New Scenarios, New Challenges

A parallel iterative process for better integration of climate physics, socioeconomics and impacts, *(in IPCC-AR5 or equivalent)*

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New Scenarios Process in IPCC

- Task Group on New Emissions Scenarios (steering committee – inc Jean-Pascal vanYpersele)
- Workshops: (100-200 participants each, modelers and users)
 - Laxenburg (Austria) June 2005
 - Sevilla (Spain) March 2006
 - Noordwijkerhout (Netherlands) September 2007
- Panel decision
 - in general IPCC catalyse rather than coordinate
 - first step: workshop / committee select
 "Benchmark Concentration Pathways"

why a new process...?

- Problems with SRES
 - "Fatalistic" no climate policy only (mandate)
 - One-way process (no feedbacks) storylines => emissions => [big report] => climate =>impacts
 - Formal => slow impacts lag behind, out of date
- Problems with AR4
 - "Scenarios used for AOGCM runs decided by WG1 without debate with users / other WG (hence no really high scenario, & no mitigation or stabilization runs)" This decreased the policy-relevance of AR4
 - Why?
 - Bad coordination/communication between Working groups, scientific communities, and users
 - Missing early decision on Synthesis report and the issues to be addressed across WG

Projecting climate alone is not sufficient



Source: Carter et al., 2001

How to include key feedbacks?

It's not a one way cause-effect chain (emissions =>climate...)

- Climate change => Carbon cycle => Emissions (for stabilisn) need ESMs to run stabilisation scenarios
- Climate Change => Water, Agriculture => Limits to Demographic and Economic growth => Emissions (particularly in high population "A2 world")
- Climate Change => Potential Land Use => Emissions
- Climate Change => perceived "Dangerous" Impacts => Mitigation Policy => Emissions
- => need to know climate first, to analyse emissions pathways...
- Solutions:

=> Start in middle of cause-effect chain (concentration/forcing)

=> ESMs tune flexible integrated assessment models

More issues...

- Explore limits of pattern scaling
- Nonlinearity in response forcing =>impacts (critical for risk anor "guardrails")
- => need at least 3 scalysis or "guardrails") enarios to get a curve
 - 4 better, also avoids one in the "middle" (political)
- LUC and short lived gases / aerosols need high resolution, shorter timescale
- BUT ESM community group say clearly
 - better to run many ensembles of fewer scenarios
 - scenarios need to be distinguishable



Choosing four "Representative Concentration Pathways"

- Low stabilisation 2.5- 3 W/m2
- Two medium stabilisation
 - 4.5 W/m2
 - 6.0 W/m2
- High reference 8- 8.5 W/m2

to be selected from AR4 reviewed literature

so – these RCPs are the first step, **NOT** the **NEW** scenarios







The lowest RCP....

•IPCC plenary mandate: «benchmark concentration scenarios should be compatible with the full range of stabilization, mitigation and baseline emission scenarios available in the current scientific literature»

•But are the most extreme cases "representative"?

•Proposal by Meinhausen & Hare – use IM2.6 instead of IM2.9 many participants signed.

- •More peaking scenario => explore reversability / hysteresis
- •Policymakers concerned about message re 2°C and 2050 targets
- •both OK for 2°C, just depends on the probability/ acceptable risk

The lowest RCP....

continued...

 concern – robustness – of course it's physically possible, but there will be sacrifices

•No risk impossible before AR4 printed: IM2.6 and IM2.9 they only diverge after 2025

•Key difference Biomass + Carbon Capture +Storage => implications biodiversity and agriculture – topical issue (eg biofuel)!

•concern – only one model – IMAGE team don't want all the pressure from skeptics alone

•Solution – wait until summer 2008, see whether other models can make a similar trajectory

JCM already demonstrated this approach: Example below from presention of Matthews & VanYpersele at WCCC 2003 Moscow, also to European strategy meeting Firenze Stabilisation under uncertainty: fixing a concentration or temperature (EU 2C) target: Defining the scenario by concentration or forcing spreads the cascade of uncertainty more evenly:



Extra shorter term scenarios

- Higher Resolution 0.5°
- Focus on effects of aerosols, ozone, LUC etc.
- Only one central case (4.5 W/m2) + variants
- No need for carbon cycle feedbacks
- Should include aviation cirrus!
- ESMs run from reanalysis connected to future scenario new experiment, problem drift?

Changes in Asian Monsoon Precipitation

CGCM All forcings



MIROC medium resolution model JJAS linear trend yr 1901-2000 Precipitation [mm/day/100y] & 850-hPa winds [m/s/100y]



CGCM Aerosol only



CGCM GHG only



Regional Emission inventory in ASia

Emission for E. Asia: 1980-2030 (FRCGC/RIHN)







Extension to 2300

- Important for
 - Stabilisation
 - Some impacts such as Sea-level Rise
- Challenge to extend socioeconomic and emissions projections
 - in a stylized way Less detail / resolution
 - especially difficult for high (non stabilisation) case



Example: Extension of SRES baselines: A1B A1T A1F A2 B1 B2 using regression of "Kaya" trends for each region (JCM, developed for Climneg, presented in Trieste December 2004)







IPCC Scenarios - AR4

WG1 concept that GCMs should do everything was inefficient way to compare scenarios => too few scenarios were run – 3 SRES are not enough! (simple model still used for others)

Policymakers need mitigation scenarios and to see the sensitivity to options (marginal effects) => GCMs should parameterise simpler flexible models

New IPCC Scenario Process towards AR5

(meetings in Laxenburg, Sevilla, Noordwijkerhout)



agreed that using special reports as a data interface between models too inefficient! => "new" parallel process concept to save time:

define simple stabilisation scenarios in the middle of cause effect chain (CO2eq concentration / forcing) (at least three to cover full plausible (>likely) range and so GCMs identify nonlinearities in climate response and impacts)

• GCMs => forward to climate, impacts, adaptation

• Socioeconomic (& Biogeochemical?) models => inverse calculation to emissions and mitigation

Challenges of this approach:

how to take account of cross-cutting feedbacks ...?

climate change => soil respiration, plant growth, methane release...

climate change impacts => population, economic growth

(when these are between separate models/processes)

Integrated models might do it better...

Synthesis by connecting reports? Examples from IPCC AR4:



BUT making such synthesis based on single indicators can be misleading, for example:

Climate Change Impacts

Mitigation costs

900 1000 1100

Е

6.0 65 7.0

D



not just a function of

Global Average Temperature level,

CO2 concentration

but also depend strongly on:

socioeconomic baseline value assumptions in aggregation over space, time, sector & risk

timing of warming,

learning by doing

regional effect of short-lived gases & aerosols

mechanisms, etc.

timing of investments,

mixture of gases, flexible









