



GEO-ACADEMY

GEO-Hub for teachers in Europe

**Innovative digital GEO-Tools for
enhancing teachers' digital, green and
spatial skills towards an effective STEAM
Education for Sustainability Development**

Geo-Academy Summer School 2025

Using Python to analyse the Keeling curve

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Lund University



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The **Keeling Curve** is a graph of the annual variation and overall accumulation of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere based on continuous measurements taken at the Mauna Loa Observatory on the island of Hawaii from 1958 to the present day.

The curve is named for the scientist Charles David Keeling, who started the monitoring program and supervised it until his death in 2005.

Keeling's measurements showed the first significant evidence of rapidly increasing carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels in the atmosphere.^[1]





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Photo of an air intake tube at Maunakea Observatories in Hawaii. The system was installed on December 8, 2022. (Image credit: NOAA)



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How to measure CO₂

NDIR sensors (Non-Dispersive Infrared):

- The most common method in indoor environments, climate research, and industry.
- Carbon dioxide absorbs infrared light at specific wavelengths. The sensor measures how much IR light is absorbed and calculates the CO₂ concentration based on that.

[film: how a CO₂ detector works](#)

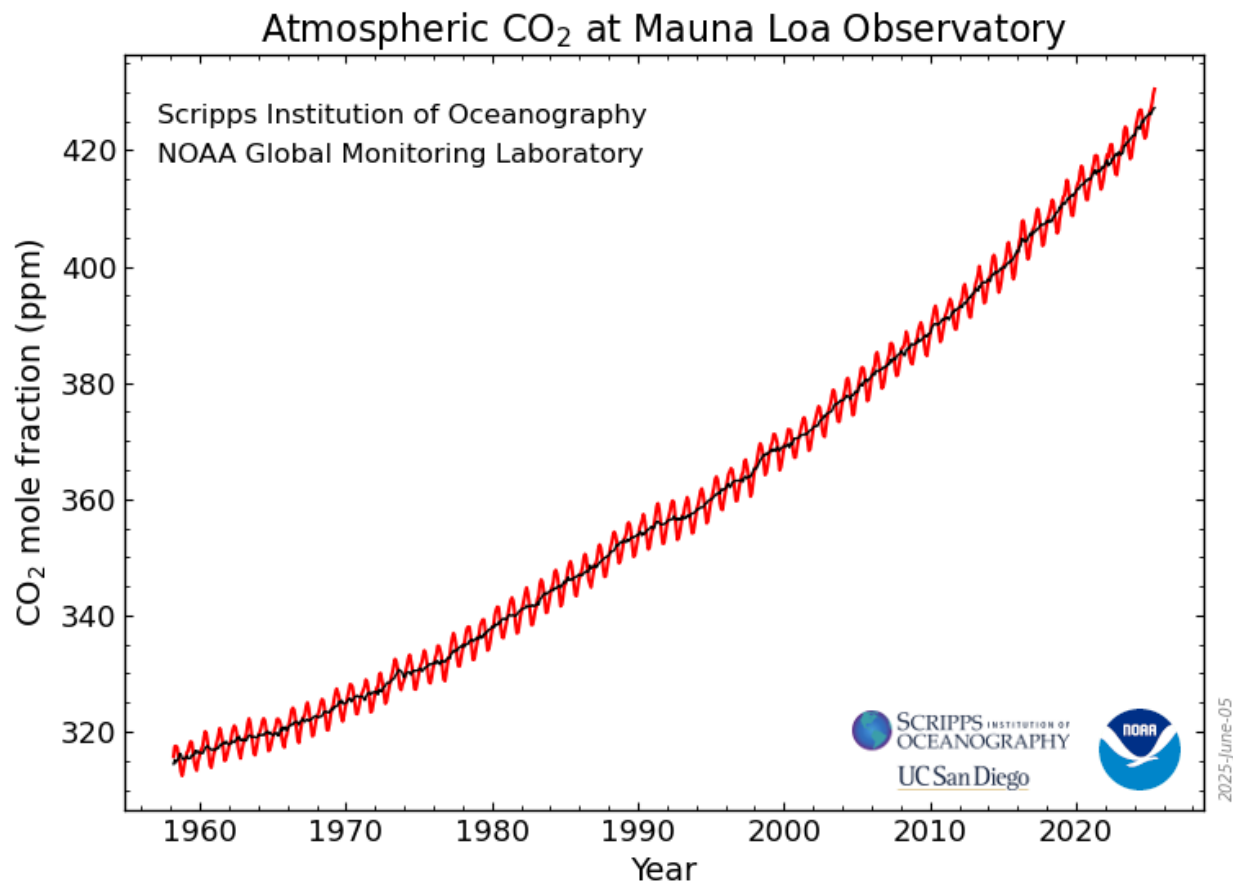




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The Keeling Curve: An Inspirational Exercise

Link to the activity: <https://colab.research.google.com/drive/1X04PIIKtch36gvXsw2Y9MwZNOF4ZaArQ?usp=sharing>



keeling_curve.ipynb ☆ ☁

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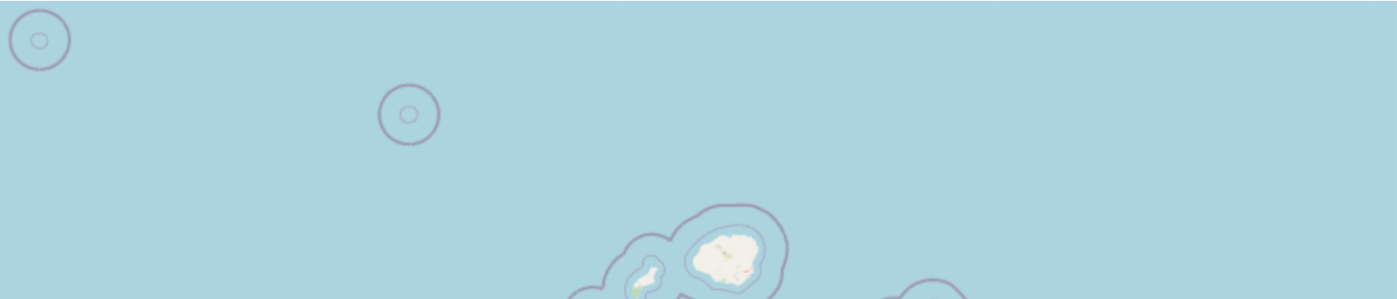
RAM ✓ Disk ✓

The Keeling Curve: An Inspirational Exercise

In 1958, scientist Charles Keeling began measuring carbon dioxide levels from a monitoring station on the Mauna Loa volcano in Hawaii.

In this exercise, we will use programming to investigate how carbon dioxide levels have changed in recent years. We will use the Python programming language.

We will not explain the programming details, but you will see how programming can be used.



{} Variabler 📄 Terminal

✓ 09:26 📄 Python 3



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You can find the presentation and the links to the activities on our homepage:

[GeoAcademy -
Vattenhallen
Science Center](#)



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Thanks!

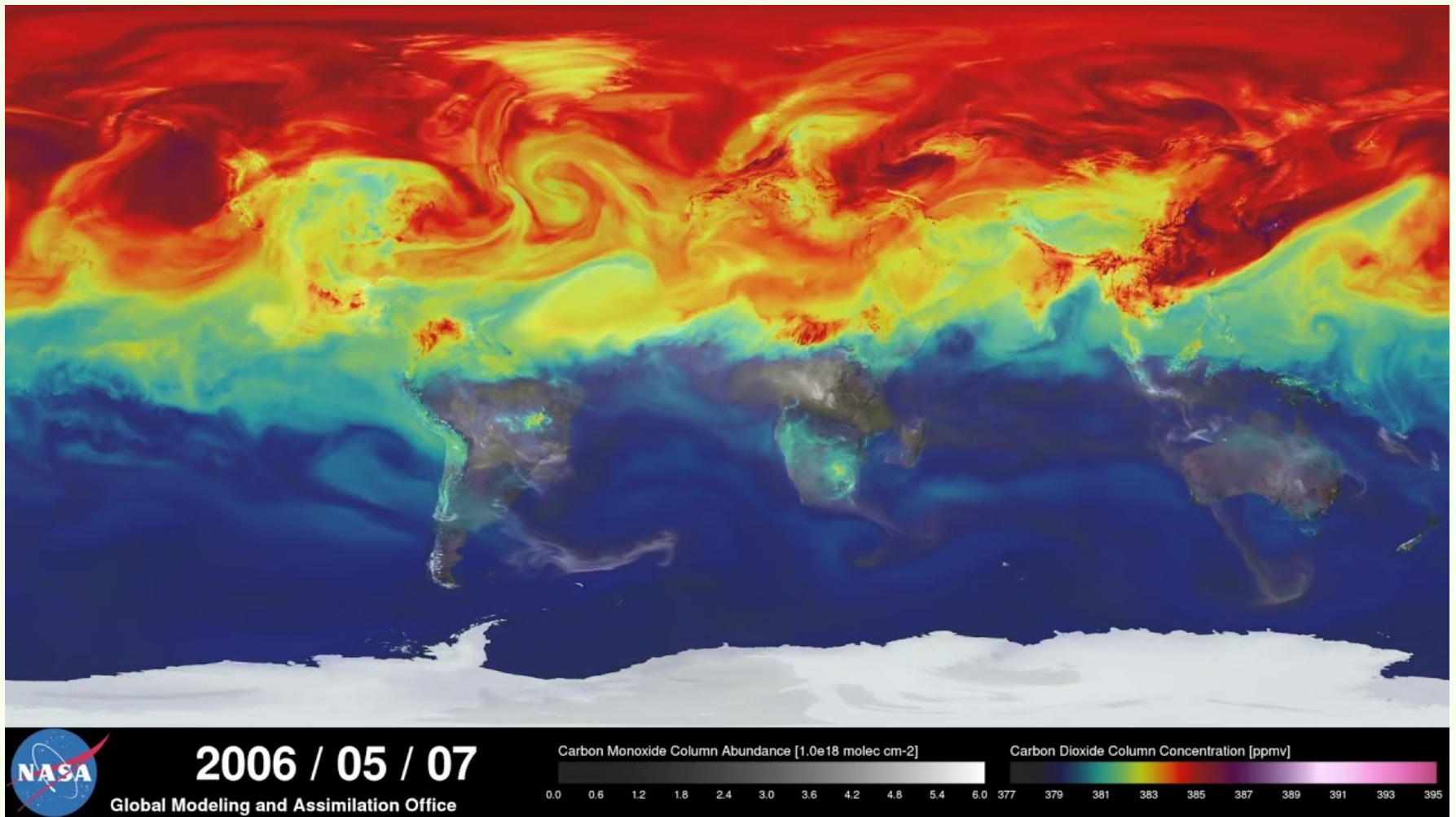
- Time for coffee break



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NASA, A Year in the Life of Earth's CO₂

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x1SgmFa0r04>