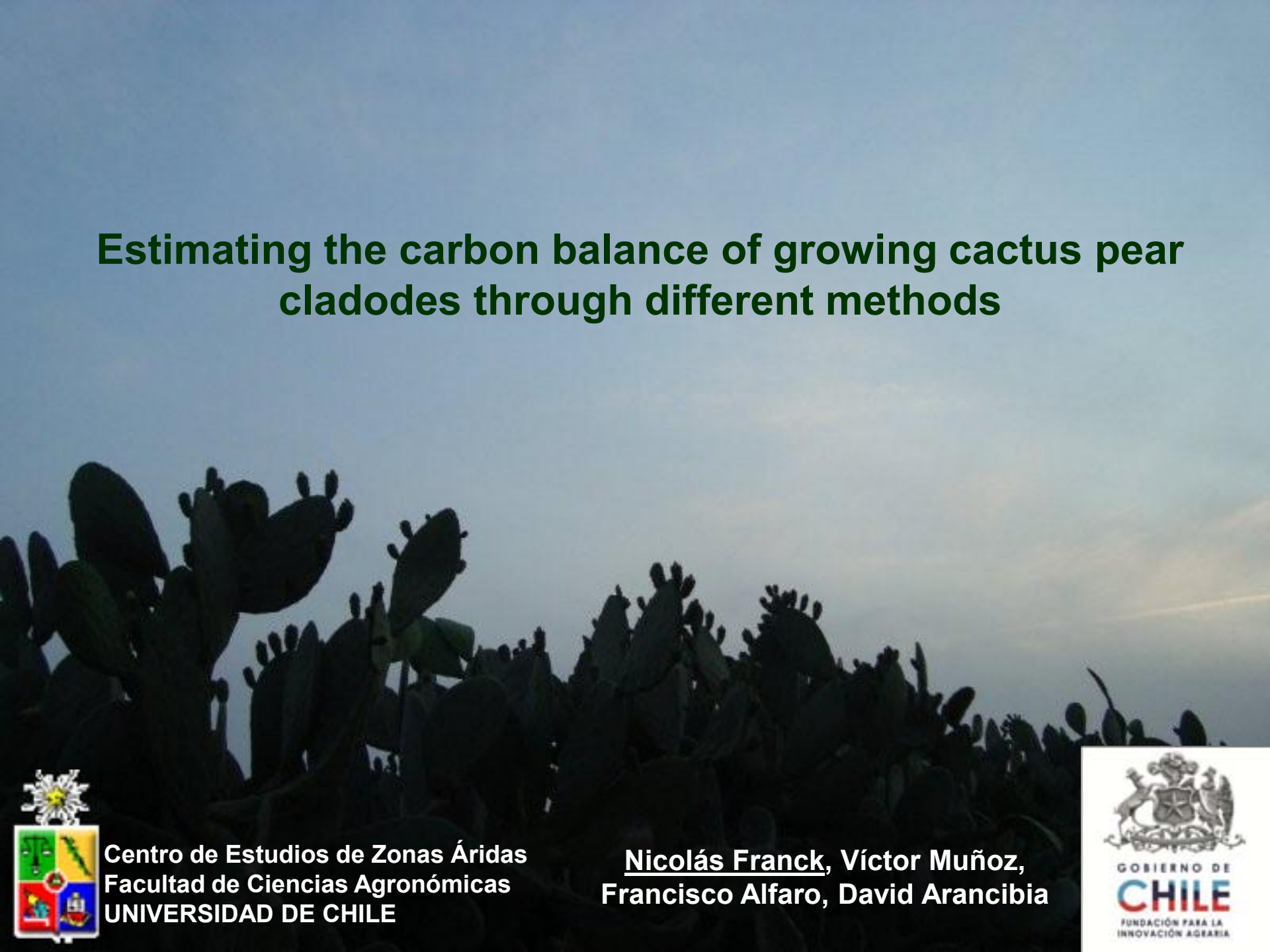
# Estimating the carbon balance of growing cactus pear cladodes through different methods



Centro de Estudios de Zonas Áridas
Facultad de Ciencias Agronómicas
UNIVERSIDAD DE CHILE

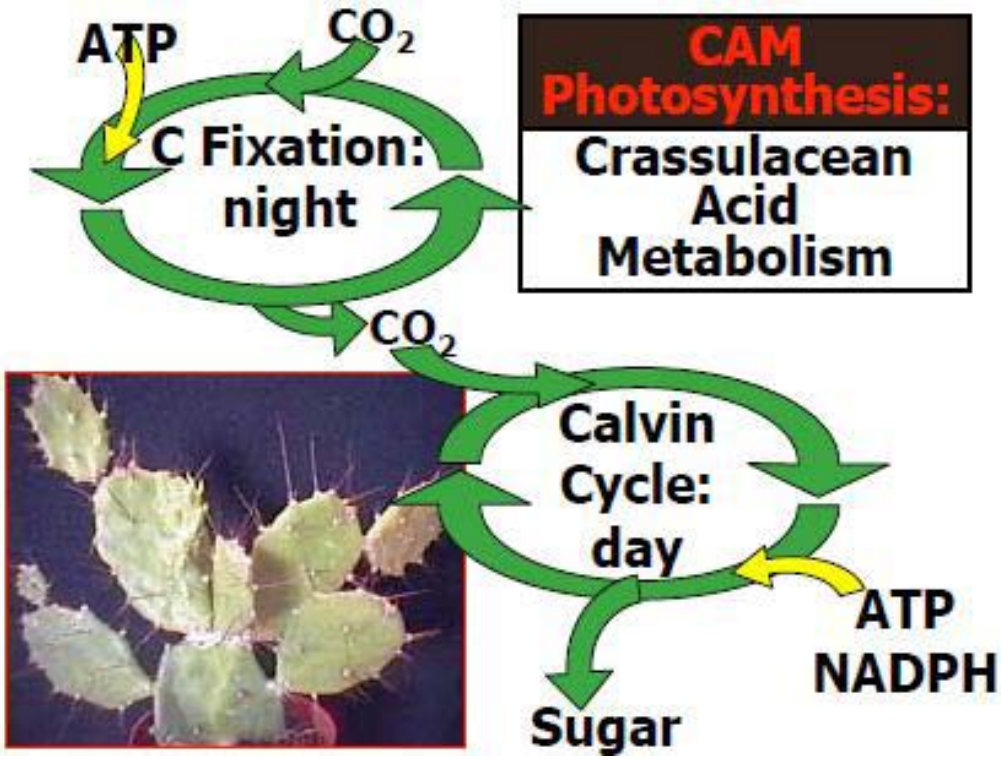
Nicolás Franck, Víctor Muñoz,
Francisco Alfaro, David Arancibia

GOBIERNO DE CHILE
FUNDACIÓN PARA LA INNOVACIÓN AGRARIA

# Context: *Opuntia ficus-indica* in Chile

- "Tuna" in Chile is mainly dedicate to **fresh fruit production** oriented to local market.
- Area has fluctuated between **1.000 – 1.500 ha** in small farms around Santiago.
- Low technological development => **low yields (8-12 t $ha^{-1}$) in two crops!**
- Energetic crisis and governmental support for **renewable energy sources**.
- **Carbon sequestration** in arid zones.
- Interest in *Opuntias* for biomass production in arid, irrigated zones (WUE).

# Context: the plant




- *Opuntias* have **CAM** photosynthesis:
- It is **difficult and time consuming to measure photosynthesis** (timing and no leaves!).
- High WUE but **low Photosynthetic rate**.

- In order to develop biomass plantations in Chile we need to develop a **cost-efficient method** for estimating **potential primary production** of different planta materials under different climatic conditions.

**Objective**:

- To evaluate different methods for estimating primary productivity (carbon balance) through direct measuremtens and modelling.

# Materials and methods

- Single young cladodes of local cactus pear selection.
- Emerging from cladode fragments and oriented N <-> S.
- Grown in a green house at the “Las Cardas” esperiment station (Coquimbo, Chile).
- With and without 65 % shading.
- Active growing season.

# Materials and methods

Measurements

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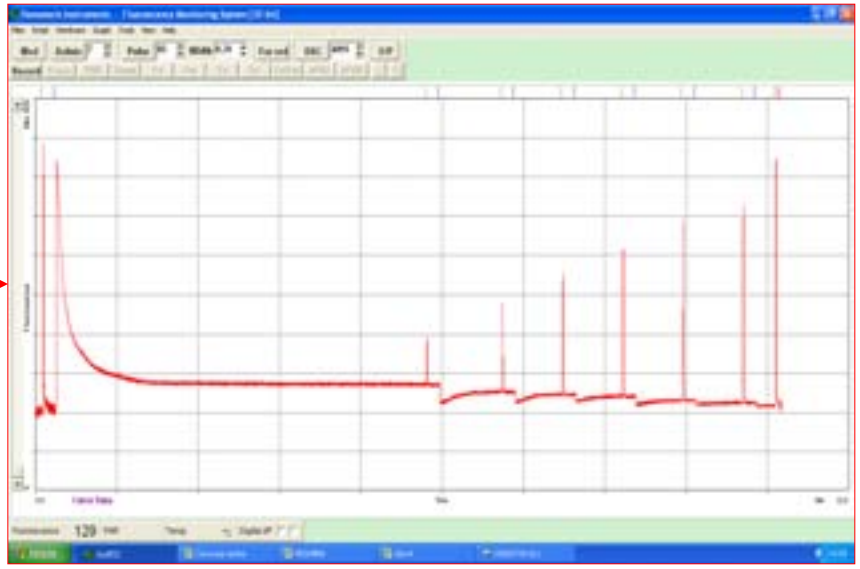

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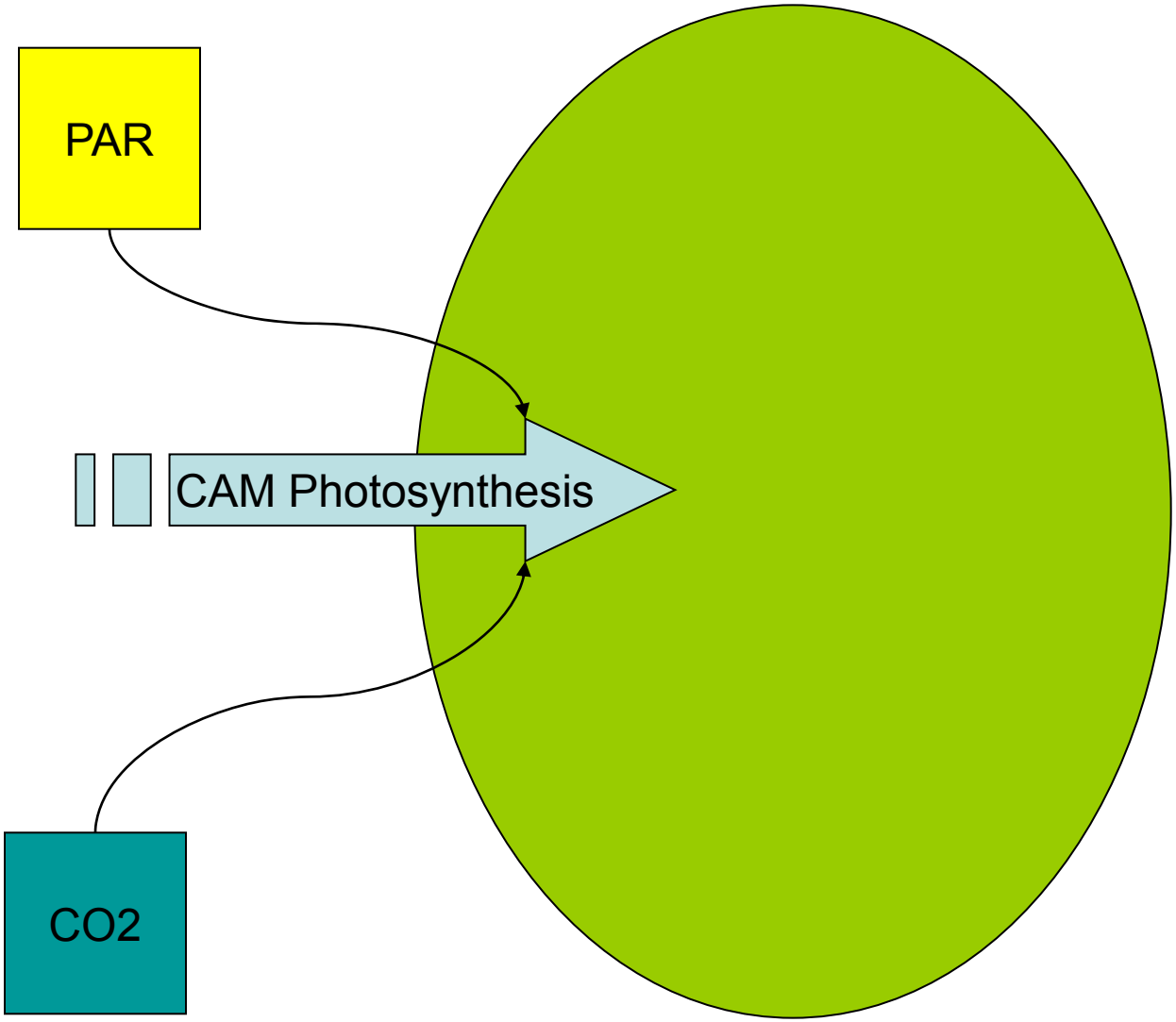
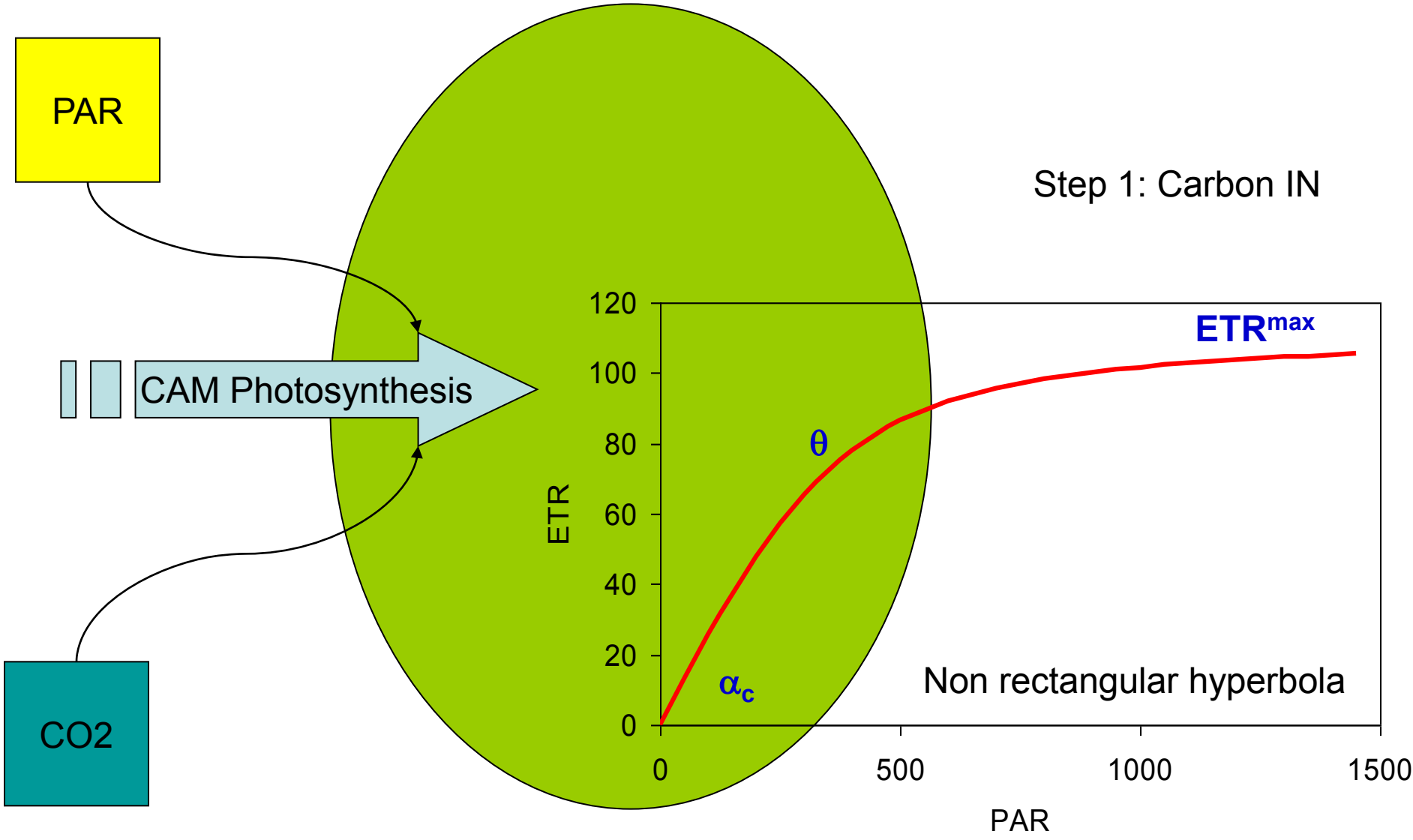
  - Climate: PAR, HR, T°air and PAR and T° on East and West cladode faces.

# Materials and methods: Model




Step 1: Carbon IN

# Materials and methods: Model



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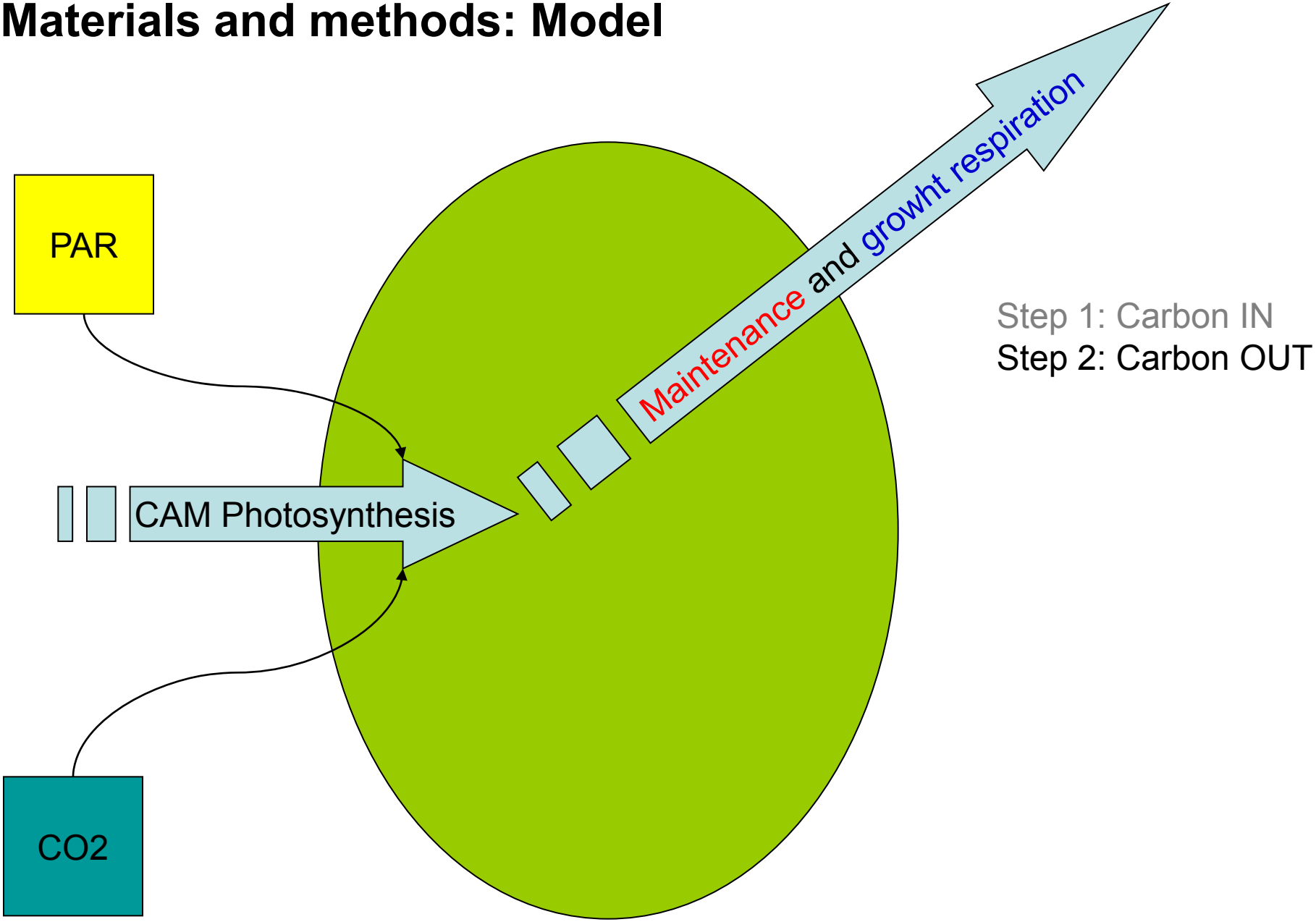

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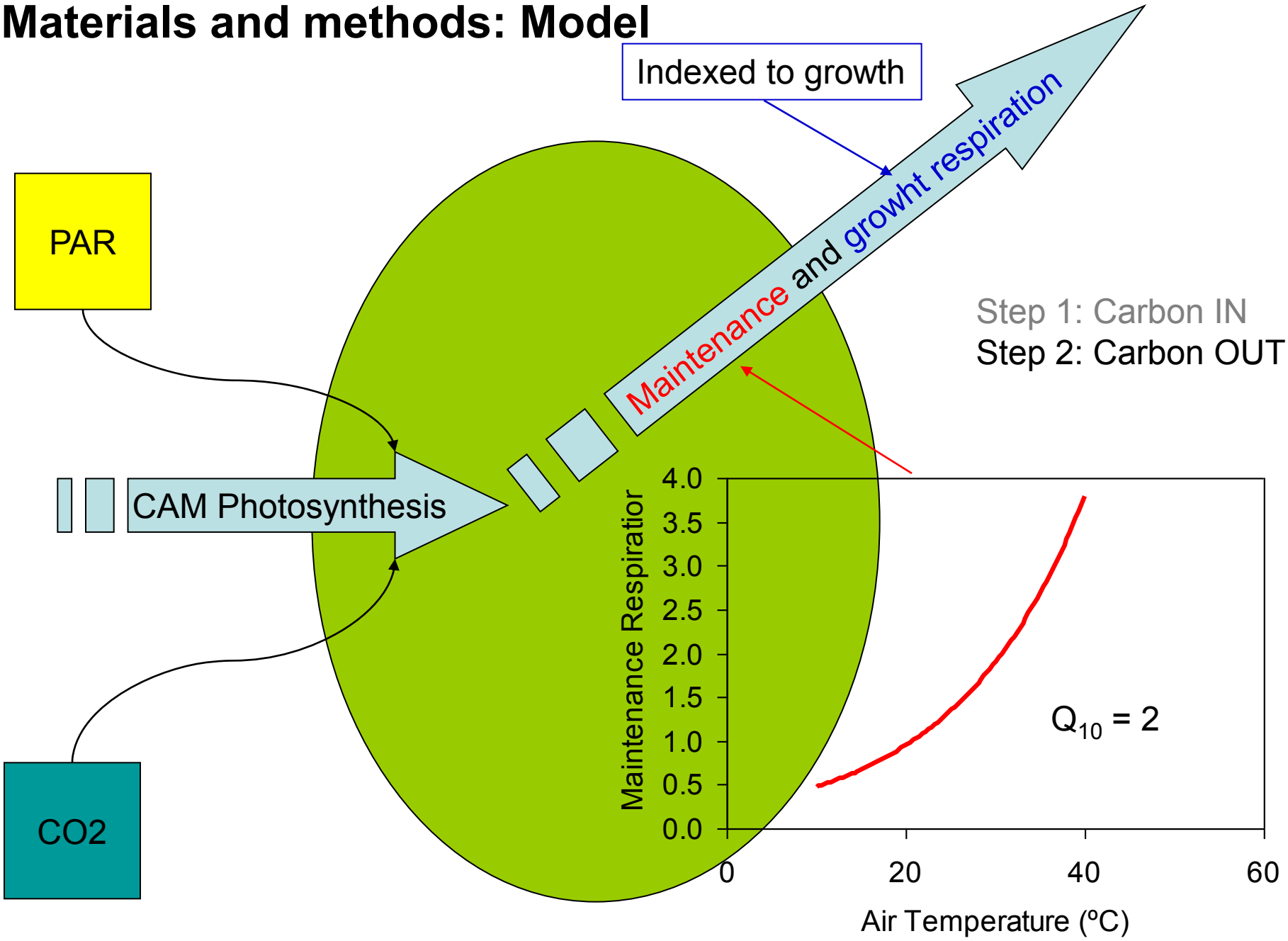

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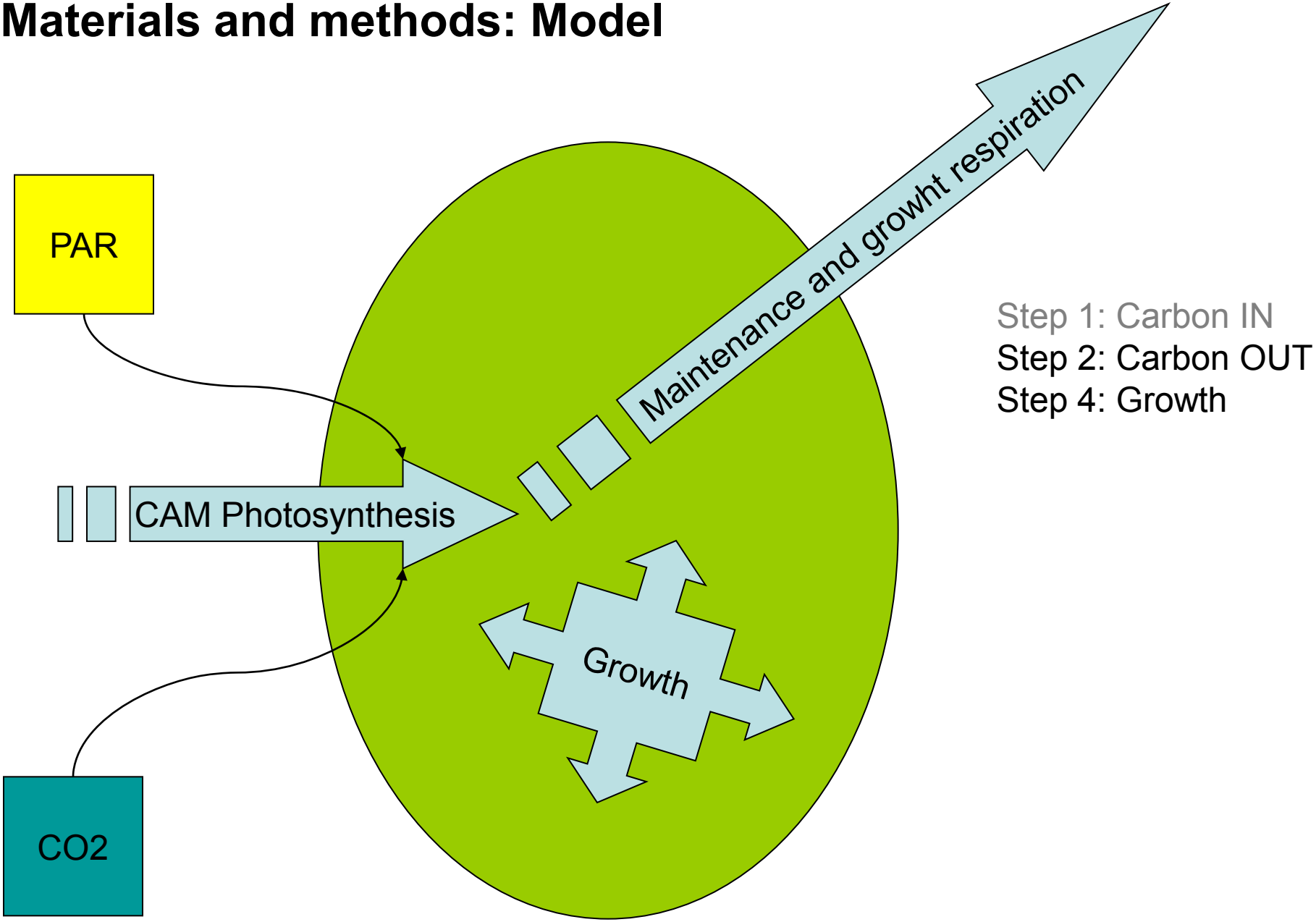
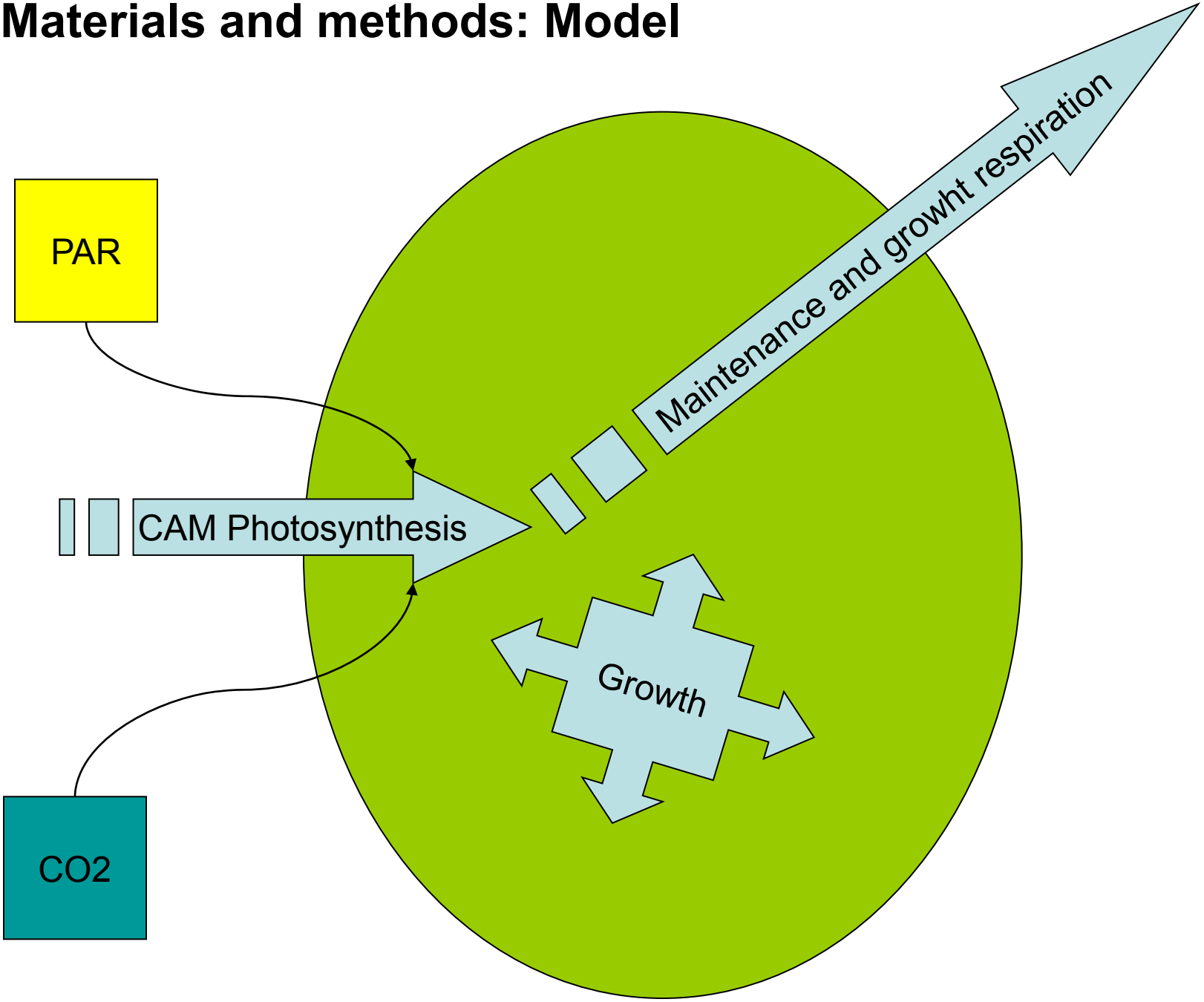
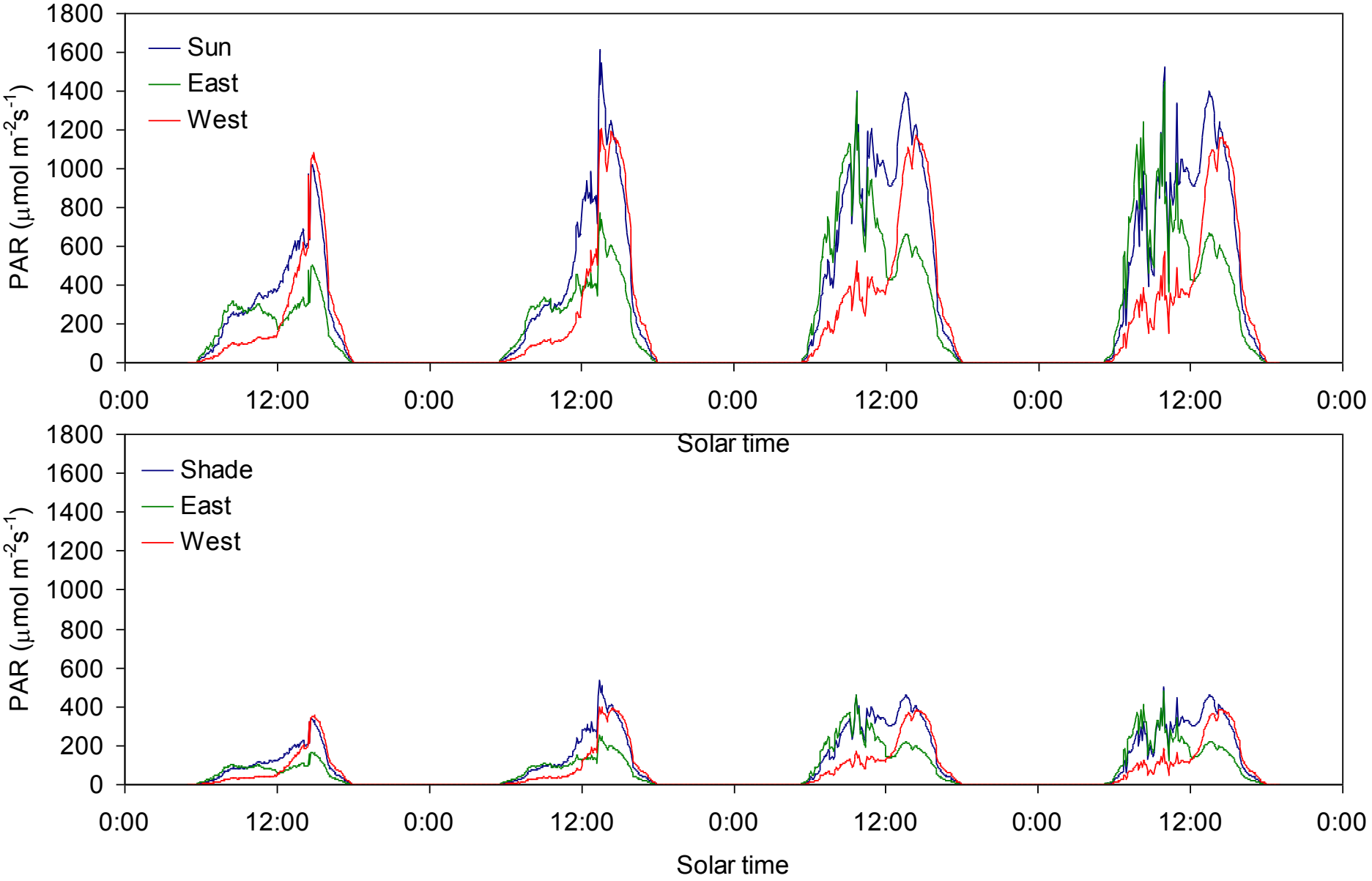



Step 1: Carbon IN
Step 2: Carbon OUT
Step 4: Growth

# Materials and methods: Model

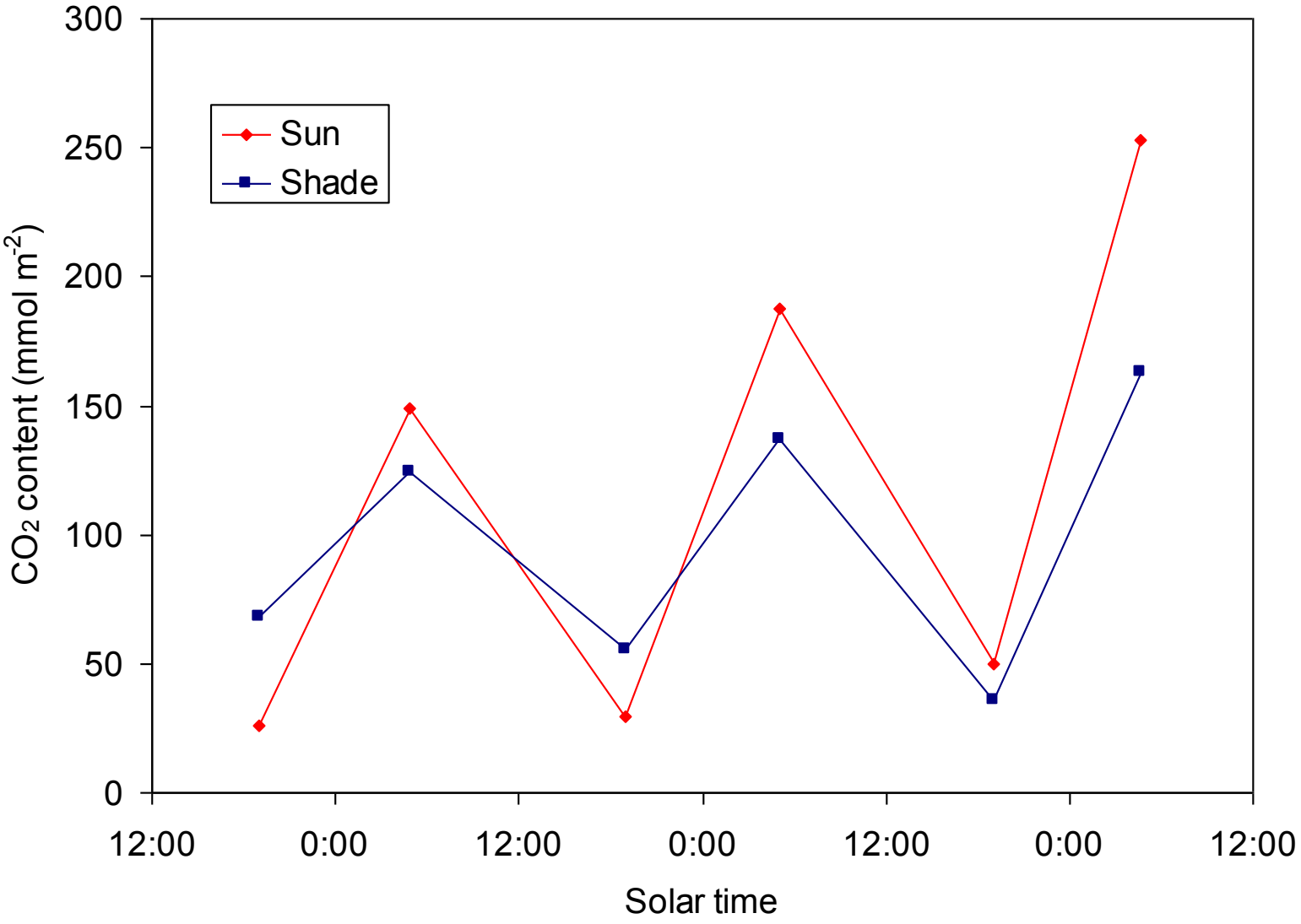


# Results: climatic conditions




Average Day/Night Temperature: 23.6±2.3 °C/10.4±0.8°C

# Results: Carbon Assimilation (CA) estimated from Titratable Acidity (TA)



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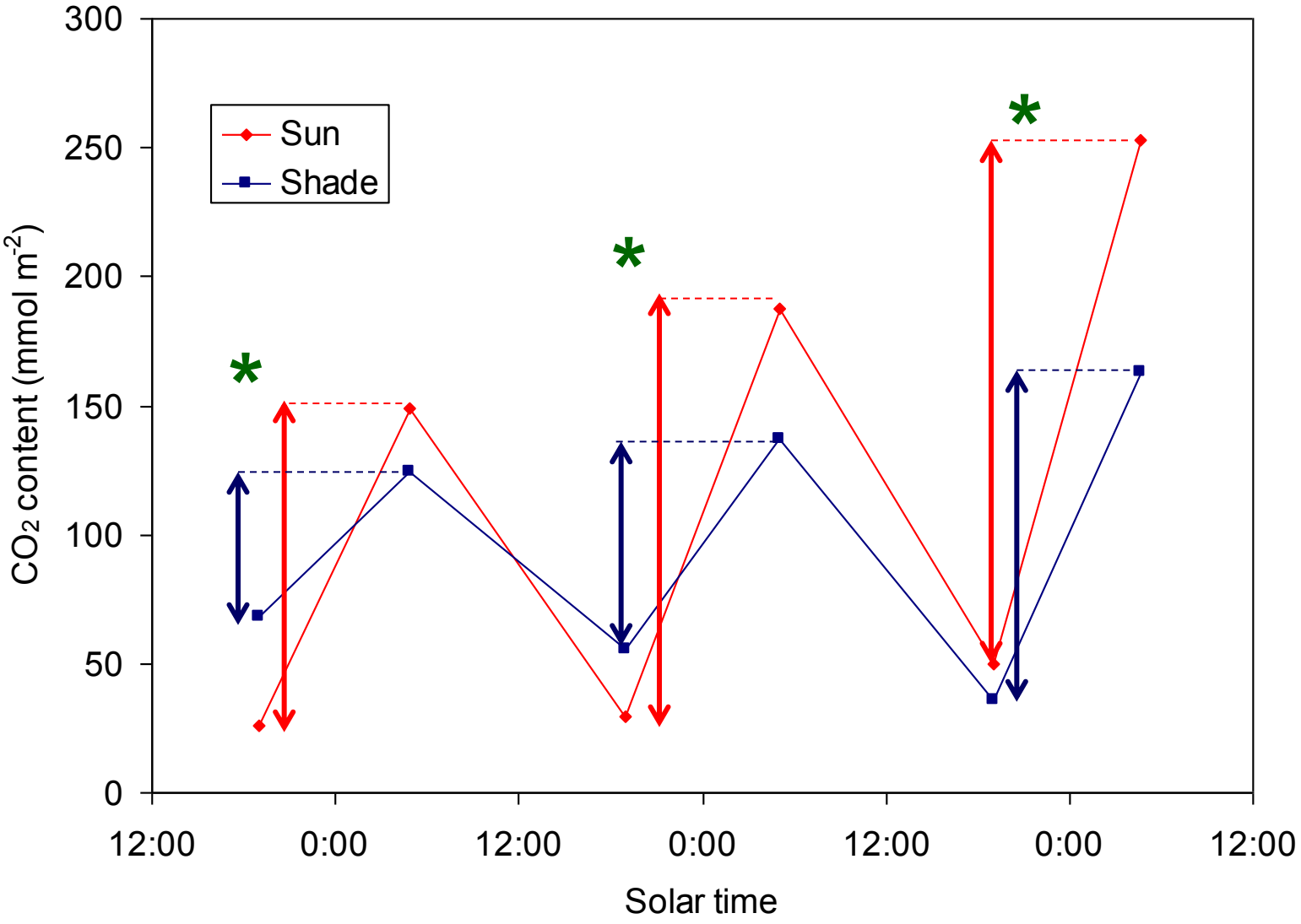
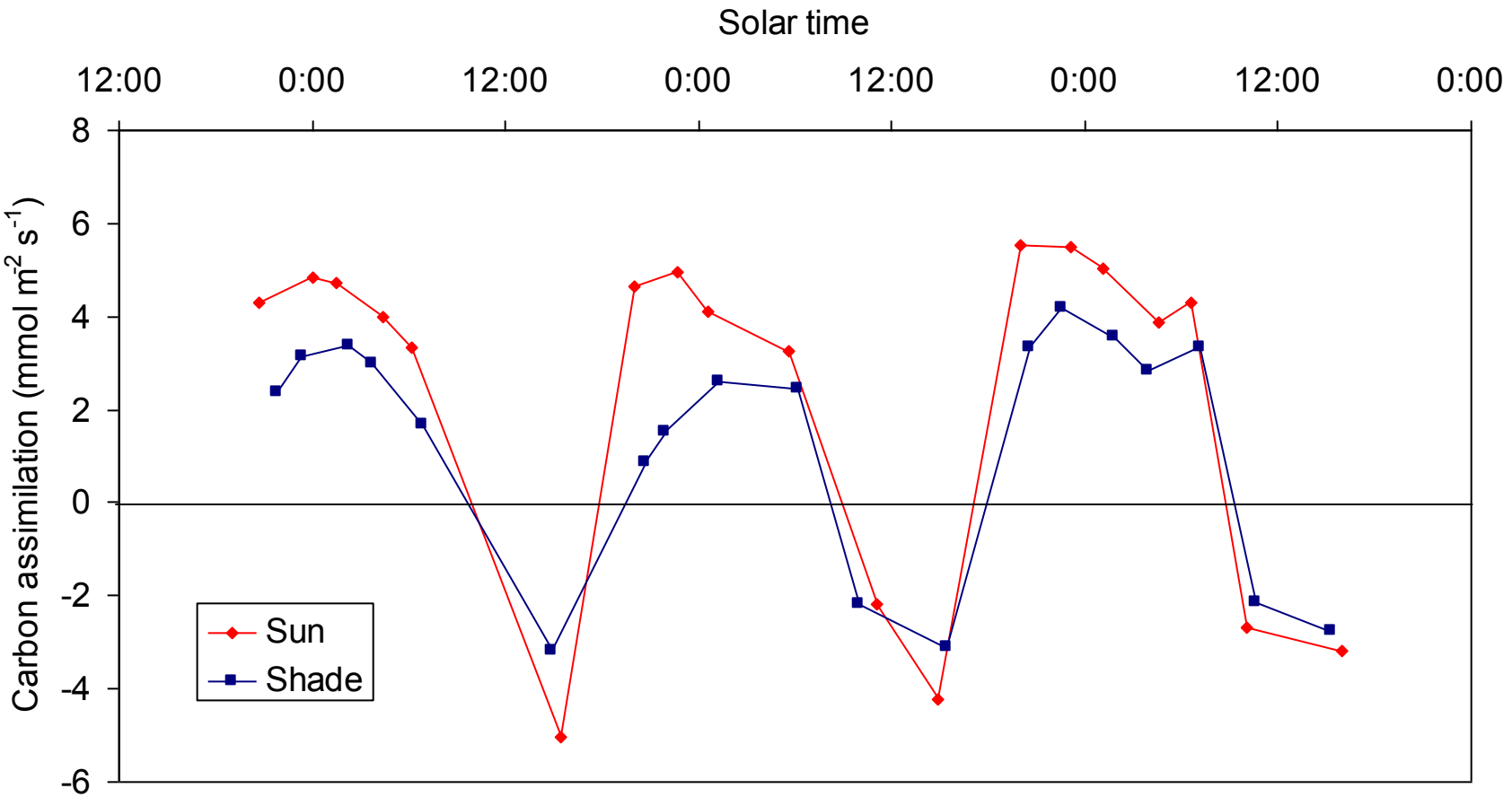


# Results: CA - IRGA



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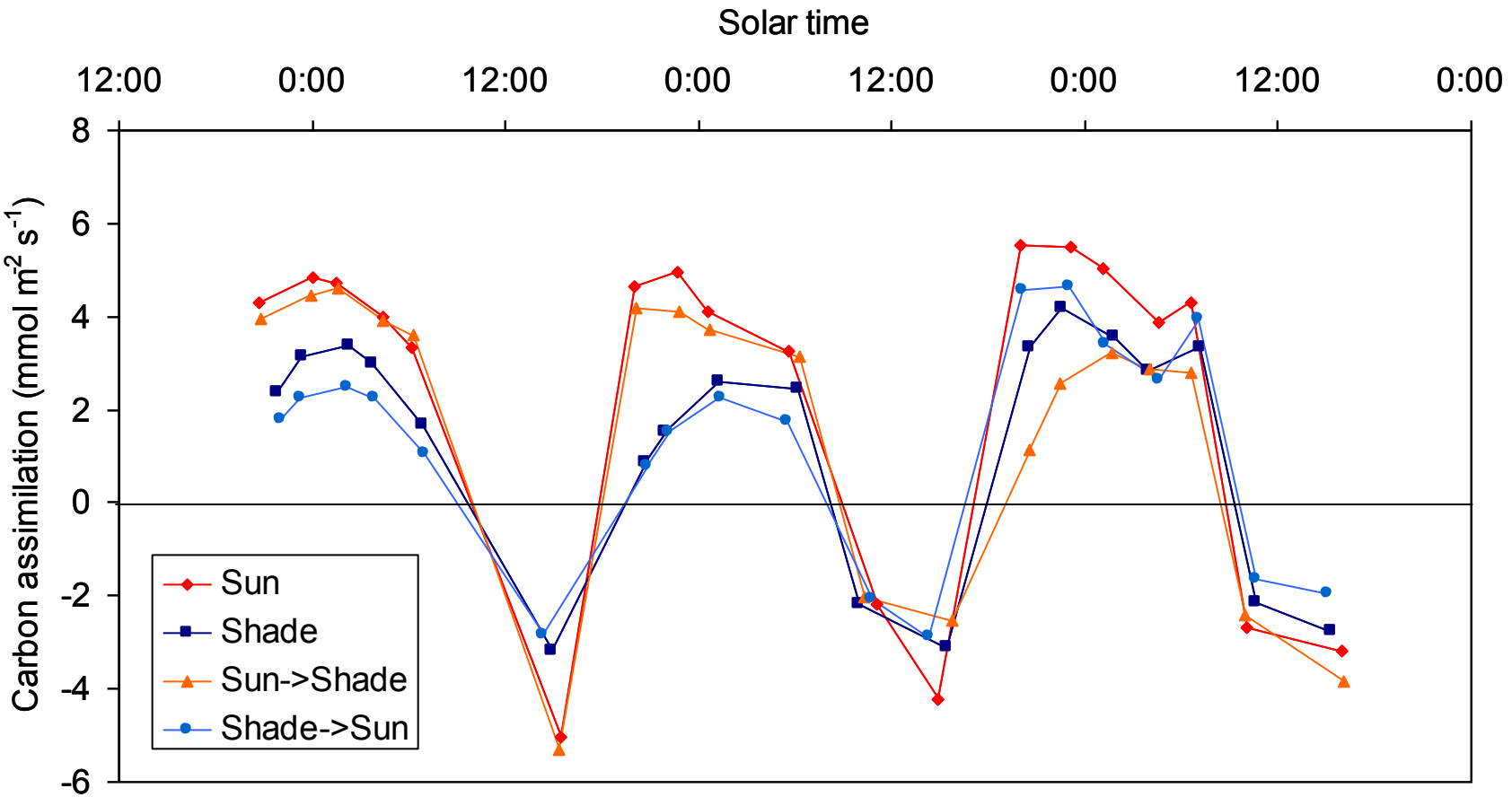
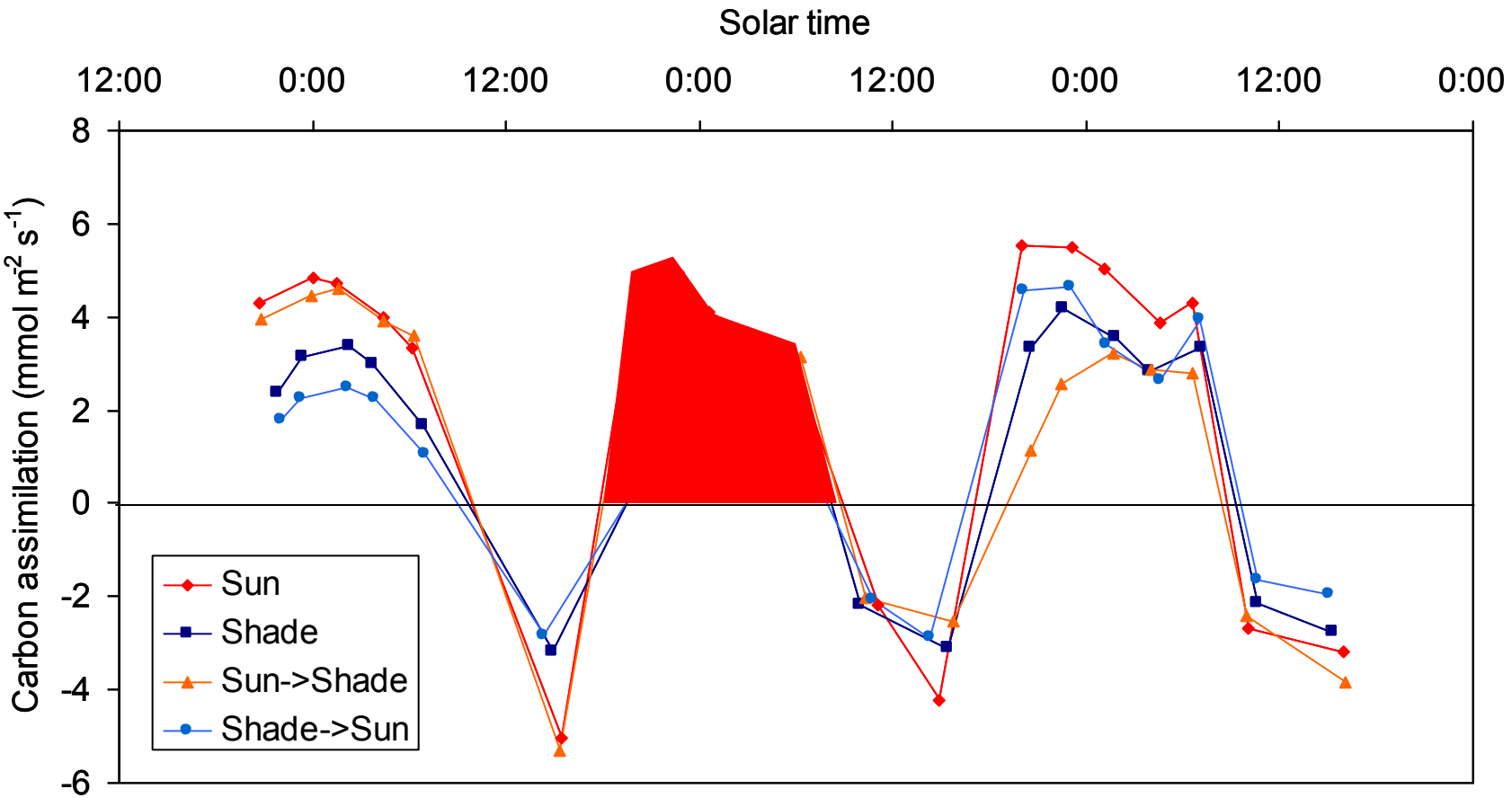


# Results: CA – IRGA: estimations



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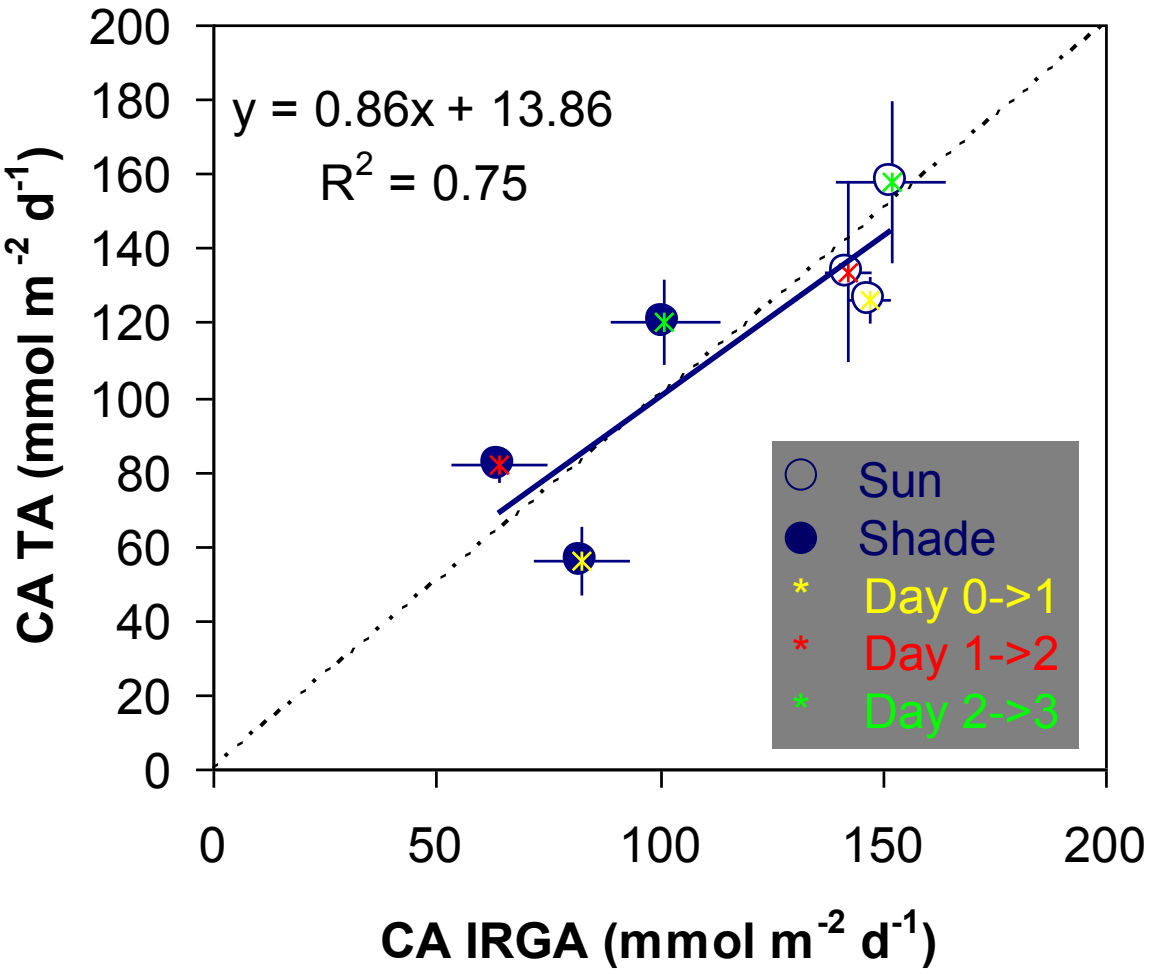

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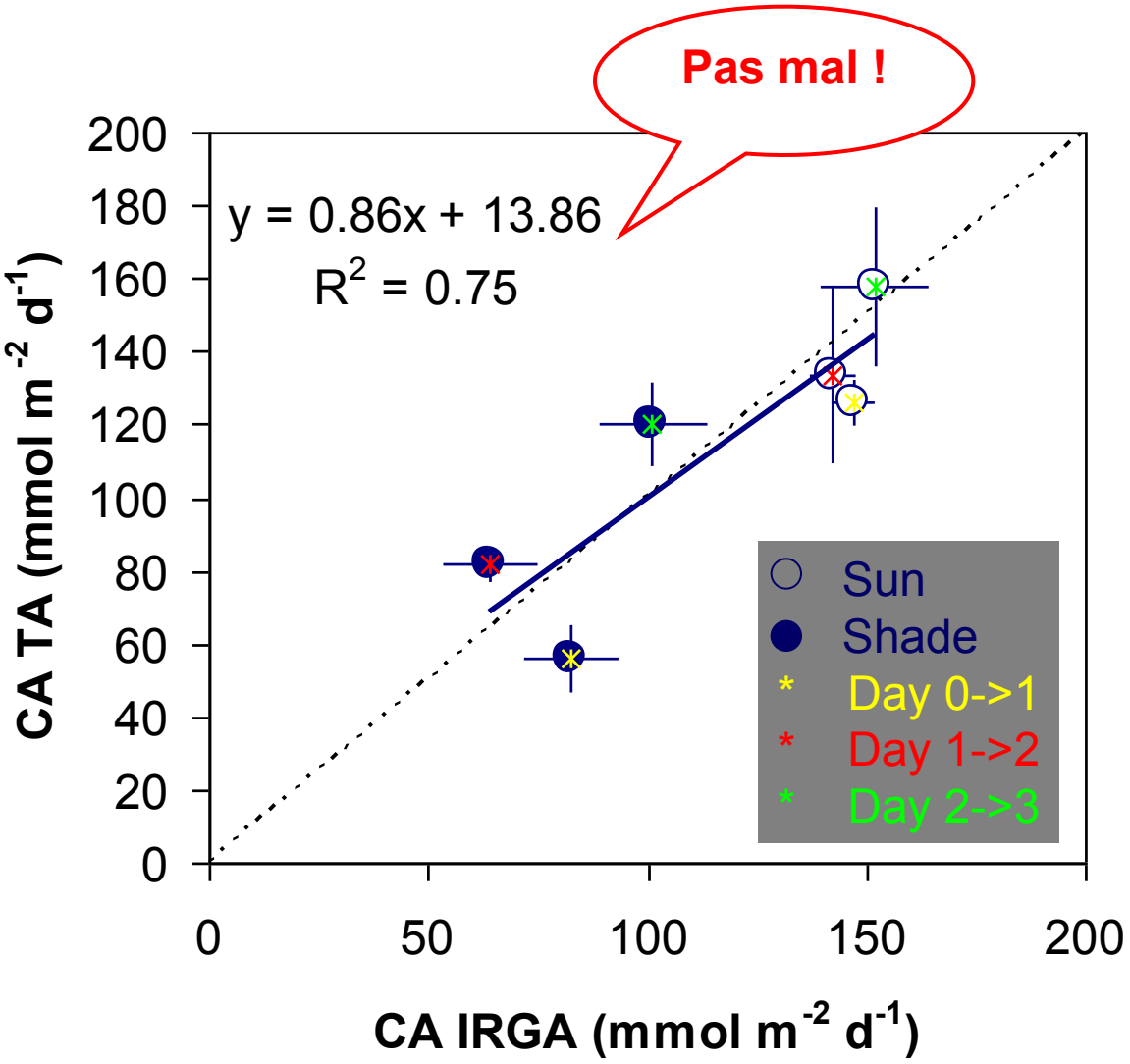

# Results: The Model: electron transport response to PAR

| | | Orientation | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Parameter | East | West | **Total** |
| Shade | θ | 0.77±0.06 | 0.81±0.1 | **0.79±0.08** |
| Shade | α | 0.27±0.01 | 0.24±0.04 | **0.25±0.03** |
| Shade | $ETR^{max}$ | 106.9±10.2 | 99.5±17.3 | **102.5±13.8** |
| Sun | θ | 0.86±0.05 | 0.92±0.05 | **0.87±0.06** |
| Sun | α | 0.28±0.03 | 0.27±0.02 | **0.28±0.03** |
| Sun | $ETR^{max}$ | 127.3±15.7 | 95.4±14 | **118.2±21** |
| **Total** | θ | **0.83±0.07** | **0.85±0.09** | **0.84±0.08** |
| **Total** | α | **0.28±0.03** | **0.25±0.03** | **0.27±0.03** |
| **Total** | **$ETR^{max}$** | **121.5±16.7** | **97.9±14.3** | **111.6±19.4** |

No significant differences in parameters between shades and orientations

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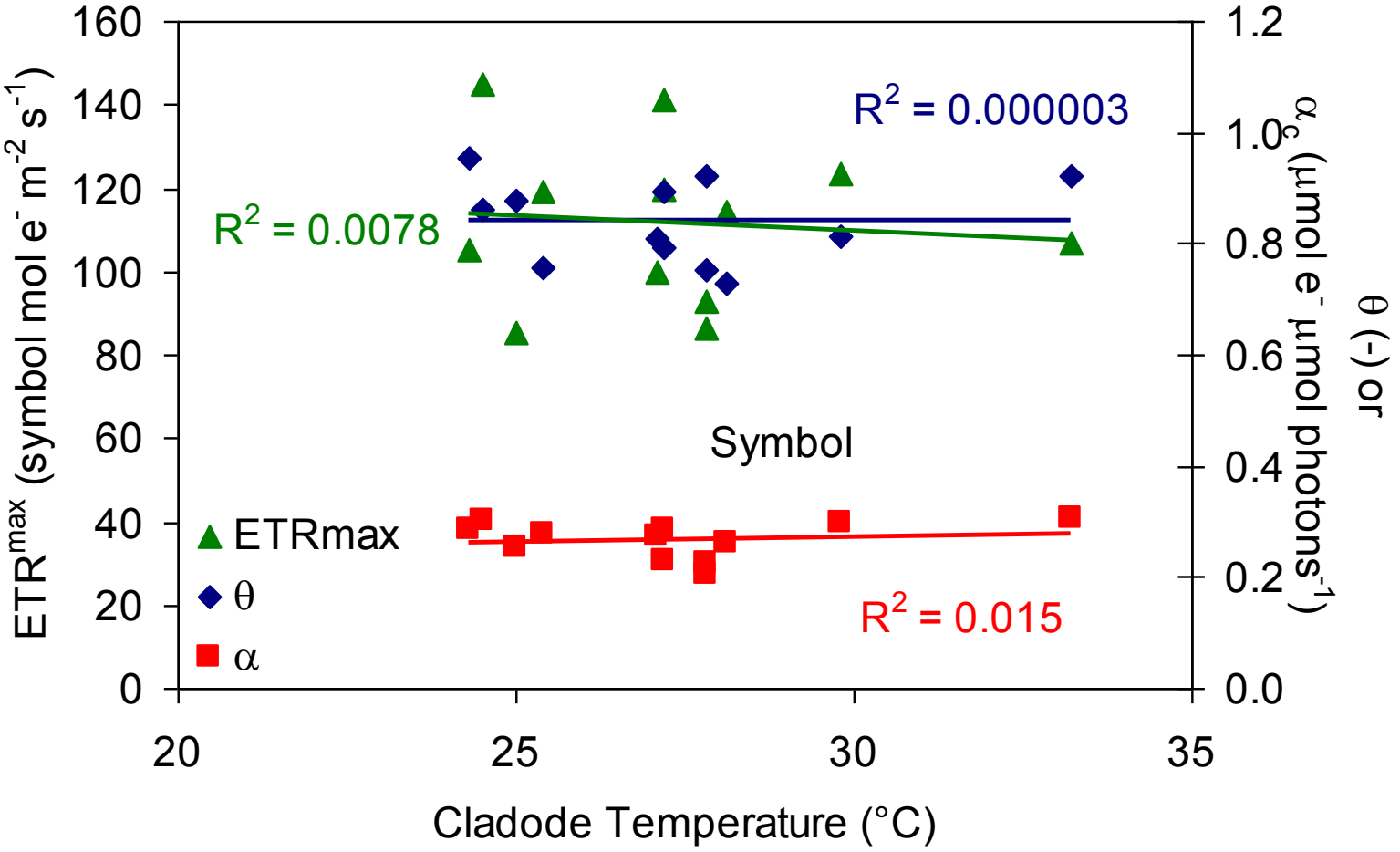


No effect of cladode temperature on parameters..!?

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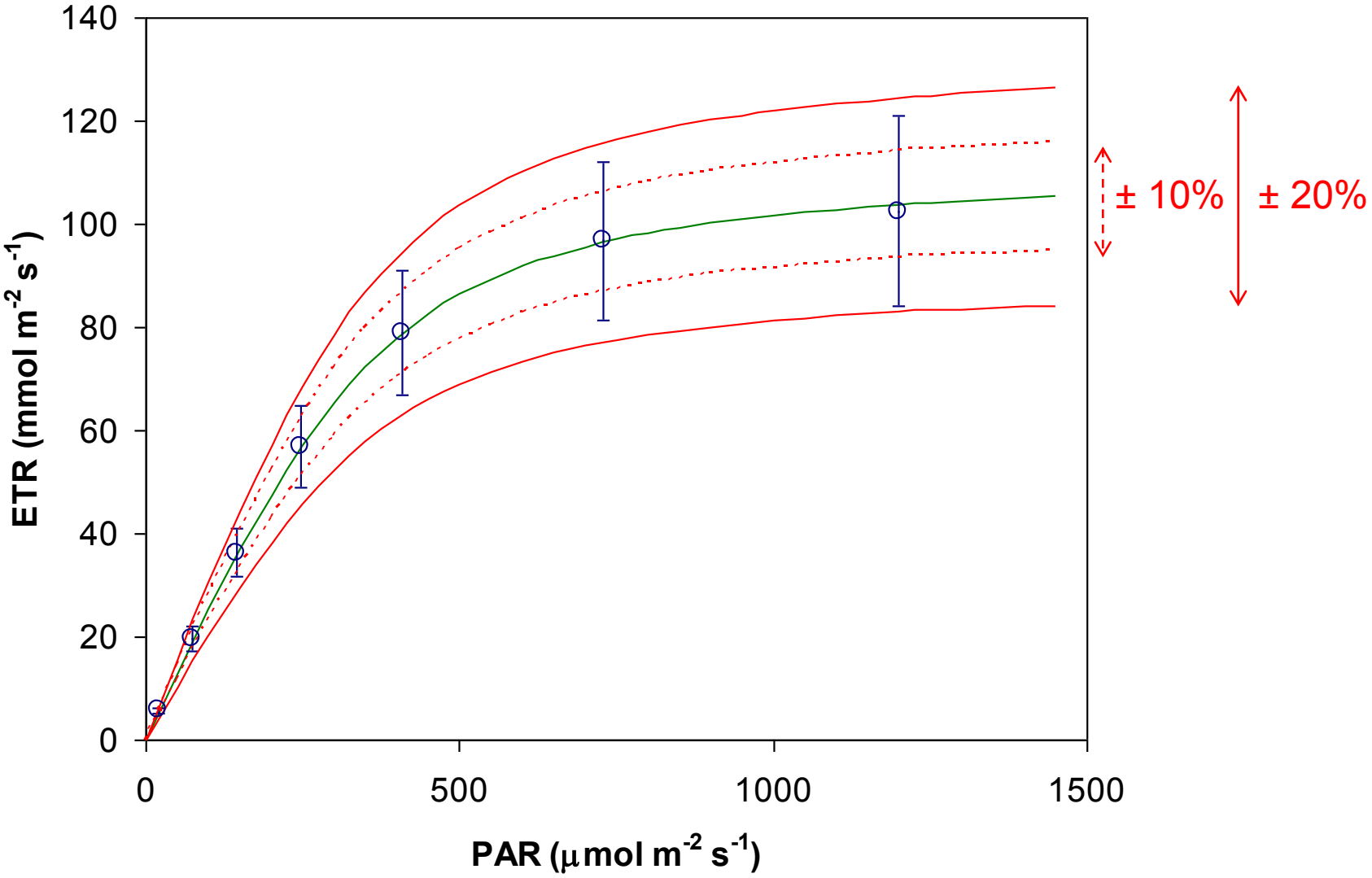
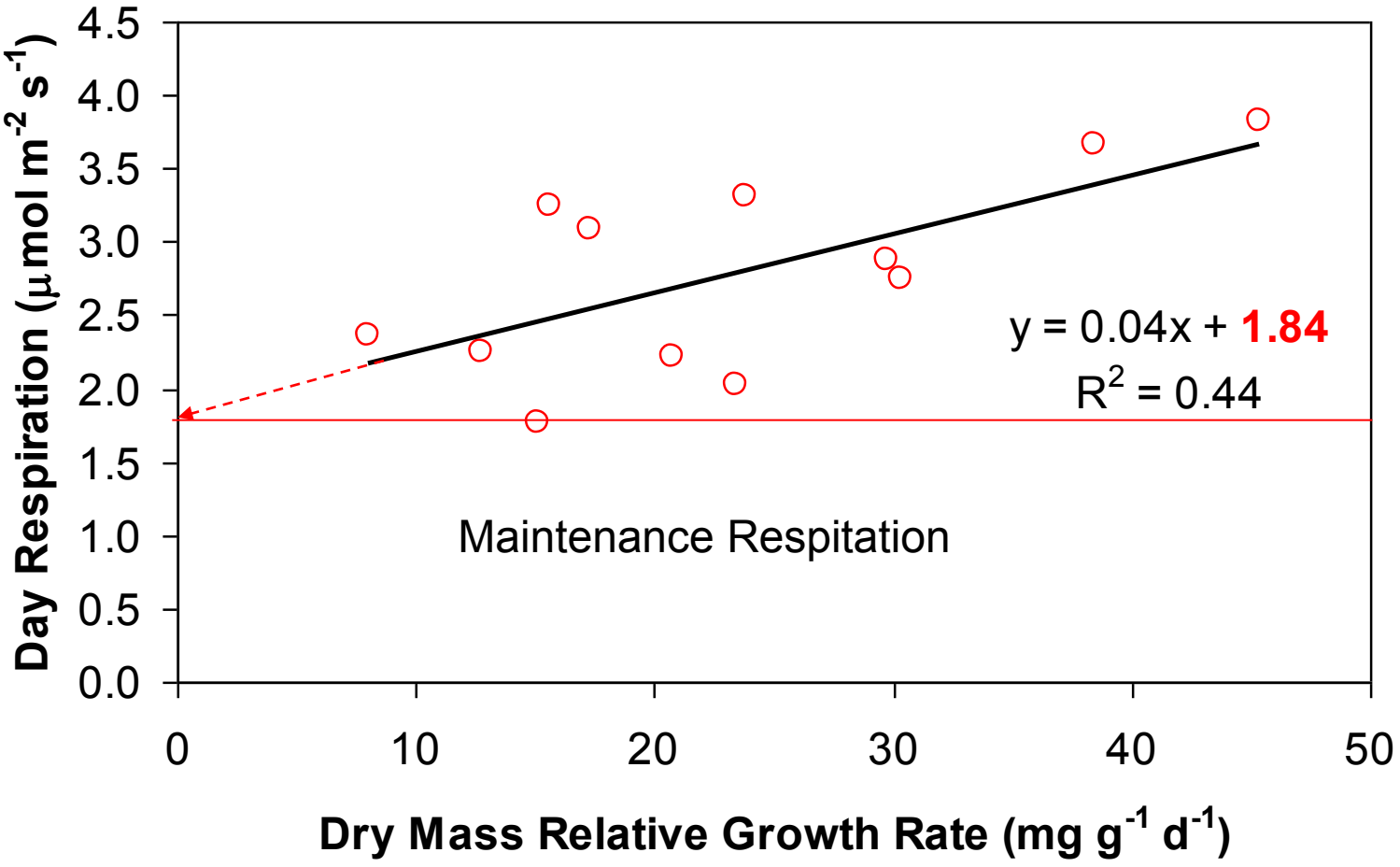


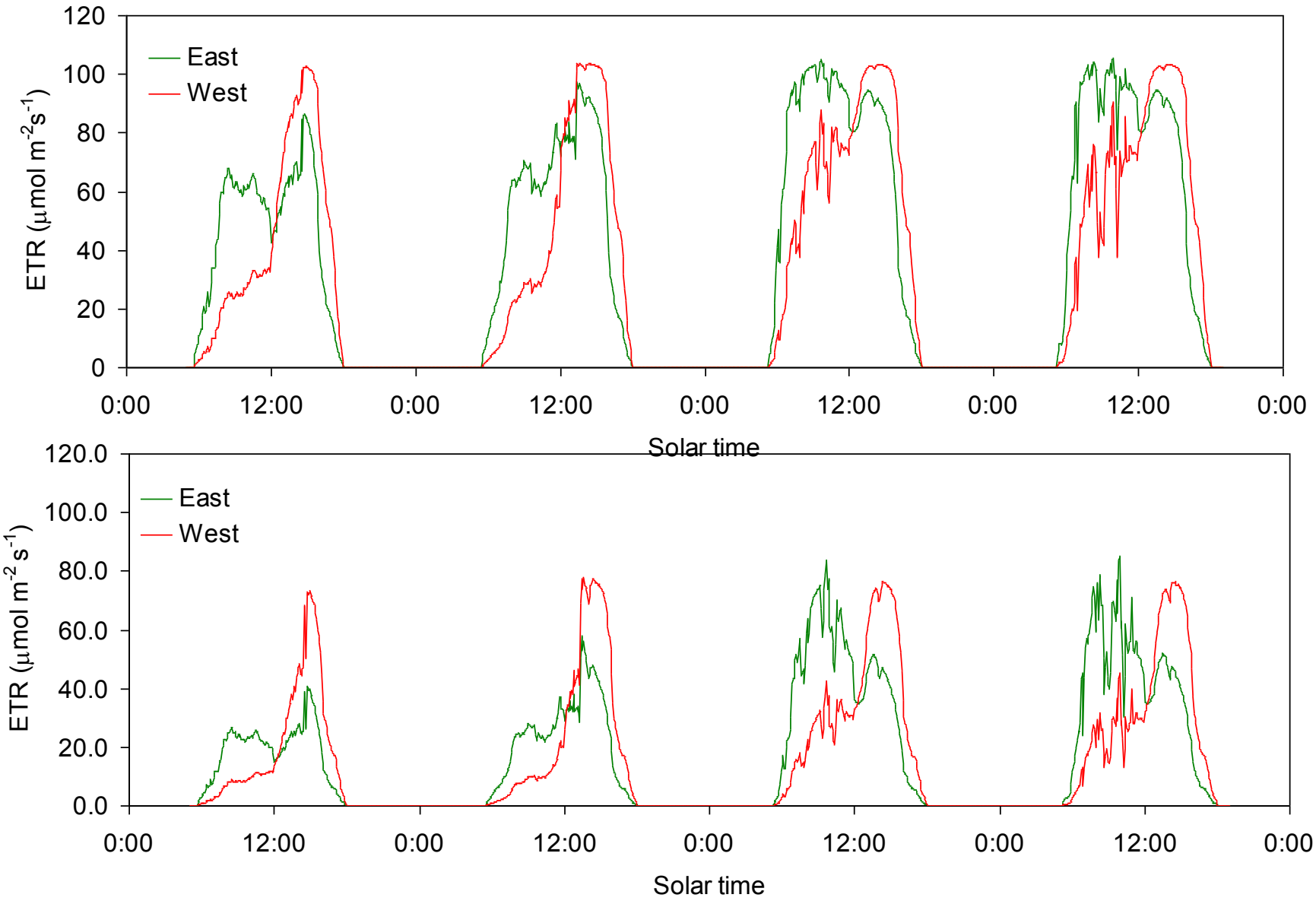

We hence adjusted a single curve

# Results: The Model: Respirations




Tº air = 29.4 ± 0.7 ºC

# Results: Simulations: ETR



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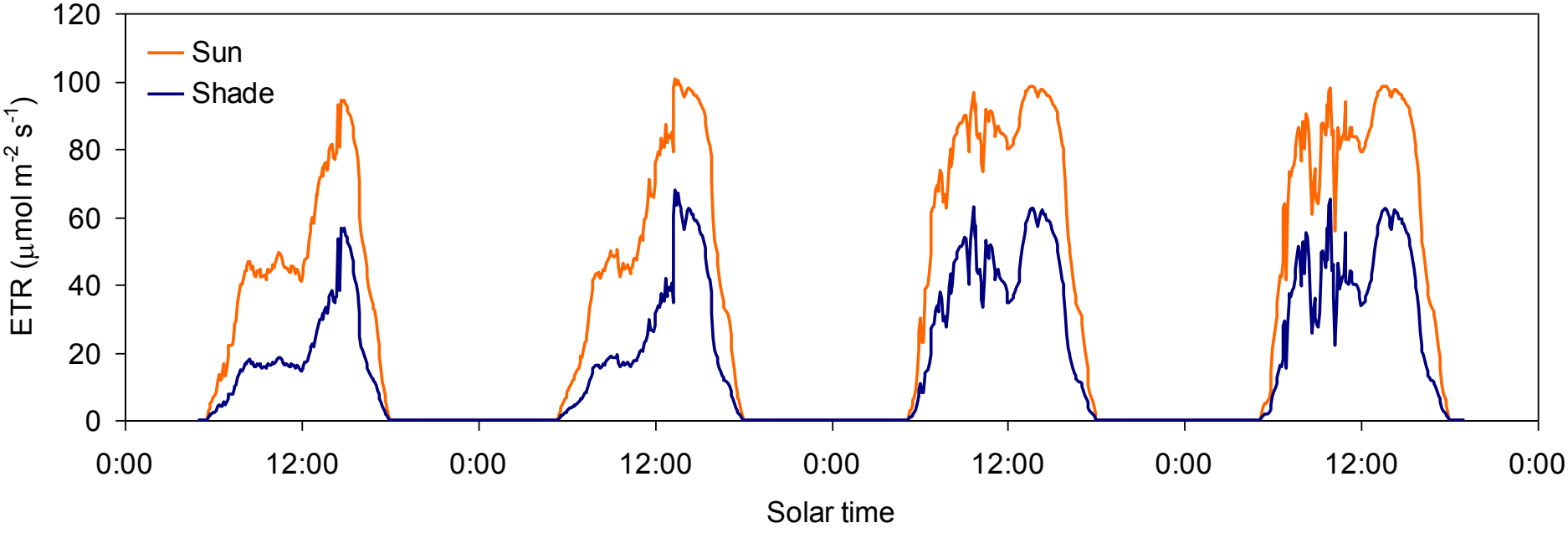

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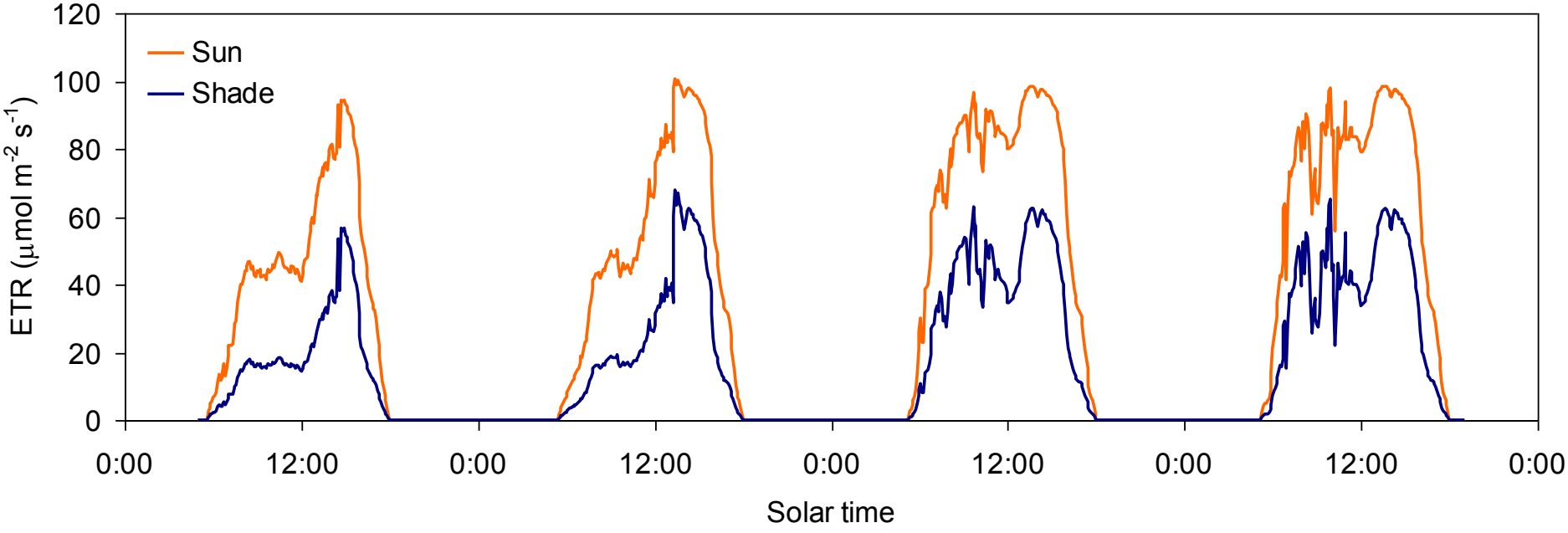
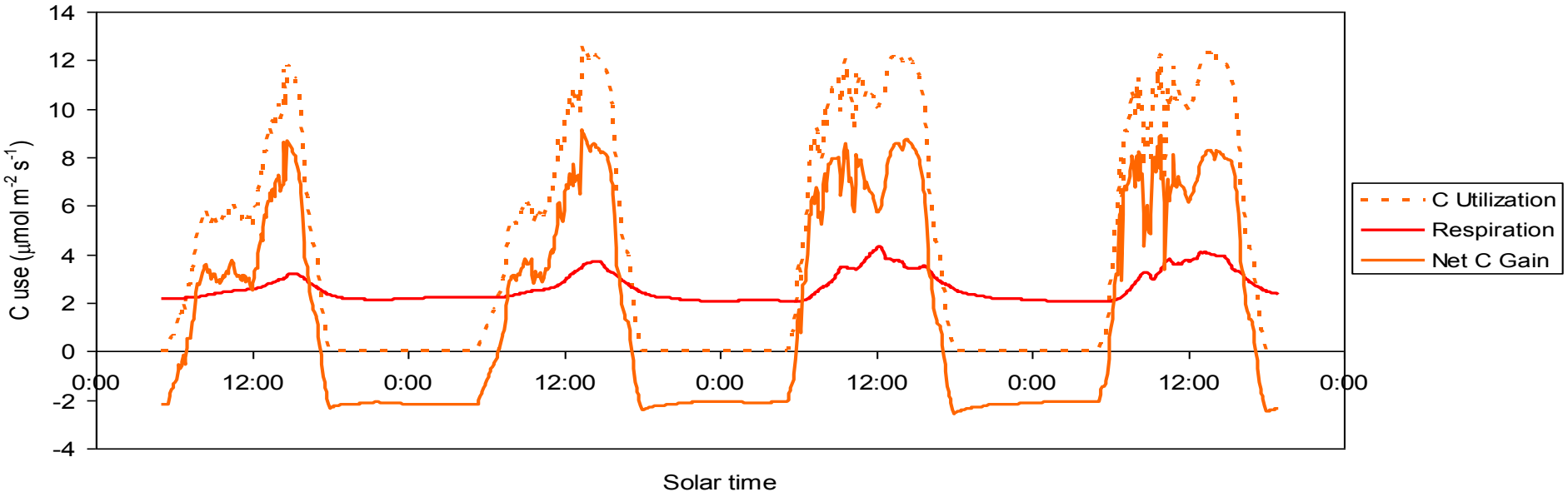
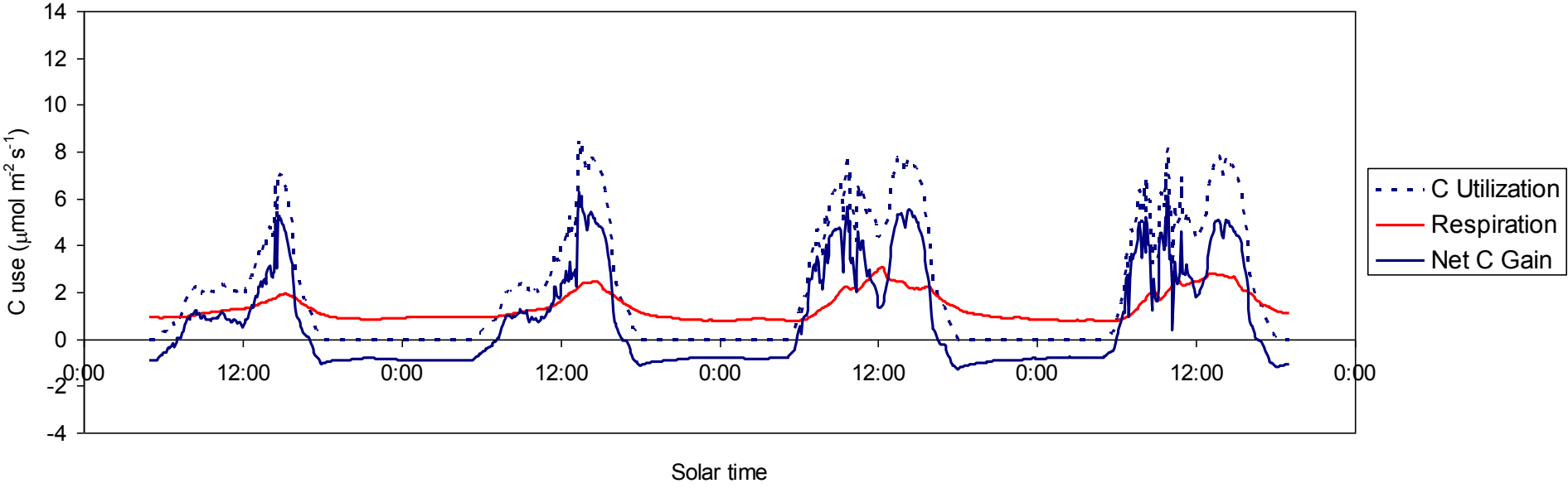


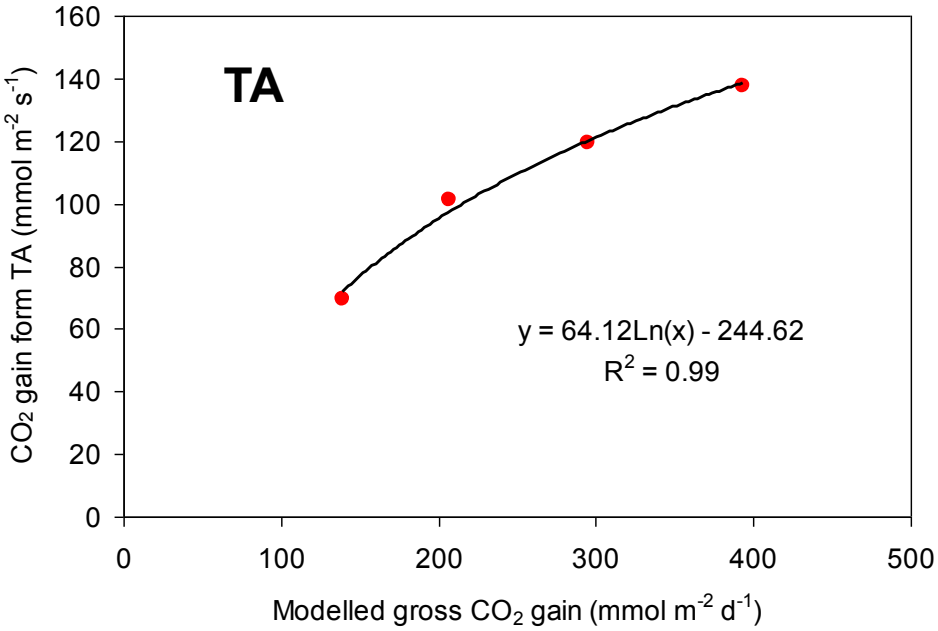

Carbon use in the light was estimated assuminga a stoichiometry of 8 $e^-$ per mole C

# Results: Simulations: Carbon (C) use

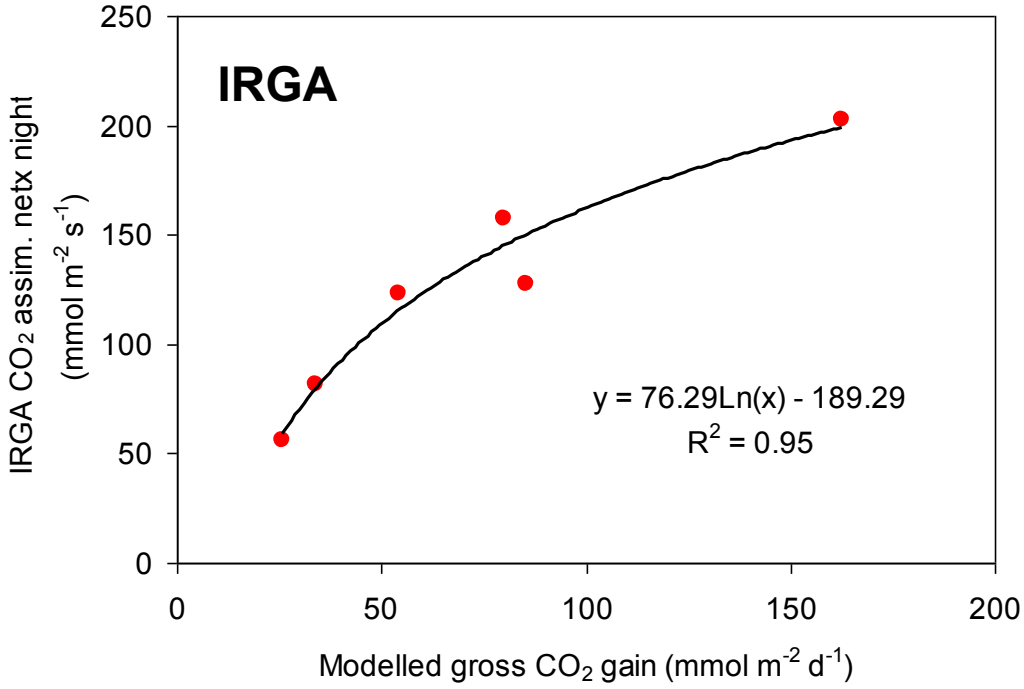


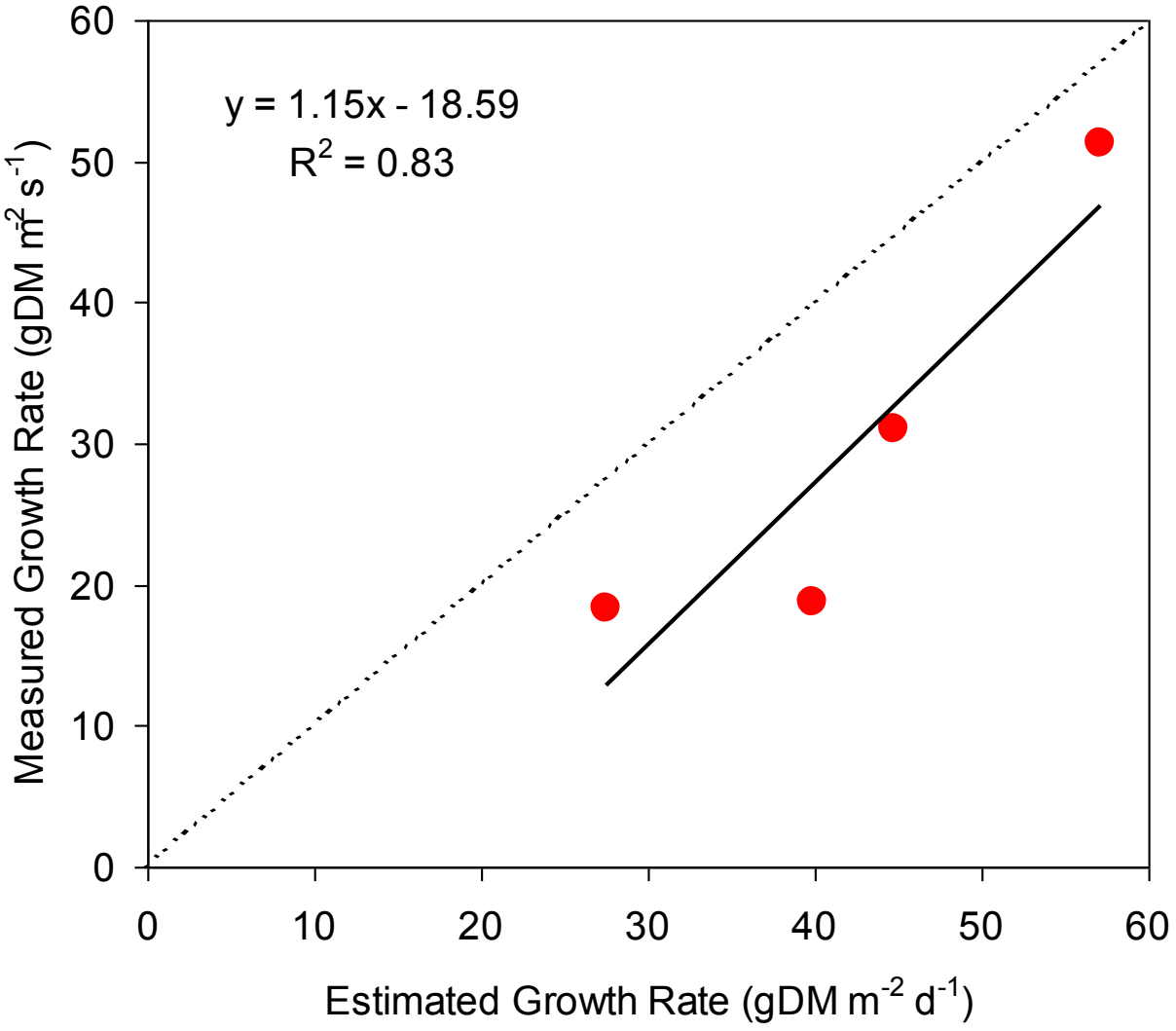
# Results: ¿How does the model compare to IRGA and TA?




- Model overestimates for high PAR availability!
- Sink feedback down-regulation?



# Results: ¿How does the model compare to actual growth?



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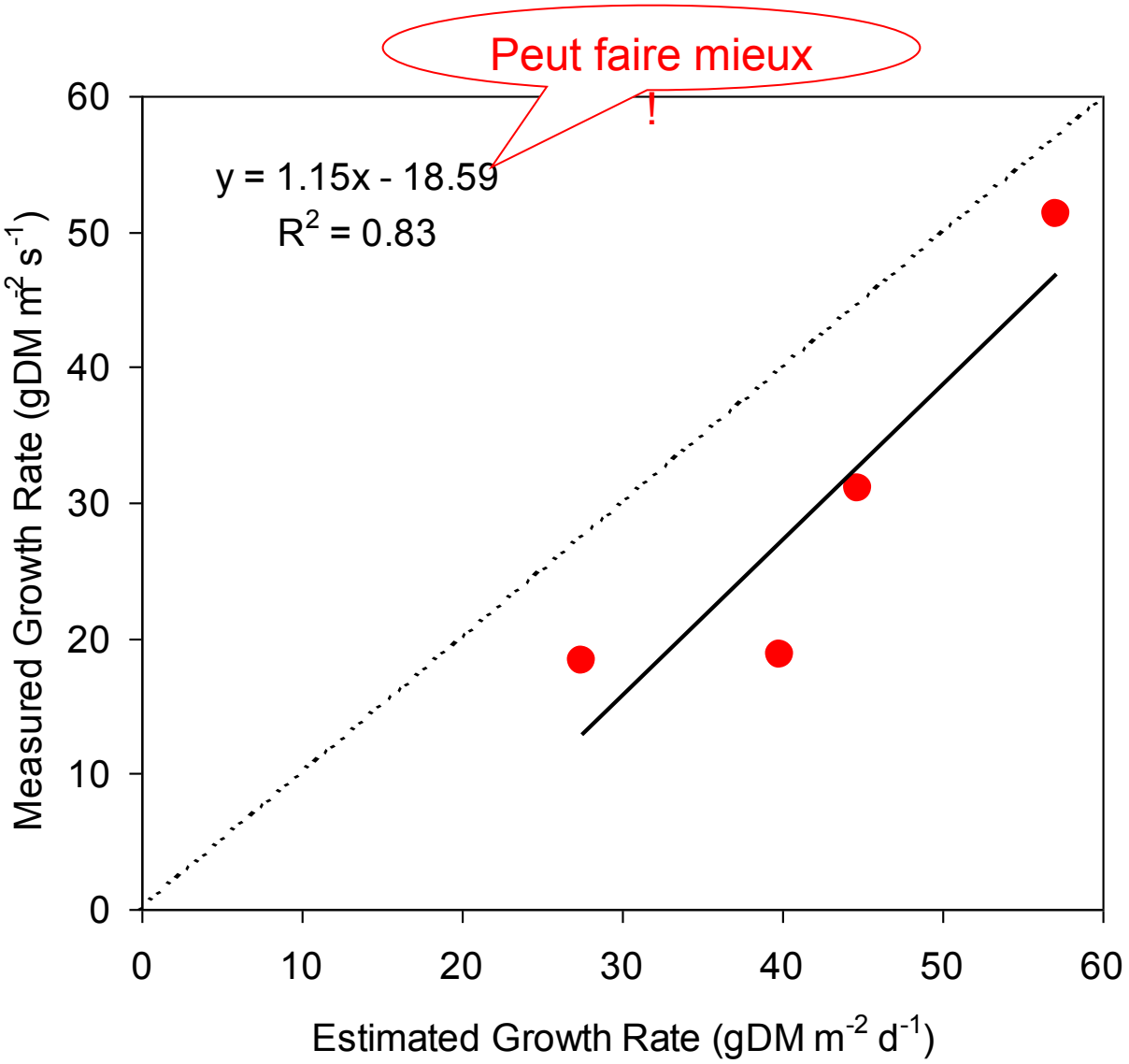

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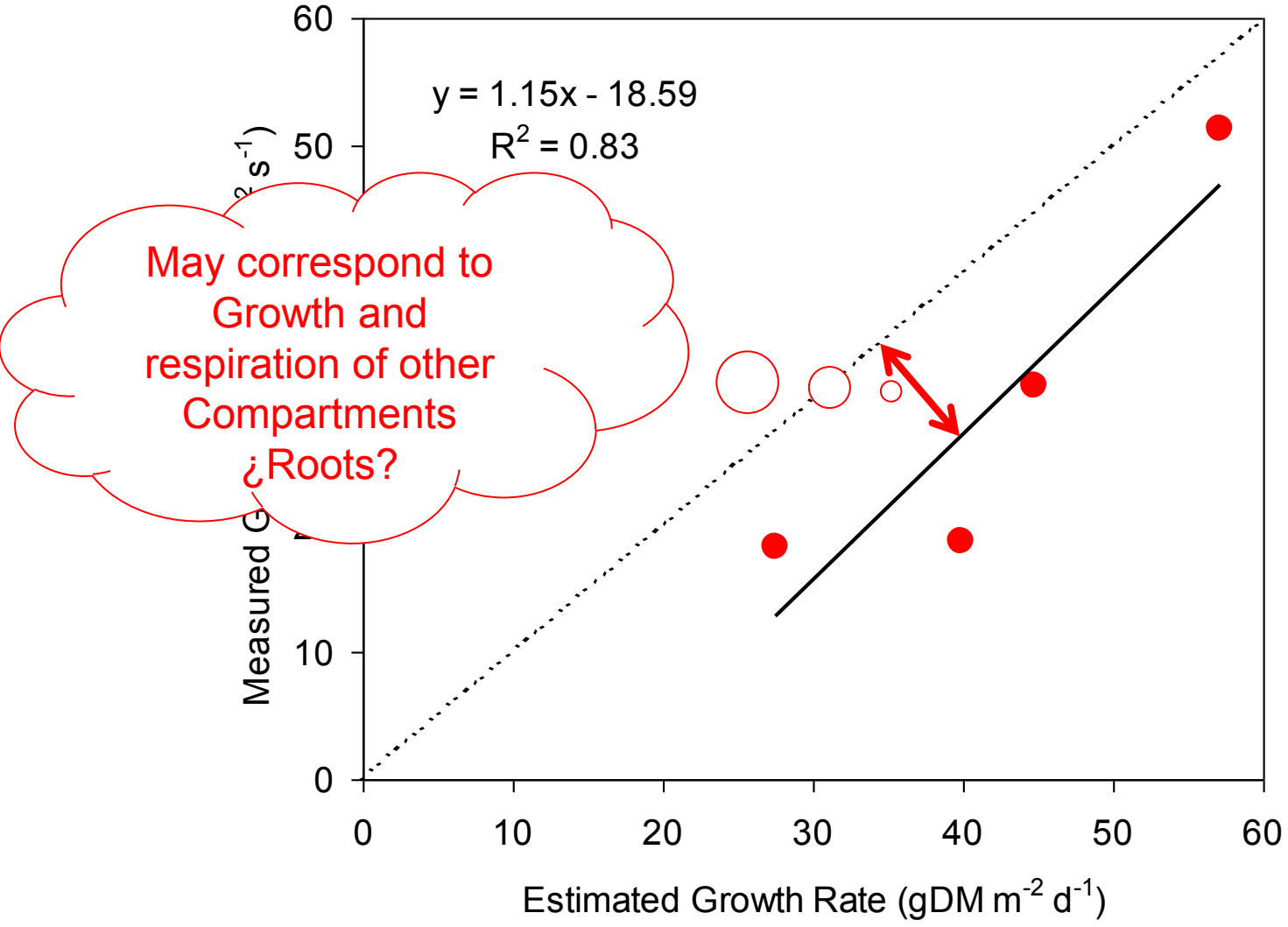

# Concluding Remarks:

- TA and IRGA estimation of carbon assimilation (CA) are comparable.
- Model reasonably predicts CA and growth but tends to overestimate:
    - Sink feedback inhibition?
    - Lack of accouniting for bellow ground biomass?
- Chlorophyll fluorescence light response curves may be a “easy” tool for screening for LUE (25 min/curve).
- Our results need to be tested over longer periods and under “real” conditions.


Víctor Muñoz
Ça c'est moi aux cheveux courts…
David Arancibia
Francisco Alfaro
GRACIAS!