Drivers of Global and Regional Fire activity What we know from the different GCD syntheses

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Power and 83 collaborators, 2008 Climate Dynamics

Changes in fire regimes since the Last Glacial Maximum: an assessment based on a global synthesis and analysis of charcoal data

-180° -150° -120° -90% -60° -30° 30° 60° 909 120° 150° 180° 00 60° 60° 30° 30° 0° · 0° •/ . -30° -30° -60° -60° 180° -180° -150° -120° -90° -60° -30° 0° 30° 60° 90° 120° 150°

(Power et al. 2008 Clim Dyn)

405 sites

Data treatment



(Protocol in Marlon et al. 2008; Power et al. 2010)



Transition from cold glacial to warm Holocene climates was marked by a global increase in fire

- climate controls via temperature and biomass level -

(Power et al. 2008 Clim Dyn)

Daniau and 61 collaborators, 2012 Global Biogeochemical Cycle

Predictability of biomass burning in response to climate changes

12 0 Before 15ka 11.7 to 15 ka After 11.7 ka

(Daniau et al. 2012, GBC)

V1+ 274 sites

679 sites





Increase in global biomass burning from glacial to interglacial

Different trends in biomass burning between northern and southern hemispheres

(Daniau et al. 2012, GBC)





Different trends between northern and southern hemispheres

And also between northern and southern tropics and extratropics

→ How to explain these different latitudinal trends in fire and what are the drivers?

Statistical regression model between biomass burning and simulated climatic variables

- Mean annual temperature

- Precipitation minus Evaporation (moisture index)

→ Simulations obtained from the ECBILT-CLIO model v3 run by changing orbital forcing, ice sheet, topography and greenhouse gas concentrations (Timm and Timmermann, 2007 J. of Climate)



66% of the variance in biomass burning is explained by a single global function of simulated temperature and moisture

Warmer temperatures and intermediate P-E increase fire

(Daniau et al. 2012, GBC)

Marlon and 16 collaborators, submitted to Biogeosciences

Reconstructions of biomass burning from sediment charcoal records to improve data-model comparisons

V2 + 56 sites 736 sites

GCDv3 - Number of Samples (since 22 ka)



Product:

Spatially gridded version of GCDv3 using dot maps

- Each dot on the map represents a composite charcoal series constructed from all records within a fixed distance of the dot
- All GCD sites contribute to at least one dot
 radius used to identify sites contributing to a dot as half the distance between diagonally adjacent dots at the equator (e.g., ~395 km for a 5° x 5° grid)
- Gridding approach prevents interpolation into areas that are not represented in the GCD, which is desirable given the great spatial heterogeneity of fire regimes

Number of sites per grid cell



(Plotted on a 5° grid, e.g., ~395 km)





Base period: 1,000-1,800 CE (200 cal yr BP)

Example: Gridded-map of simulated area-burned and charcoal anomalies (6ky – 0 BP)



Data and Model:



Simulated area-burned from CLIMBA model (Brücher et al. 2014)

Thanks to GCD data contributors

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Simulated climatic variables obtained from Timm and Timmermann (2007, J. of Climate)

- Mean annual temperature
- Precipitation minus Evaporation



Modern GAM GFED Area burned vs. CRU Data 1996-2009 1961-1990



(Daniau et al. 2012, GBC)

(EcBilt - Timm & Timmermann, 2007; GFEDv3 - van der Werf et al. 2010; CRU - New et al. 2002)