

# Updates to OPGEE

## OPGEE v3.0a candidate model versus OPGEE v2.0c

Adam R. Brandt, Mohammad S. Masnadi, Jeff  
Rutherford

Energy Resources Engineering Department, Stanford  
University

CARB OPGEE Modeling update  
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Stanford University

# Outline

- Part 1: Background and context
- Part 2: Updates to the OPGEE model
- Part 3: Comparisons of CI results between v2.0 and v3.0

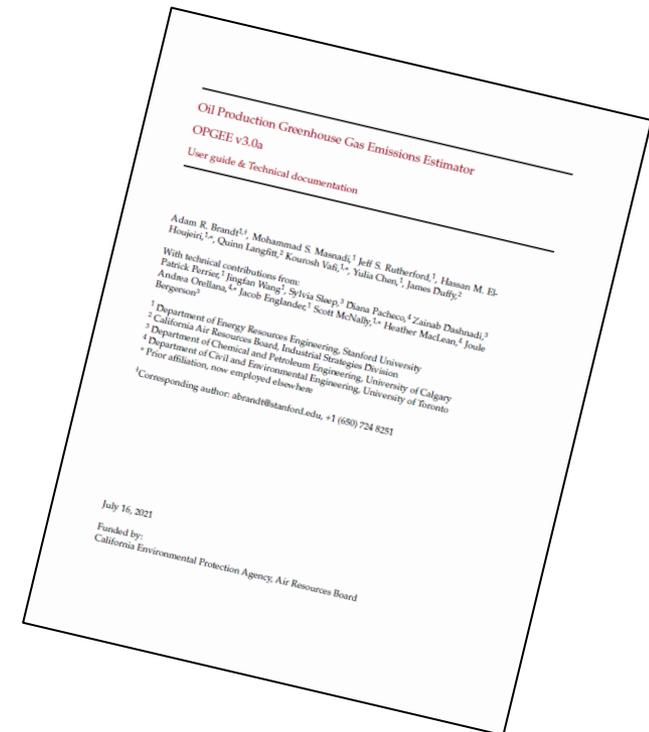
# Part 1: Background and context

# OPGEE model

- Model is called Oil Production Greenhouse gas Emissions **Estimator** (OPGEE)
- Estimates emissions given field parameters and technologies

The **first** open-source GHG tool for oil and gas operations

- Anyone can download, modify and use
- 36 published papers, complete documentation (~400 pp.) with all sources defined
- Funded by CARB, U.S. DOE, Carnegie Endowment, Ford Motor Co., Saudi Aramco



# OPGEE model timeline

- Model development started in 2010
- First official version: OPGEE v1.0 released September 2012
- Second official version: OPGEE v2.0 released Feb 2018
- Third official version (candidate): OPGEE v3.0a - Introduced today
  
- Bibliography at end of slides:

## Used in studies of crude oil CI for

- US (Cooney et al. 2017, Yeh et al 2017, Brandt et al. 2016)
- Canada (Cai et al. 2015, Englander et al. 2015)
- China (Masnadi et al. 2018a)
- Globe (Masnadi et al. 2018b)

## Methods development

- Overall (El-Houjeri et al. 2013)
- Drilling (Vafi et al. 2016)
- Gas processing (Masnadi et al. 2020)
- Uncertainty (Vafi et al. 2014a, 2014b, Brandt et al. 2015)
- Time trends (Masnadi et al. 2018c, Tripathi et al. 2017)

## Part 2: Updates to the model

## Major revisions in OPGEE v3.0a

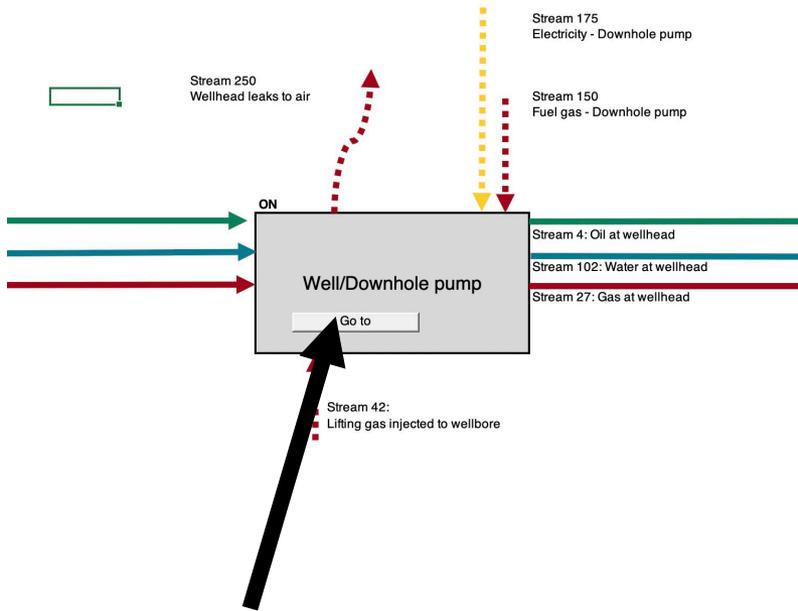
- Improved model organization and process interconnections
- Expansion of natural gas life cycle coverage and option to choose gas as the functional unit
- Improved gas processing modeling
- New methodology for venting and fugitive emissions modeling
- Updated default input values

See [slides](#) from October 2020 workshop for additional details beyond this presentation

# Improvement 1: Model organization and stream tracking

- OPGEE v2.0 mostly lacked stream tracking and interconnected processes
  - Gas species tracked, but other streams were not reliably tracked
  - Process units were not on individual sheets, and unclear exactly which mass flows were entering and leaving each sheet
- OPGEE v3.0a includes a completely reworked model “skeleton”
  - All streams of oil, water, gas, etc. are tracked in mass flows
  - Conservation of mass ensured at process unit and total model level
  - Pressures, temperatures, and other properties tracked
  - Navigation aided by graphical view of process connections (PFD)

# Graphical navigation



Trace flows along processing paths and click to navigate to sheets

Active field flow sheet						Field: Generic		
Index code ↓						Stream number →		
number:		UM		1	2	3		
Stream description:		STREAM_NAME		2	Crude oil in reservoir	Bitumen in mine	Crude oil at well bottom	
Phase	Component		3	Unit	Value	Value	Value	
7	Solid	Petroleum co	M_PC	4	tonne/d	--	--	--
8	Liquid	Crude oil	M_O	5	tonne/d	204.2	--	204.2
9	Liquid	Liquified petr	M_LPG	6	tonne/d	--	--	--
10	Liquid	Water	M_W	7	tonne/d	28.6	--	28.6
11	Liquid	Total liquids	M_TOTLIQ	8	tonne/d	232.8	--	232.8
12	Gas	N <sub>2</sub>	M_N2	9	tonne/d	--	--	--
13	Gas	O <sub>2</sub>	M_O2	10	tonne/d	--	--	--
14	Gas	CO <sub>2</sub>	M_CO2	11	tonne/d	--	--	--
15	Gas	H <sub>2</sub> O	M_H2O	12	tonne/d	--	--	--
16	Gas	CH <sub>4</sub>	M_C1	13	tonne/d	--	--	--
17	Gas	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub>	M_C2	14	tonne/d	--	--	--
18	Gas	C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>8</sub>	M_C3	15	tonne/d	--	--	--
19	Gas	C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>10</sub>	M_C4	16	tonne/d	--	--	--
20	Gas	CO	M_CO	17	tonne/d	--	--	--
21	Gas	H <sub>2</sub>	M_H2	18	tonne/d	--	--	--
22	Gas	H <sub>2</sub> S	M_H2S	19	tonne/d	--	--	--
23	Gas	SO <sub>2</sub>	M_SO2	20	tonne/d	--	--	--
24	Gas	Total gas	M_TOTGAS	21	tonne/d	--	--	--
25	Electricity	Total Elec.	E_EL	22	MWh/d	--	--	--
26	Phase	Property		23	Unit	Value	Value	Value
27	All	Temp	T	24	°F	150.0	--	150.0
28	All	Temp (abs)	T_ABS	25	°R	609.7	--	609.7
29	All	Pressure (abs)	P	26	psia	1556.6	--	1227.7
30	All	Contains oil	OIL_01	27	[0-1]	1	1	1
31	Liquid	Crude oil API	API_O	28	°API	30.0	8.0	30.0
32	Liquid	Crude oil spe	GAMMA_O	29	-	0.876	1.014	0.876
33	Liquid	Solution gas	GOR_OS	30	scf/bbl	297.4	--	219.7
34	Liquid	Saturated oil	FVF_SAT	31	bb/STB	1.170	--	1.138
35	Liquid	Petroleum isd	ISO_X	32	-			
36	Liquid	Petroleum isd	ISO_CO	33	-			
37	Liquid	Petroleum FV	FVF_UNSAT	34	bb/STB			
38	Liquid	Petroleum vol	OVF	35	m3/std-m3			
39	Liquid	Petroleum de	RHO_O_LB	36	lb/ft3	49.146	--	49.900
40	Liquid	Petroleum de	RHO_O	37	tonne/m3	0.787	--	0.799
41	Liquid	Petroleum flo	Q_O_bbl	38	bb/d	1632	--	1607
42	Liquid	Petroleum flo	Q_O	39	m3/d	259	--	256
43	Liquid	Energy densi	LHV_O_btu	40	Btu/lb	18181	17216	18181
44	Liquid	Energy densi	LHV_O	41	MJ/kg	42.3	40.045	42.290
45	Liquid	Energy densi	LHV_O_bbl	42	mmBtu/bbl	5.0	--	5.1
46	Liquid	Energy flow r	E_LHV_O_bt	43	mmBtu/d	8184	--	8184
47	Liquid	Energy flow r	E_LHV_O	44	GJ/d	8635	--	8635
48	Gas	Total molar fl	TOTMOL_GAS	45	mol/d			

Mass flows

Properties

Flows and properties into and out of each process unit tracked

# Gas as a primary product, different assessment points

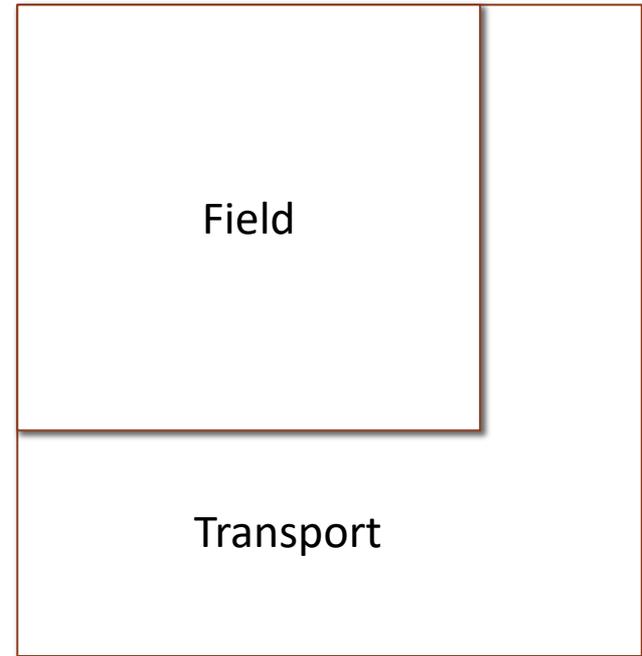
## OPGEE 2.0

Always required oil to be the primary product

## OPGEE 3.0

Allows for selection of oil or gas as the primary product

Expanded coverage of the gas system, including midstream and downstream processes



Oil at field boundary or refinery inlet

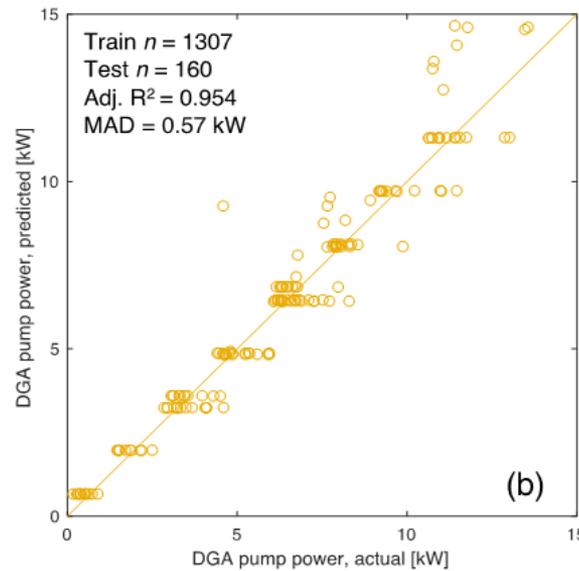
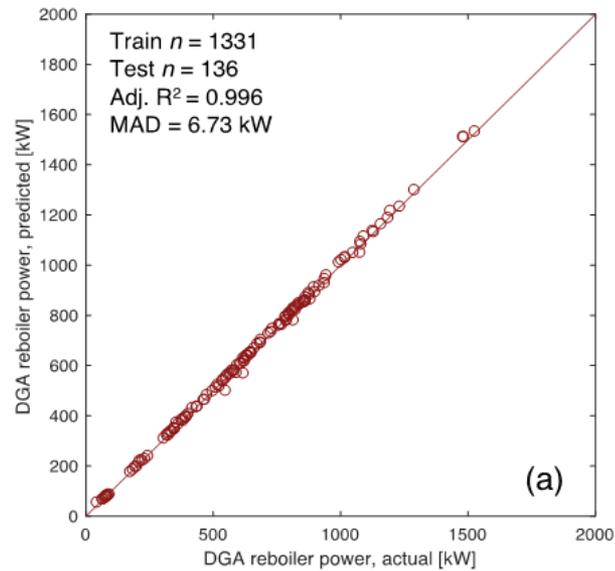
Gas at field boundary,  
transportation inlet or consumer

## Improvement 2: Gas processing simulation

- OPGEE v2.0 relied on "textbook" treatment of gas processing units
  - Simple models of energy use and power needs per unit of throughput
  - No way to customize process unit energy use for particular conditions
- OPGEE v3.0a includes "proxy" models generated from process simulation tools
  - Used Aspen HYSYS process simulation package
  - Simulated three key gas processing units
    - Acid Gas Removal, Dehydration, Demethanizer
  - Simulated many cases at a variety of conditions
  - Generated statistical representations to predict Aspen HYSYS results

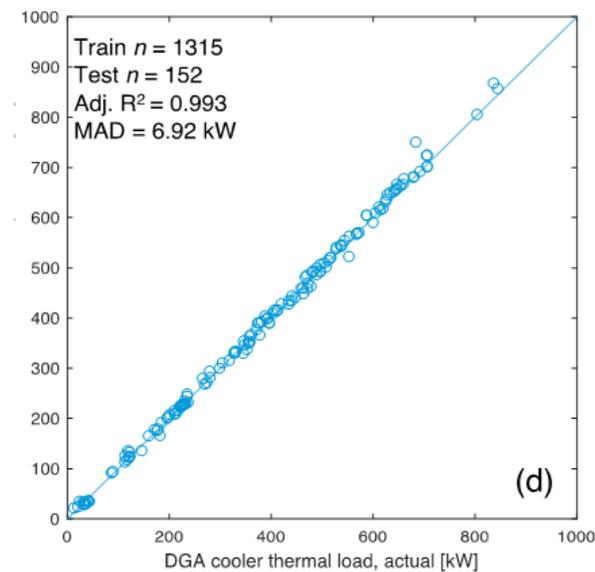
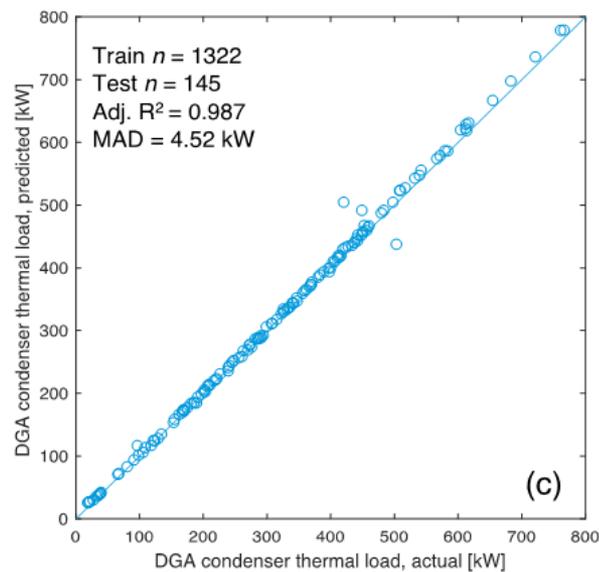
M.S. Masnadi \*, P.R. Perrier , J. Wang , J. Rutherford , A.R. Brandt.  
**Statistical proxy modeling for life cycle assessment and energetic analysis.**  
*Energy*. DOI: 10.1016/j.energy.2019.116882

# Example: Acid Gas Removal proxy model vs. AspenHYSYS output on held-out testing data



Reboiler

Pump



Condenser

Cooler

# Take-aways from process simulation

- Quadratic regression able to replicate Aspen HYSYS results extremely well
- Most fits have  $R^2 > 0.95$
- OPGEE now produces, for cases within our sampled input ranges, results very close to Aspen HYSYS

## Improvement 3: Fugitive and vented CH<sub>4</sub> emissions

- OPGEE v2.0 relied on CARB survey data for fugitive and vented CH<sub>4</sub>
  - Survey of California producers with detailed reporting on emissions
  - Emissions factors obtained from EPA GHG Inventory
  - Independent measurements lacking, with many studies done since OPGEE v2.0
- OPGEE v3.0a uses large set of measured field data for CH<sub>4</sub> emissions
  - Two models: “component” level as the recommended method and “site” level as a validation
  - Component data draws on multiple studies, 1000s of measured leaks
  - Recreates observed US-wide emissions (e.g., Alvarez et al. 2018)

J.S. Rutherford, E.D. Sherwin, A.P. Ravikumar, G.A. Heath, J.G. Englander, D. Cooley, D. Lyon, M. Omara, Q. Langfitt, A.R. Brandt **Closing the methane gap in US oil and natural gas production emissions inventories.** *Nature Communications*.

DOI: 10.1038/s41467-021-25017-4

# Different types of methane measurement inform our understanding of emissions quantities and sources

**Bottom-up**

Component-level      Site-level



*e.g., EPA Greenhouse Gas Inventory*      *e.g., Alvarez et al. 2018, National estimate*

**Top-down**



*e.g., Zhang et al. 2020, Permian Basin*

*Policy and programs*

*OPGEE “component”  
recommended method*

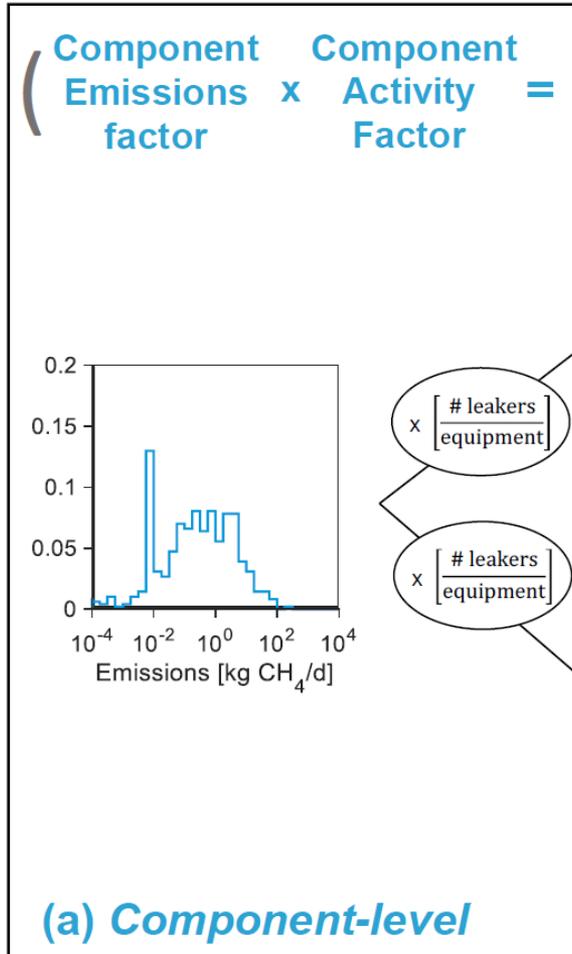
*Validation and assessment*

*OPGEE “site”  
validation method*

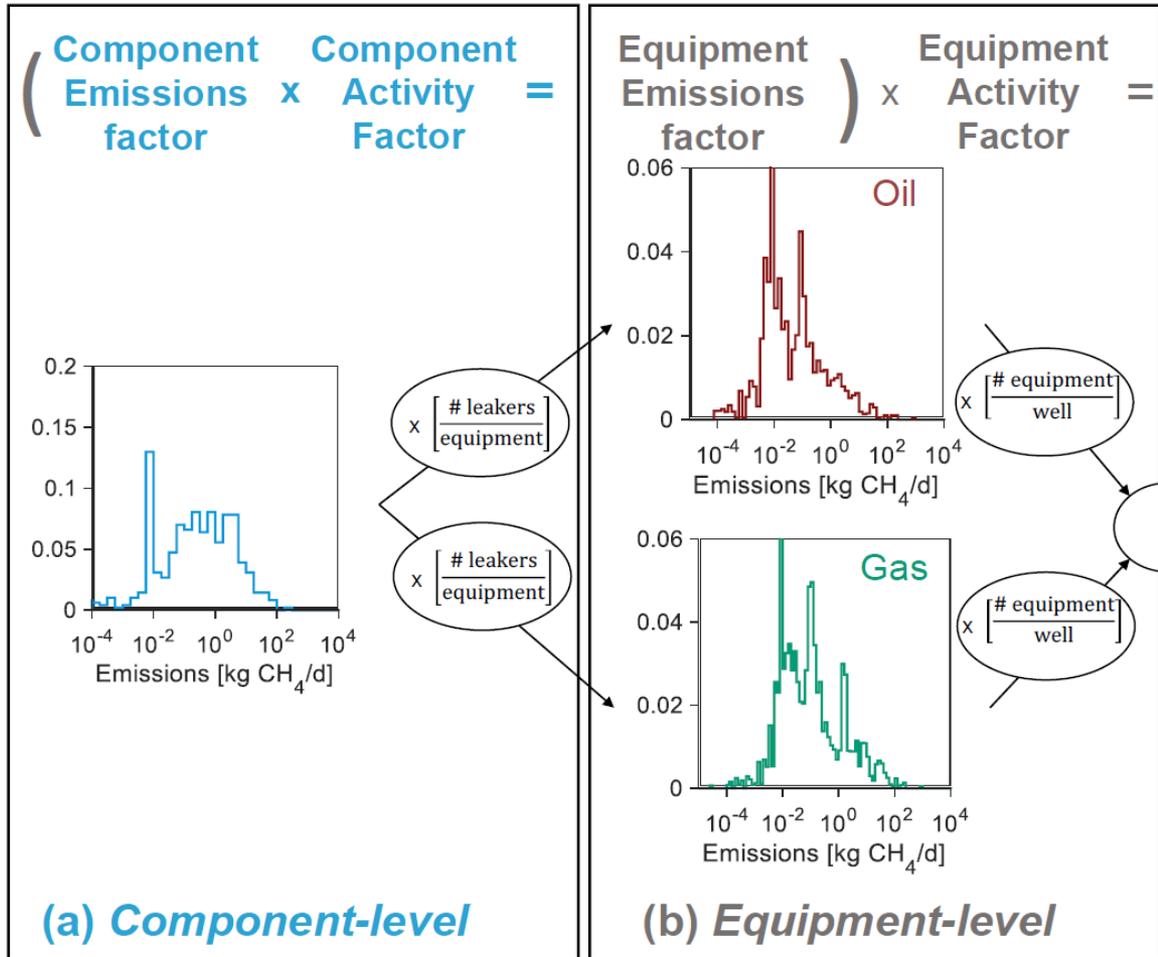
# Collecting component-level data from various studies

- Comprehensive literature search of component-level surveys (6 studies, ~3200 measurements)
  - Filtered to include US studies only
    - Limited global coverage
    - Future model versions could include emissions distributions from other regions
- Data consolidated to consistent component and equipment type categories

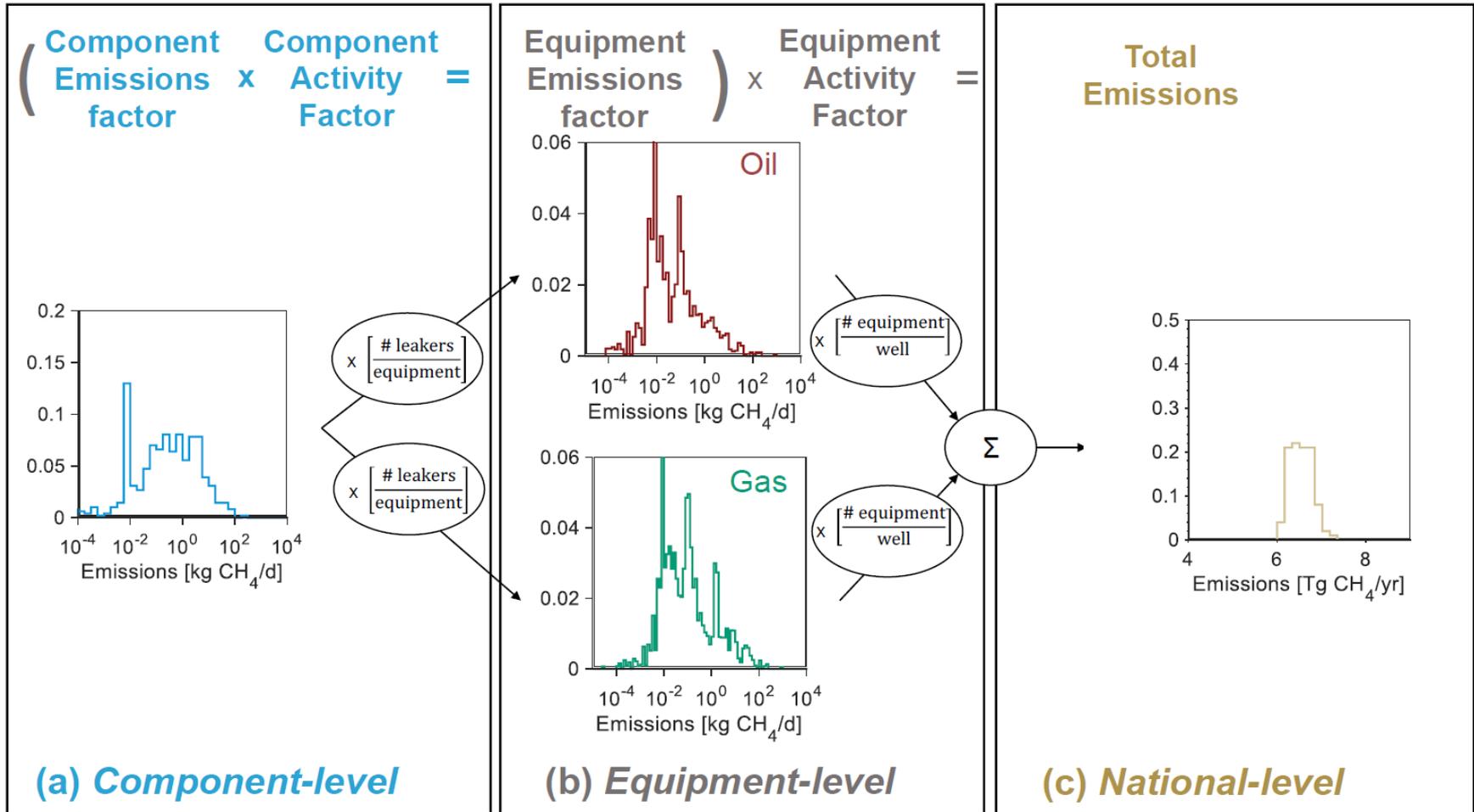
# Development of a bottom-up tool



# Development of a bottom-up tool



# Development of a bottom-up tool



# Using equipment distributions in OPGEE

- Gas productivity tranches were observed as driver of fractional loss rate
  - A stochastic leak process will tend to cause higher loss fraction in less productive wells
- A separate equipment-level loss fraction distribution was generated for each gas productivity tranche
- Loaded those average loss rates into OPGEE to apply to modeled fields based on gas production per well
  - For further details, see documentation section 8.2.2.1 on “Design of the reduced order tool”

# Validating the method

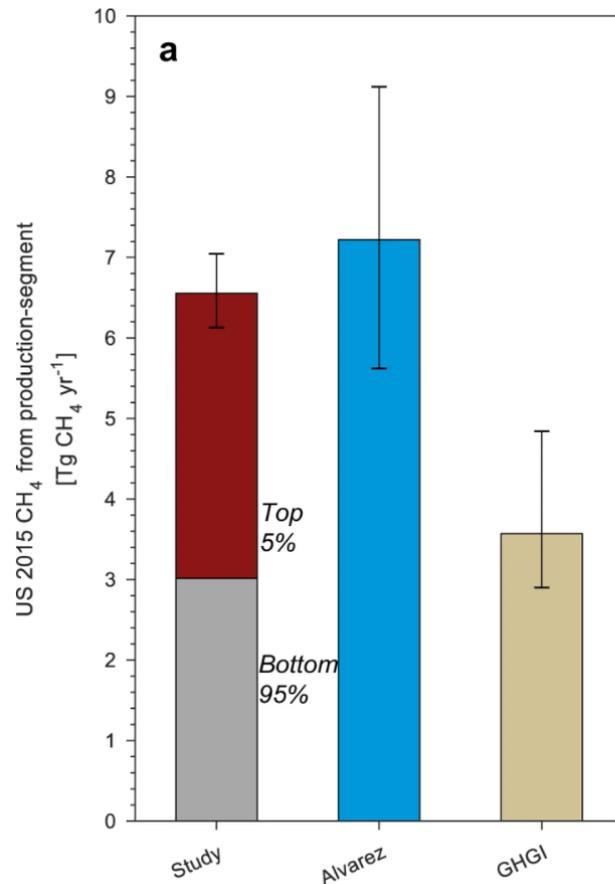
Ideally the method adopted in OPGEE would recreate the key results of literature on methane emissions from the last 5 years

Key empirical features that have been found repeatedly:

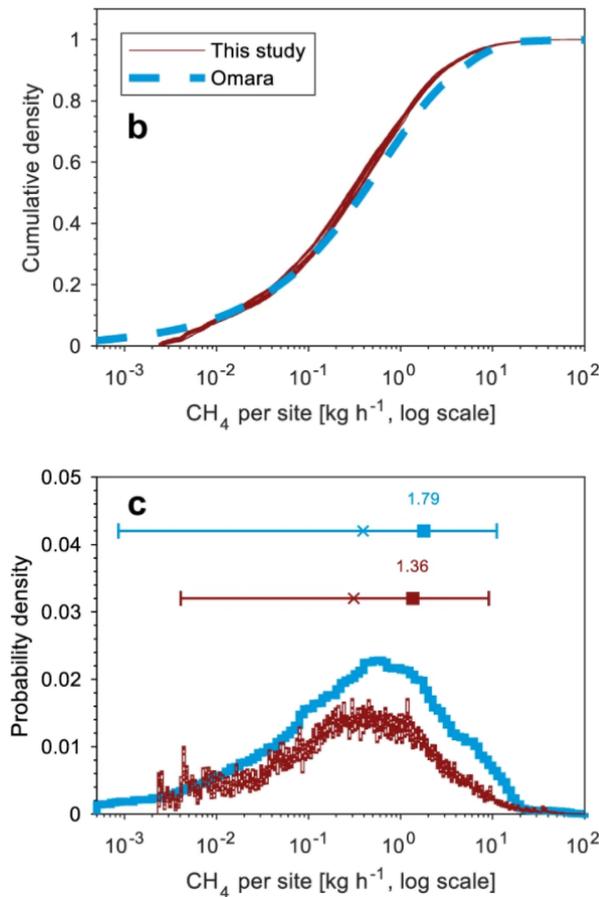
1. Larger emissions than classical EPA Greenhouse Gas Inventory methods
2. Strong dependence of loss fraction on site gas productivity
3. Strong “heavy-tailed” behavior of emissions distributions: dependence on large emitters to drive large fraction of emissions

# Validating against US estimate of production-segment emissions

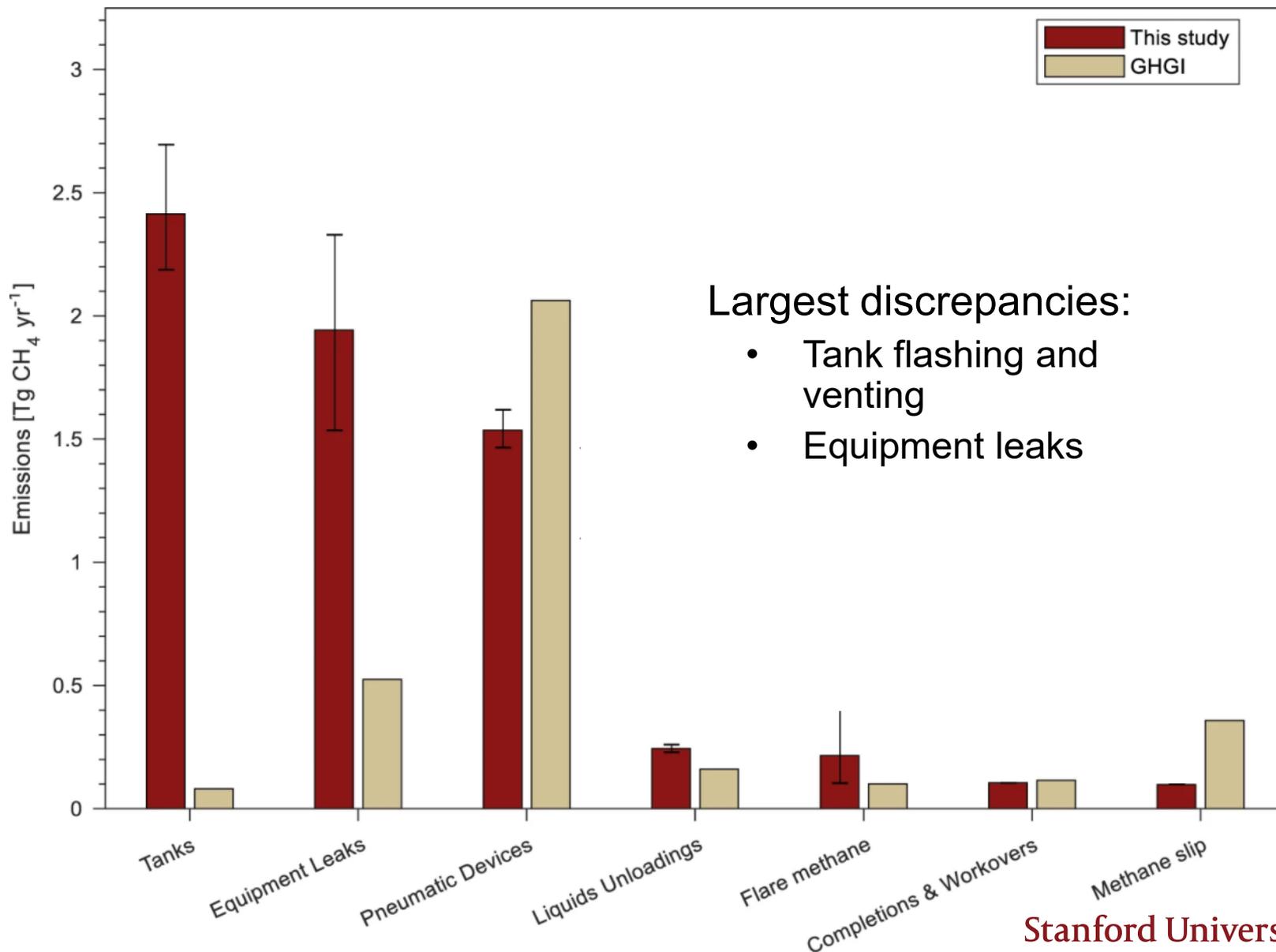
Total emissions similar to Alvarez et al. 2018 and higher than EPA GHGI



Distribution similar to Omara et al. 2018, which has the features from previous slide



# Drivers of differences between this study and GHGI

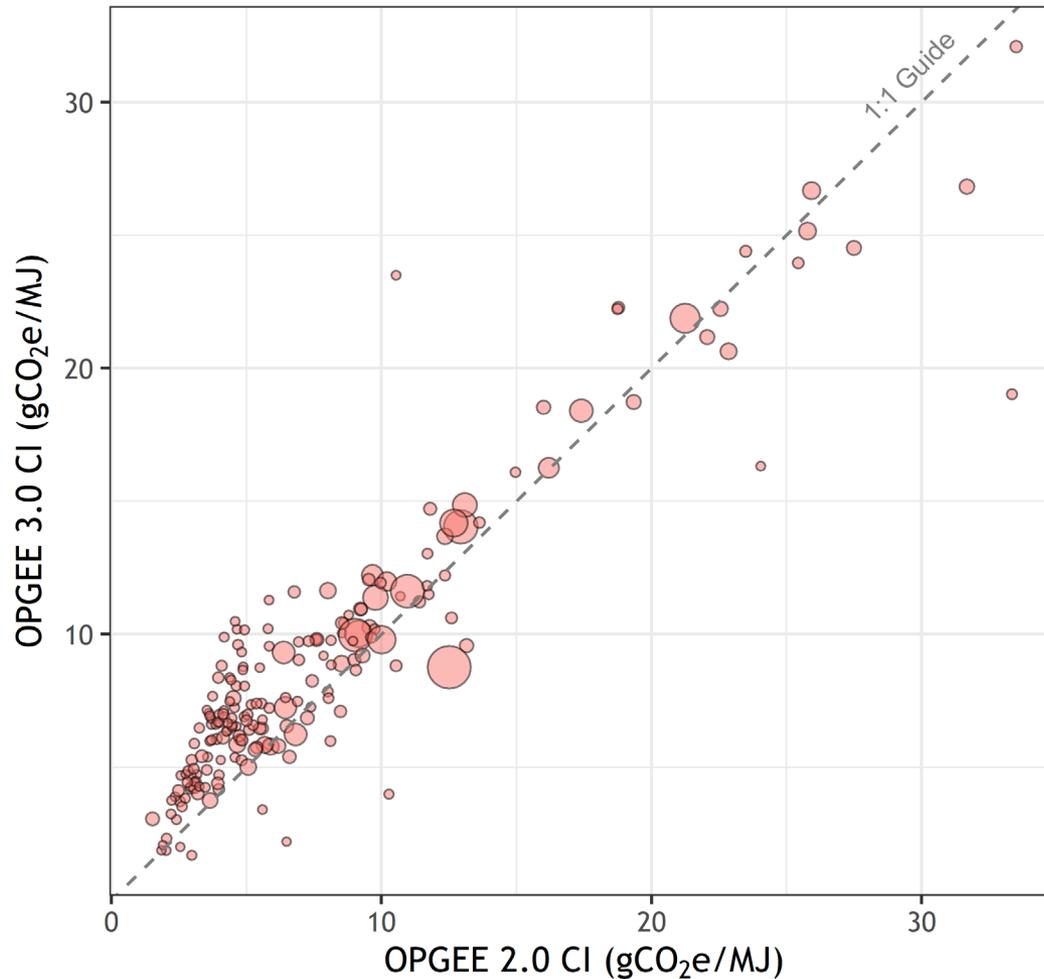


## Part 3: Comparisons of CI results between v2.0c and v3.0a

# Comparison of CI Values between OPGEE 2.0c and 3.0a

- 2010 LCFS baseline fields used to compare carbon intensity (CI) values between versions 2.0c and 3.0a
  - These fields represent real-world data and a range of field types
- Key definitions
  - CI: Carbon intensity
  - VF: Venting and Fugitives
  - VFF: Venting, Fugitives, and Flaring
  - Non-VFF: Combustion, land use, credit/debit, and small sources (all except venting, fugitives, and flaring)
  - GOR: Gas-to-oil ratio
  - gCO<sub>2</sub>e/MJ: Units of carbon intensity (grams of carbon dioxide equivalent per megajoule of exported energy)

# Results: Comparing v2.0c to v3.0a



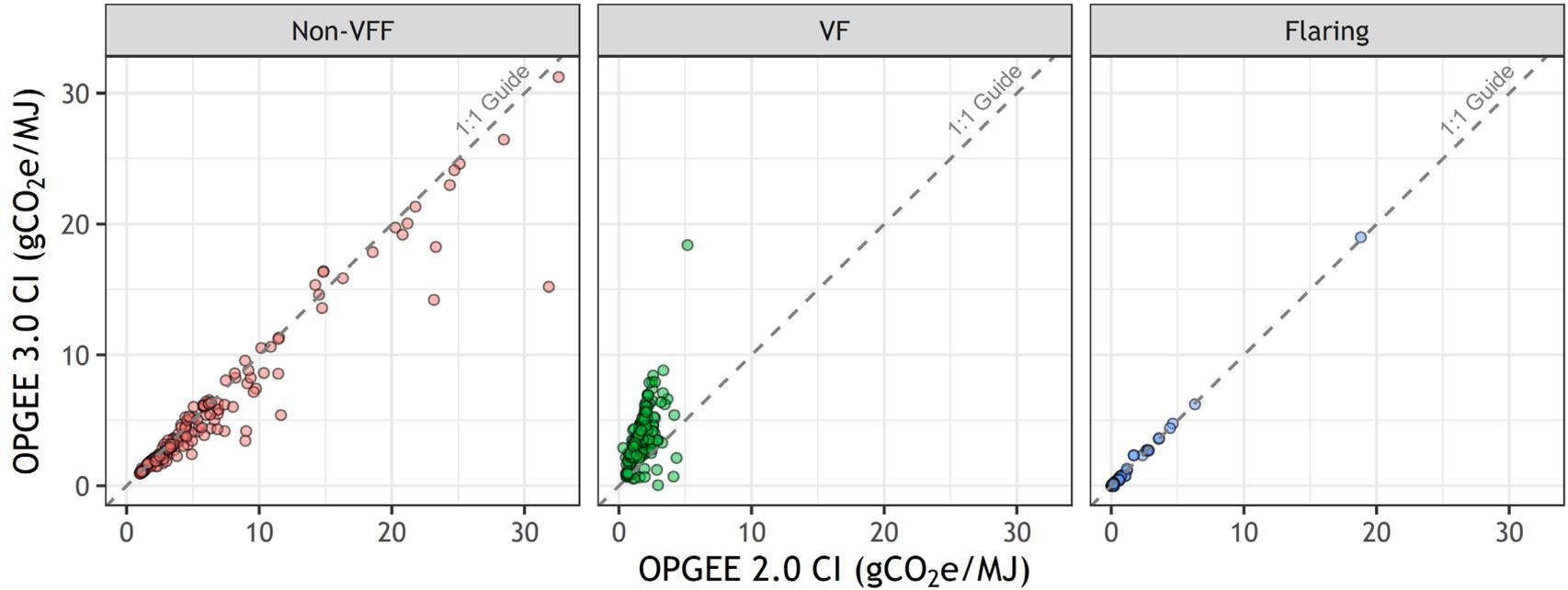
Dashed line = 1:1:  
agreement

Dot size = LCFS baseline  
volume

Similar CI for many fields  
between v2.0 and v3.0, with  
some clear differences  
based on model changes

LCFS Volume (MMbbl/yr)    ● 20    ● 40    ● 60    ● 80

# Different effects in different parts of the model

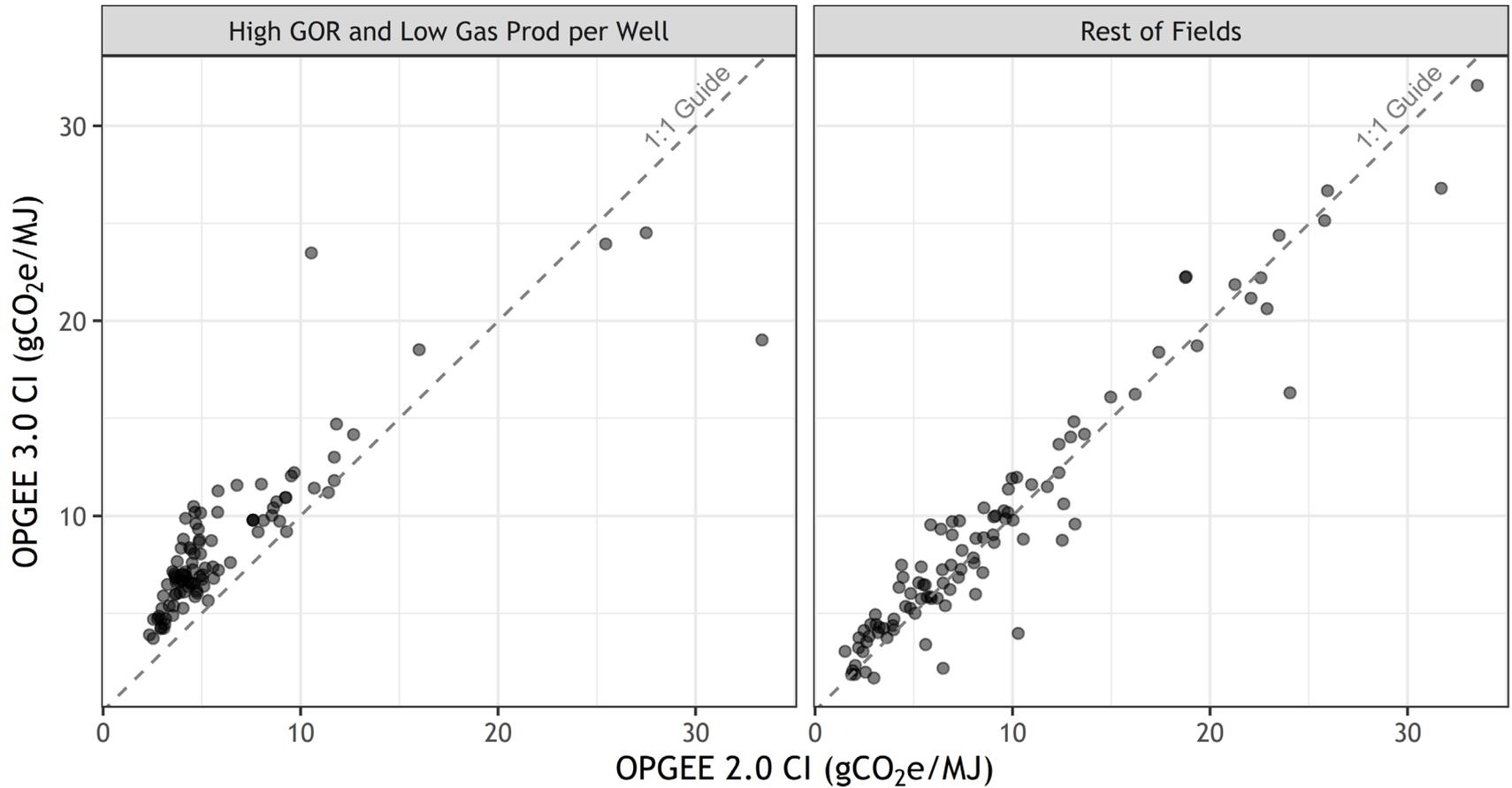


Non-VFF emissions  
lower for most  
fields in 3.0

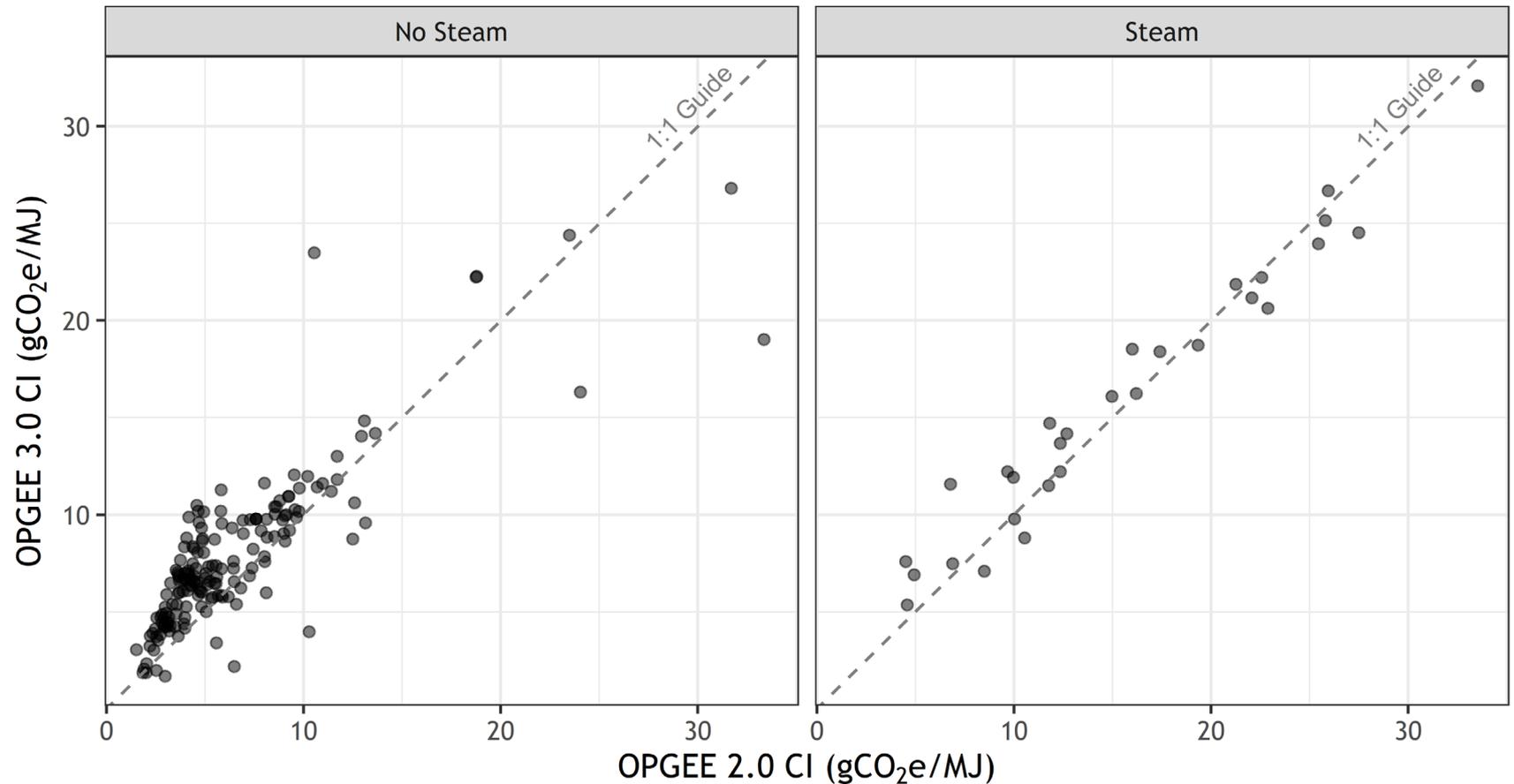
Venting and fugitive  
emissions higher for  
most fields in 3.0

Flaring emissions  
essentially  
unchanged

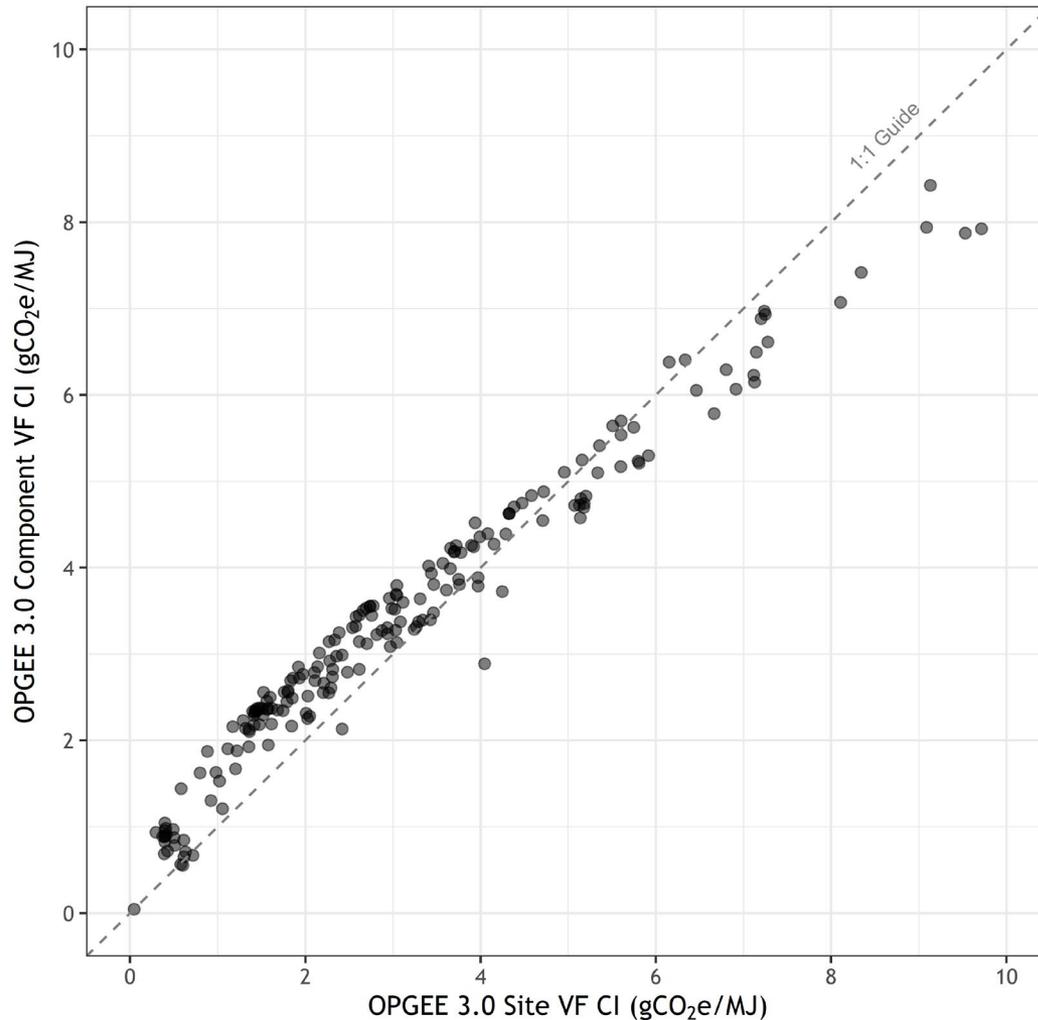
# CI differences driven by changes in VF emissions for certain field types



# Fields using steam injection mostly fall near parity line

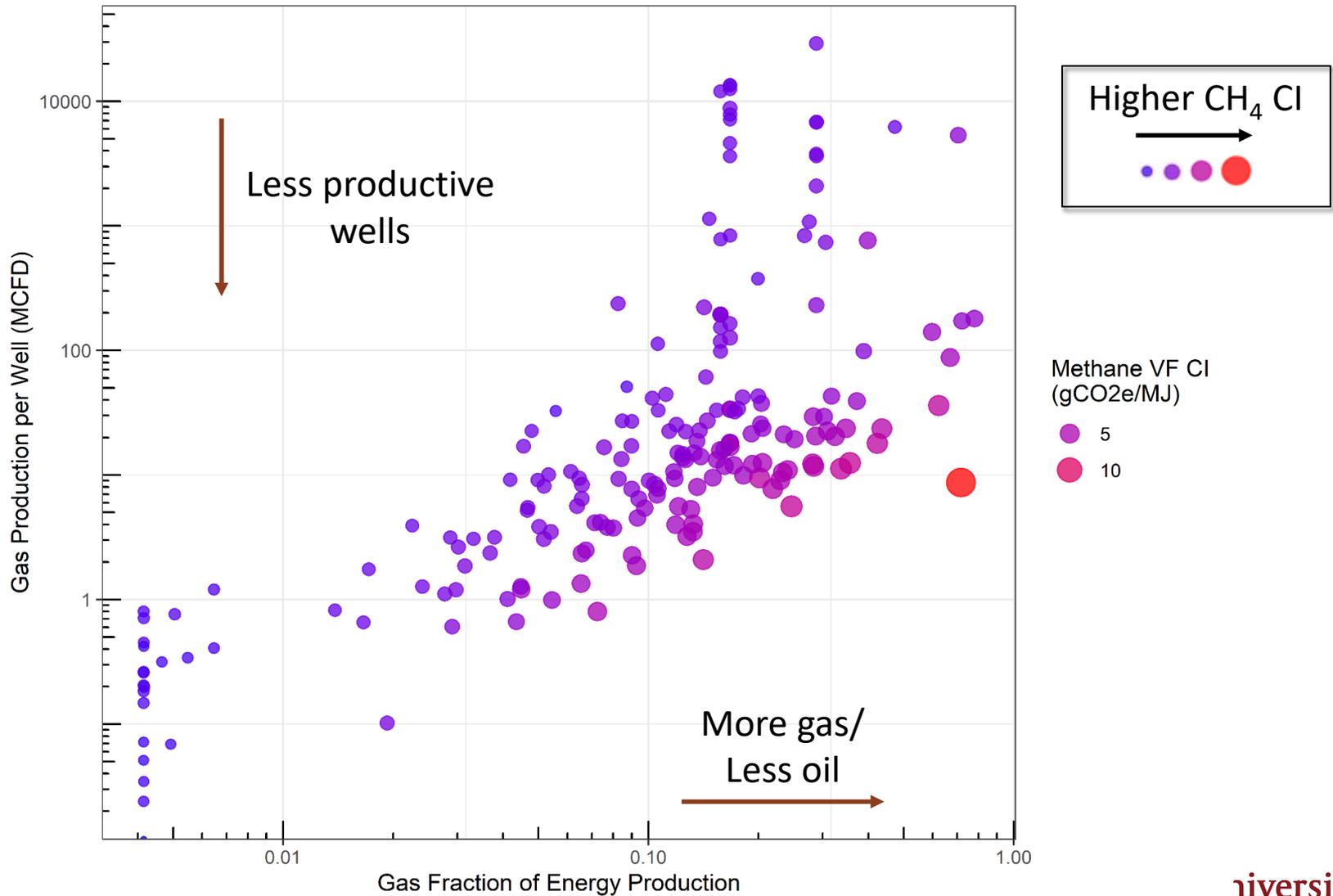


# Validation of component fugitives method against alternate site method

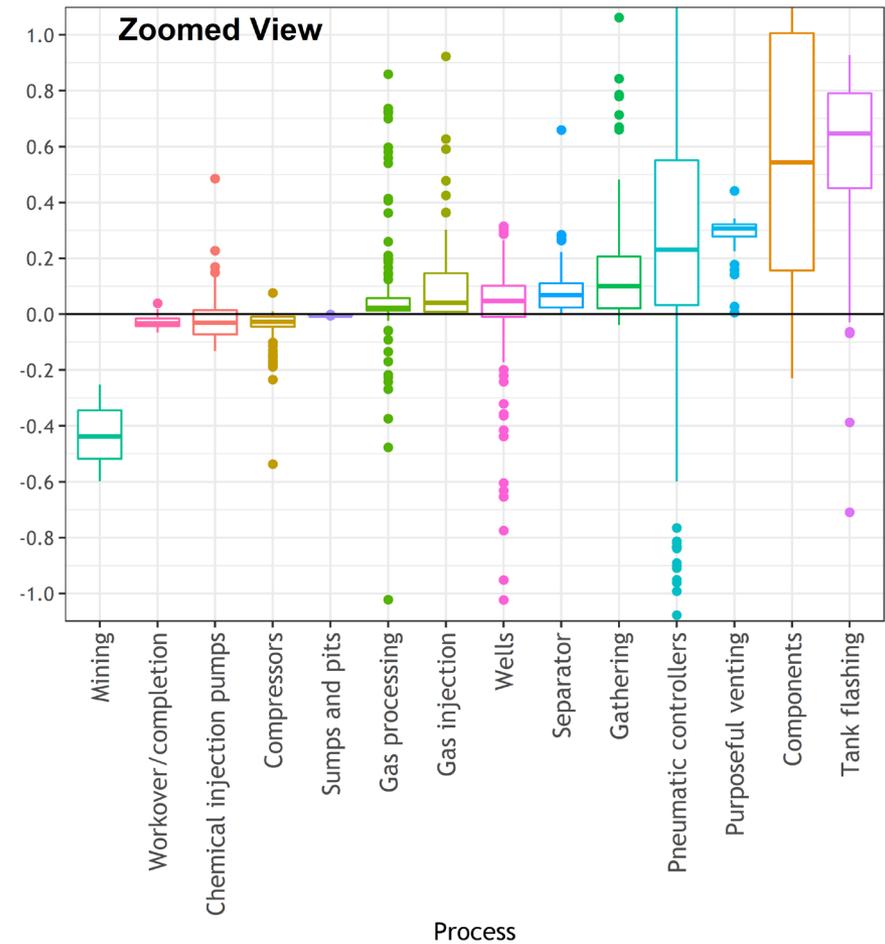
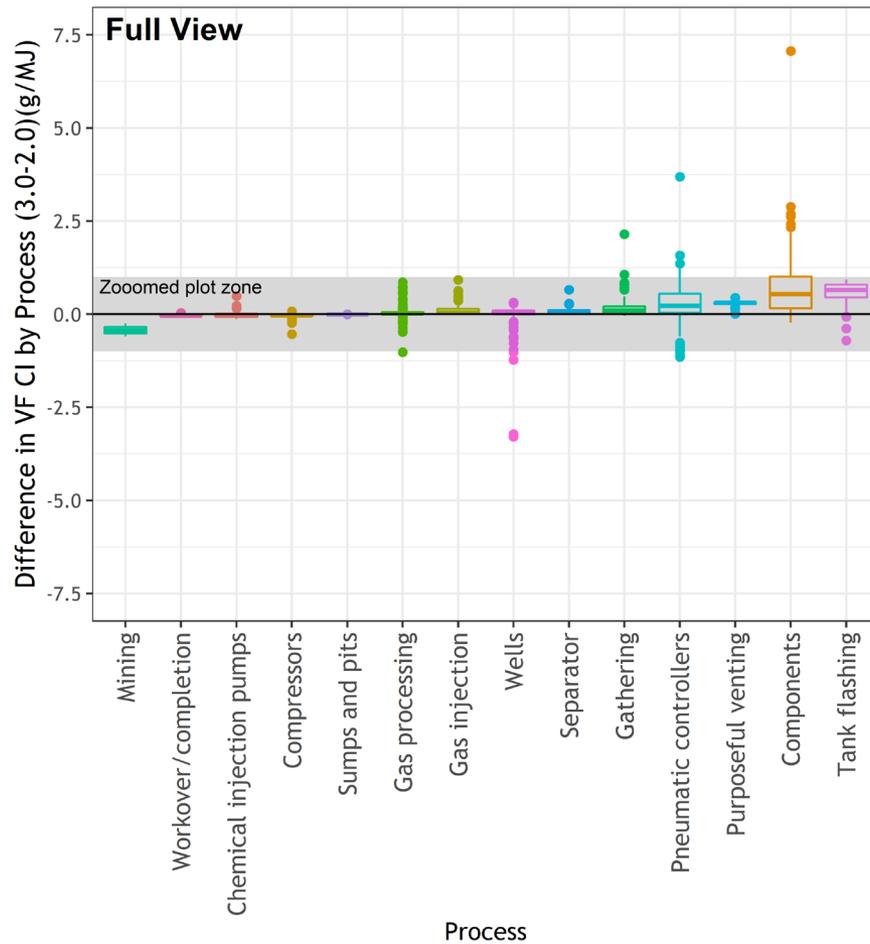


General agreement  
between (recommended)  
“component” approach  
and (validation) “site”  
approach

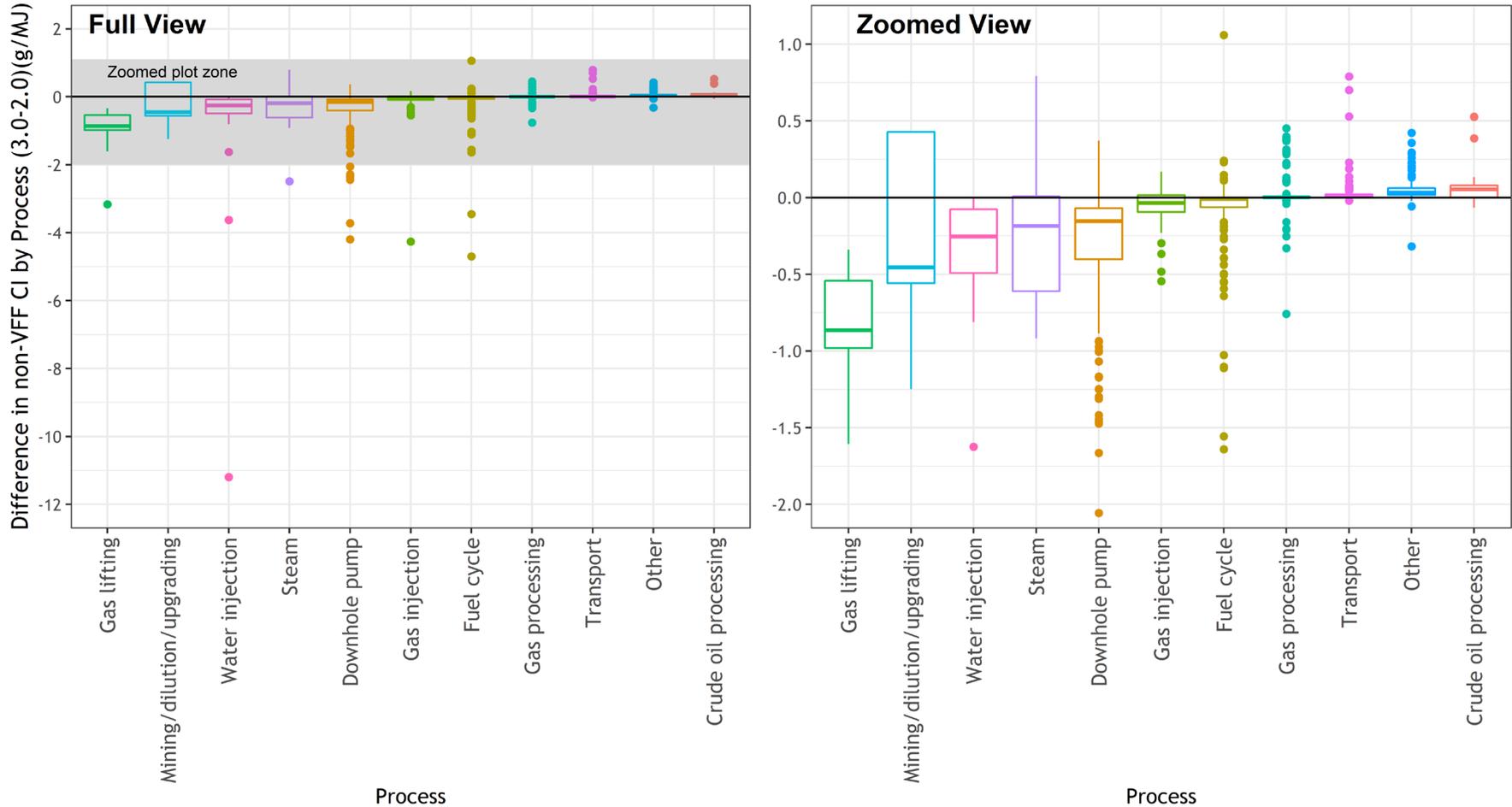
# More gas, less productivity -> Higher CI



# Venting and fugitive changes by equipment type



# Non-VFF changes by component/source/unit



# Takeaways and next steps

## Takeaways:

- OPGEE v3.0 contains fundamental improvements to gas handling, process simulation, and stream tracking
- Results between v2.0 and v3.0 are generally similar, with changes due to important improvements in modeling and corrections
- Fugitives higher for low productivity fields, gas compression work lower

## Next steps:

- Improved field-level flaring estimates generated using GIS dataset and satellite flaring estimates
- Improved regionally specific equipment and activity counts to incorporate federally reported data (GHGRP)

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