

REPORT OF UNDERWAY pCO<sub>2</sub> MEASUREMENTS IN SURFACE WATERS  
AND THE ATMOSPHERE DURING February-March 2007

**R/V Laurence M. Gould 07/2**

S. C. Sutherland, Timothy Newberger, Taro Takahashi, and Colm Sweeney

Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University  
Palisades, NY 10964

**24 May, 2007**

## **Part 1 - Data Processing and Quality Control.**

### **1. General**

#### a) Cruise Overview

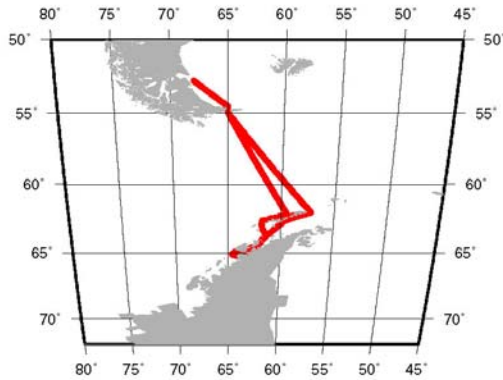
1) This is a routine supply Palmer Station cruise that included closing Cape Sherrif and COPA. The ship departed Punta Arenas, Chile on 16 February 2007. She arrived at Palmer Station on 21 February and departed on 24 February. She arrived in Punta Arenas on 02 March 2007.

2) The ship's barometric pressure showed unusual offsets and variability and was replaced by a constant offset from our barometer of 3.0 mb.

3) The Thermosalinograph temperature showed very high variability, particularly at the beginning and end of the cruise, as well as substantially variable offset to the equilibrator temperature. As a result we replaced the sea surface temperature by adding 0.20 degrees to the equilibration temperature

4) We also note what may be a strong pull-down of near 2 ppm in the air concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> near the coast of South America.

## R/V L.M. Gould Cruise 07/2



### 1. b) Data Overview

- 1) The **pCO<sub>2</sub>** data are very good. See below for details.
- 2) The **temperature** probe in the pCO<sub>2</sub> system is normally adjusted using a set of calibration constants. The data look fine.
- 3) The **atmospheric pCO<sub>2</sub>** observations were reasonably well behaved, if the relative wind direction is used as a selection criteria. Our most recent algorithm for processing these data seem to give a reasonable subset. The air CO<sub>2</sub> concentration (dry air) varied from about 376.5 to a high near 383. We continue to use the Globalview CO<sub>2</sub> data for calculating air-sea pCO<sub>2</sub> difference, primarily for consistency with earlier cruises.
- 4) The **Thermosalinograph temperature** was unusually noisy, and substantially different from the equilibration temperature. We replaced the estimated sea surface temperature in the output file with the equilibration temperature - 0.20 degrees.

### 2. Standards:

Cylinder	Concentration (ppm)
Nitrogen (UHP)	0.0
CA06684	120.66
CA06616	359.49
CA06653	252.31
CA06650	506.25
CA06644	385.30

A 4<sup>th</sup> order calibration curve is used with 5 standards, not including the Nitrogen, as described in Section 2. The calibration curves are also plotted in Section 4.

Standards flow for about 120 seconds before an observation is made.,

### 3. Details of pCO<sub>2</sub> data.

a) There were 3,766 individual seawater pCO<sub>2</sub> observations. No records were rejected, but we did lower the minimum sample gas flow to 13 ml min<sup>-1</sup> to preserve as many data as possible. Where the flow dropped below 20, the steady value remained even after the flow returned to normal.

### 4. Details of temperature data.

a) The temperature of water in the equilibrator is monitored continuously using a Guildline platinum resistance thermometer (readable to 0.05 °C and regularly calibrated against a mercury thermometer traceable to N.I.S.T.) and recorded on the data-logging computer. The calibration curve is integrated into the LabVIEW program that operates the system and acquires the data. The pCO<sub>2</sub> temperature is then a calibrated value. We make an effort to check this calibration during cruises against a mercury thermometer.

b) The Documentation file for the TSG shown below:

```
#####
#####
#### Note, TSG calibrations must be last in this file #####
#### Do not change the formating, only the values. Thanks #####
#####
##
#***** Calibration factors for SBE 21 S/N 1789 *****
#***** Calibration Date of 25 Jan 06 *****
# currently in use
# Temperture calibration factors
%TEMPERTURE%
g 0.00422664157
h 0.000609369023
i 0.00000516219269
j -0.00000167870725
fo 1000.000
*

# conductivity calibration factors
%CONDUCTIVITY%
g -4.04952385
h 0.483752850
i 0.000975603482
j -0.0000169323429
p -0.0000000957
t 0.00000325
*

#***** Remote Temperature Probe SN #2686 *****
#***** Calibration Date of 14 Jun 05 *****
# external temperature calibration factors
%EXTERNAL TEMPERATURE%
```

g 0.00433930534  
h 0.000632211502  
i 0.0000214952764  
j 0.00000175921890  
fo 1000.000

## **5. Details of Salinity data.**

There were no Autosol samples run, so the salinity should be considered UNcalibrated. However, in previous cruises, the TSG values have been within 0.02 units of the Autosol.

## **6. Details of the air data**

There was substantial spiking in the air data. It remains somewhat problematic to filter the "bad" data out of these observations. Using the relative wind and a 45° window around dead ahead gives a reasonable subset of data. Note though, that there are many reasonable values which were rejected by this same criteria. There are a total of 760 air observations, we reject 472, resulting in 288 records meeting the acceptance criteria.

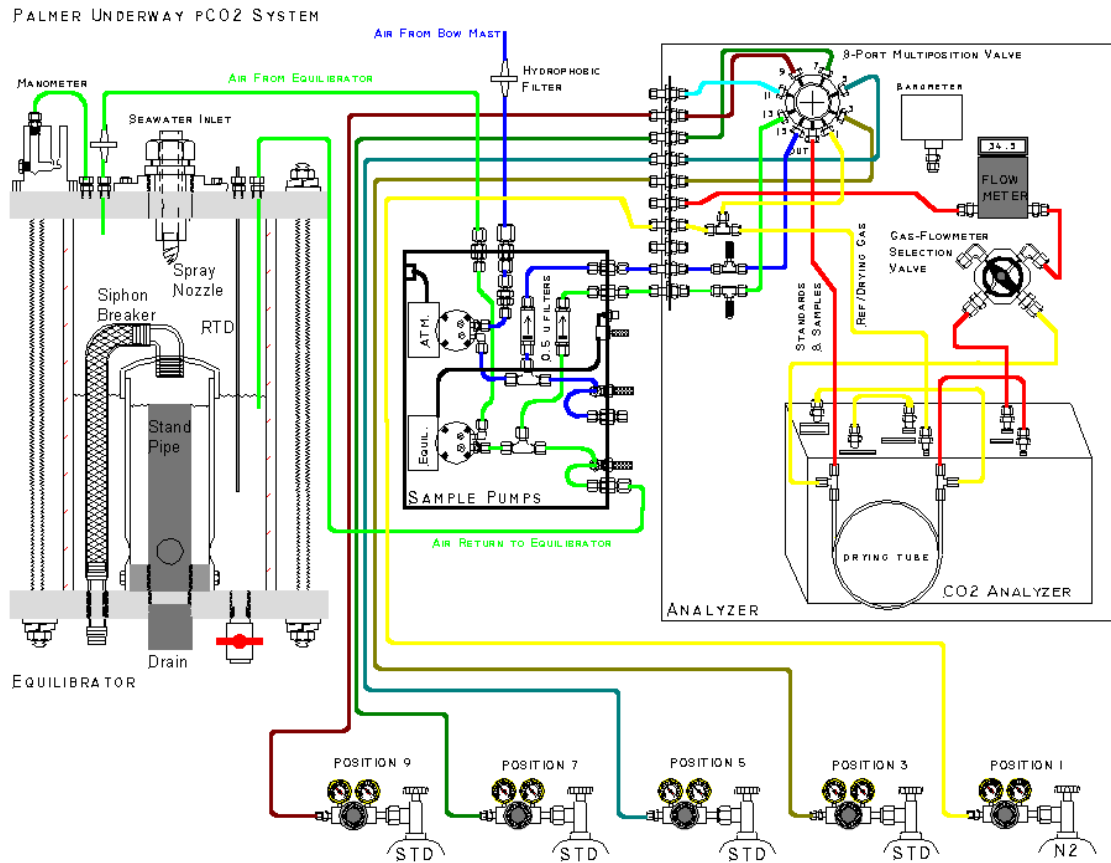
We note the values about 2 ppm below the rest of the cruise as the ship approached the South American coast on both southbound and northbound legs. Is this a sampling of a late spring bloom on the land?

## Part 2 Description of Instrumentation

### a) The LDEO Underway System for Surface Water pCO<sub>2</sub> Measurements:

The underway pCO<sub>2</sub> measurement system for surface waters consists of a) a water-air equilibrator, b) an analyzer system based on a non-dispersive infra-red CO<sub>2</sub> gas analyzer, c) sample pumps, d) 5 calibration standards and e) a data logging system. The measurement system is schematically shown in Fig. 1, and is similar with the one described in Bates et al. (1998). Each of these units and the data reduction procedures used will be described below.

Figure 2: Diagram of the underway pCO<sub>2</sub> system used for surface water pCO<sub>2</sub> measurements during NBP04-03 which is essentially identical to the Gould System.



## **b) Water-air Equilibrator:**

The equilibrator has a total volume of about 30 liters and is equipped with a standpipe that is isolated from the headspace and automatically maintains a constant water level at about half the height of the equilibrator leaving about 15 liters of headspace (Figure 2). Seawater from the ship's uncontaminated water line is continuously pumped into the equilibrator at a rate of about 10 liters/min, giving a mean residence time of water in the equilibrator of about 1.5 minutes. The headspace above the water serves as an equilibration chamber. A carrier gas (commonly marine air) is continuously circulated to and from the head space in a closed loop by a diaphragm pump, and exchanges CO<sub>2</sub> with the continuous flow of seawater sprayed into the chamber through a spiral cone spray nozzle. Because of large gas-water contact areas created by fine water droplets as well as gas bubbles in the pool of water, CO<sub>2</sub> equilibration between the carrier gas and seawater is achieved rapidly with a e-folding time of 2 to 3 minutes. Under normal sampling conditions, about 50 ml/min of this sea water equilibrated air is directed into the infra-red gas analyzer. The air drawn for analysis is replaced by a controlled leak into the equilibrator through the water manometer. At this rate, the residence time of the carrier gas in the equilibration chamber is about 300 minutes, that is about 100 times as long as the equilibration time. Therefore, the carrier gas in the head space should always be in equilibrium with the seawater. The over all response time of the equilibrator system has been estimated to be of an order of several minutes. The large volume of water in the equilibrator was chosen to provide a large thermal inertia in the equilibrator, so that the effects of room temperature changes on the equilibration temperature may be minimized. The temperature of water in the equilibrator is monitored continuously using a Guildline platinum resistance thermometer (readable to 0.05 °C and regularly calibrated against a mercury thermometer traceable to N.I.S.T.) and recorded on the data-logging computer.

The water manometer is attached to the gas intake end of the equilibrator (Figure 2) and provides a visual confirmation that marine air is being returned to the equilibration chamber at the same flow rate that it is being diverted to the CO<sub>2</sub> analyzer. The manometer also isolates the equilibrator head space from free exchange with the ambient marine air. The low head of the water manometer ensures that the equilibration chamber pressure is nearly identical to ambient atmospheric pressure. The total pressure at which the gas was equilibrated, can then be measured outside the equilibrator using a precision electronic barometer (Setra Model 270, Action, MA). This equilibration pressure is also logged on the computer.

The temperature and salinity of seawater at the *in situ* conditions were measured using a SeaBird Model SBE-21 thermosalinograph aboard the N. B. Palmer and a SIO/ODF thermosalinograph unit based on Neil Brown sensors aboard the R. Revelle. The precision of the reported temperature data has been estimated to be about 0.005 °C.

## **c) Infra-red CO<sub>2</sub> Gas Analyzer:**

The equilibrated gas was passed through a water trap (to collect condensate,) and, and a reverse flow naphion dryer (PermaPure flushed with pure nitrogen gas) to remove water vapor (to a level of -20°C dewpoint), and was introduced into the IR sample cell at a rate of about 50 ml/min for CO<sub>2</sub> determinations. A LI-COR infra-red gas analyzer

(Model 6251, Lincoln, NB) was used. After a 2-minute purging period, the gas flow was stopped and readings were recorded on the computer. Although the CO<sub>2</sub> analyzer has an electronic circuit to linearize the CO<sub>2</sub> response, it exhibited a few inflexions that deviated from linearity by a few ppm. Therefore, the pCO<sub>2</sub> system has been designed to use the raw voltage output of the CO<sub>2</sub> analyzer to establish our own calibration curves using five standard gas mixtures (one pure nitrogen and four CO<sub>2</sub>-air mixtures). The CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in the gas mixtures were calibrated using the SIO standards determined by C. D. Keeling's group using the manometric method. The concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> in the standard gas mixtures were summarized above.

During normal operations approximately every 75 minutes each of the standard gas mixtures was passed through the analyzer for 120 seconds at a rate of about 60 ml/min. This flow rate and time was redundantly sufficient to completely purge the IR analyzer cell with the new gas. The flow was stopped for 10 seconds to allow the pressure in the cell to equilibrate to atmospheric pressure and the average of 20 separate millivolt readings from the analyzer was recorded. Following the five standard gases, samples of seawater-equilibrated air and ambient marine air were pumped through the analyzer for 120 seconds (2 minutes) each at rates of about 50 ml/min and 60 ml/min respectively to purge the previous sample in the IR cell. The flow was stopped for 10 seconds and the average of 20 separate millivolt readings from the analyzer was recorded. This procedure was intended to eliminate errors due to fluctuations of the dynamic pressure within the IR cell by irregular gas flow rates. The relatively slow flow rates used for seawater-equilibrated air samples were required for the removal of water vapor using the PermaPure membrane dryer. We analyze 30 seawater-equilibrated air samples and 5 ambient marine air samples between two sets of calibration runs using the five standard gases.

#### **d) Data Logging System:**

The following values were recorded on a laptop computer. The sample locations were derived from the ships Global Positioning System (GPS). The CO<sub>2</sub> readings for seawater equilibrated air samples were recorded approximately every 3 minutes, and those for the standard gas mixtures approximately every 90 minutes.

Time/Date stamp (GMT),

CO<sub>2</sub> analyzer voltage output (to 0.1 mv)

Analyzer cell temperature (to 0.1 C)

Barometric pressure (pCO<sub>2</sub> system barometer) (to 0.1 mbar)

CO<sub>2</sub> concentration (to 0.1 ppm, preliminary value based on the last response curve)

Equilibrator temperature (to 0.01 °C)

pCO<sub>2</sub> (uatm, preliminary value based on the last response curve)

Gas flow rate (to 0.1 cc/min)

Selector valve position (integer)

Sample ID (standard gas cylinder numbers, seawater CO<sub>2</sub>, atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>)

The ships RVDAS system adds several other data elements from various sensors and equipment including: Latitude, Longitude, Thermosalinograph temperature, thermosalinograph salinity, fluorometer voltage, wind speed, wind direction, barometric pressure (at ships instrument mast), water flow in the uncontaminated seawater line.

**e) Data Reduction Procedures:**

The concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> in the sample was computed in the following manner based on the millivolt reading and time of the reading. The millivolt reading taken for each of the five standard gases at the time of sample measurement was computed by linearly interpolating as a function of time using the readings taken before and after the respective standard gases were analyzed. This yields an interpolated millivolt reading for each of the five standard gases at the time when the sample was analyzed. These five values were fit to a fourth-order polynomial equation (with five constants to be determined). This serves as the response curve. The CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the sample was computed using the response curve that was established at the time of each sample analysis. This method has been demonstrated to yield more reliable CO<sub>2</sub> values compared with those computed, for example, using a least-squares fit of a quadratic or cubic functions to the five calibration points. The method described above yields atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> values that are consistent (within 1.5 ppm) with those reported for the South Pole and the Cape Grim by the Climate Monitoring and Diagnostics Laboratory/NOAA in Boulder, CO.

The partial pressure of CO<sub>2</sub> in seawater, (pCO<sub>2</sub>)<sub>sw</sub>, at the temperature of equilibration, T<sub>eq</sub>, in the unit of microatmospheres (µatm) was computed using the expression:

$$(pCO_2)_{sw} @ T_{eq} = (VCO_2)_{eq} \times (P_{eq} - P_w), \dots \dots \dots [1]$$

- (VCO<sub>2</sub>)<sub>eq</sub> = the mole fraction concentration (ppm) of CO<sub>2</sub> in the dried equilibrated carrier gas;
- P<sub>eq</sub> = the barometric pressure (that is equal to the total pressure of equilibration) in atmospheres; and
- P<sub>w</sub> = the equilibrium water vapor pressure at T<sub>eq</sub> (°C) and salinity.

The water vapor pressure was computed using the following formulation;

$$P_w \text{ (atm)} = (1/760) \times (1 - 5.368 \times 10^{-4} \times \text{Sal}) \times \text{EXP}\{[0.0039476 - (1/TK)]/1.8752 \times 10^{-4}\}, \dots \dots \dots [2]$$

where Sal is salinity on the Practical Salinity Scale and measured using the ship's thermosalinograph, and TK is the temperature of equilibration in °K.

The (pCO<sub>2</sub>)<sub>sw</sub> at the *in situ* temperature, T *in situ*, was computed using a constant value of 0.0423 % per °C for the effect of temperature (Takahashi et al., 1993):

$$(pCO_2)_{sw} @ Tin\ situ = (pCO_2)_{sw} @ Teq \times EXP[0.0423 \times (Tin-situ - Teq)].$$

The value for *Tin situ* is taken to be the seawater temperature measured by the ship's thermosalinograph at the time of  $pCO_2$  measurements. *Teq* is generally warmer than *Tin-situ* by 0.5 ~ 0.8 °C. Hence the temperature correction is normally less than 3% of  $pCO_2$  values.

The over all precision of the reported  $(pCO_2)_{sw}$  values has been estimated to be about  $\pm 1.5$  uatm.

**f) Atmospheric Measurements:**

The air measurement system is also shown schematically in Fig. 1. Uncontaminated marine air samples were collected about 10 m above the sea surface using a 1/4" i.d. thin-walled aluminum tubing protected by an exterior plastic casing and an internal plastic film lining (Synflex, Calco Inc., PA). The air intake was located at the middle of the foremast about 10 m above the sea surface. A KNF Neuberger air pump located near the IR analyzer was used to pump air through the tubing and into the IR analyzer. Even when air samples were not analyzed, air was continually flowing through the sampling line to continuously purge the long Synflex tubing with fresh marine air. For analysis, the air sample was passed through a 0.5 micron filter to remove aerosols and a drying column to remove water vapor (the same PermaPure column as used for the seawater-equilibrated air) and introduced into the IR cell for  $CO_2$  analysis at a rate of about 60 ml/min. For each sample the cell was purged for 120 seconds, the flow was stopped for 10 seconds and the average of 20 IR millivolt output readings was recorded on the computer.

**g) Atmospheric Data Processing:**

The partial pressure of  $CO_2$  in the air,  $(pCO_2)_{air}$ , was computed in the unit of microatmospheres ( $\mu atm$ ) in the same way as that for seawater using Eq. [3] below:

$$(pCO_2)_{air} = (V_{CO_2})_{air} \times (P_b - P_w), \dots \dots \dots [3]$$

- $(V_{CO_2})_{air}$  = the mole fraction concentration (ppm) of  $CO_2$  in the dried air sample;
- $P_b$  = the barometric pressure at sea surface in atmospheres; and
- $P_w$  = the equilibrium water vapor pressure at *Tin situ* (°C) and salinity given by Eq. [2].

The precision of the atmospheric  $pCO_2$  values have been estimated to be about  $\pm 1$   $\mu atm$ .

### **Part 3 - References**

Bates, N. R., Takahashi, T., Chipman, D. W. and Knapp, A. H. (1998). Variability of pCO<sub>2</sub> on diel to seasonal time scales in the Sargasso Sea. *Jour. Geophys. Res.*, 103, 15567-15585.

CO<sub>2</sub> Group, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. (2004) "Underway pCO<sub>2</sub> System Users Manual", LDEO of Columbia University, Palisade, NY, pp.23.

Takahashi, T., Olafsson, J., Goddard, J., Chipman, D. W. and Sutherland, S. C., (1993). Seasonal variation of CO<sub>2</sub> and nutrients in the high-latitude surface oceans: A comparative study. *Global Biogeochemical Cycles*, 7, 843-878.

## **PART 4 - Graphics**

List of Figures:

Maps showing the location of each seawater pCO<sub>2</sub> and SST value with the data point assigned a color based on an indicated color palette.

3-panel time series of various parameters, five each for the southbound and northbound legs. Northbound has been deleted from the final file.

A time series showing salinity data with editing.

## **Part 5 - Program Listings**

**These listings provide detailed documentation of processes applied to the data, including the calculation of a response curve, editing, and certain quality control operations.**