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Inter-comparison of stratospheric ${\rm O_3}$ and ${\rm NO_2}$ abundances retrieved from balloon borne direct sun observations and Envisat/SCI AMACHY limb measurements

A. Butz^{1,2}, H. Bösch^{1,*}, C. Camy-Peyret², M. Chipperfield⁵, M. Dorf¹,

- G. Dufour^{2,**}, K. Grunow⁶, P. Jeseck², S. Kühl¹, S. Payan², I. Pepin²,
- J. Pukite^{1,7}, A. Rozanov³, C. von Savigny³, C. Sioris⁴, T. Wagner¹,
- F. Weidner¹, and K. Pfeilsticker¹
- ¹Institut für Umweltphysik, University of Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany ²Lab. de Physique Moléculaire pour l'Atmosphére et l'Astrophysique (LPMAA), Univ. Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris, France
- 3 Institute of Environmental Physics and Institute of Remote Sensing, University of Bremen, Bremen, Germany
- ⁴Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, Cambridge, USA
- 5 Institute for Atmospheric Science, School of Earth and Environment, University of Leeds, Leeds, UK
- ⁶Meteorologisches Institut, Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin, Germany
- ⁷Institute of Atomic Physics and Spectroscopy, University of Latvia, Riga, Latvia *now at: Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena,
- $^{\ **}$ now at: Department of Chemistry, University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, Latvia

Abstract. Stratospheric O₃ and NO₂ abundances measured by different remote sensing instruments are inter-compared: (1) Line-of-sight absorptions and vertical profiles inferred from solar spectra in the ultraviolet (UV), visible and infrared (IR) wavelength ranges measured by the LPMA/DOAS (Limb Profile Monitor of the Atmosphere/Differential Optical Absorption Spectroscopy) balloon payload during balloon ascent/descent and solar occultation are examined with respect to internal consistency. (2) The balloon borne stratospheric profiles of O₃ and NO₂ are compared to collocated space-borne skylight limb observations of the Envisat/SCIAMACHY satellite instrument. The trace gas profiles are retrieved from SCIAMACHY spectra using different algorithms developed at the Universities of Bremen and Heidelberg and at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. A comparison scheme is used that accounts for the spatial and temporal mismatch as well as differing photochemical conditions between the balloon and satellite borne measurements. It is found that the balloon borne measurements internally agree to within $\pm\,10\%$ and $\pm20\%$ for $\rm O_3$ and $\rm NO_2$, respectively, whereas the agreement with the satellite is $\pm 20\%$ for both gases in the 20 km to 30 km altitude range and in general worse below 20 km.

■ Final Revised Paper (PDF, 2201 KB) ■ Discussion Paper (ACPD)

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