A topdown and bottomup approach to estimate global carbon cycle

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**Inferring Rs from global terrestrial carbon cycle**

Soil respiration (Rs), consists of heterotrophic respiration (Rh) and autotrophic respiration (Ra), is a major part of global carbon cycle. However, it is still difficult to partition Rs into Ra and Rh in global scale. Here, we presented an indirect method to quantify global Ra and Rh. Based on 251estimates, Ito (2011) found that 56.20 Pg C yr-1 (±1.78, 95% confidence interval calculated from the original data) from 1862 to 2011. When substract carbon consumed by herbivores (Doughty & Field, 2010; Whittaker & Likens, 1973), fire (van der Werf *et al.*, 2010; Crutzen & Andreae, 1990; Gerber *et al.*, 2004; Piao *et al.*, 2009; Zaehle *et al.*, 2005; Mieville *et al.*, 2010; Schultz *et al.*, 2008), land sink (Le Quéré et al., 2015), and carbon washed away and released by freshwater (Cole *et al.*, 2007; Bastviken *et al.*, 2011; Deemer *et al.*, 2016) from NPP, global Rh between 1961 and 2014 can be estimated (Rh = NPP - Herbivores - LandSink - Fire - FreshWater). Based on a global analysis of the relationship between the heterotrophic and autotrophic components of soil respiration (Bond-Lamberty, Wang, & Gower, 2004), Ra to Rh ratio (Ra / Rh) was 0.75 (±0.16, recalculated based on original data from (Bond-Lamberty et al., 2004)), and the global Ra can be estimated through equation: Ra = Rh × 0.75.

This conclusion is supported by the Rs estimate that emerges from quantifying Rs from global flux estimates of other components of the terrestrial carbon cycle. To make this comparison, we evaluated two approaches to partitioning the global carbon cycle from known estimates of the various fluxes and calculated the unknowns (Fig.5, Table S1 and S2). Both gross primary production (GPP, the atmospheric carbon that is synthesized into carbohydrates by plants) and net primary production (NPP, the remainder of C after portions are respired by plants (Ra)) are known quantities, where GPP is 120 Pg C yr-1 (Prentice *et al.* (2007)) and NPP is 56.2 Pg C yr-1 (Ito, 2011). In the first approach, from NPP we substracted carbon stored in the land sink (2.10 ±0.28 Pg C; Le Quéré *et al.* (2015)), burned by fire (3.53 Pg), drained and released to the atmosphere by fresh water (1.9 Pg), and consumed by forest and grassland herbivores (2.2 Pg C) (Fig.5a and Table S1). The remainder was the carbon consumed by soil dwelling hetrotrophic respiration [Rh, 46.47 (±2.06) Pg C yr-1], which does not include aboveground hetrotrophic respiration (Fig.5a). Based on a global analysis of the relationship between the Rh and belowground autotrophic (Rab) components of soil respiration (Bond-Lamberty et al., 2004), we used the ratio Rab/Rh = 0.75 (±0.16) to estimate Rab (35.18 ±8.98 Pg C yr-1) (Fig.5a and Table S1). The sum of Rh and Rab equaled an Rs of 81.86±10.55 Pg C yr-1, very close to the SKT\_MS1 estimate for global Rs (80.99 Pg C yr-1). In the second approach to estimating Rs from the carbon cycle, we substracted the Rh calculated above from GPP to estiamte autrotrophic respiration (Ra), which equaled to 63.80 (± 1.78) Pg C yr-1(Fig.5b). Based on known fractions, we estimated C respired by roots (Rroots = 23.37±3.58 Pg C yr-1), stems (Rstem = 16.01±2.91 Pg C yr-1), and leaves (Rleaf = 24.42±3.71 Pg C yr-1) (Fig.5b). The sum of Rroot and Rh was 69.54 (±5.36) Pg C yr-1, very close to the global annual Rs estimats from the SKT\_HYP\_MS1 model (66.62 to 75.75 Pg C yr-1). In sum, global annual mean Rs estimated by partitioning from global carbon flux ranged from 69.54 (±5.36) Pg C yr-1 to 81.65 (±10.55) Pg C yr-1, very close to the global mean Rs estimated based on the SKT\_HYP model (70.85 Pg C yr-1) and SKT model (80.99 Pg C yr-1).

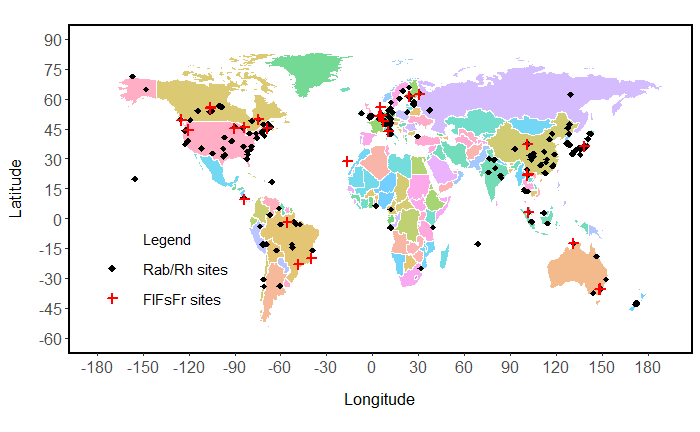


Fig.1 Spatial distribution of Rab/Rh sites from SRDB\_v4 and FlFsFr sites across globe.

**3.3.** **Global carbon cycle and soil respiration**

Here we conducted a summary analysis of global terrestrial carbon cycling to evaluate which estimate from the models close to the real global mean annual soil respiration. Soil respiration consumed the photosynthetic carbon assimilation which was fixed by plant, or called gross primary production (GPP). Plant autotrophic respiration (including fraction of leaf respiration (Fl), fraction of stem respiration (Fs) and fraction of root respiration (Fr)) consumed part of GPP, the left part was called net primary productivity (NPP). Part of NPP consumed by heterotrophic respiration (Rh), other part of NPP was consumed by herbivores, burned by fire or becomes long term carbon storage (carbon sink), and the sum of leaf respiration (Fl) and heterotrophic respiration (Rh) is soil respiration. Theoretically, if we know the pathway of each part of global annual GPP, we can estimate global mean annual soil respiration.

In order to identify the magnitude of global mean annual GPP, we collected 35 literatures reported GPP from 1975 to 2011, the 35 reported GPP range from 71.73 to 183.39 Pg (table 3). The average GPP was 123.55 Pg, which was close to IPCC’s estimation (120 Pg, 3rd assessment). When the lowest estimation (71.73 Pg) and the highest estimation (183.39 Pg) was excluded, the GPP estimations range from 97 to 160.95 Pg (figure 3), and the average was 123.31 Pg.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| E:\VT\MyResearch\17.SRDB\GlobalRsProject1\R\GPPHist.jpg | E:\VT\MyResearch\17.SRDB\GlobalRsProject1\R\GPPTimeTrend.jpg |
| Fig.3 Histogram of the 33 estimates (the highest and lowest GPP estimation were excluded) of gross primary production (a) and temporal change of gross primary production (b). | |

Table 1. Summary of published values on global carbon consumed by fire, herbivores animals and carbon sink by terrestrial ecosystem. Mean (± 95% confidence interval, if available) for each item was obtained or calculated based on data from the paper. N/A means data not available. Rab stands for belowground autotrophic respiration, Rh stands for heterotrophic respiration.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Period** | **Amount (Pg)** | **Reference** |
| NPP (56.20) | 1862-2011 | 56.20 (± 1.78) | (Ito, 2011) |
| Herbivores consumed  (2.20) | N/A | 1.40 (± 0.20) | (Doughty & Field, 2010) |
| N/A | 3.00 | (Whittaker & Likens, 1973) |
| Fire consumed carbon  (3.53) | 1997-2009 | 2.00 | (van der Werf et al., 2010) |
| 1960s | 3.50 (± 1.50) | (Crutzen & Andreae, 1990) |
| N/A | 7.30 | (Gerber et al., 2004) |
| 1901-2002 | 4.00 | (Piao et al., 2009) |
| 1980-2000 | 5.10 | (Zaehle et al., 2005) |
| 1920-1970 | 2.02 | (Mieville et al., 2010) |
| 1970-2010 | 2.71 | (Mieville et al., 2010) |
| 1900-2000 | 3.02 (± 0.30) | (Mouillot, Narasimha, Balkanski, Lamarque, & Field, 2006) |
| 1960-2000 | 2.08 | (Schultz et al., 2008) |
| Land sink carbon (2.10) | 1959-2014 | (2.10± 0.28) | (Le Quéré et al., 2015) |
| Carbon washed away by fresh water (1.90) | N/A | 1.90 | (Cole et al., 2007) |
| N/A | 1.70 | (Bastviken et al., 2011) |
| N/A | 2.10 | (Deemer et al., 2016) |
| Rab / Rh | 1983-2004 | 0.75 (± 0.16) | (Bond-Lamberty et al., 2004) |

Table 4. Summary of global GPP (units: Pg) estimates

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Period** | **GPP (Pg)** | **Trend**  **(Pg yr-1)** | **Reference** | **Notes** |
| 1975 | 71.73 |  | (Box, 1978) | Converted from dry matter |
| 1990-1999 | 120.00 |  | (Ciais et al., 1997) |  |
| 1991 | 133.10 |  | (Ruimy, Dedieu, & Saugier, 1996) | Temperature data was 1991 |
| 1995 | 113.00 |  | (Thompson & Randerson, 1999) |  |
| 1965-1994 | 114.7 |  | (Kucharik, Foley, & Delire, 2000) |  |
| 2000 | 183.39 |  | (Knorr & Heimann, 2001) |  |
| 1953-1999 | 121.5 |  | (AKIHIKO Ito, 2003) |  |
| 1993 | 153.48 |  | (Still, Berry, Collatz, & DeFries, 2003) |  |
| 1961-1998 | 124.70 |  | (Akihiko Ito & OIKAWA, 2004) |  |
| 1990-1999 | 118.00 |  | (Woodward & Lomas, 2004) |  |
| 1971-2000 | 124.60 | 0.44 | (Akihiko Ito, 2005) |  |
| 1997-1999 | 137.40 |  | (Krinner et al., 2005) |  |
| 1980-2000 | 135.70 |  | (Rayner et al., 2005) |  |
| 1992-1999 | 160.95 |  | (Takahiro Sasai, Ichii, Yamaguchi, & Nemani, 2005) | Estimated from figure 3 |
| 1965-2000 | 122.00 |  | (Zeng, Mariotti, & Wetzel, 2005) |  |
| 2001-2003 | 109.29 |  | (Zhao, Heinsch, Nemani, & Running, 2005) |  |
| 1982-2001 | 112.13 | 0.28 | (A Ito & Sasai, 2006) | Average of six estimations |
| 1900-2000 | 125.00 | 0.14 | (R. M. Law, Kowalczyk, & WANGs, 2006) |  |
| 2001-2003 | 113.67 |  | (Zhao, Running, & Nemani, 2006) | Average of ten estimations |
| 2000-2001 | 132.25 |  | (Demarty et al., 2007) | Average of two estimations |
| 2001-2004 | 131.50 |  | (T. Sasai, Okamoto, Hiyama, & Yamaguchi, 2007) |  |
| 2001 | 97.00 |  | (Thornton & Zimmermann, 2007) | Average of D0, D1and P1 |
| 1981-2004 | 124.00 |  | (Qian, Joseph, & Zeng, 2008) |  |
| 2000 | 118.00 |  | (Jacobson & Streets, 2009) |  |
| 2000-2003 | 110.00 |  | (Yangjian Zhang, Xu, Chen, & Adams, 2009) |  |
| 1980-2000 | 139.7 | 0.27 | (Arora et al., 2009) | Exclude data of 1850s |
| 1986-2002 | 129.00 |  | (Alton, 2011) | P-fixed |
| 2001 | 120.00 |  | (Prentice et al., 2007) | IPCC |
| 2000-2011 | 107.00 |  | (Yebra, Van Dijk, Leuning, & Guerschman, 2015) |  |
| 2001-2003 | 118.00 |  | (Ryu et al., 2011) |  |
| 1982-2004 | 117.00 |  | (Bonan et al., 2011) |  |
| 1998-2005 | 123.00 |  | (Beer et al., 2010) |  |
| 1992-2008 | 119.00 |  | (Jung et al., 2011) |  |
| 2000-2003 | 110.50 |  | (Yuan et al., 2010) |  |
| 1970-2000 | 134.00 |  | (Gerber et al., 2004) |  |
| 2000 | 141 |  | (Raddatz et al., 2007) | Figure 7 |
| 2010 | 147.5 |  | (Raddatz et al., 2007) | Figure 7 |
| 1997-2010 | 119 | 0.0181 | (Anav et al., 2015) | Table 3 |
| 1997-2010 | 112 | 0.005 | (Anav et al., 2015) | Table 3 |
| 1997-2010 | 148 | 0.078 | (Anav et al., 2015) | Table 3 |
| 1997-2010 | 147 | 0.417 | (Anav et al., 2015) | Table 3 |
| 1997-2010 | 130 | 0.353 | (Anav et al., 2015) | Table 3 |
| 1997-2010 | 131 | 0.262 | (Anav et al., 2015) | Table 3 |
| 1997-2010 | 149 | 0.621 | (Anav et al., 2015) | Table 3 |
| 1997-2010 | 140 | 0.598 | (Anav et al., 2015) | Table 3 |
| 1997-2010 | 153 | 0.508 | (Anav et al., 2015) | Table 3 |
| 1997-2010 | 169 | 0.454 | (Anav et al., 2015) | Table 3 |
| 2000-2010 | 117 | 0.41 | (M. Chen et al., 2017) | ENSEMBLE |
| 2000-2010 | 112 | 0.28 | (M. Chen et al., 2017) | MODIS |
| 1980-2009 | 162.5 |  | (Welp et al., 2011) | The global damping time constant method |
| **1950-2010** | **128.05** | **0.32** |  | **Average** |

Fig. 1 Terrestrial carbon cycling pathway. Solid filled boxes denote the values are mean (± 95% confidence interval) of data collected from the literature. The dashed boxes denote calculated values. All units are Pg C yr-1. Abbreviations used are as follows: Gross Primary Production (GPP) was from (Prentice et al., 2007), Net Primary Production (NPP), autotrophic respiration (Ra), belowground autotrophic respiration (Rab), root respiration (Rroot), stem respiration (Rstem), leaf respiration (Rleaf), belowground heterotrophic respiration (Rh), and Soil respiration (Rs). Calculation in panel (a): Rh =NPP - Herbivores - Land Sink - Fire - Freshwater. Calculation in panel (b): Ra = GPP - NPP, Rroot = Ra × proportion of Rroot to Ra (0.37), Rstem = Ra × proportion of Rstem to Ra (0.25), Rleaf = Ra × proportion of Rleaf to Ra (0.38). For details and references about each carbon component, please see supplemental material Table S1 and Table S2.

Table 1. Summary of published values on global carbon consumed by fire, herbivores animals and carbon sink by terrestrial ecosystem. Mean (± 95% confidence interval, if available) for each item was obtained or calculated based on data from the paper. N/A means data not available. Rab stands for belowground autotrophic respiration, Rh stands for heterotrophic respiration.

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| 1970-2010 | 2.71 | (Mieville et al., 2010) |
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| N/A | 1.70 | (Bastviken et al., 2011) |
| N/A | 2.10 | (Deemer et al., 2016) |
| Rab / Rh | 1983-2004 | 0.75 (± 0.16) | (Bond-Lamberty et al., 2004) |

Table 2 Summary of papers separate leaf respiration fraction (Fl), stem respiration fraction (Fs) and root respiration fraction (Fr). N/A means data not available.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Fl** **(**%) | **Fs (**%) | **Fr (**%) | **Vegetation type** | **Reference** |
| 50.00 |  |  | Tropical forest | (Allen & Lemon, 1976) |
| 53.00 | 35.00 | 12.00 | Tropical forest | (Yoda, 1983) |
| 55.00 |  |  | Warm-temperate forest | (Yoda, 1978) |
| 28.00 | 26.00 | 46.00 | Temperate deciduous forest | (Edwards, Shugart, McLaughlin, Harris, & Reichle, 1981) |
| 33.50 | 39.40 | 29.00 | Pinus radiata trees | (Michael G Ryan, Hubbard, Pongracic, Raison, & Murtrie, 1996) |
| 31.60 | 39.40 | 29.00 | Forest in northern Manitob, Canada | (M. G. Ryan, Lavigne, & Gower, 1997) |
| 43.17 | 34.53 | 22.30 | Forest in Central Saskatchewa, Canada | (M. G. Ryan et al., 1997) |
| 32.92 | 13.60 | 53.48† | Pine forest | (B. E. Law, Ryan, & Anthoni, 1999) |
|  | | 24.92 | Crop | (Suleau et al., 2011) |
|  | | 46.70 | Young Beech forest | (Granier et al., 2000) |
| 23.30 | 6.70 | 70.00 | Tropical savanna | (X. Chen, Hutley, & Eamus, 2003) |
| 24.40 | 18.28 | 57.32† | Deciduous forest | (Bolstad, Davis, Martin, Cook, & Wang, 2004) |
| 31.27 | 26.01 | 42.72 | Hardwood forest | (Curtis et al., 2005) |
|  | | 29.01 | Spruce-dominated forest | (Davidson, Richardson, Savage, & Hollinger, 2006) |
|  | | 34.78 | Temperate forest | (Nagy, Janssens, Curiel Yuste, Carrara, & Ceulemans, 2006) |
|  | | 49.04 | Rain forest | (Yiping Zhang et al., 2006) |
|  | | 36.43† | Douglas Fir | (Jassal et al., 2007) |
| 46.22 | 17.07 | 36.71† | Scots Pine | (Zha, Xing, Wang, Kellomaki, & Barr, 2007) |
| 38.10 | 26.33 | 35.57 | Eucalyptus forest | (Keith et al., 2009) |
| 41.49 | 12.04 | 46.47† | Scots pine forest | (Kolari et al., 2009) |
| 50.51 | 21.21 | 28.28 | Amazonian forests | (Malhi et al., 2009) |
| 24.86 | 25.15 | 49.99 | Pine forest | (Wieser et al., 2009) |
|  | | 36.21 | Alpine meadow | (P. Zhang, Tang, Hirota, Yamamoto, & Mariko, 2009) |
| 50.00 | 15.45 | 34.55 | Black spruce forest | (Hermle, Lavigne, Bernier, Bergeron, & Paré, 2010) |
| 22.96 | 34.31 | 42.73† | Brazil Eucalyptus | (Michael G. Ryan et al., 2010) |
| 55.52 | 19.42 | 25.06 | Rain forest | (Tan et al., 2010) |
|  | | 23.55 | Maize | (Jans et al., 2010) |
| 30.70 | 43.15 | 26.15† | Eucalyptus plantation | (Campoe, Stape, Laclau, Marsden, & Nouvellon, 2012) |
|  | | 24.00† | Mediterranean pine forest | (Matteucci et al., 2015) |
| **38.27****(±2.54)** | **25.10(****±2.49)** | **36.63(±2.48)** | **Average** |  |

Label † means that root respiration was estimated from model: RA0.5 = -7.97 + 0.93Rs0.5 (units: g c m-2 yr-1). (Bond-Lamberty et al., 2004).

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