



# Atmospheric methane emission from mining areas and its significance.

**Justyna SWOLKIEN**

AGH University of Science and  
Technology  
Faculty of Mining and  
Geoengineering



COP24-KATOWICE 2018

New measurement driven approaches to improve greenhouse gas emission estimates.  
“On the pathway to new greenhouse gas monitoring systems”

Side event at the German Pavilion at UNFCCC COP24



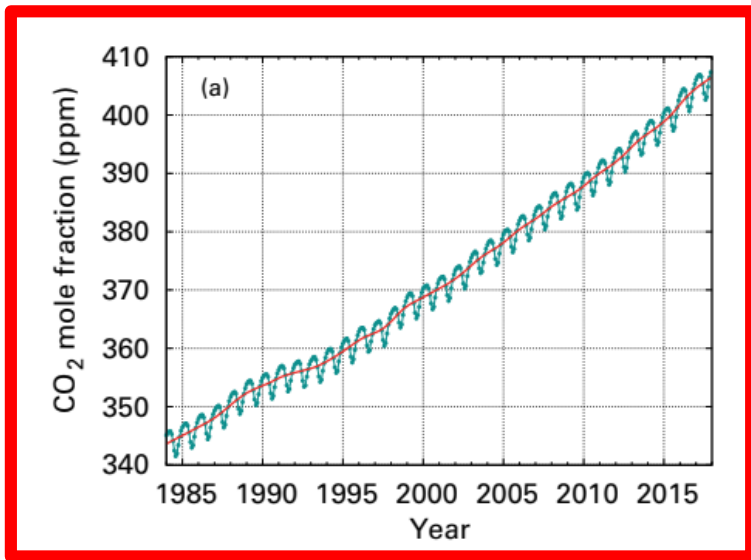
Universität  
Bremen



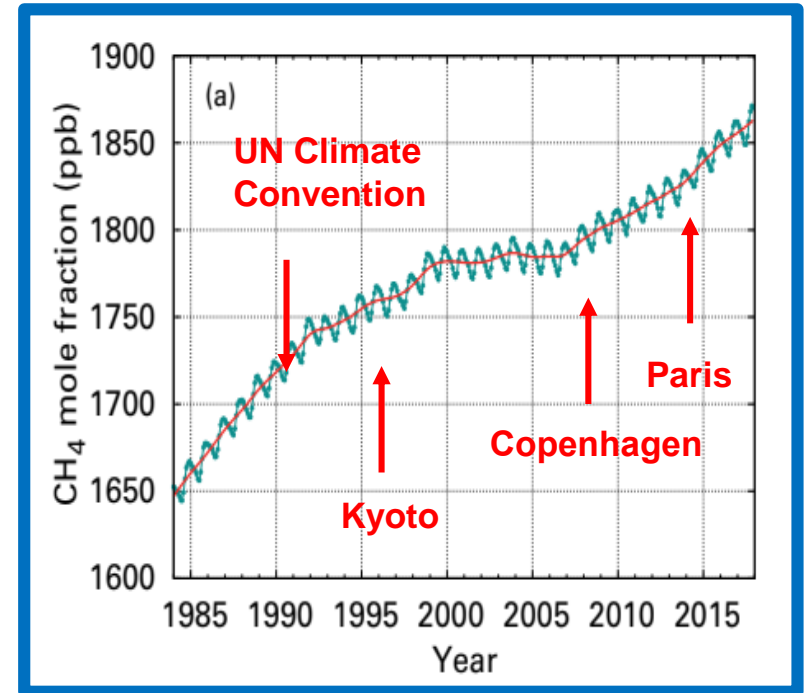
# Atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations continue to rise globally!



## CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere



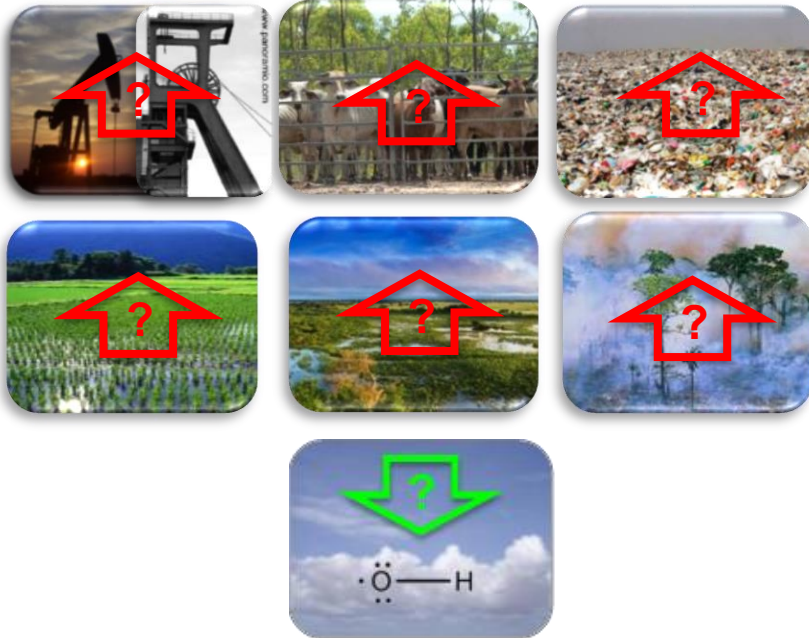
## CH<sub>4</sub> in the atmosphere



In comparison to CO<sub>2</sub>, the changes in CH<sub>4</sub> are not well understood, due to multiple natural and antropogenic sources



# The ability to quantify CH<sub>4</sub> emissions on all temporal and spatial scales is urgently needed!



- to understand the processes, cycles, and detect feedbacks (e.g., permafrost thawing, changing wetlands)

- to assess the effectiveness of emission reduction schemes (e.g. Paris Agreement)

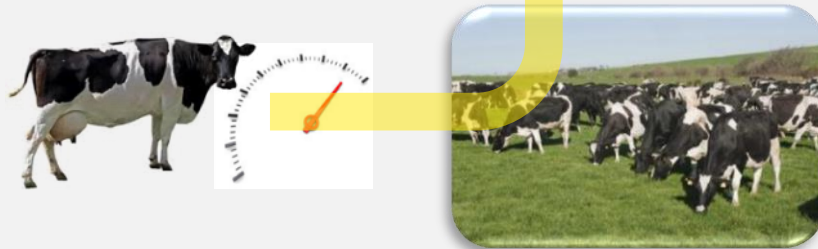
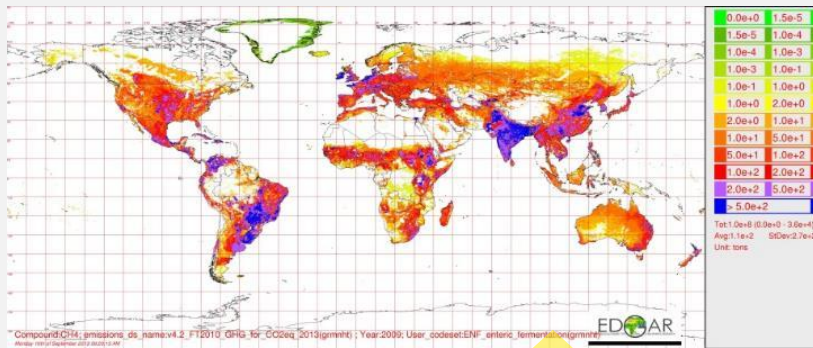
There is a clear need for **observations to support reporting/stocktaking**

**Integrated GHG monitoring system required**

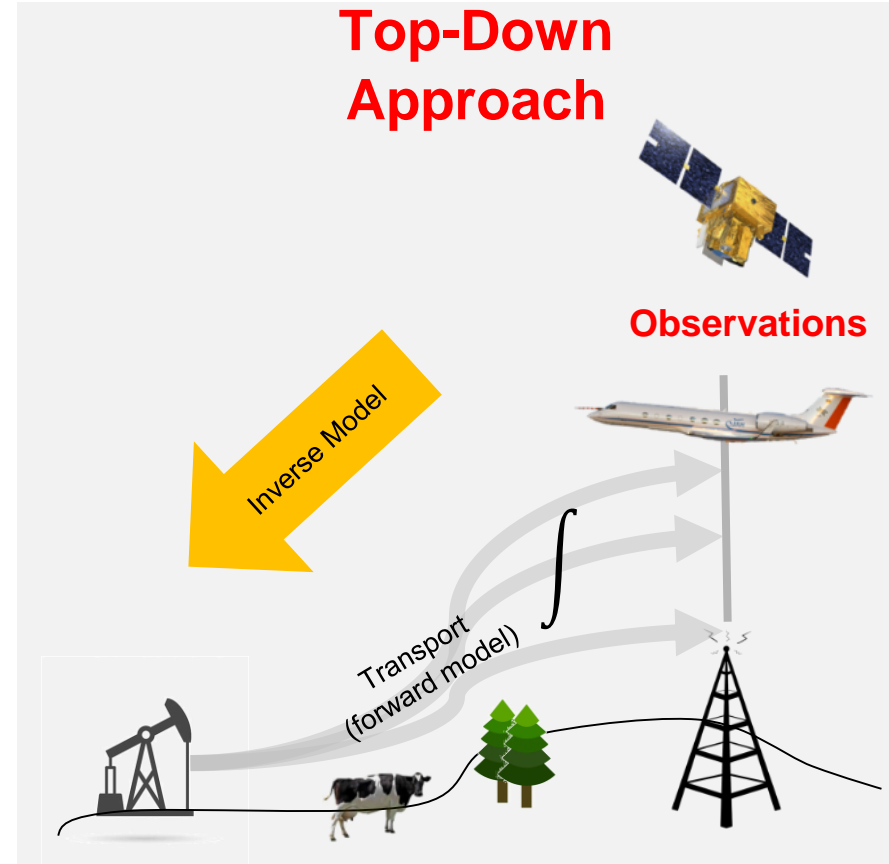
# Two ways to estimate greenhouse gas emissions



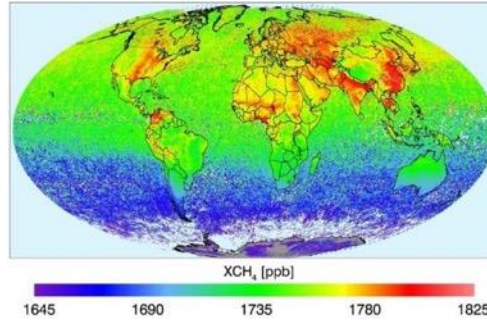
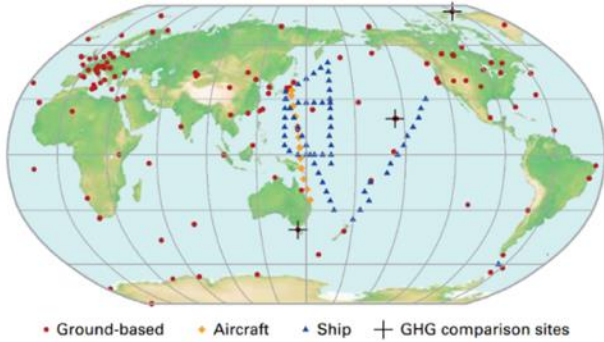
## Bottom-Up Approach



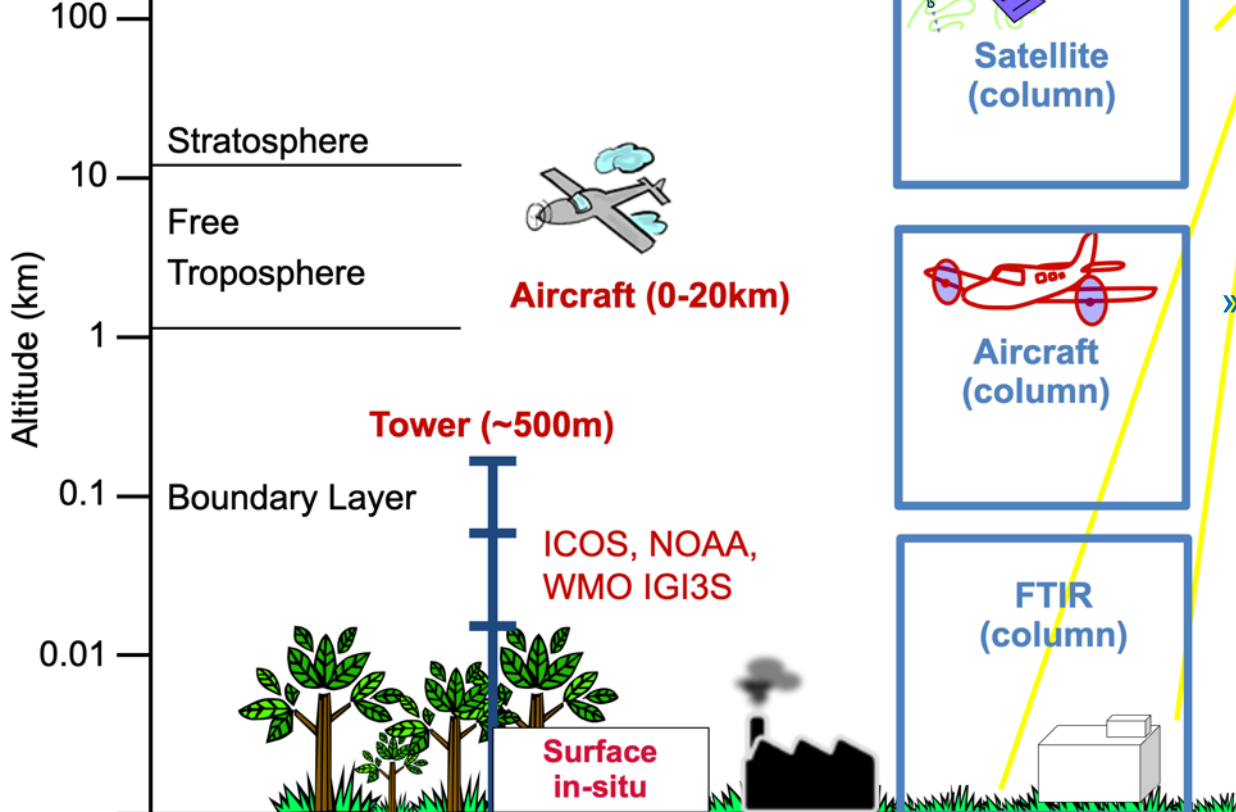
## Top-Down Approach



# Capabilities of today's Atmospheric Greenhouse Gas Observation System and the need for its sustained capabilities



## In-situ & Remote Sensing



» In-situ ground based networks needs better coverage (esp. tropics) and enhanced **isotope measurement** capabilities to discriminate origin of GHG

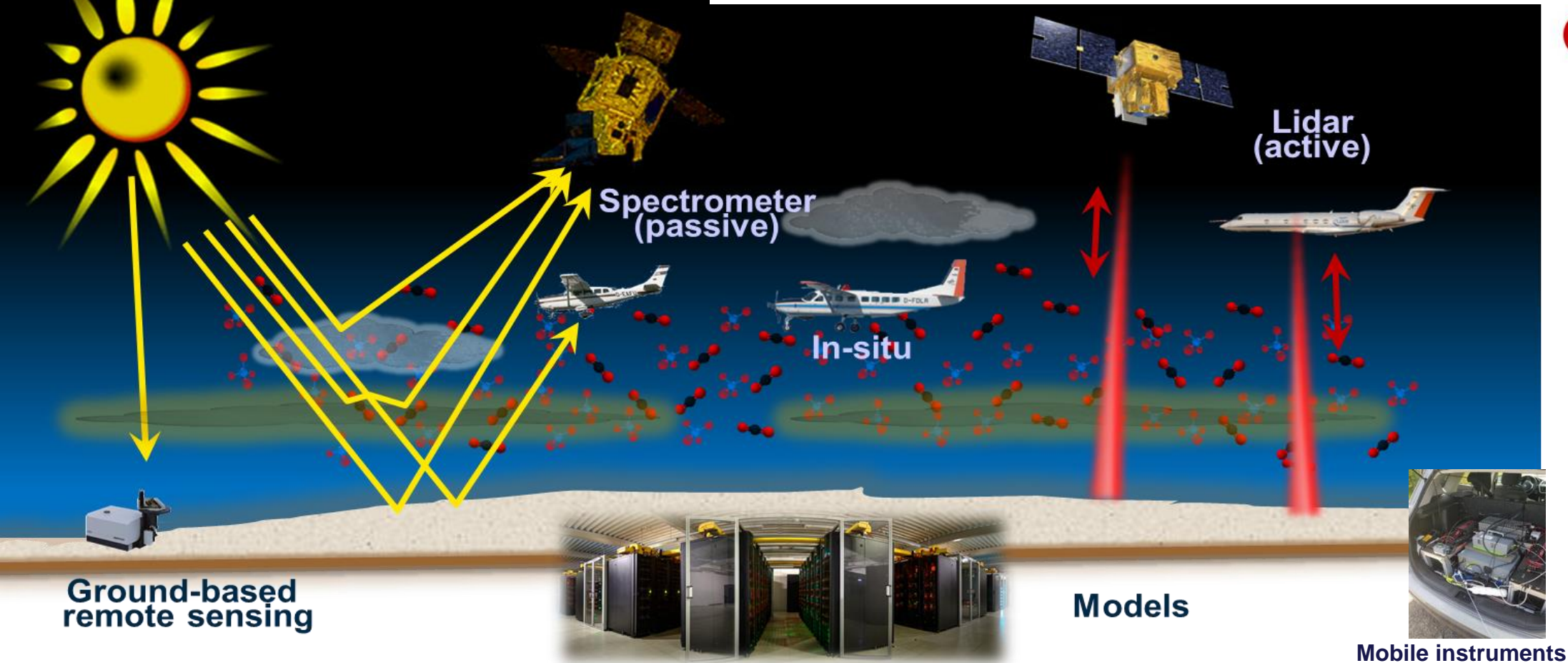
Satellite data to constrain GHG emission needs:

- High precision
- High accuracy
- High spatial resolution
- Good spatial coverage

➤ **Combination of futures satellites**



# The CoMet field campaign (Carbon dioxide and methane mission)



**CoMet:** A DLR-led coordinated field campaign including various national, international, and in particular also Polish partners.

## Upper Silesia as a model case

### Goal:

- combine a suite of state-of-the-art remote sensing and in-situ instruments on **several aircraft** and **on ground** (and even supported by **satellite measurements**)
- test the measurement capabilities
- provide regional-scale GHG data urgently required
- provide additional information to constrain bottom-up inventories

# CoMet: Complementary and innovative airborne payload



## ✓ Active (Laser) Remote Sensing

high accuracy,  
day / nighttime, high latitudes  
insensitive to clouds and aerosol  
future satellite instruments



## ✓ Passive Remote Sensing (Spectrometer)

very precise  
well adapted to local sources  
similar to current satellite instruments



## ✓ In-situ instruments

highest accuracy and precision  
WMO standard  
Isotope analysis for source identification



## ✓ Ancillary information

Meteorology (wind temperature, humidity)

# A view into the aircraft cabin





# At Katowice airport, June 2018



# MEMO<sup>2</sup>: MEthane goes Mobile-Measurments and MOdeling



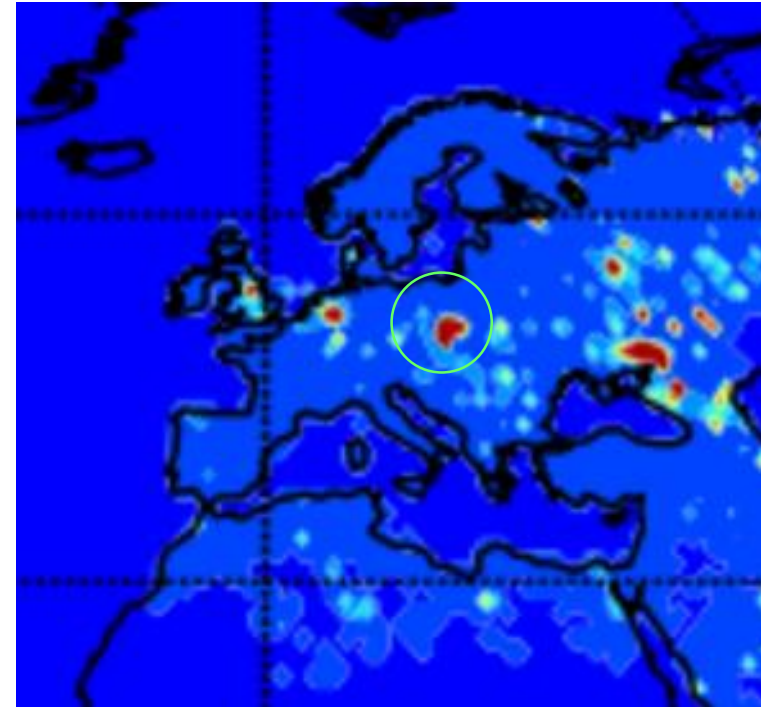
## Mobile platform



## Different analysers

## Comparison with Instrument in aircraft

# Primary target of CoMet: Why Upper Silesian Coal Basin (USBC POLAND)?



Poland is the 9th largest coal producer in the world

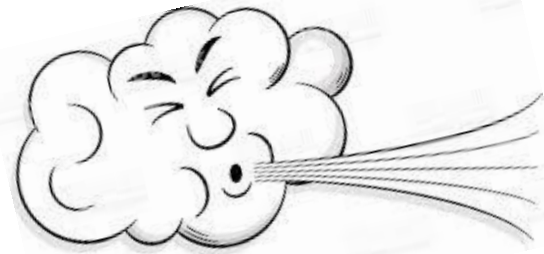


Mining industry in Poland is responsible for 1.8 % of the global anthropogenic CH<sub>4</sub> emission

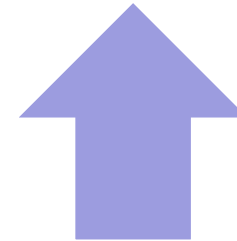
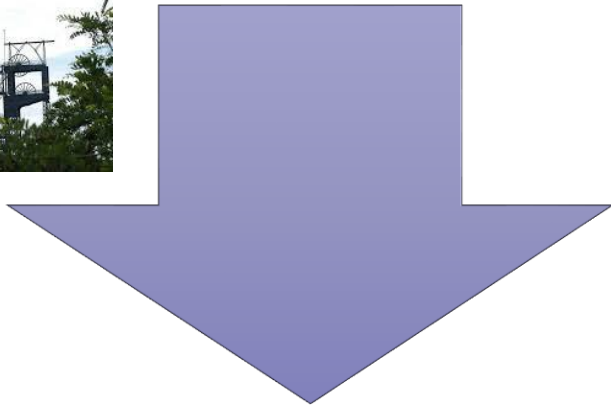


Underground coal mines are responsible for 36,1 % of anthropogenic emission of CH<sub>4</sub> in Poland

# Methane emission from hard coal mines in 2018

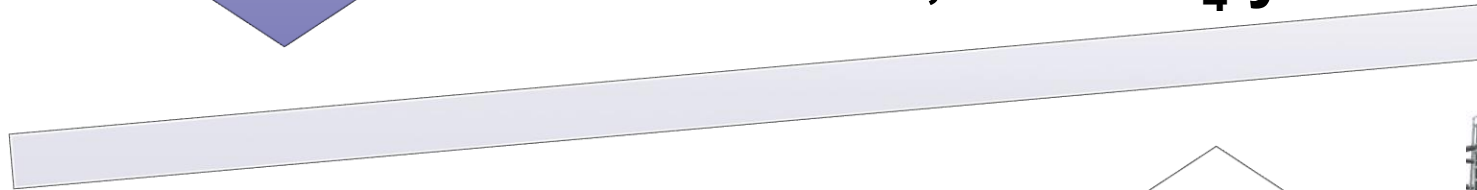


511,2 ktCH<sub>4</sub>/year



Drained methane  
but not utilized

81,62 ktCH<sub>4</sub>/year



Ventilation air  
methane

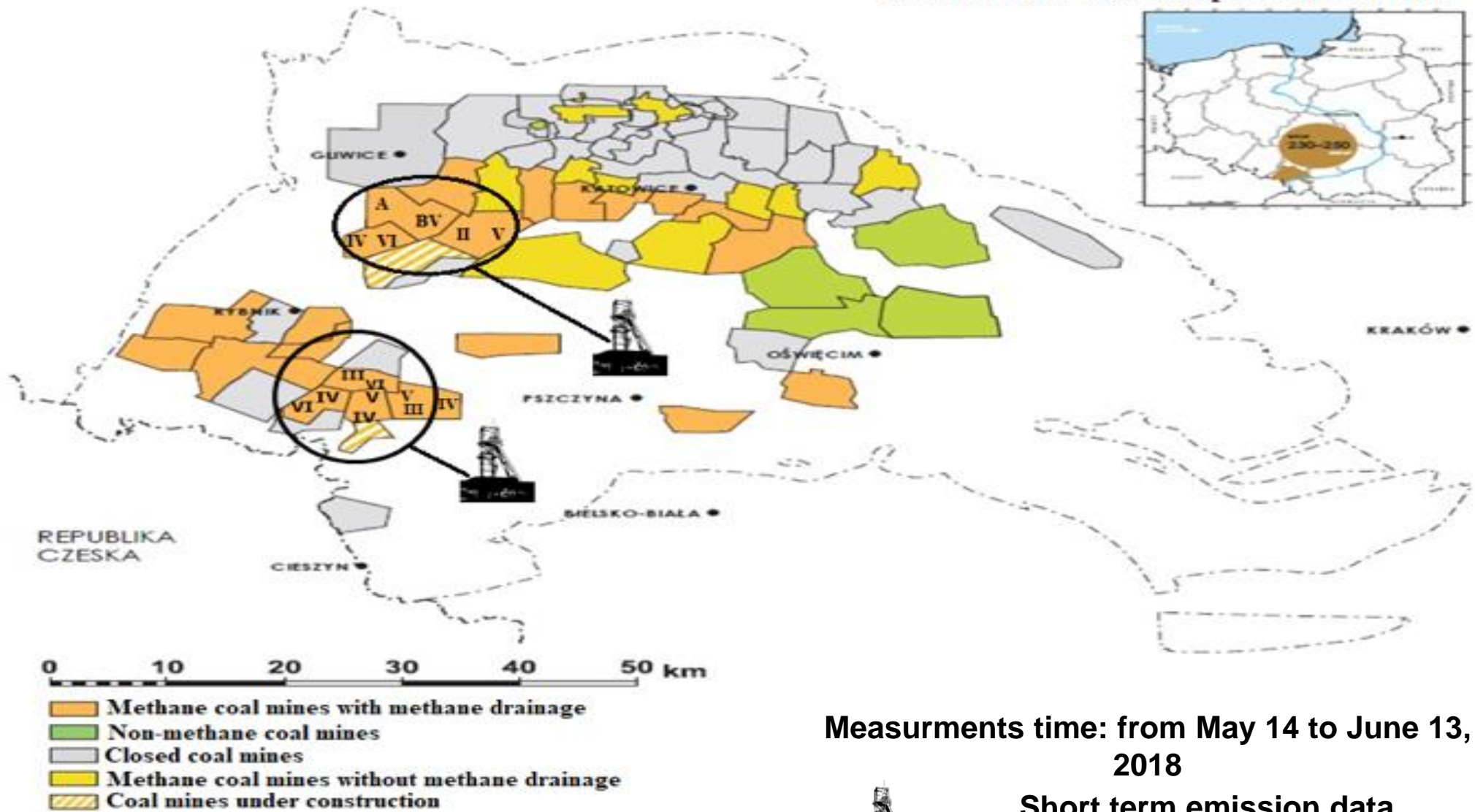
429,5 ktCH<sub>4</sub>/year





# Coal mines in Upper Silesia

Total methane resource potential in USCB

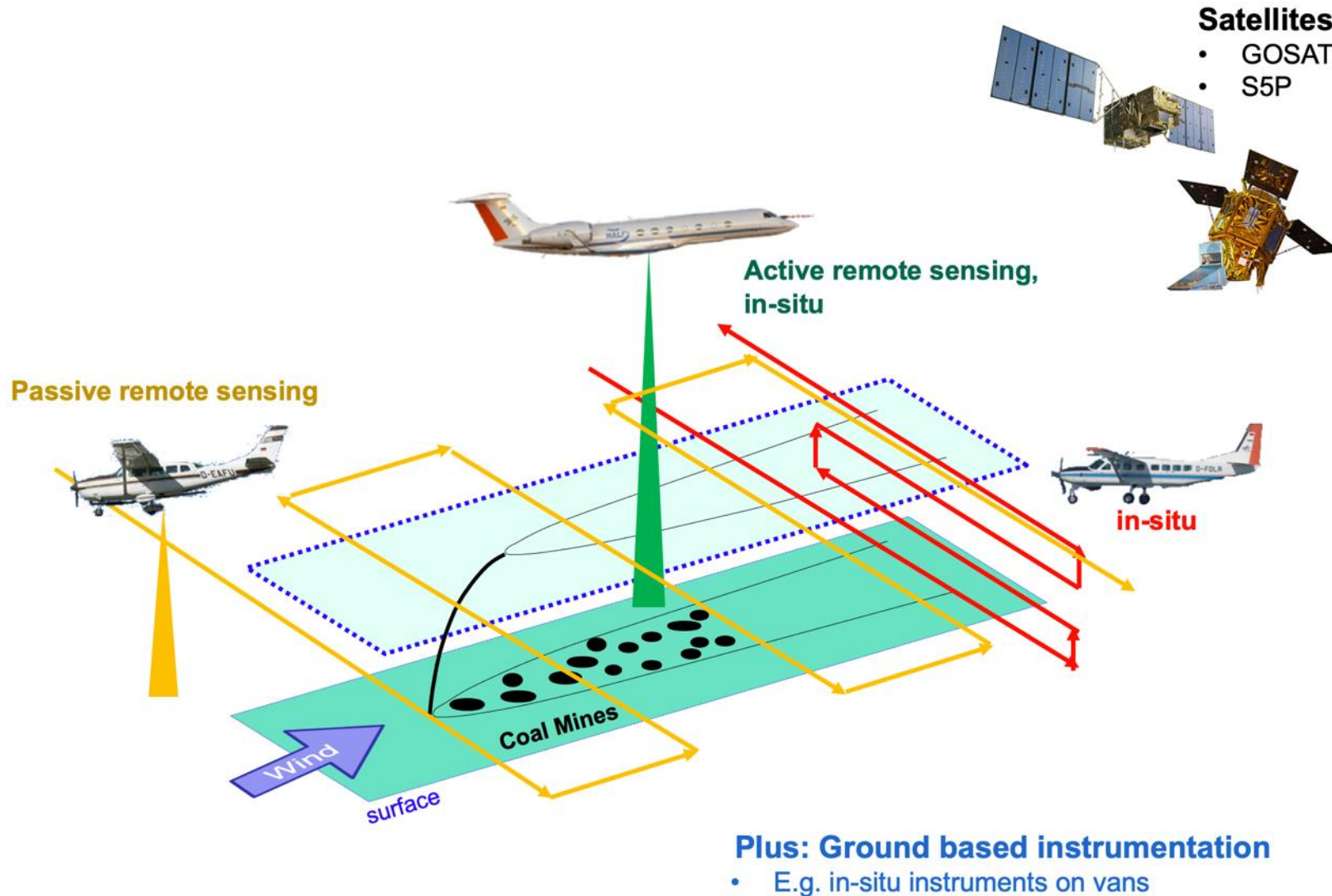


Measurements time: from May 14 to June 13, 2018

Short term emission data from 15 ventilation shafts in 7 coal mines



# CoMet measurement strategies in USCB: aircraft, ground-based, satellites, and models



# Halo aircraft over USCB flight plan



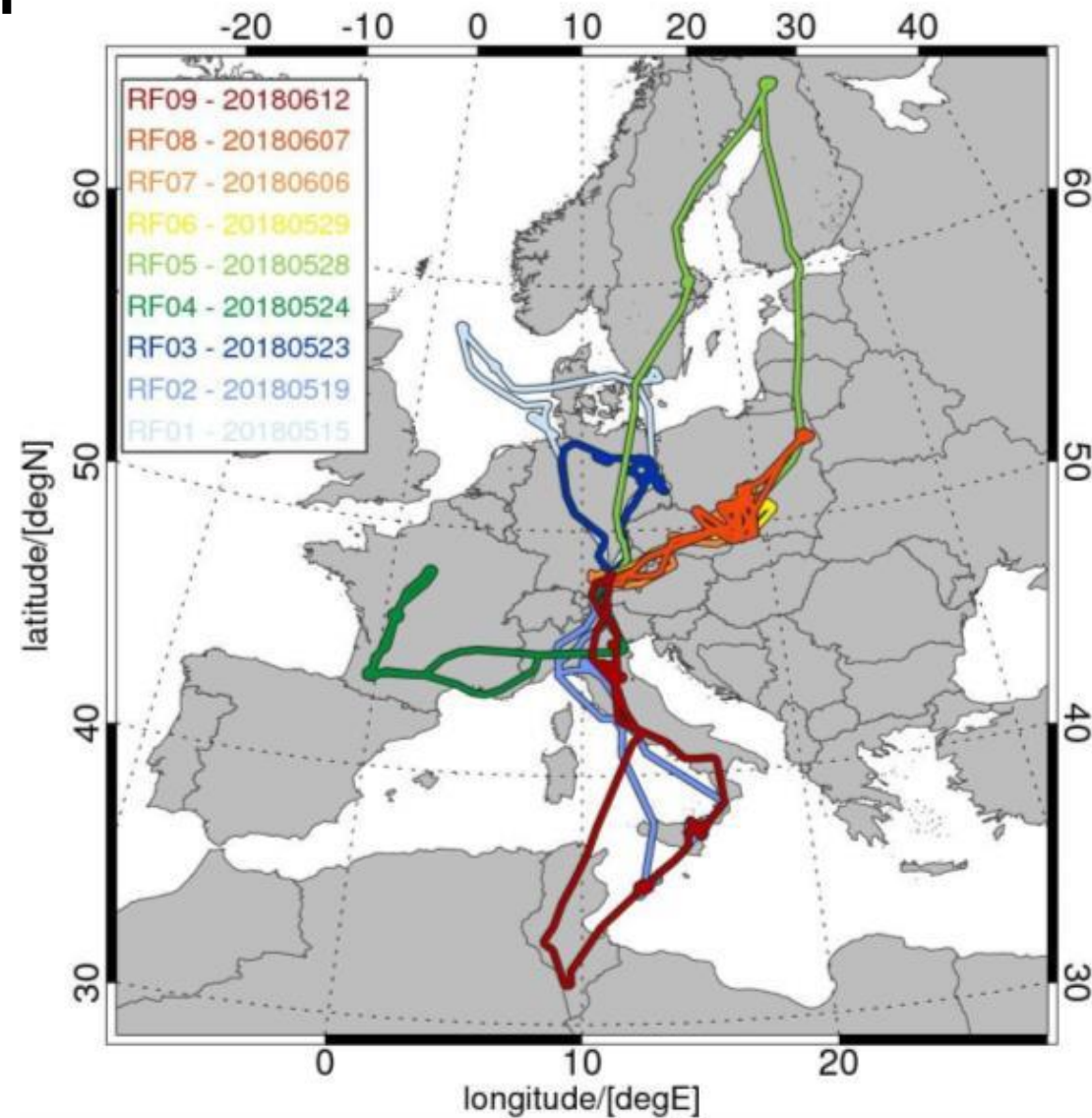
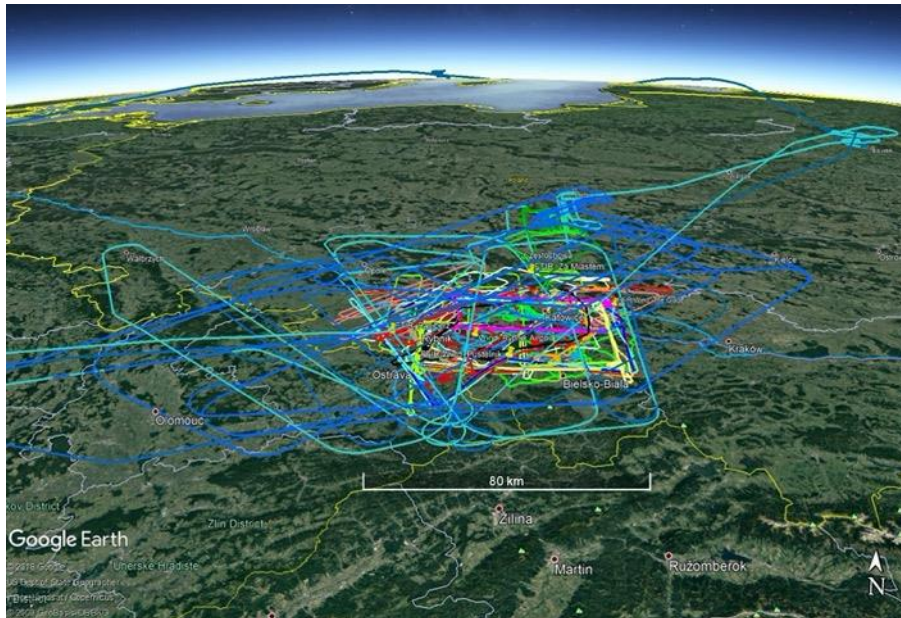
## Halo over USCB flight plan

May 28, 2018

May 29, 2018

June 6, 2018

June 7, 2018

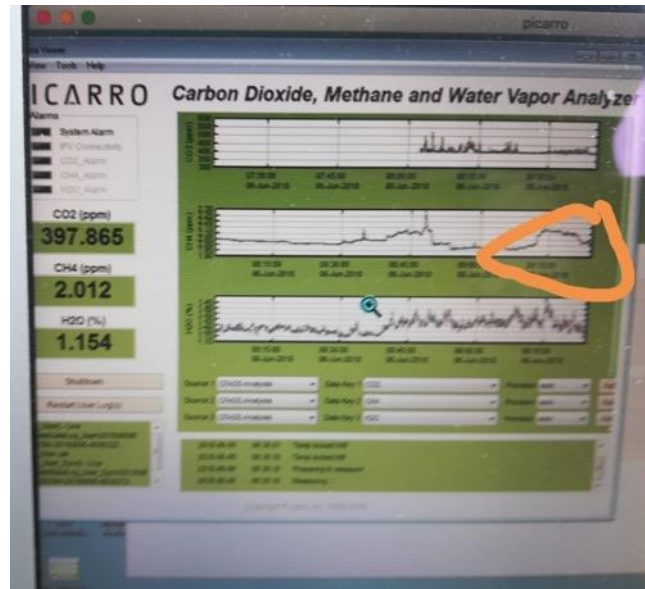


Andreas Fix, Axel Amediek, Christian Budenbender, Gerhard Ehret, Christoph Kiemle, Mathieu Quatrevalet, Martm Wirth, Sebastian Wolff, Heinrich Bovensmann, Androe Butz, Michal Galkowski, Christoph Gerbig, Pattick Jöckel, Julia Marshall, Jaroslaw Necki, Klaus Pfeilsticker, Anke Roiger, Justyna Swolkień, Martin Zöger, the CoMet team, *CH4 and CO2 IPDA Lidar Measurements During the Comet 2018 Airborne Field Campaign*, EPJ Web Conf. 237 03005 (2020), <https://doi.org/10.1051/ep1conf/202023703005>

# MEMO<sup>2</sup>: Mobile instruments



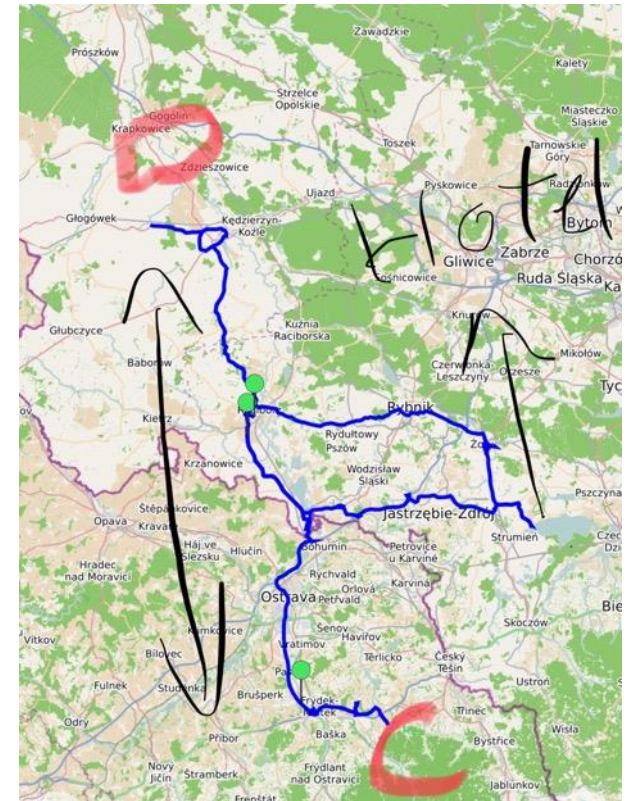
Ground transects in Silesia – operator view



Direct sampling from shafts

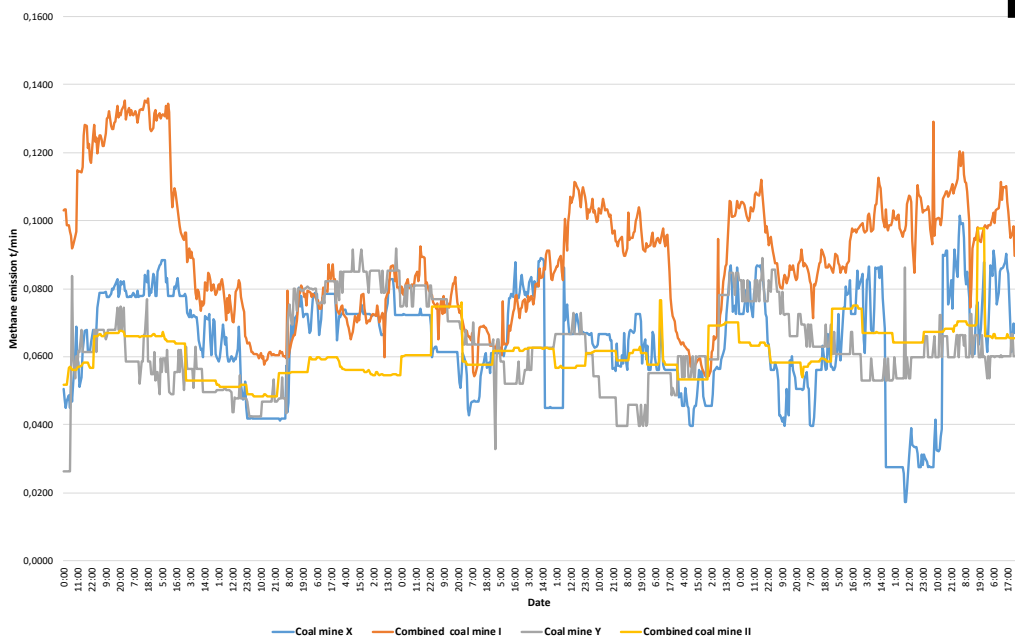


Exchange info with airplane team





The sum of methane emission from all Coal mines



# Emissions temporal variation to compare with airborne measurements



Concentration of CH<sub>4</sub> in 15 shafts vary between 0.10 % and 0.55 %

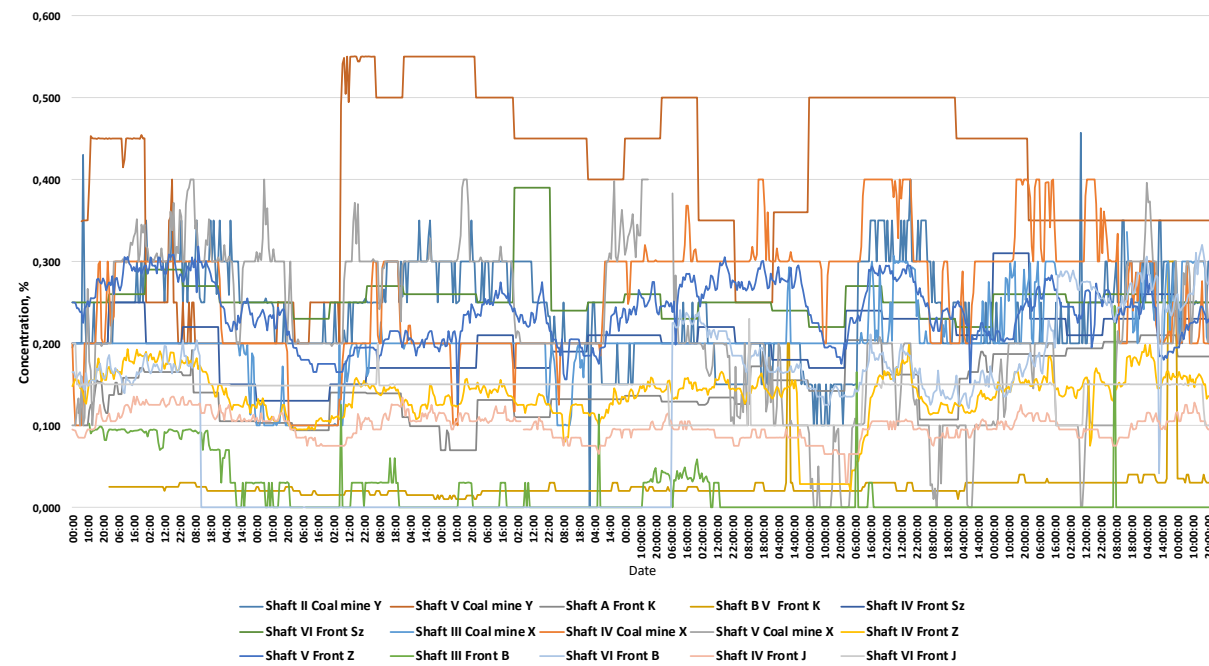
## Temporal variation of CH<sub>4</sub> emission

0.23 t/min to 0.36 t/min

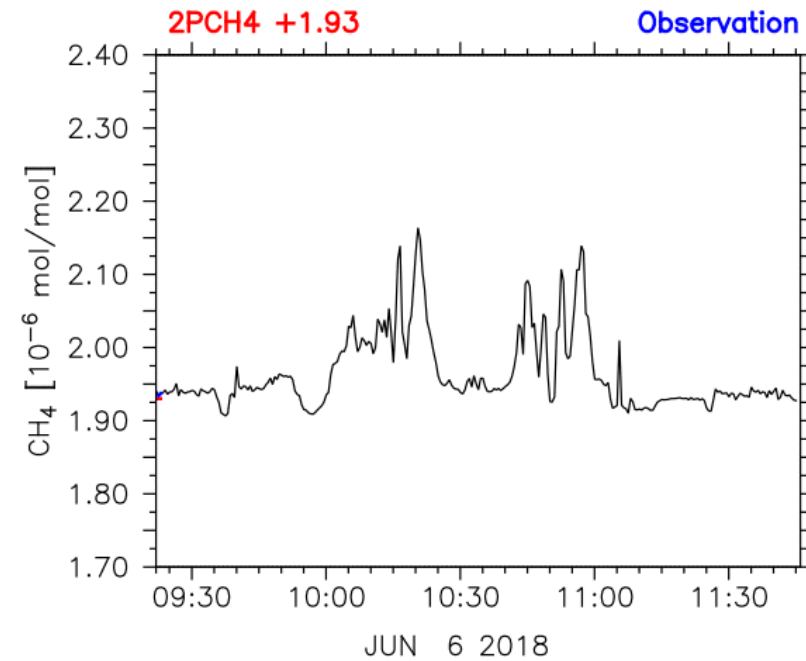
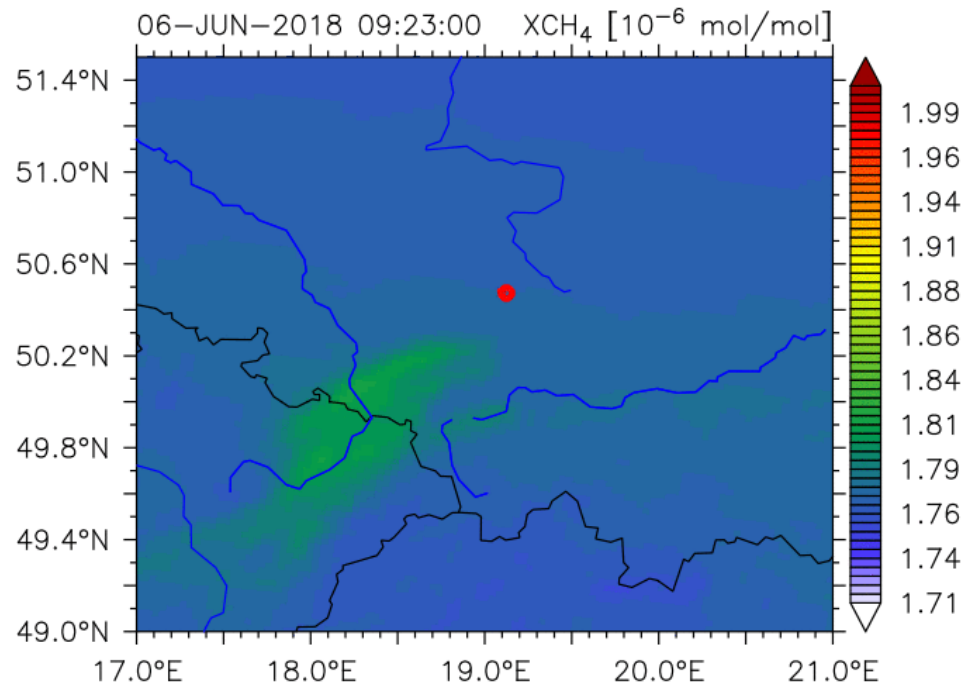
Coal mines under observation in just one month discharged 12.04 kt of methane.



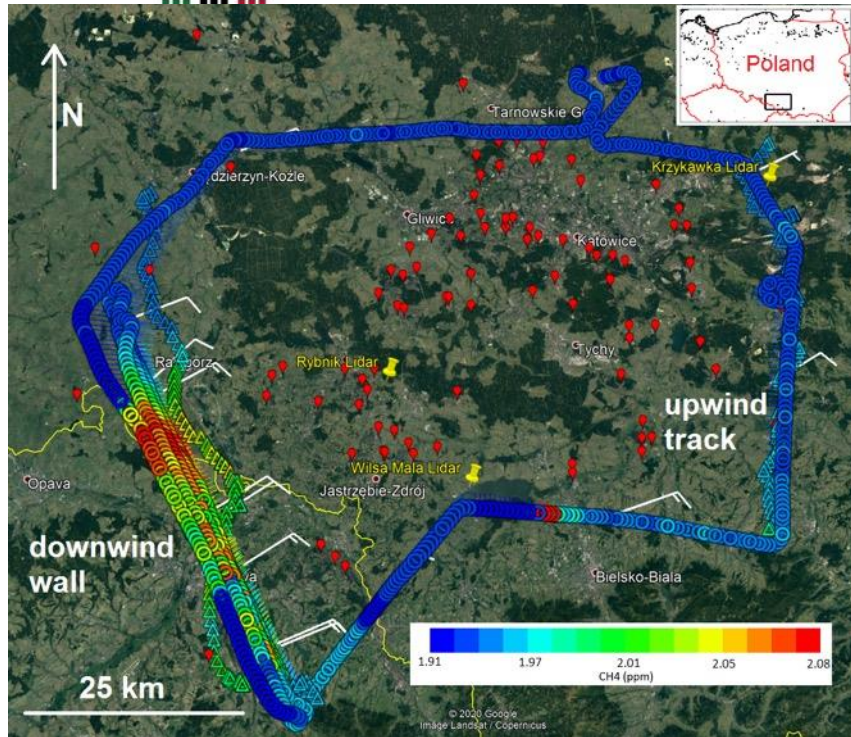
Methane concentration in the ventilation shafts in Coal mine Y and Combined coal mine II



# Model (resolution 2.7 km) and measurement comparison (Cessna in-situ flight on June 6, 2018)

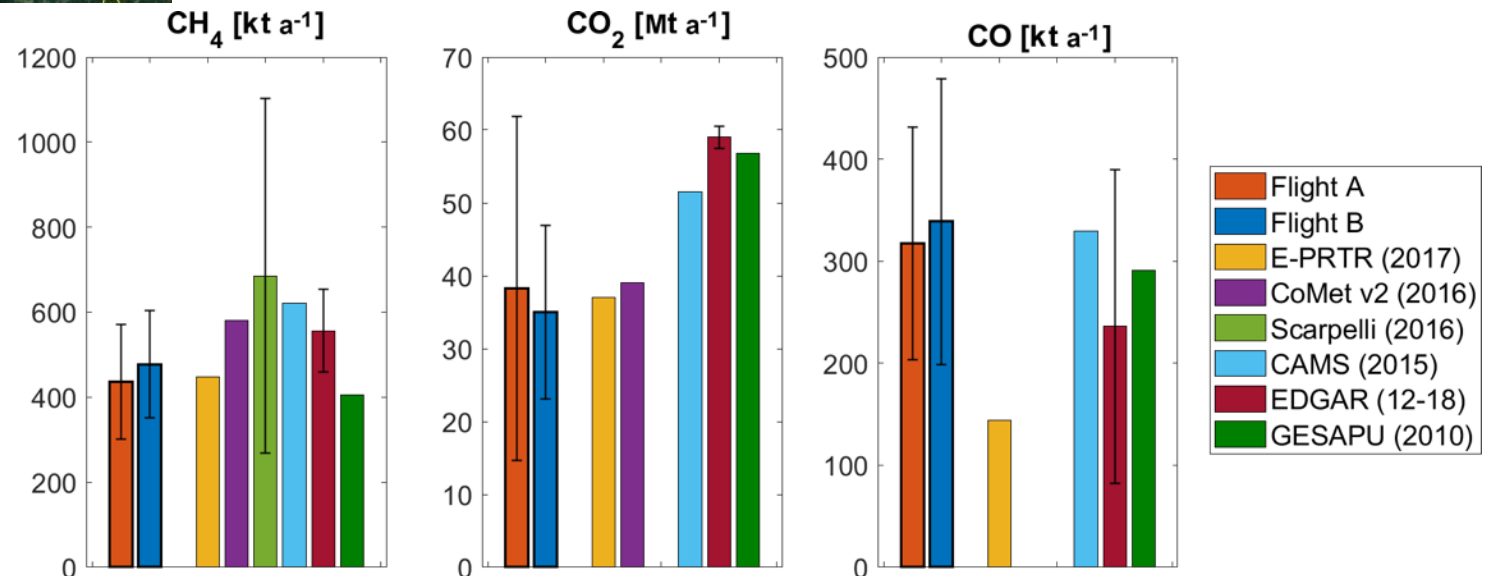


# Aircraft-based mass balance approach (Cessna in-situ flight on June 6, 2018)



Flight track for flight B, color-coded with in-situ-measured CH<sub>4</sub> mole fractions. Red markers show the locations of active coal mine shafts from the CoMet v2 inventory.

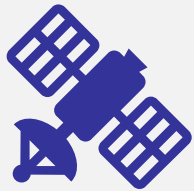
Figure 9. Comparison of USCB emission estimates of the CoMet mass balance flights A and B with bottom-up emission inventories. Error bars show 1 standard deviation of the estimates, where available.



# Temporal variations of methane emissions to compare with airborn measurments

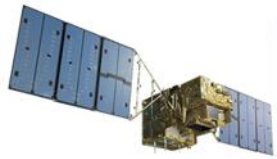


Obtaining **temporal variation of methane emissions** from particular point source is highly important to validate the operation of the measuring devices, which will then be placed on board satellites.



The results collected during the CoMet field campaign are unique and comprehensive and will have a significant impact on the visualization of the spread of methane in the atmosphere on a global scale.

# Takehome messages

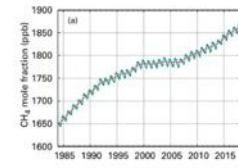


Satellite observations show much promise as one component in GHG observing systems.



Those can provide independent validation of the emission inventories and give new scientific insight into the methane cycle.

Methane is an important contributor to global warming!



Continuing research into this direction is required to turn research oriented missions into operational systems and integrate their results into future IPCC reports

The methane cycle is still inadequately understood.



Lifetime of CH<sub>4</sub> is much shorter than for CO<sub>2</sub>, mitigation strategies can work on shorter time scales.



Highly sophisticated observation technologies and evaluation methods are under development





Andreas Fix, Axel Amediek, Christian Budenbender, Gerhard Ehret, Christoph Kiemle, Mathieu Quatrevalet, Martm Wirth, Sebastian Wolff, Heinrich Bovensmann, Androe Butz, Michal Galkowski, Christoph Gerbig, Pattick Jöckel, Julia Marshall, Jaroslaw Necki, Klaus Pfeilsticker, Anke Roiger, Justyna Swolkieñ, Martin Zöger, the CoMet team, *CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> IPDA Lidar Measurements During the Comet 2018 Airborne Field Campaign*, EPJ Web Conf. 237 03005 (2020), <https://doi.org/7T0.1051/ep1conf/202023703005>

Fiehn, A, Kostinek, J., Eckl, M., Klausner, T., Gaikowski, M., Chen, 1., Gerbig, C., Röckmann, T, Maazallahi, H., Schmidt, M.i Korben, P., Necki, J., Jagoda, P., Wildmann, N., Mallaun, C., Bun, R., Nicki, A.-L., Jöckel, P., Fix, A., and Roiger, A.: *Estimating CH<sub>4</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>, and CO emissions from coal mining and industrial activities in the Upper Silesian Coal Basm using an aircraft-based mass balance approach*, Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-2020-282> , 2020. Atmos. Meas. Tech., 12, 5217-5230, <https://doi.t.rg/10.5194/amt-12-5217-2019>, 2CIT9

Luther, A, Kleinschek, R., Scheidweiler, L., Defratyka, s., Stanisavljevic, M.. Forstmaier, A, Dandocsi, A.. Wolff, S.. Dulravica, o., Wildmann, N., Kostinek, J., Jöckel, p., Nickl, A.-L., Klausner, T., Hase, F., Frey, M., Chen, 1., Dietrich, F., Necki, J., Swolkieñ, J, Fix, A., Roiger, A., and Butz, A.. *Quantifying CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from ham coal mines using mobile sun-viewing Fourier transform spectrometry*, Atmos. Meas. Tech., 12, 5217-5230, 2019, <https://doi.org/10.5194/amt-12-5217-2019>

Julian Kostinek , Anke Roiger , Maximilian Eckl , Alina Fiehn , Andreas Luther , Norman Wildmann , Theresa Klausner , Andreas Fix , Christoph Knoté , Andreas Stohl , and André Butz *Estimating Upper Silesian coal mine methane emissions from airborne in situ observations and dispersion modeling* Atmos. Chem. Phys., 20, 12675–12695, 2020, <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-20-12675-2020>

Sven Krautwurst, Konstantin Gerilowski, Jakob Borchardt, Norman Wildmann, Michal Galkowski, Justyna Swolkien, Julia Marshall, Alina Fiehn, Anke Roiger, Thomas Ruutz, Christoph Gerbig, Jaroslaw Necki, John P. Burrows, Andreas Fix, and Heinrich Bovensmann, *Quantification of CH<sub>4</sub> coal mining emissions in Upper Silesia by passive airborne remote sensing observations with the MAMAP instrument during CoMet*, Atmos. Chem. Phys. <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-2020-1014>, Preprint. Discussion started: 8 January 2021

Justyna Swolkieñ, *Polish underground coal mines as point sources of methane emission to the atmosphere* , International Journal of Greenhouse Gas Control, 2020 vol. 94, 1–12. Available online since: 2019-11-28

# Point of contact



andreas.fix@dlr.de



- **Dr. Andreas Fix**  
German Aerospace Center (DLR)  
Oberpfaffenhofen, Germany



heinrich.bovensmann@uni-bremen.de



- **Dr. Heinrich Bovensmann**  
Institute of Environmental Physics,  
University of Bremen, Germany

swolkien@agh.edu.pl



- **Dr. Justyna Swolkień**  
AGH-University of Science and Technology,  
Faculty of Mining and Geoengineering,  
Cracow, Poland

necki@agh.edu.pl



- **Dr. Jarosław Nęcki**  
AGH-University of Science and Technology,  
Faculty of Physics and Applied Computer  
Science, Cracow, Poland

kuze.akhiko@jaxa.jp



- **Dr. Akihiko Kuze**  
Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)  
Tsukuba, Japan



# Thank you for your attention