

***Interactive comment on “Ventilation of  
subterranean CO<sub>2</sub> and Eddy covariance  
incongruities over carbonaceous ecosystems” by  
A. Were et al.***

**Anonymous Referee #1**

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Basically I think this paper is acceptable for publication as is. It is an original contribution that demonstrates the influence that atmospheric ventilation of soils and subsurface cavities can have on CO<sub>2</sub> eddy covariance fluxes. As such this paper describes an important, but infrequently recognized, process that can have significant influence on soil CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes. I really have only one suggestion or question that the authors might wish to address before publication.

(I) Equation (2) on page 10919 uses  $|F_{-1}|$  as the metric or normalization for the calculation of  $E_r$  (epsilon<sub>r</sub>). But I wonder if a better normalization factor would be  $|F_{-1}| + |F_{-2}|$  for CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes and  $(F_{-1} + F_{-2})$  for the ET fluxes?

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