

Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis

Working Group I contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report

Insights from the WGI Perspective

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CWT Synthesis Report

SBSTA-IPCC special event on Common metrics to calculate the carbon dioxide equivalence of greenhouse gases, Bonn, 7 June 2014

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From Summary for Policymakers



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The most appropriate metric and time horizon will depend on which aspects of climate change are considered most important to a particular application.



From **Summary for Policymakers**

The most appropriate metric and time horizon will depend on which aspects of climate change are considered most important to a particular application.

No single metric can accurately compare all consequences of different emissions, and all have limitations and uncertainties.



Key Messages on metrics:

Metrics do not define policies or goals

.... but facilitate evaluation and implementation of multi-gas policies to meet particular goals

All choices of metric contain implicit value-related judgements

The Global Warming Potential (GWP) and Global Temperature change Potential (GTP) have limitations, and there are inconsistencies related to indirect effects and feedbacks

GWP is not directly related to a temperature limit (e.g., 2°C target)

No single metric for all applications

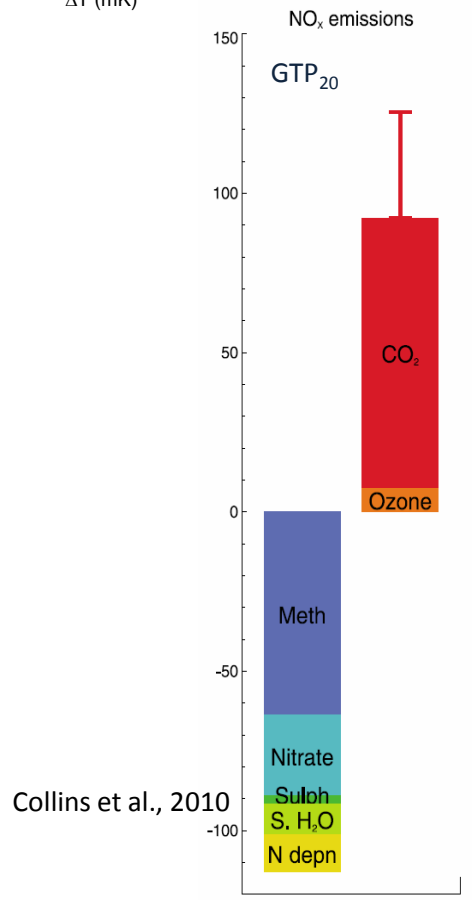
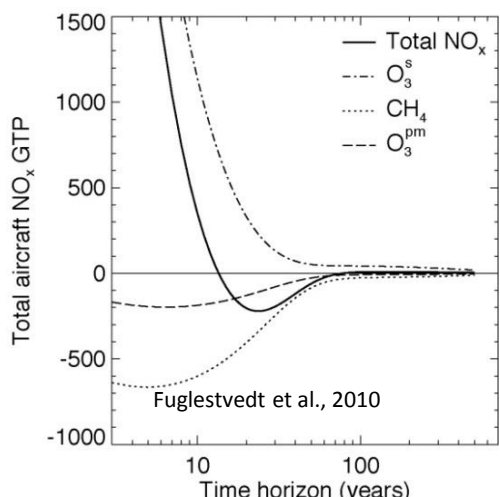
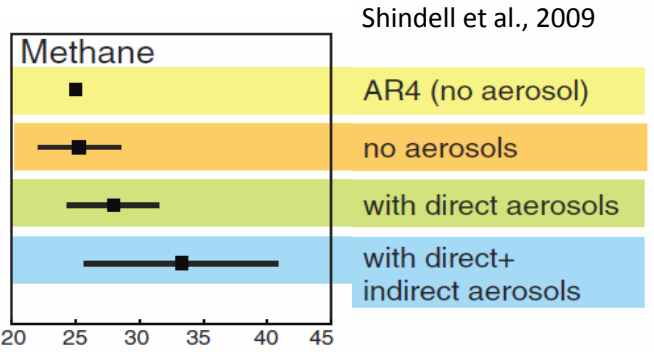
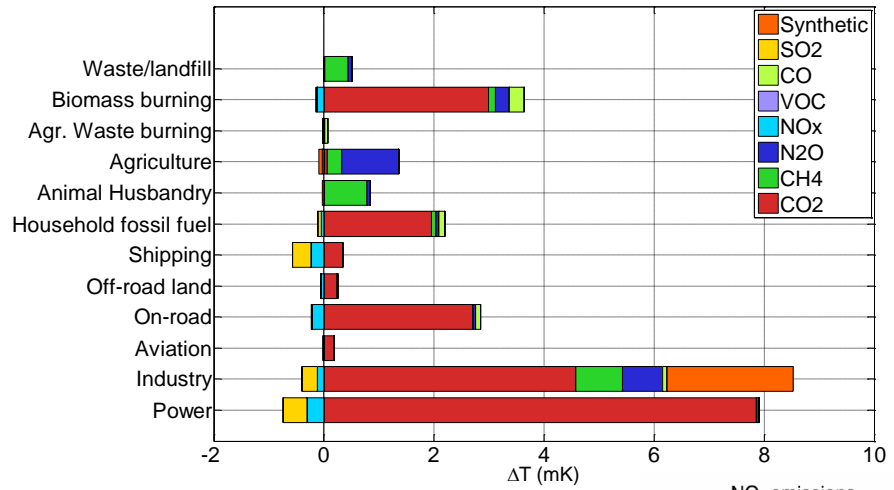
Many applications:

- Climate agreements
- Emission trading
- Climate policy assessments
- Trade-offs in policy making
- Design and operation (e.g. aircraft)
- Information about **properties** of components and **uncertainties**
- Scientific studies

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$\Delta T(50 \text{ years})$ for pulse emissions from the World



What is new since AR4?

No recommendation for metric choice is given in AR5

Uncertainties emphasized and better quantified

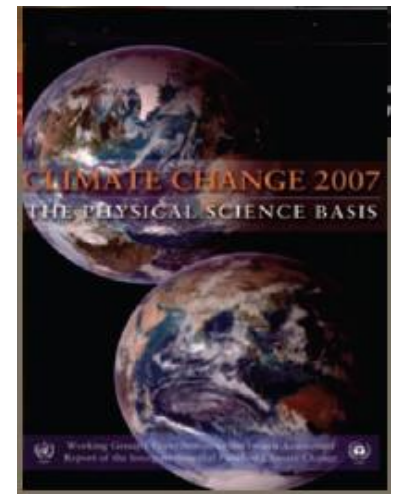
Point to inconsistent treatment of **indirect effects / feedbacks**

Point to implicit **value-based judgments**

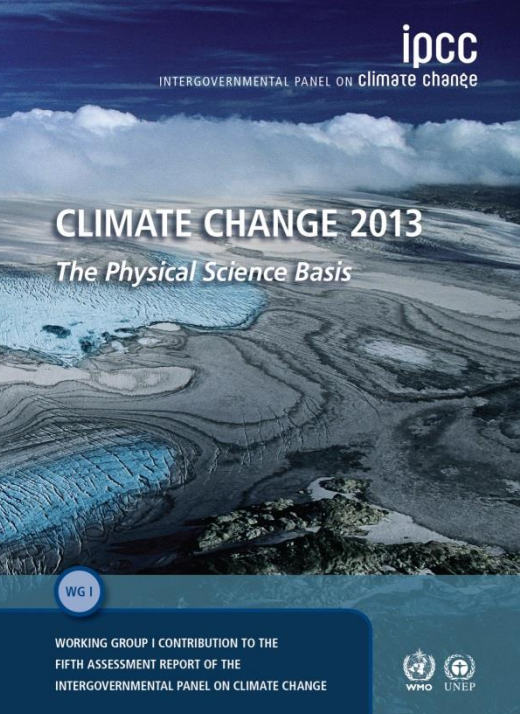
Assessed **alternatives** to GWP

Updated values of both GWP and GTP for > 200 compounds

Statement on GWP in IPCC AR4

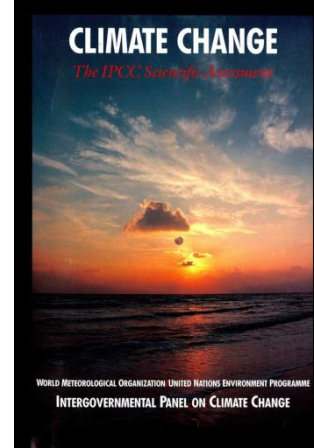
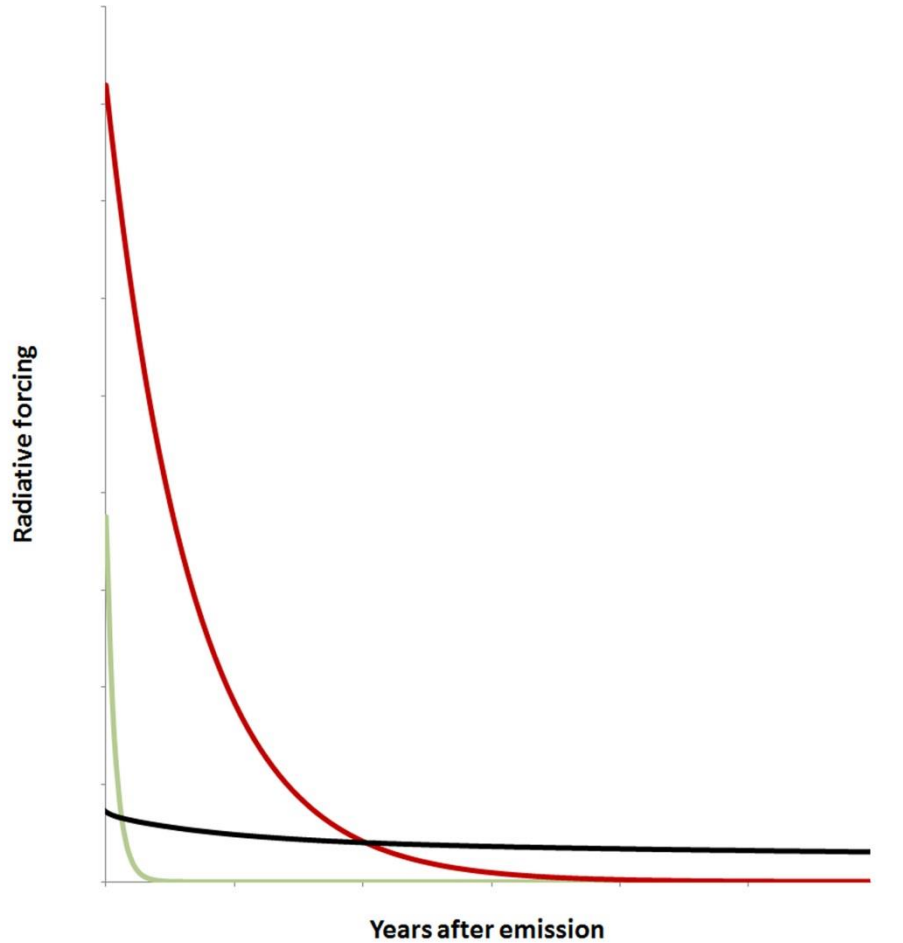


Although it has several known shortcomings, a multi-gas strategy using GWPs is very likely to have advantages over a CO₂-only strategy (O'Neill, 2003). Thus, GWPs remain the recommended metric to compare future climate impacts of emissions of long-lived climate gases.



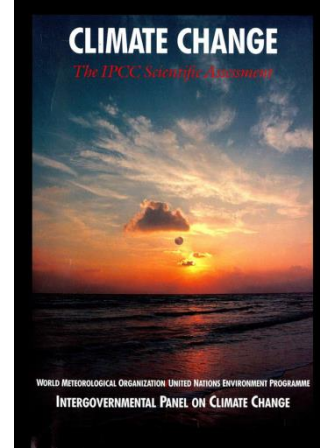
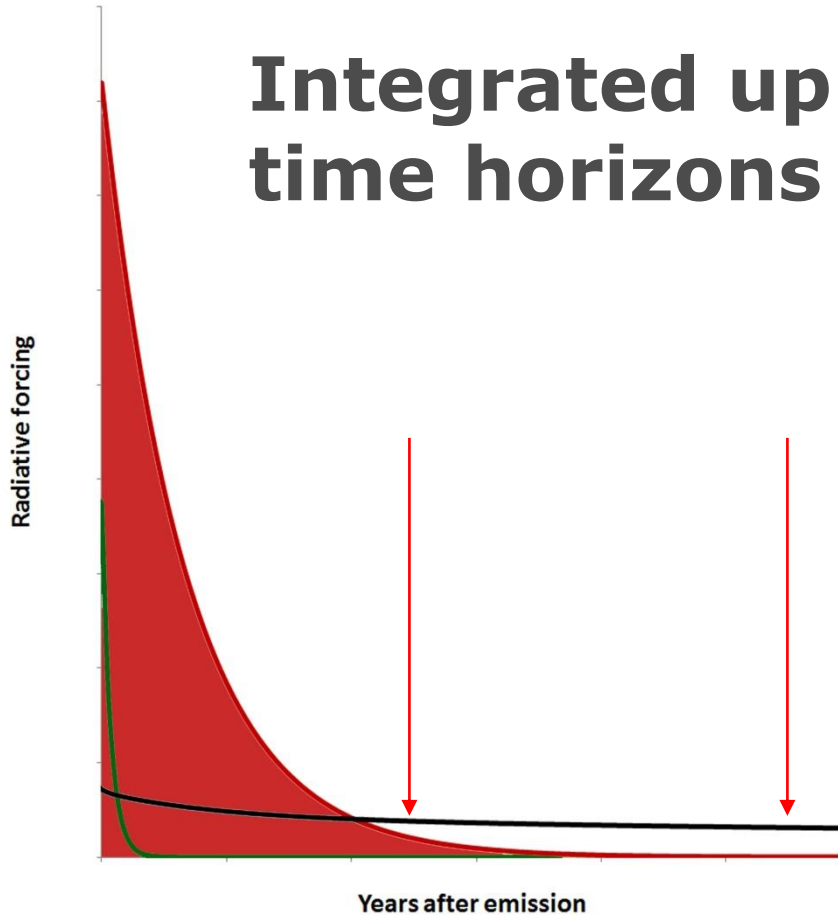
... provides an assessment that focuses on the scientific aspects and utility of emission metrics. Extending such an assessment to include more policy-oriented aspects of their performance and usage such as simplicity, transparency, continuity, economic implications of usage of one metric over another, etc., is not given here as this is beyond the scope of WGI. However, consideration of such aspects is vital for user assessments.

GWP: Based on pulses of different gases



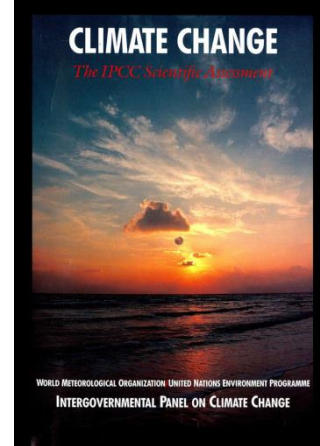
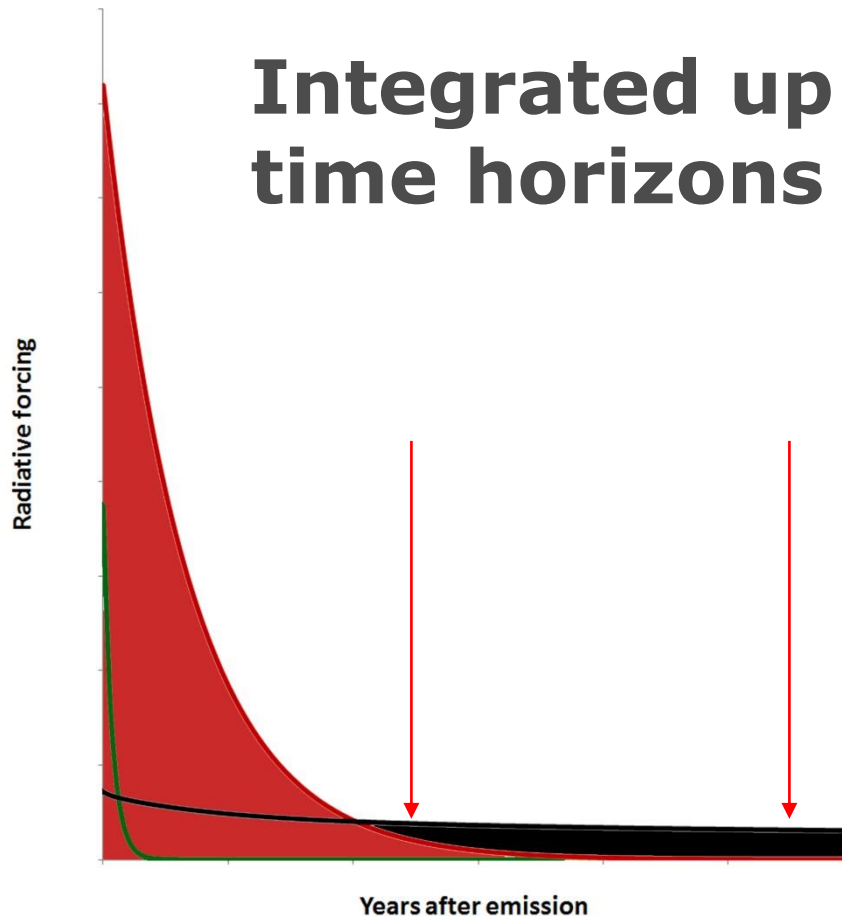
GWP: Based on pulses of different gases

Integrated up to chosen time horizons (H)



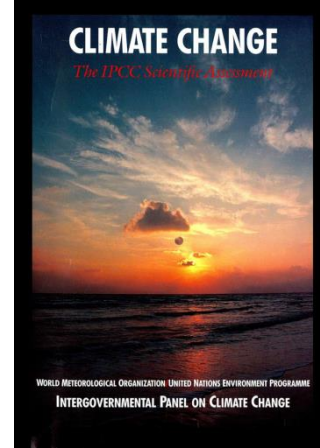
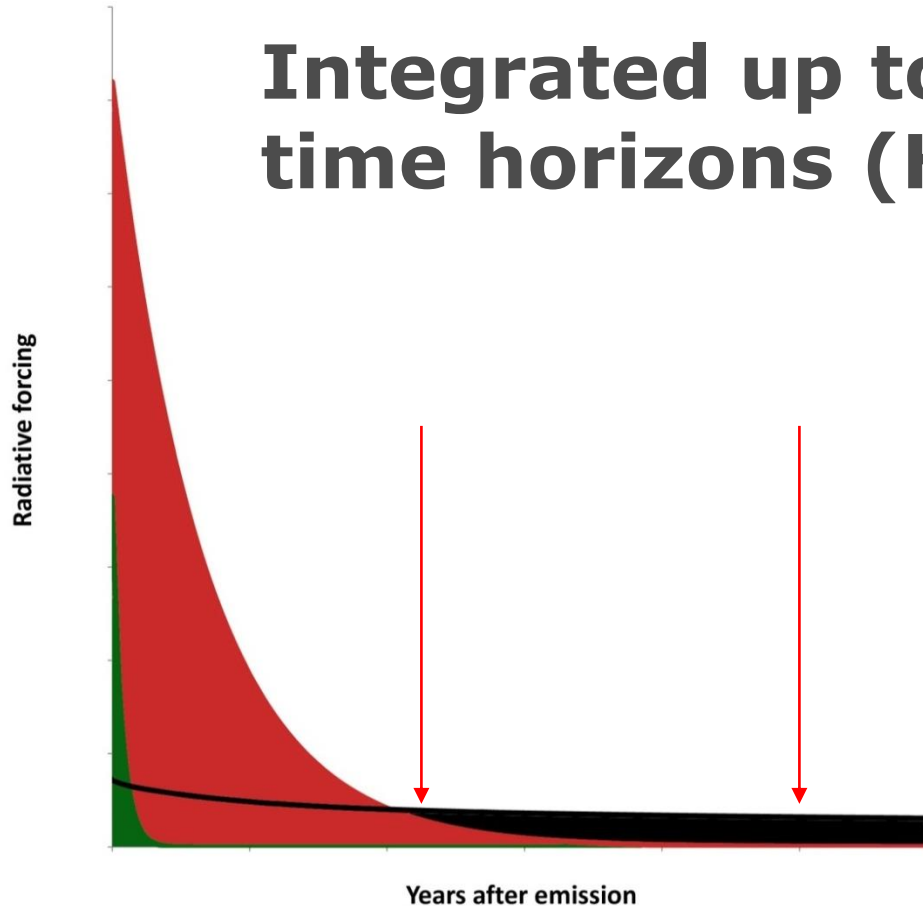
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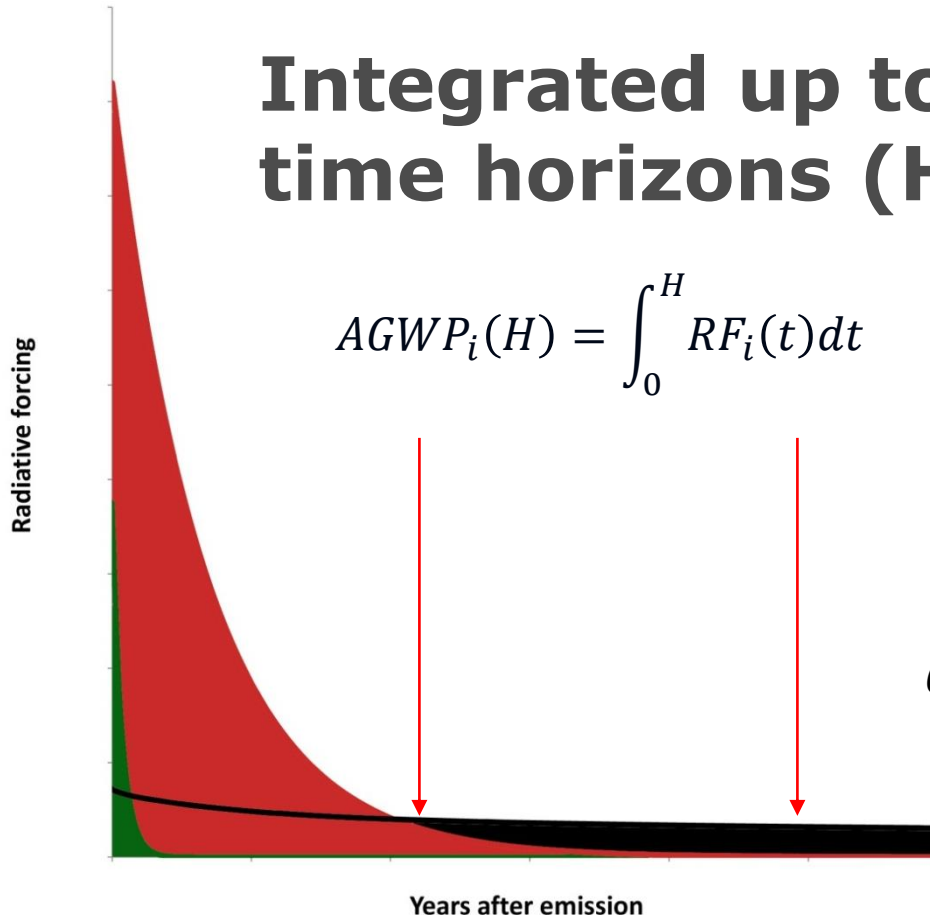
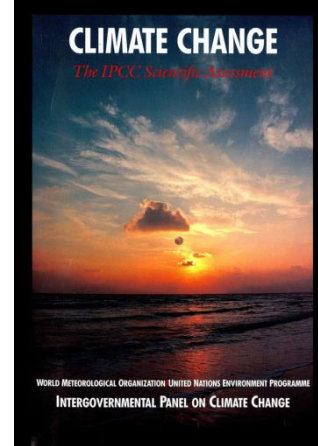
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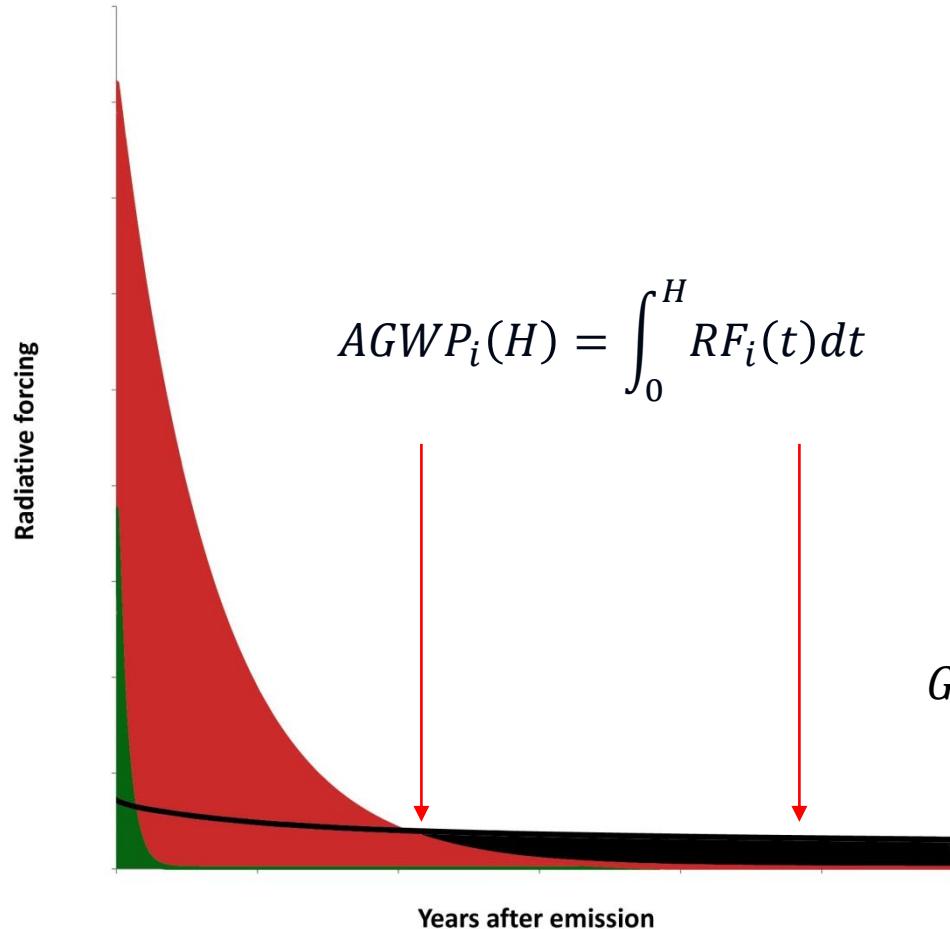


$$AGWP_i(H) = \int_0^H RF_i(t) dt$$

Then normalized to AGWP for CO₂:

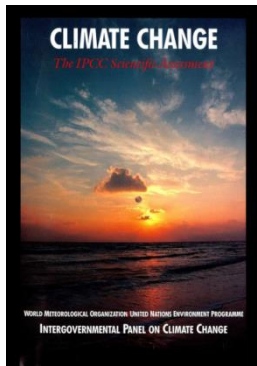
$$GWP_i(H) = \frac{AGWP_i(H)}{AGWP_{CO_2}(H)} = \frac{\int_0^H RF_i(t) dt}{\int_0^H RF_{CO_2}(t) dt}$$

**GWP has a strong and «artificial» memory.
Often misunderstood; no climate response included.**



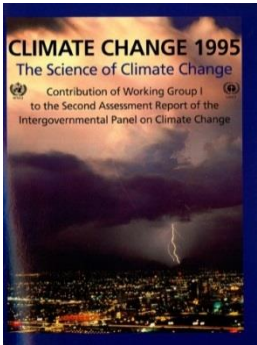
Then normalized to AGWP for CO₂:

$$GWPI(H) = \frac{AGWP_i(H)}{AGWP_{CO_2}(H)} = \frac{\int_0^H RF_i(t) dt}{\int_0^H RF_{CO_2}(t) dt}$$



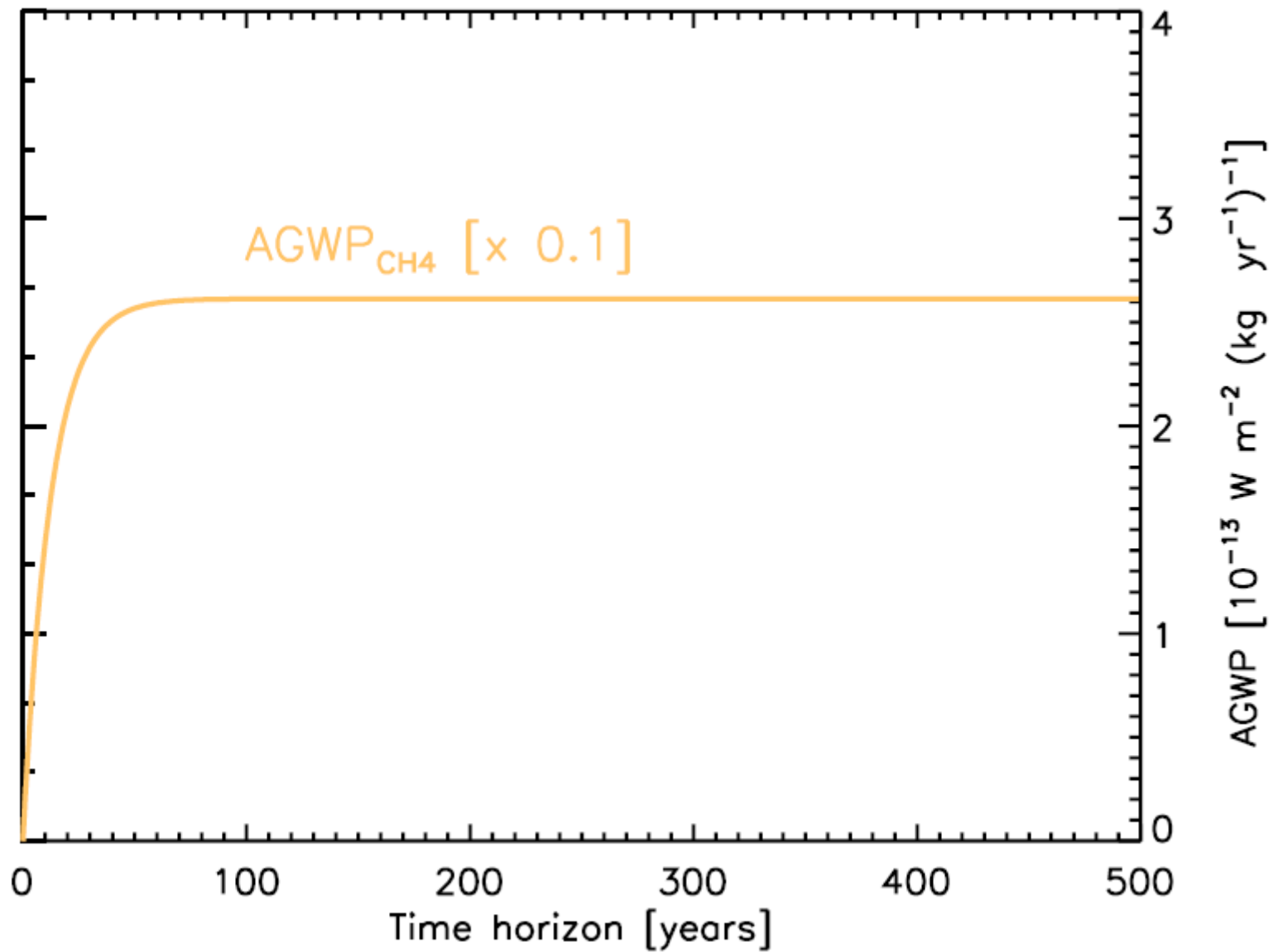
Time horizon

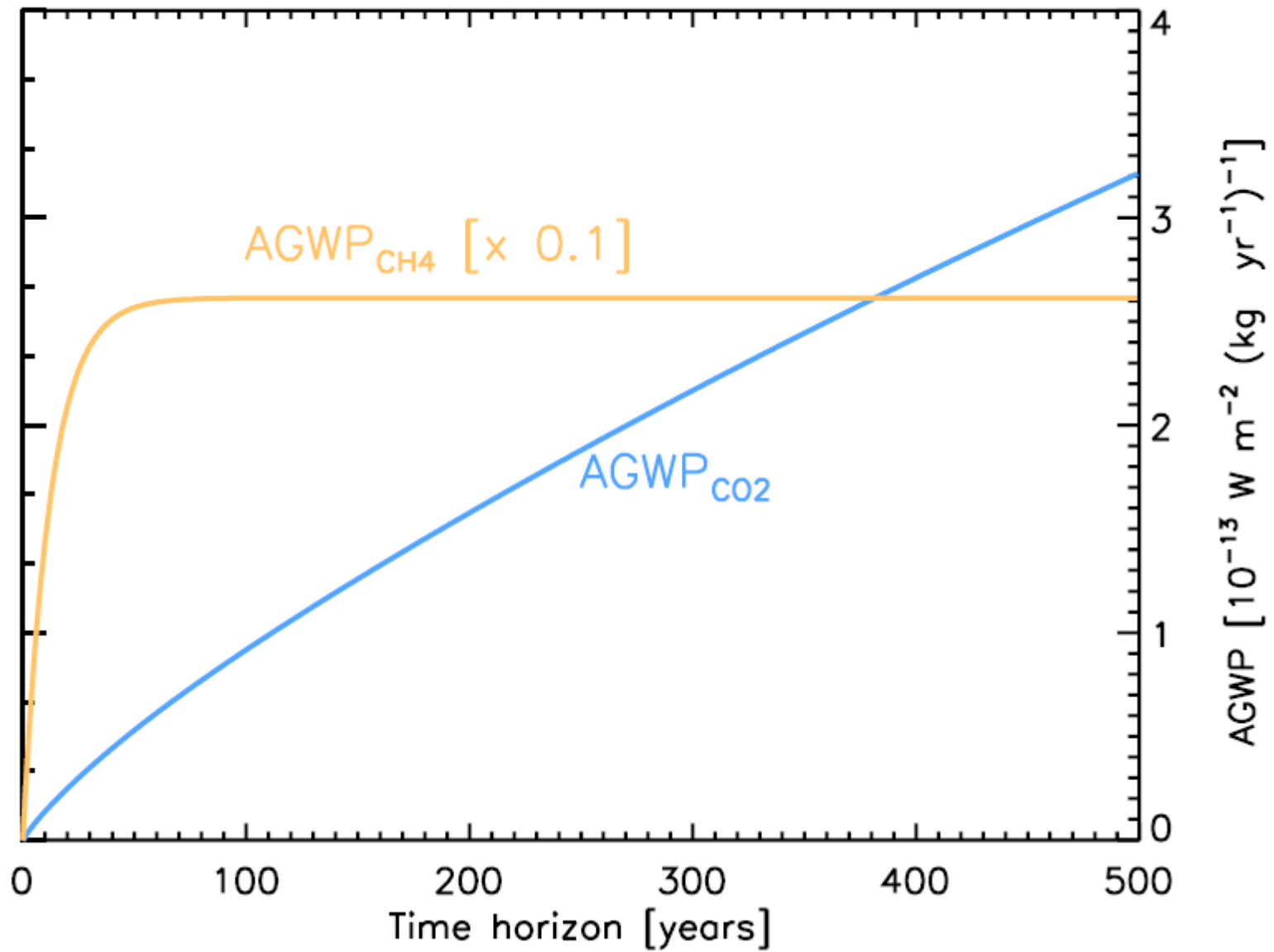
IPCC 1990 presented three time-horizons (20, 100 and 500 yr)

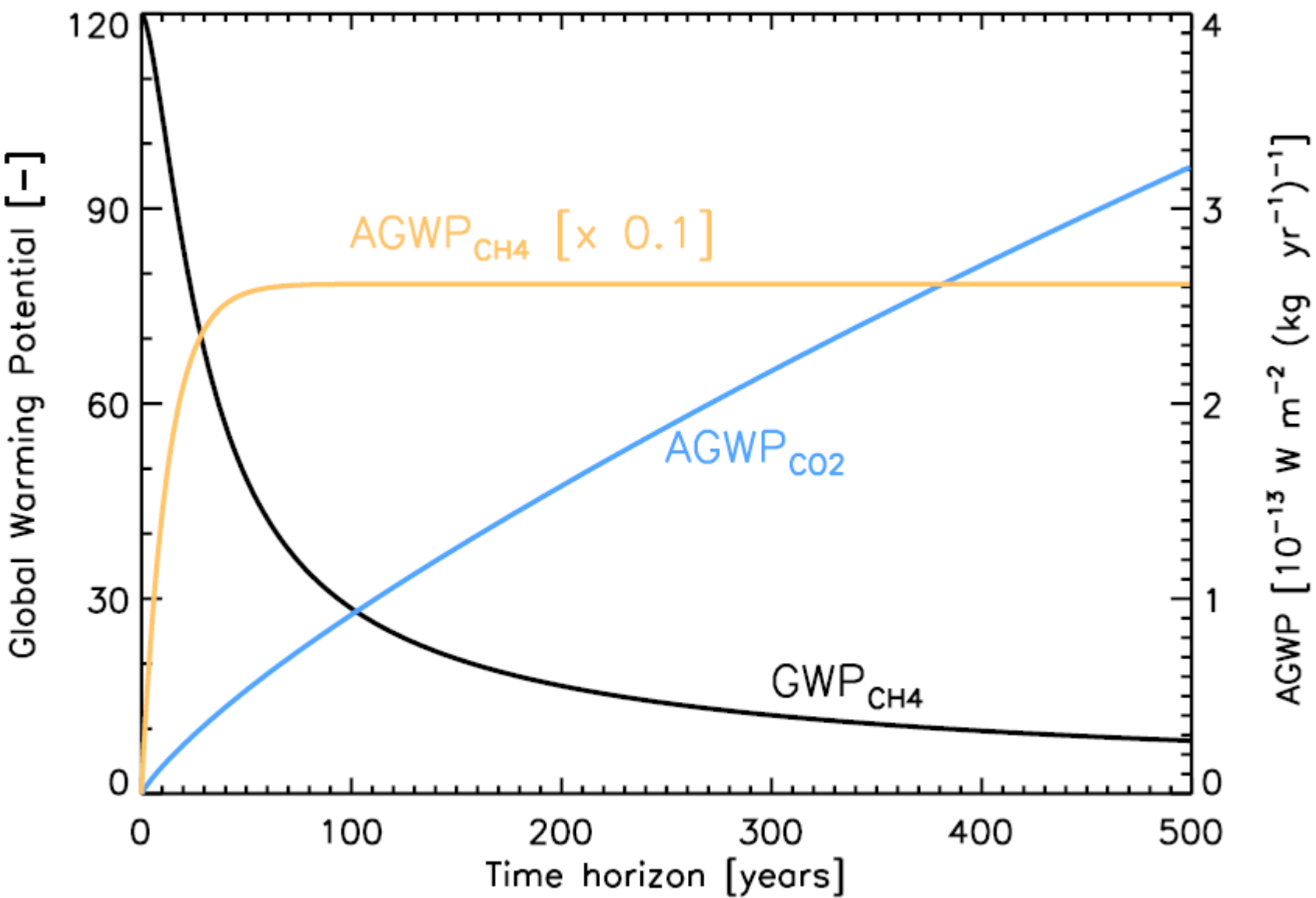


Kyoto Protocol: 100 years

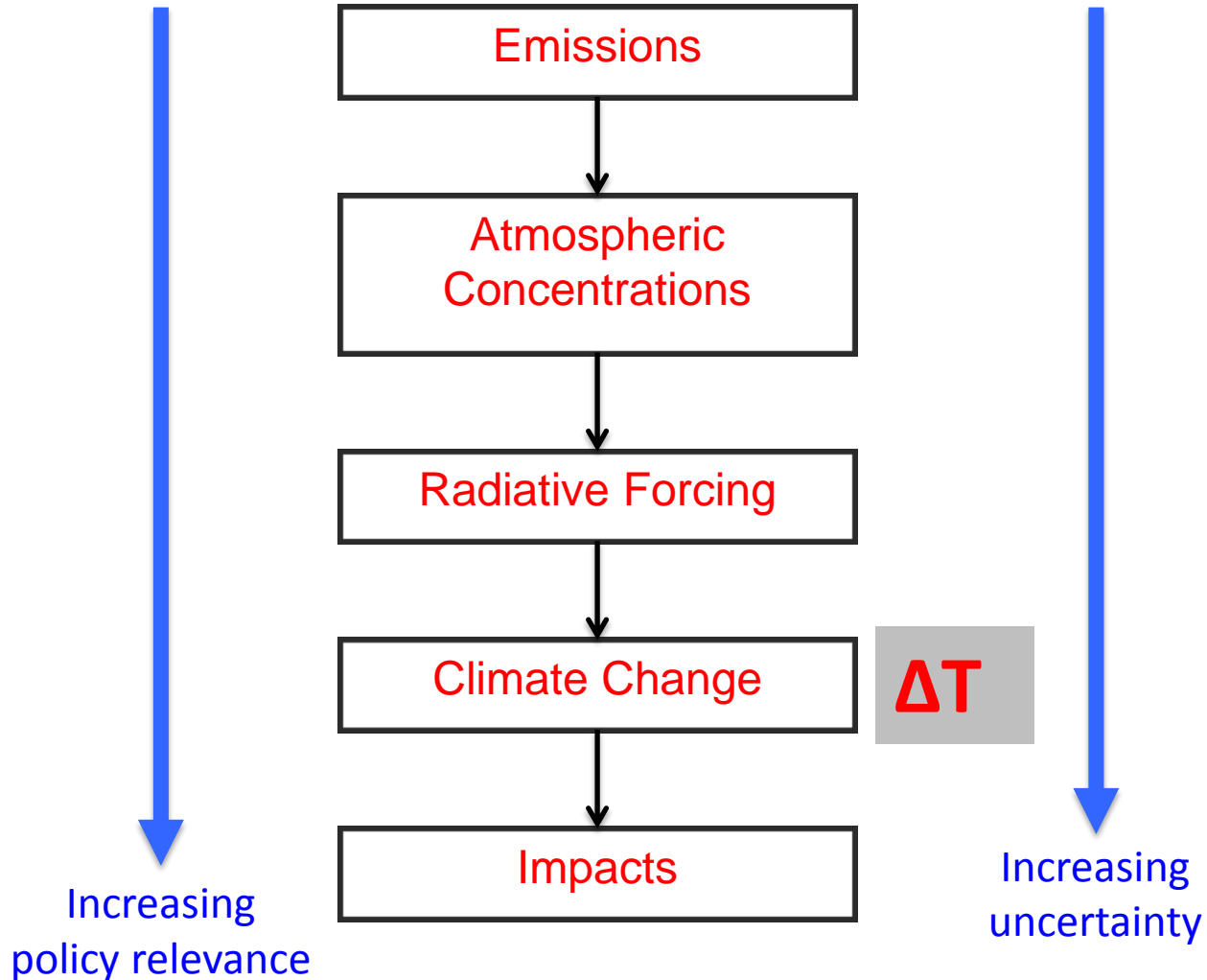
SAR	GWP ₂₀	GWP₁₀₀	GWP ₅₀₀
CH₄	56	21	6.5







Choice of climate impact

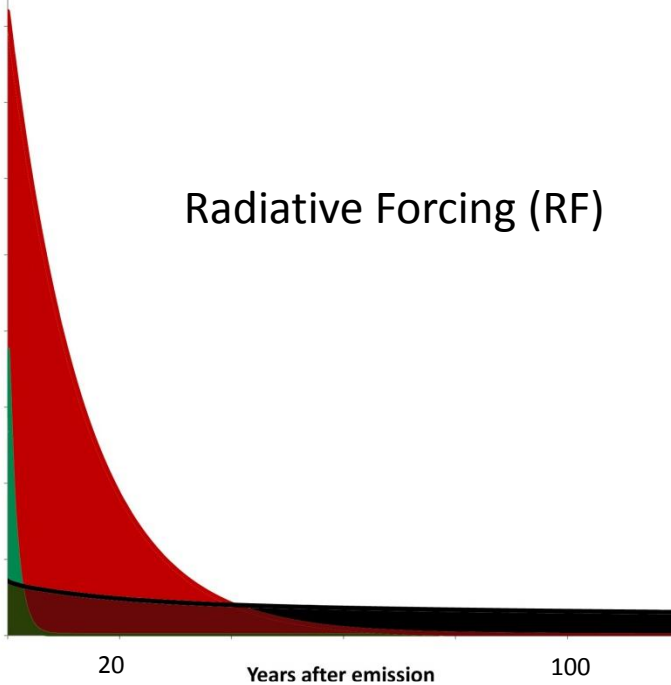


$$GWP_i(H) = \frac{\int_0^H RF_i(t)dt}{\int_0^H RF_{CO_2}(t)dt} = \frac{AGWP_i(H)}{AGWP_{CO_2}(H)}$$

→ strong memory
(often misunderstood; no
climate response included)

Radiative forcing

Radiative Forcing (RF)

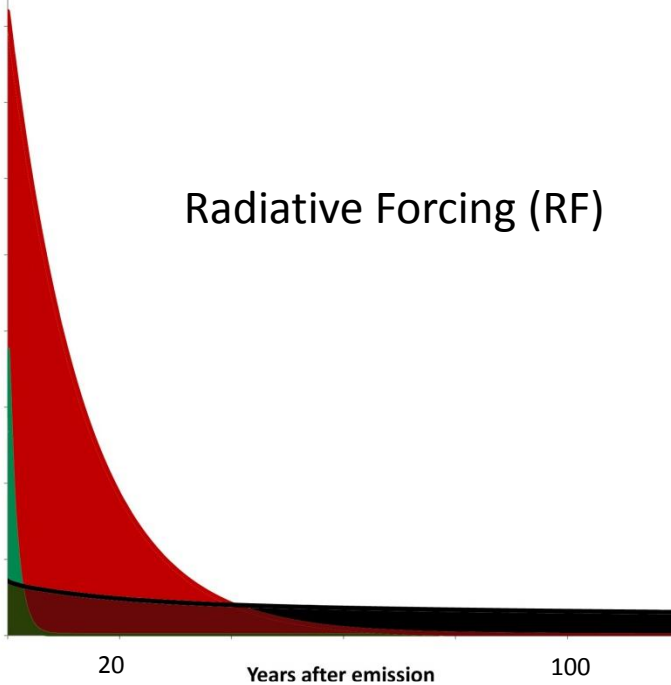


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Radiative forcing

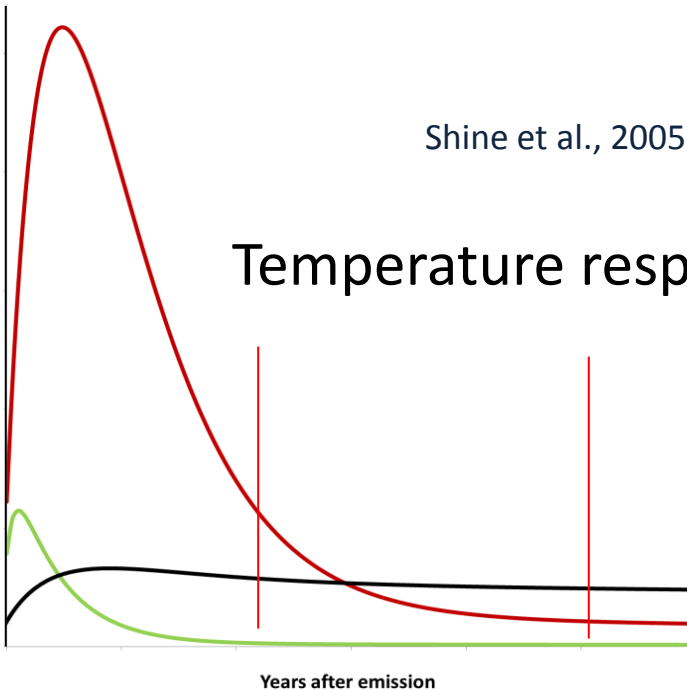
Radiative Forcing (RF)



Shine et al., 2005:

Temperature response

Temperature change

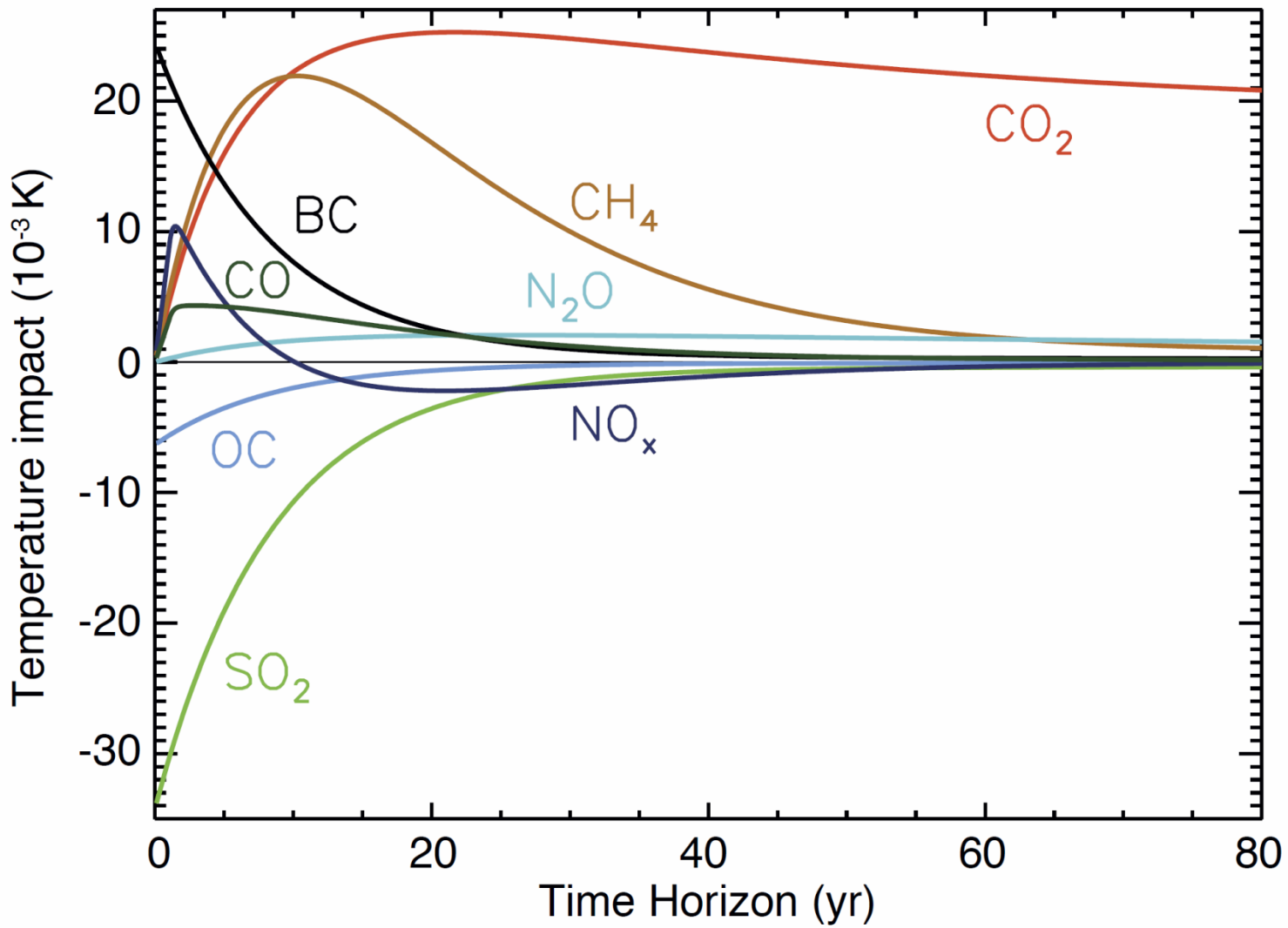


$$GTP_i(t) = \frac{AGTP(t)_i}{AGTP(t)_{CO_2}} = \frac{\Delta T(t)_i}{\Delta T(t)_{CO_2}}$$

Large differences between GTP and GWP for short-lived components

Application of (A)GTP – an example

Temperature responses for total anthropogenic emissions for a one year emissions



> 200 gases

Metric table from AR5

Acronym, Common Name or Chemical Name	Chemical Formula	Lifetime (Years)	Radiative Efficiency (W m ⁻² ppb ⁻¹)	AGWP 20-year (W m ⁻² yr kg ⁻¹)	GWP 20-year	AGWP 100-year (W m ⁻² yr kg ⁻¹)	GWP 100-year	AGTP 20-year (K kg ⁻¹)	GTP 20-year	AGTP 50-year (K kg ⁻¹)	GTP 50-year	AGTP 100-year (K kg ⁻¹)	GTP 100-year
Carbon dioxide	CO ₂	see*	1.37e-5	2.49e-14	1	9.17e-14	1	6.84e-16	1	6.17e-16	1	5.47e-16	1
Methane	CH ₄	12.4 [†]	3.63e-4	2.09e-12	84	2.61e-12	28	4.62e-14	67	8.69e-15	14	2.34e-15	4
Fossil methane‡	CH ₄	12.4 [†]	3.63e-4	2.11e-12	85	2.73e-12	30	4.68e-14	68	9.55e-15	15	3.11e-15	6
Nitrous Oxide	N ₂ O	121 [†]	3.00e-3	6.58e-12	264	2.43e-11	265	1.89e-13	277	1.74e-13	282	1.28e-13	234
<i>Chlorofluorocarbons</i>													
CFC-11	CCl ₃ F	45.0	0.26	1.72e-10	6900	4.28e-10	4660	4.71e-12	6890	3.01e-12	4890	1.28e-12	2340
CFC-12	CCl ₂ F ₂	100.0	0.32	2.69e-10	10,800	9.39e-10	10,200	7.71e-12	11,300	6.75e-12	11,000	4.62e-12	8450

In previous reports: 20, 100 and 500 years.

Values for 500 years not presented in AR5
Long-term effects addressed in other ways

HCFC-123a	CHClFCF ₂ Cl	4.0	0.23	3.37e-11	1350	3.39e-11	370	4.51e-13	659	4.44e-14	72	2.81e-14	51
HCFC-124	CHClFCF ₃	5.9	0.20	4.67e-11	1870	4.83e-11	527	7.63e-13	1120	7.46e-14	121	4.03e-14	74
HCFC-132c	CH ₂ FCFCl ₂	4.3	0.17	3.07e-11	1230	3.10e-11	338	4.27e-13	624	4.14e-14	67	2.58e-14	47
HCFC-141b	CH ₃ CCl ₂ F	9.2	0.16	6.36e-11	2550	7.17e-11	782	1.27e-12	1850	1.67e-13	271	6.09e-14	111
HCFC-142b	CH ₃ CClF ₂	17.2	0.19	1.25e-10	5020	1.82e-10	1980	3.01e-12	4390	8.46e-13	1370	1.95e-13	356

We also give AGWP and AGTP to separate out changes due to reference gas CO₂

Changes in GWP₁₀₀ values since AR4

CH₄: 25 → 28

N₂O: 298 → **265**

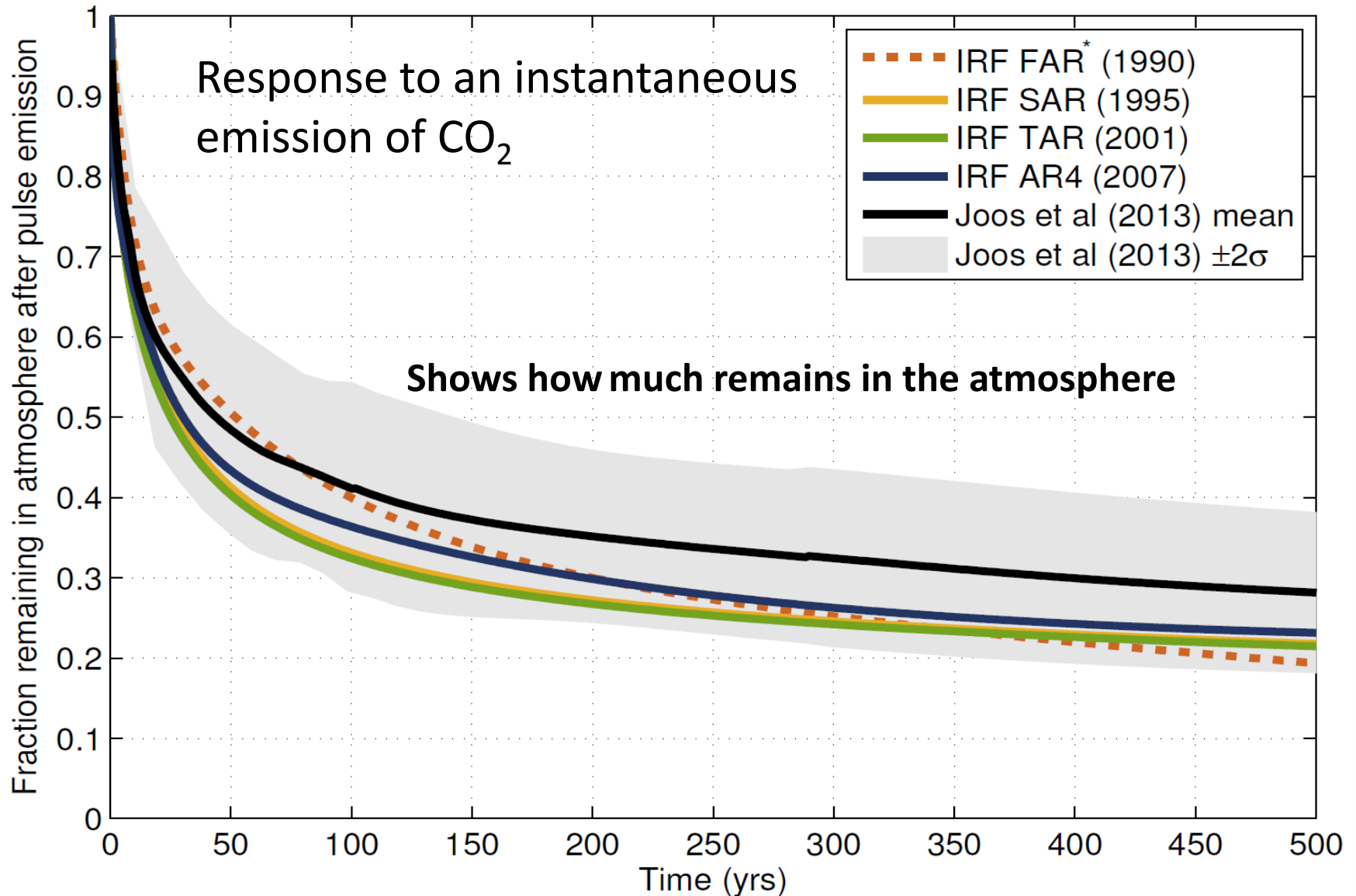
SF₆: 22 800 → **23 500**

HFC143a: 4470 → **4800**

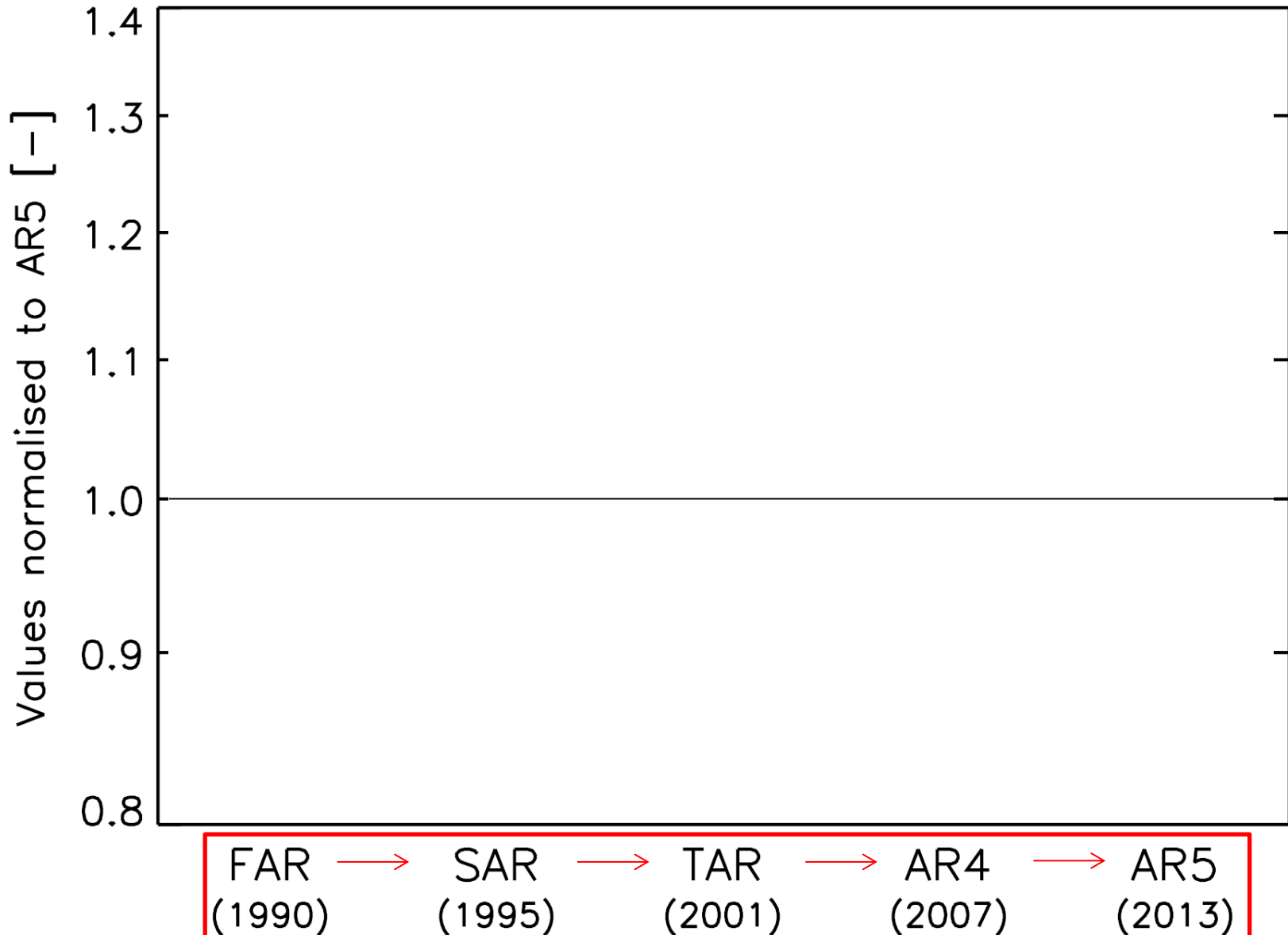
HFC245fa: 1030 → **858**

**WHY HAVE
THEY
CHANGED?**

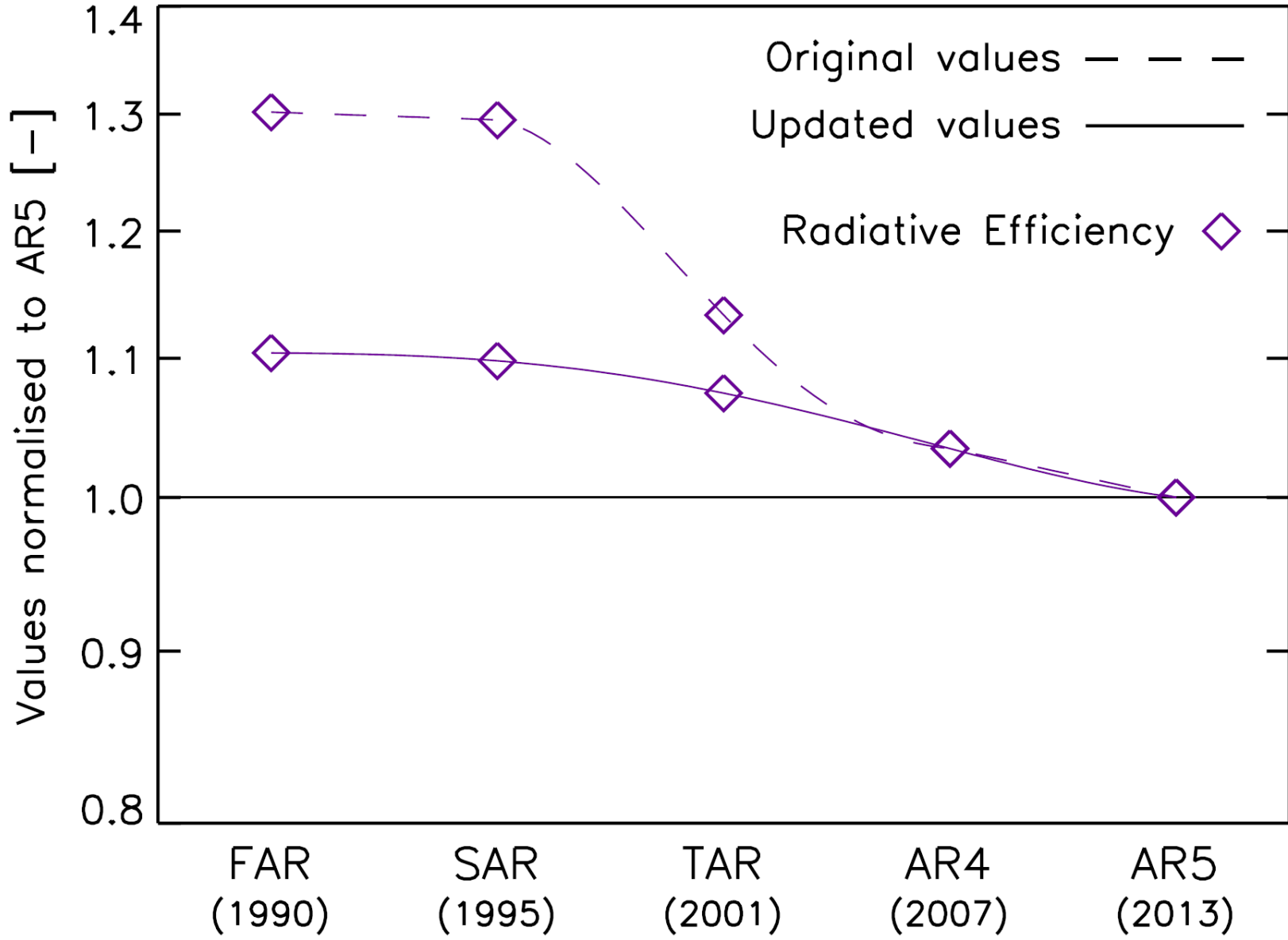
The reference gas: CO₂



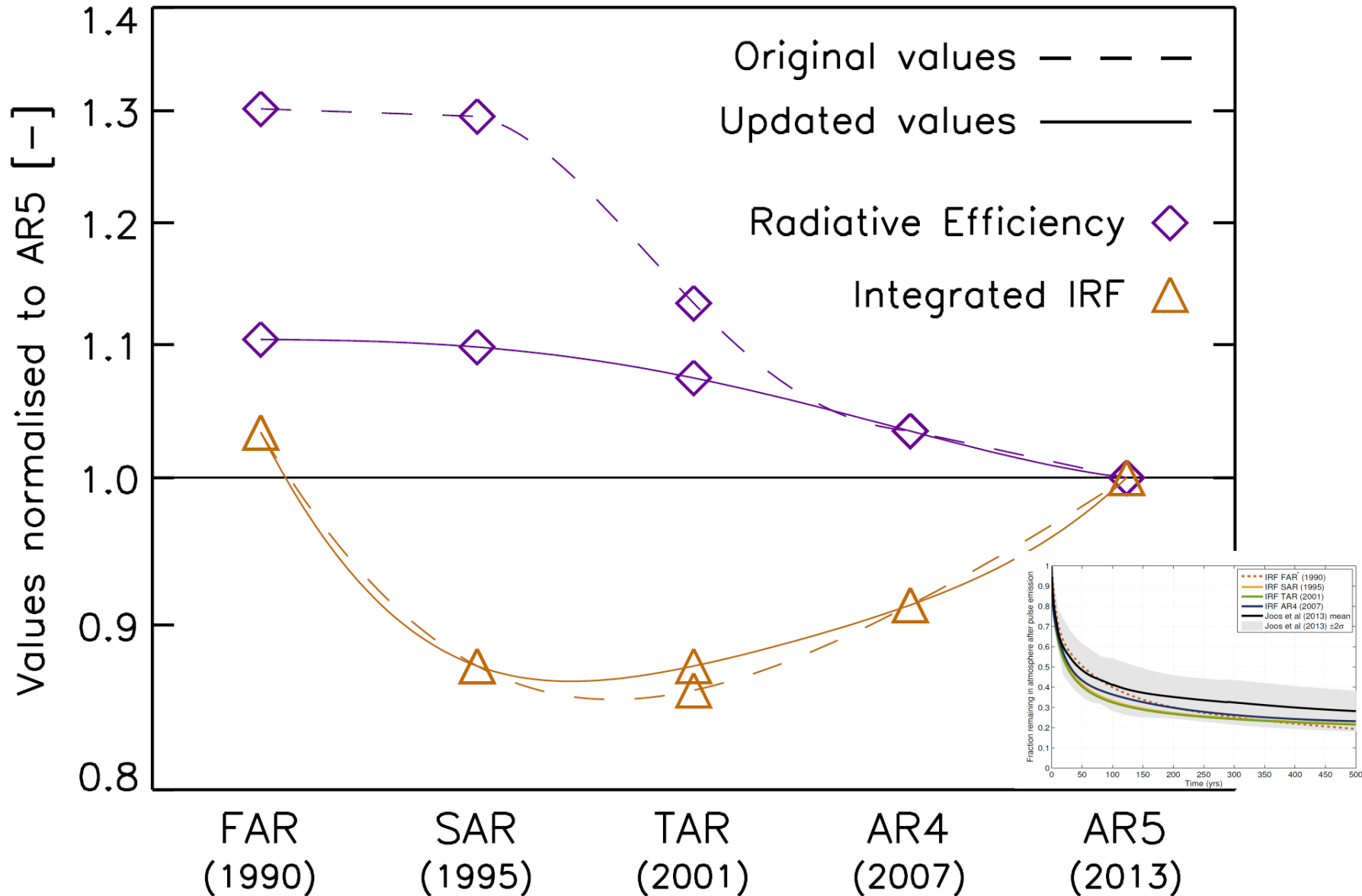
The reference gas: A moving target



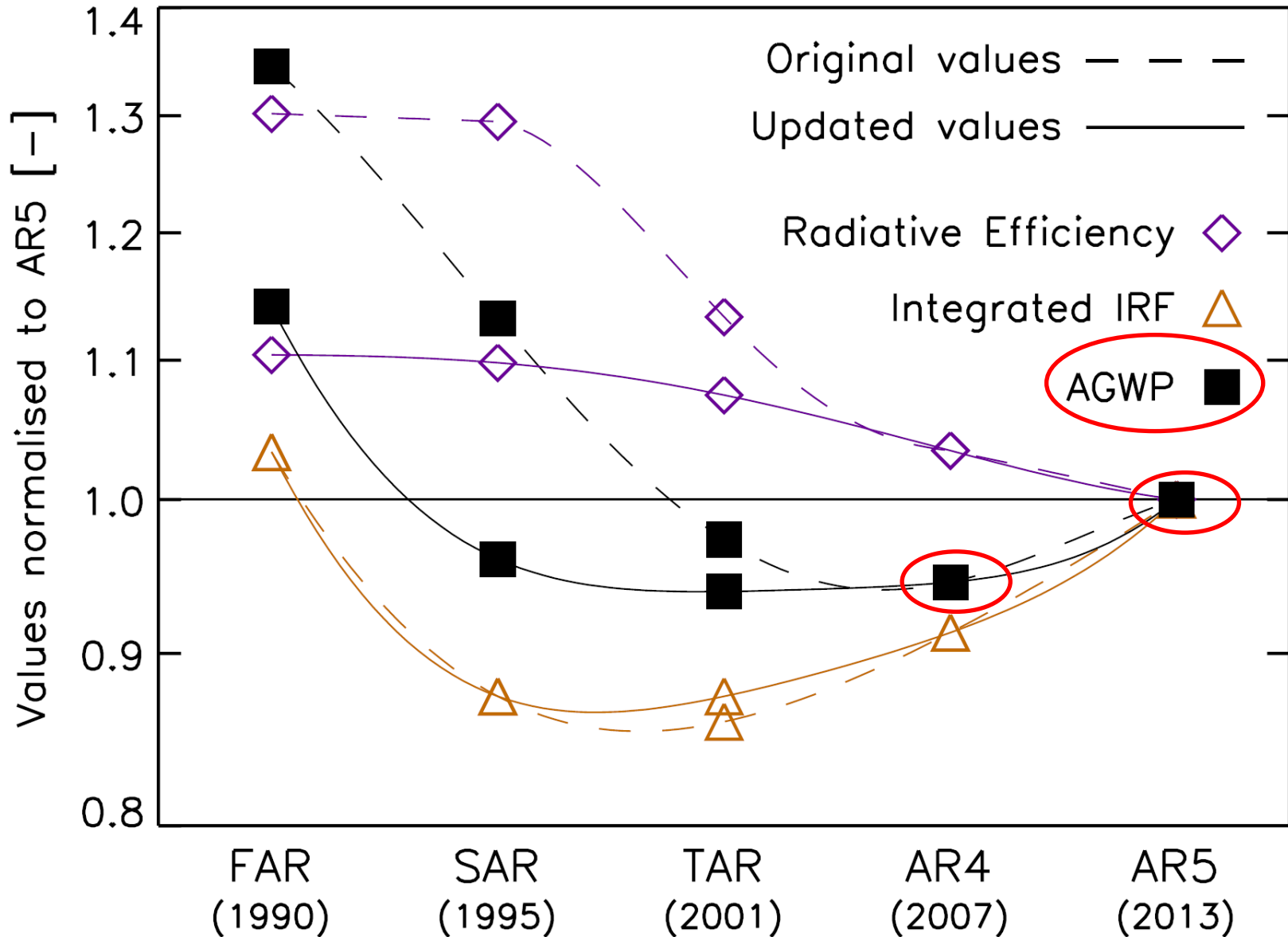
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The reference gas: A moving target



Why has the GWP for methane changed since AR4?

$$GWP_{100} = \frac{AGWP_{CH_4}}{AGWP_{CO_2}} =$$

Why has the GWP for methane changed since AR4?

$$\begin{aligned}
 \boxed{GWP_{100}} & \xrightarrow{+13\%} = \frac{\overset{+20\%}{AGWP_{CH_4}}}{\underset{+6\%}{AGWP_{CO_2}}} = \frac{(1 + \overset{\uparrow}{f_{O_3}} + f_{H_2O}) * \underset{\downarrow}{RE_{CH_4}} \overset{12 \rightarrow 12.4 \text{ yrs}}{\int_0^{100} e^{-t/\tau_{CH_4}} dt}}{\underset{\downarrow}{RE_{CO_2}} \int_0^{100} \overset{\uparrow}{IRF_{CO_2}} dt}
 \end{aligned}$$

Factors affecting the metric values

User related choices

- Impact (RF, ΔT , ...)
- Time horizon
- Discount rate
- Global vs regional
- Inclusion of indirect effects/feedbacks?
- Background conditions

Scientific uncertainties

- Radiative efficiency (Wm^{-2}/kg)
- Lifetime of non- CO_2 components
- Impulse response function for CO_2
- Climate sensitivity and impulse response function for ΔT

For a change in time horizon from 20 to 100 years for CH_4 :

GWP: 84 → 28

GTP: 67 → 4

Effects of scientific uncertainties (5 to 95% uncertainty range)

CH₄: GWP₂₀: ±30%

GWP₁₀₀: ±40%

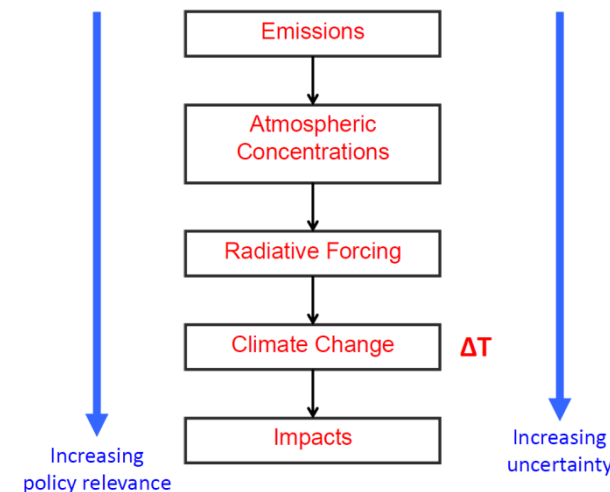
The uncertainty is dominated by CO₂ and indirect effects.

For gases with lifetimes of a **few decades**: in the order of ±25% and ±35% for 20 and 100 years.

For gases with lifetimes of a **century or more**: order of ±20% and ±30% for 20- and 100-year horizons.

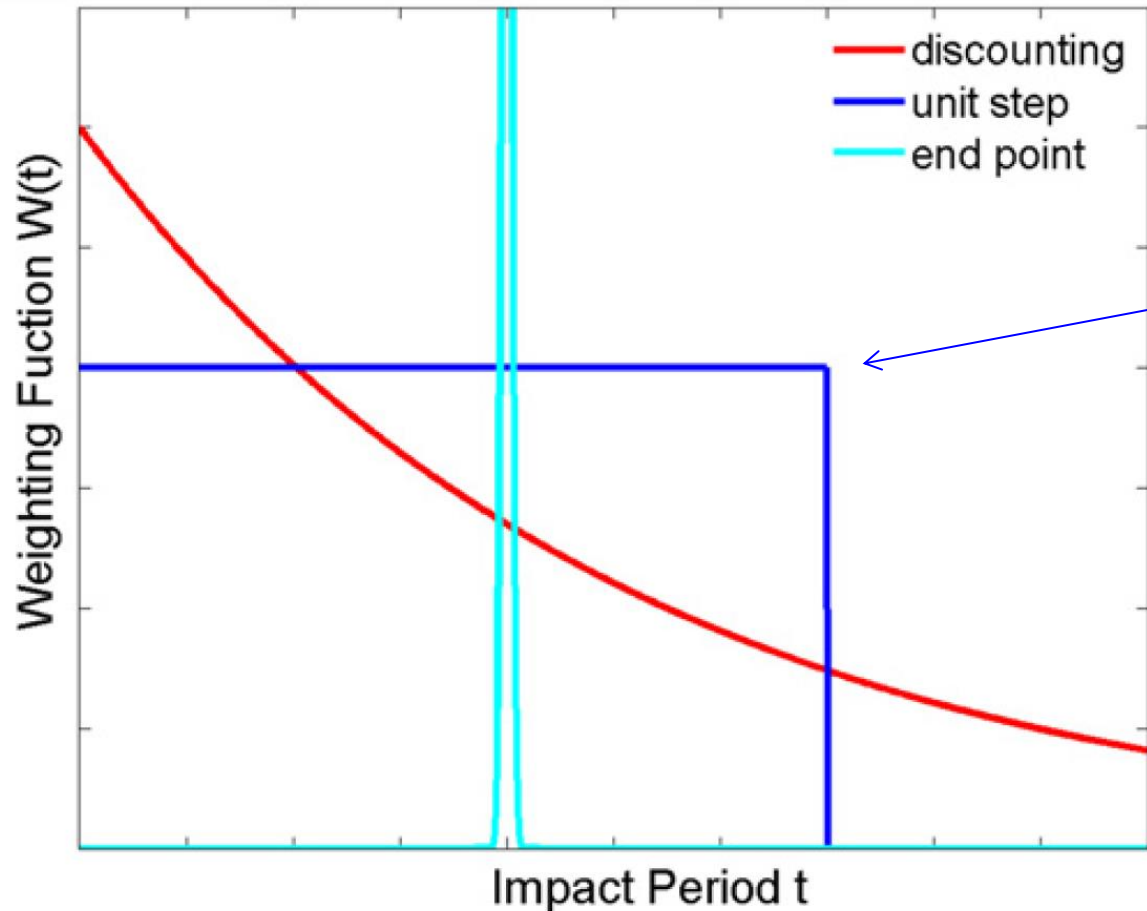
Are the uncertainties in GTP larger than for GWP?

GTP for CH₄: ±75%

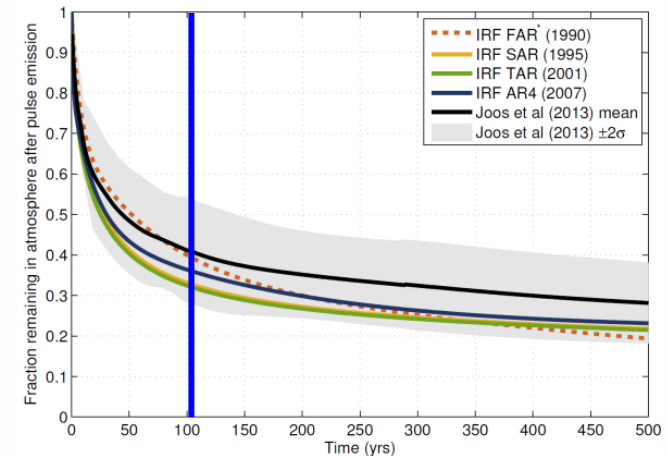


Implicit value judgements in metrics

Weighting of effects over time

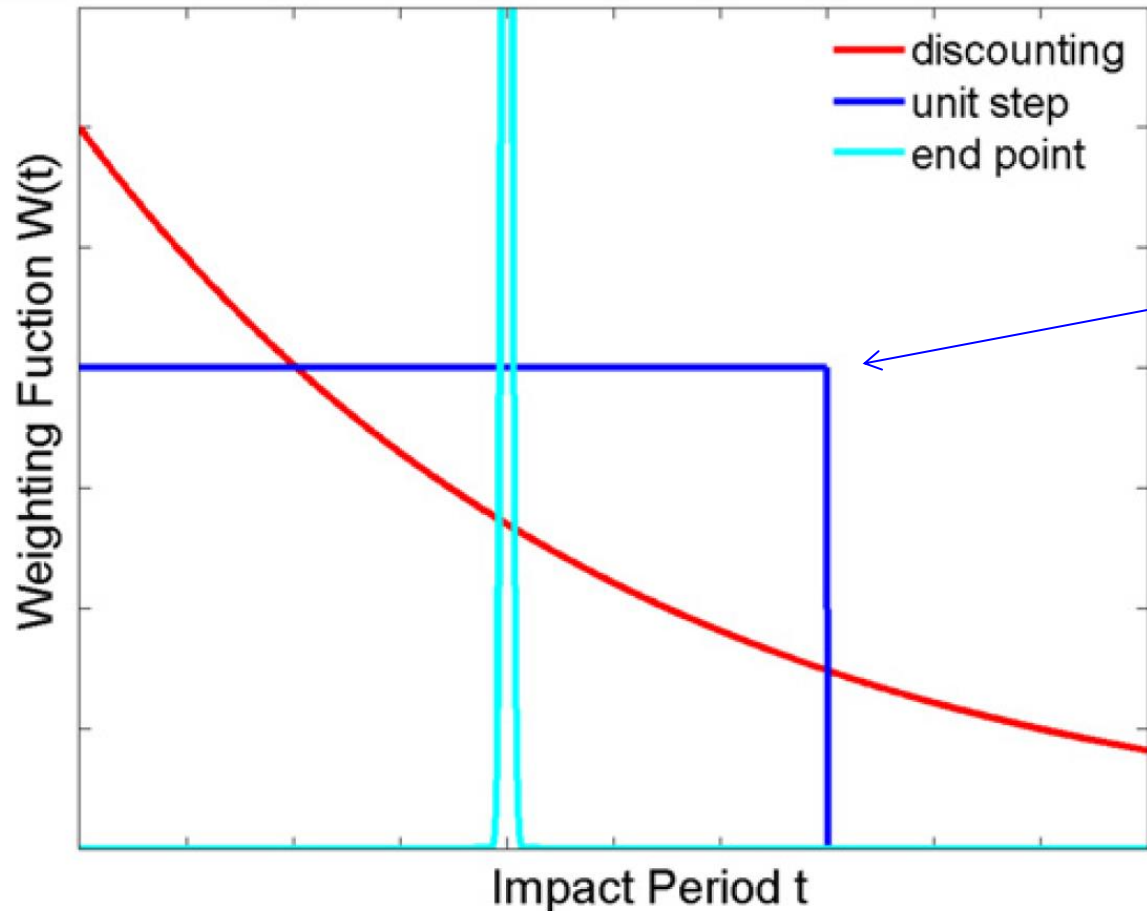


$$AGWP_i(H) = \int_0^H RF_i(t) dt$$

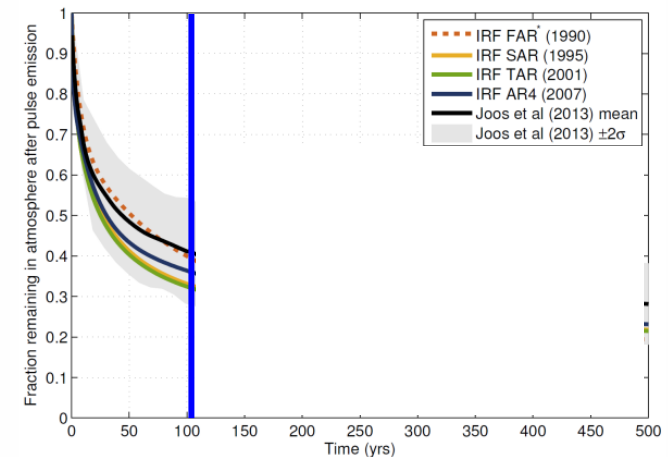


Implicit value judgements in metrics

Weighting of effects over time



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Limitation:

Inconsistent treatment of climate-carbon feedbacks

Previously: Included for CO₂ but not for non-CO₂ components

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Inconsistent treatment of climate-carbon feedbacks

Previously: Included for CO₂ but not for non-CO₂ components

AR5 includes this tentatively:

$$\text{CH}_4: \text{GWP}_{100} = 28 \rightarrow 34$$

$$\text{GTP}_{100} = 4 \rightarrow 11$$

$$\text{N}_2\text{O}: \text{GWP}_{100} = 265 \rightarrow 298$$

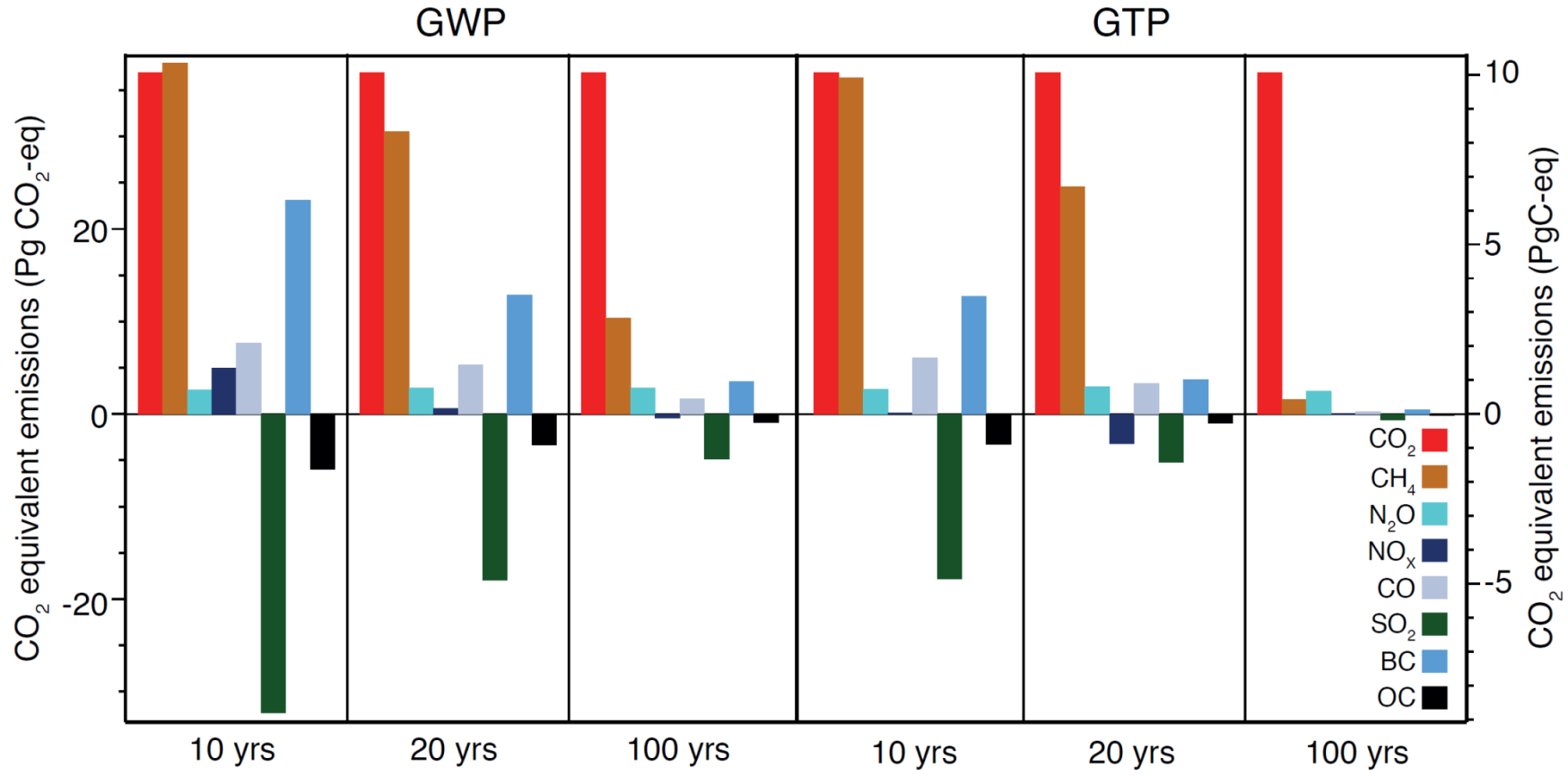
$$\text{GTP}_{100} = 234 \rightarrow 297$$

... review and assess the metrics for SLCF – give overviews of metric values in the literature – we do not «adopt» or recommend these values

Table 8.A.3 | GWP and GTP for NO_x from surface sources for time horizons of 20 and 100 years from the literature. All values are on a per kilogram of nitrogen basis. Uncertainty for numbers from Fry et al. (2012) and Collins et al. (2013) refer to 1-σ. For the reference gas CO₂, RE and IRF from AR4 are used in the calculations. The GWP₁₀₀ and GTP₁₀₀ values can be scaled by 0.94 and 0.92, respectively, to account for updated values for the reference gas CO₂. For 20 years the changes are negligible.

		GWP		GTP	
		H = 20	H = 100	H = 20	H = 100
NO _x East Asia ^a		6.4 (±38.1)	-5.3 (±11.5)	-55.6 (±23.8)	-1.3 (±2.1)
NO _x EU + North		GWP		GTP	
NO _x North		H = 20	H = 100	H = 20	H = 100
NO _x South		H = 20	H = 100	H = 20	H = 100
NO _x four regions ^a		5.4 (±1.7)	1.8 (±0.6)	3.5 (±1.3)	0.26 (±0.12)
Mid-latitude CO EU + North		GWP		GTP	
Tropical North CO North		H = 20	H = 100	H = 20	H = 100
NO _x global CO South		H = 20	H = 100	H = 20	H = 100
VOC East Asia ^a		16.3 (±6.4)	5.0 (±2.1)	8.4 (±4.6)	
VOC EU					
VOC North					
VOC South					
VOC four regions					
VOC global					
BC total, global ^c		3200 (270 to 6200)	900 (100 to 1700)	92	
BC (four regions) ^d		1200 ± 720	345 ± 207		
BC global ^a		1600	460		
BC aerosol–radiation interaction +albedo, global ^b		2900 ± 1500	830 ± 440		
OC global ^a		-240	-69		
OC global ^b		-160 (-60 to -320)	-46 (-18 to -19)		

Global emissions weighted by GWP and GTP for different horizons



Assessment of metrics for policy making

Scientific performance



Policy performance & benefits



SUMMARY

- Metrics do not define policies or goals; facilitate implementation of multi-gas policies to meet particular goals
- GTP and GWP fundamentally different
- No single metric for all applications
- AR5: No clear recommendation as in AR4
- Choices of metric contain implicit value-related judgements
- GWP not directly related to a temperature target
- The GWP and GTP have limitations; inconsistent treatment of indirect effects and feedbacks
- There are alternatives to the current implementation of the multi-gas policies (multi-basket; gas-by-gas)