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- Technical Note -



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# Abstract

The lateral transport of terrestrial carbon (C) to the ocean via river networks is an important component of the carbon cycle. This process is currently neglected in many Earth System Models (ESMs) leading to an overestimation of the terrestrial C sink.

In the newly developed riverine carbon transport scheme for the land surface component JSBACH of the Max Planck Institute for Me-teorology ESM (MPI-ESM), the source and subsequent transport of organic carbon from the soil to the river systems via surface runoff is calculated. The flow properties of dissolved organic carbon (DOC) are simulated in a way analogous to the lateral transport of water over land based on a set of predefined river directions and rates of flow. The water-soluble soil carbon pool is interpolated from the coarser JSBACH grid to the finer Hydrological Discharge (HD) model grid on which lateral hydrological transport is better represented. As the water-soluble carbon is degradable, we simulated its decay over time using near surface soil temperature as a proxy for water temperature.

For comparison with observations, JSBACH is driven by a mete-orological forcing dataset based on re-analysis and observations. We evaluated the model using sensitivity experiments with different frac-tions of carbon transfer and decay rates. Our approach reproduces the main features of the seasonality of riverine DOC flux.

# 1 Introduction

The interaction of soil with land surface hydrology and the subsequent discharge of water through the terrestrial drainage network (rivers and streams) plays an important role in land to ocean carbon transfer. This land to ocean carbon transport through the terrestrial drainage network, as well as vertical flux transitions (as greenhouse gases), during this transport are acknowledged in the 6th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) [Canadell et. al., 2021]. Nonetheless, current state-of-the-art Earth System Models (ESMs) usually consider only the vertical gas exchanges between the atmosphere and land/ocean and omit the lateral carbon fluxes carried by the network of rivers to the ocean. This exclusion leads to an overestimation of soil carbon sequestration and thus the terrestrial carbon sink [Jackson et. al., 2002]. Ideally ESMs need to include the effect of lateral carbon and nutrients transfer and its subsequent alteration during riverine transit in order to provide a better representation of the global carbon cycle [Lacroix et. al., 2021]. This quantification of landatmosphere exchange of global C is a useful component of models used to assess future projections of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations and global carbon stocks [Battin et. al., 2009]. The transfer of carbon flux from soil to the rivers in form of dissolved organic carbon is estimated to be 37~% of the total global riverine carbon export via land to the ocean [Meybeck, 1993]. Organic carbon enters rivers throughout their catchment area by drainage and by direct deposition from adjacent terrestrial ecosystems along with autocthonous carbon fixation [Schlesinger and Melack, 1981].

Riverine dissolved organic carbon (DOC) originates from a variety of sources, primarily resulting from root exudates (or plant residues) and their subsequent interaction with soil as a medium [Hansell et. al., 2004; Li et. al., 2017]. DOC originating from the soil can be produced in-situ with or without the addition of advective fluxes within the soil water. This DOC is leached to the river network via the surface runoff and sub-surface drainage. The fate of this DOC in terms of the proportion transported downstream by the river network, the proportion evaded in form of  $CO_2$ , and the proportion that undergoes physical sedimentation are key considerations in understanding the terrestrial-hydrological link within the global carbon cycle [Cole et. al., 2007; Battin et. al., 2009].

The purpose of this report is to address this rather small, but not insignificant and poorly studied component of the carbon cycle connecting the soil carbon to the oceans via the network of rivers and streams across the globe. We aim to estimate the global riverine DOC flux from organic carbon leached from the soil to the river networks.

# 2 Methods

A block diagram with an overview of the main routines of our DOC model in pseudo-code is shown in Figure 1. The following subsections provide a brief description of the existing model components used in the new riverine DOC scheme (Sections 2.1 and 2.2) followed by description of the new components added for the scheme itself (Sections 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5) and of the forcing and initialisation procedure used (Section 2.6).

### 2.1 JSBACH Land surface model

We use a version of the JSBACH 3 [*Reick et. al.*, 2021] land surface model which includes a soil carbon model [*Goll et. al.*, 2015] and a five-layer soil hydrology scheme [*Hagemann and Stacke*, 2015; *Mauritsen et. al.*, 2019]. Additionally included in the version of JSBACH used is a representation of permafrost processes [*Ekici et. al.*, 2014].

The Yasso soil carbon scheme implemented within JSBACH is based on the litter-bag experiments for soil carbon decomposition measurements [*Tuomi et. al.*, 2008; *Thum et. al.*, 2011]. The different types of soil organic carbon are classified based on their solubility parameters. The litter (woody and green) is distinguished based on its decomposition solubility in (1) Acid, (2) water and (3) Ethanol, alongside a (4) non-soluble component, for both the sub-categories of above-ground and below-ground for each vegetation tile. Each of these compound groups has a specific decomposition rate, for example the woody litter decomposition rate is lower than that of green litter. In addition, the humus soil carbon pool (also in two categories) is distinguished by its longer decomposition time scales.

#### 2.2 Hydrological Discharge (HD) model

The lateral freshwater hydrological fluxes within JSBACH are treated by the Hydrological Discharge (HD) model [Hagemann and Dümenil, 1998; Hagemann and Dümenil-Gates, 2001]. Although the HD model is integrated within JSBACH, it can also be run independently as a standalone model (HD-offline). The core concept of HD model is to use the aggregation of surface flow and the sub-surface flow to calculate the routed river flow discharge (channelled flow, direction based). These three flow components in each grid cell  $(0.5^{\circ} \times 0.5^{\circ})$  are computed within the HD model, namely the overland flow (representing surface runoff), base flow (drainage or slow moving sub-surface flow) and river flow (routed river or channelled flow). All

three components of the flow from a cell are directed to one of the cell's eight direct neighbours.

The surface runoff as well as the drainage of each JSBACH grid cell (at T63 resolution) is collected and interpolated to the  $0.5^{\circ}$  resolution and added to the overland flow and base flow respectively. The overland flow and base flow are each modeled by a single linear reservoir for each grid cell. The sum of overland flow, base flow and inflow from other neighbouring grid-cells contribute to the river flow which is modelled through a cascade of n linear reservoirs (n is 5 without lakes and 1 with lakes). A cascade of linear reservoirs in each cell is necessary to accurately simulate the rate at which the water passes through the cell and the quantity of water stored in the cell (retention characteristics), utilizing model parameters like slope within a grid box, the grid box length, the lake area, and the wetland fraction of the grid cell.

The river flow out of a given cell as a function of time, Q(t), measured in general flow units such as m<sup>3</sup>day<sup>-1</sup>, is modelled as:

$$Q(t) = \frac{S(t)}{k} \tag{1}$$

where S(t) is the river water reservoir volume, m<sup>3</sup>, as a function of time and k is the retention coefficient of the reservoir, given in days.

The retention coefficient  $k_r$  of particular river reservoir r = 1, ..., n, days, is calculated for each grid cell as:

$$k_r = k_{ref} \cdot \frac{\Delta x}{s^{0.1}} \tag{2}$$

where  $k_{ref}$  is a reference retention value, day  $m^{-1}$ ,  $\Delta x$  is the distance between the centers of given cell and the next cell downstream of it and slope, s, is calculated as  $s = \Delta h / \Delta x$  where  $\Delta h$  is the height difference between the cell and the next downstream cell, both in meters. This calculation is modified when lakes or wetlands are present in the cell.

The overland and base flows are calculated using similar equations to equation 1, but their retention coefficients are calculated differently.

#### 2.3 Leaching of Carbon from YASSO Carbon pools

In this report we consider two variants of our model; these differ in the selection of carbon pools that contribute to the leaching of carbon into the hydrological system to further propagate as riverine DOC. These two variants are:

Variant A Contributions from the YASSO water soluble pool only.

Variant B Contributions from all YASSO pools.

Both variants are useful to test the dependency of transported carbon on the involvement of different pools. During each JSBACH model time step, a fraction  $f_{\text{leach}}$ , of the carbon is removed from each contributing YASSO carbon pool, accumulated, and provided to the riverine DOC transport scheme (see next section) at the next HD model time-step. This process represents the leaching of carbon out of the soil into the river network. For each contributing carbon pool the fraction of the pool leached at each time-step is given by:

$$f_{\text{leach}} = f_0 \times s_{\text{runoff}} \tag{3}$$

where  $f_0$  is a global constant and:

$$s_{\text{runoff}} = \min(1, \frac{R}{\max(10^{-13}, R_{20\text{-year-max-runoff}})})$$
(4)

where runoff, R, and 20 year maximum runoff,  $R_{20}$ -year-max-runoff, are measured in m<sup>3</sup>day<sup>-1</sup>. Alternatively, a running mean of the runoff could be used instead of 20-year maximum runoff.

The contribution of carbon transported via drainage or sub surface flow is considered to be rather insignificant due to the influence of sedimentation processes, filtering and local effects. Hence, the C leaching via subsurface drainage is currently neglected in our approach.

To represent the transport of vegetation litter (carbon pools), a fraction of above ground litter pool,  $f_{\text{litter}}$ , is removed from the litter pool and accumulated for addition to the riverine DOC transport scheme alongside the contributions from the other pools at the next HD model time-step (day). This fraction is given by:

$$f_{\text{litter}} = f_{\text{leach}}.$$
 (5)

# 2.4 Carbon transport scheme for riverine transport of carbon pools

We model the lateral transport of DOC by replicating the HD model infrastructure where the flux of water is substituted for a flux of terrestrial carbon. The water soluble component of the YASSO soil carbon pool (above and below the ground surface) is used as a primary input to this riverine carbon transport scheme (in variant B the water insoluble component(s) of the YASSO soil carbon pool are also used as primary input). The fluxes from the above ground and below ground water soluble carbon pools enter the equivalent of the surface runoff (and for variant B also the fluxes from water insoluble carbon pools). The surface carbon flux propagates one cell downstream and then becomes the carbon flow in the channelled river network. The riverine carbon flow is modelled analogously to the river discharge in the HD model [Hagemann and Dümenil, 1998] and based on the same flow properties (retention time, slope gradient between grid cells, number of linear reservoirs (5 in the current case)).

As tested in the early model evaluation of this study (not shown in this report), the authors found out that the C flux transport via subsurface leaching is quantitatively negligible, therefore only the overland flow C flux is relevant for DOC transport in our scheme. This could be improved in later model developments and perhaps with more rigorous testing with different C fractions as input to the scheme.

# 2.5 Implementation of temperature-dependent decay for transport of riverine carbon flux

The decay and evasion of DOC in rivers during the process of lateral transport is driven by a combination of photo-chemical consumption [*Cory et. al.*, 2014] and microbial consumption [*Amon and Benner*, 1996] and also depends on the exact nature of the organic carbon being transported [*Textor et. al.*, 2019]. Here we choose to model it using a very simple representation based on temperature dependence following very similar approaches of [*Li et. al.*, 2019; *Tian et. al.*, 2015].

We represent the decomposition and evasion of dissolved organic carbon (DOC) in rivers to the atmosphere by a basic exponential decay formulation using a Q10 based temperature dependence. The mass of carbon after decay,  $m_{t_1}$ , in the riverine DOC reservoirs is calculated according to the equation:

$$m_{t_1} = e^{-\lambda \Delta t} \cdot m_{t_0} \tag{6}$$

where  $\Delta t$  is the time-step, day,  $m_{t0}$  the prior mass of DOC and the rate of decay  $\lambda$ , day<sup>-1</sup>, is given by:

$$\lambda = \lambda_{T_{ref}} \cdot Q10^{(T - T_{ref})/T_{base}} \tag{7}$$

Here  $\lambda_{T_{ref}}$ , day<sup>-1</sup>, and Q10 are empirically derived fixed global constants and T, K, is the mean temperature of the first two surface layers of the nearest

JSBACH3 grid cell on the Gaussian grid.  $T_{ref} = 293.15K$  and  $T_{base} = 10K$  are constants.

This decay is applied to all DOC in rivers at each HD model time-step (every day). Carbon release to the atmosphere is currently simply removed from the model. In the case of emission-driven simulations, this flux should be added to the atmospheric component of MPI-ESM as a carbon flux from the land surface to the atmosphere (not implemented in the current JSBACH3 code).

# 2.6 Initialization of HD model and input from JSBACH soil carbon

Soil carbon decomposition in the Yasso model depends on the air temperature and precipitation (and on simulated soil temperature and moisture in permafrost regions), making it crucial to use observed forcing data for model evaluation. Here, we use the Global Soil Wetness Project Phase 3 (GWSP3; [Dirmeyer et. al., 2006; Kim. H., 2017]) dataset that comprises 3-hourly data at 0.5° resolution from 1901-2014. To generate the GSWP3 dataset, the 20th Century Reanalysis (20CR; [Compo et. al., 2011] was first dynamically downscaled onto the T248 ( $0.5^{\circ}$ ) grid using a spectral nudging technique [Yoshimura and Kanamitsu, 2008] in a Global Spectral Model (GSM). Then observation based bias correction procedures were applied to the downscaled data to yield daily time series.

We conducted various sensitivity simulations for the historical period (1901-2014) that were preceded by a spin-up of several thousand years (with the added permafrost component active) in order to allow the Yasso soil carbon pools to reach equilibrium. The model was then first run for the period from 1901-1950 so that the HD model reservoirs could stabilize. For the evaluation, the model output was averaged over a 30-year period to yield a representative monthly climatology. In order to evaluate the model based only on soil carbon and hydrology effects, the associated JSBACH dynamic vegetation model, wildfire model, land-use changes as well as nitrogen cycle were deactivated throughout the model runs (including during the spin-up and HD model stabilization).

# 3 Model sensitivity framework

The developed carbon transport model is tested based on the sensitivity to changes in spatial resolution, carbon pools available for leaching, and parameters controlling decomposition rate. The experiment runs are carried out in two sets - sets A and B corresponding to the two model variants A and B respectively - each with a series of individual tests conducted for a range of values of  $f_0$  and a range of decay rate  $\lambda$  values,day<sup>-1</sup>. As described above, model variants (and hence test sets) A and B use two different implementations of leaching of soil carbon. The difference between them is which Yasso carbon pools contribute to the soil carbon flux to the HD model. In variant (and test set) A only the Yasso water soluble carbon pools contribute to the riverine carbon (Table 1) while in variant (and test set) B all Yasso pools (AWEN) contribute to the riverine carbon (using the same test set as in variant A).

Table 1: Experiment list for model variant set A: only Yasso water soluble carbon pools contributing to the riverine carbon with corresponding variation for C percentage  $f_0$ , and  $\lambda_{T_{ref}}$ , day<sup>-1</sup>. Similar test runs were performed for model variant set B consisting of all Yasso AWEN pools contribution to riverine DOC.

Experiment name	Yasso water soluble Pools $f_0$	$\lambda_{T_{ref}},\mathbf{day}^{-1}$
Test 01	0.1%	0.0
Test 02	0.1%	0.046
Test 03	0.1%	0.172
Test 04	1.0%	0.0
Test 05	1.0%	0.046
Test 06	1.0%	0.172

#### 3.1 Model Sensitivity to Q10 and $\lambda_{Tref}$

We tested the sensitivity of our model to Q10 by running a set of simulations using model variant B (results for variant A displayed a similar scaling),  $f_0$ of 0.1% and a standard  $\lambda_{Tref}$  of 0.046 day<sup>-1</sup> and  $T_{ref}$  of 293.15 K. Table 2 shows the yearly total riverine DOC reaching the ocean for a plausible range of Q10 values. The total riverine DOC flux to the ocean increases with Q10, this behavior is expected for rivers where the water temperature is generally less than  $T_{ref}$ . The DOC flux to the ocean changes from 0.1092 PgC/yr for Q10=1, i.e., without dependency on temperature, to 0.1143 PgC/yr for Q10=2.6, the most strongly temperature-dependent decomposition rate. This 5% change within the range of possible decomposition rates illustrate the weak dependence of global DOC flux to the ocean on the temperature. We conclude that this is a factor which could be neglected in first approximation.

Q10	Total riverine DOC flux to ocean Pg C year <sup><math>-1</math></sup>
1.0	0.1092
1.4	0.1124
1.8	0.1138
2.2	0.1143
2.6	0.1145

Table 2: Q10 sensitivity tests for version B, Test 03, and  $T_{ref}$  of 293.15 K.

We tested our model's sensitivity to  $\lambda_{Tref}$  by running a set of simulation with a fixed  $T_{ref}$  of 293.15 K using model variant B,  $f_0$  of 0.1% and a Q10 of 2.2. Table 3 shows the yearly total riverine DOC reaching the ocean for a range of  $\lambda_{Tref}$  values. The effect of changed decomposition rate on total flux is significant, with factor of two difference between the slowly and quickly decomposing matter. For the fast decomposition rates of several days to weeks, the response curve is flattens, while for the decomposition rates close to a year the decomposition rate has a much stronger effect on the total flux. We conclude that the parameter  $\lambda_{Tref}$ , or decomposition rate during water transport, has a strong impact on the total riverine carbon flux to the ocean.

$\lambda_{Tref},{f day}^{-1}$	Global DOC flux to ocean, PgC $yr^{-1}$
0.0	0.1957
0.004	0.1697
0.008	0.1582
0.046	0.1143
0.08	0.0971
0.172	0.0800

Table 3:  $\lambda_{Tref}$  sensitivity tests

#### **3.2** Effect of spatial resolution

When testing the approach of attributing the water soluble carbon amount mixed to the river flow as a volumetric quantity, the spatial resolution plays a significant role. In the process of upscaling the HD river flow to T63 grid of Yasso soil carbon pools, the river discharge is distributed very coarsely on the spatial grid leading to incorrect peak volumes and seasonality. This problem is amplified when two different rivers within a basin flow close together.

The interpolation of carbon parameters to  $0.5^{\circ}$  grid introduces numerical differences but in compensation gives a better representation of hydrological properties (rate and direction of river flow) on the HD grid. This effect can be seen when comparing the discharge simulated by the model and the associated simulated carbon flux in different river basins against in-situ observations. The comparatively higher resolution of HD model grid however effects the C flux values only for individual river basins (which fulfills the scope of the present study). The global carbon balance for this process is closed independent on whether the HD grid is similar or different to the JSBACH grid.

# 3.3 Model sensitivity based on removed soil carbon fraction

The fraction of soil carbon contributing to the riverine carbon flux per day is tested for a range of values and compared to observations.  $f_0$  values of 0.1% and 1% per day are used as a starting point for the sensitivity tests. Since JSBACH and the HD model are spun-up for a long time leading to a carbon as well as hydrological equilibrium, the variation in the input soil carbon fraction is robust and proportional to the riverine carbon flow into the ocean.

# 4 Results and discussion

The sensitivity studies are focused on evaluating the riverine carbon transport scheme spatially to understand the global patterns along with the DOC seasonality at river mouths for individual river basins.

# 4.1 Spatial pattern or large scale global distribution of model derived DOC flux

The global distribution of total water soluble carbon is shown in Figure 2 for the Test 01 simulation as detailed in Table 1. The global riverine network on HD grid shows a representative distribution of carbon transported via the hydrological basins. As seen in the figures, the amount of transported carbon is proportional to the river discharge, i.e., the higher the runoff, the higher the amount of carbon transported (the Amazon basin and other large basins show the highest values of transported carbon at their outlet points). Table 4 shows observations of the DOC flux into the ocean for a range of major rivers from *Coynel et. al.* [2005] and *Raymond et. al.* [2007]. In comparison to the two major rivers discussed below, Lena and Amazon, simulated fluxes are about 6.3 and 19 TgC yr<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. For the Amazon, the simulated value is about half the value given in the Table 4, however, observations also differ in the range of a factor of 2. For the Lena, the simulated total DOC flux is close to observations.

River	DOC flux to ocean, TgC $yr^{-1}$
Amazon	37.6
Congo	12.4
Nile	0.7
Lena	5.83
Ob	3.05
Mackenzie	1.4

Table 4: DOC fluxes from large tropical and Arctic rivers [Coynel et. al., 2005; Raymond et. al., 2007].

### 4.2 Seasonality of DOC flux for major rivers

We analysed the seasonality for our riverine DOC transport scheme for various river basins. We use Arctic and tropical river basins as test cases as their distinctive characteristics allow us to evaluate the sensitivity of our model to river discharge, topography and soil characteristics (geology, temperature, vegetation). The following sections describe the simulated seasonality of the riverine DOC transport for various river basins.

#### 4.2.1 Arctic rivers

Figure 3 shows the seasonality plot of river discharge and riverine carbon flux for Arctic rivers for model version A (leaching from water soluble pools only) for Test 01 simulation as detailed in Table 1. Simulated river discharge has a strong maximum in June, in line with observations that show a distinct runoff peak in June due to snowmelt and river ice break-up [*Winkelbauer et. al.*, 2022]. The low discharge in winter time is also in line with observations as precipitation is accumulated as snow on the surface in this period. The discharge variance in Arctic rivers is mainly explained by the size of the river's watershed; the Lena (2.46 Mill. km<sup>2</sup>) and Ob (2.97 Mill. km<sup>2</sup>) rivers' watersheds being largest in extent and hence having the highest discharge while the Mackenzie (1.81 Mill. km<sup>2</sup>) and Kolyma (0.64 Mill. km<sup>2</sup>) rivers have the smallest watersheds and hence lowest discharges. For the Mackenzie, the precipitation is also noticeably lower than for the two large Siberian catchments [*Arpe et. al.*, 2005]. The DOC transport flux follows the discharge as expected from the model parameterisation, Eq. 3.

Similarly, Figure 4 shows the seasonality plot for Arctic rivers for model version B (leaching from all AWEN pools) for Test 01 simulation. In comparison with the Figure 3, the amount of carbon leached out of the soil is an order of magnitude greater. This is expected as the water soluble pool is only a small fraction of the total soil carbon pool. The DOC flux is proportional to the river discharge and to the available carbon pool, therefore the results shown in the two aforementioned Figures are almost (but not exactly) a linear scaling of one another. Except for this linear scaling with the available carbon, there is no substantial dissimilarity due to different carbon pools being accounted for.

Figure 5 shows the seasonality plot (river discharge and riverine carbon flux) for the Lena river for model version A (leaching from water soluble pools only) for all the simulations detailed in Table 1. As expected, the DOC flux strongly rises with an increase in the carbon fraction leached from 0.1% (Test 01-03) to 1.0% (Test 04-06). The increase is almost proportional, implying a linear scaling with  $f_0$ . The change in the turnover time,  $\lambda$ , shows more non-linear behavior. For example, while the DOC peak in the Test 01 coincides with the peak in river discharge, with a stronger decomposition rate the maximum DOC is seen as an earlier month in Test 06. This earlier peak is more in line with the observations as one could see on Figure 6 that shows a comparison of carbon flux for Lena river in comparison to observations [Raymond et. al., 2007]. Test 06 (with defined  $f_0$ ,  $\lambda$  values) in Table 1 presents a best fit for the Lena river carbon flux simulation. The DOC flux in the model is also substantial in October-December, which is not in line

with observations. It might be overestimated due to soil carbon accumulated by the end of the growth period being leached in the model, while this carbon in reality might be frozen and not accessible for leaching.

#### 4.2.2 Tropical rivers

Figure 7 shows a seasonality plot (river discharge and riverine carbon flux) for tropical rivers for model version A (leaching from water soluble pools only) for Test 01 simulation as detailed in Table 1. For the Amazon, Nile, and Xingu rivers, the DOC flux is proportional to the river discharge. For the Congo river the dependence is less linear as the river carries much more DOC in relation to its discharge compared to the previous rivers. Figure 8 shows seasonality a plot (river discharge and riverine carbon flux) for Amazon river for model version A (leaching from water soluble pools only) for all simulations as detailed in Table 1. The DOC flux is proportional to  $f_0$  and  $\lambda$  values, similarly to the Arctic rivers. To compare DOC seasonality with observations, Figure 9 shows a comparison of carbon flux for Amazon river in comparison to observations [Lauerwald et. al., 2017; Moreira-Turcq et. al., 2003]. Test 05 (with defined  $f_0$ ,  $\lambda$  values) in Table 1 present a best fit for the Amazon river carbon flux simulation. The DOC peak is simulated a month earlier than in the observations, and the model underestimates the carbon transport during the period of low discharge (November to March). This indicates that other processes are important for tropical river DOC transport, especially during the dry season. Since the optimal parameter for the Amazon  $(\lambda = 0.046)$  differs from the parameter for the Lena  $(\lambda = 0.172)$ , we conclude that the model requires regional tuning for some parameters. This could be a consequence of current model assumptions, but also of different seasonality of river discharges in the Arctic and in the tropics. The seasonal variability of the carbon flux for the Congo on Figure 7 is much more pronounced than that of the discharge (in comparison to other rivers), which may indicate that for this catchment the transport of DOC is much more sensitive to changes in the runoff seasonality than in other areas [Kurek et al., 2022]. Note that Coynel et. al. [2005] state that the seasonal patterns of DOC show clockwise hysteresis in relation to river discharges, with maximum levels recorded 2 to 4 months before peak flows.

#### 4.3 Limitations of this study

One limitation of this study and our model setup in general is that we use a generic global carbon scaling fraction (based on  $Li \ et. \ al. \ [2017]$ ). The carbon scaling fraction influences the quantity of water soluble carbon available for riverine transport. Ideally, the carbon scaling fraction should be varied between river basins (for example between Arctic or tropical basins), so that the specific characteristics of the basin such as soil carbon properties, topography, vegetation and river discharge can be taken into account; either by the processed based modelling of these factors or by fitting to seasonal observations of DOC for each basin individually or for each class of basins with similar characteristics.

A second limitation of the current study is that it uses the standalone version of JSBACH3 coupled with the HD model to run the riverine DOC transport model; hence our results lack any feedback from the atmospheric state due to the removed land carbon and any feedback from ocean from the influx of riverine DOC into the ocean model.

Additionally to the above, the use of surface runoff as an exclusive carrier for the soil carbon leaching ignores the possible influence of subsurface drainage in the overall riverine DOC. In the current model study, the subsurface drainage C flux is found to be insignificant in comparison to the surface runoff C flux, however, a more inclusive soil scheme as well as constraining model runs with a different forcing data could also influence the overall effect of subsurface C flux component for riverine DOC.

# 5 Conclusions

In this study we have shown that we are able to model riverine DOC production, transport and decay within JSBACH by combining a simple set of components with a data based tuning. Our study has shown that a key element to correctly modelling the seasonality of riverine DOC flux is scaling the DOC leaching from the soil model according to the surface runoff from the soil hydrology model. However, we have been unable to find a single tuning of the rate of DOC leaching that is able to match observations for both the tropical and Arctic regions - the best fit to observations for the Arctic produces poor results for the Tropics and visa versa. We conclude our model can be used to model riverine DOC flux in one of these regions (with the correct tuning) when the limitation that it gives poor results in the other region is taken into account. We also found that the model results are insensitive to values of the Q10 parameter which allows it to be neglected it in model simulations.

The current study provides an opportunity to link to the coupled ocean model where a Dissolved Inorganic Carbon (DIC) component via soil weathering is being developed as a part of HAMOCC model. In addition, the lateral DOC transport within the HD model has been used to develop a framework for the transport of biogeochemical tracers (such as used by *Simon et. al.* [2023]) that builds up on the most recent version of the HD model [*Hagemann et. al.*, 2020].

# 6 Model code availability

The MPI-ESM code version that includes the DOC scheme detailed in this document is stored in a branch in the MPI-ESM git repository on the MPI-ESM git server (git.mpimet.mpg.de). The specific version used is commit:

```
0637315099c4acb952c771281ac9a3b30a122b00
```

on the branch mpiesm-landveg\_tcr\_doc. The code is available from the Max Planck Society's Edmond repository (edmond.mpg.de) under the MPI-M Software Licence Agreement; the corresponding entry in the repository can be accessed via the DOI: 10.17617/3.SQOWKV.

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Figure 1: Block diagram showing the principle routines of the DOC scheme and their location in the wider JSBACH3 code. Constants are marked in this red and are assumed to be available wherever they are needed. The handling of input and output is omitted. This page show the overall scheme - subsequent pages give the definitions of required subroutines and constants.



Figure 1: (Continued) Block diagram showing the principle routines of the DOC scheme and their location in the wider JSBACH3 code. Constants are marked in this red and are assumed to be available wherever they are needed. The handling of input and output is omitted. This page gives the definitions of required subroutines.

```
main HD
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 or
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            # Fraction of leaf litter carbon pool to add to DOC
# flux at each model litterter DH
[loat 1: frac_laaflitter to HD
# Fraction of water soluble green carbon pool to leach
# to carbon runoff each timestep
float 1: frac_ws_green_to_HD
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  integer, dimension(nlat,nlon) :: num_res_river
# Number of overland flow sub-reservoirs per grid box
# Set to 1 everywhere
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         HD model direction code for an internal sink point coastal ocean cell
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     carbon riverflow
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       Number of river flow sub-reservoirs per grid box
Set to 1 for lakes, 5 elsewhere
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         Constant arrays:
Read from input netcdf files - all part of the
module but also used by the riverine DOC scheme
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     integer, dimension(nlat,nlon) :: num_res_overland
                                                                                                                                                              .nteger :: nlat_gauss, nlon_gauss
# Grid dimension of HD model half-degree regular
# latitude-longitude grid
                                                                                                                hard-coded
Grid dimensions of main JSBACH gaussian grid
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           ::
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       integer :: riverflow substeps = 5
# DOC decay constant at a refence temperature
float :: doc_decay_lambda_Tref
                                                                                       Read from a configurations settings file or
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              # Refence temperature for DOC decay constant
find :: idoc decay. Thef
# 010 value for DOC decay
# float :: doc decay_010
# float :: doc decay_010
float :: hd_timestep in seconds
float :: hd_timestep
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                # River routings
type(river_direction), dimension(nlat,nlon)
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               float, dimension(nlat,nlon) :: krf
# Overland flow retention coefficients
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          coefficients
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               cype(river_direction) :: non_land
# Number of substep to use for the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 float, dimension(nlat,nlon) :: klf
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          # River flow retention
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        Integer :: nlat, nlon
                                                              Scalar constants:
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      c_direct
                Constants
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              cascade
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       Remap input from the HD model's half degree regular latitude-longitude
grid to JSBACH's main gaussian latitude-longitude grid using a predefined
mapping
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                reservoirs(i,j,n) = new_reservoir_value - flow
                                                                                                                                                                                                  retention_coefficients
                           DOC code
cascade(inflow,outflow,reservoirs,retention_coefficients,
# This routine is part of the main HD module but also used by the
# riverine code
# SUBROWITHE cascade(inflow,outflow,reservoirs,retention_coefficient
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      :: reservoirs_nums
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              float, dimension(nlat_gauss,nlon_gauss), intent(in) :: input
float, dimension(nlat,nlon), intent(out) :: output
                                                                                                                                                 dimension(nlat,nlon), intent(inout) :: reservoirs
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               :: inflow
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             :: outflow
                                                                                                                                                                                                     ::
                                                                         reservoirs_nums, steplen)
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           integer, dimension(nlat,nlon), intent(in)
# Carbon flux in
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      D0 i=1,nlat
D0 j=1,nlon
flow = inflow(i,j)
flow = .1.reservoir
rooir
                                                                                                                                                                            # Retention coefficients
float, dimension(nlat,nlon), intent(in)
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              END
outflow(i,j) = flow
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          SUBROUTINE remap_to_hd_grid(input,output)
                                                                                                                           reservoir levels
                                                                                                                                                                                                                             er of reservoirs
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               END
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   END SUBROUTINE
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        END
                                                                                                                        # DOC r
                                                                                                                                                                                                                             quun #
```

Figure 1: (Continued) Block diagram showing the principle routines of the DOC scheme and their location in the wider JSBACH3 code. Constants are marked in this red and are assumed to be available wherever they are needed. The handling of input and output is omitted. This page gives the definitions of required subroutines and constants.



Figure 2: Global distribution of riverine carbon flux, PgC year<sup>-1</sup>, based on Yasso water soluble carbon pools as simulated by the HD model flow properties. Yasso carbon pools are computed on JSBACH T63 grid, and are used as a primary carbon flux source for deriving the dissoved organic carbon within the global riverine network on a finer HD grid  $(0.5^{\circ})$ 



Figure 3: Monthly-averaged seasonal dynamics of carbon fluxes based on Yasso water soluble carbon pools for several Arctic rivers. For each river basin, solid lines shows the river discharge values (corresponding left vertical axis in m<sup>3</sup>/s), and the dotted lines represent the seasonality of carbon flux values (corresponding right vertical axis in kgC/s). Results are for the Test 01 experiment with values of  $f_0 = 0.1\%$  and  $\lambda_{Tref} = 0$ .



Figure 4: Monthly-averaged seasonal dynamics of carbon fluxes based on total AWEC Yasso pools for several Arctic rivers. For each river basin, solid lines shows the river discharge values (corresponding left vertical axis in m<sup>3</sup>/s), and the dotted lines represent the seasonality of carbon flux values (corresponding right vertical axis in kgC/s). Results are for the Test 01 experiment with values of  $f_0 = 0.1\%$  and  $\lambda_{Tref} = 0$ .



Figure 5: Results of sensitivity simulations for monthly averaged fluxes for Lena river based on Yasso water soluble carbon pools. Solid lines show the river discharge values (corresponding left vertical axis in m<sup>3</sup>/s), and the dotted lines represent the seasonality of carbon flux values (corresponding right vertical axis in kgC/s). Test simulations 01 to 06 are with changing values for  $f_0$  (CFrac) and  $\lambda_{Tref}$ .



Figure 6: Seasonal carbon flux for the Lena river for Yasso water soluble carbon pools for the best fit (t06) in comparison with in-situ observations [Raymond et. al., 2007]. Magenta solid line corresponds to the observations and blue dotted line corresponds to the best fit test experiment (Test 06) with best fit values of  $f_0$  (CFrac = 1.0 %) and  $\lambda_{Tref} = 0.172$ .



Figure 7: Average seasonal variation of carbon fluxes based on Yasso water soluble carbon pools for selected tropical rivers. For each river basin, solid lines shows the discharge values (corresponding left vertical axis in m<sup>3</sup>/s), and the dotted lines represent the seasonality of carbon flux values (corresponding right vertical axis in kgC/s). Results are for the Test 01 experiment with values of  $f_0 = 0.1\%$  and  $\lambda_{Tref} = 0$ .



Figure 8: Monthly averaged dynamics of fluxes for Amazon based on Yasso water soluble carbon pools. Solid line shows the river discharge values (corresponding left vertical axis in m<sup>-3</sup>/s), and the dotted lines represent the seasonality of carbon flux values (corresponding right vertical axis in kgC/s). Various test experiments (Test 01 to Test 06 - here labeled t01 to t06) with changing values for  $f_0$  (CFrac) and  $\lambda_{Tref}$  are shown.



Figure 9: Seasonal carbon flux for the Amazon river for Yasso water soluble carbon pools for the best fit in comparison with in-situ observations [Lauerwald et. al., 2017; Moreira-Turcq et. al., 2003]. Magenta solid line corresponds to the observations and blue dotted line corresponds to the best fit test experiment (Test 05) with best fit values of  $f_0$  (CFrac = 1.0 %) and  $\lambda_{Tref} = 0.046$ .

# Hinweis / Reference

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