Determination of Quantum/Waves Mean Free Path Length of and Total Emissivity of the Carbon Dioxide Considering the Molecular Cross Section of Carbon Dioxide.

By Nasif Sabag Nahle

10 April 2011

Sent for Peer Review: March 20, 2011: Peer Reviewed and approved for Publication: April 8, 2011.

First Publication after Peer Review on September 1, 2011.

Quote: Nahle, Nasif S. *Determination of Mean Free Path of Quantum/Waves and Total Emissivity of the Carbon Dioxide Considering the Molecular Cross Section*. April 10, 2011. Biology Cabinet Online, Academic Resources. Monterrey, N. L.

Abstract.

Through the application of astrophysical formulas, the a Quantum/wave stream mean free path length leaving the surface of the Earth to the outer space before it has collided with molecules of carbon dioxide and its total emissivity are calculated. The output of this algorithm indicates a value of about 33 meters. Also calculated is the time taken by a Quantum/wave to exit the atmosphere after it has collided with a molecule of carbon dioxide — which is ~5 milliseconds (ms).

Introduction:

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is vitally important molecule for life on Earth. Carbon dioxide molecules are taken in from the atmosphere by photosynthetic organisms which employ them to build more complex substances that are used for storing the energy transferred from the quantum/waves to the molecules of chlorophyll.

The current assessment demonstrates that CO_2 is so well dispersed throughout the bulk volume of the atmosphere that its efficiency for capturing quantum/waves emitted from the surface is extremely low.

The objectives of this article are to demonstrate that the mean free path length of the Quantum/wave stream does not significantly change the total emissivity of the CO_2 and that the time taken by a Quantum/wave to exit the atmosphere to space, without colliding with a molecule of CO_2 , is extremely low.

Methodology

I have introduced the molecular cross section of the carbon dioxide σ_{CO^2mol} , in which case a value for *n*, calculated from the molar density of the carbon dioxide and the number of molecules per mol of the substance was demanded to make the most accurate solution.

Procedure

Preliminary Data:

The density of the gas carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is obtained by the following formula⁷:

$$\rho_{CO_2} = \frac{(12.187 * Molar mass of CO_2 * volumetric fraction of CO_2)}{(276.69 K)} = 756 \frac{mg}{m3}$$

Where 12.187 is the molar mass of elemental carbon, molar mass of carbon dioxide is 44.01, and the current volumetric fraction of atmospheric CO2 is 385 ppmV, and 276.69 K is for standard temperature.⁷

To introduce this value into the formula that I will describe below, I made use of the following magnitudes:

$$\rho_{CO_2} = 756 \frac{mg}{m^3} = 0.756 \frac{g}{m^3} = 7.56 \ x \ 10^{-7} \frac{g}{cm^3}$$

7.56 x 10^-7 g/cm^3 is the density of the atmospheric carbon dioxide in the atmosphere obtained from the following calculation:

$$\rho_{CO_2} = \frac{12.187 \text{ of } C^{12} * MM_{CO_2} * MF_{CO_2}}{T_{abs}}$$

Where 385 *ppmV* is MF_{CO2} , 44.01 are for MM_{CO2} and 276.69 K is T_{abs} . You can make your own calculations at *LENNTECH*⁽⁷⁾, calculator online.

Mass of
$$CO_2$$
 in 1 cm^3 of air = $7.56 \times 10^{-7} \frac{g}{\text{cm}^3} \times 1 \text{ cm}^3 = 7.56 \times 10^{-7} g$

Avogadro's number = 6.02×10^{23} molecules/g (Avogadro's number has not units, however, when it is introduced like a constant it is expressed as 6.02×10^{23} molecules/mol or 6.02×10^{23} g/mol).³

The molar Density of gases is calculated by using the following formula:

$$\rho = \frac{Molar Mass}{R_{specific} * T}$$

Introducing Magnitudes for CO₂:

$$\rho_{CO_2} = \frac{44.01 \, g}{22261 \, cm^3} = \ 0.001977 \frac{g}{cm^3}$$

Molar mass of $CO_2 = 44.01 g$

Number of moles of
$$CO_2 = \frac{(mass in \ 1 \ cm^3 of \ air)}{(molar \ mass)} = \frac{7.56 \ x 10^{-7}(g)}{44.01 \ \left(\frac{g}{mol}\right)} = 1.7178 \ x \ 10^{-8} \ moles$$

Number of molecules of carbon dioxide in 1 g of $CO_2 = \frac{moles * Avogadro's number}{molar mass} * (1 g)$ = $\left(\frac{(1.7178 \times 10^{-8} moles) (6.02 \times 10^{23} \frac{molecules}{moles})}{44.01 g}\right) * 1 g$ = 2.35 x10¹⁴ molecules

Considering the density of CO₂ in the atmosphere, the number of moles of carbon dioxide measured in one cubic centimeter in the atmosphere mass, 1.7178×10^{-8} moles are contained in 7.56 x 10⁻⁷ g of carbon dioxide per each cubic centimeter of the current atmosphere.

 CO_2 molecule's cross section (σ) = 5 x 10⁻²² cm²

Determination of the Mean Free Path Length of quantum/waves in the atmosphere before colliding with a molecule of carbon dioxide.

Formula to calculate the mean free path length of quantum/waves before colliding with molecules of CO₂:

 $l = m / (n \sigma)$ (References 1 and 2).

Where *l* is for the mean free path length, *m* is for the mass of the gas measured in one cubic centimeter of air, *n* is the effective quantum density, and σ is the cross section of a molecule of CO₂ before vibrational dephasing ($\sigma = 5.0 \times 10^{-22} \text{ cm}^{-2}$).

Notice that *n* is the total number of states per volume unit, cubic centimeters. For this case, to obtain the *effective molar density* we must to multiply the number of states per mol by the molar gas density of the carbon dioxide.

Known data:

CO₂ molecule's cross section = 5 x 10⁻²² cm²

Mass of CO₂ (m) corresponding to a mass fraction of 390 ppmV= 7.56 x 10⁻⁷ g

The molar gas density of molecular carbon dioxide is obtained by the following formula:

Molar gas $\rho_{CO2} = MM_{CO2} / MV_{STP}$

Where MM_{CO2} is molar mass of the carbon dioxide and MV_{STP} is the molar volume of any gas at STP (22.4 L).

Introducing magnitudes:

Molar gas ρ_{CO2} = 44.01 g / 22.4 L = 1.9647 g /L = 0.0019647 g /cm^3

The following formula is used to calculate the effective molar density of carbon dioxide per cubic centimeter of air:

 $n_{mol} = \rho_{mol} * NM$ (Ref. 13)

Where *n* is the effective density of one mole, ρ_{mol} is molar gas density, and *NM* is the number of molecules per mol.

Known values:

 $n_{mol} = ?$

 $\rho_{mol} = 0.0019647 \left(\frac{g}{(cm^3 mol)}\right)$ $NM = 2.35 \times 10^{14} molecules$

Introducing magnitudes:

$$n_{mol} = \left(0.0019647 \left(\frac{g}{cm^3}\right)\right) \left(2.35 \ x \ 10^{14} \ (molecules)\right) = \ 4.617 \ x \ 10^{11} \left(\frac{g}{cm^3}\right)$$

Therefore, $4.617 \times 10^{11} \left(\frac{g}{cm^3}\right)$ is the effective molar density of the carbon dioxide that must be considered for calculating the mean free path length of a quantum/wave crossing the troposphere between collisions with molecules of carbon dioxide.

Determination of the Mean Free Path Length of Quantum/Waves through the Earth's troposphere.

Introducing magnitudes:

$$l = \frac{m}{(n \sigma)}$$
 (References 1 and 2)

$$l = \frac{(7.56 \, x \, 10^{-7} g)}{\left(4.617 \, x \, 10^{11} \left(\frac{g}{cm^3}\right) * 5 \, x \, 10^{-22} (cm^2)\right)} = 3274.8 \, cm$$

$$l = 32.75 m$$

Therefore, the mean free path of the surface quantum/waves stream (I) is 3274 cm, which is the trajectory of a quantum/wave passing through the atmosphere before it collides with a molecule of carbon dioxide.

This means that a quantum/wave shifts about 33 meters to hit onto a molecule of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

This distance is well understood if we take into account that as the temperature of the lower troposphere increases during daylight by a highly energized surface quantum/wave stream, the thermal diffusivity of carbon dioxide increases, to be precise, as the temperature increases, the molecules diffuse more quickly into a thermally expanded volume of air.

In consequence, the distance between one molecule of carbon dioxide and another molecule of carbon dioxide is lengthened as the temperature increases. For example, the thermal diffusivity of the carbon dioxide at 255 K (-18 °C or -0.40 F) is 7.83 x 10^{-6} (m^2/s), while at 308 K (35 °C, or 95 F) is 1.171 x 10^{-5} (m^2/s).^[3]

Consequently, the mean free path length of quantum/waves is lengthened, as the thermal diffusivity of the carbon dioxide increases due to increases of temperature, and the following escape time of quantum/waves from the atmosphere increases.

Determination of the time a quantum/wave takes to leave the atmosphere of the Earth towards space after colliding with molecules of CO_2 :

Formula for obtaining the time taken by a Quantum/wave to leave the Earth's atmosphere after colliding with molecules of CO_2 :

$$t = \frac{(r^2)}{(l * c)}$$
 (References 1 and 2)

Known Data:

 $r_{trop} = 700000 \, cm$

 $l = 3274.8 \, cm$

$$c = 2.99792458 \times 10^{10} \left(\frac{cm}{s}\right)$$

Introducing Magnitudes:

$$t = \frac{r^2}{(l*c)} = \frac{\left(4.9 \times 10^{11} (cm^2)\right)}{\left[3274.8 \ cm * 2.99792458 \times 10^{10} \left(\frac{cm}{s}\right)\right]} = 0.0049 \ s$$

t = 0.0049 s

The result indicates that it takes quantum/waves approximately 5 ms (*milliseconds*) to cross the troposphere from the surface of the Earth after colliding with molecules of CO₂, if carbon dioxide proportion was the same in the whole column of air. This time of delay would be by far lower if we consider that the temperature of the atmosphere and the partial pressure of the carbon dioxide decreases considerably with altitude, especially in the troposphere. The results of such decrease of atmospheric temperature and partial pressure of carbon dioxide with altitude are depicted in the following graph:



Notice that the lapse time of quantum/waves through the lower troposphere (first 5 km) is extremely short. The time lapse from sea level up to 3 km roughly is 1 millisecond; therefore, it is not possible for carbon dioxide to retain thermal energy for more than 0.0001 seconds at surface level. This has serious consequences to the credibility of AGW hypothesis because carbon dioxide cannot emit backradiation that the surface would be able to absorb, i.e. the energy density of quantum/waves emitted by carbon dioxide is negligible.

In contrast, molecules of Water Vapor (H_2O) and solid particles, which are also present in the atmosphere, intercept and absorb the quantum/waves emitted from the surface of the Earth long before they could collide with any molecules of carbon dioxide and before the molecules of carbon dioxide interact with other molecules.

Determining the Total Emissivity of the Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide as from the Crossing Time Lapse that a Quantum/Wave takes to leave the Troposphere.

The formula to calculate the total emissivity of fluids, plasma, or free electrons is as follows:

$$\varepsilon = \frac{\left(1 - e^{t \cdot \left(-\frac{1}{s}\right)}\right)}{\sqrt{\pi}}$$

Where ε is total emissivity and *t* is crossing time lapse of a quantum/wave.

Known values:

 $t = 0.0049 \ s$

Introducing magnitudes:

$$\varepsilon = \frac{\left(1 - \left(e^{0.0049 \, s \, * \left(-\frac{1}{s}\right)}\right)\right)}{\left(\sqrt{3.1415} \dots\right)} = 0.0028$$

This result coincides with the result obtained from considering the partial pressure of carbon dioxide and its instantaneous temperature in the atmosphere; additionally, it coincides with the total emissivity obtained from the experiments conducted by H. C. Hottel⁸, B. Leckner⁹, M. Lapp¹⁰, C. B. Ludwig¹¹, A. F. Sarofim¹² and their collaborators^{11, 12}

CONCLUSIONS:

The results obtained by experimentation coincide with the results obtained by applying astrophysics formulas. Therefore, both methodologies are reliable to calculate the total emissivity of any gas in any planetary atmosphere.

At an average density, the atmospheric water vapor allows quantum/waves to cross the troposphere to the tropopause in 0.0245 s, i.e. 2.45 cs (*centiseconds or 24.5 milliseconds*). By comparing the ability of water vapor to avoid that quantum/waves escape towards the outer space (24.5 *ms*) with the ability of CO_2 (5 *ms*), I can affirm that the role of CO_2 on warming the atmosphere or the surface is not possible according to Physics Laws.

Considering the quantum/waves escape time from the atmosphere, the water vapor is five times more efficient on intercepting quantum/waves than carbon dioxide. Consequently, the absorption of thermal energy in the atmosphere is highly influenced by water vapor.

Carbon dioxide has not a role on keeping warm the Earth. We must add the high emittance and broadness of the absorptance spectral band of water vapor, compared to other gases in the atmosphere like carbon dioxide, to obtain a more accurate approach of the efficiency of water vapor on capturing the energy carried out by quantum/waves before they leave the Earth's atmosphere. In gross numbers, the water vapor is ~12 to 20 times more efficient than carbon dioxide on capturing and delaying the dispersion of thermal energy, depending on the proportion of water vapor in the atmosphere, which could vary from 2% - 5%.

According to other parameters, like the conductive heat transfer in the surface and subsurface materials and the convective heat transfer in the atmosphere, I conclude that the main role of the atmospheric gases is to *distribute* the thermal energy on a natural trend to homogenize the temperature of the Earth, not to cause it increases.¹⁵

Considering also that carbon dioxide has a lower total emissivity than the water vapor, I conclude that carbon dioxide has not effect on climate changes or warming periods on the Earth.

The low thermal diffusivity of carbon dioxide makes of it to be an inefficient substance to adjust its temperature to the surroundings temperature. Consequently, carbon dioxide can never reach the thermal equilibrium with respect to other molecules of air and consequently it cools surrounding systems by taking thermal energy from such systems and redistributing it towards heat sinks; in particular, to outer space.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

This article has been Peer Reviewed by the Faculty of Physics of the University of Nuevo Leon, Mexico.

I am grateful to **Patricia Martinez Moreno, M. A.**, **Director of the Faculty of Physics of the University of Nuevo Leon Mexico**, for her valuable orientation and for having made possible that I had access to the Postgraduate Division of the Faculty.

I am grateful to Dr. Jose Rubén Morones Ibarra, PhD, Director of the Postgraduate Division of the Faculty of Physics and Mathematics of the University of Nuevo Leon, Mexico, for having spent good part of his time on reviewing this article.

I am grateful to **Dr. Jonathan Walsh, PhD**, **Mathematician** (retired), for his valuable orientation on the mathematics applied on my articles.

Special thanks to Ken Coffman, Electrical Engineer, for reviewing this article.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- 1. Lang, Kenneth. 2006. Astrophysical Formulae. Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg. Vol. 1. Sections 1.11 and 1.12.
- Maoz, Dan. Astrophysics in a Nutshell. 2007. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ. Pp. 36-41
- 3. Pitts, Donald and Sissom, Leighton. *Heat Transfer*. 1998. McGraw-Hill, NY. Pp. 2 and 238.
- 4. Modest, Michael F. *Radiative Heat Transfer-Second Edition*. 2003. Elsevier Science, USA and Academic Press, UK.
- 5. http://www.chemteam.info/Mole/Avogadro-Number-CalcsII.html
- 6. http://www.convertunits.com/from/moles+CO2/to/grams
- 7. http://www.lenntech.com/calculators/ppm/converter-parts-per-million.htm
- 8. Hottel, H. C. Radiant Heat Transmission-3rd Edition. 1954. McGraw-Hill, NY.
- 9. Leckner, B. *The Spectral and Total Emissivity of Water Vapor and Carbon Dioxide*. Combustion and Flame. Volume 17; Issue 1; August 1971, Pages 37-44.
- 10. http://thesis.library.caltech.edu/2809/1/Lapp_m_1960.pdf
- 11. Ludwig, C. B., Malkmus, W., Reardon, J. E., and Thomson, J. A. L. *Handbook of Infrared Radiation from Combustion Gases*. Technical Report SP-3080.NASA. 1973.
- 12. Sarofim, A. F., Farag, I. H., Hottel, H. C. Radiative Heat Transmission from Nonluminous Gases. Computational Study of the Emissivities of Carbon Dioxide. ASME paper No. 78-HT-55.1978
- 13. http://www.chem1.com/acad/webtext/intro/MOL.html#MOL
- Castellan, G. W. *Fisicoquímica* 2^a. Edición.1998. Addison Wesley Longman de México. México, D. F.
- 15. Peixoto, José P., Oort, Abraham H. 1992. *Physics of Climate*. Springer-Verlag New York Inc. New York.