



POTSDAM INSTITUTE FOR  
CLIMATE IMPACT RESEARCH

# **Correlations between Human Development and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: projections and implications**

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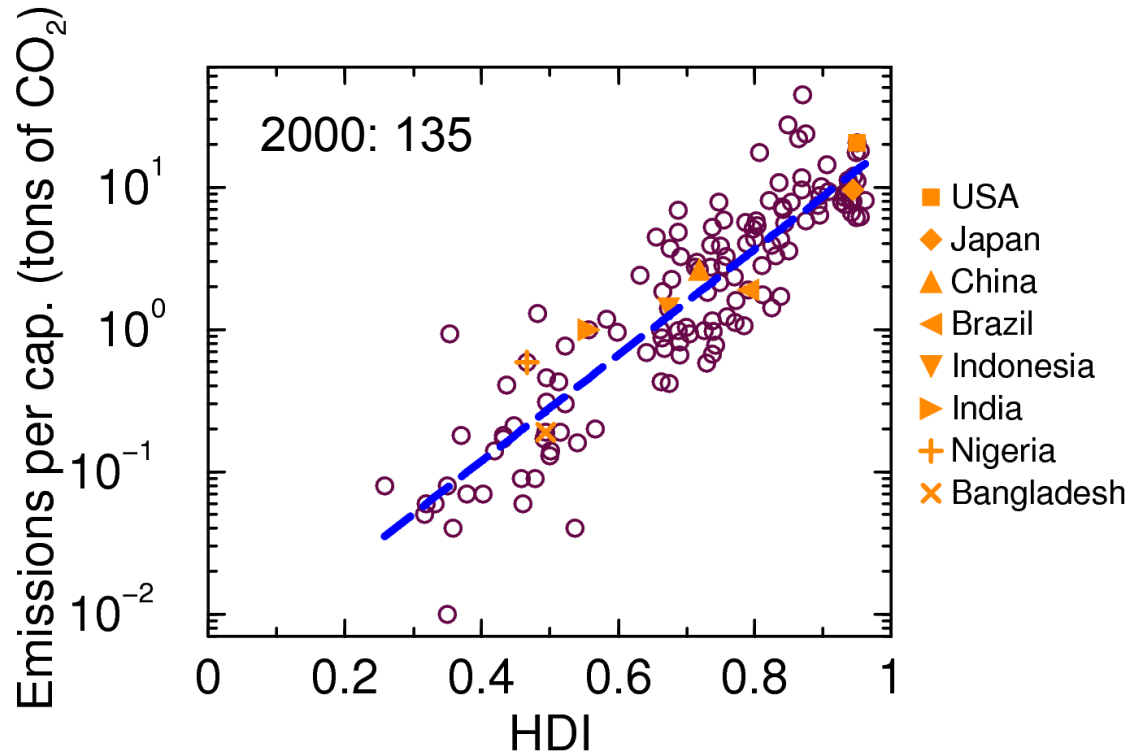
SOE 17.2

DPG Frühjahrstagung 2011

Dresden, GÖR 226

16.3.2011 – 17:30

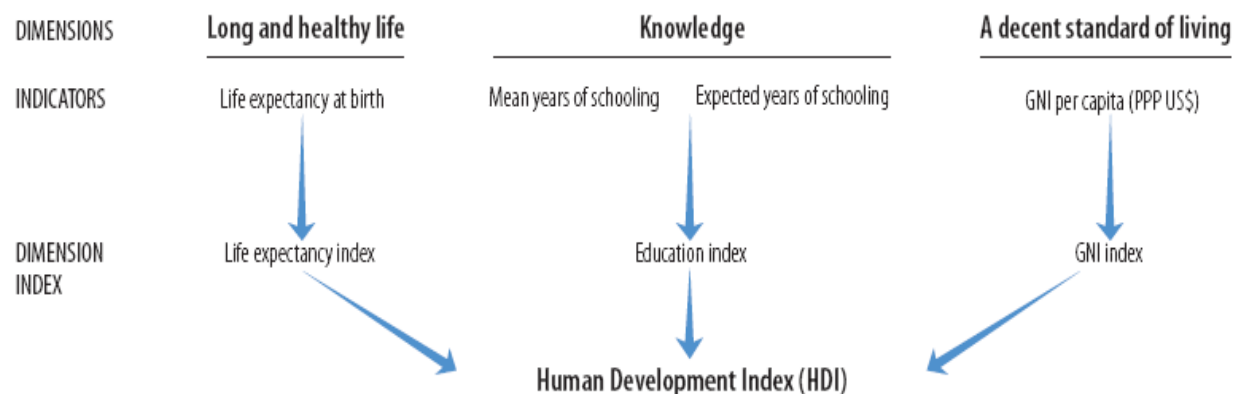
# Correlations between HDI and CO2/cap



- HDI from HDR2009
- correlation coefficient: 0.9
- statistically CO2 emissions per capita increase exponentially with HDI
- how can these correlations be used to project CO2 emissions?

# Human Development Index

## Human Development Index (HDI)



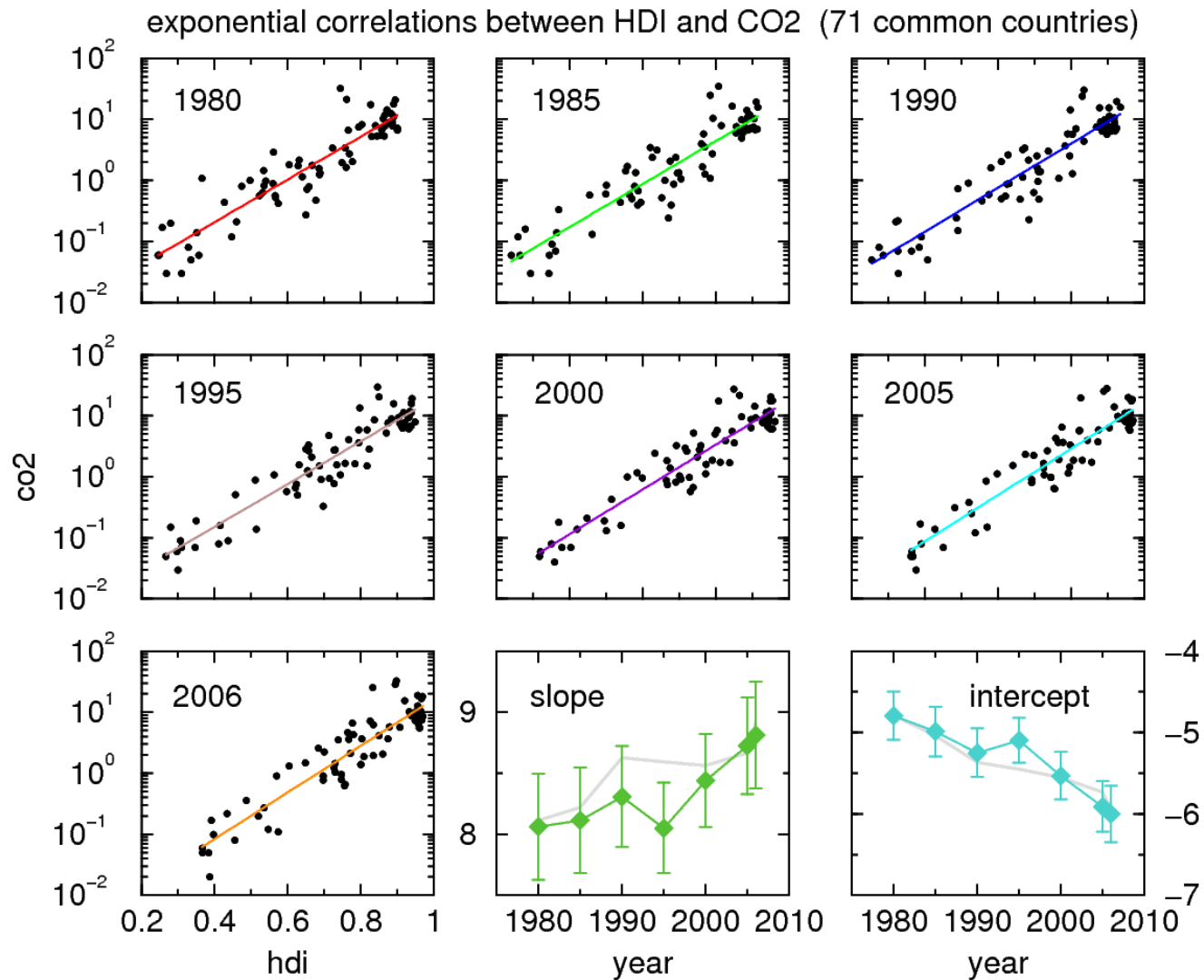
## Goalposts for the Human Development Index in this Report

Dimension	Observed maximum	Minimum
Life expectancy	83.2 (Japan, 2010)	20.0
Mean years of schooling	13.2 (United States, 2000)	0
Expected years of schooling	20.6 (Australia, 2002)	0
Combined education index	0.951 (New Zealand, 2010)	0
Per capita income (PPP \$)	108,211 (United Arab Emirates, 1980)	163 (Zimbabwe, 2008)

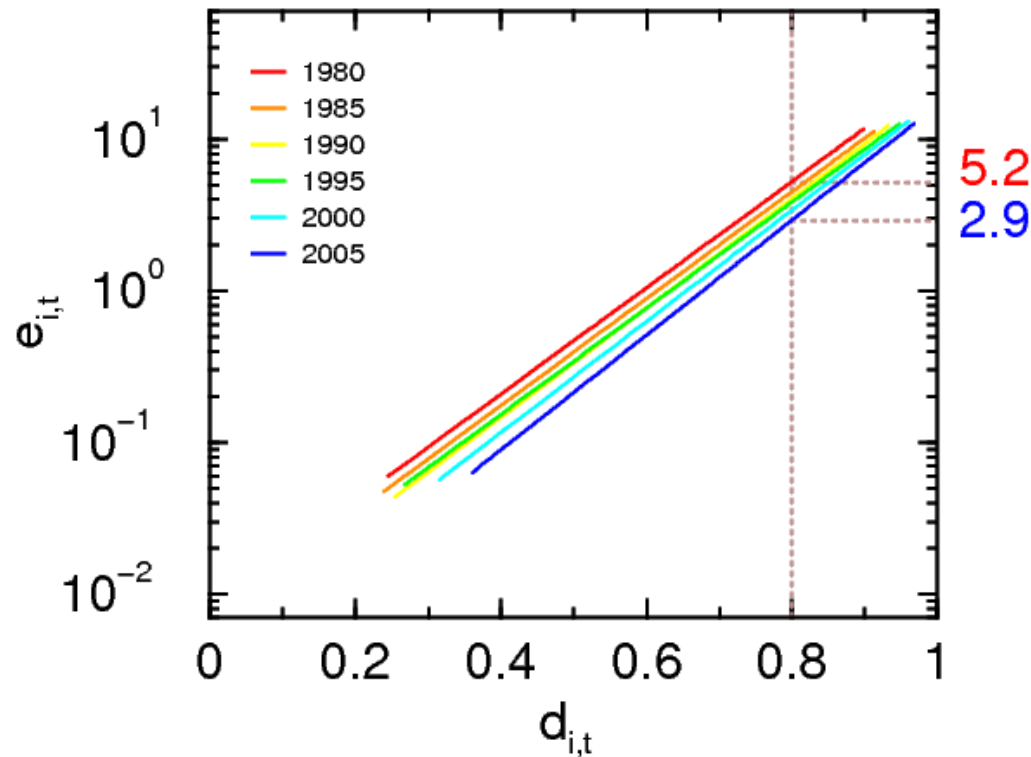
UNDP - 2010

[http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/HDR\\_2010\\_EN\\_TechNotes.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/HDR_2010_EN_TechNotes.pdf)

# Time dependence



# Time dependence 3



- same HDI (here 0.8)
- but less emissions per capita (in average)
- => increase of efficiency
- but small compared to variability!

# Estimating future CO2 emissions

$$\hat{e}_{i,t}^{(c)} = e^{h_t d_{i,t} + g_t}$$

fit to correlated data

parameter  
HDI  
parameter  
CO2 emission  
per capita & year

country  $i$   
year  $t$

- data provided by World Resources Institute (WRI)
- CO2 emissions from fossil fuel combustion
- includes CO2 due to cement production
- not included: CO2 due to land use change
- unit: tons of CO2 per year

# Estimating future CO2 emissions

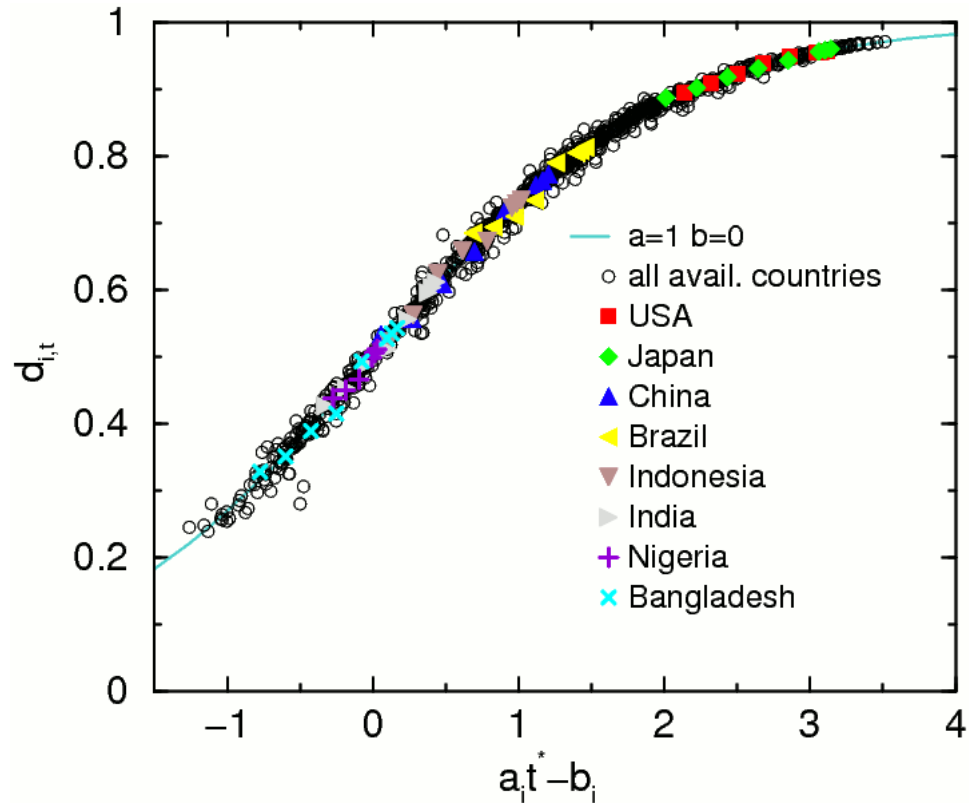
assumptions:

1. HDI in time follows logistic regression

$$\tilde{d}_{i,t} = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-a_i t + b_i}}$$

- sigmoid function
- originally used to analyze of discrete dependent variables
- but same functional form as Fermi-Dirac distribution
- characteristics (for  $a=1$ ,  $b=0$ )
- how to fit?

# Logistic regression to HDI

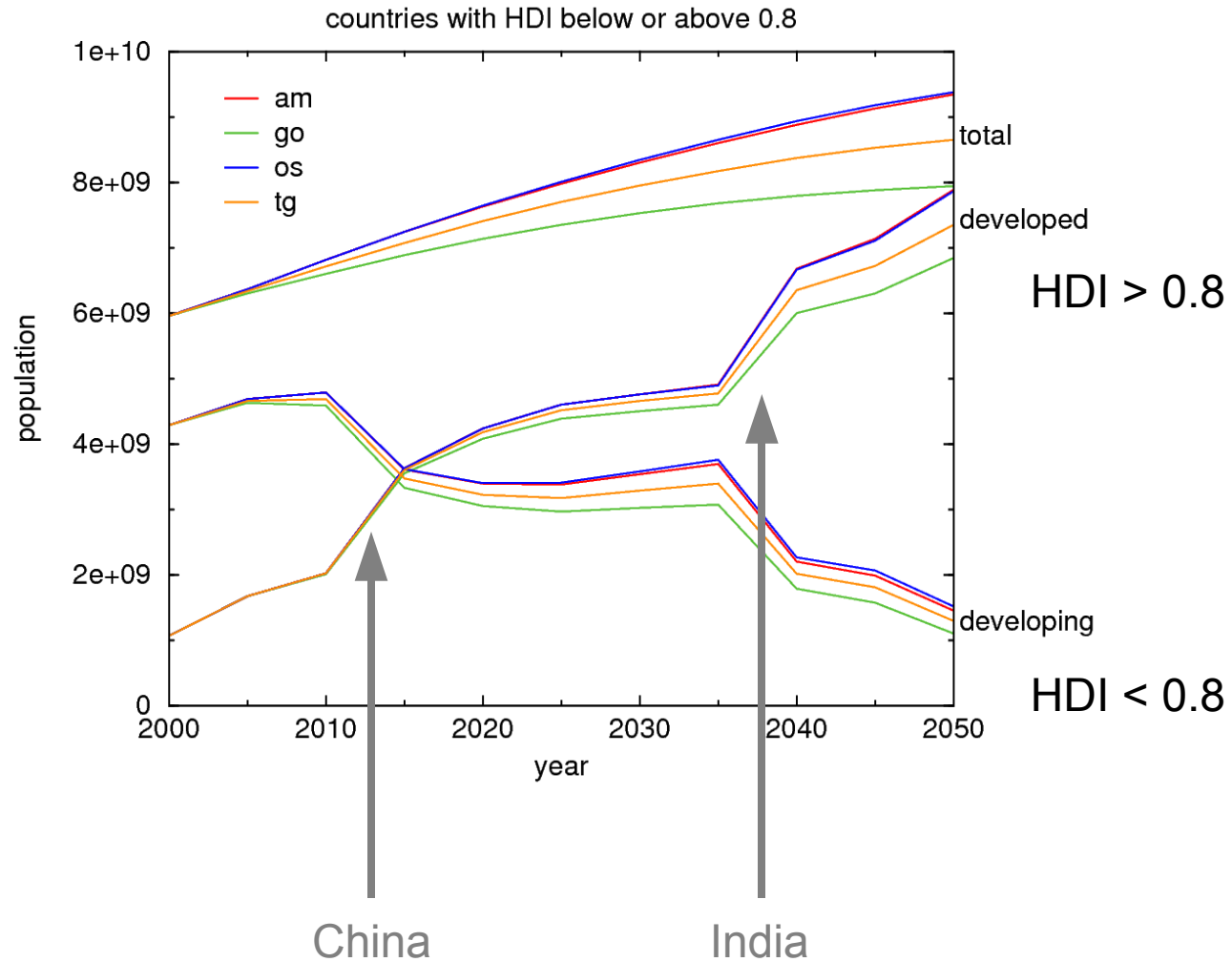


- using the country fitted parameters  
the HDI parameters collapse onto one curve
- no proof of validity of logistic regression

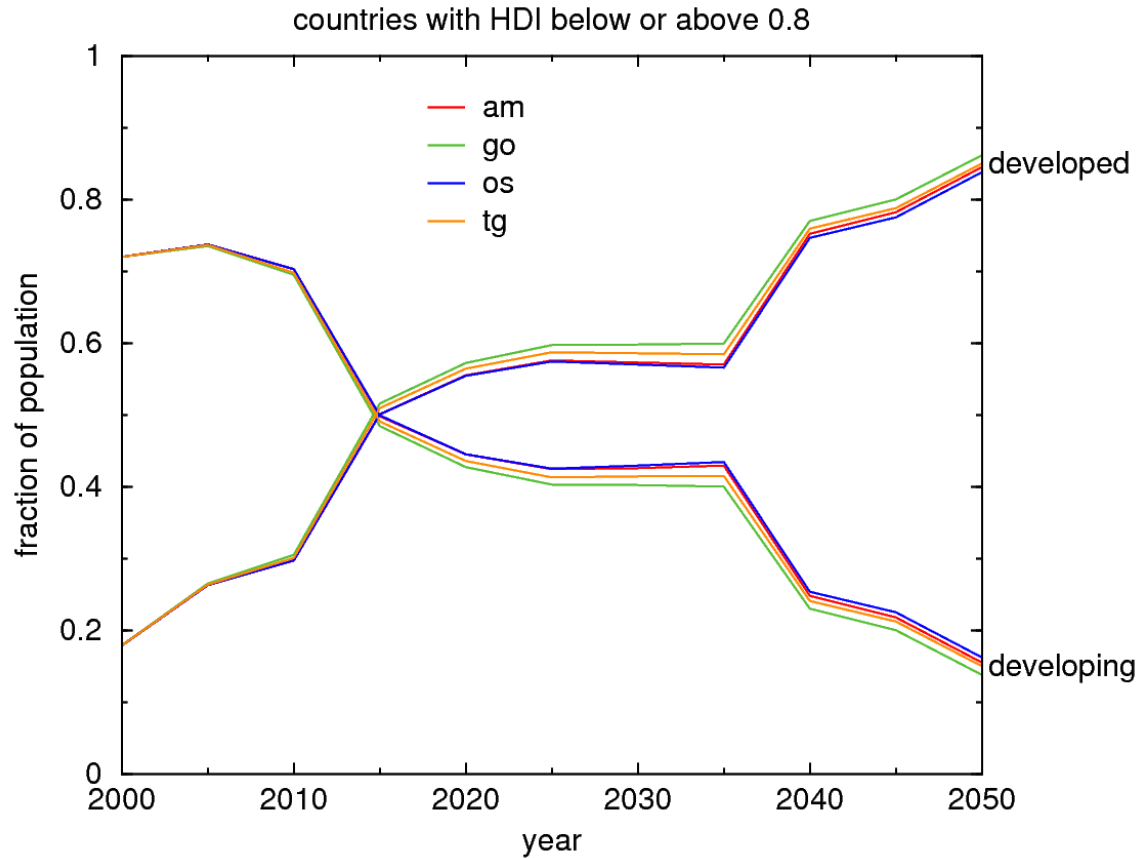




# Implications



# Implications



- after 2015 half of world population developed
- 85% of world population developed

# Estimating future CO2 emissions

assumptions:

1. HDI in time follows logistic regression

$$\tilde{d}_{i,t} = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-a_i t + b_i}}$$

2. HDI and logarithm of CO2/cap are linearly correlated

ensemble:

$$\hat{e}_{i,t}^{(c)} = e^{h_t d_{i,t} + g_t}$$

individual:

$$\tilde{e}_{i,t}^{(c)} = e^{h_i d_{i,t} + g_i}$$

# Estimating future CO2 emissions

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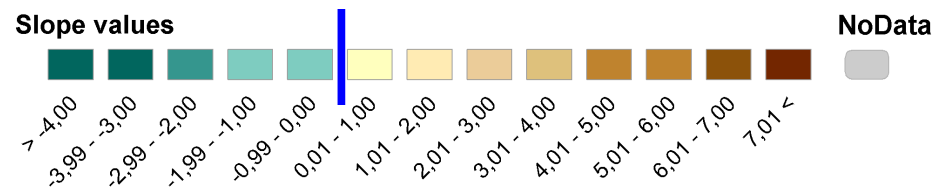
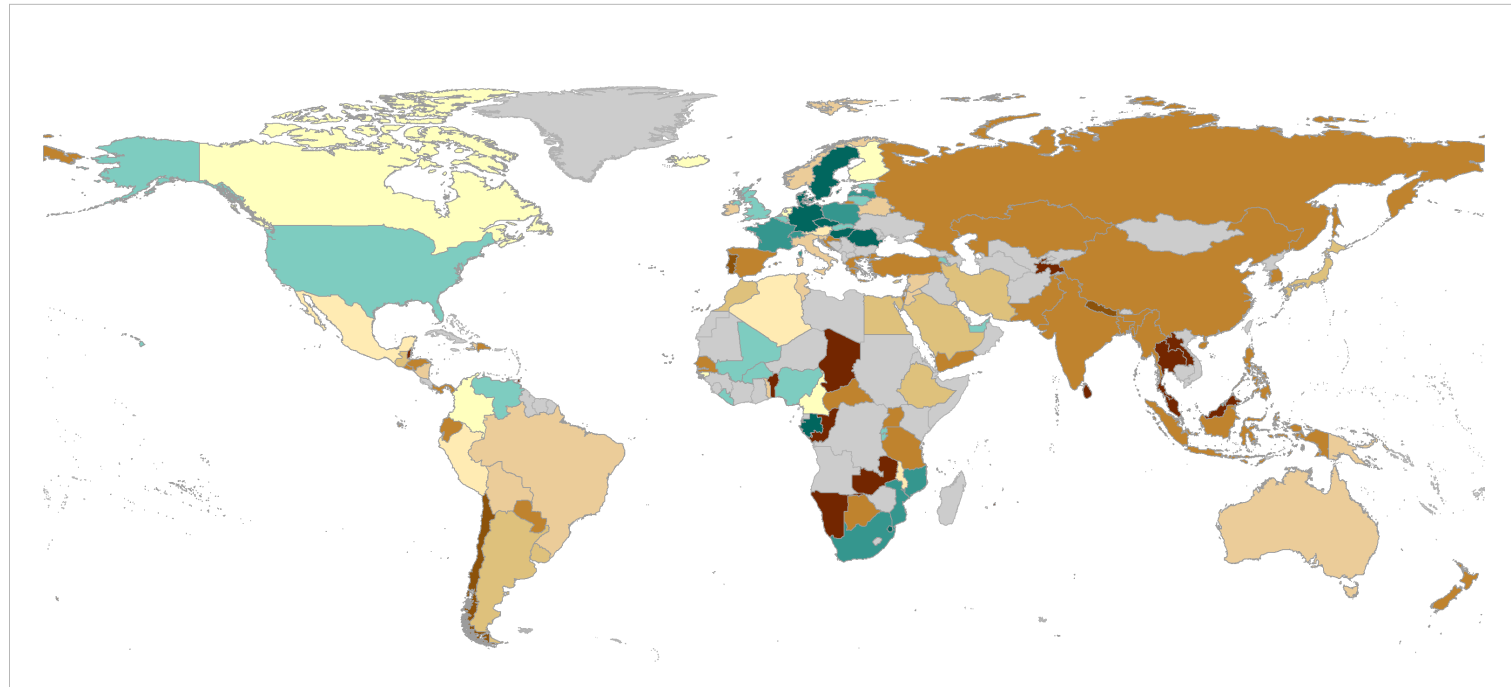
individual:

$$\tilde{e}_{i,t}^{(c)} = e^{h_i d_{i,t} + g_i}$$

(some countries have  $h < 0$ )

# Individual correlations

Slope of the regression between HDI and CO2 per capita



decreasing per cap emissions  
with increasing HDI

increasing per cap emissions  
with increasing HDI

# Estimating future CO2 emissions

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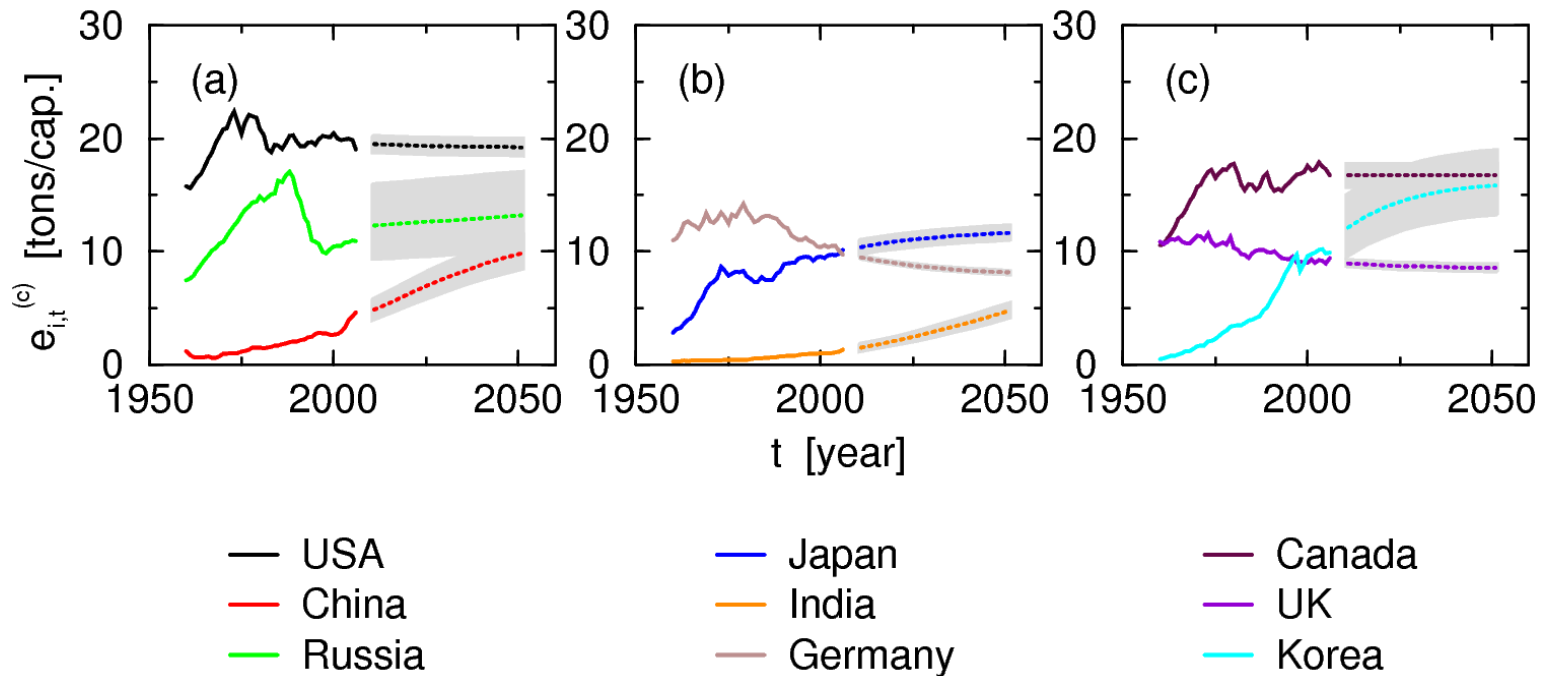
$$\tilde{e}_{i,t}^{(c)} = e^{h_i d_{i,t} + g_i}$$

3. Changes in both quantities are correlated between the countries

$$c_{i,j}(\Delta d) = \frac{(\delta d_i - \langle \delta d \rangle)(\delta d_j - \langle \delta d \rangle)}{\sigma_{\delta d}^2}$$

- analogous for emissions
- used for countries with missing data

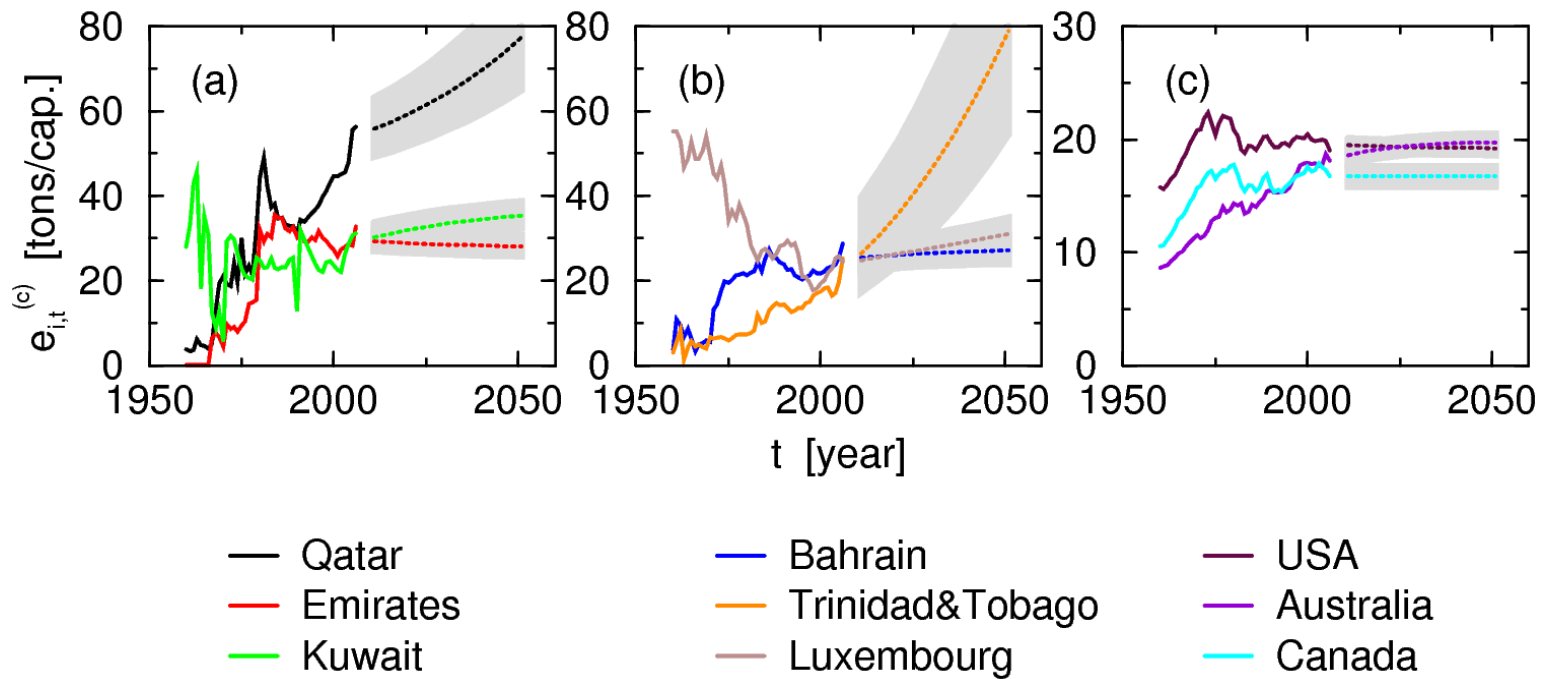
# Examples 1



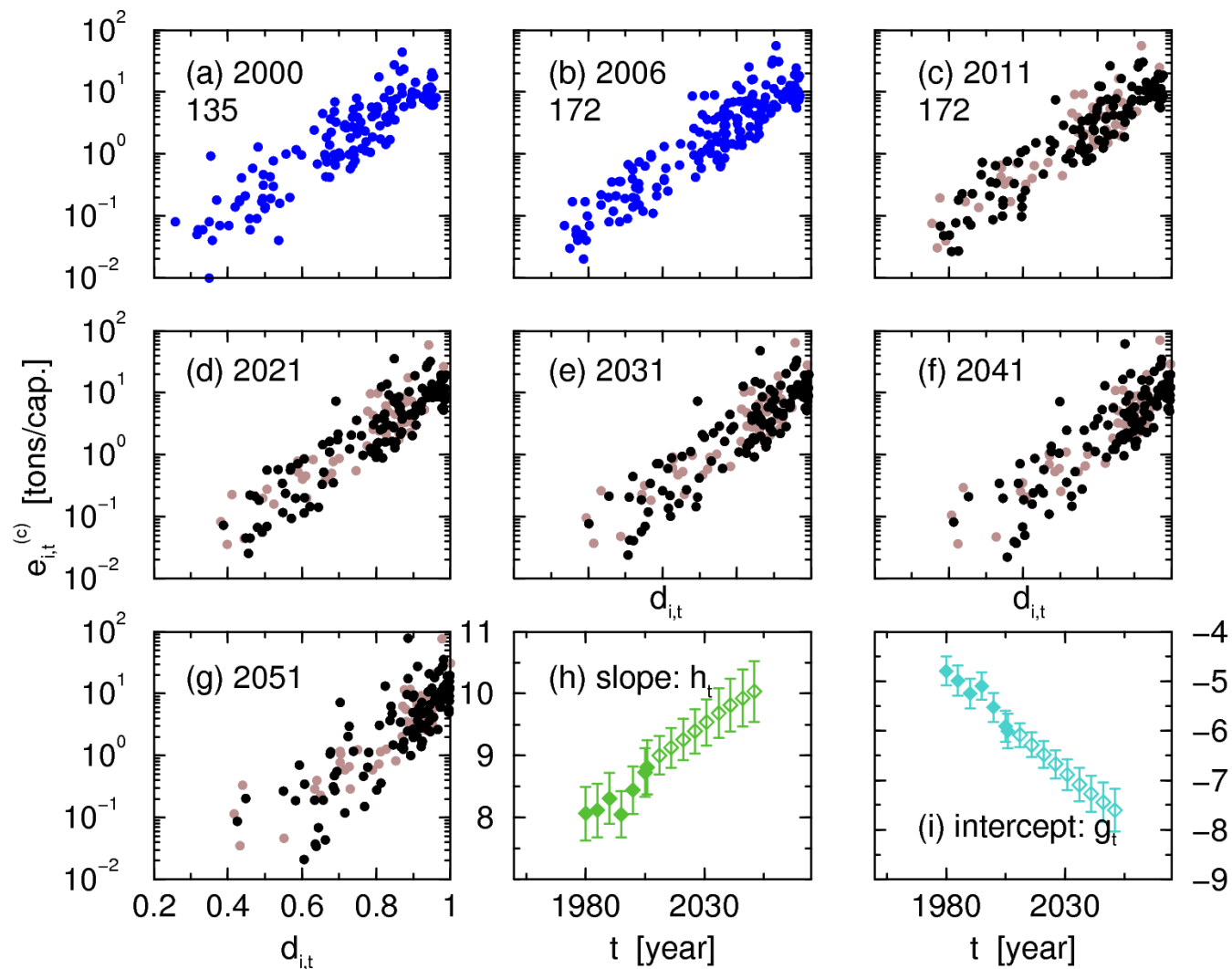
- large uncertainty is due to poor correlations
- high HDI countries comprise small changes
- per capita emissions in China will double by 2050
- per capita emissions in India will triple



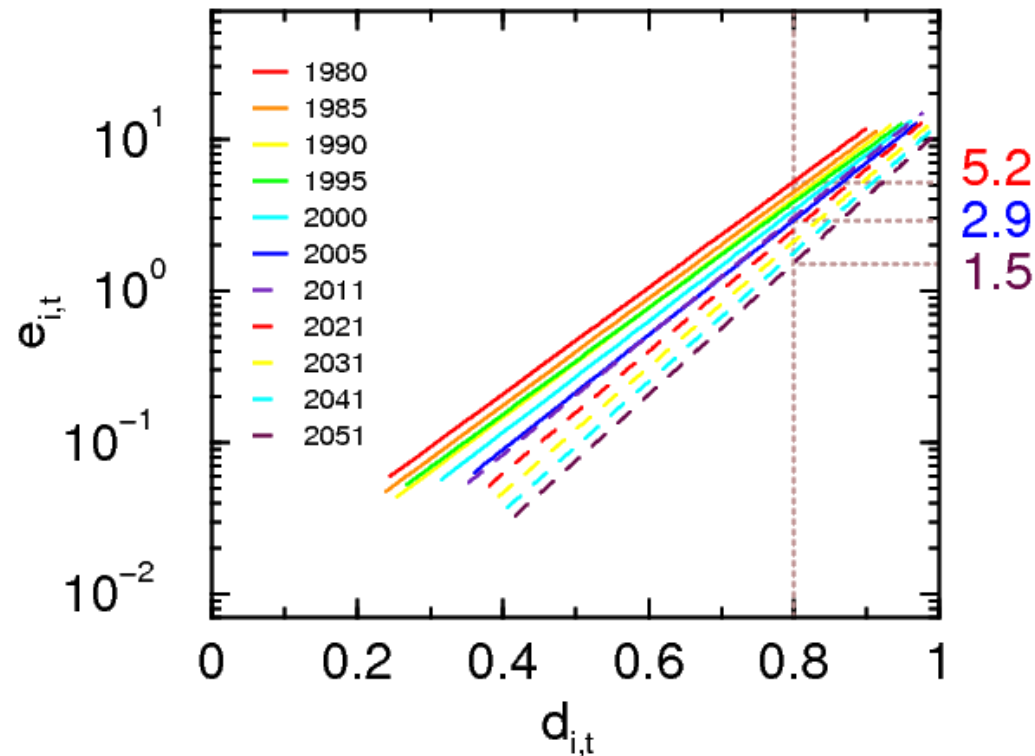
# Examples 2



# Projected per capita emissions



# Projected per capita emissions



- expected per capita emissions of HDI 0.8 countries in 2050: 1.5t/y
- less than 1/3 of the 1980 value

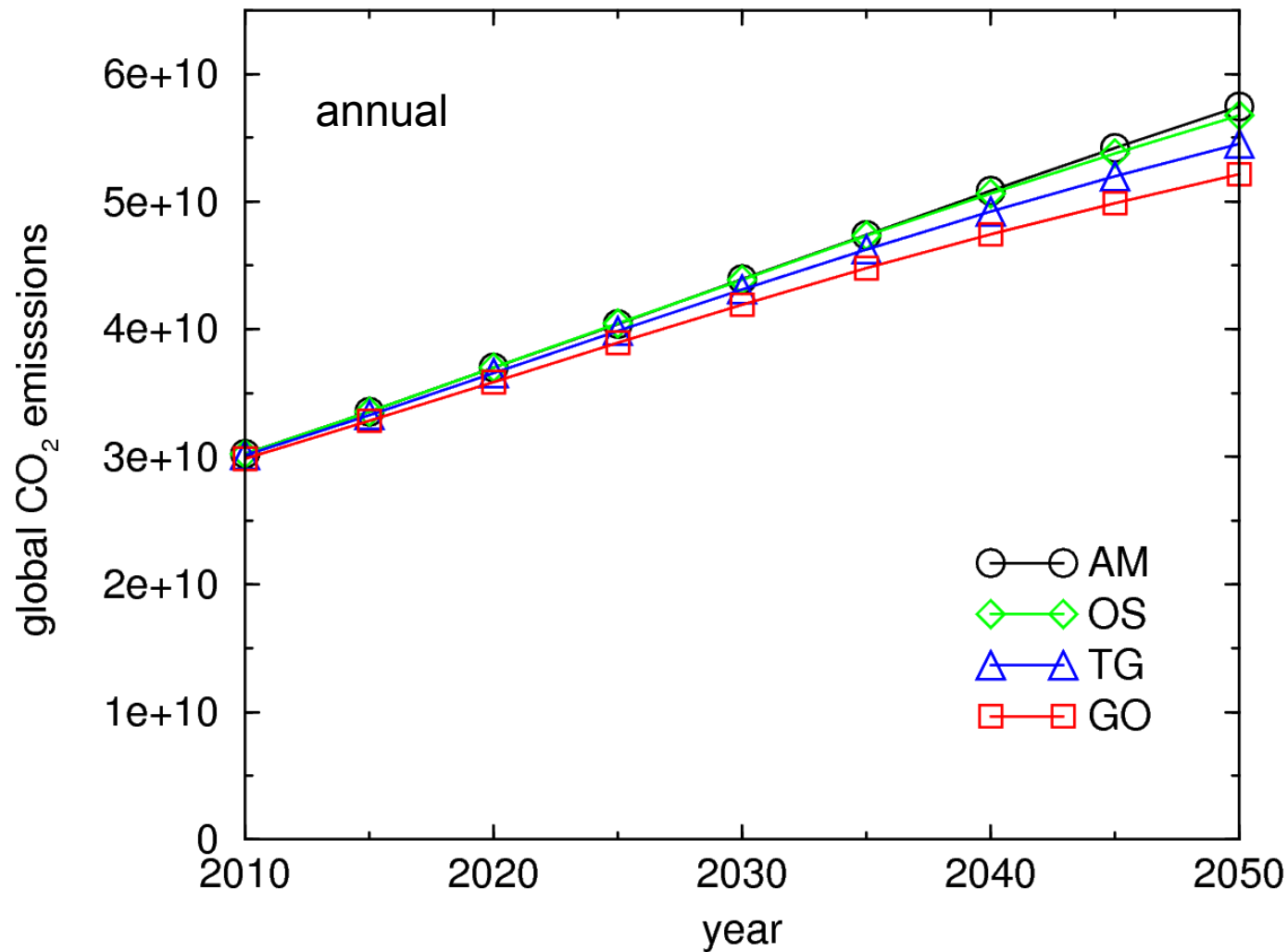
# Projected cumulative emissions

so far: “reasonable” projected per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions  
(majority of countries)

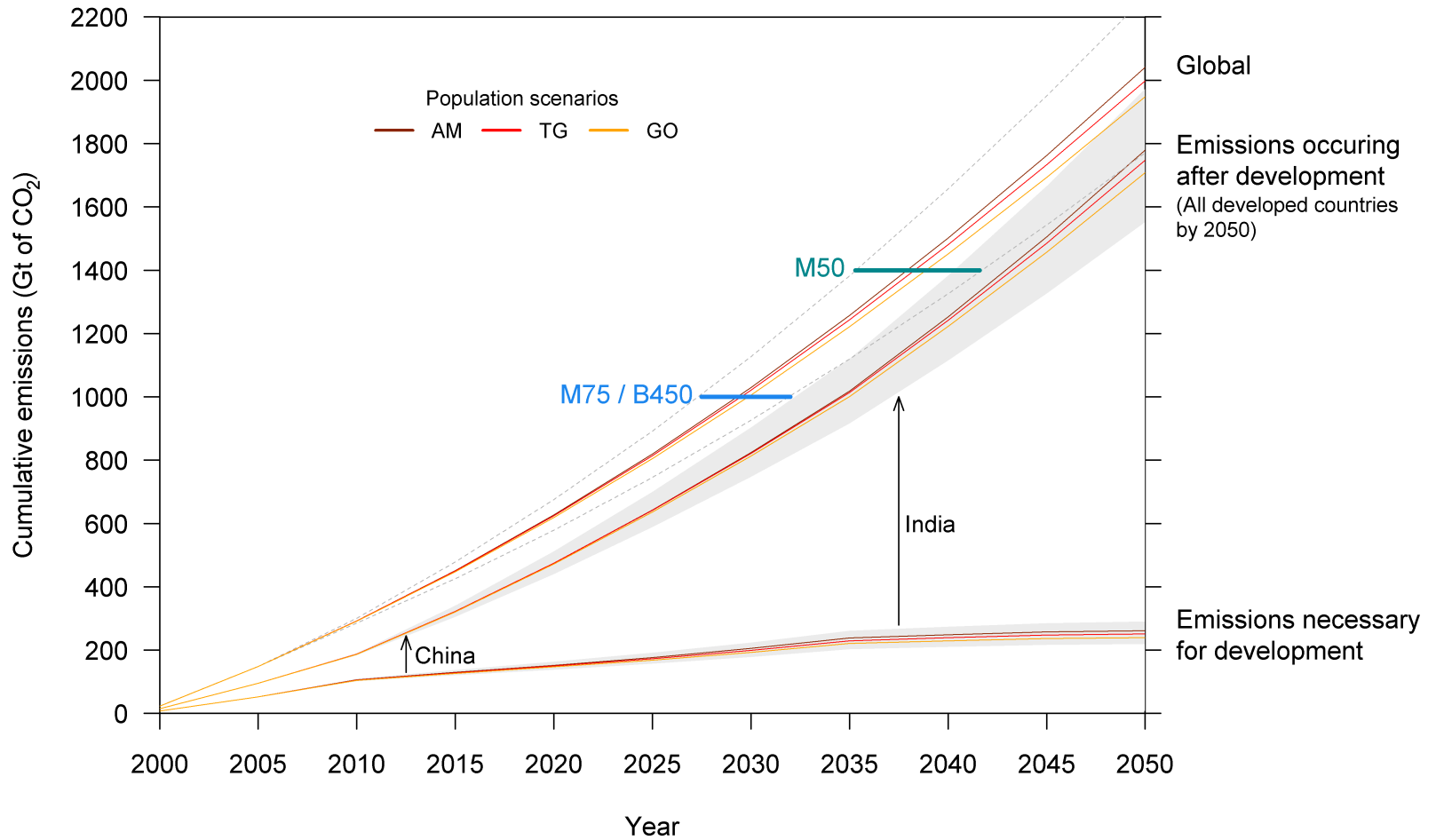
we want:

- total annual emissions for countries
- cumulative emissions

# Projected cumulative emissions



# finally ...



# Outlook

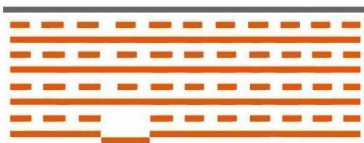
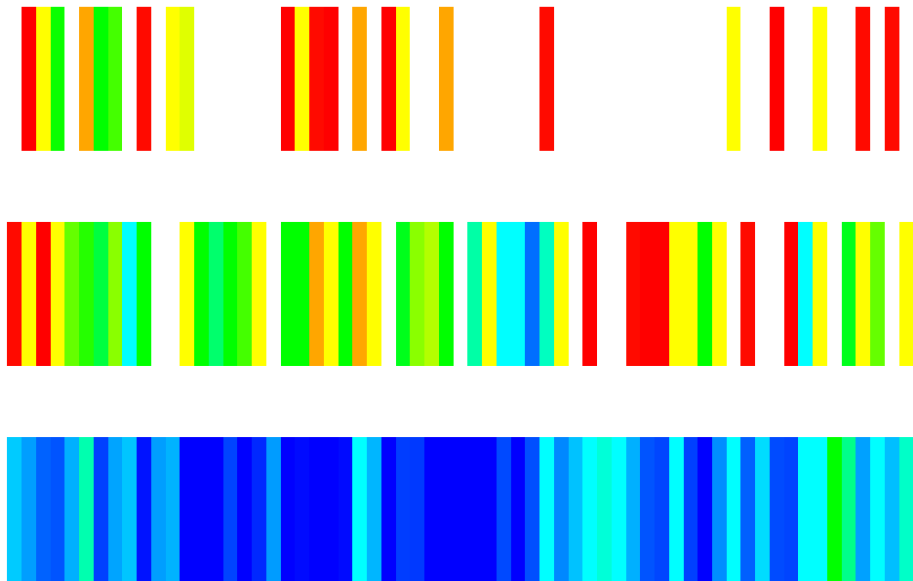
How could an allocation/reduction scheme look like?

paper:

L. Costa, D. Rybski, J.P. Kropp et al., submitted 2011.

see also: <http://arxiv.org/abs/1010.3837>

# Thank you for your attention.



<http://www.rybski.de/diego/>

<http://www.pik-potsdam.de/members/rybski/>