Data Article

Data for long-term marginal abatement cost curves of non-CO₂ greenhouse gases

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Abstract

This dataset represents long-term marginal abatement cost (MAC) curves of all major emission sources of non-CO₂ greenhouse gases (GHGs); methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O) and fluorinated gases (HFCs, PFCs and SF₆). The work is based on existing short-term MAC curve datasets and recent literature on individual mitigation measures. The data represent a comprehensive set of MAC curves, covering all major non-CO₂ emission sources for 26 aggregated world regions. They are suitable for long-term global mitigation scenario development, as dynamical elements (technological progress, removal of implementation barriers) are included. The data is related to the research article: “Long-term marginal abatement cost curves of non-CO₂ greenhouse gases” [1].

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1. Data

These documents contain CH₄ and N₂O (Data_MAC_CH4N2O_Harmsen et al._PBL) and fluorinated gas (Data_MAC_F-gases_Harmsen et al._PBL) marginal abatement cost (MAC) curves for all major global emission sources. Values represent relative emission reductions for the different emission sources at different marginal cost levels for the period 2015–2100 (not all intermediate years are provided, but values between subsequently provided years can be linearly interpolated). Two sets are made available: 1) One baseline-independent set with relative reductions compared to the global average emission factor in 2015 for the emission source concerned. Negative values represent a higher emission factor than the global average in 2015. 2) One set compatible with the IMAGE SSP2 baseline scenario (with “SSP2” in the name of the sheet). Source-specific emission reductions in SSP2 are deducted from the reductions in the baseline-independent MACs. Implementation costs are provided in (2005/2010) $/tonne of C equivalents, assuming the use of the AR4 100 yr GWP potential.

2. Experimental design, materials, and methods

The MAC curves represent the combined reduction potential of all relevant mitigation measures at specific marginal costs for a specific emission source and country or region. In order to be relevant for
long term climate policy projections, they account for future changes in reduction potential and costs, due to 1) technological learning and 2) removal of implementation barriers.

The MAC curves developed in this study are based on a combination of existing datasets and an assessment of individual mitigation options described in literature.

The reduction potential ($RP(t,r)$) (in %) of a single mitigation measure in year $t$ and region $r$ is determined by:

$$RP(t,r) = TA(r)*RE(t)*IP(t)*OVcorr(t,r) \tag{1}$$

With (all in %): $TA$: Technical applicability, or part of the baseline covered by the measure. Is often 100%, but smaller if the measure is not always suitable or targets only a sub process (e.g. reducing leakage in gas transportation, but not in extraction). Values can also differ per region. $RE$: Reduction efficiency, or relative reduction of targeted emissions compared to a baseline case, averaged over multiple studies. $IP$: Implementation potential, increases in time due to increased technology diffusion and implementation and the removal of barriers. $OVcorr$: Correction for overlap. The assumption is that the least costly measures are implemented first. If a subsequent measure is applied next to one or more measures already in place, it can have a diminished benefit\(^1\). Note that this correction increases in time (lower value) as $IP$ increases.

The Maximum Reduction Potential ($MRP(t,r)$) (in %) in year $t$ and region $r$ is the combined effect of all measures:

$$MRP(t,r) = (RP1(t,r) + RP2(t,r) + RP3(t,r) \ldots + RPx(t,r))*TP(t) - Bcorr(t,r) \tag{2}$$

With (all in %): $TP$: Technological progress. Increase of the reduction potential in time, as a result of new or improved technologies. $Bcorr$: Correction for emission reductions that already take place in the baseline scenario, in each region. The assumption is here that these reductions come from the least cost measures (i.e. that part of the low cost side of the MAC curve is excluded for further reductions in a mitigation scenario).

The assumption for the construction of the MAC curves is that the least costly measures are taken first. The best estimate of the costs of a specific measure was based on the average of cost estimates in literature and made regionally specific where data was available.

Marginal costs presented in literature need to be corrected for diminishing returns of measures, when multiple measures are implemented. The cost of a certain mitigation measure is based on the assumption that the measure can be fully applied to its emission source. When multiple measures are in place, the relative reduction per measure at a given cost decreases (or vice versa, the costs per reduced GHG increases). We corrected the cost of every subsequent (more expensive) measure, following:

$$Cost\ new = Cost\ old*1/OVcorr \tag{3}$$

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\(^1\) If measure $y$ is aimed at reducing the same baseline emissions as measure $x$ that is already implemented, the $OVcorr$ of $y = 1-RP_x$. 
Conflict of interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dib.2019.104334.

References

[1] Mathijs J.H.M. Harmsen, Detlef P. van Vuuren, Dali R. Nayak, Andries F. Hof, Lena Höglund-Isaksson, Paul L. Lucas, Jens B. Nielsen, Pete Smith, Elke Stehfest, 2019 Long-term marginal abatement cost curves of non-CO2 greenhouse gases, Environ. Sci. Policy 99 (2019) 136–149. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envsci.2019.05.013.