



Barcelona Supercomputing Center Centro Nacional de Supercomputación



Assessment of modelled dust mineralogy with **multiple Earth System Models**







Climate, Aerosol, and **Pollution Research**



María Gonçalves Ageitos, Vincenzo Obiso, Ron Miller, Longlei Li, Natalie Mahowald, Paul Ginoux, Samuel Remy, Jan Perlwitz, Philip G. Brodrick, Robert O. Green, David R. Thompson, Oriol Jorba, Carlos Pérez García Pando.



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... these impacts are modulated by mineralogy.

Image credits: NASA, NOAA, Krueger et al. (2004)



Goal

- More and more, Earth System Models (ESMs) are including dust mineralogy in their frameworks, with different levels of complexity.
- Overview of the variability in modelled dust mineralogy produced by different state of the art atmospheric and ESMs: CESM-CAM6, GFDL-AM4, IFS-AER, GISS-ModelE and MONARCH.
- Provide an evaluation of the modelled mineral mass fractions against observations.



Modelling dust mineralogy

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Global soil mineralogy atlases

• Claquin et al. 1999, Nickovic 2012: 8 minerals.

Illite, smectite, kaolinite, quartz, feldspars, calcite, gypsum and hematite (iron oxides).

• Journet et al. 2014: 12 minerals.

Illite, smectite, kaolinite, vermiculite, chlorite, mica, quartz, feldspars, calcite, gypsum, hematite and goethite.



Ongoing EMIT NASA mission



Map of the mineralogy of dust sources at high resolution

Abundance of 10 minerals (to be complemented with additional methods for quartz and feldspars)

Input for ESMs

Green et al. (2020)



Model characteristics

Model	CESM-CAM6	MONARCH	GFDL-AM4	GISS-ModelE	IFS-Aer
Soil mineralogy	C1999	C1999 J2014	C1999	C1999	J2014
PSD	Modal model 3 modes	Sectional model 8 bins	Sectional model 5 bins	Sectional model 5 bins	Sectional model 3 bins
Size range (diameter)	10 µm	20 µm	20 µm	32 µm	40 µm
Emission method	BFT	BFT	BFT	Modified BFT	Projected
Mixing state	Internally mixed	Externally mixed Fraction of iron oxides mixed with other minerals	Externally mixed Fraction of iron oxides mixed with other minerals	Externally mixed Fraction of iron oxides mixed with other minerals	Externally mixed
References	Scanza et al. (2015), Hamilton et al. (2019), Li et al. (2021)	Gonçalves Ageitos et al. (in. prep), Klose et al. (2021)	Horowitz et al. (2020)	Obiso et al. (in prep), Perlwitz et al. (2015a,b)	Remy et al. (2022)



Variability across models: same soil map. Mineral mass fractions at surface PM10 concentration.



Observations of mineral mass fractions

- Obs. from the late 60's to date.
- Sampling time vs. model average: Temporal collocation monthly basis
- Reported minerals vs. modelled minerals: Mineral fractions estimated over those minerals observed AND modelled
- Size range of observations vs. modelled size range: Size collocation
- Statistics in the plots use data in the modelled size ranges.
- Normalized Mean Bias (nMB)
- Normalized Root Mean Square Error (nRMSE)
- Correlation (r)
- Number of measurements in the samples used for the comparison (n)





Quartz mass fraction evaluation



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Overestimation of the mass fraction above 2 µm of diameter across models.

Some models also show an underestimation in clay sized fractions (below 2 µm of diameter).

Feldspar mass fraction evaluation

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Iron oxides mass fraction evaluation

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Conclusions

- Dust mineralogy is increasingly present in Earth System Models with the aim of improving the representation of dust climate interactions.
- Despite the large variability across models, the evaluation metrics are overall similar when compared to our reference observational dataset.
- Our current knowledge of the composition of dust sources is limited, and ultimately determines the models' ability to reproduce the minerals' atmospheric cycle.
- Additional adjustments to define the size-distributed mineralogy at emission may be key to solve the overestimation of quartz in silt sizes, and in turn improve the feldspars representation.
- Including goethite within the modelled iron oxides results in a slightly better comparison with observations. The reason for this improvement has to be further explored (increased mass, speciation, spatial distribution).
- Our results support the need for further observational constraints, both to better characterize the soils and to assess the airborne dust composition.
- Ongoing projects, such as EMIT or FRAGMENT, will provide key new information for the modelling community.



Thank you !

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