

The impact of forest management on the temperature sensitivity of SOC decomposition in a forest gradient from mediterranean to boreal

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Abstract

Background: Provide context and rationale for your study. Briefly explain the problem or gap in knowledge that your research addresses.

Methods: Summarize your experimental design, key methods, and analytical approaches used in the study.

Results: Present the main findings of your research, including key quantitative results and statistical significance where applicable.

Conclusions: State the main conclusions and their broader implications. Highlight the significance of your findings and potential applications.

Keywords: keyword1, keyword2, keyword3, keyword4, keyword5

1. Introduction

1.1. Background and Rationale

1.2. Objectives and Hypotheses

Clearly state your research objectives and hypotheses. For example:

- **Primary objective:** To investigate the relationship between X and Y
- **Secondary objectives:** To evaluate Z and assess W
- **Hypothesis:** We hypothesize that X will significantly affect Y under conditions Z

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Holisoils project introduction

HoliSoils - Holistic management practices, modelling and monitoring for European forest soils, is an EU funded project (Horizon 2020, Grant Agreements number 101000289), completed in October 2026, with the main aim to develop a harmonised soil monitoring framework.

More specifically, the project aimed at developing a consistent knowledge framework of soil properties, processes, biodiversity and soil microbiota activity, in connection with soil-based ecosystem services (wood production, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, water supply, soil nutrient retention, avoidance of land degradation), particularly in connection with different management approaches. Modeling was another of the focuses, specifically improving current models and harmonise them into a monitoring framework for estimating ecosystem fluxes. Directly connected with the modeling activity, the project developed a set of standardised sampling and monitoring protocols shared among all actors for greenhouse gas (GHG) reporting. These were used across multiple sampling campaigns across three consecutive years in different locations over Europe, and results have been

collected in a comprehensive database of GHG measurements together with additional edaphic and ecological variables.

2.1.1 Actors and nations involved

The project involved a consortium of 20 project partners, 18 from EU and partners from South America (Uruguay) and Asia (Japan):

- Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luonnonvarakeskus), Luke, Finland
- Institute of Microbiology of the Czech Academy of Sciences (Mikrobiologický ústav AV ČR, v. v. i.), IMIC, Czech Republic
- French National Centre for Scientific Research (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique Research institute), CNRS, France
- Johann Heinrich von Thünen Institute (Johann Heinrich von Thünen-Institut Research institute), TI, Germany
- Basque Centre for Climate Change (Asociacion BC3 Basque Centre for Climate Change Klima Aldaketa Ikergai), BC3, Spain
- Vrije University Amsterdam (Stichting VU University), VU, Netherlands
- European Forest Institute, EFI, Finland
- Wageningen Research Foundation (Stichting Wageningen), WR, Netherlands
- International Soil Reference Information Centre (Stichting International Soil Reference Information Centre), ISRIC, Netherlands
- Stockholm University (Stockholms Universitet), SU, Sweden
- Transylvania University of Brașov (Universitatea Transilvania din Brașov), UTBV, Romania
- University of Barcelona (Universitat de Barcelona), UB, Spain

- University of Aberdeen (The University Court of The University of Aberdeen), UNI-ABDN, UK
- Vytautas Magnus University (Vytauto Didziojo universitetas), VMU, Lithuania
- Aix-Marseille University (Aix-Marseille Université), AMU, France
- Technical University of Munich (Technische Universität München), TUM, Germany
- Technical University in Zvolen (Technická univerzita vo Zvolene University), TUZVO, Slovakia
- Forest Science & Technology Centre of Catalonia (Centre de Ciència i Tecnologia Forestal de Catalunya), CTFC, Spain
- National Institute for Agricultural Research (Instituto Nacional de Investigación Agropecuaria), INIA, Uruguay
- Forestry & Forest Products Research Institute, FFPRI, Japan

2.1.2 The greenhouse gas management effort and how it connects to other parts of the project

2.2. Sites and study design

2.2.1 Sites and treatments

Trenching In most sites all treatments have both control and trenched subtreatments. The aim of the trenching is to remove all autotrophic respiration from the total soil respiration. Threnching areas were established (on an area of approximately 2 square meters) by digging trenches at a depth of approximately 30-40 cm and then placing root exclusion fabric around the trenched area. The fabric had around 50 m mesh size, which prevents roots but allows mychorizae to penetrate the area, as well as water.

2.2.2 Sampling

Soil CO₂ from control and trenched locations was measured approximately every second week with closed chambers and gas concentration analyzers (see 2.2.2), basing the flux estimate on the linear regression of the concentration increase over time. Measurement points for the soil chambers have been established with metal or plastic collars, or in some cases (organic soils) by installing the chamber deeper into the soil, to ensure that there was not air flow between the chamber and the atmosphere.

Devices

Covariates Soil temperature and in some cases moisture have been recorded in the upper layer (5-10 cm) with various commercially available sensors.

2.3. The database

2.3.1 Organization of the published dataset

The database is published as a static resource on Zenodo (ADD LINK HERE!!!!!!).

The dataset is structured in folders, each corresponding to one site. Inside each folder, there are subfolders corresponding to the measurement series. Each measurement series is a sampling campaign, during which each instrument was started and run several samplings of multiple plots. Inside each series subfolder there are Apache feather files corresponding to each single measurement. Apache Feather is an open columnar binary file format designed for fast data interchange between different programming languages, particularly Python and R. It provides efficient serialization and deserialization of dataframes with minimal overhead, which makes it ideal for storing a large number of relatively small files.

Each feather file, so each measurement, is associated to a line in the metadata file in each site folder. This contains also the respiration fluxes estimated automatically. The estimates were in some cases trimmed manually by the uploading operators, who selected

the window in the time series on which to perform the regression to calculate the fluxes. In other cases, when the operator did not select a manual trimming window, the trimming was done automatically. The metadata files are then collected together in one single general file in the root folder of the dataset ("All_{sites}.csv"), where the analyses in this study were performed.

The dataset is distributed with both calculated flux values and raw measurements in case the user of the database would want to develop own flux estimation approaches.

2.3.2 Automatic trimming logic

Jani to write this.

2.3.3 Dataset fields and units

A table here, to write together with Jani

2.3.4 Descriptive analysis of the data

Recoding of the treatments

2.4. Modeling SOC decomposition dependency on climate

Provide detailed protocols that would allow others to reproduce your work. Use subsections for different experimental approaches:

2.5. The model

2.5.1 The Bayesian framework

2.6. Implementation and hardware

3. Results

3.0.1 Descriptive analysis

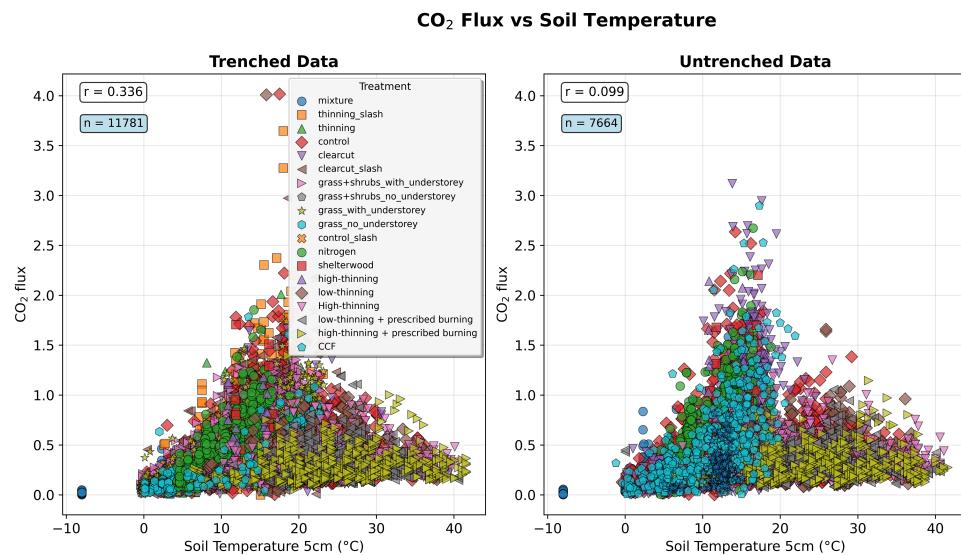


Figure 1: Example figure caption. Describe what the figure shows, including experimental conditions, sample sizes, and statistical tests. Error bars represent standard error of the mean.
* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$.

Soil respiration and temperature

CO₂ Flux vs Soil Moisture

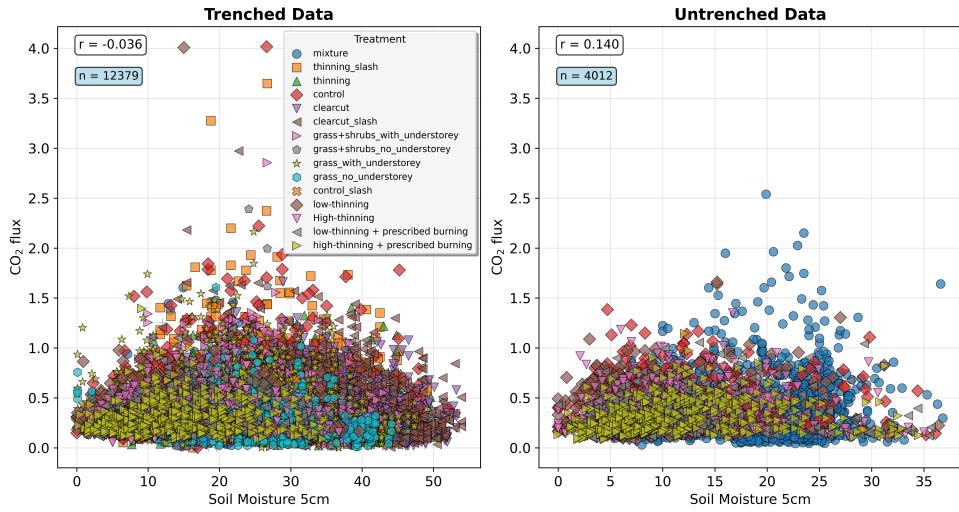


Figure 2: Example figure caption. Describe what the figure shows, including experimental conditions, sample sizes, and statistical tests. Error bars represent standard error of the mean. * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$.

Soil respiration and moisture

Soil Temperature vs Soil Moisture: Trenched vs Untrenched Data

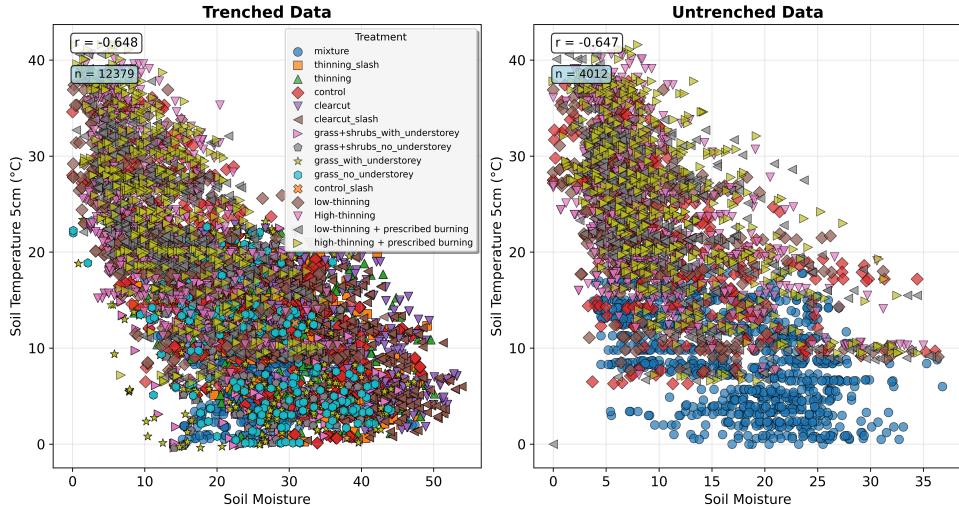


Figure 3: Example figure caption. Describe what the figure shows, including experimental conditions, sample sizes, and statistical tests. Error bars represent standard error of the mean. * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$.

Moisture and temperature interactions

Autotrophic and heterotrophic fluxes

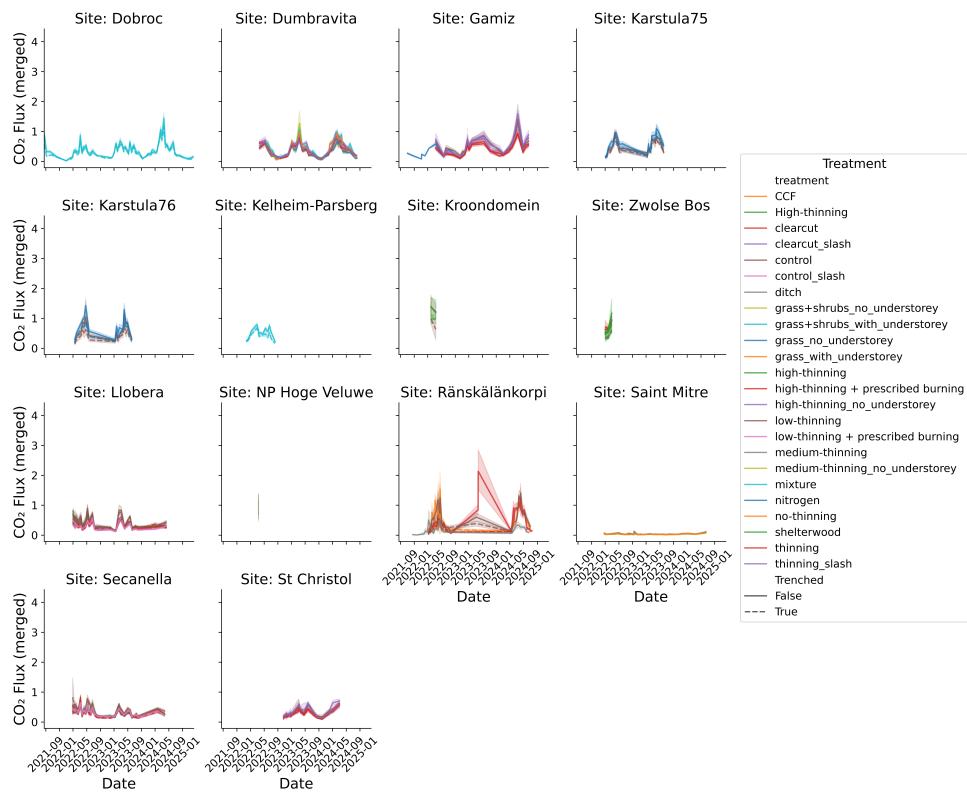


Figure 4: Example figure caption. Describe what the figure shows, including experimental conditions, sample sizes, and statistical tests. Error bars represent standard error of the mean. * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$.

Moisture and temperature interactions

3.0.2 Modeling analysis

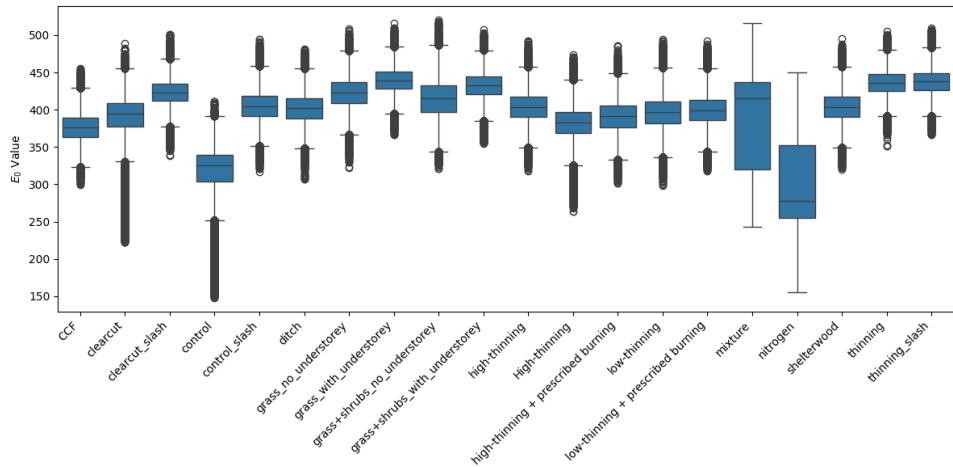


Figure 5: Example figure caption. Describe what the figure shows, including experimental conditions, sample sizes, and statistical tests. Error bars represent standard error of the mean.
 $*p < 0.05$, $**p < 0.01$.

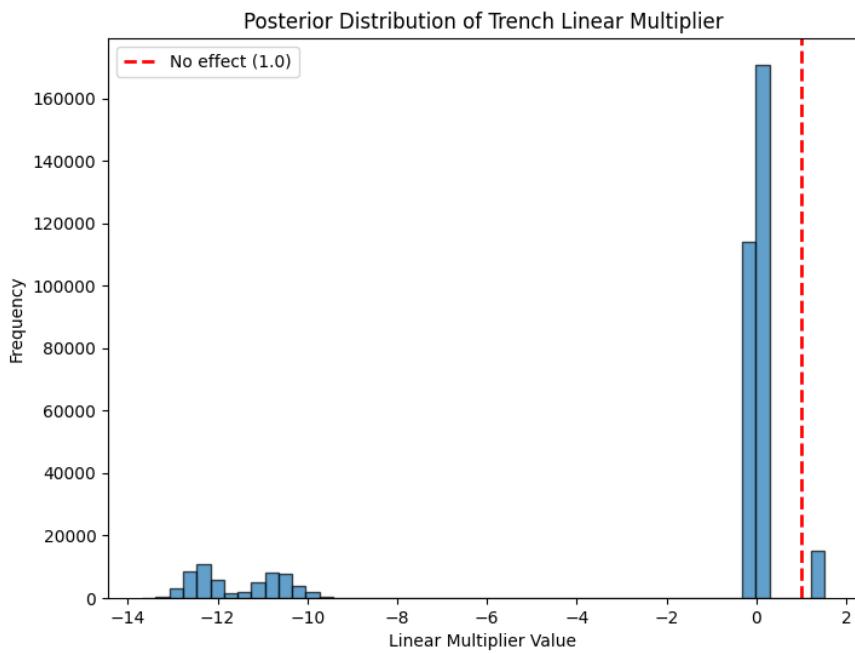


Figure 6: Example figure caption. Describe what the figure shows, including experimental conditions, sample sizes, and statistical tests. Error bars represent standard error of the mean.
 $*p < 0.05$, $**p < 0.01$.

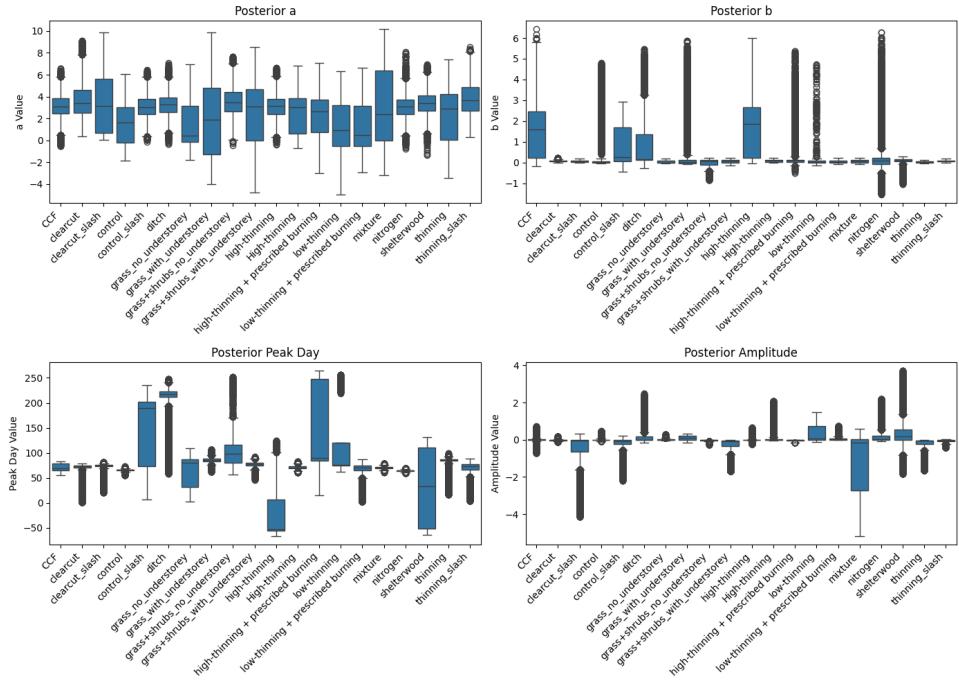


Figure 7: Example figure caption. Describe what the figure shows, including experimental conditions, sample sizes, and statistical tests. Error bars represent standard error of the mean. * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$.

4. Discussion

4.1. Interpretation of Results

4.2. Limitations

4.3. Implications and Future Directions

5. Conclusions

Summarize the key findings and their significance. Avoid simply repeating the abstract; instead, provide a synthesis that emphasizes the contribution of your work to the field.

Acknowledgments

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Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

Data Availability Statement

The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request [or specify repository/database where data are deposited].