

Discussion: Flux correction for cross-contamination

Open Path / Closed Path IRGA comparison

1. Before measuring: practical considerations for open paths
2. Application of WPL correction and comparison with closed path
3. Recommendations

Historical review of WPL density correction:

[Fuehrer and Friehe \(2002\) Flux corrections revisited, BLM 102, 415-457.](#)

Practical Considerations for Open Path

Advantages:

- Low Power
- Co-located with sonic
- No high frequency corrections/delays

Disadvantages

- Density corrections can swamp true fluxes
- Performance in rain?
- Dirt on windows

Considerations from First Principles

1. In terms of molar density, ρ_c (measured by open path)

$$F_c = \overline{\rho'_c w'} + \overline{\rho_c} \overline{w}$$



Correction term proportional to background CO2 concentration - need to know the mean accurately.

- Use well-calibrated sensor that doesn't drift
- Calibrate a drifty sensor regularly
- Use simultaneous with well-calibrated nearby reference sensor

Considerations from First Principles

1. In terms of molar density, ρ_c (measured by open path)

$$F_c = \overline{\rho'_c w'} + \overline{\rho_c} \overline{w}$$

$$F_c = \overline{\rho'_c w'} + \overline{\rho_c} [0.54 \lambda E + 2.80 H] \times 10^{-6}$$



Correction is ~ 5 times more sensitive to sensible heat flux than it is to latent heat flux. In theory, sites with small Bowen ratio will have smaller corrections.

Also, since correction is independent of CO₂ flux, the correction is relatively smaller for sites with large CO₂ fluxes.

Considerations from First Principles

1. In terms of molar density, ρ_c (measured by open path)

$$F_c = \overline{\rho'_c w'} + \overline{\rho_c} \overline{w}$$

2. In terms of mixing ratio, $c = \rho_c / \rho_a$

$$F_c = \overline{\rho_a} \overline{c' w'}$$

Requires simultaneous measurement of dry air molar density, ρ_a

- Fast response, co-located temperature measurement

Tapajos National Forest, Para, Brazil



Sample by Sample dry air molar density, ρ_a

$$\rho_a = \frac{P_a}{RT}$$

$$P_a = P - P_v$$

$$P_v = \left(\frac{\rho_v}{M_v} \right) R_u T$$

P - total air pressure

P_a - partial pressure dry air

P_v - partial pressure water vapor

R_u - gas constant

T - "dry" temperature

T_s - "sonic temperature"

Water vapor density measured
by open path

$$T \approx \frac{T_s}{1 + 0.32 P_v / P}$$

Considerations from First Principles

$$\rho_c = c \rho_a$$



measured by open path

For constant mixing ratio, c

$$\delta\rho_c = c \delta\rho_a$$



Spurious fluctuation in measured density due to air density fluctuation

Correction will be smaller for species with large fluctuations relative the the background concentration value.

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EFFECT OF DIFFERENT HARDWARE



Using closed path to calibrate open path

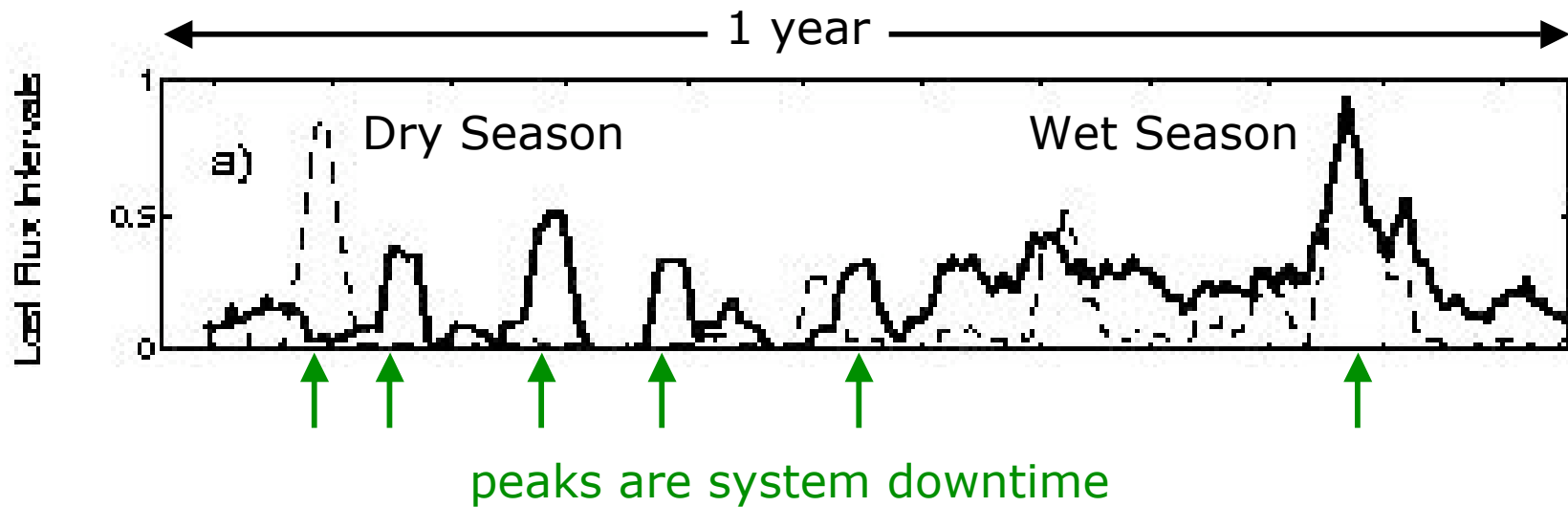
Performance in Rain

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2000 mm rain yr⁻¹

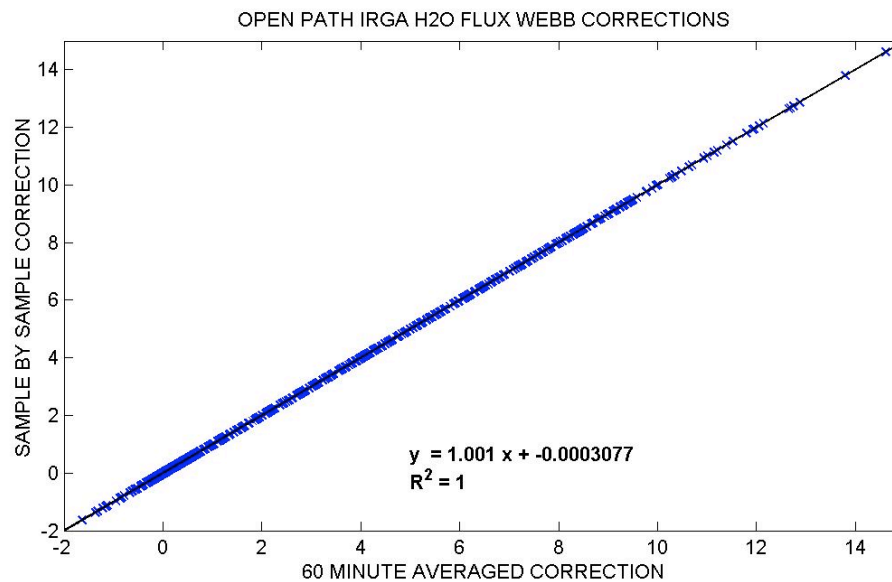
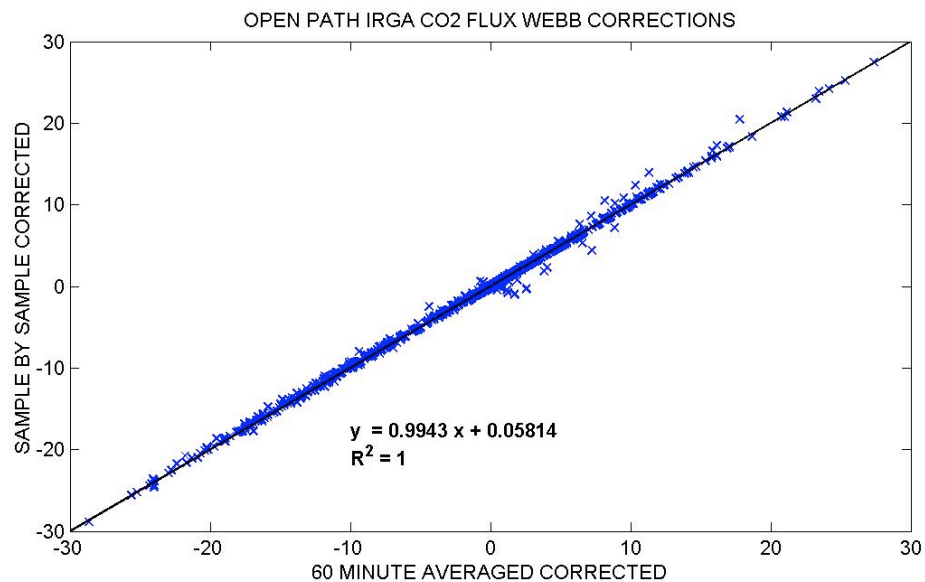
Open path: solid

Closed path: dashed



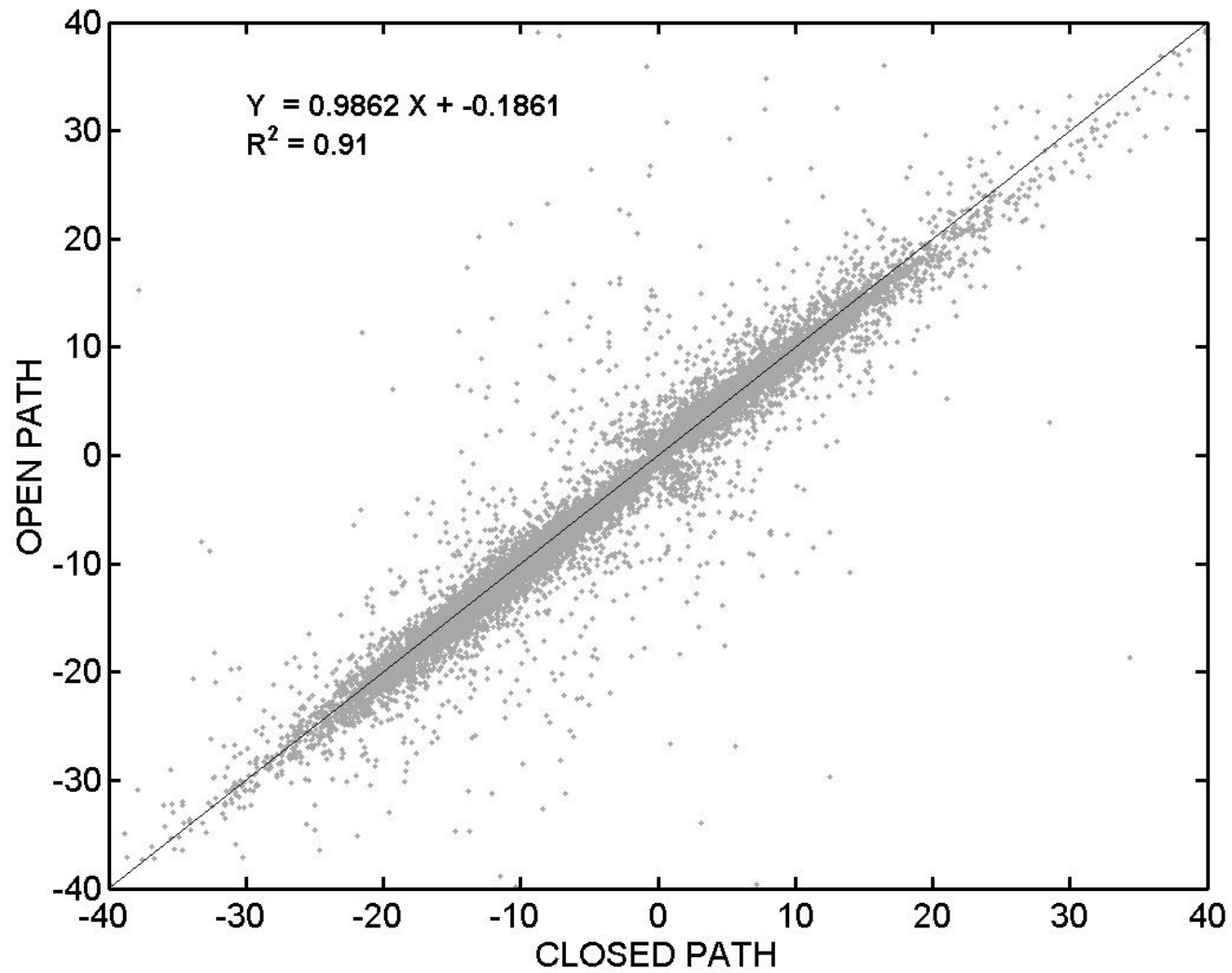
Results

Applying WPL correction sample by sample or using 30 minute covariances are equal.



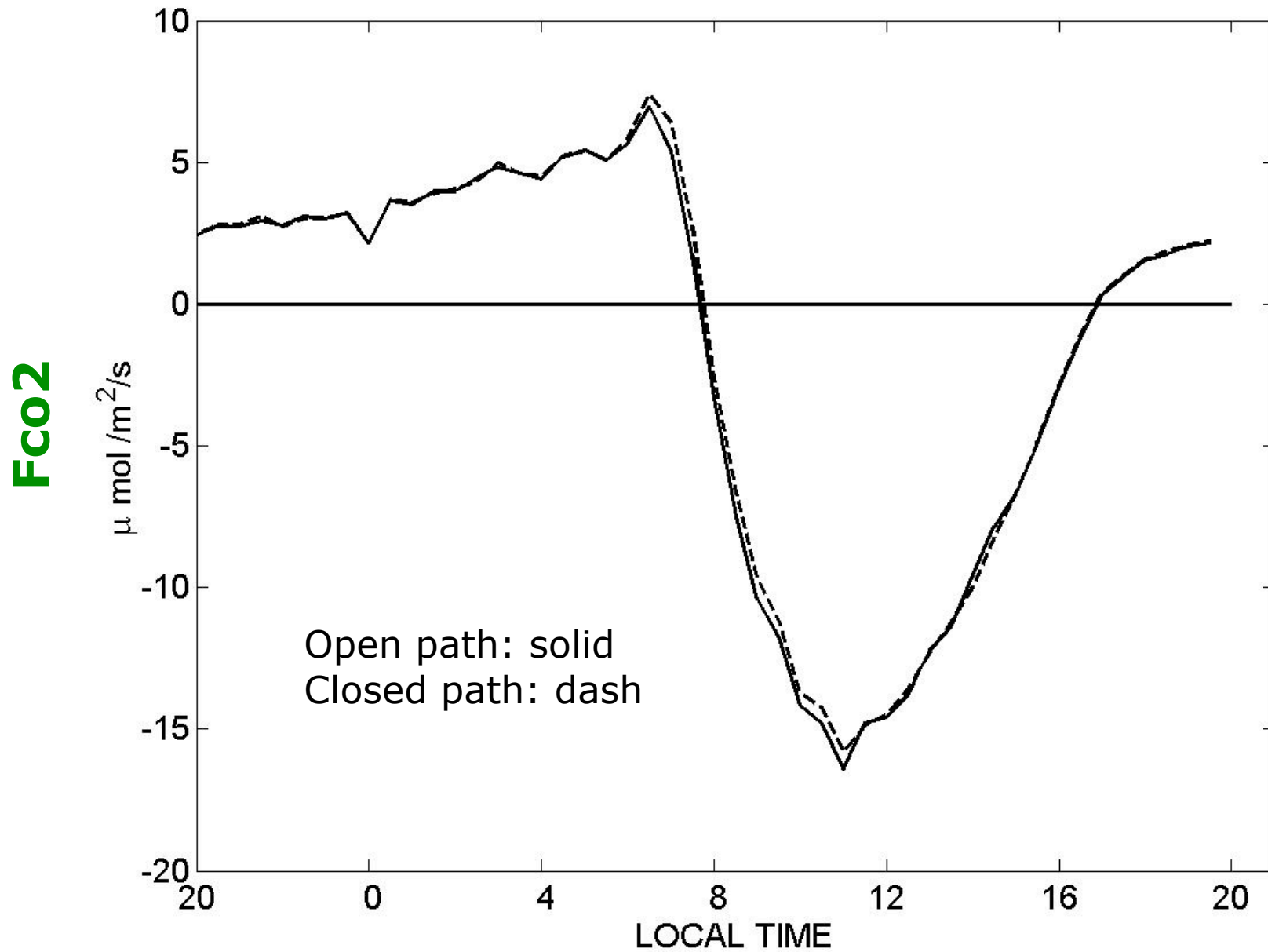
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Open Path - Closed Path regression of CO₂ flux



Averaged over 22 months...

Tapajos National Forest, Para, Brasil



Tapajos National Forest, Para, Brasil

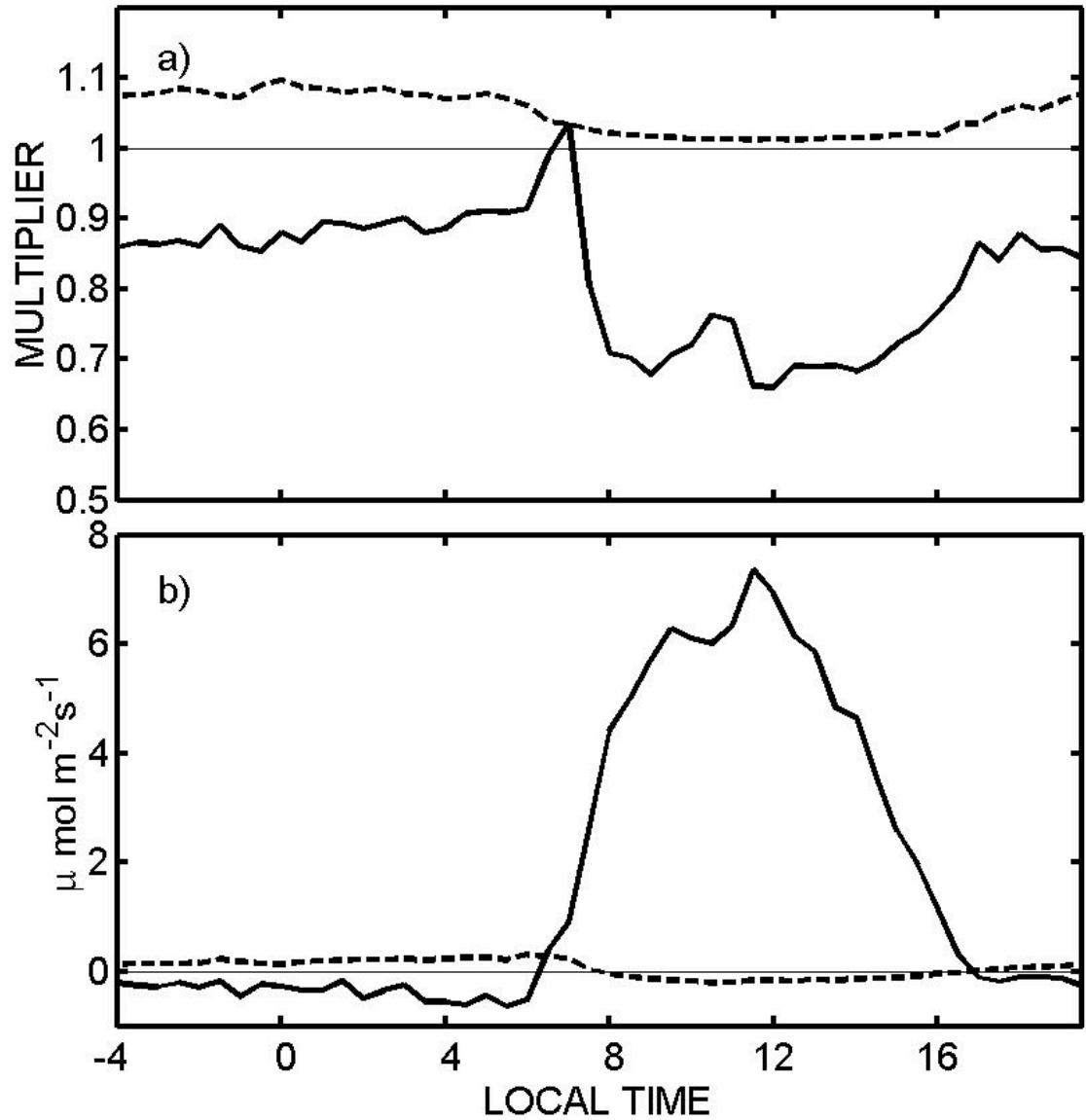
How Big are Flux corrections?

Open path: solid

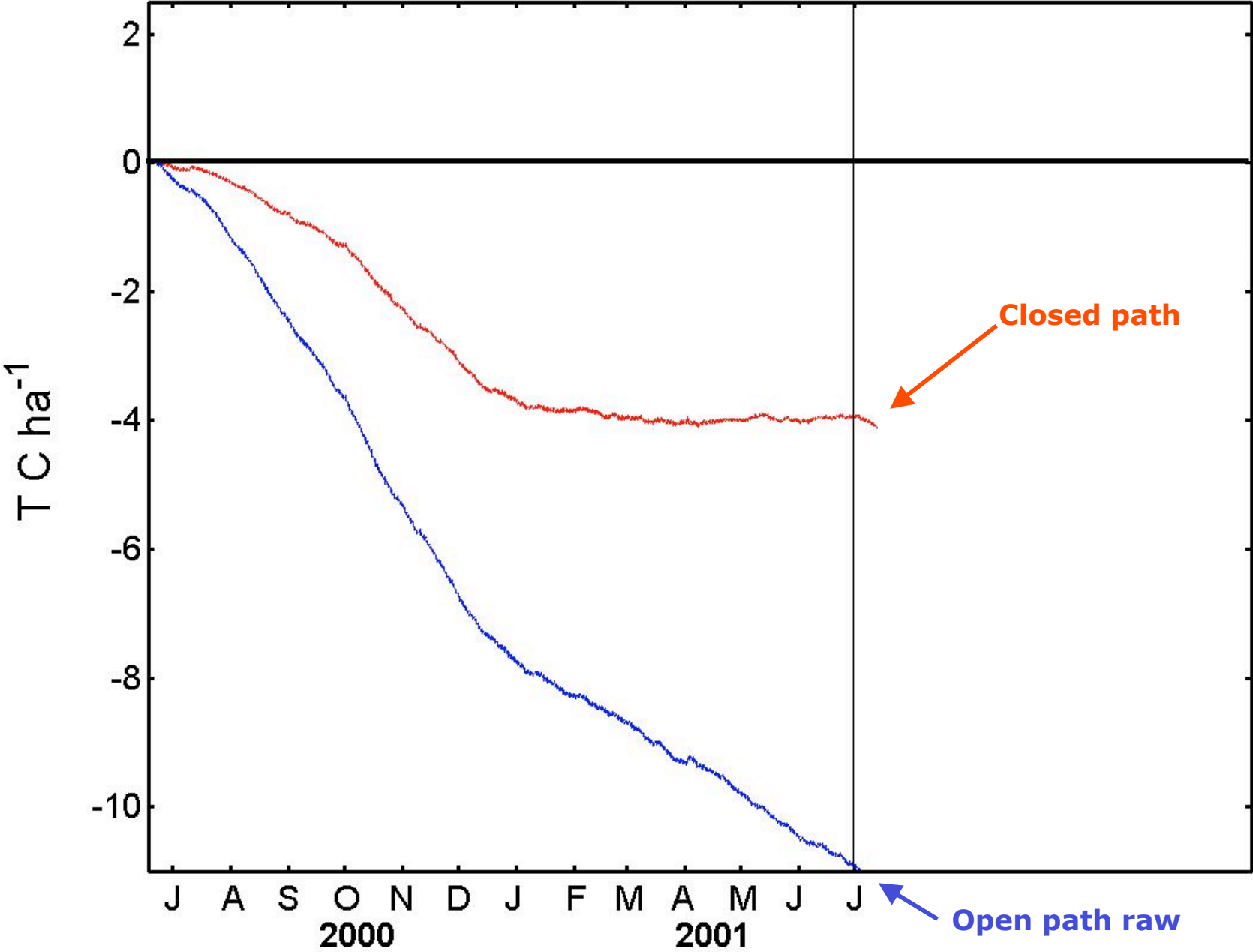
Closed path: dash

Expressed as gain to the raw flux.

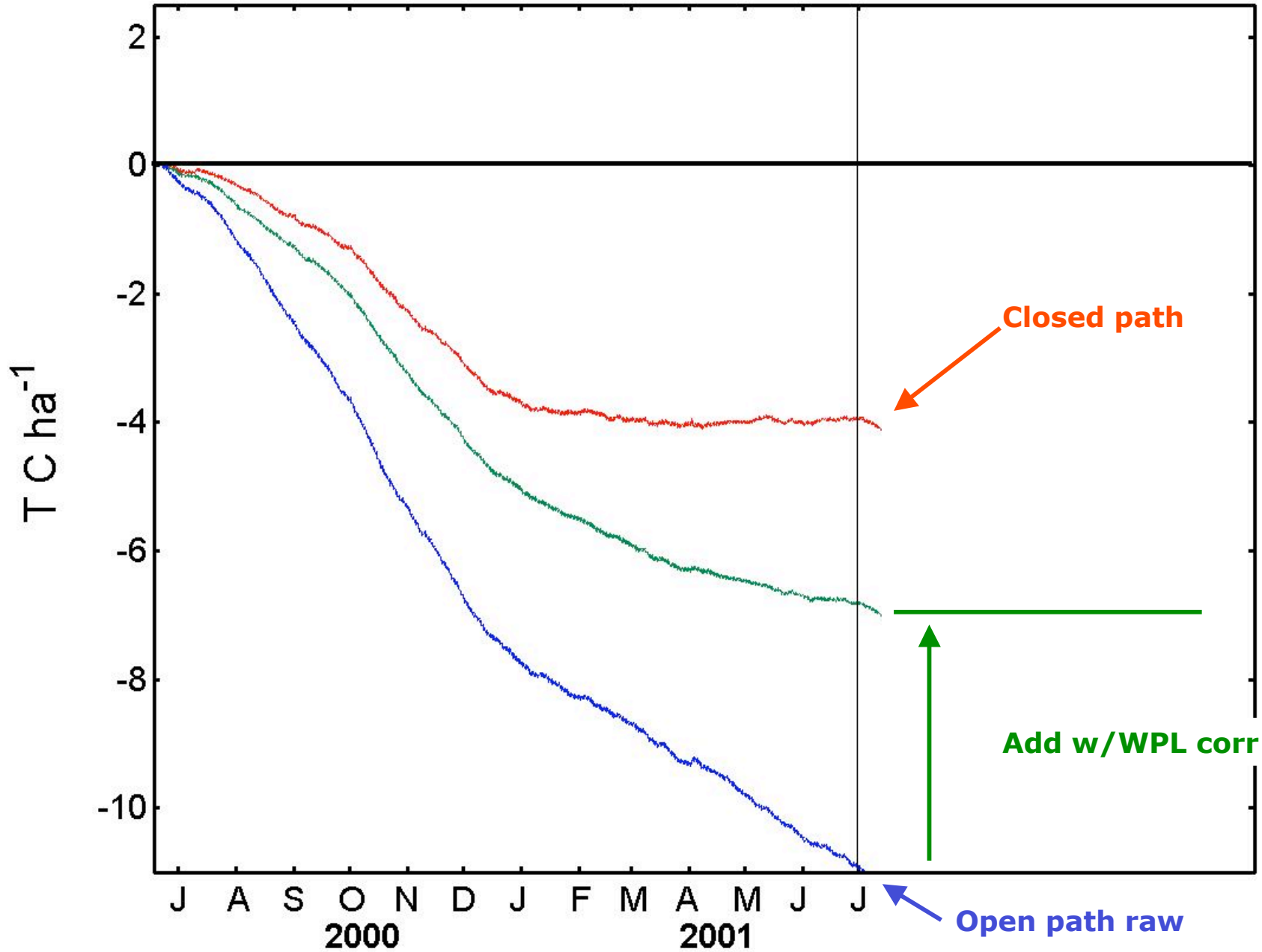
Expressed as additive correction to raw flux



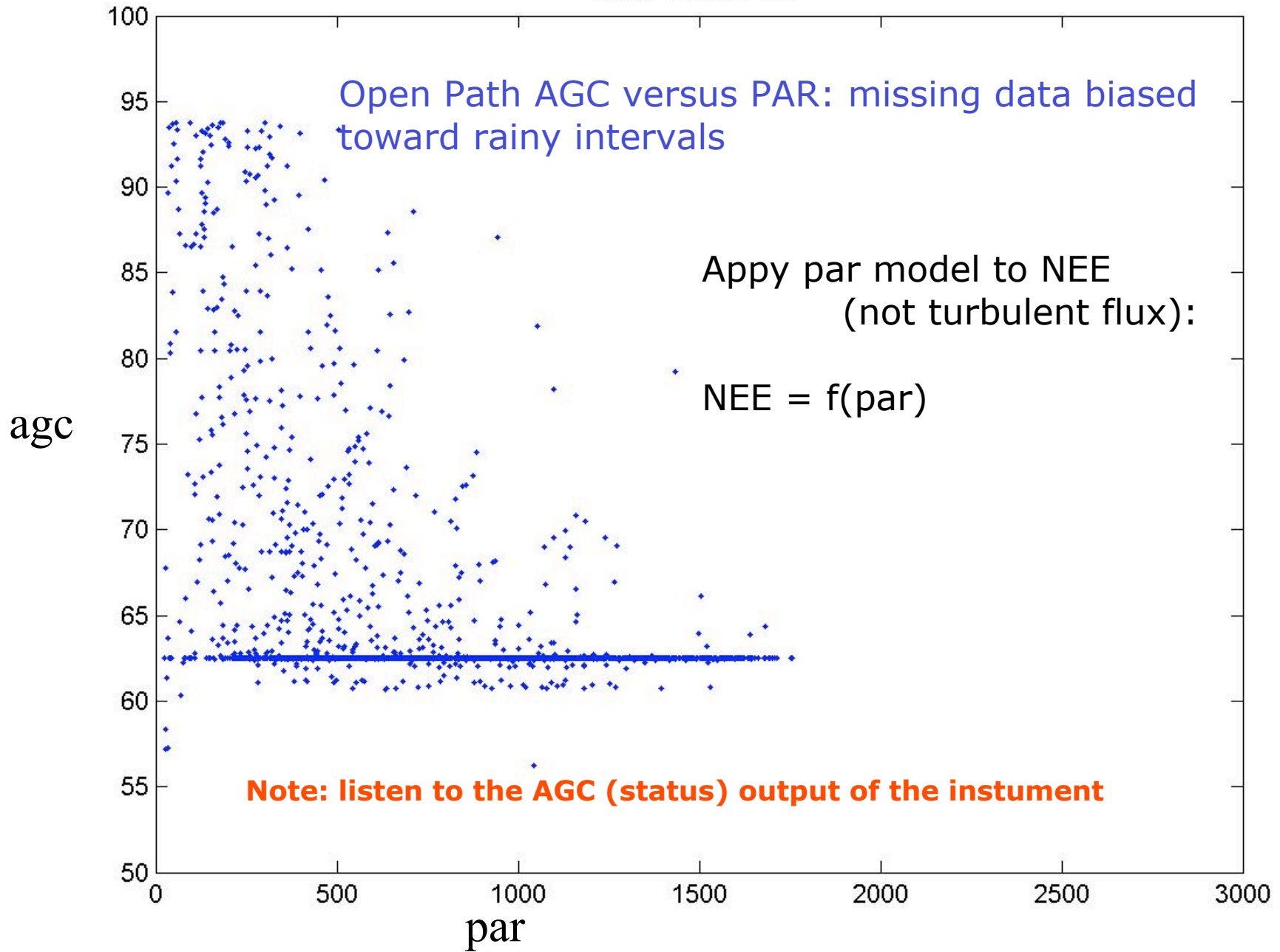
Cumulative Sum for 1 Year (NOT u_* FILTERED!)



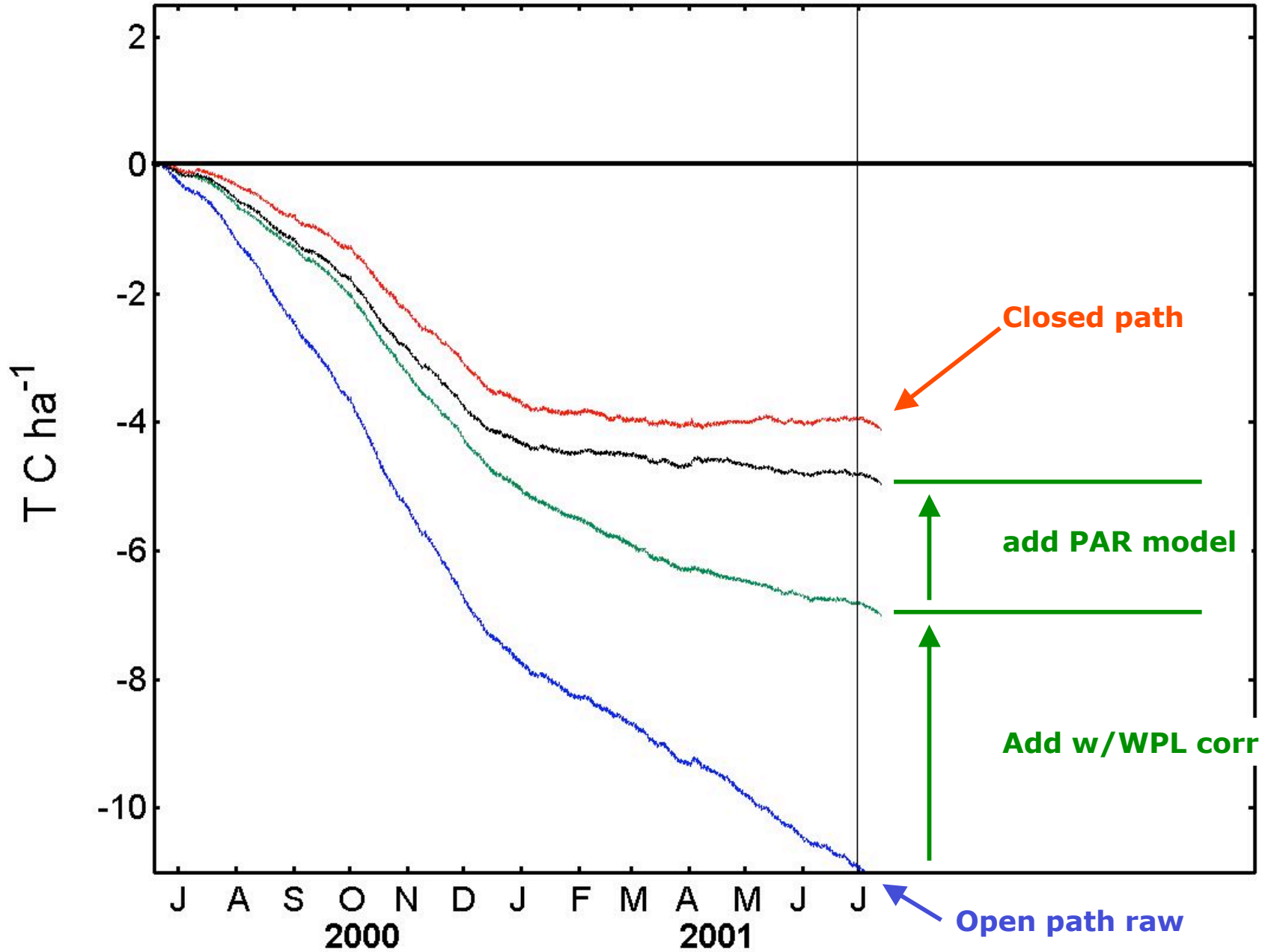
Cumulative Sum for 1 Year (NOT u_* FILTERED!)

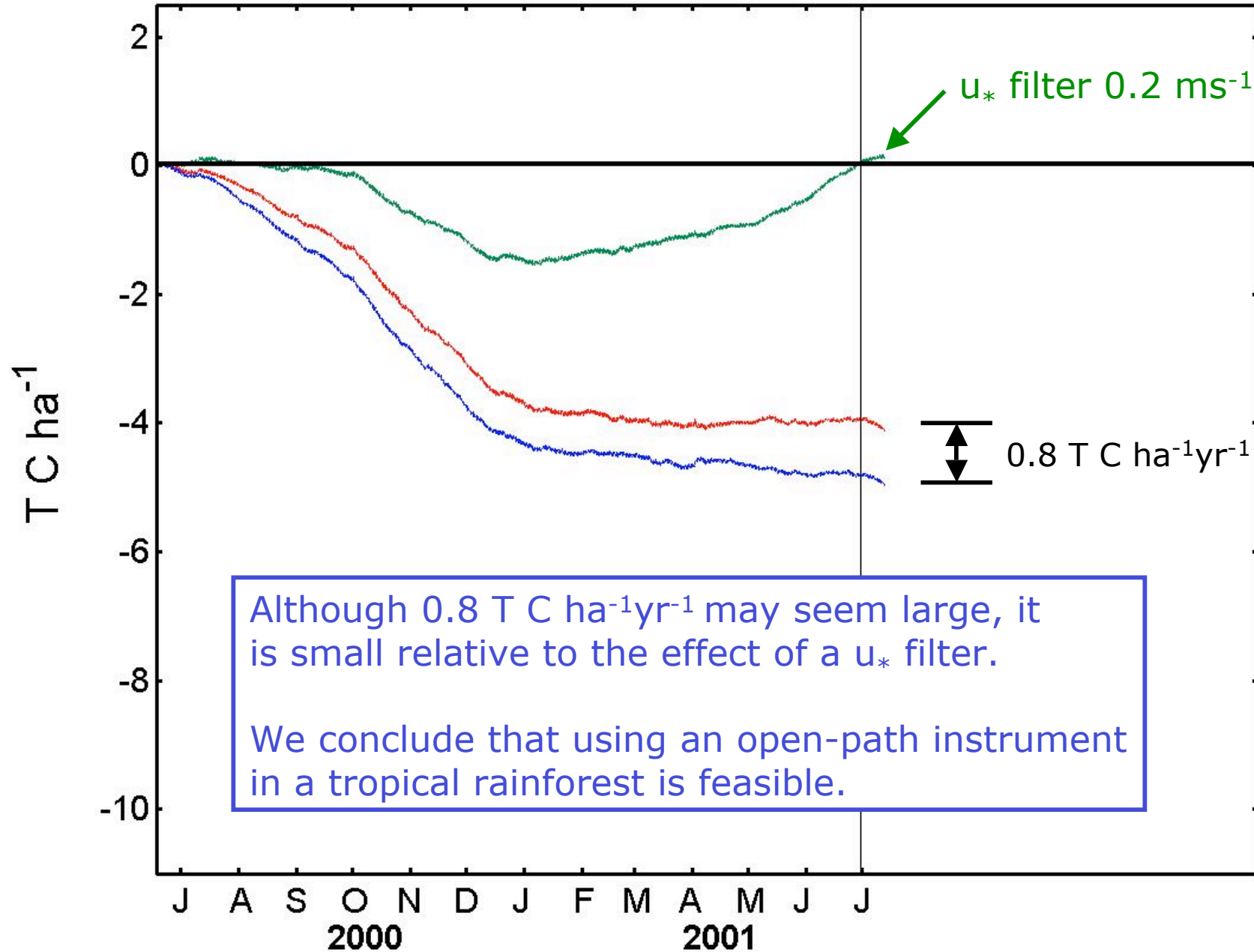


AGC versus PAR



Cumulative Sum for 1 Year (NOT u_* FILTERED!)





Although 0.8 T C ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹ may seem large, it is small relative to the effect of a u_* filter.

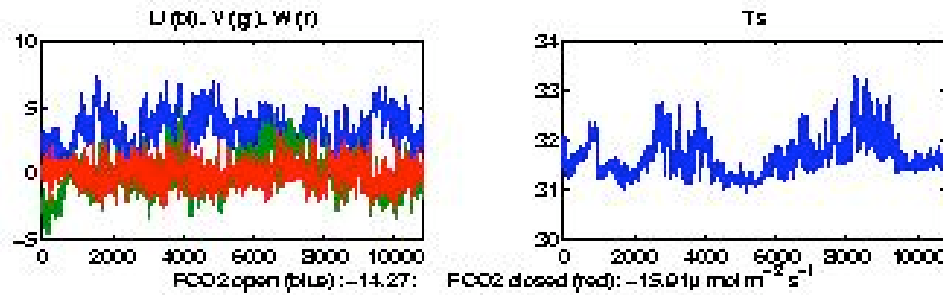
We conclude that using an open-path instrument in a tropical rainforest is feasible.

Recommendations:

1. Keep well calibrated
2. Corrections decrease for high CO₂ fluxes, small Bowen ratios, and when fluctuations are larger compared to background.
3. Ensure sonic temperature has sufficient response
4. Can apply correction either sample by sample or using 30 minute temperature and water vapor fluxes.
5. Make sure gap-filling is not biased toward sunny periods if missing flux intervals are correlated with cloudy periods.

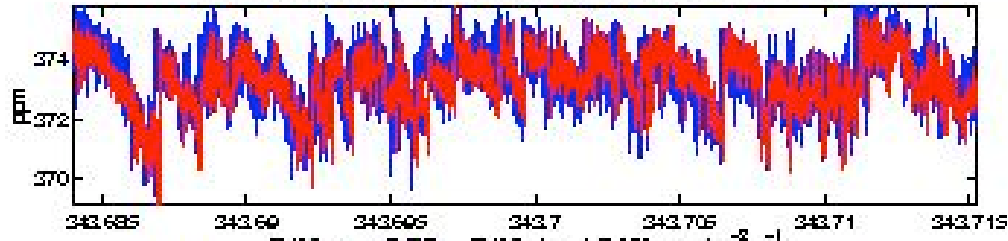
30 MINUTES

u,v,w

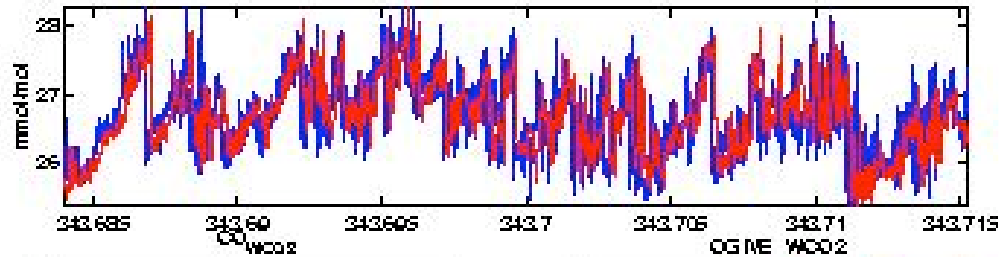


Sonic T

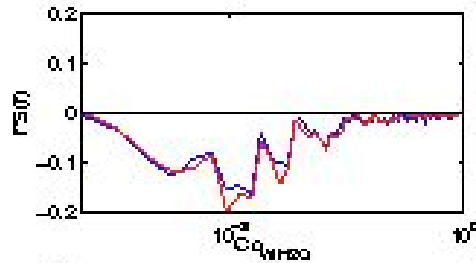
CO2
open path (blue)
closed path (red)



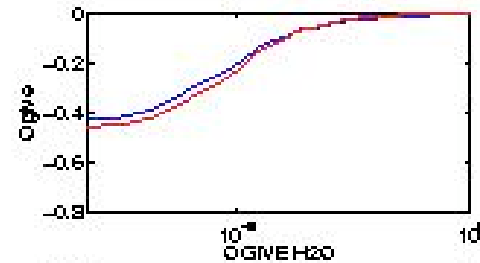
H2O



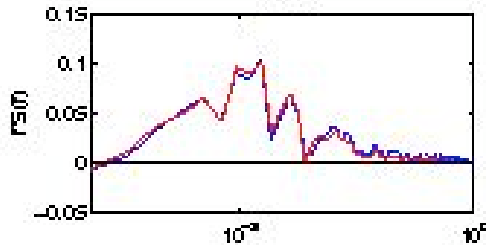
w,CO2 cospectrum



w,co2 ogive



w,H2O cospectrum



w,h2o ogive

