

Landsurface Carbon Constellation and Terrestrial Carbon Community Assimilation System



Thomas Kaminski¹, Wolfgang Knorr¹, Michael Voßbeck¹, Mathew Williams², Timothy Green², Luke Smallman², Marko Scholze³, Tristan Quaife⁴, Tea Thum⁵, Sönke Zaehle⁶, Peter Rayner¹, Susan Steele-Dunne⁷, Mariette Vreugdenhil⁸, Mika Aurela⁵, Alexandre Bouvet⁹, Emanuel Bueechi⁹, Wouter Dorigo⁸, Tarek S. El-Madany⁶, Marika Honkanen⁵, Yann H. Kerr⁹, Anna Kontu⁵, Juha Lemmetyinen⁵, Hannakaisa Lindqvist⁵, Arnaud Mialon⁹, Tuuli Miinalainen⁵, Amanda Ojasalo⁵, Shaun Quegan¹⁰, Pablo Reyes Muñoz¹¹, Nemesio Rodriguez-Fernandez⁹, Mike Schwank¹², Jochem Verrelst¹¹, Matthias Drusch¹³, and Dirk Schüttemeyer¹³

¹The Inversion Lab, Hamburg, Germany

²University of Edinburgh, UK

³University of Lund, Sweden

⁴University of Reading, UK

⁵FMI, Helsinki, Finland

⁶MPI BGC Jena, Germany

⁷TU Delft, The Netherlands

⁸TU Wien, Austria

⁹CESBIO Toulouse, France

¹⁰University of Sheffield, UK

¹¹University of Valencia, Spain

¹²Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research, Switzerland

¹³ESA, ESTEC, The Netherlands

3rd ESA Carbon Science Cluster Meeting,
17. November, 2025

ESA UNCLASSIFIED - For ESA Official Use Only



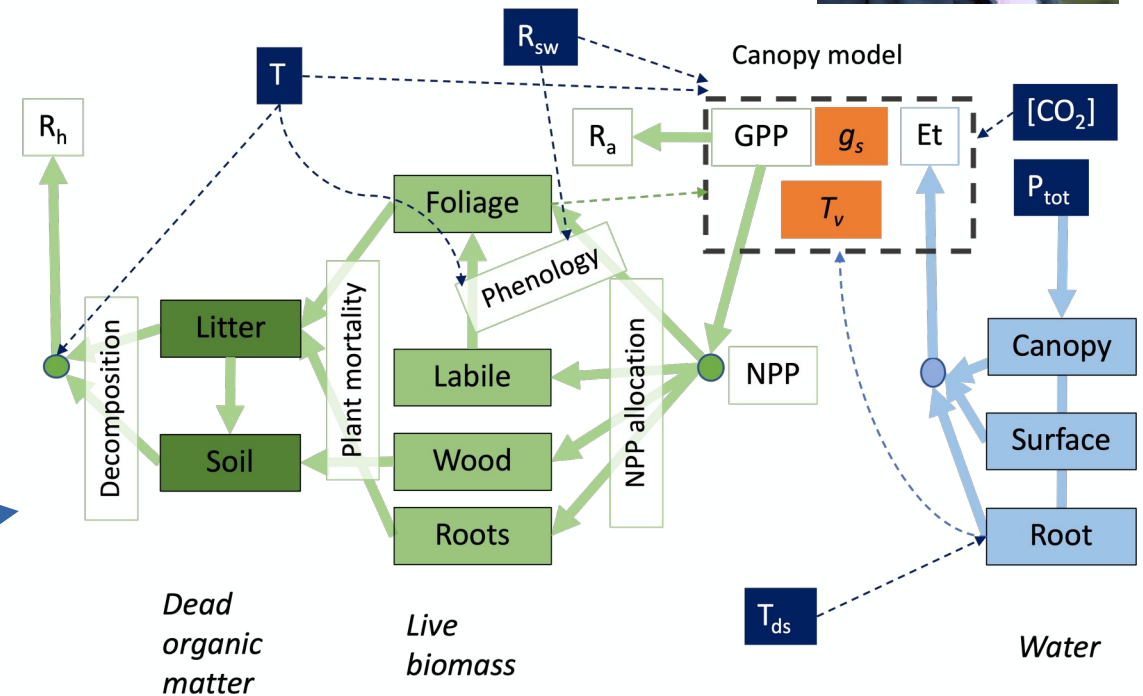
Landsurface Carbon Constellation

- Carbon Cluster
- 13 partners
- 30 months duration
- Synergistic combination of optical and MW observations in a data assimilation framework
- Preparation for BIOMASS and FLEX
- Broad range of activities:

- EO data
- Field activities
- Model and observation operators
- Data assimilation

- Two main legacies (TCCAS.Inversion-Lab.com):

- Data Base
 - in situ and EO obs + model output
 - three regions (Lapland, Iberia, NL)
- Model Development
 - D&B model,
 - observation operators
 - TCCAS



What is TCCAS?

- The **Terrestrial Carbon Community Assimilation System (TCCAS)** is built around the newly developed **D&B terrestrial biosphere** model.
- The focus of TCCAS is the **combination** of a **diverse array of observational data streams** with the **D&B model** to yield a **consistent picture of the terrestrial carbon, water and energy cycles**.
- The development of TCCAS is being **funded** through the **carbon cluster of the European Space Agency** and under Contract No 101082194 by the European Union.
- TCCAS is an open source activity set up by six institution partners:

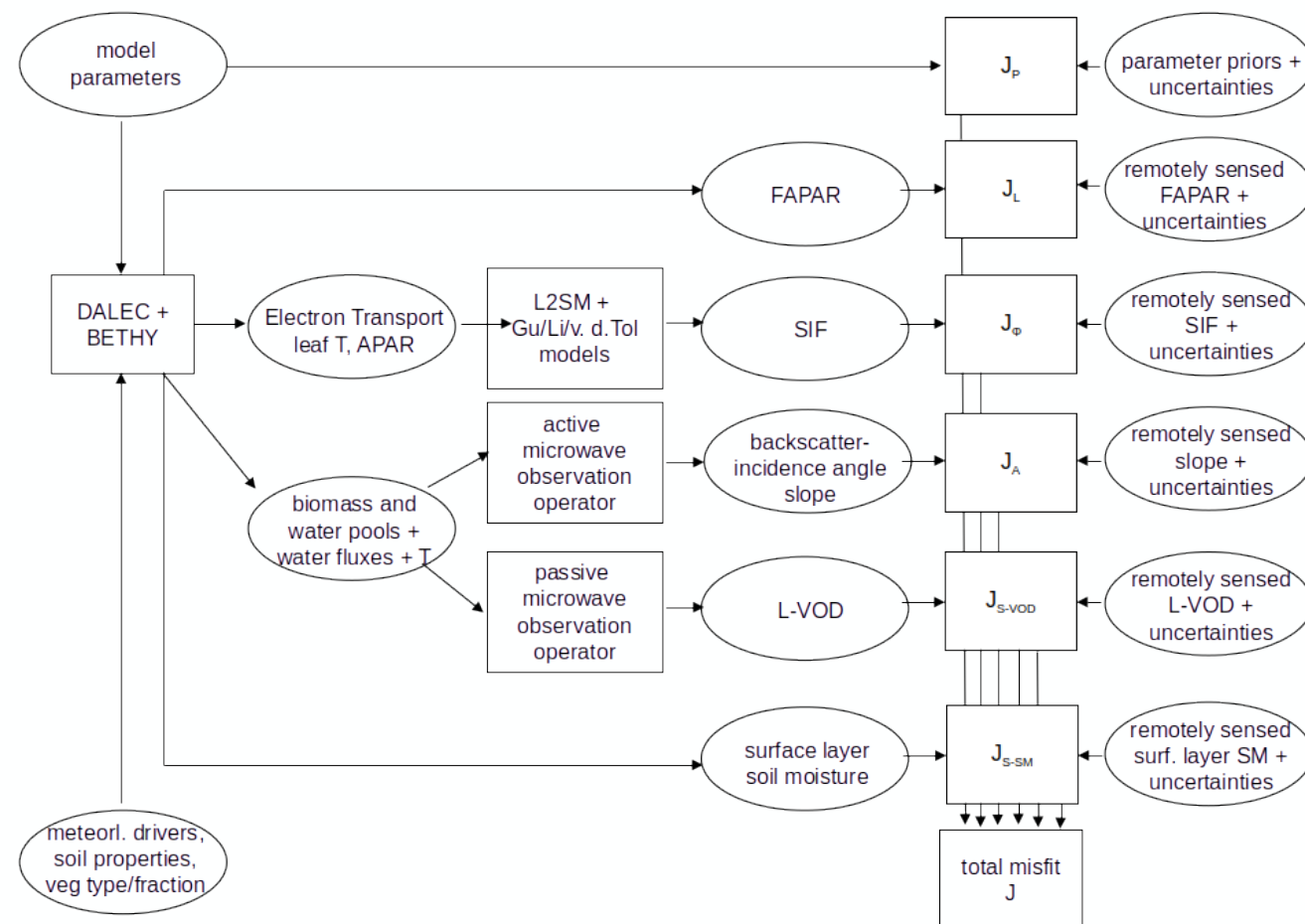


iLab



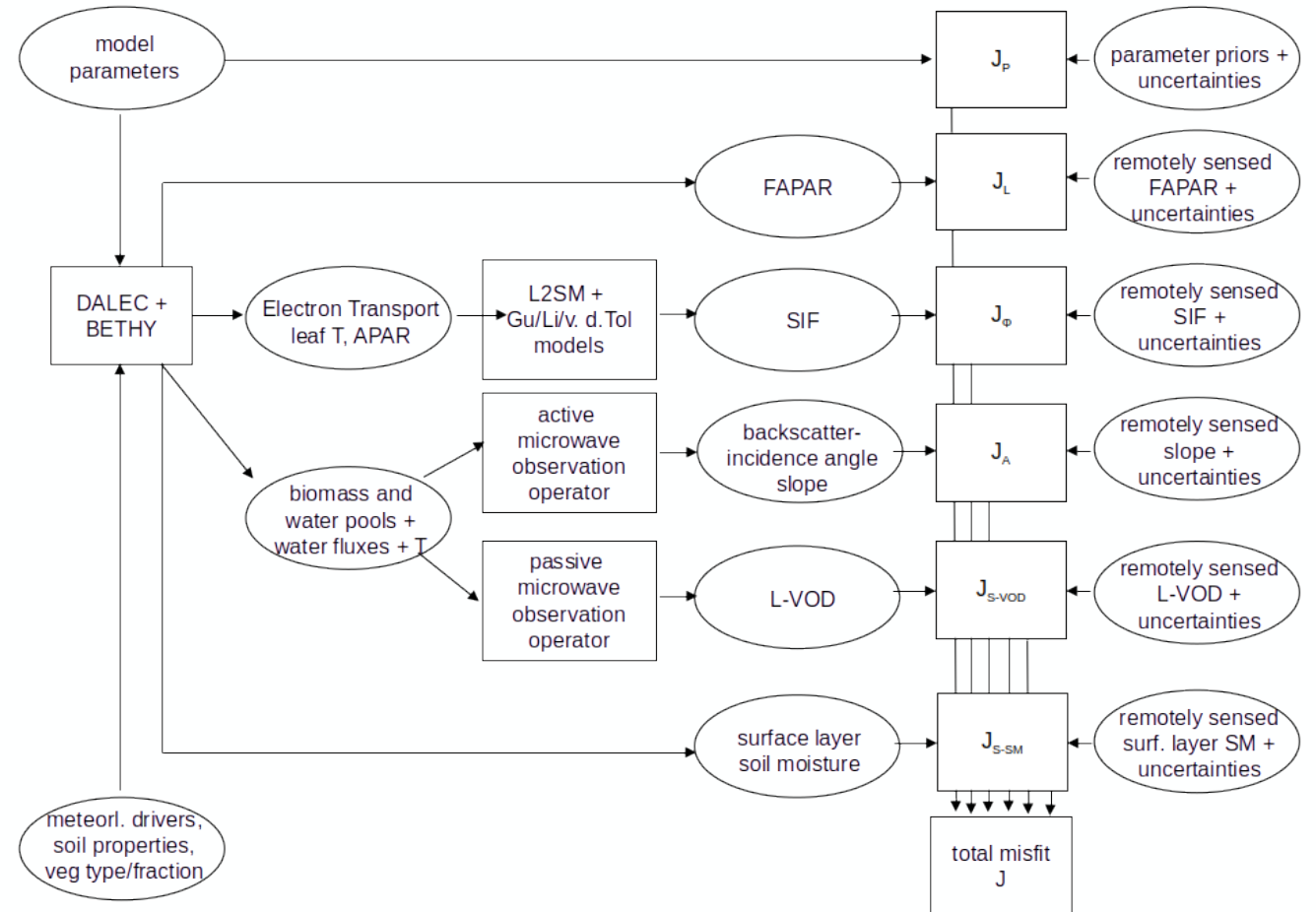
What does TCCAS offer?

- Open source community system
- Observation operators for optical as well as active and passive microwave observations
- Assimilation on the footprint
- Tangent and adjoint codes
- Modular setup
- Computational efficiency
- Tested on point to regional scales
- Can operate at high resolution
- Experienced developer team
- Documentation
- User support and training



Training events (>100 users trained in total):

- Edinburgh, May 2024
- On line, June 2024
- ESRIN, October 2024
- Living Planet Symposium, June 2025
- Nanjing, August 2025
- Hamburg, September 2025

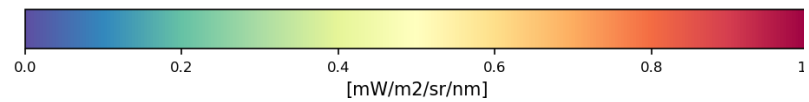
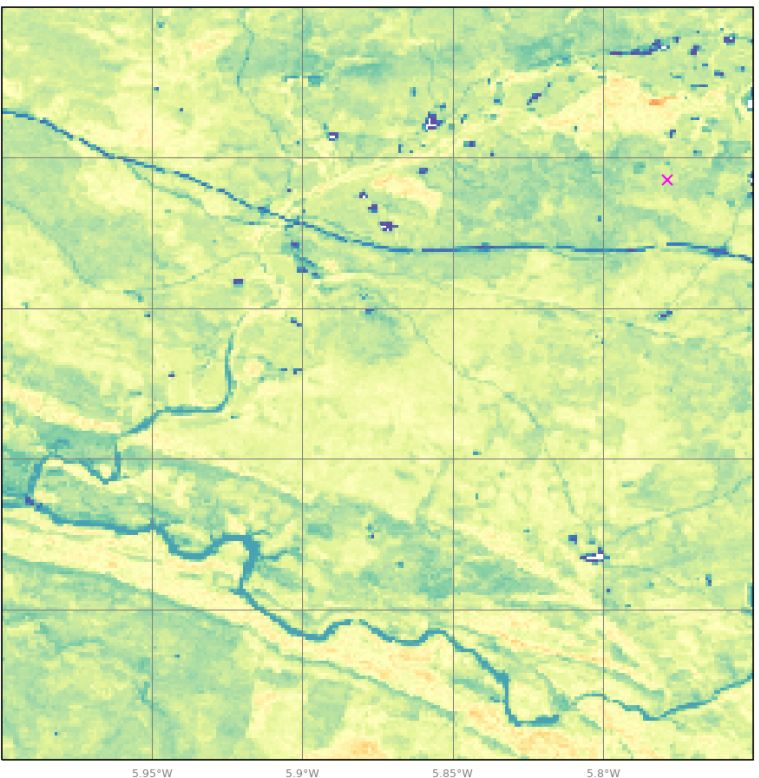


Posterior simulation over a region in Spain at 100 m resolution

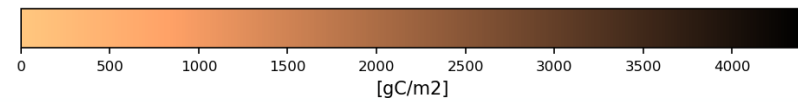
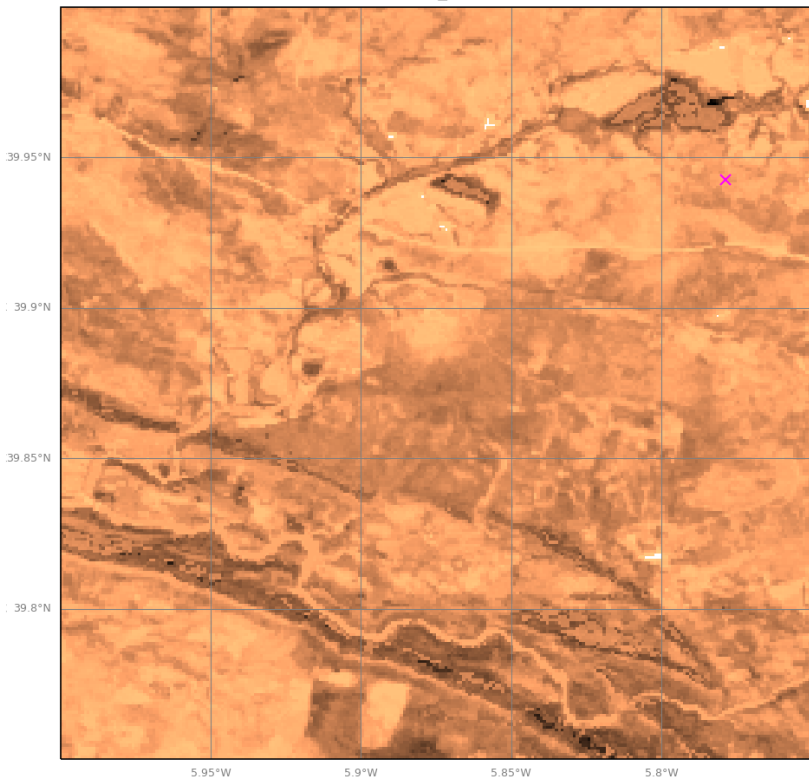
SIF (left), Woody biomass (middle), NEE (right)



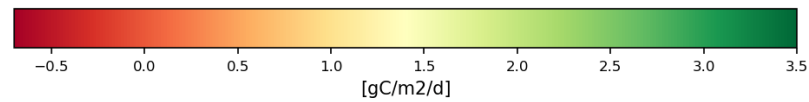
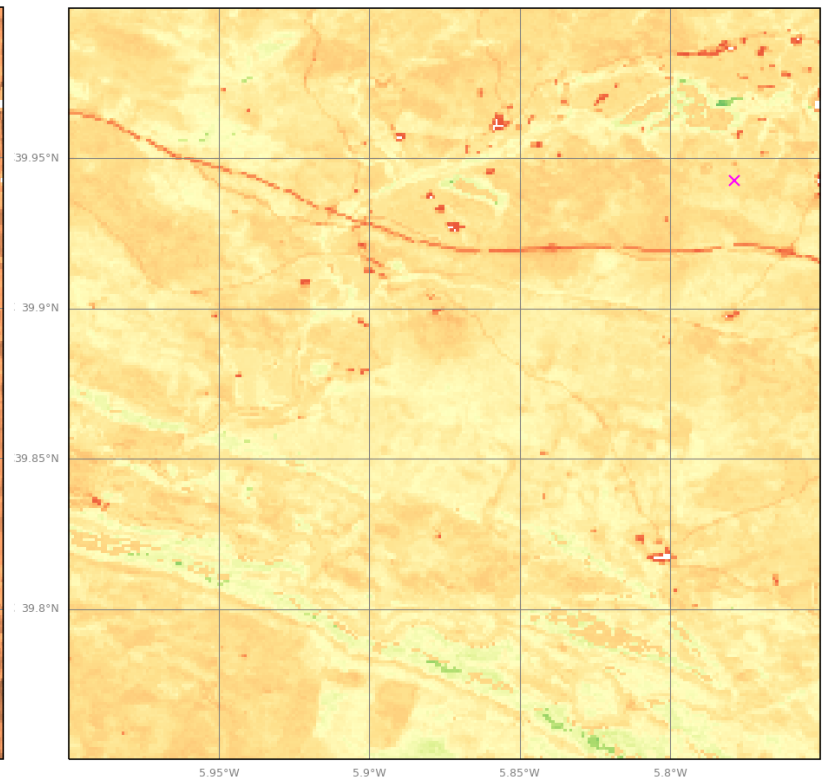
D&B simulated sif743 (20180901)



D&B simulated woody_biomass (20180901)



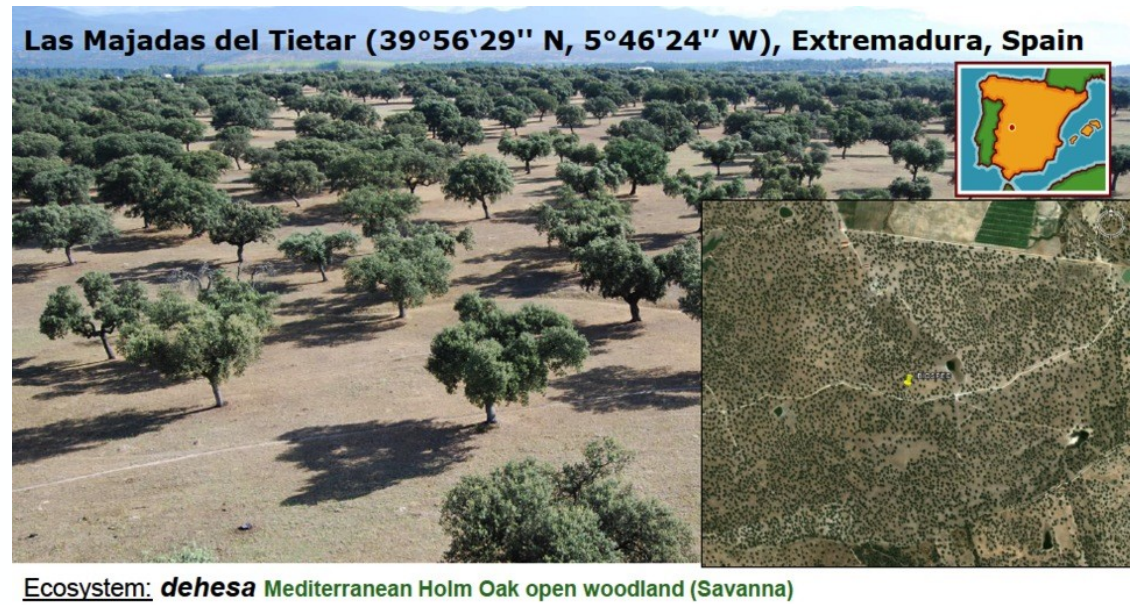
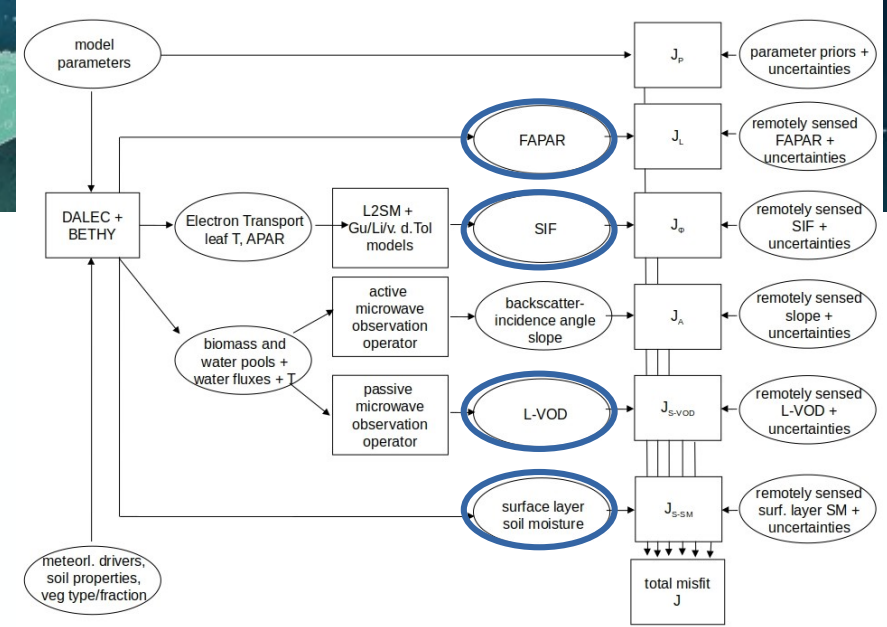
D&B simulated nee (20180901)





Example: Majadas de Tietar

- Savannah site in Extremadura, Spain
- C3 grass and temperate evergreen trees
- Spin up 2015+2016
- Assimilation window 2017-2021
- Joint assimilation of:
 - FAPAR: JRC-TIP, twostream RT
 - SIF: TROPOSIF, Gu model
 - L-VOD: SMOS, empirical
 - surface layer soil moisture: SMOS



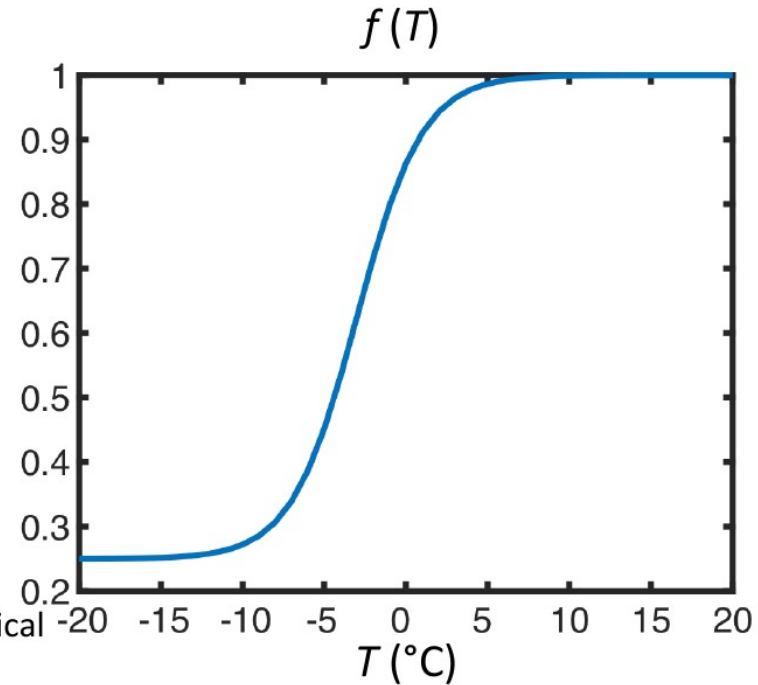


$$\tau_\lambda = f(T) \underbrace{(l_{wd}C_{wd} + l_{fol}C_{fol})}_{\text{biomass multiplier}} \underbrace{(l_s f_{soil} + l_f f_E + l_0)}_{\text{water status multiplier}}$$

l_x : parameters
 C in wood C in foliage plant-available soil water, fraction of field capacity actual / potential evapotranspiration

temperature function*:

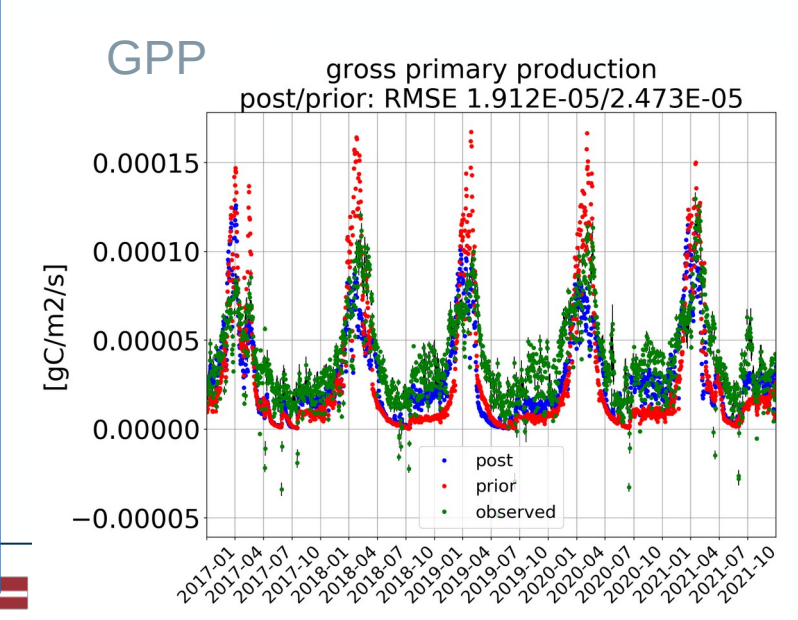
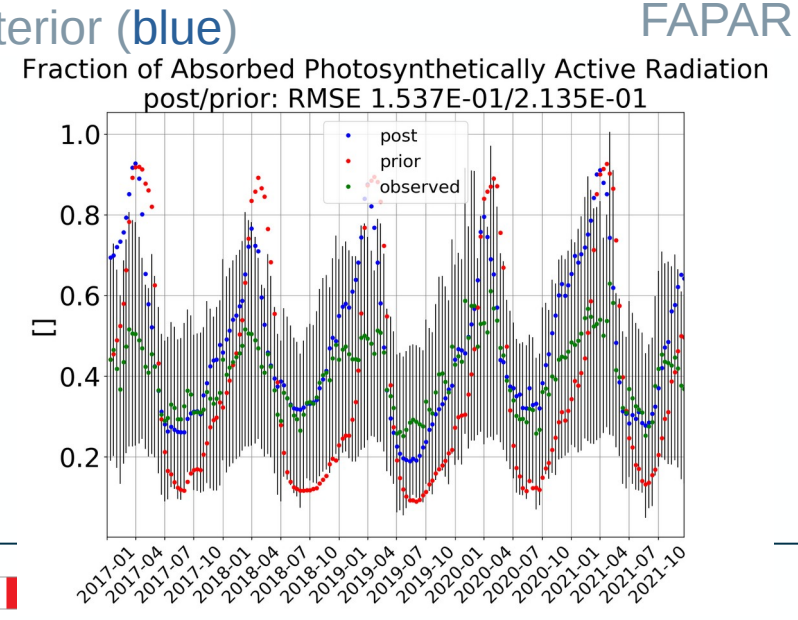
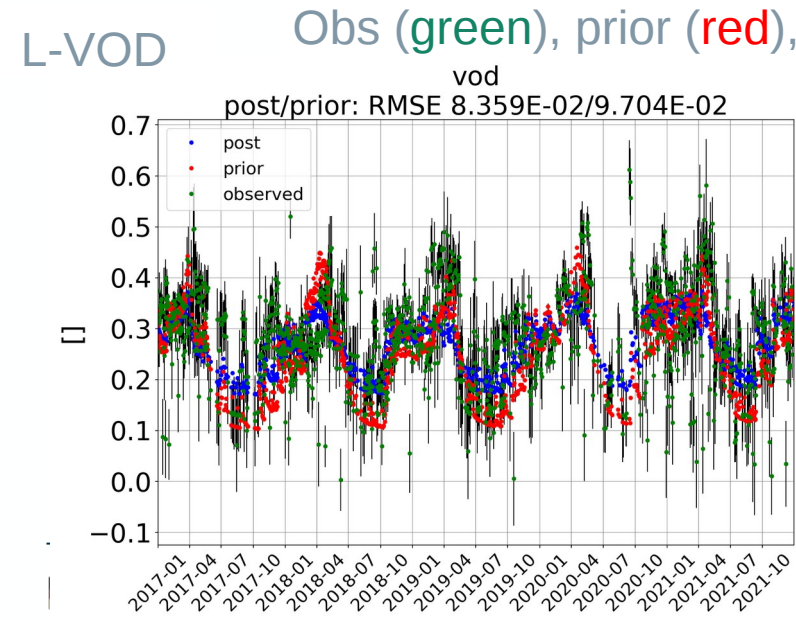
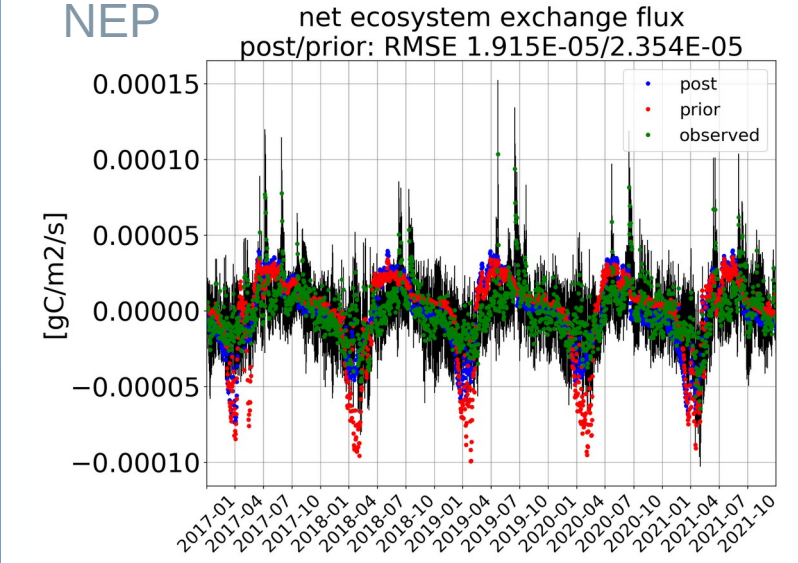
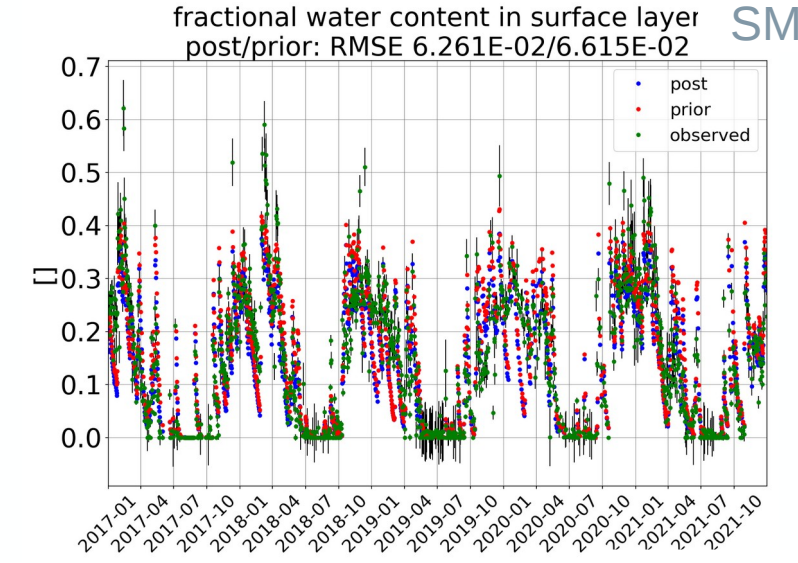
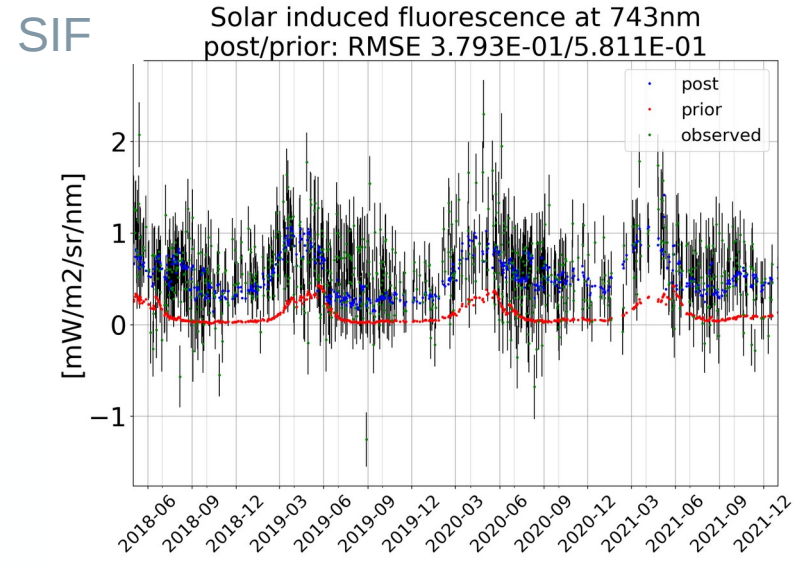
$$f(T) = 0.25 + 0.75 / (1 + e^{-0.5(T+3)})$$



*based on: Schwank et al. Temperature effects on L-band vegetation optical depth of a boreal forest, Remote Sensing of Environment, 2021

Example: Las Majadas de Tietar

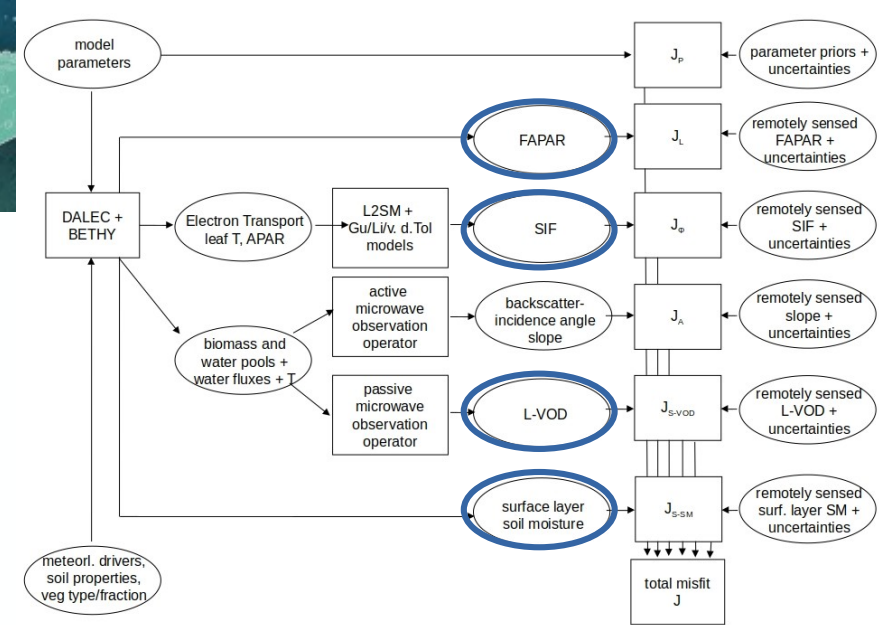
Assimilation (left/middle) and validation (right) variables



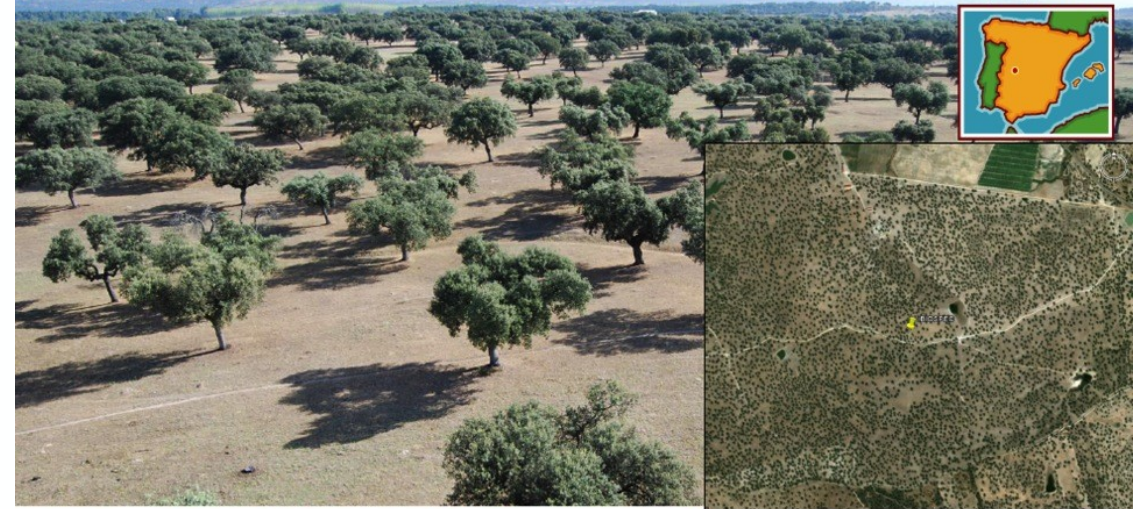
Example: Majadas de Tietar Hypothetical Intervention

How much **extra carbon** can be **stored** through a (hypothetical) **intervention**?

- We **convert** a fraction of the area from **grass to trees** by replacing the grass with small trees.
- We perform simulations for the intervention case based on the **posterior parameter set and initial pools sizes**. For the converted fraction, the initial size of dead pools is taken from the grass and for the living pools have 1% of the sizes of the adult trees.
- We compute the **effect of intervention on carbon uptake** for **25 year time horizon** by subtracting the counterfactual case from the intervention case.



Las Majadas del Tietar (39°56'29" N, 5°46'24" W), Extremadura, Spain

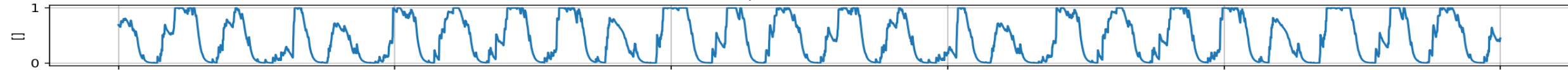


Ecosystem: **dehesa** Mediterranean Holm Oak open woodland (Savanna)

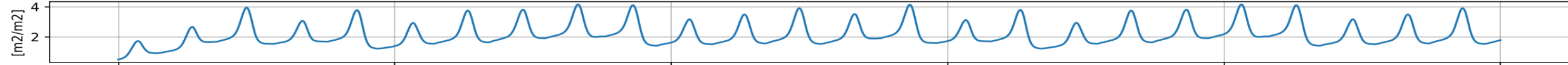
Adult trees



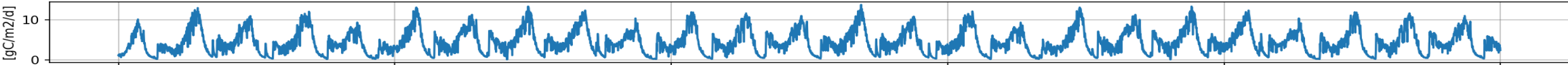
D&B simulation (pft=TmEv)
fraction of plant available soil moisture



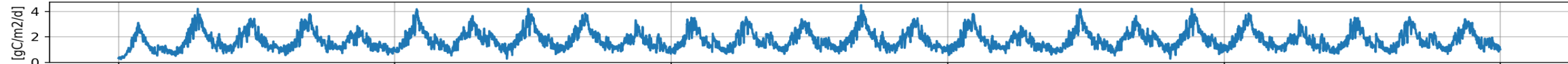
Leaf area index



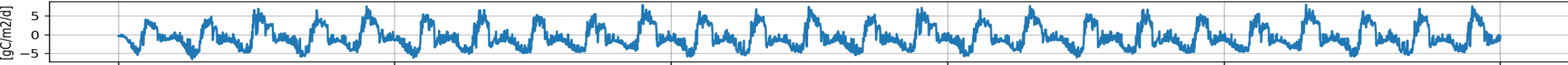
daily gross primary production



daily autotrophic respiration



daily net ecosystem exchange



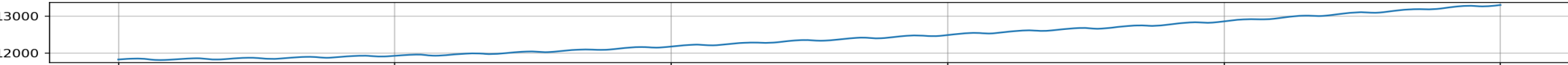
labile biomass



woody biomass



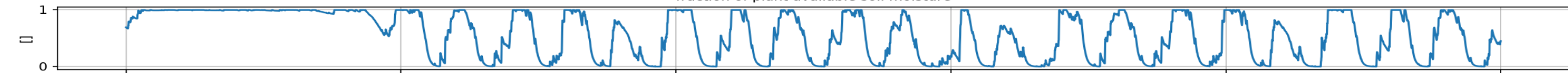
soil_organic_matter



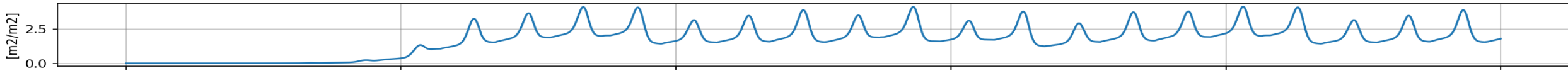
2015 2020 2025 2030 2035 2040



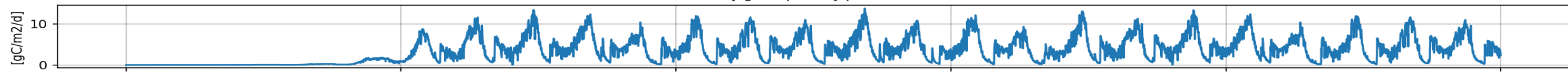
D&B simulation (pft=TmSg)
fraction of plant available soil moisture



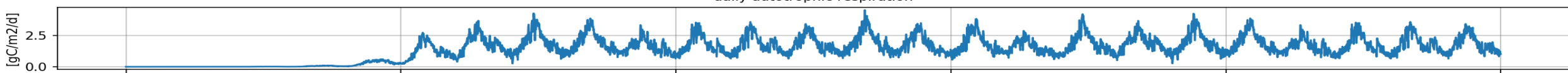
Leaf area index



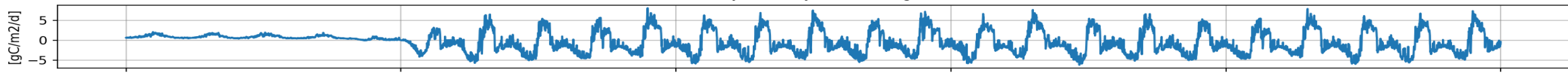
daily gross primary production



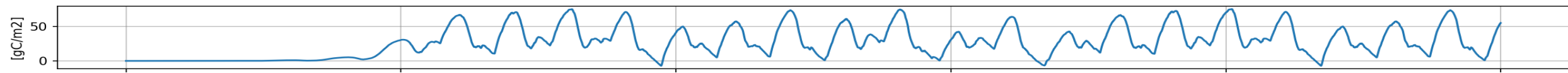
daily autotrophic respiration



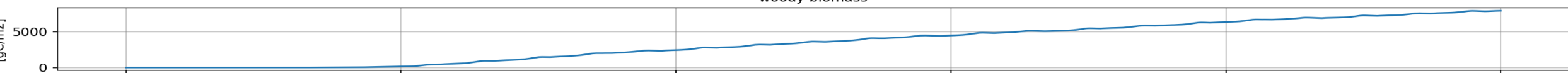
daily net ecosystem exchange



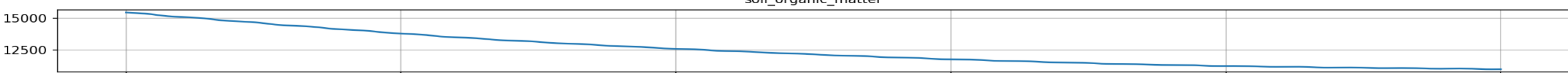
labile biomass



woody biomass

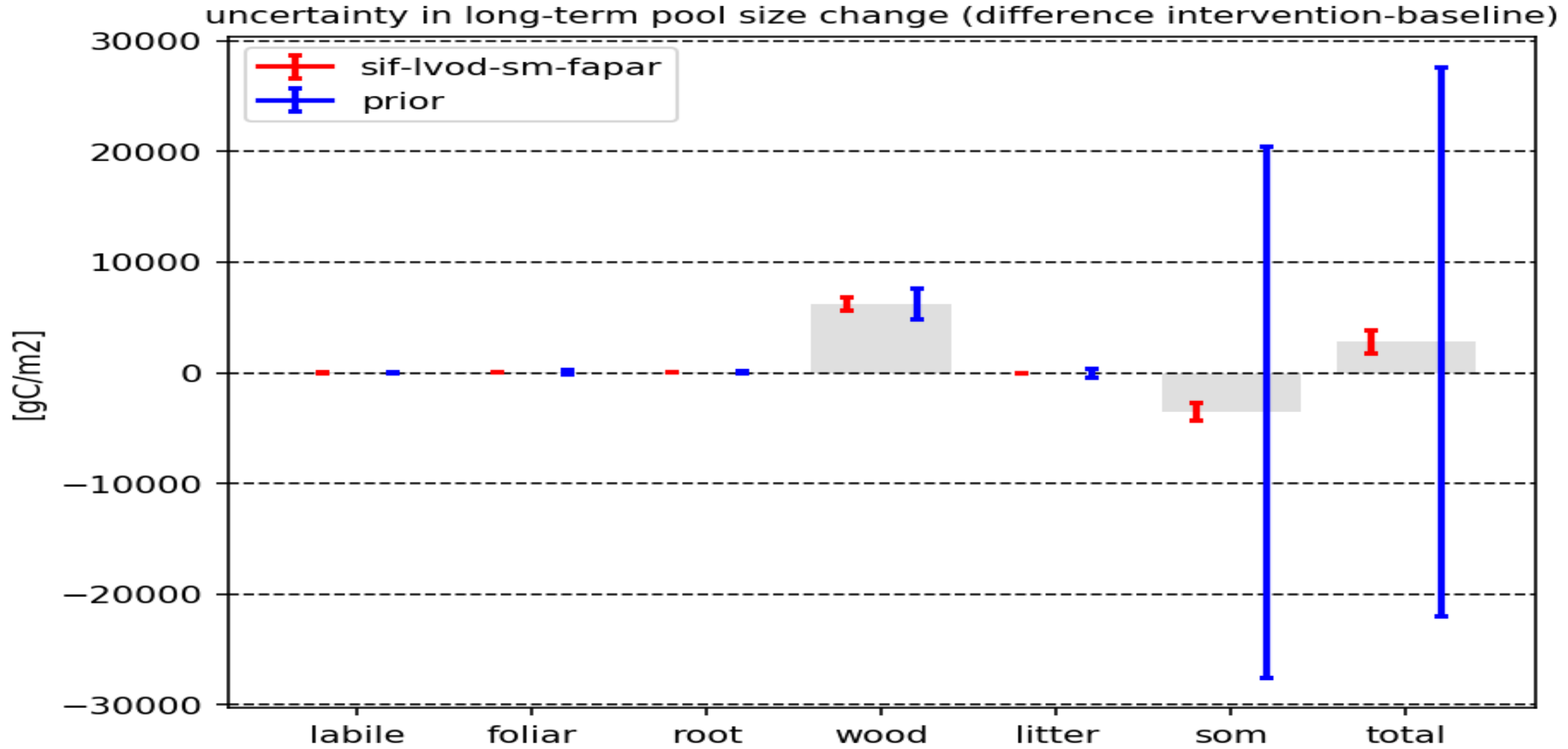


soil_organic_matter



2015 2020 2025 2030 2035 2040

Reduction in uncertainty relative to prior of increase in carbon pools over integration period relative to baseline



- TCCAS provides an integrated perspective on carbon, water and energy cycles
- Combines information from multiple missions (synergy) with D&B process understanding
- Can monitor relevant variables – including net carbon flux - in space and time
- Can quantify of the impact of an intervention in the landscape on carbon uptake (Carbon Credits)
- BIOMASS mission products are expected to provide a strong additional constraint

Contact

- <https://tccas.inversion-lab.com>
- TCCAS@Inversion-Lab.com
- Thomas.Kaminski@Inversion-Lab.com

