

Interactive comment on “Sources of nitrous oxide emitted from European forest soils” by P. Ambus et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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The paper describes N mineralisation, net nitrification and N₂O fluxes from incubation studies with soil cores from different forest sites in Europe. Nitrification and denitrification as source processes were distinguished by application of a stable isotope tracer method. The method is sound. I particularly appreciate the small amounts of reactive N applied, causing a minimum of interference with on-going soil processes. In general, the paper is well written, results are clearly presented and discussed. The only issue that needs clarification is Table 4. This table presents relative contributions of NH₄ and NO₃ to N₂O production from applied, labelled forms of N. Are these numbers means of 4 replicates? If so, the authors should also give some indication of variation, be it standard error, range or something else. This would allow the reader to make a judgement about the precision of the method and of the confidence that might be placed in the conclusions.

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