

Global carbon modeling using GOSAT observations

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The Greenhouse gases Observing SATellite (GOSAT) was launched on January 2009 to measure spatiotemporal variations of column carbon dioxide (CO₂) and methane (CH₄) concentrations from space. The GOSAT measurements provide uniform global coverage and thus show a standardized distribution and CO₂ and CH₄ concentrations over the globe, allowing an assessment of potential impact of climate change on the CO₂ and CH₄ budgets. Here we show how drought events influence CH₄ emission in the Amazon region by using the GOSAT observation, as a case study to examine utilization of earth explore satellites for advancing our understanding of the global carbon cycle and for distinguishing emission sources from the atmospheric concentrations. The GOSAT mission can be considered as a demonstrator for discussing future missions of greenhouse gas observing satellites.

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