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Validation of ACE-FTS v2.2 methane profiles from the upper troposphere to the lower mesosphere

M. De Mazière¹, C. Vigouroux¹, P. F. Bernath^{2,14}, P. Baron³, T. Blumenstock⁴, C. Boone², C. Brogniez⁵, V. Catoire⁶, M. Coffey⁷, P. Duchatelet⁸, D. Griffith⁹, J. Hannigan⁷, Y. Kasai³, I. Kramer⁴, N. Jones⁹, E. Mahieu⁸, G. L. Manney^{10,15}, C. Piccolo¹¹, C. Randall¹⁶, C. Robert⁶, C. Senten¹, K. Strong¹², J. Taylor¹², C. Tétard⁵, K. A. Walker^{2,12}, and S. Wood¹³

¹Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy (BIRA-IASB), Brussels, Belgium

²Department of Chemistry, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

³National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT), Tokyo, Japan

⁴IMK-ASF, Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe and University Karlsruhe, Karlsruhe, Germany

⁵Laboratoire d'Optique Atmosphérique, Université des sciences et technologies de Lille, Lille, France

⁶Laboratoire de Physique et Chimie de l'Environnement, CNRS – Université d'Orléans, Orléans, France

⁷National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), Boulder, CO, USA

⁸Institut d'Astrophysique et de Géophysique, Université de Liège, Liège, Belgium

⁹School of Chemistry, University of Wollongong, Wollongong, Australia

¹⁰Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA, USA

¹¹Atmospheric, Oceanic and Planetary Physics, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK

¹²Department of Physics, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

¹³National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA), Lauder, New-Zealand

¹⁴Department of Chemistry, University of York, Heslington, York, UK

¹⁵New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, Socorro, NM, USA

¹⁶Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics and Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO, USA

Abstract. The ACE-FTS (Atmospheric Chemistry Experiment – Fourier Transform Spectrometer) solar occultation instrument that was launched onboard the Canadian SCISAT-1 satellite in August 2003 is measuring vertical profiles from the upper troposphere to the lower mesosphere for a large number of atmospheric constituents. Methane is one of the key species. The version v2.2 data of the ACE-FTS CH₄ data have been compared to correlative satellite, balloon-borne and ground-based Fourier transform infrared remote sensing data to assess their quality. The comparison results indicate that the accuracy of the data is within 10% in the upper troposphere – lower stratosphere, and within 25% in the middle and higher stratosphere up to the lower mesosphere (<60 km). The observed differences are generally consistent with reported systematic uncertainties. ACE-FTS is also shown to reproduce the variability of methane in the stratosphere and lower mesosphere.

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