khalil, M. A. K.: Atmospheric methane in the recent and ancient atmospheres: concentrations, trends, and interhemispheric gradient, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 89, 11599–11605, doi:10.1029/JD089iD07p11599, 1984.
- Rayner, N. A., Parker, D. E., Horton, E. B., Folland, C. K., Alexander, L. V., Rowell, D. P., Kent, E. C., and Kaplan, A.: Global analyses of sea surface temperature, sea ice, and night marine air temperature since the late nineteenth century, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 108, 4407 doi:10.1029/2002JD002670, 2003.
- Rigby, M., Prinn, R. G., Fraser, P. J., Simmonds, P. G., Langenfelds, R. L., Huang, J., Cunnold, D. M., Steele, L. P., Krummel, P. B., Weiss, R. F., O'Doherty, S., Salameh, P. K., Wang, H. J., Harth, C. M., Mühle, J., and Porter, L. W.: Renewed growth of atmospheric methane, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 35, L22805, doi:10.1029/2008GL036037, 2008.
- Rice, A. L., Tyler, S. C., McCarthy, M. C., Boering, K. A., and Atlas, E.: Carbon and hydrogen isotopic compositions of stratospheric methane: 1. High-precision observations from the NASA ER-2 aircraft, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 108, 4460, doi:10.1029/2002JD003042, 2003.
- Röckmann, T., Brass, M., Borchers, R., and Engel, A.: The isotopic composition of methane in the stratosphere: high-altitude balloon sample measurements, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 11, 13287–13304, doi:10.5194/acp-11-13287-2011, 2011.
- Sander, S. P., Friedl, R. R., Golden, D. M., Kurylo, M. J., Moortgat, G. K., Keller-Rudek, H., Wine, P. H., Ravishankara, A. R., Kolb, C. E., Molina, M. J., Finlayson-Pitts, B. J., Huie, R. E., and Orkin, V. L.: *Chemical Kinetics and Photochemical Data for Use in Atmospheric Studies*, Evaluation Number 15, JPL Publication 06-2, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, CA, 2006.
- Sapart, C. J., Monteil, G., Prokopiou, M., Van de Wal, R. S. W., Kaplan, J. O., Sperlich, P., Krumhardt, K. M., Van der Veen, C., Houweling, S., Krol, M. C., Blunier, T., Sowers, T., Martinerie, P., Witrant, E., Dahl-Jensen, D., and Röckmann, T.: Natural and anthropogenic variations in methane sources during the past two millennia, *Nature*, 490, 85–88, doi:10.1038/nature11461, 2012.
- Sapart, C. J., Martinerie, P., Witrant, E., Chappellaz, J., van de Wal, R. S. W., Sperlich, P., van der Veen, C., Bernard, S., Sturges, W. T., Blunier, T., Schwander, J., Etheridge, D., and Röckmann, T.: Can the carbon isotopic composition of methane be reconstructed from multi-site firn air measurements?, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 13, 6993–7005, doi:10.5194/acp-13-6993-2013, 2013.
- Sathaye, J. and Tyler, S.: Transitions in household energy use in urban China, India, the Philippines, Thailand and Hong Kong, *Annu. Rev. Energ. Env.*, 16, 295–335, 1991.
- Saueressig, G., Bergamaschi, P., Crowley, J. N., Fischer, H., and Harris, G. W.: Carbon kinetic isotope effect in the reaction of CH<sub>4</sub> With Cl atoms, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 22, 1225–1228, 1995.
- Saueressig, G., Crowley, J. N., Bergamaschi, P., Bruhl, C., Brenninkmeijer, C. A. M., and Fischer, H.: Carbon 13 and D kinetic isotope effects in the reactions of CH<sub>4</sub> with O(<sup>1</sup>D) and OH: new laboratory measurements and their implications for the isotopic composition of stratospheric methane, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 106, 23127–23138, 2001.
- Schmitt, J., Seth, B., Bock, M., van der Veen, C., Möller, L., Sapart, C. J., Prokopiou, M., Sowers, T., Röckmann, T., and Fischer, H.: On the interference of Kr during carbon isotope analysis of methane using continuous-flow combustion–isotope ratio mass spectrometry, *Atmos. Meas. Tech.*, 6, 1425–1445, doi:10.5194/amt-6-1425-2013, 2013.
- Spivakovsky, C. M., Logan, J. A., Montzka, S. A., Balkanski, Y. J., Foreman-Fowler, M., Jones, D. B. A., Horowitz, L. W., Fusco, A. C., Brenninkmeijer, C. A. M., Prather, M. J., Wofsy, S. C., and McElroy, M. B.: Three-dimensional climato-

- logical distribution of tropospheric OH: update and evaluation, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 105, 8931–8980, doi:10.1029/1999JD901006, 2000.
- Sugawara, S., Nakazawa, T., Shirakawa, Y., Kawamura, K., and Aoki, S.: Vertical profile of the carbon isotopic ratio of stratospheric methane over Japan, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 24, 2989–2992, 1997.
- Tanaka, N., Xiao, Y., and Lasaga, A. C.: Ab initio study on carbon kinetic isotope effect (KIE) in the reaction of  $\text{CH}_4 + \text{Cl}$ , *J. Atmos. Chem.*, 23, 37–49, 1996.
- Takigawa, M., Takahashi, M., and Akiyoshi, H.: Simulation of ozone and other chemical species using a Center for Climate System Research/National Institute for Environmental Studies atmospheric GCM with coupled stratospheric chemistry, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 104, 14003–14018, 1999.
- Trudinger, C. M., Etheridge, D. M., Rayner, P. J., Enting, I. G., Sturrock, G. A., and Langenfelds, R. L.: Reconstructing atmospheric histories from measurements of air composition in firn, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 4780, doi:10.1029/2002JD002545, 2002.
- Trudinger, C. M., Enting, I. G., Rayner, P. J., Etheridge, D. M., Buizert, C., Rubino, M., Krummel, P. B., Blunier T.: How well do different tracers constrain the firn diffusivity profile?, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 13, 1485–1510, doi:10.5194/acp-13-1485-2013, 2013.
- Umezawa, T., Goto, D., Aoki, S., Ishijima, K., Patra, P. K., Sugawara, S., Morimoto, S., and Nakazawa, T.: Variations of tropospheric methane over Japan during 1988–2010, *Tellus B*, 66, 23837, doi:10.3402/tellusb.v66.23837, 2014.
- van Aardenne, J. A., Dentener, F. J., Olivier, J. G. J., Klein Goldewijk, C. G. M., and Lelieveld, J.: A high resolution dataset of historical anthropogenic trace gas emissions for the period 1890–1990, *Global Biogeochem. Cy.*, 15, 909–928, 2001.
- Wang, J. S., McElroy, M. B., Spivakovsky, C. M., and Jones, D. B. A.: On the contribution of anthropogenic Cl to the increase in  $\text{d}^{13}\text{C}$  of atmospheric methane, *Global Biogeochem. Cy.*, 16, 1047, doi:10.1029/2001GB001572, 2002.
- White, J. W. C. and Vaughn, B. H.: University of Colorado, Institute of Arctic Alpine Research (INSTAAR), Stable Isotopic Composition of Atmospheric Methane ( $^{13}\text{C}$ ) from the NOAA ESRL Carbon Cycle Cooperative Global Air Sampling Network, 1998–2011, Version: 2013-04-05, available at: <ftp://ftp.cmdl.noaa.gov/ccg/ch4c13/flask/event/> (last access: 5 April 2013), 2011.

**Table 11.** Average source and sink strengths of CH<sub>4</sub> for 1980–1989, isotopic ratios ( $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{E_i}$ ) and fractionation factors ( $\alpha_i$ ).

Source/Sink	Annual Flux (Tg yr <sup>-1</sup> )	$\delta^{13}\text{C}_{E_i}$ (‰)	$\alpha_i^a$
<b>Sources</b>			
Wetland	146.8	-59	
Rice	34.2	-63	
Animals	83.5	-62	
Termites	20.7	-57	
Biomass Burning	49.7	-21.8	
Coal	30.6	-35	
Oil and Gas	59.2	-40	
Landfills	46.0	-55	
Ocean	7.4	-59	
Mud Volcanoes	7.5	-40	
$\Delta E^b$	60.0	-21.8	-60.0
<b>Total Source</b>	<b>545.6</b>		
<b>Sinks</b>			
OH	-451.5		0.995350
O(1D)	-7.5		0.994940
Cl	-14.5		0.992532
Soil	-28.6		0.978000
<b>Total Sinks</b>	<b>-502.1</b>		

<sup>a</sup>  $\alpha_{\text{OH}}$  is the mean of two published values (Cantrell et al., 1990; Saueressig et al., 2001), while the values of  $\alpha_{\text{Cl}}$  and  $\alpha_{\text{O}(1\text{D})}$  are modified assuming the smaller effect of isotopic fractionation in the stratosphere at the surface.

<sup>b</sup>  $\Delta E$  is assumed to consist of isotopically heavier ( $\delta^{13}\text{C} = -21.8\text{‰}$ ) and lighter ( $\delta^{13}\text{C} = -60\text{‰}$ ) sources.

**Table 12.** Average bias and 1 SD (in ppb) of model-observed CH<sub>4</sub> concentration for each decade over the Antarctic region. The averages of  $E_{\text{ini}}$ ,  $E_{\text{opt}}$  and  $B_{\text{opt}}$  for each decade are also shown. The annual mean values for all years are given in Table S2

Decade	Model-observation CH <sub>4</sub> concentration (ppb)		$E_{\text{ini}}$ (Tg yr <sup>-1</sup> )	$E_{\text{opt}}$ (Tg yr <sup>-1</sup> )	$B_{\text{opt}}$ (Tg)
	with $E_{\text{ini}}$	with $E_{\text{opt}}$			
1910–1919	40.94 ± 3.29	-3.31 ± 0.51	315.0	300.1	2686.4
1920–1929	37.33 ± 5.30	-2.07 ± 0.37	326.4	319.9	2846.7
1930–1939	21.21 ± 3.25	-0.44 ± 0.67	337.0	334.1	3002.7
1940–1949	13.92 ± 1.85	0.05 ± 0.39	351.2	349.2	3132.0
1950–1959	0.13 ± 6.84	-0.61 ± 0.44	375.7	381.9	3331.7
1960–1969	-38.96 ± 16.31	0.11 ± 1.26	407.2	434.4	3675.5
1970–1979	-101.88 ± 20.66	-1.04 ± 0.75	442.4	491.6	4109.6
1980–1989	-160.65 ± 14.15	0.15 ± 1.59	485.6	545.6	4572.7
1990–1999	-161.76 ± 8.37	2.54 ± 2.12	515.0	557.8	4878.8
2000–2009	-122.40 ± 15.34	2.67 ± 3.25	531.0	555.0	4973.2