

Atmosphere-based estimates of non-CO₂ greenhouse gas emissions for the U.S. derived from ¹⁴CO₂.

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Conclusions:

- * Advances in *high precision ¹⁴C measurements* from small volume samples *and***
- * Development of a *U.S-wide automated flask sampling network* are enabling**
- * *Nationally-representative emission estimates* for a range of trace gases affecting climate, stratospheric ozone, & air quality over**
- * *Inter-annual periods* with *multiple independent methods***

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4. Earth System Science, U of California, Irvine, USA; 5. GNS, Lower Hutt, New Zealand
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Exploiting measured trace-gas concentration enhancements to derive rates of emissions:

$$\text{Emissions}(X_1) \leftarrow \overset{\text{OBSERVED ENHANCEMENTS}}{\left[\Delta X_1 / \Delta X_2 \right]} \times \text{Emissions}(X_2)$$

concentration enhancement of trace gas

fossil-fuel CO₂ (C_{ff}) content of a sample derived from ¹⁴CO₂

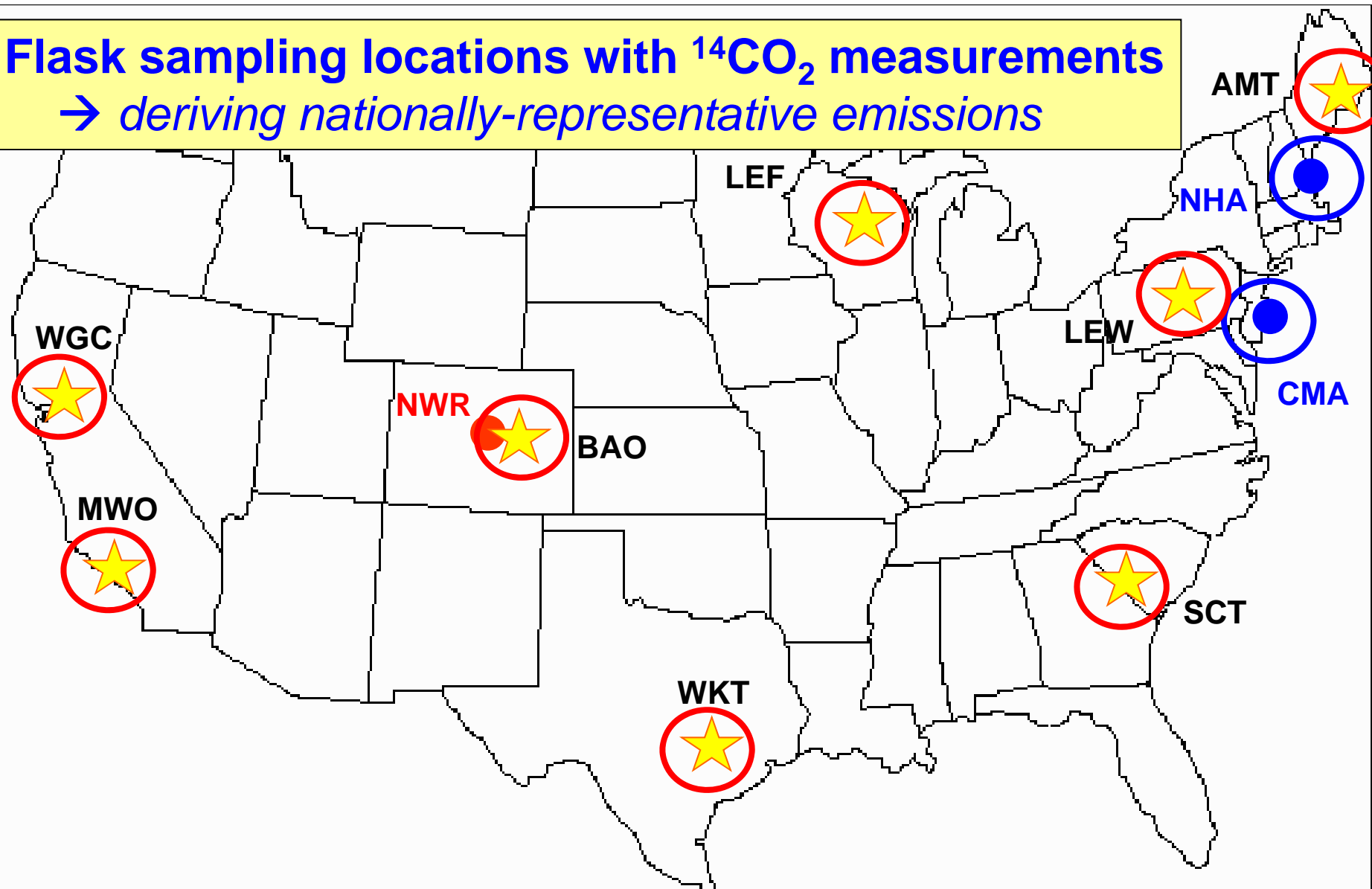
Fossil-fuel INVENTORY emissions:
(VULCAN; Gurney *et al.*, 2009), site-specific

Precise measurements of ¹⁴C allow use of an accurate inventory

General considerations:

- * **Co-location and covariation of sources required**
- * **Accurately determined background concentrations**

Flask sampling locations with $^{14}\text{CO}_2$ measurements
→ *deriving nationally-representative emissions*

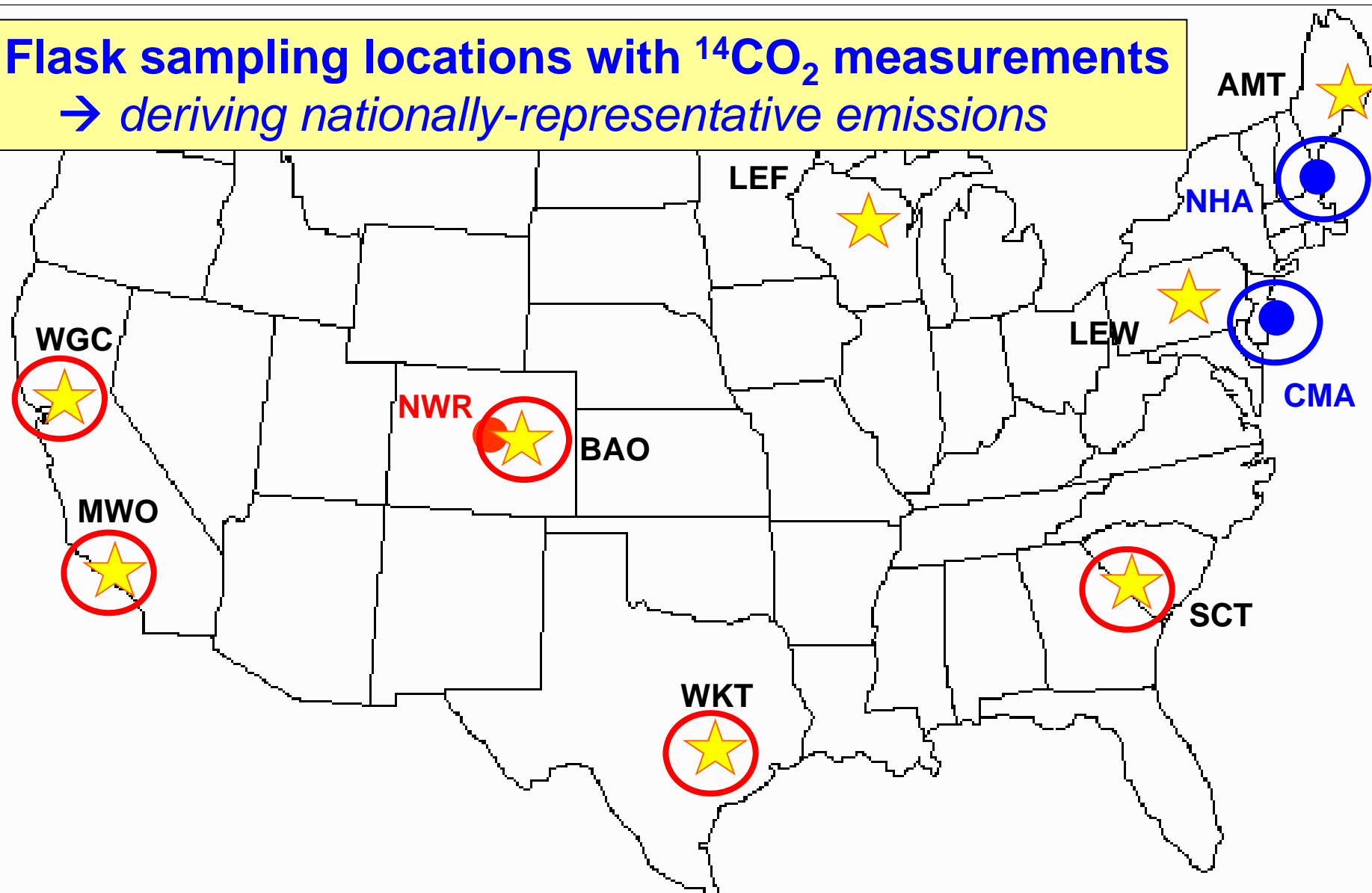


● Weekly $^{14}\text{CO}_2$ samples at NWR (since 2003)

★ Tall tower flasks; was 120 $^{14}\text{CO}_2$ samples/yr/site in 2010; half that in 2012

● Aircraft profile flasks; typically 100-160 $^{14}\text{CO}_2$ samples/yr/site

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40-50 trace gases are co-measured in flasks, e.g.,:

$^{14}\text{CO}_2$ (~1 ppm C_{ff} precision)

Greenhouse gases:

CO_2 CH_4 N_2O SF_6 Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)...

Ozone-depleting substances:

Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs); Chlorofluorocarbons; Halons...

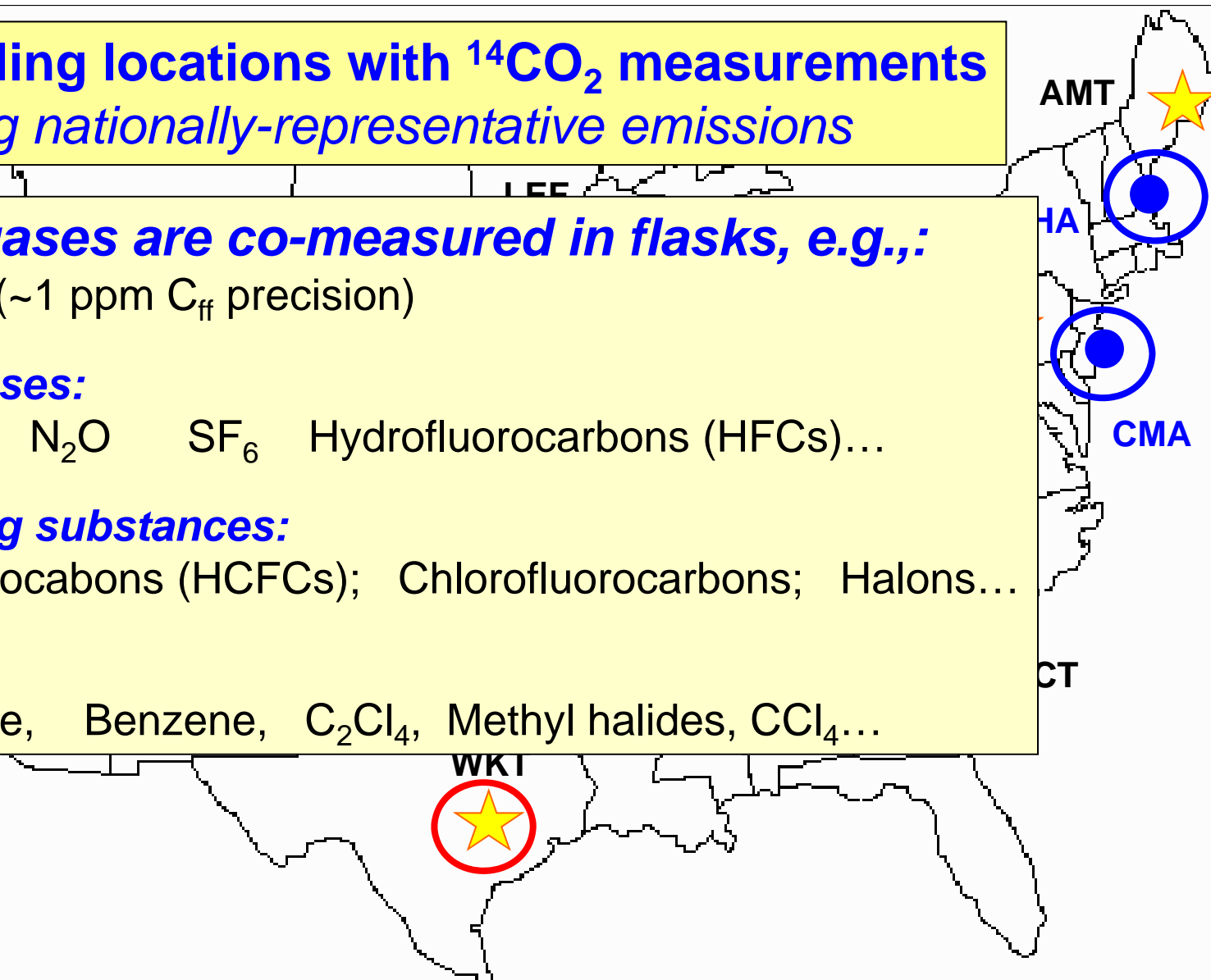
Air Toxics:

Carbon Monoxide, Benzene, C_2Cl_4 , Methyl halides, CCl_4 ...

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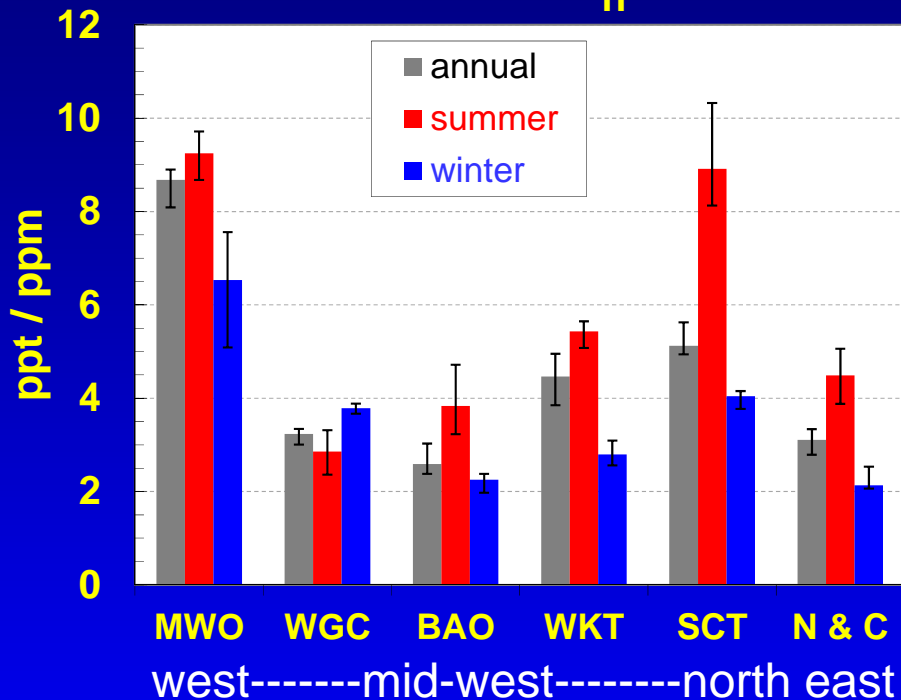
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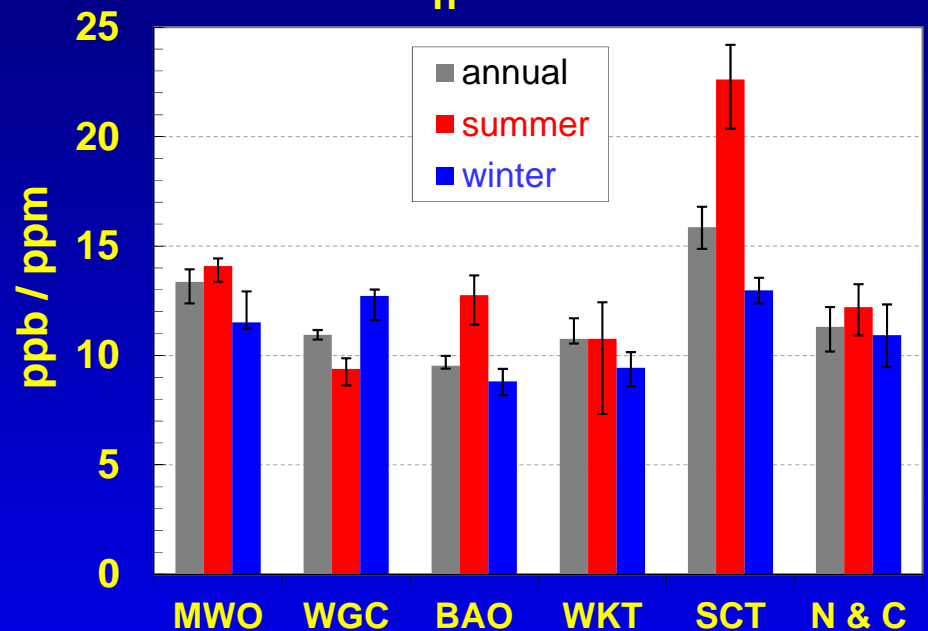


Measured Enhancement Ratios ($\Delta X_1 / C_{ff}$) over regions and season:

$\Delta\text{HFC-134a} / C_{ff}$



$\Delta\text{CO} / C_{ff}$



- * Enhancement ratios vary over region and season
 → Top-down estimates of total U.S. emission from any single region or season can have large biases

- * Carbon monoxide enhancement ratios are fairly consistent in winter—but larger differences in summer...
 → Improving our understanding of biogenic vs fossil-derived CO throughout the U.S.

U.S. emissions derived from atmospheric data (¹⁴C and inversion)

