

Interactive comment on “Detecting regional variability in sources and sinks of carbon dioxide: a synthesis” by A. J. Dolman et al.

Anonymous Referee #3

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The aim of the paper is to “describe the set-up of the experiments and the in field conditions of the campaigns with the aim of providing an overview of the instrumentation used and the data-set”. It also aims to “bring the papers submitted to this special issue into a coherent context of analysis”. Though I have no general problem with the content of the manuscript, I think it is somewhat long and unbalanced in comparison with the aim. The set-up of the experiment and the measured data is well described but there are no references to any homepage or database. After the campaign and data have been presented there is a large modeling section. Although modeling is important for the project I think that the section is too large and don't help that much to fulfill the aim of the paper as only one submitted paper is mentioned. The “discussion and conclusion” section is on the other hand short and many of the studies of the special issue are mentioned very briefly and with little connection to the overall discussion.

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There is also a need to sharpen up the language a bit. Comma and a/the insertion/deletion is often needed for instance.

Some details 2331-8. “Subsequent analysis of modeling results” one step is missing; you have to model before you can analyze the results. 2332-6. I don't think that this conclusion is that obvious. 2335-2. I don't think all readers know what radio-soundings are and what they are used for. Give a reference or explain. 2335-22. Some parenthesis are missing. 2336-25. Give a reference for the favoring of the activity. 2337-26. I think it should be “simulated, when compared”. 2338-25. Were the main flow pattern always perfectly simulated? 2431-16. “Step forward” is maybe better than “advance”. 2342-16. I suggest “Virtually all the studies in the special issue use eddy covariance data from the...”.

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 6, 2331, 2009.