

Micrometeorological methods to determine methane emissions – exercise/demonstration of bLS using WindTrax

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Given data / needed numbers:

- Google image of the feedlot (feedlotimage.jpg)
- files feedyard.txt, lagoon.txt, TX05_datafragment.txt
- image needs to be rotated about 1.2 degrees to align with GPS-measured coordinates of the cattle pens (feedyard.txt)
- distance from upper left corner of pens to upper right corner of pens is 801 m
- surface elevation of feedlot 1073 m
- laser in feedlot spans $(x,y) = (299, -629)$ to $(509,-636)$ measured in [m] relative to the upper left corner of the feedlot pens. Path height is 1 m
- laser outside feedlot (measuring “background”) spans path $(x,y) = (-58, -1737)$ to $(164,-1748)$, path height 1 m
- **Save Often – no “Undo” button!**

OBJECTIVE

ACTION

Import photo of site:

Draw → Miscellaneous → Bitmap Image

Rotate site photo (if needbe):

Right click on the image → Imported image properties → Grid angle (1.2)

Set the WindTrax origin at some convenient point

Edit → select grid icon → Move origin to a convenient grid vertex

Adjust position of photo so that (any) convenient point of reference (e.g. NW corner of pens) lies at the selected WindTrax origin

Calibrate the ruler (and the Grid Scale) by using a known distance on the photo

Edit → Select ruler → move crosshair over one end of the known distance → hold down left mouse button and move to other end of known distance → release mouse button → enter the known length into the textbox and hit RETURN. (If you want to check: Project → Map → Grid brings up a text box reporting the scale; you may then check it matches what you want)

OBJECTIVE

ACTION

Import a source as a closed polygon defined in a text file containing positions [m] relative to origin... 0,0 in first line will position that vertex over WindTrax origin

or

Simply draw the source

Having taken the above steps, lock positions to avoid accidentally shifting anything

Draw → Miscellaneous → Import polygon → *select file feedyard.txt* → select colour representing this source and Output mode (unknown)

Select a colour for this source, then:
Draw → Shapes → *your choice of freehand or geometric object*

(Optionally also import lagoon.txt, assign a different colour, define as KNOWN with strength zero)

Edit → Lock positions

OBJECTIVE

ACTION

Enter details of the landscape

(not all properties need be set as static constants – some are read from the input file)

Place laser gas detectors on map and define their properties

Right click with mouse anywhere outside the imported image, and left click “Surface Properties.” Enter the surface elevation (1073 m), used to estimate pressure when converting mixing ratios to concentrations

Sensors → select Line concentration sensor → place crosshair on map and hold down left mouse button to draw light path (position and length approximate – corrected in next step).

Place selection tool (white arrow) over the sensor, right click → Line concentration sensor
→ Properties: enter known coordinates of ends of the light path
→ Species: select CH₄
→ Measurement: select “Output mode” (measured); select units of measurement (ppmv x m)

(repeat for second laser)

In this configuration, i.e. one laser upwind of all sources, we can compute background concentration

Project → BG Concentration → Data
→ *unknown*

OBJECTIVE

ACTION

Connect WindTrax to file containing measured input data (wind speed, direction, stability, concentration data,...)

“Data connections” link the appropriate file column to the various inputs WindTrax needs...

e.g. line concentration from sensor 1 is in column 7 in ppmv x m

Data → select leftmost icon (“Data source (input file)” → place icon at any convenient point on map, and right click it. Browse to select filename TX05_datafragment.txt

“View File” opens a window allowing you to view the column-organized data with its column headers (identifiers) – you may leave this open or reopen at any time

Data connections. Expand “Line Concentration Sensor 1” in right hand panel. Place mouse over “CH4 concentration (ppmv m)” and with left button down drag over to row 7 of the left hand panel, which will self-identify as “C1(ppmm),” release mouse button

Similarly, data for Line Concentration Sensor 2 are in file column 6

All other data pertaining to these detectors have been entered earlier

To undo and reset a data connection, click the double right arrow between the two panels

OBJECTIVE

ACTION

“Data connections”
(continuing) ...

e.g. atmospheric
conditions need to be
linked to the “Surface
Layer Model”

... and the nature of
the “Map surface”
needs to be linked to
the measured
effective roughness
length

Data connections. Expand “Surface
Layer Model” in right hand panel. Place
mouse over “U* m/s” and with left button
down drag over to row 3 of the left hand
panel, which will self-identify as “u*
(m/s),” release mouse button

Similarly, connect “Direction angle
(degrees)” to column 1

Connect “Stability (MO length, m)” to
column 5 self-identifying as L

Expand “Map surface” and Connect
“Surface roughness Zo (m)” to column
17 self-identifying as z0

OBJECTIVE

ACTION

Connect WindTrax to an OUTPUT file

Data → select icon second from left (“Data logger (output file)” → place icon at any convenient point on map, and right click it. Browse to select filename.

Set up the outputs you want (may include any or all of the inputs) in any order you want...

Connections. Expand “Input data file 1” in right hand panel. Place mouse over “Column 1” (which is time) and with left button down drag over to the left hand panel.

The single right arrow will undo any output connection you done want

Connections. Expand “Aqua area source” (or whatever colour you used) in right hand panel. Place mouse over “Tracer area-integrated emssion rate” and with left button down drag over to the left hand panel

-
-
-

Repeat for all outputs you want

OBJECTIVE

ACTION

Prepare to compute an ensemble of backward trajectories

How many paths?

Project → Backward LS Model →
Number of particles → 5000

How far upwind to compute paths?

Project → Backward LS Model →
Horizontal tracking distance mode →
minimum required

Optionally, place a “camera” on the surface to record the gas plume for each interval (a handy diagnostic)

Data → drag camera icon onto map
→ right click and set specifications
(e.g. where to store these images)

Ready to perform simulation and get Q?

Check status of WindTrax – the Questionmark button

Perform bLS simulation

Large green “play” arrow