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Atmos. Chem. Phys., 7, 4117-4131, 2007 www.atmos-chem-phys.net/7/4117/2007/

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Comparison and synergy of stratospheric ozone measurements by satellite limb sounders and the ground-based microwave radiometer SOMORA

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Abstract. Stratospheric O₃ profiles obtained by the satellite limb sounders Aura/MLS, ENVISAT/MIPAS, ENVISAT/GOMOS, SAGE-II, SAGE-III, UARS/HALOE are compared to coincident O₃ profiles of the ground-based microwave radiometer SOMORA in Switzerland. Data from the various measurement techniques are within 10% at altitudes below 45 km. At altitudes 45–60 km, the relative O_3 differences are within a range of 50%. Larger deviations at upper altitudes are attributed to larger relative measurement errors caused by lower O₃ concentrations. The spatiotemporal characteristics of the O₃ differences (satellite – ground station) are investigated by analyzing about 2300 coincident profile pairs of Aura/MLS (retrieval version 1.5) and SOMORA. The probability density function of the O_3 differences is represented by a Gaussian normal distribution. The dependence of the O₃ differences on the horizontal distance between the sounding volumes of Aura/MLS and SOMORA is derived. While the mean bias (Aura/MLS - SOMORA) is constant with increasing horizontal distance (up to 800 km), the standard deviation of the O₃ differences increases from around 8 to 11% in the midstratosphere. Geographical maps yield azimuthal dependences and horizontal gradients of the O₃ difference field around the SOMORA ground station. Coherent oscillations of O_3 are present in the time series of Aura/MLS and SOMORA (e.g., due to traveling planetary waves). Groundand space-based measurements often complement one another. We discuss the double differencing technique which allows both the crossvalidation of two satellites by means of a ground station and the crossvalidation of distant ground stations by means of one satellite. Temporal atmospheric noise in the geographical ozone map over Payerne is significantly reduced by combination of the data from SOMORA and Aura/MLS. These analyses illustrate the synergy of ground-based and

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space-based measurements.



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Citation: Hocke, K., Kämpfer, N., Ruffieux, D., Froidevaux, L., Parrish, A., Boyd, I., von Clarmann, T., Steck, T., Timofeyev, Y. M., Polyakov, A. V., and Kyrölä, E.: Comparison and synergy of stratospheric ozone measurements by satellite limb sounders and the ground-based microwave radiometer SOMORA, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 7, 4117-4131,

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