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P2.09 Strong seasonal disequilibrium measured between the oxygen isotope signals of leaf and soil CO₂ exchange

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The oxygen isotope composition of atmospheric CO₂ is among a very limited number of tools available to constrain estimates of the biospheric gross CO₂ fluxes, photosynthesis and respiration at large scales. However, the accuracy of the partitioning strongly depends on the extent of isotopic disequilibrium between the signals carried by these two gross fluxes. Chamber-based field measurements of total CO₂ and CO¹⁸O fluxes from foliage and soil can help evaluate and refine our models of isotopic fractionation by plants and soils and validate the extent and pattern of isotopic disequilibrium within terrestrial ecosystems. Due to sampling limitations in the past, such measurements have been very rare and covered only a few days. In this study, we coupled automated branch and soil chambers with tuneable diode laser absorption spectroscopy techniques to continuously capture the oxygen isotope signals of foliage and soil CO₂ exchange in a *Pinus pinaster* Ait. forest in France. Over the growing season we observed a seasonally persistent isotopic disequilibrium between the oxygen isotope signatures of net CO₂ fluxes from leaves and soils, except during rain events when the isotopic imbalance became temporarily weaker. Variations in the oxygen isotope composition of CO₂ exchanged between leaves, soil and the atmosphere were also modelled following theory describing changes in the oxygen isotope composition of ecosystem water pools in response to changes in leaf transpiration and soil evaporation. These results of this modelling and the implications for larger scale partitioning studies will be discussed in this presentation.