Global Oil-Gas and Coal Methane Emissions Behaviour Measured by the GHGSat Constellation

Dylan

Jervis

GHGSat

Marianne Girard (GHGSat)

Jean-Philippe MacLean (GHGSat)

Jason McKeever (GHGSat)

Antoine Ramier (GHGSat)

Mathias Strupler (GHGSat)

Ewan Tarrant (GHGSat)

David Young (GHGSat)

Oral

The current GHGSat satellite constellation retrieves the methane column density over an area of ~100,000 square km per day at 25 m spatial resolution and 100 kg/hr emission rate detection sensitivity. This coverage allows us to estimate the annually averaged emission rates and temporal behaviour from Oil-gas and Coal point sources around the world, providing a complementary picture to the regional emission inversion estimates of global flux mappers.

For the 16 months between June 2022 to September 2023, the GHGSat constellation estimated 8.7 Mt/yr worth of methane emissions from 2,110 distinct sites and 11,713 plumes, representing ~11% of the global estimated total emissions from Oilgas and Coal combined. The temporal behaviour of emissions is measured with Oilgas and Coal sites found to be emitting 13% and 50% of the time, respectively, above GHGSat's ~100 kg/hr detection threshold, with a similar persistence distribution for each sector across continents. When comparing our gridded emissions estimates to the Global Fuel Exploitation Inventory (GFEI) at GHGSat observed areas and 0.2 deg x 0.2 deg resolution, we find that GHGSat estimated emission fluxes represent 37% and 32% of the emissions estimated by GFEI for the Oil-gas and Coal sectors, respectively, though with relatively weak spatial correlation between grid cells (Pearson correlation coefficient of ρ =0.08 and 0.48 for Oil-gas and Coal, respectively). Finally, we present GHGSat estimated emissions at the country level and compare against the national totals reported by the UNFCCC. Meeting homepage

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