180 Years of atmospheric CO2 Gas Analysis by Chemical Methods, E&E Vol 18/2, 2007

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ABSTRACT
More than 90,000 accurate chemical analyses of CO_2 in air since 1812 are summarised. The historic chemical data reveal that changes in CO_2 track changes in temperature, and therefore climate in contrast to the simple, monotonically increasing CO_2 trend depicted in the post-1990 literature on climate-change. Since 1812, the CO_2 concentration in northern hemispheric air has fluctuated exhibiting three high level maxima around 1825, 1857 and 1942 the latter showing more than 400 ppm. Between 1857 and 1958, the Pettenkofer process was the standard analytical method for determining atmospheric carbon dioxide levels, and usually achieved an accuracy better than 3%. These determinations were made by several scientists of
Nobel Prize level distinction. Following Callendar (1938), modern climatologists have generally ignored the historic determinations of CO_2, despite the techniques being standard text book procedures in several different disciplines. Chemical methods were discredited as unreliable choosing only few which fit the assumption of a climate CO_2 connection.

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