



Urban carbon dioxide Flux
Monitoring using
Eddy Covariance and
Earth Observation

Urban carbon dioxide flux monitoring using Eddy Covariance and Earth Observation: An introduction to diFUME project

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Current Studies in Physical Geography and Atmospheric Sciences

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Contents

- Introduction
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Introduction

Urban Areas:

- Cover **1 - 3 %** of Earth's landmass
- **55 %** (4.2 billion) of world population lives in cities
- Projected to increase to **68 %** (6.7 billion) by 2050

UN, 2018



Credit: P. Lopez Luz

Introduction

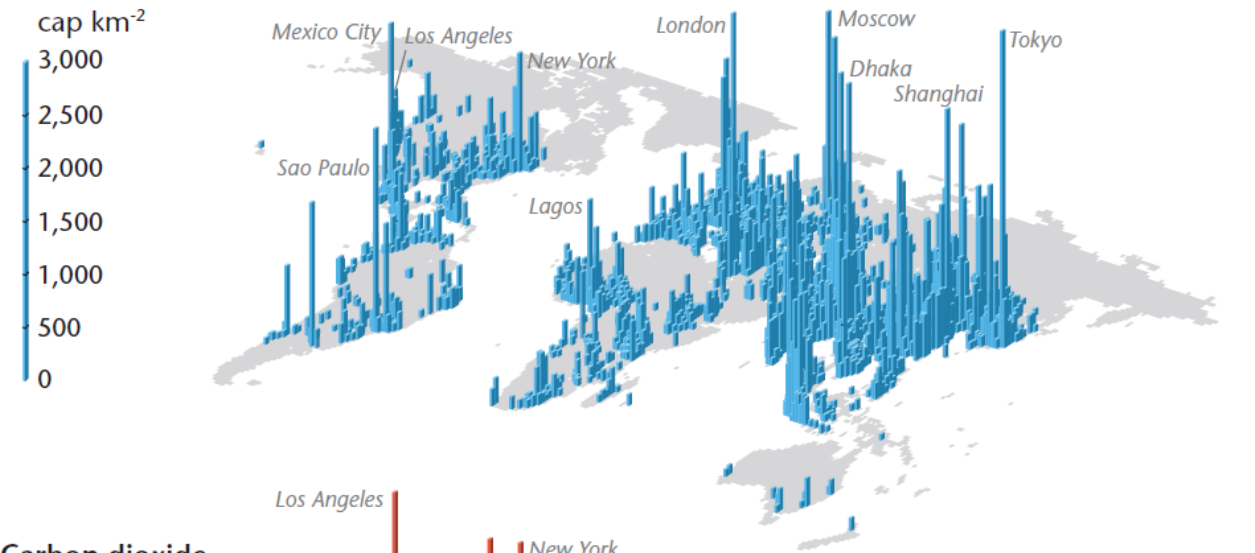
Urban Areas:

- 70 % of total anthropogenic CO₂ emissions originate from urban areas
- 50 % of urban CO₂ emissions are attributable to urban form characteristics (e.g. density, land use mix, building type, vegetation)

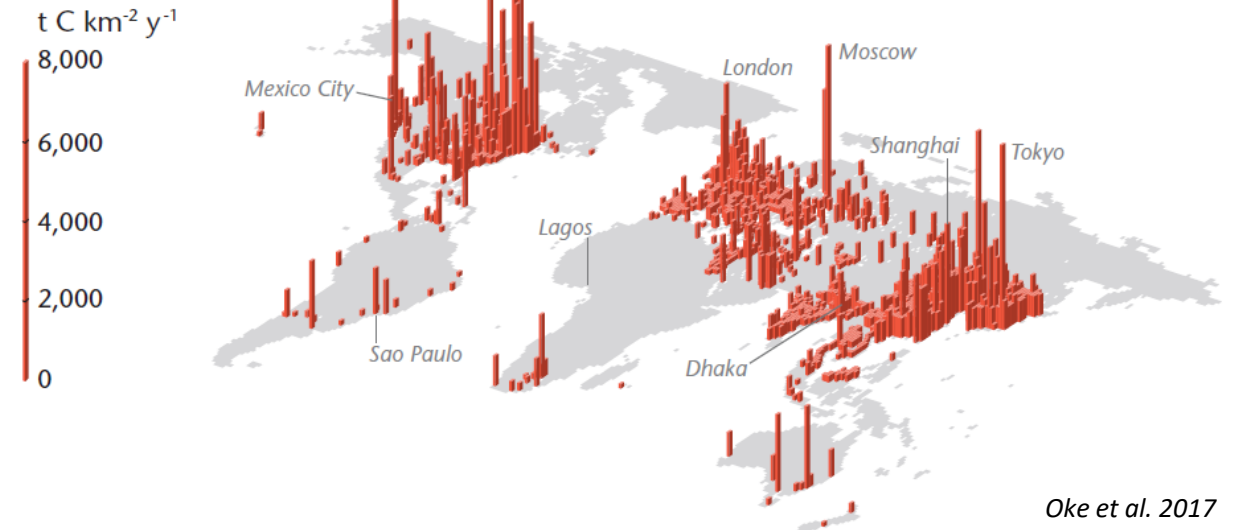
Canadell et al., 2009

Christen et al. 2010

Population density



Carbon dioxide emissions



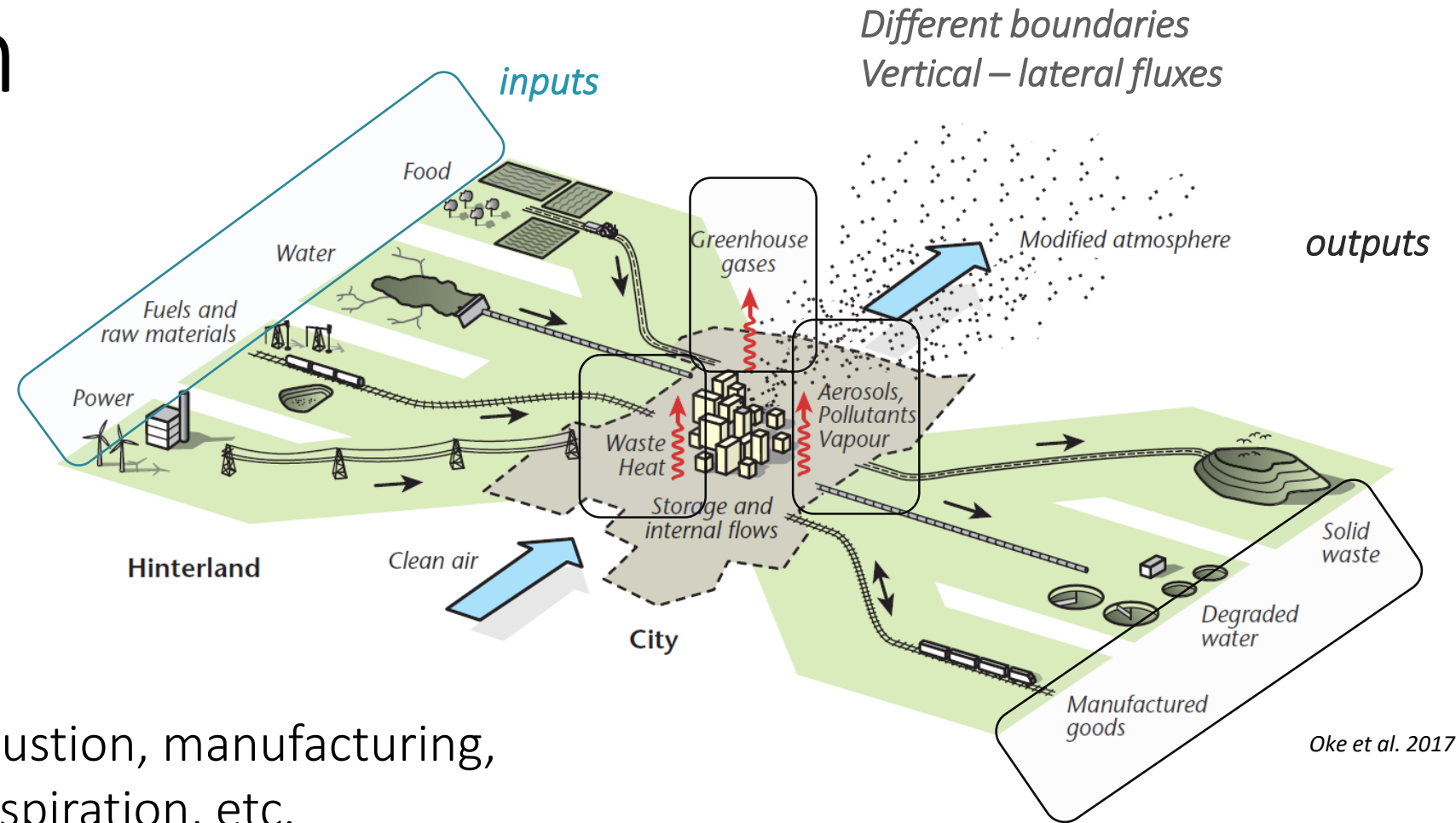
Oke et al. 2017

Introduction

Urban Metabolism

Flow and transformation of materials and energy in a city, related to energy, water and carbon budgets.

Relevant processes: combustion, manufacturing, irrigation, construction, respiration, etc.

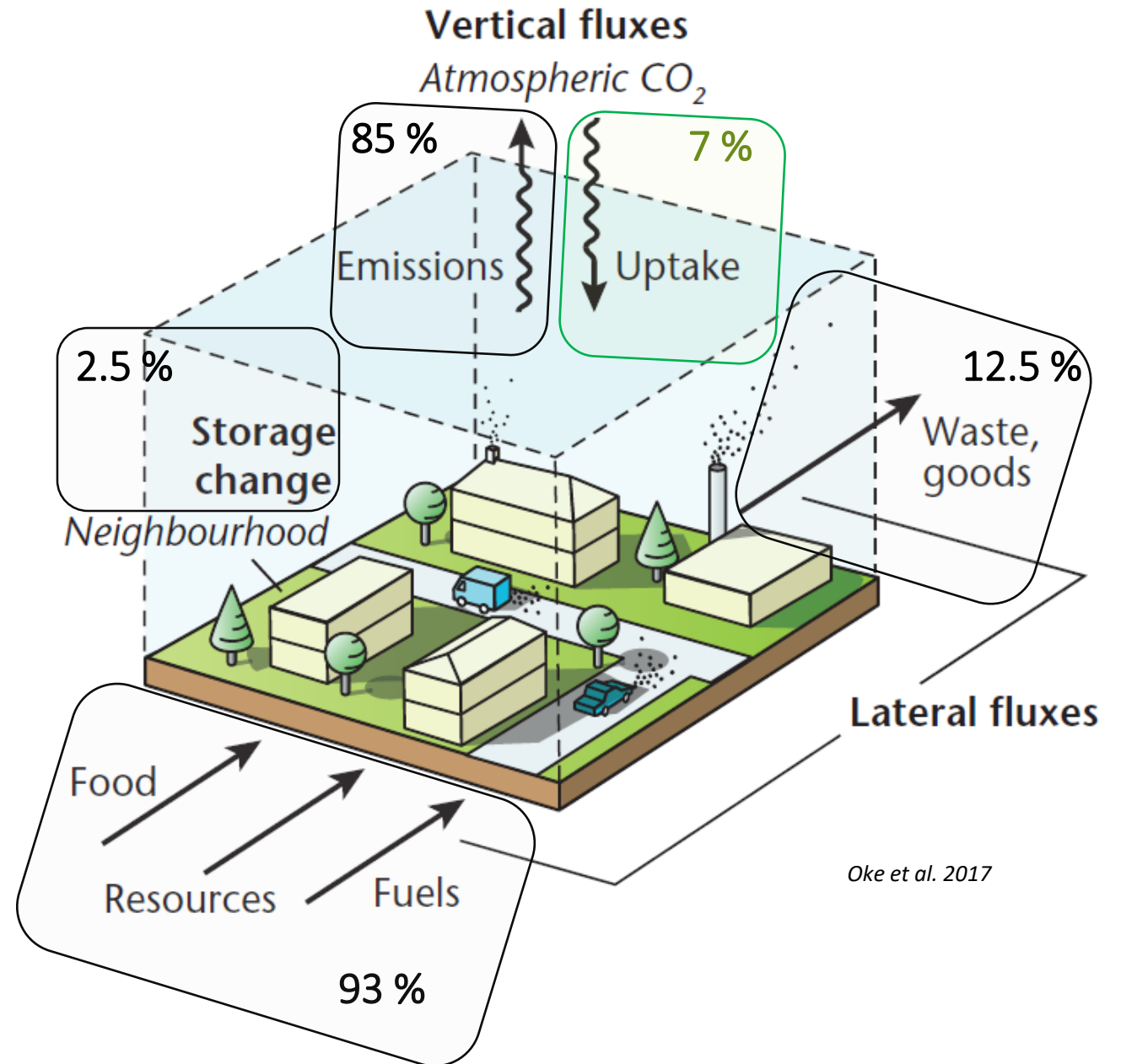


Introduction

Urban carbon fluxes

Lateral: entirely anthropogenic processes, carbon mostly in solid or liquid organic compounds

Vertical: exchange between surface and atmosphere, anthropogenic-biogenic processes, carbon in the form of CO₂

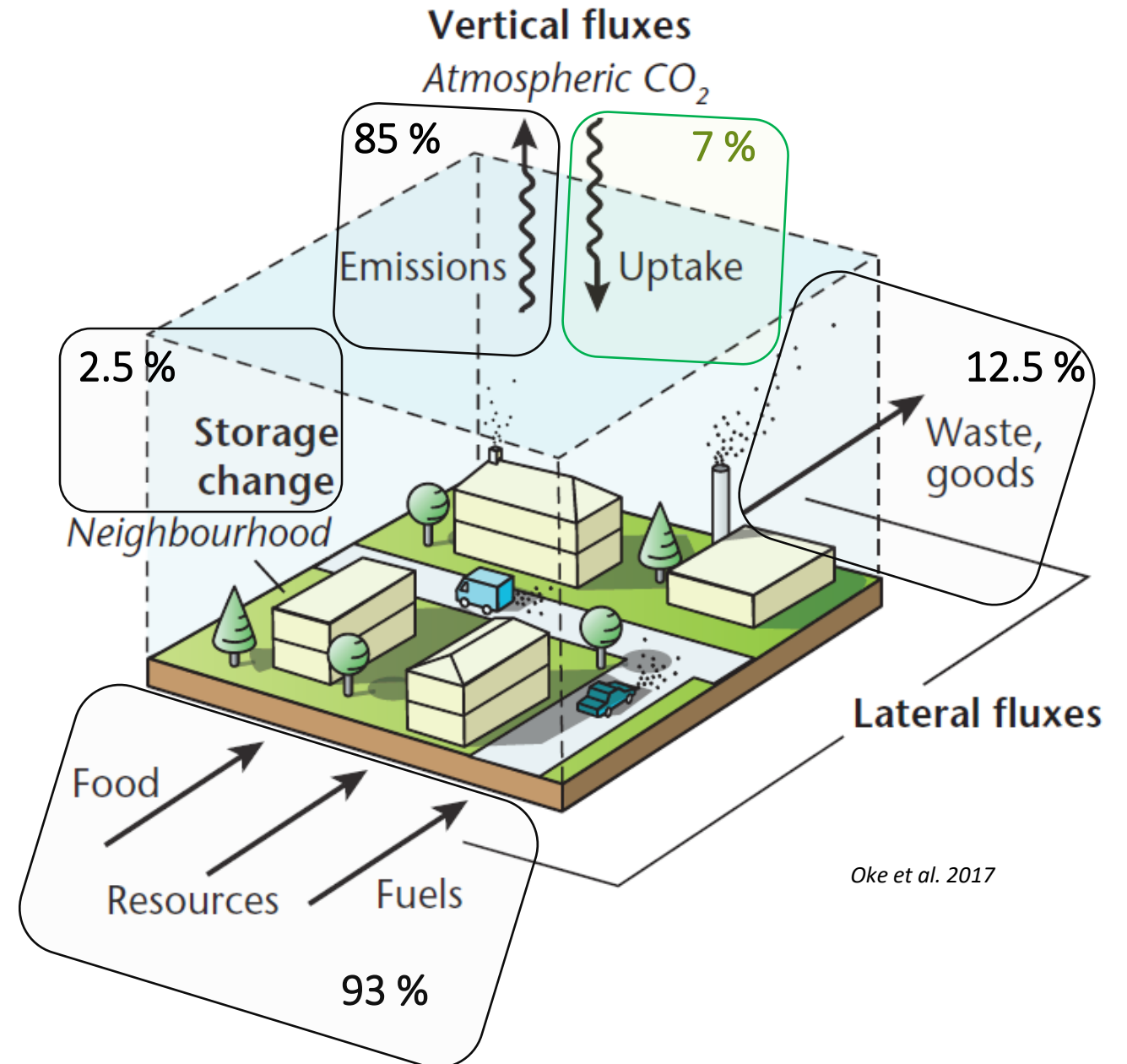


Introduction

Vertical fluxes

Processes:

- Combustion
fossil fuels, biofuels, wood
- Respiration
humans, animals, plants, microbes
- Photosynthesis
plants, the only carbon sink!

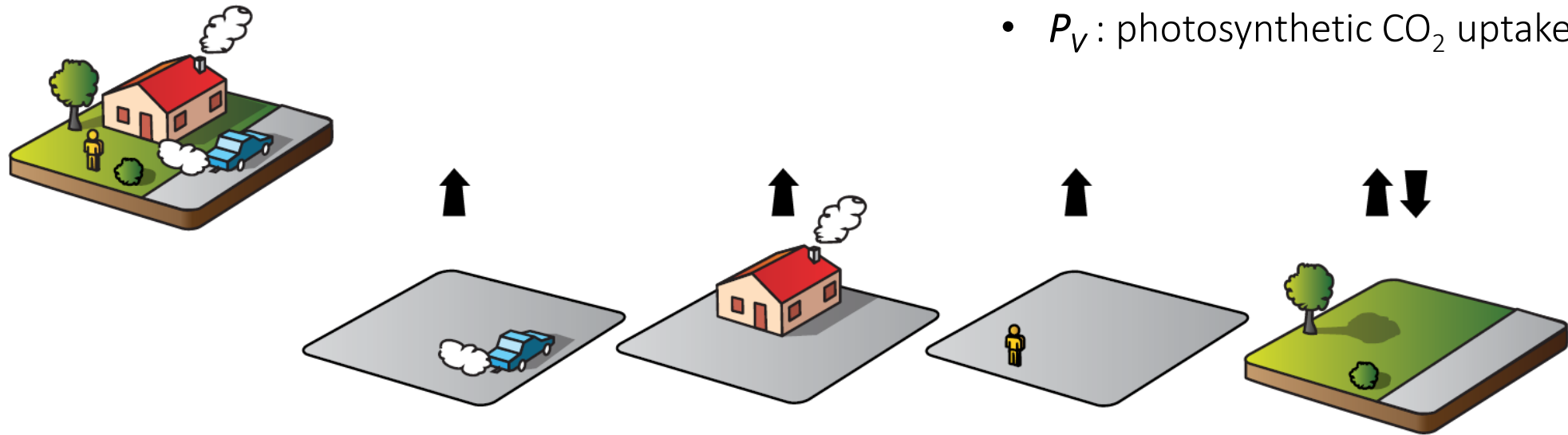


Introduction

Urban CO₂ Flux

$$F_C = E_V + E_B + R_H + R_S + (R_V - P_V)$$

- F_C : total net CO₂ flux
- E_V : traffic emissions
- E_B : building emissions
- R_H : human metabolic CO₂ release
- R_S : soil respiration
- R_V : plant respiration
- P_V : photosynthetic CO₂ uptake



↑ Carbon emission
↓ Carbon uptake

● Transportation

● Buildings

● Human body,
food, and waste

● Vegetation and soils

Introduction

Monitoring Carbon Fluxes in Cities

Inventory or bottom-up approaches (indirect)

- › Fuel and electricity consumption data-statistics and emission factors
- › Restricted spatial and temporal scales
- › Downscaled according to bottom-up or top-down procedures (e.g. using population density as a proxy)
- › Data/methodology consistency issues
- › Biogenic compounds usually neglected

Direct measurements

- › Approaches depending on scale (micro, local, regional)
- › Sensors at various heights (towers, balloons, airplanes)
- › Hampered by the extreme heterogeneity of the urban environment (sources, sinks) and the complexity of UBL dynamics
- › Source/sink attribution is challenging
- › Link between scales is difficult
- › Emerging satellite technologies

a Mesoscale

~ 1000 m

Wind →

PBL

UBL

Mixed layer

Urban "plume"

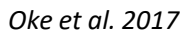
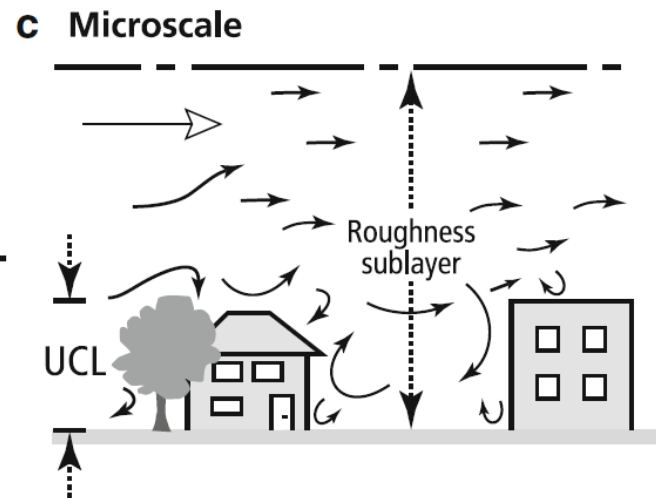
~ 100 m

Surface layer

Rural BL

Rural Urban Rural

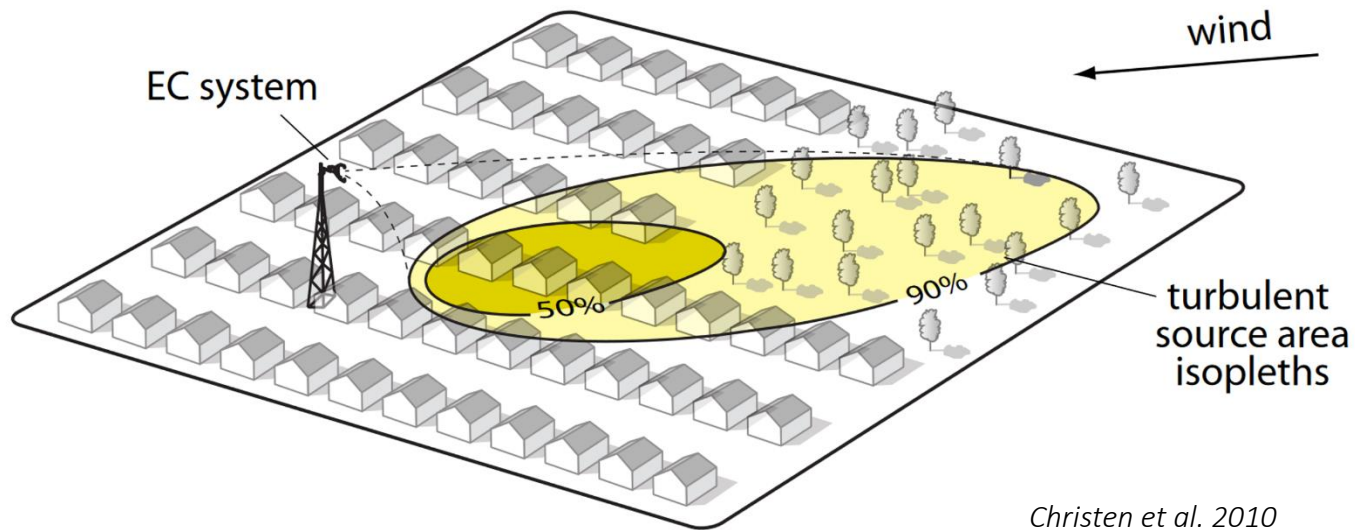
b



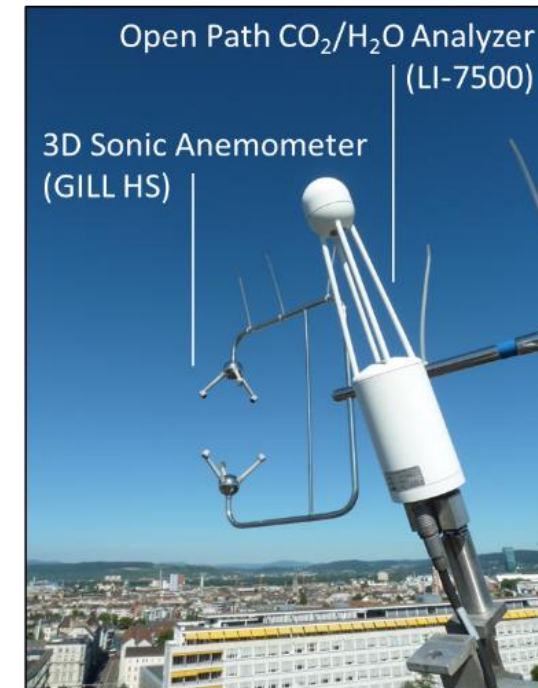
Introduction

Eddy Covariance

- › Direct F_c at local scale
- › Variable measurement footprint (sources/sinks)



Christen et al. 2010

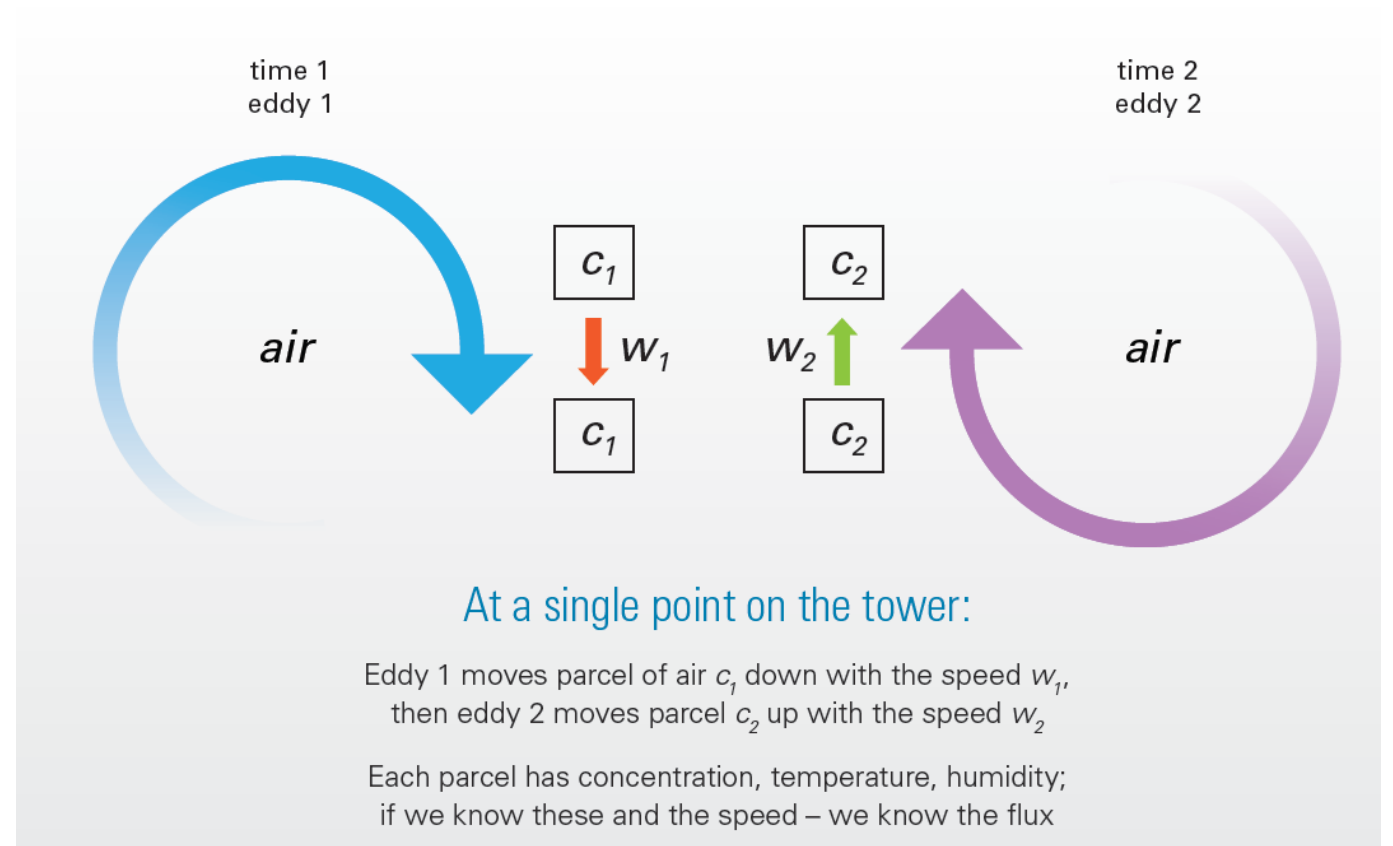


Introduction

Eddy Covariance

- › Direct F_c at local scale
- › Variable measurement footprint (sources/sinks)

$$F_c = \overline{w'c'}$$

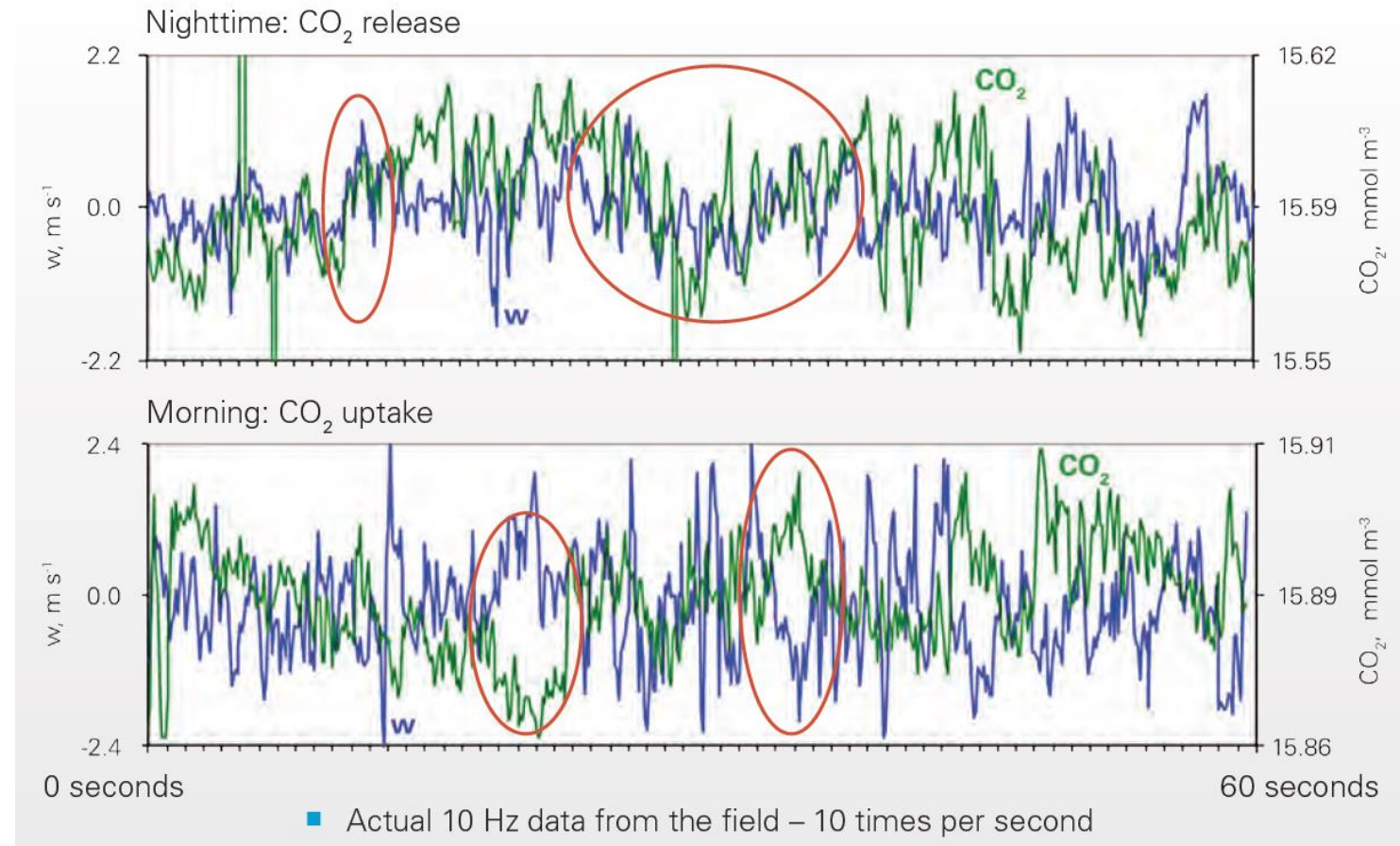


Introduction

Eddy Covariance

- › Direct F_c at local scale
- › Variable measurement footprint (sources/sinks)

$$F_c = \overline{w'c'}$$



Covariance $W - CO_2$: **positive** → flux away from the surface (source)

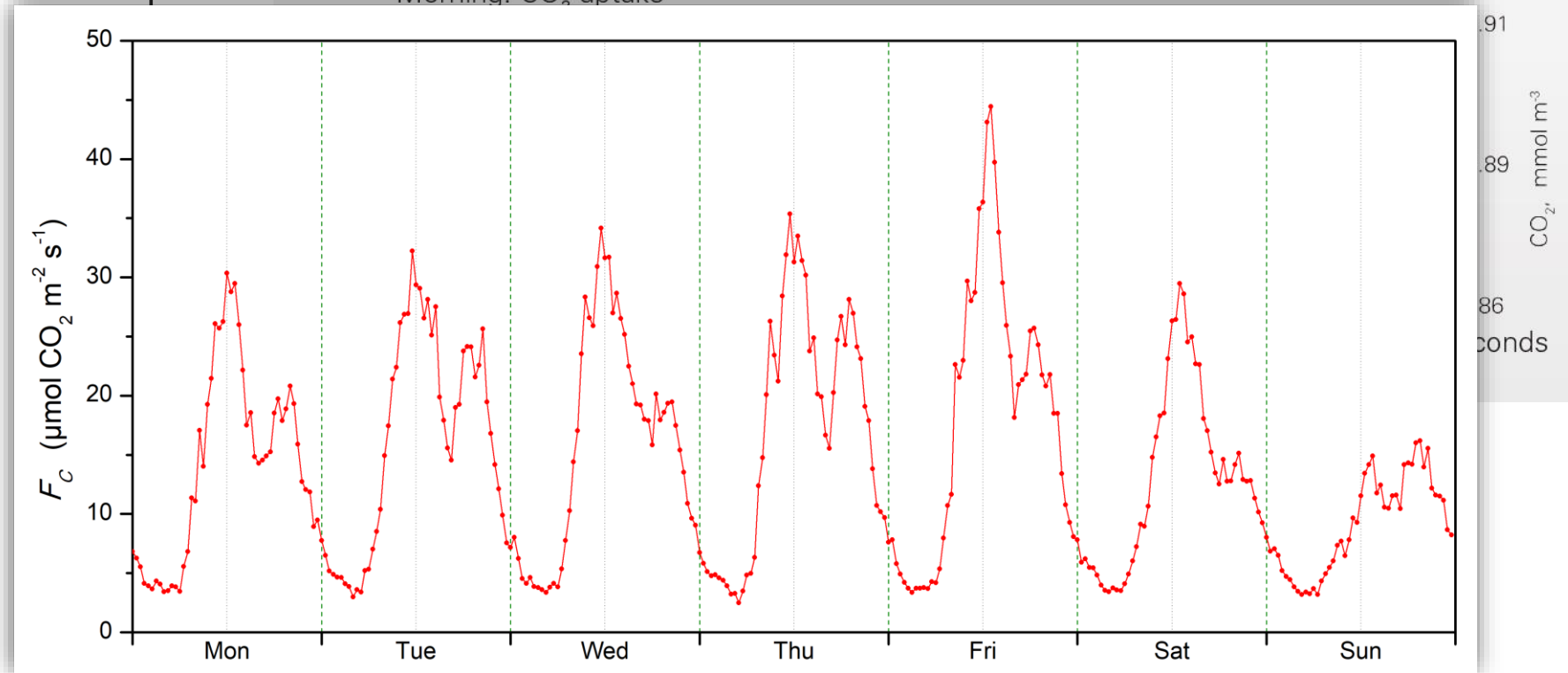
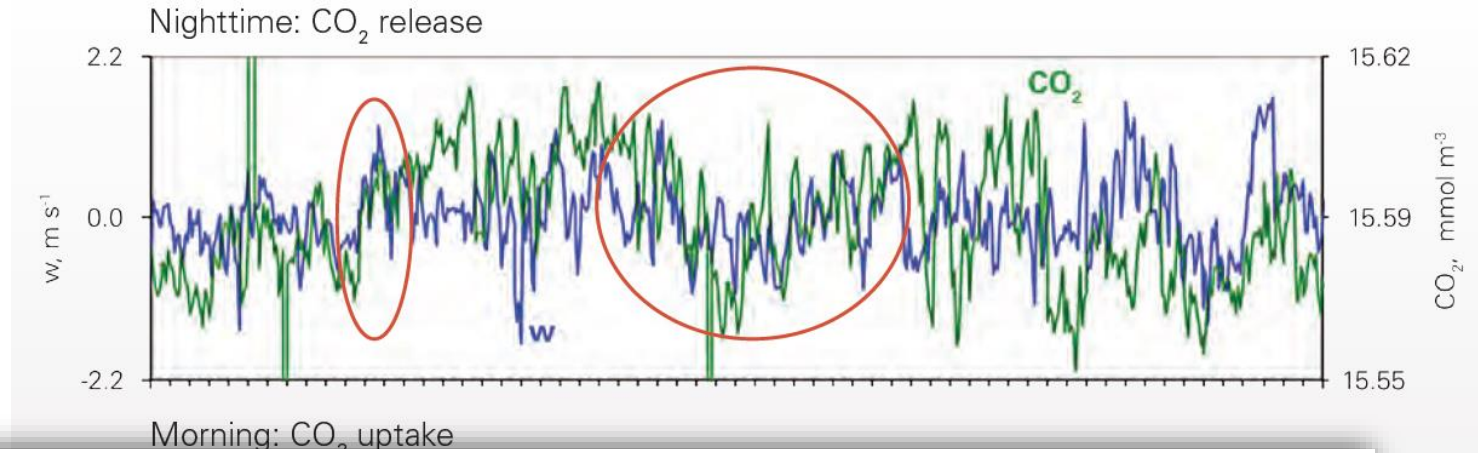
Covariance $W - CO_2$: **negative** → flux towards the surface (sink)

Introduction

Eddy Covariance

- › Direct F_c at local scale
- › Variable measurement footprint (sources/sinks)

$$F_c = \overline{w'c'}$$

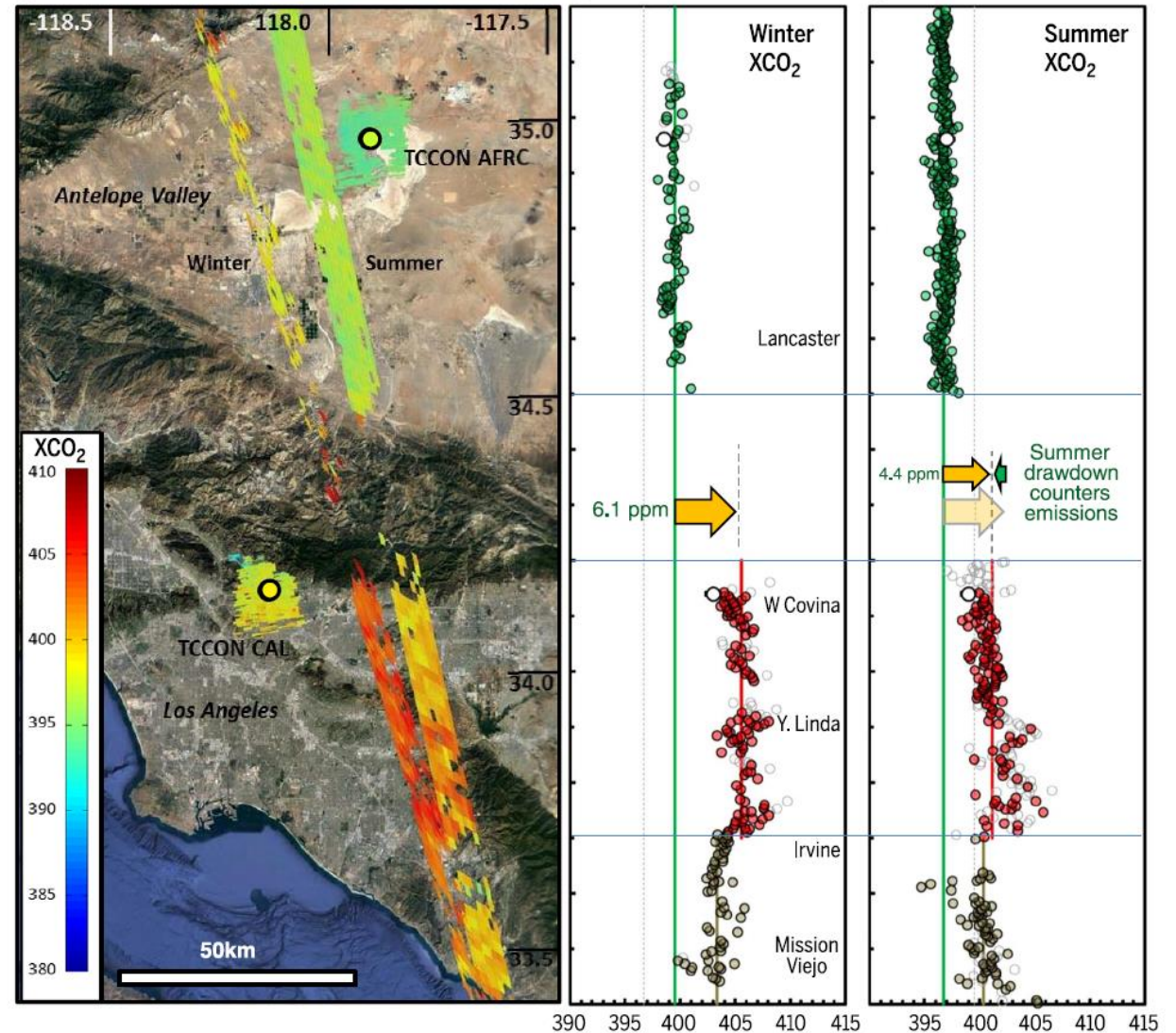


Introduction

Earth Observation

- › Low resolution (> 1 km)
- › Sparse acquisitions (~ 16 days)

OCO-2, NASA



Schwandner et al. 2017

Introduction

Earth Observation

Current capabilities:

- Urban cover
- Urban morphology
- Biophysical/biochemical parameters

Multiple spatial scales

Trade-off spatial - temporal



Scope

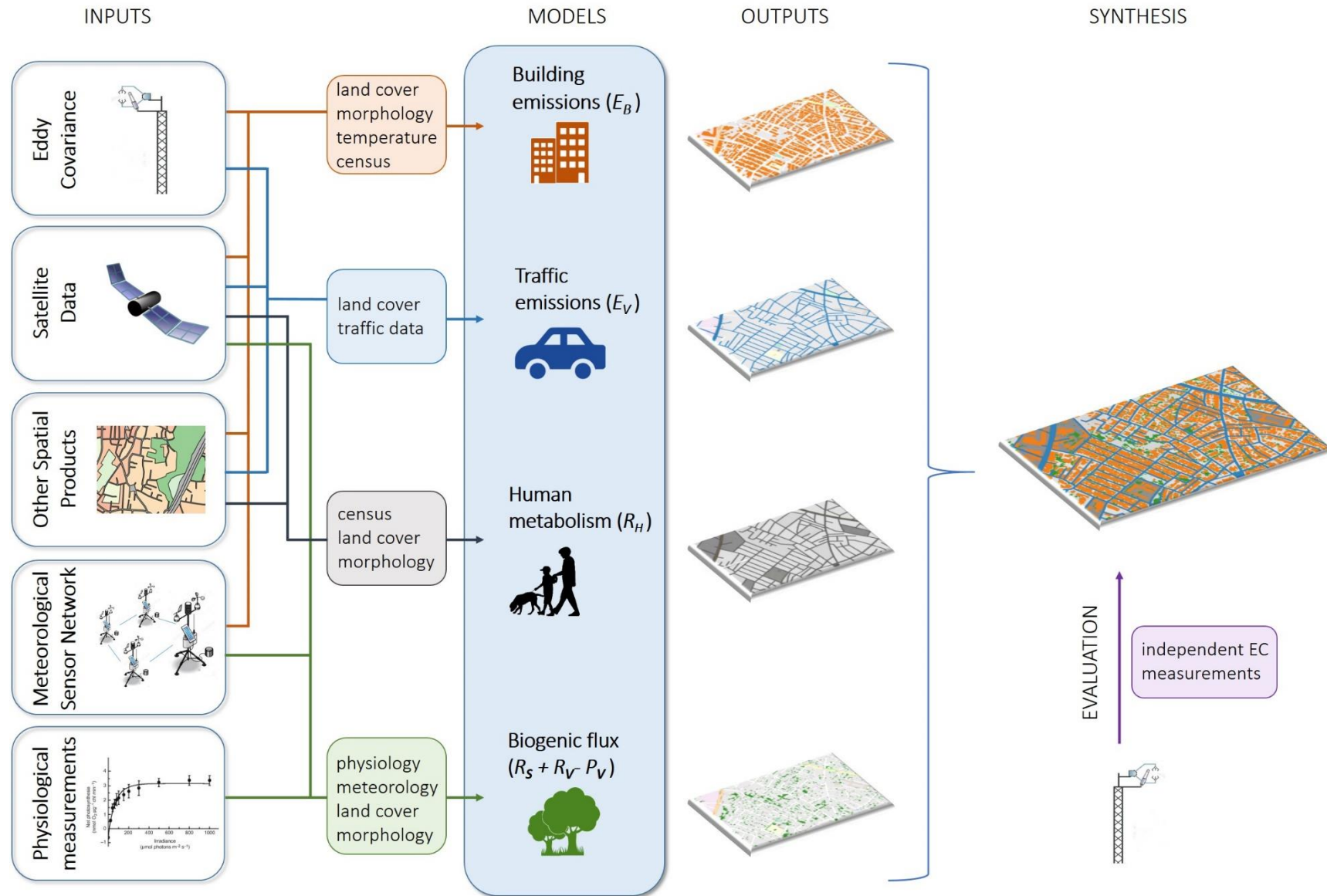
Scope

Develop a robust methodology for mapping and monitoring the urban CO₂ flux at high spatial and temporal scales, meaningful for urban design decisions (neighbourhood, block, or building scale)

- › independent models for all the different components of the urban carbon cycle
- › interdisciplinary perspective: combine EC with EO capabilities
- › offer improved spatiotemporal urban CO₂ emissions' monitoring
- › Evaluate the developed methodology using independent local scale EC-measured F_c .

Methodology

Methodology



Eddy Covariance

- › 3 EC stations (2 urban, 1 rural)
- 15 years of measurements
- F_c calculation in 30 min time-step
- Quality flagging
- Gap filling
- Directional analysis (diverse typologies)
- Detailed flux footprint estimation



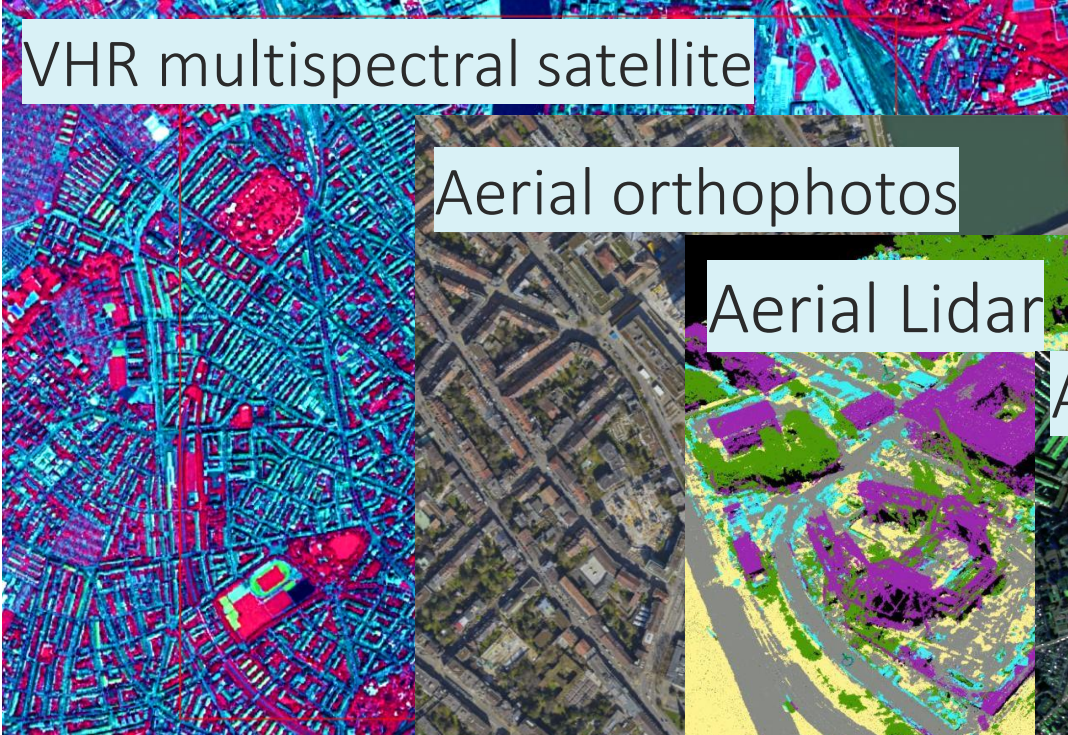
Meteorological data

- › 15 meteo stations
 - Air temperature, precipitation, incoming radiation, soil temperature
 - Gap filling
 - temporal aggregation
 - spatial interpolation

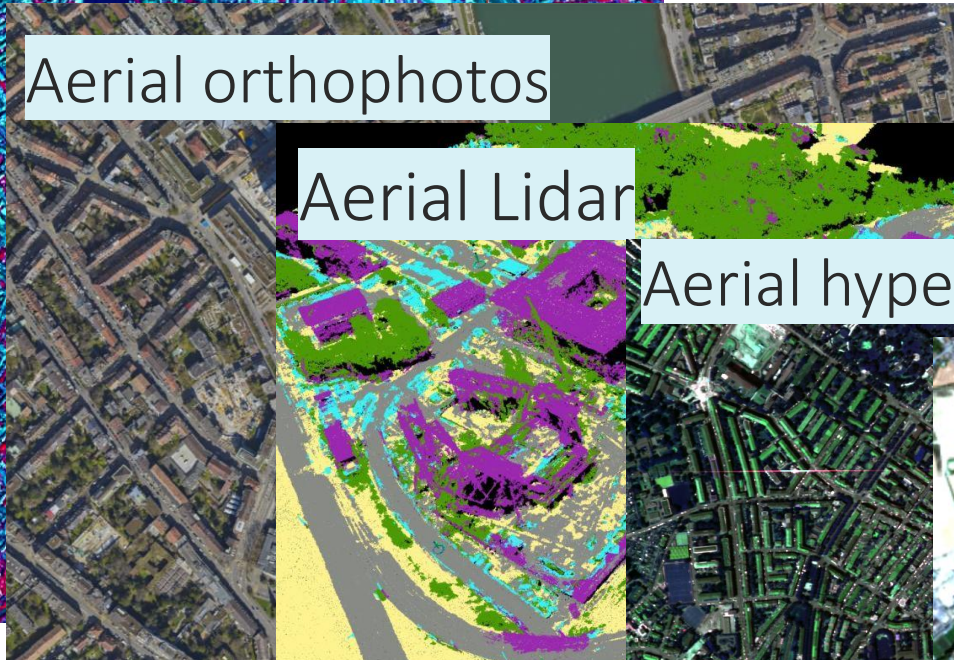


Earth Observation

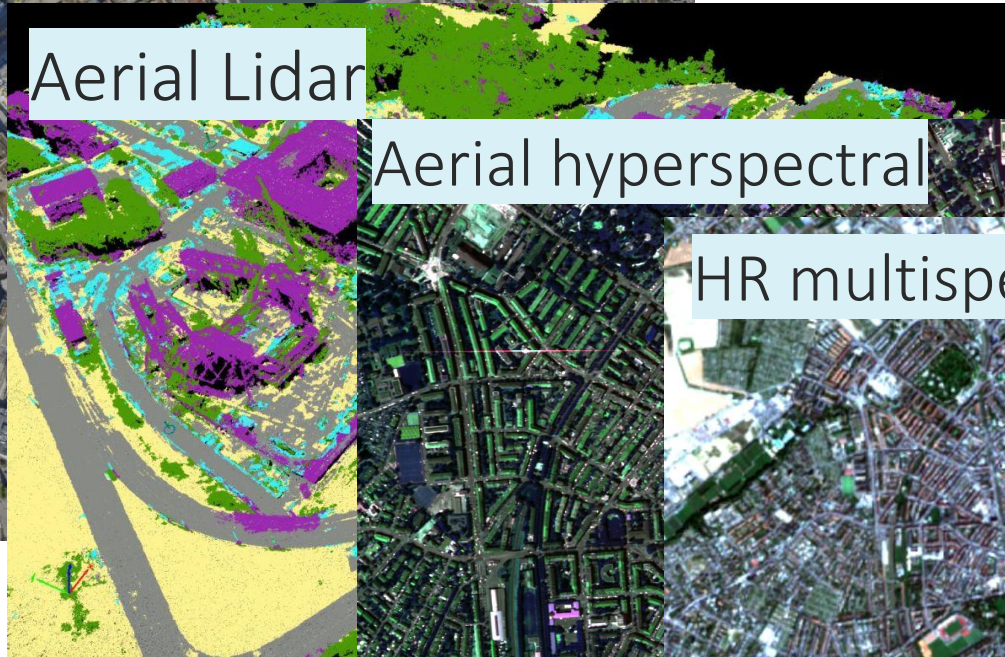
VHR multispectral satellite



Aerial orthophotos



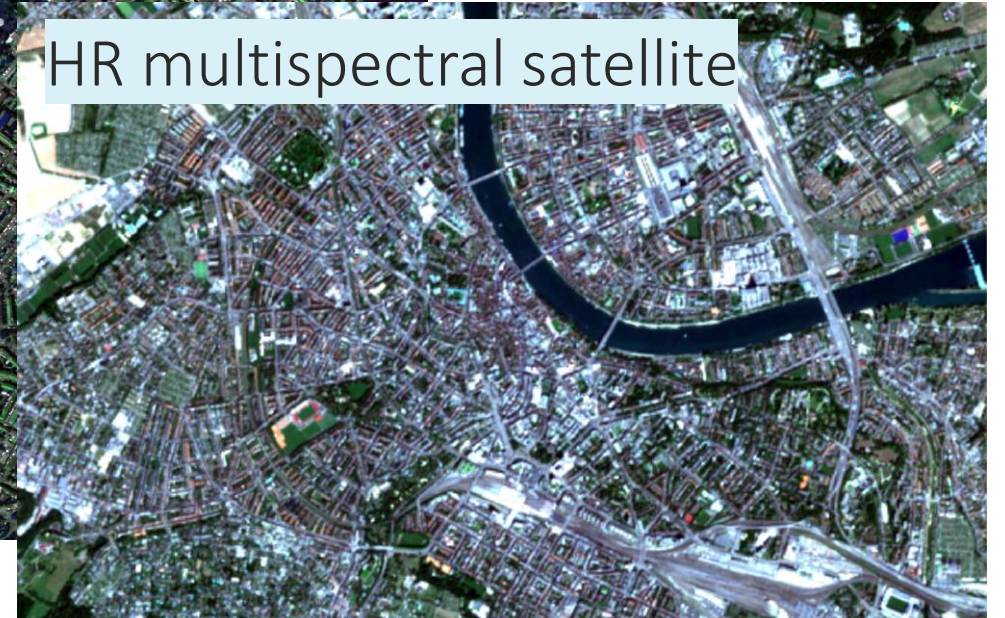
Aerial Lidar



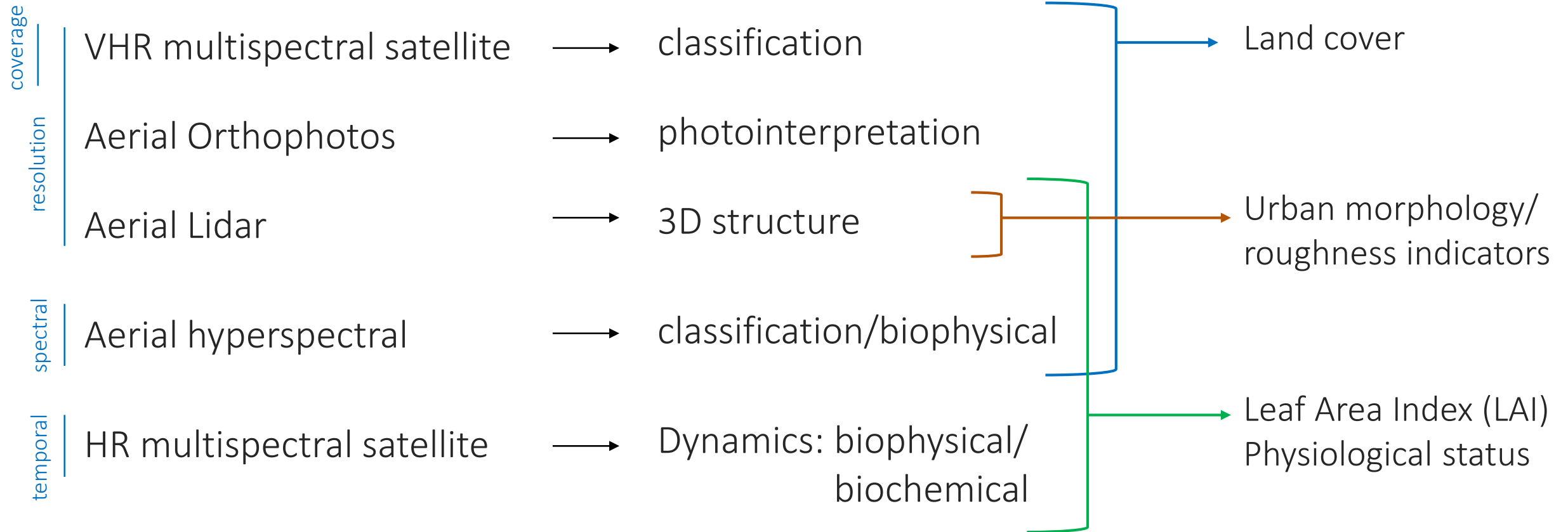
Aerial hyperspectral



HR multispectral satellite



Earth Observation



Other spatial data



Physiological *in-situ* measurements

- › Species-specific relations between biogenic processes (R_S , R_V , P_V) and site-specific abiotic parameters
 - Leaf photosynthesis responses to PAR
 - Leaf photosynthesis responses to temperature
 - Leaf respiration responses to temperature
 - Soil respiration responses to soil temperature
 - Soil respiration responses to soil water content



Models

Traffic emissions, E_v

Inputs:

- EC data + source area modeling
- Traffic profiles (traffic counts)
- Road types
- Vehicle type statistics
- Traffic flow indicators (e.g. cross-sections, traffic light locations, terrain)

Method:

Hourly and type of day specific statistical models between measured F_C and source area weighted E_v controlling parameters (road types, traffic statistics, flow indicators).

Conditions:

- Only data during high T_{air} will be used ($E_B = 0$)
- Model residuals must equal $R_H + R_S + R_V - P_V$



Building emissions, E_B

Inputs:

- EC data + source area modeling
- Temperature – Heating degree days (HDD)
- Building height
- Population density
- Land use

Method:

Statistical models (hourly) between measured F_C and source area weighted E_B controlling parameters (building volume, building type, population density, HDD).

Conditions:

- Model residuals must equal $E_V + R_H + R_S + R_V - P_V$
- Data with low source area weighted road fractions will be used to decrease E_V bias



Human metabolism, R_H

Inputs:

- Population density
- Gender
- Age
- Weight (if available)
- Workforce
- time use statistics
- Land use

Method:

Bottom-up model based on per capita respiration rate ($\mu\text{mol CO}_2 \text{ cap}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$) as a function of the spatiotemporal distribution of population characteristics and activities.



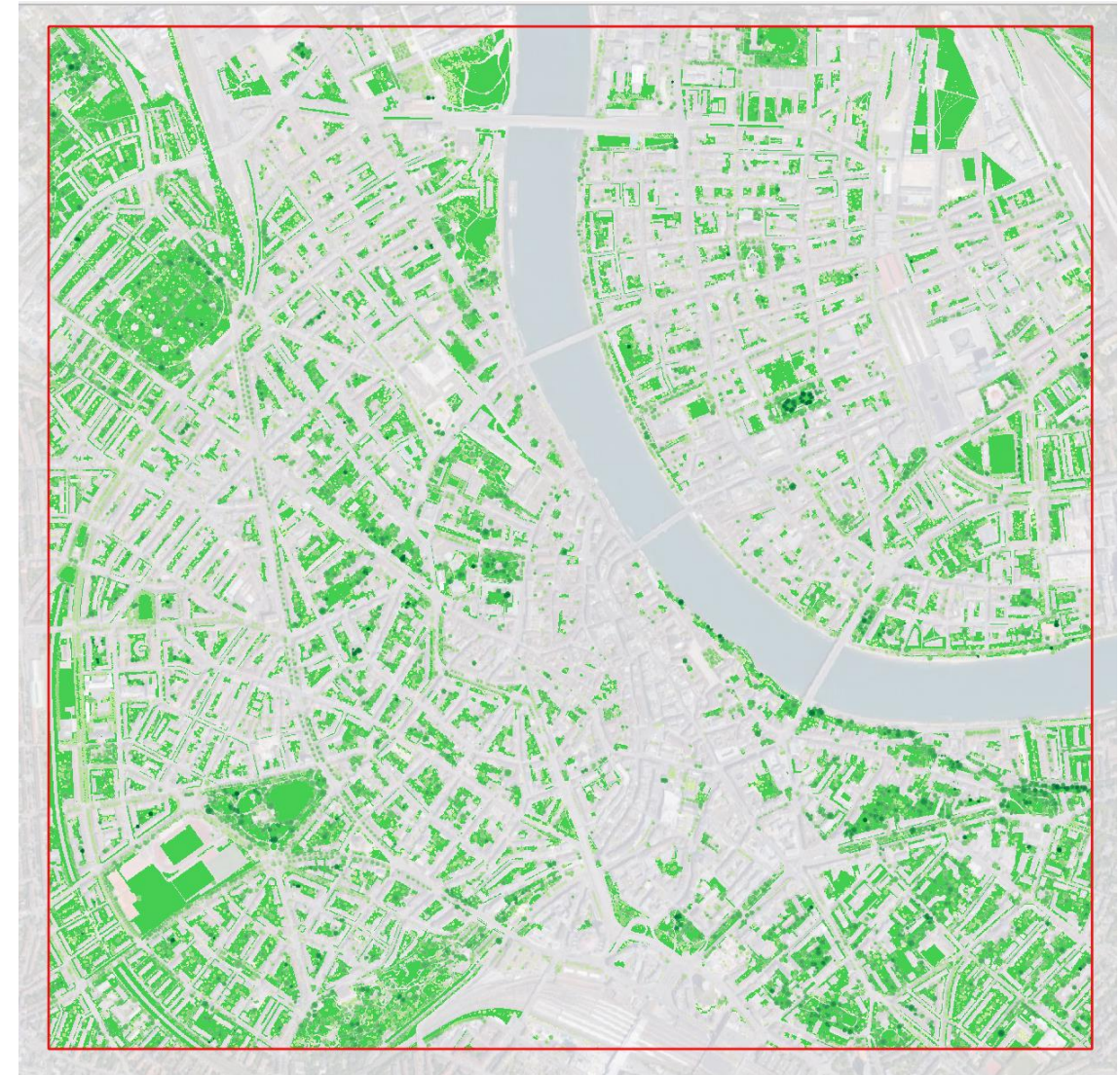
Photosynthesis, P_v

Inputs:

- Land cover
- LAI dynamics
- Satellite stress indices
- Temperature
- Radiation
- Terrain/urban structure
- *In-situ* measurements

Method:

Process-based algorithms based on established interactions of photosynthesis with radiation and temperature, calibrated according to site- and species-specific measurements. Use of a multi-layer canopy integration model to scale-up leaf photosynthesis to plant canopies according to LAI. Dynamic monitoring of LAI and stress indicators using EO data.



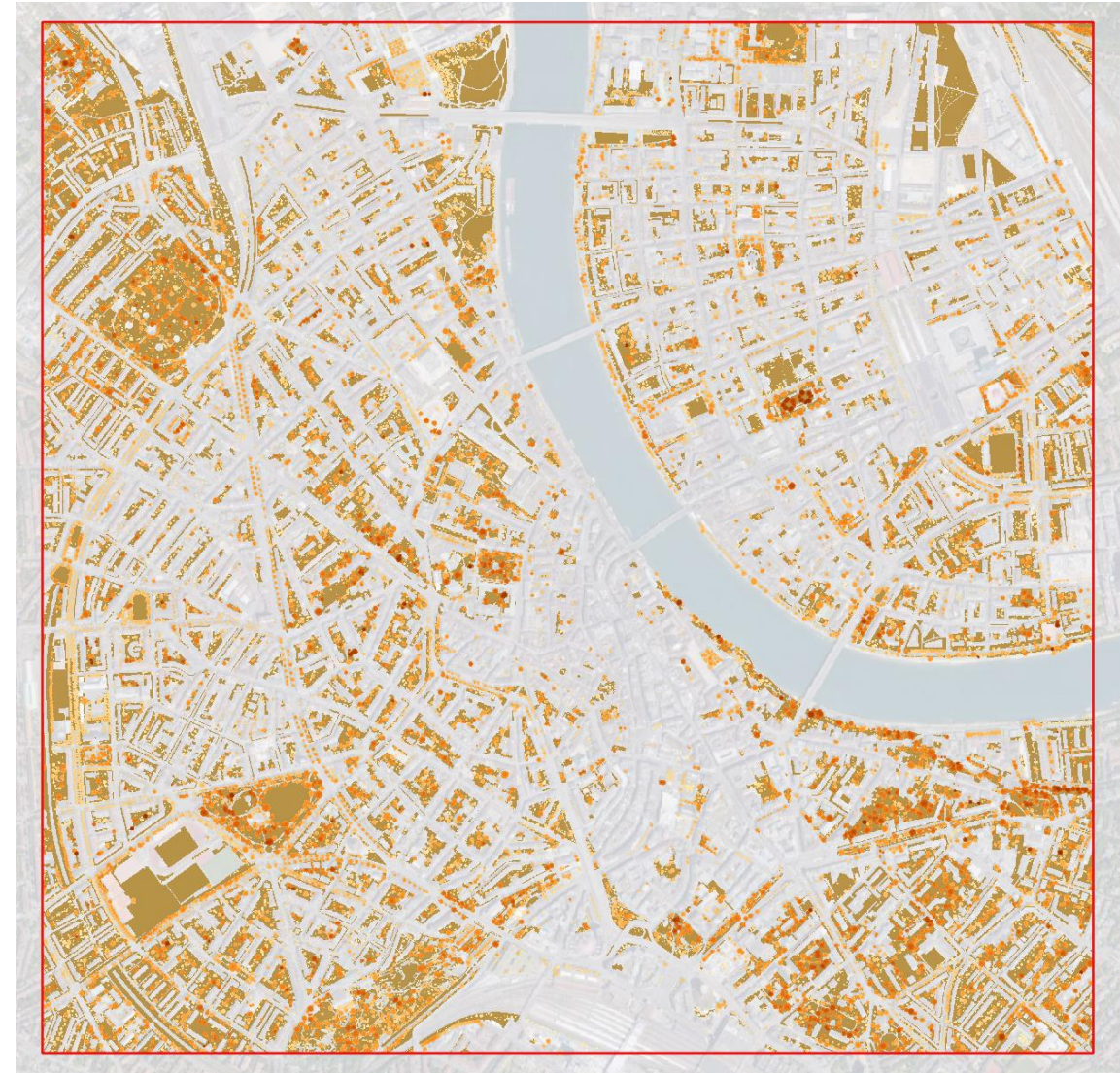
Plant Respiration, R_v

Inputs:

- Land cover
- LAI dynamics
- Tree height
- Satellite stress indices
- Temperature
- Terrain
- *In-situ* measurements

Method:

Process-based algorithms based on the interactions of plant respiration with temperature, calibrated according to site- and species-specific measurements. A 50% inhibition of dark respiration during light will be assumed. Use of a multi-layer canopy integration model to scale-up leaf respiration to plant canopies according to LAI. Dynamic monitoring of LAI using EO data.



Soil Respiration, R_s

Inputs:

- Land cover
- Temperature
- Precipitation
- Terrain
- *In-situ* measurements

Method:

Process-based algorithms based on the interactions of soil respiration with temperature and soil water content, calibrated according to site- and species-specific measurements.



Synthesis

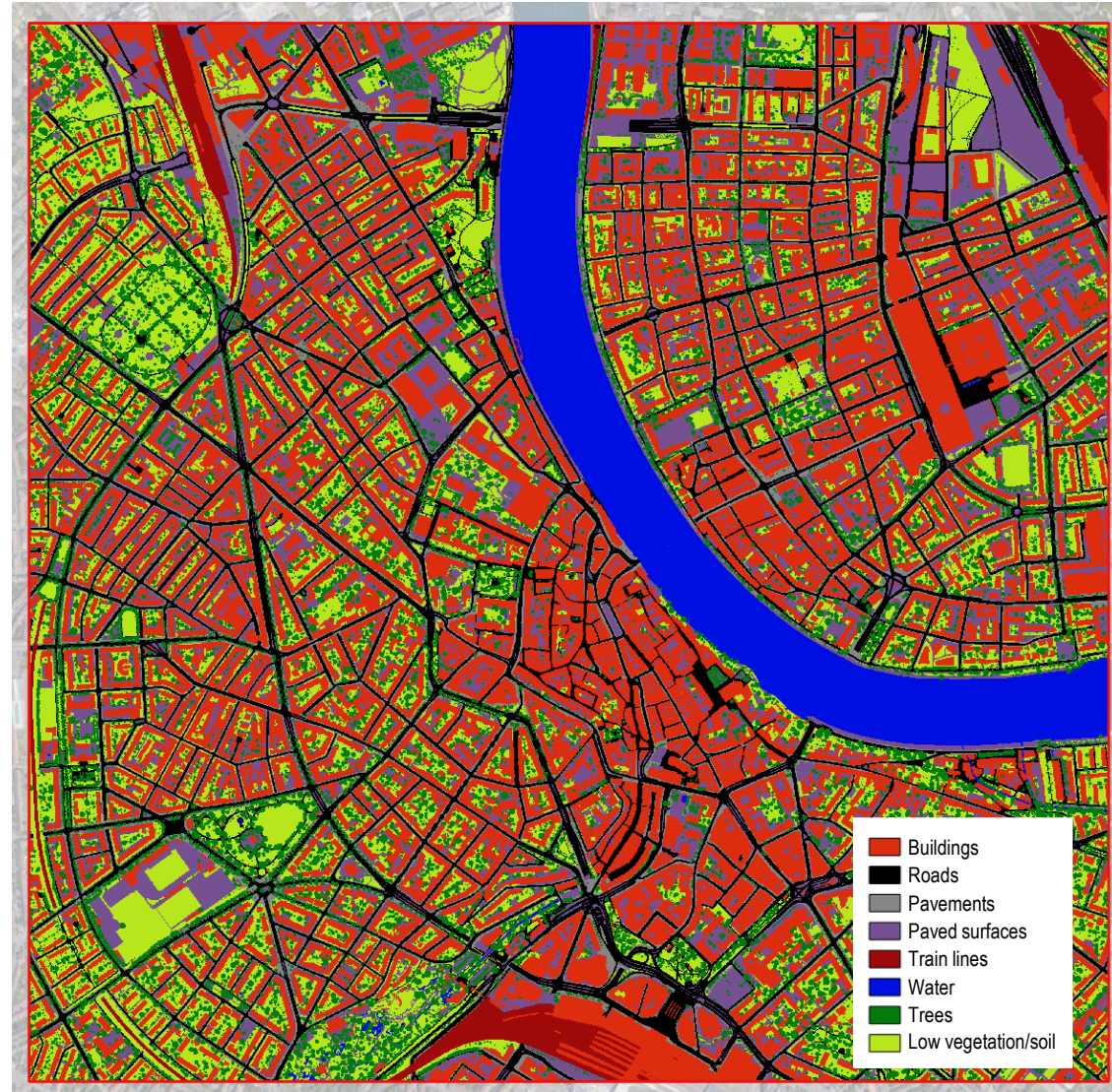
- › Total F_C estimation
- › Upscaling of models to city scale according to input geospatial parameters
- › Evaluation locally using independent EC measurements
- › Final model calibration – product optimization
- › Definition of optimal spatial and temporal scales of F_C maps.



Preliminary results

Land Cover Classification

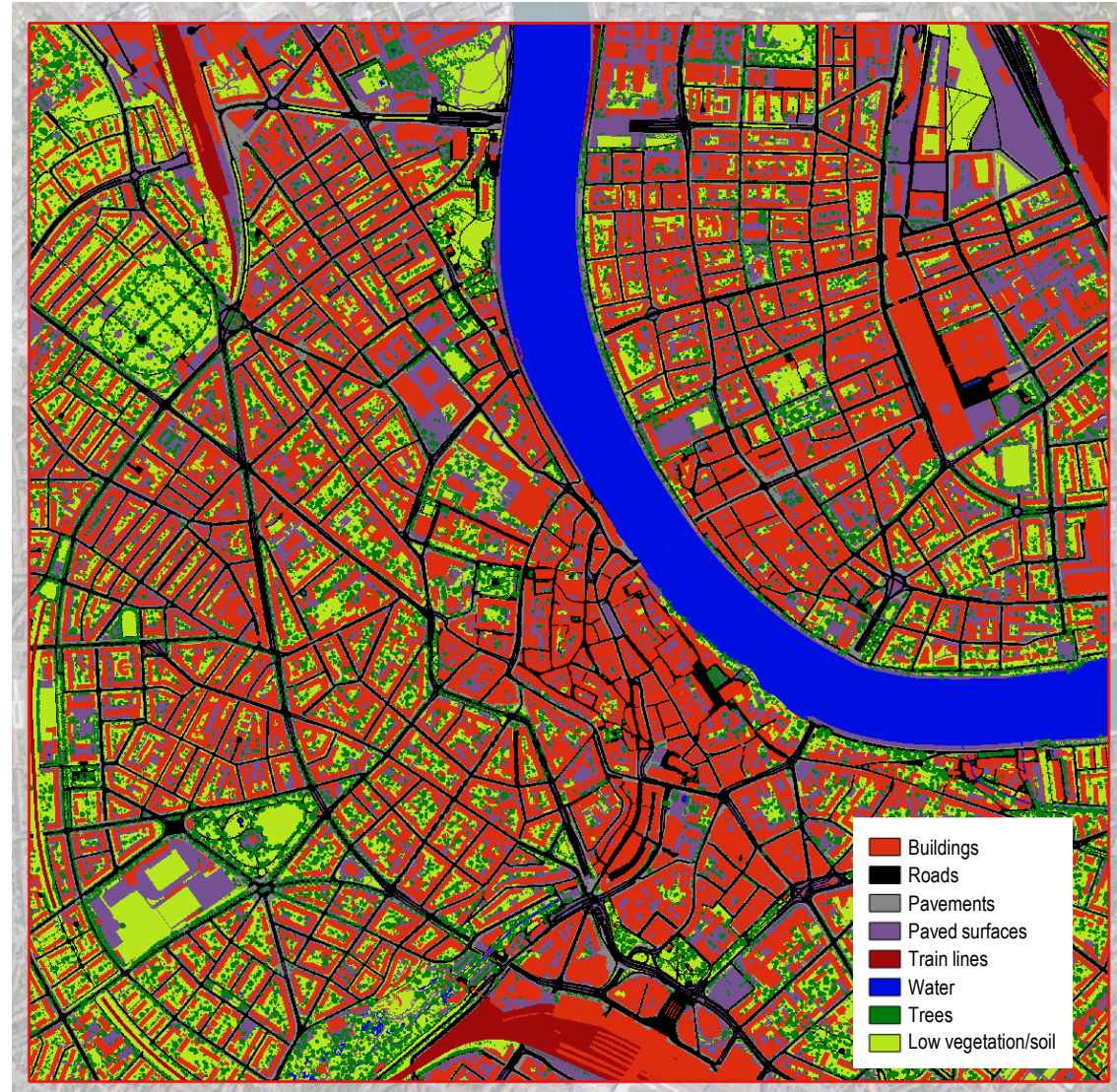
- › Basel geodatabase
 - Land use
 - 3D model
 - Tree inventory
- › Airborne Lidar
 - Tree height
 - Crown radius



Land Cover Classification

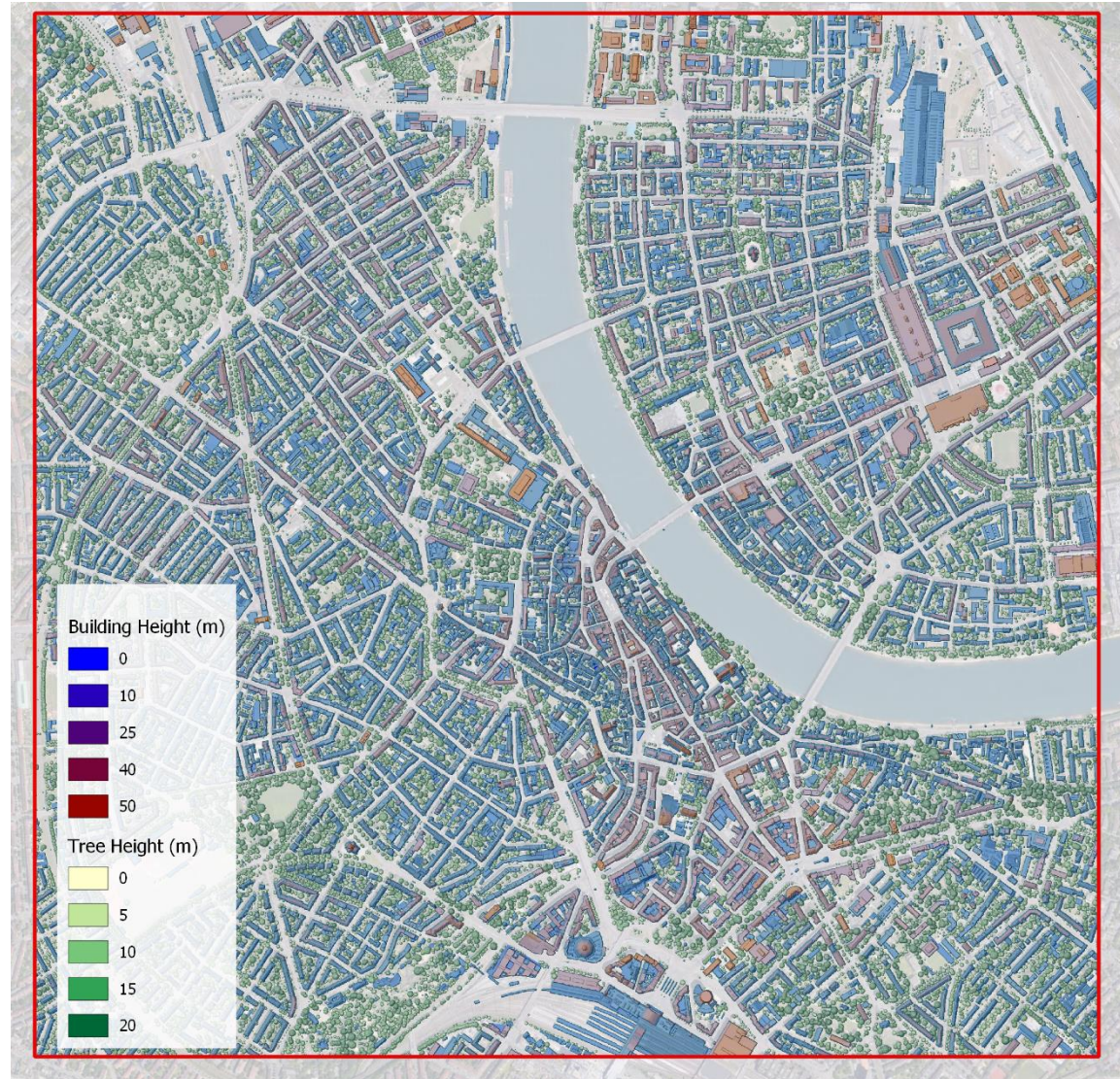
Next steps:

- › Hyperspectral aerial
 - Complete tree species classification
 - LAI estimation
- › Geodatabase
 - Road types
- › VHR multispectral satellite
 - +
Aerial orthophotos
 - Past situation



Urban Morphology

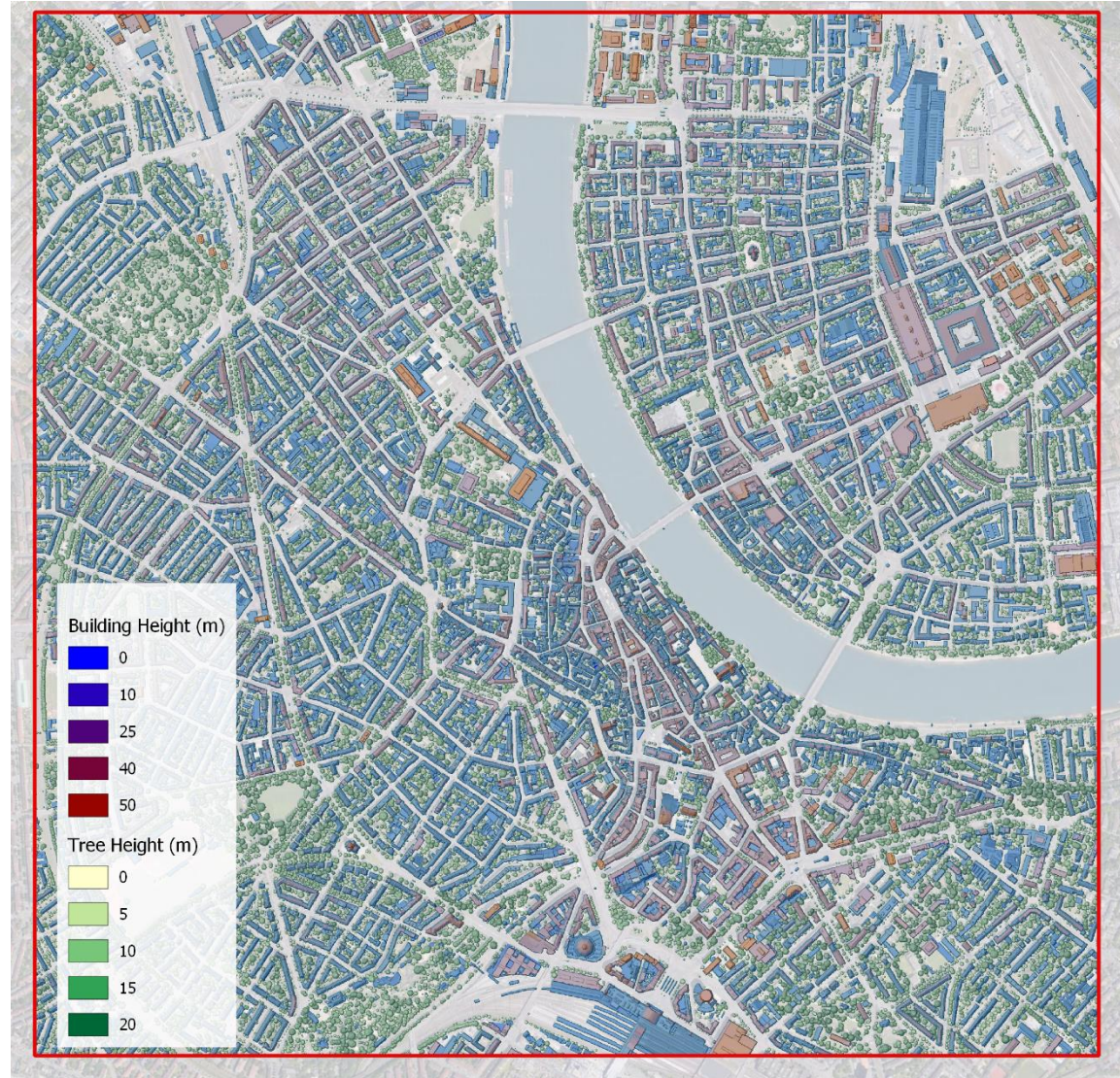
- › Basel 3D model
 - Building structure
 - Terrain
- › Aerial Lidar
 - Tree height
 - Crown radius



Urban Morphology

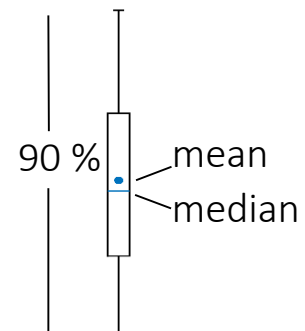
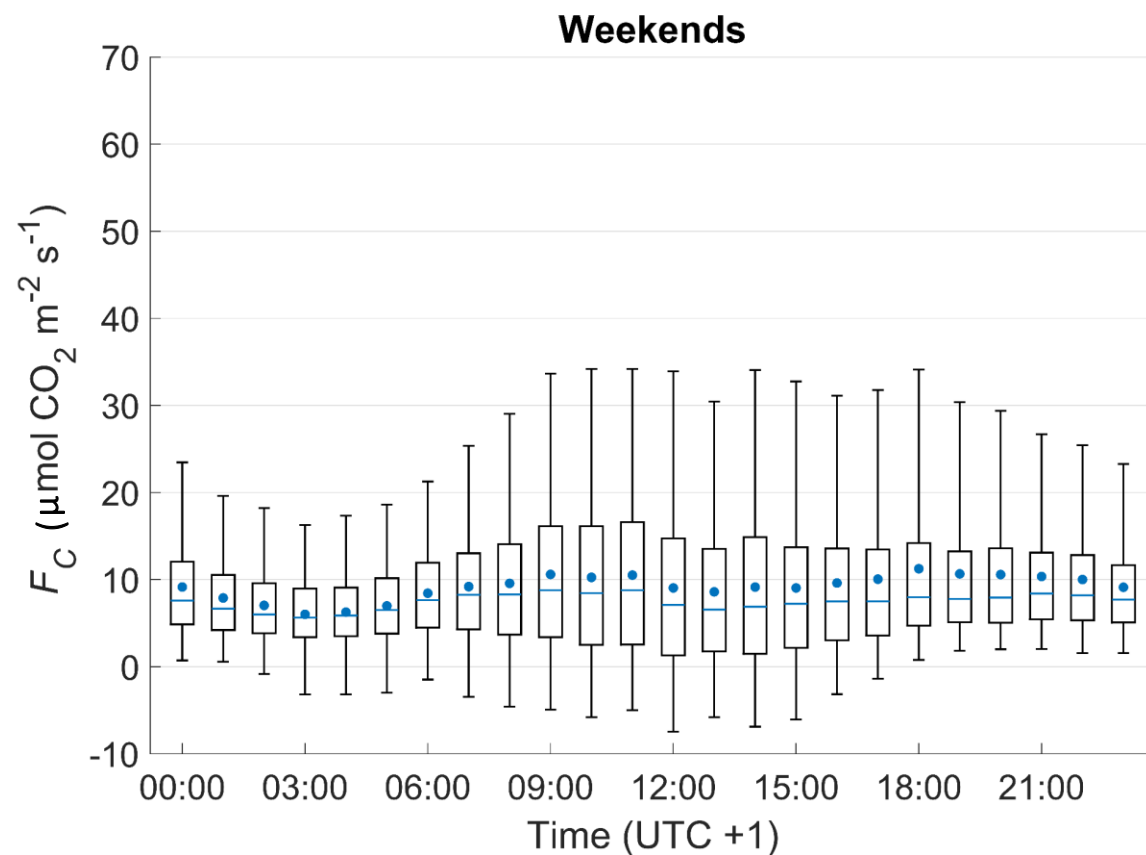
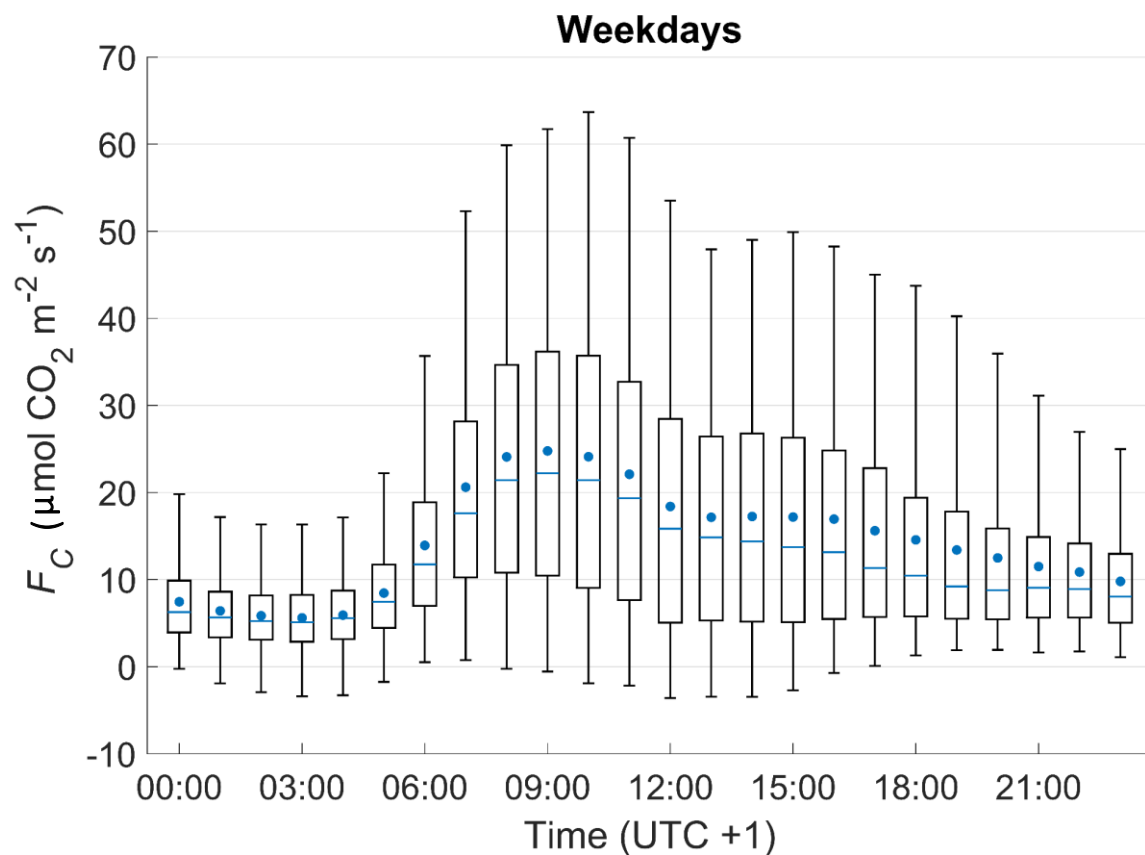
Next steps:

- › Calculate roughness indicators
- › Investigate morphology changes (past 3D models, VHR satellite imagery)



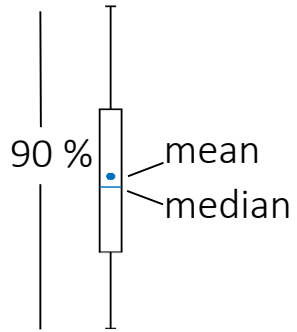
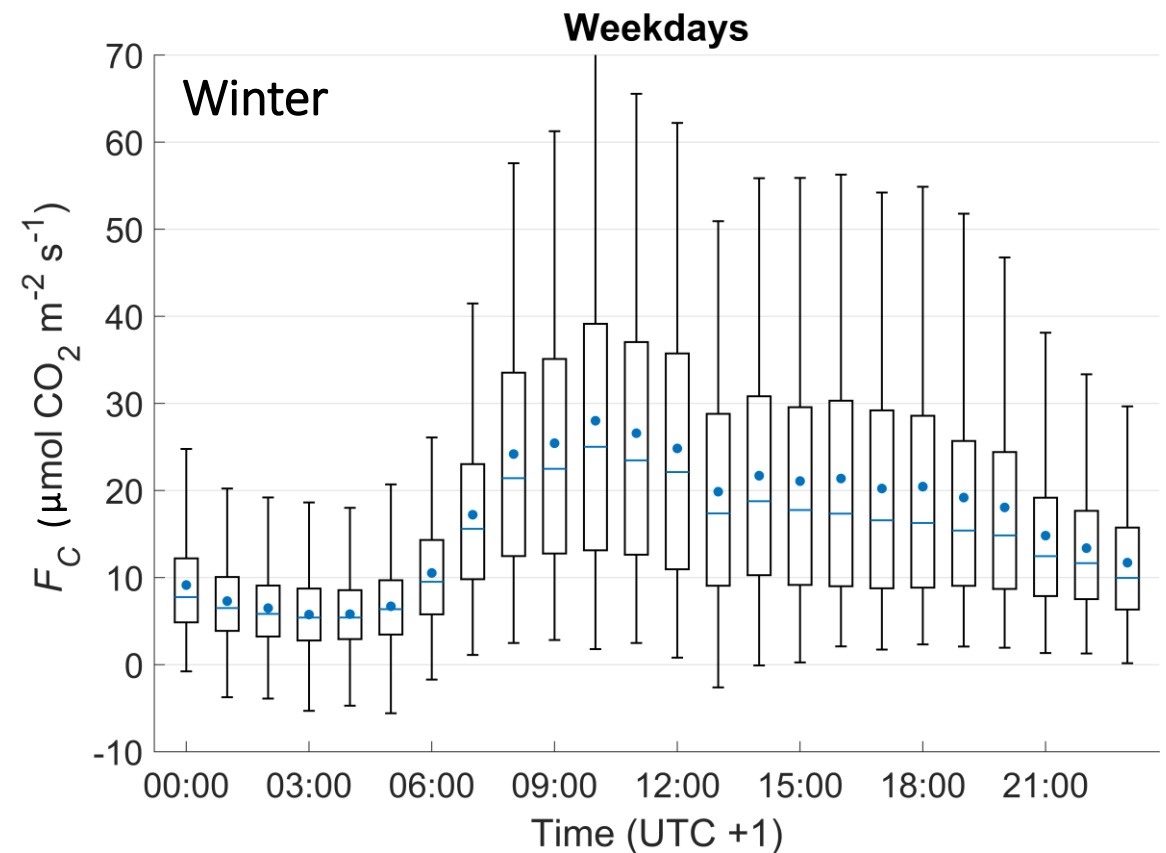
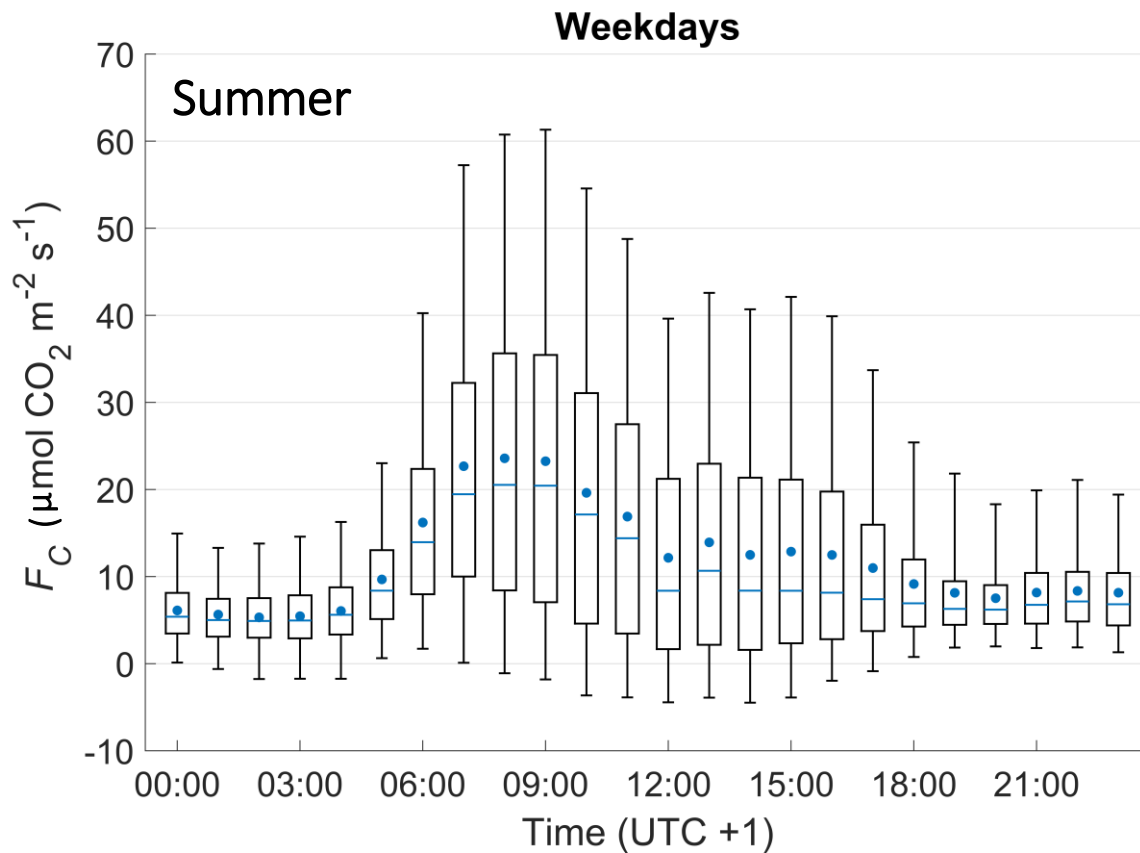
Eddy Covariance

BKLI station (15 years)



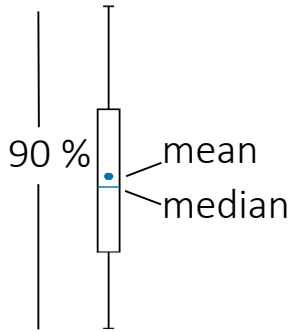
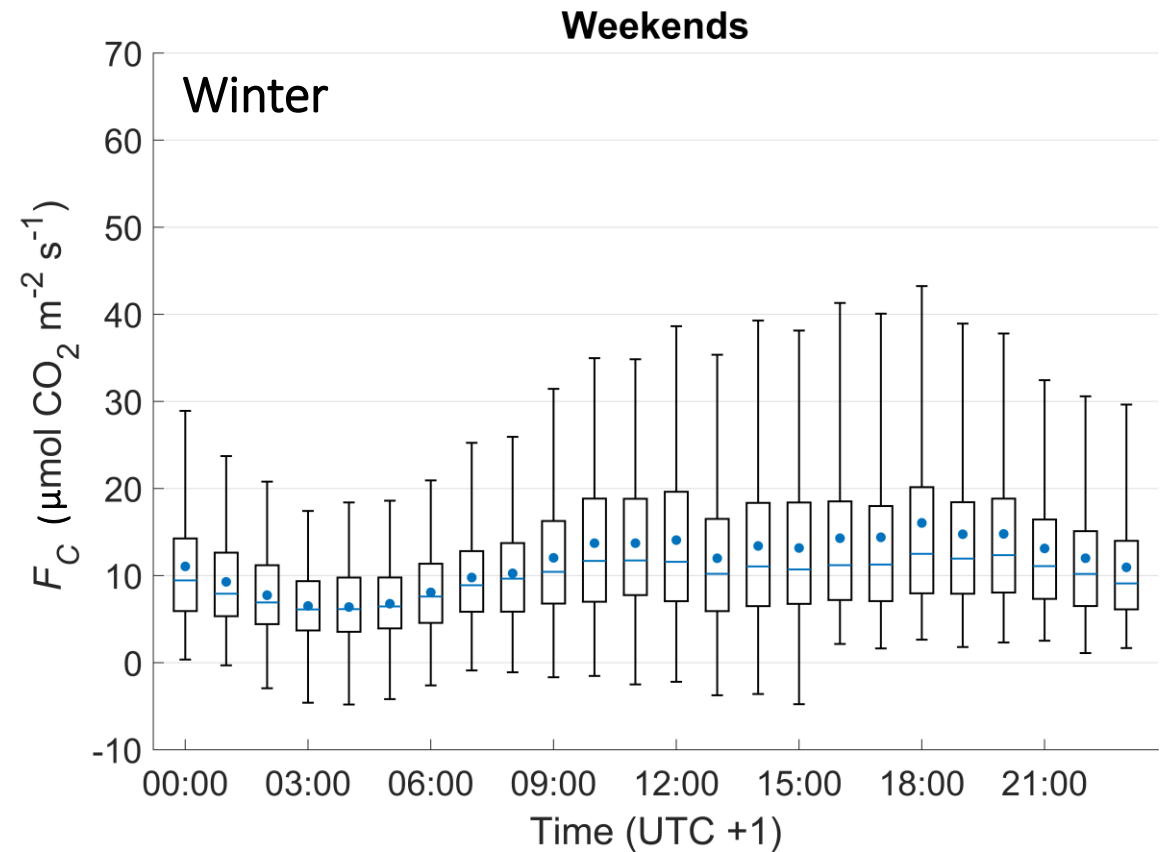
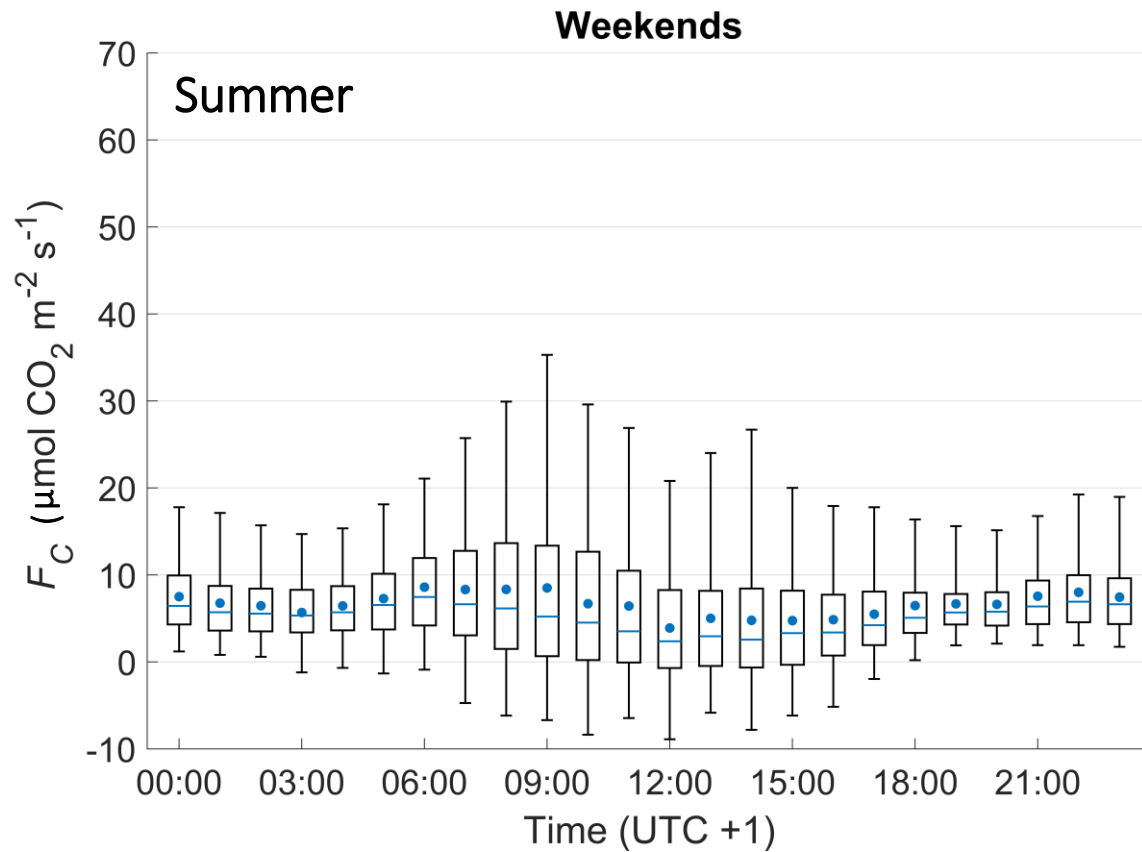
Eddy Covariance

BKLI station (15 years)



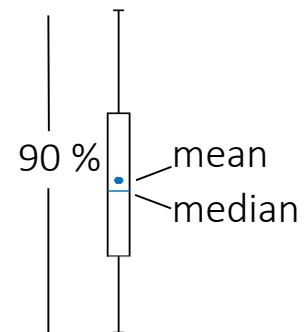
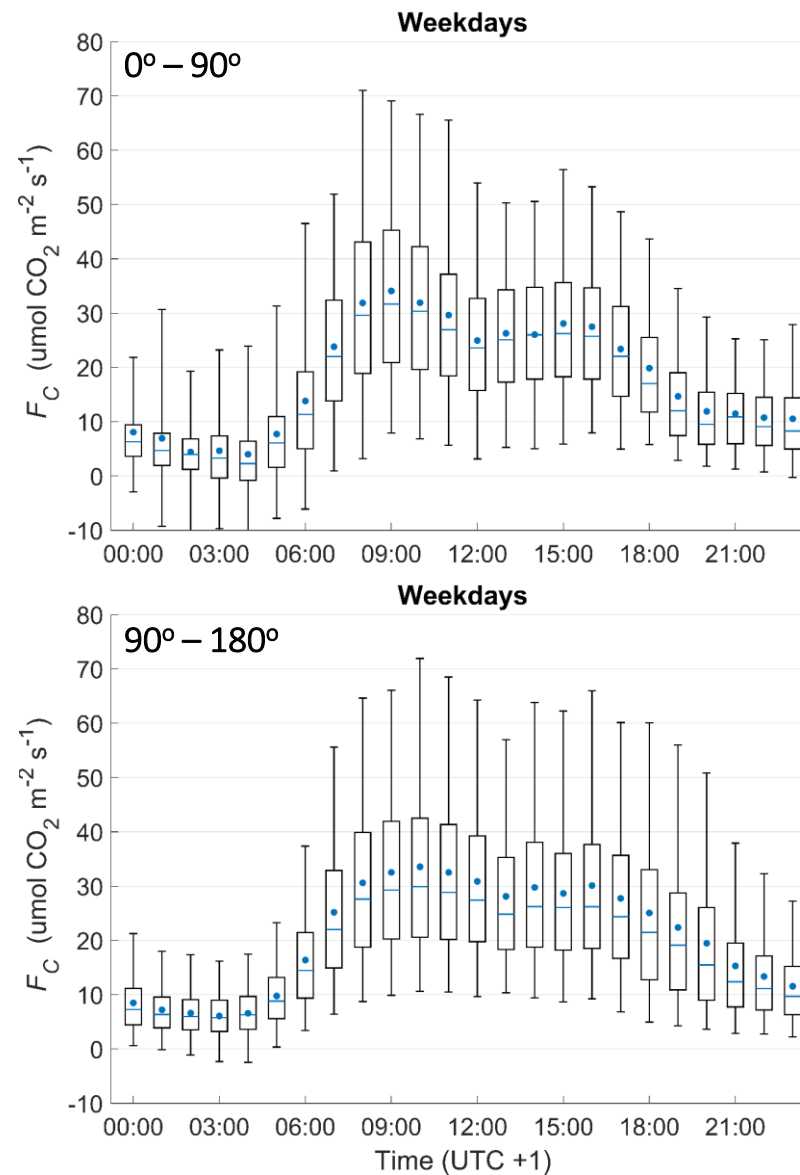
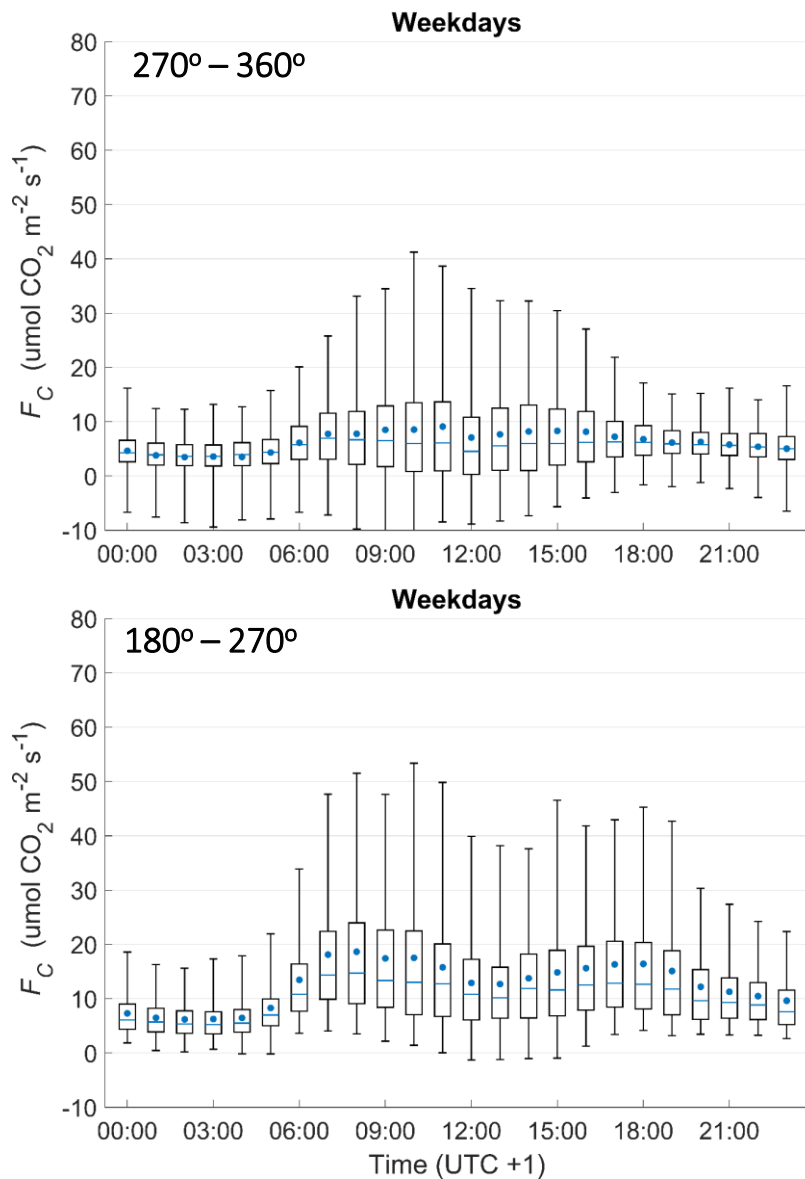
Eddy Covariance

BKLI station (15 years)



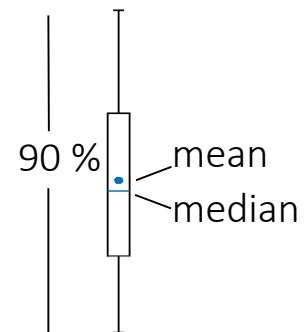
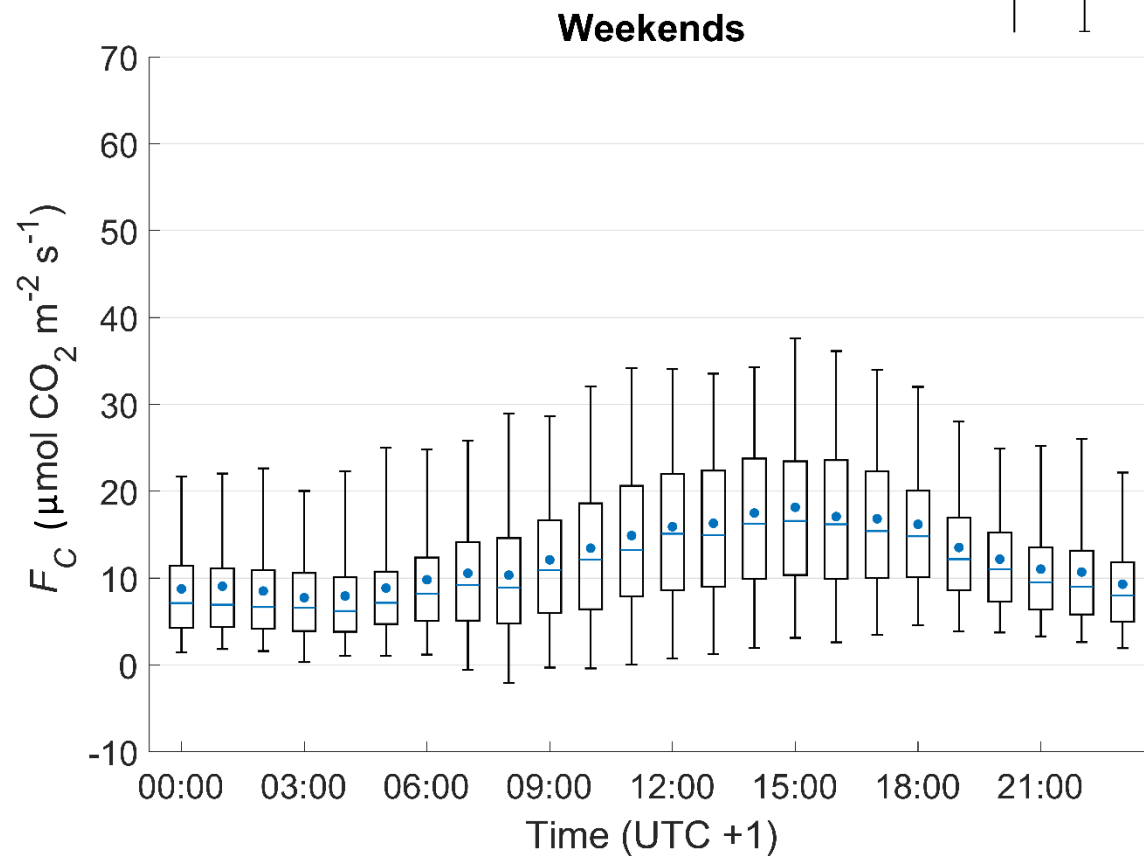
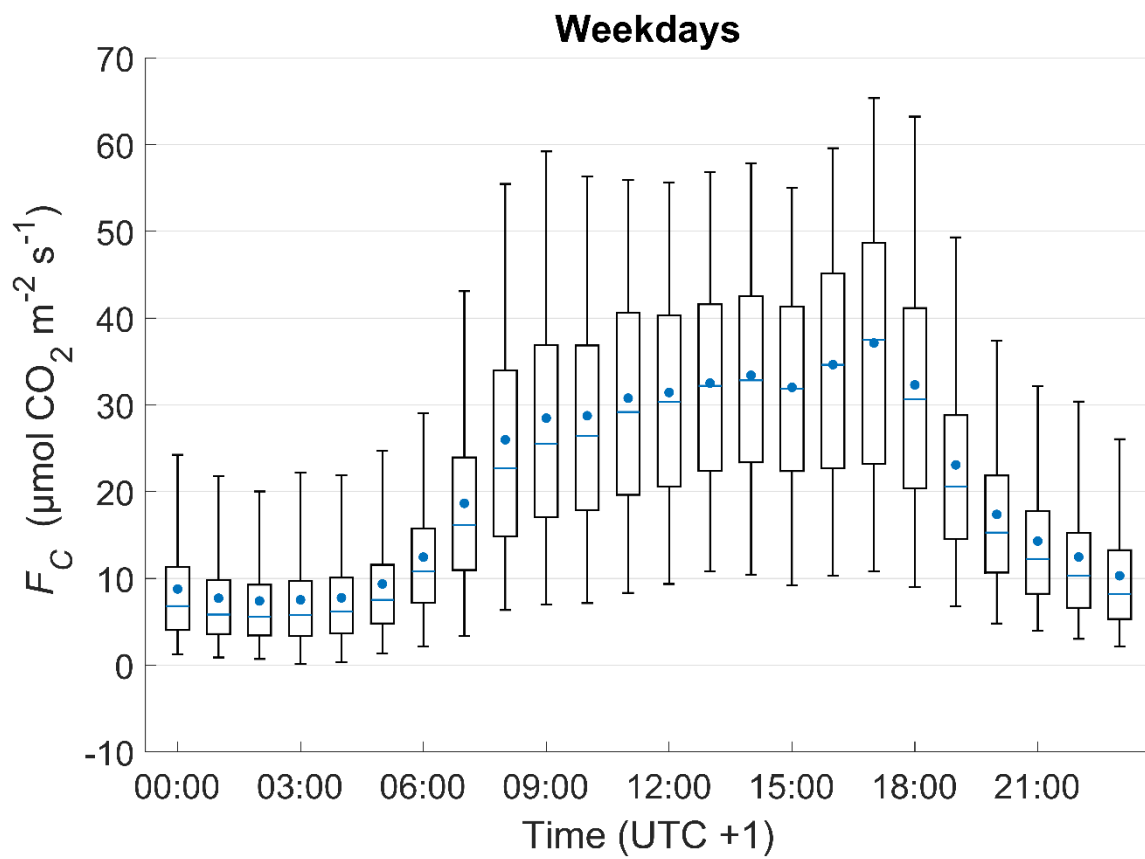
Eddy Covariance

BKLI station (15 years)



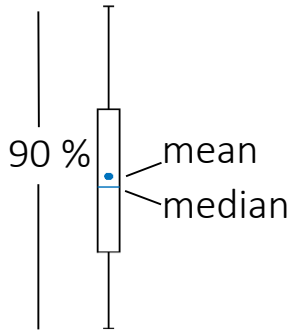
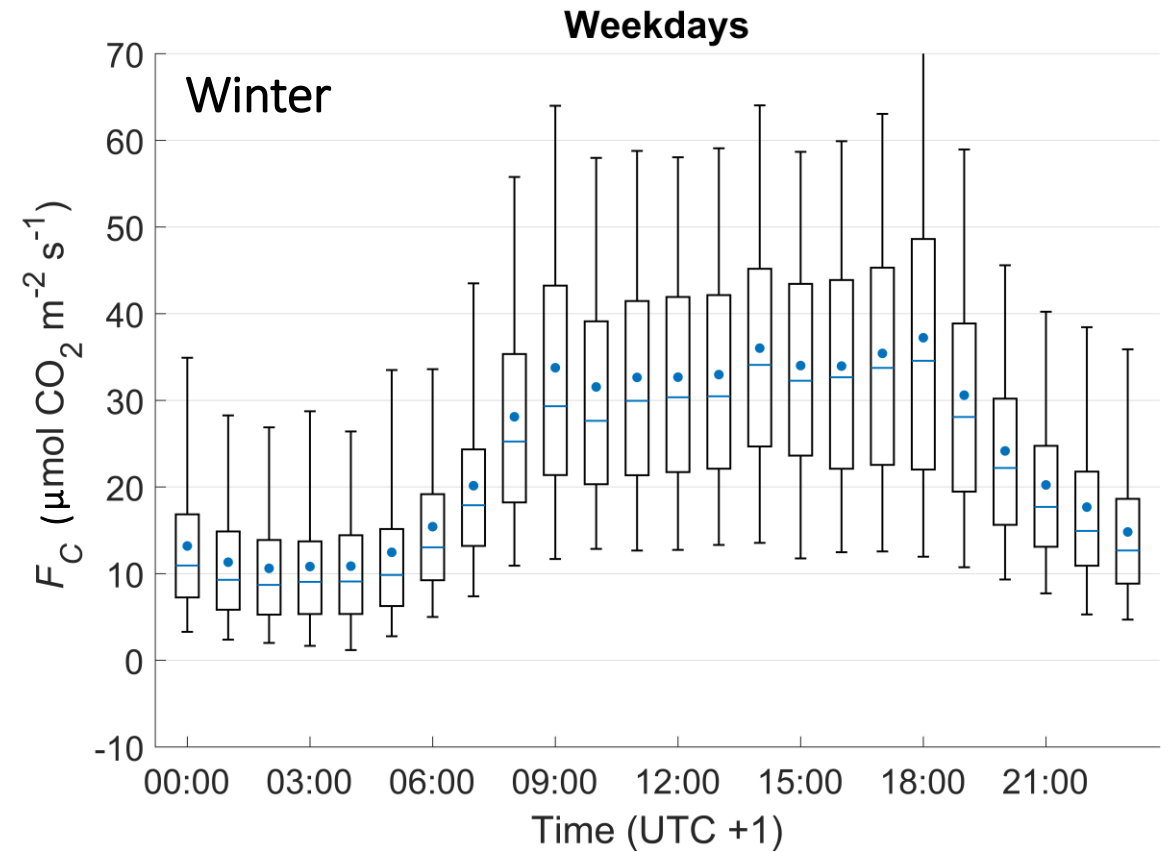
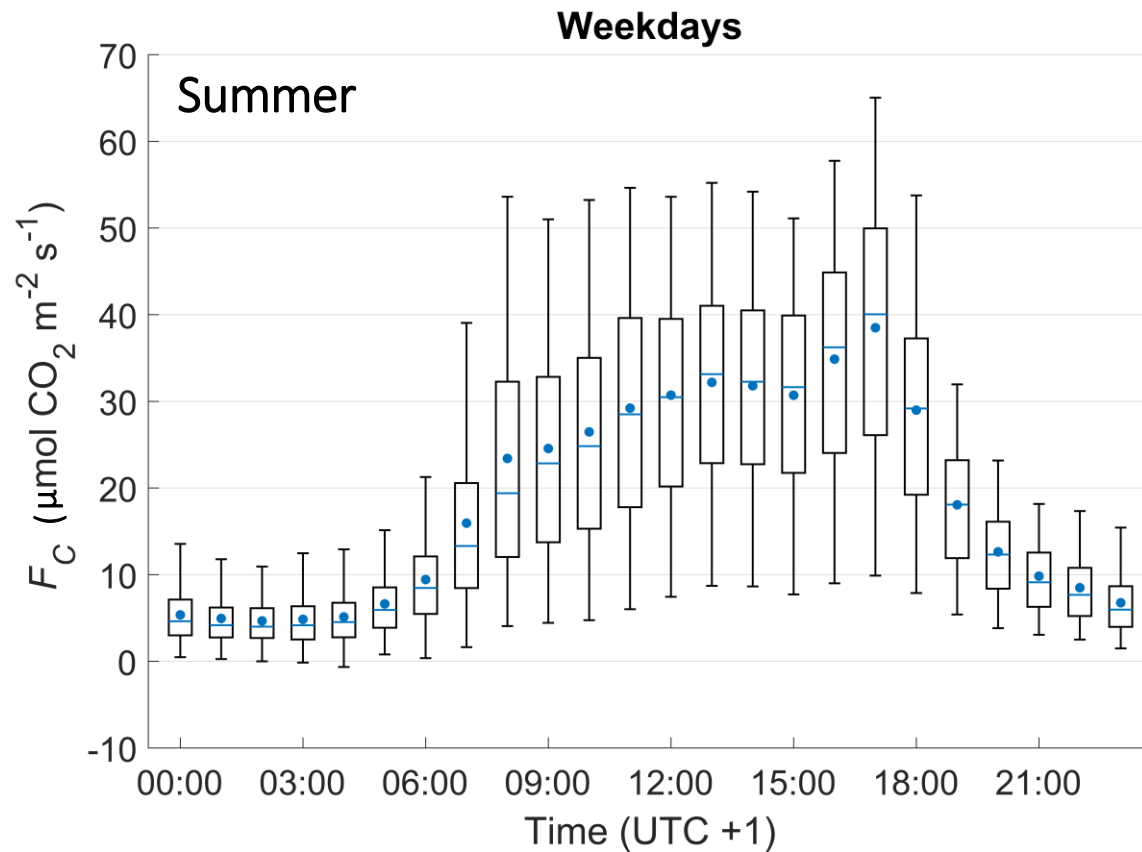
Eddy Covariance

BAES station (10 years)



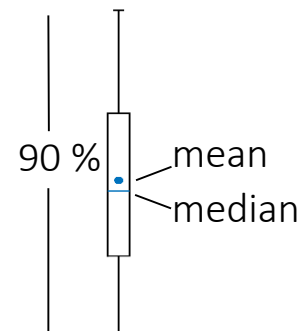
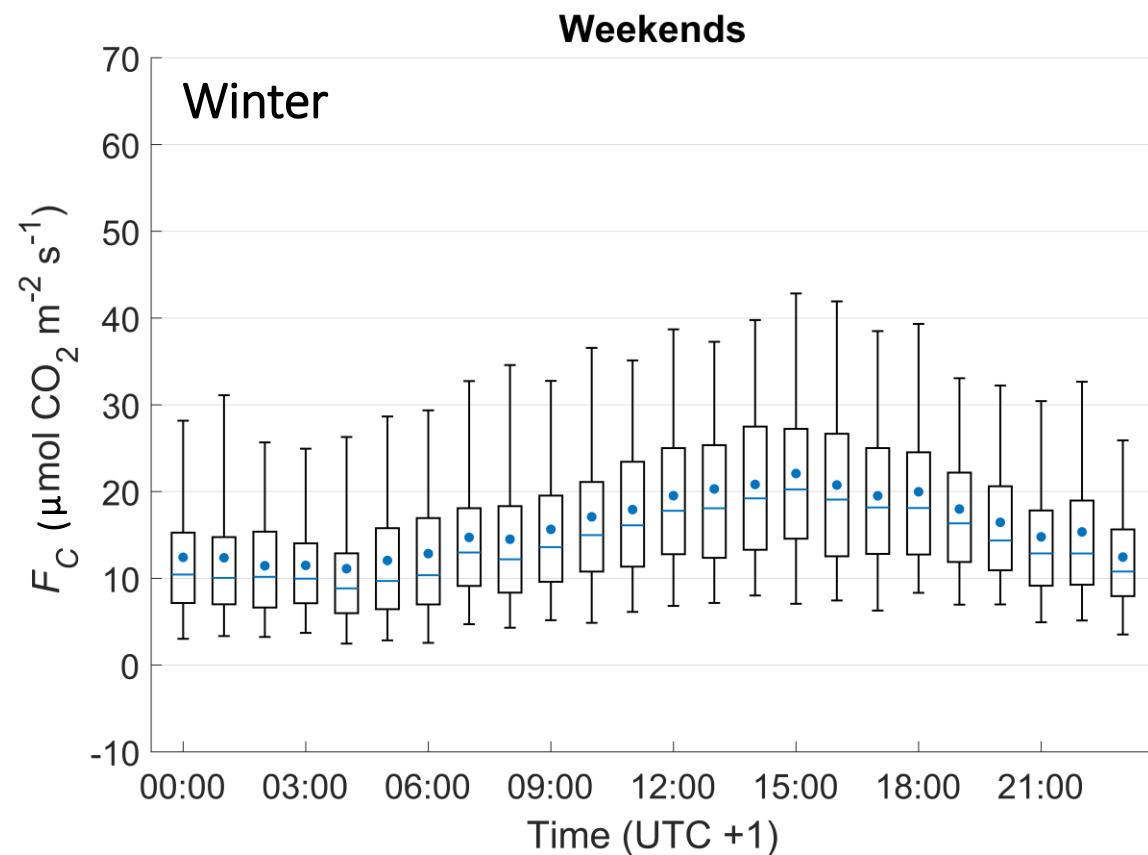
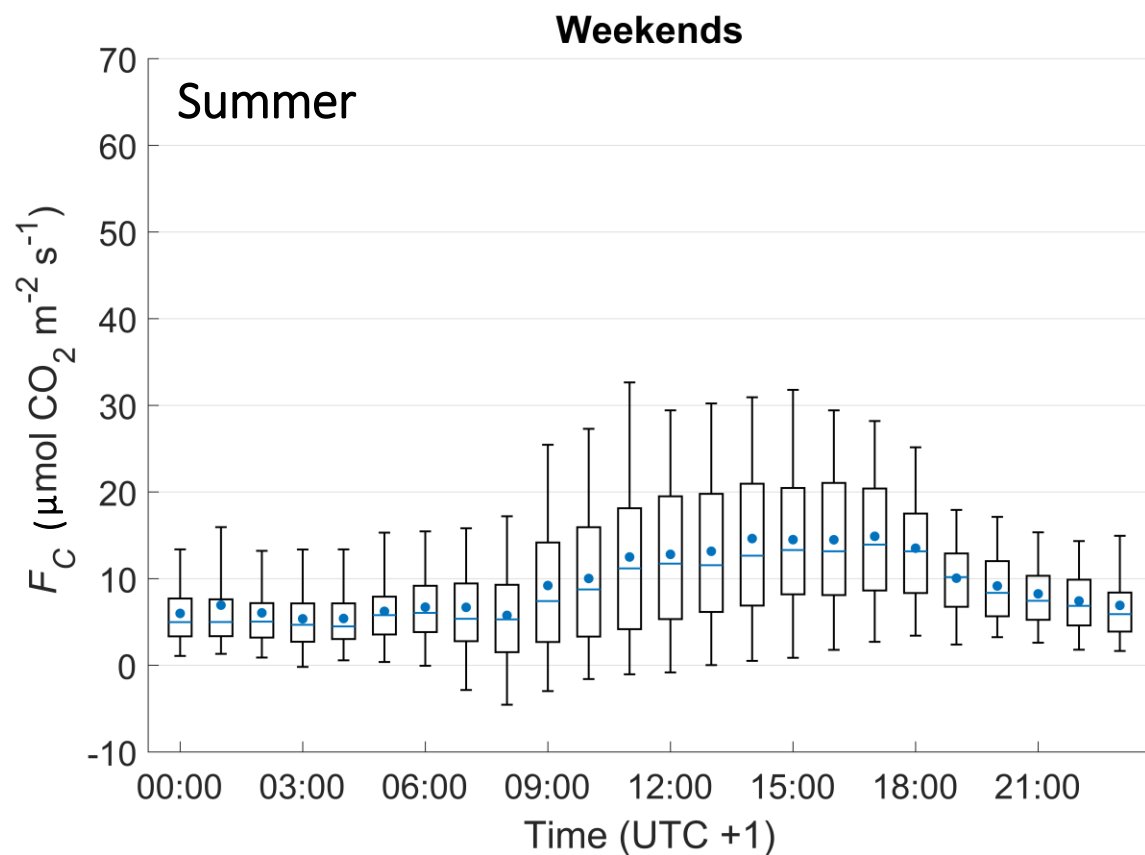
Eddy Covariance

BAES station (10 years)



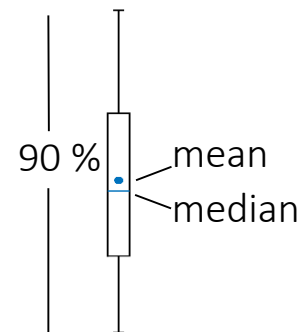
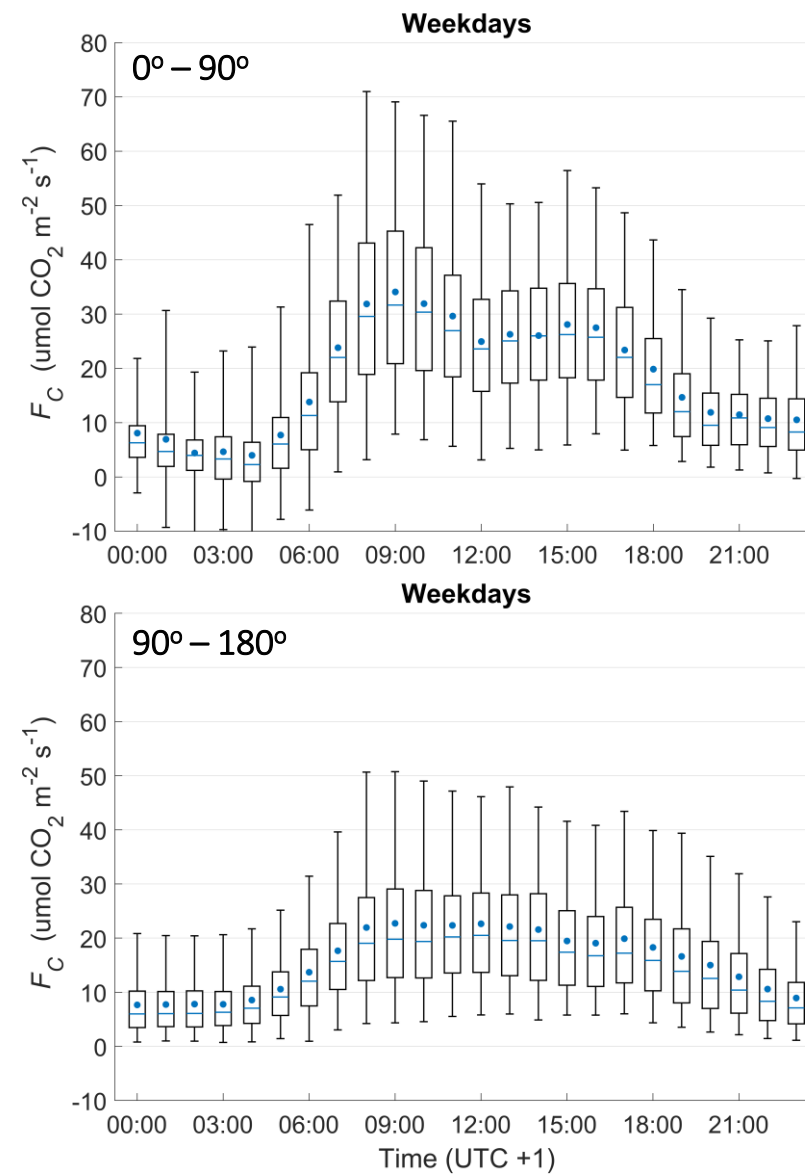
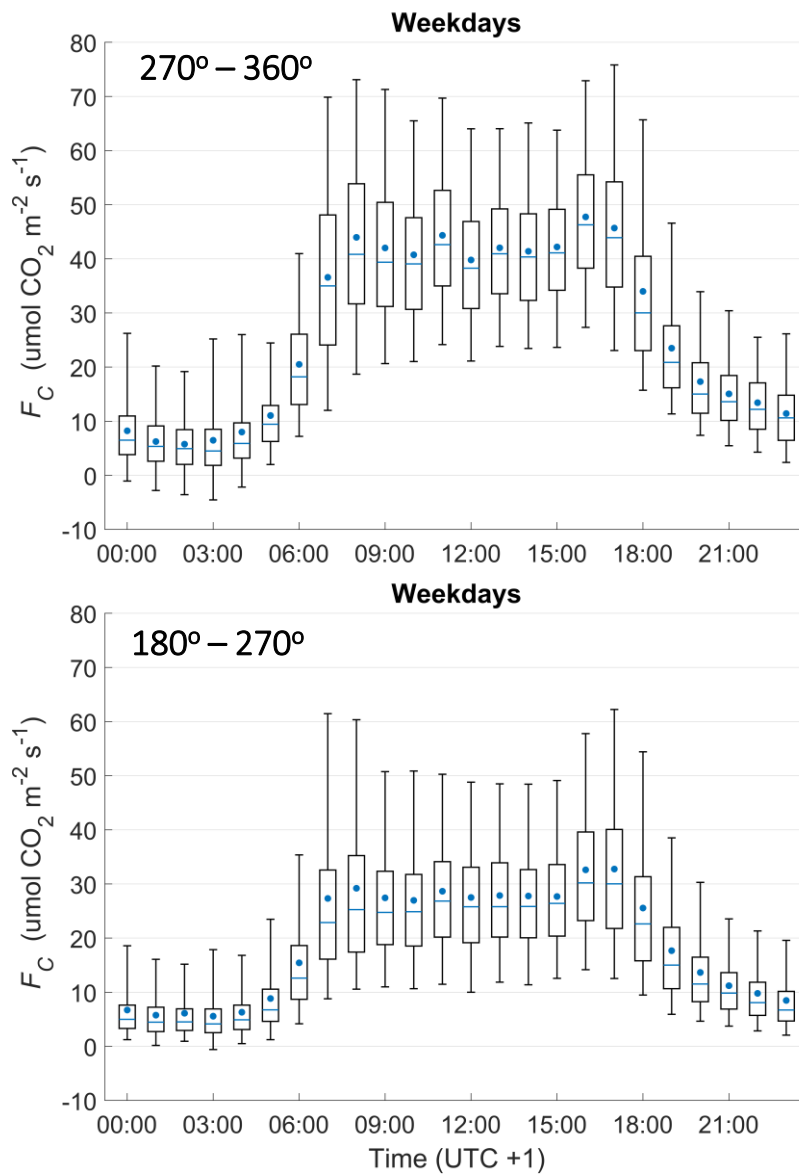
Eddy Covariance

BAES station (10 years)



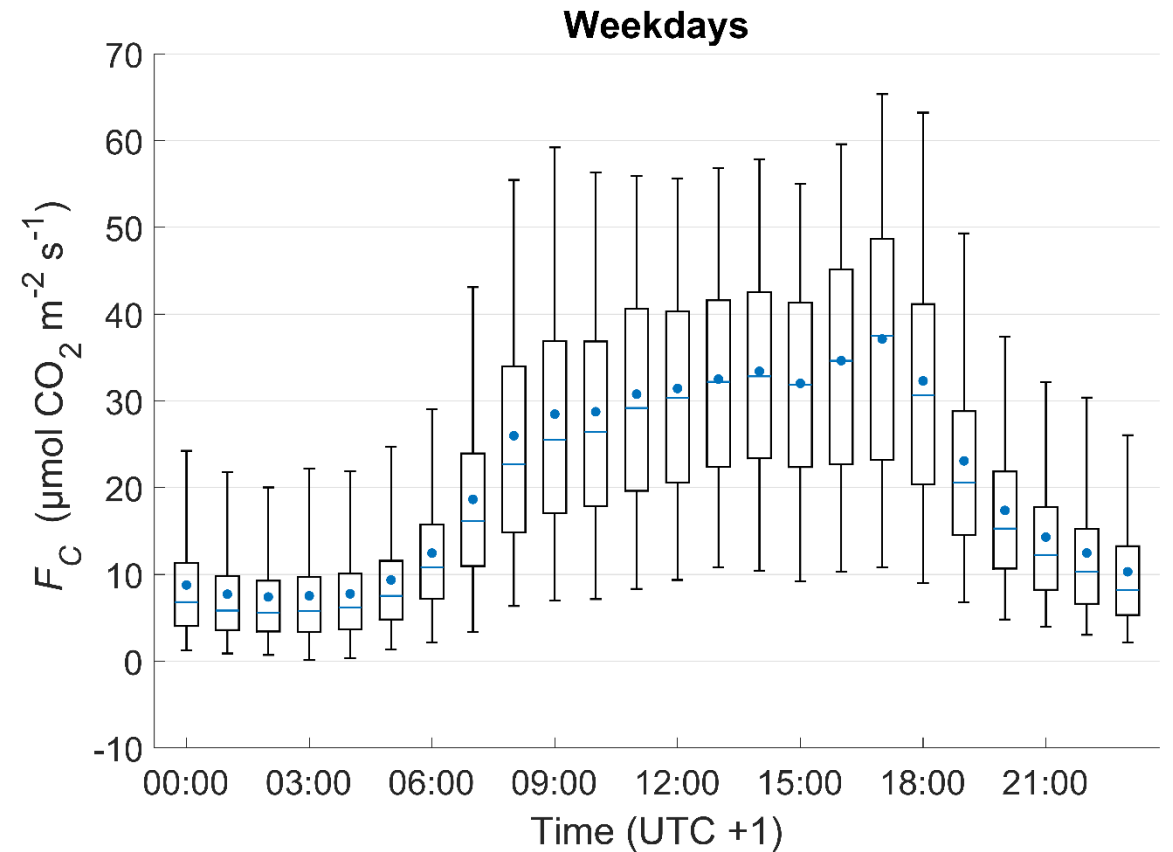
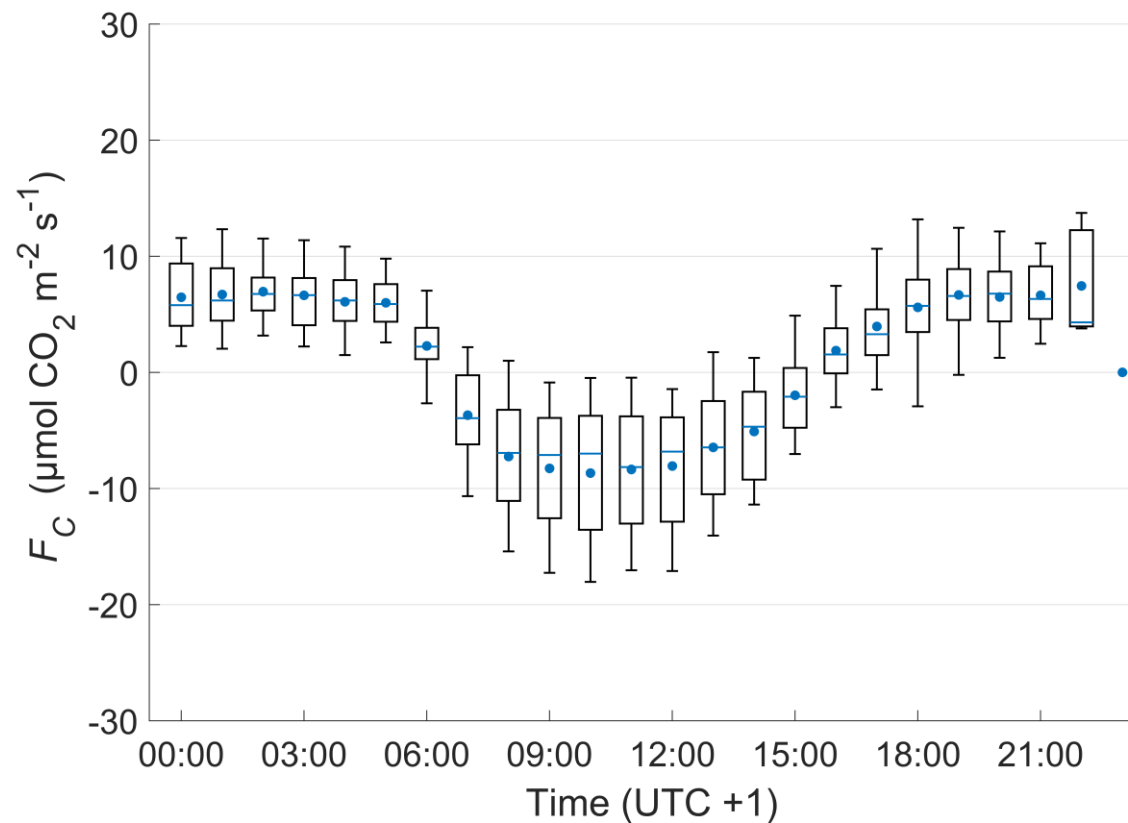
Eddy Covariance

BAES station (10 years)



Eddy Covariance

BLER station (3 months)



Acknowledgements

Atmospheric sciences team!



Thank you for your attention!

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