

1 We thank the reviewers for their helpful comments. We expanded the description of
2 the instrument and the regularisation scheme and clarified several misleading sentences.
3 We applied all minor technical corrections unless specifically noted and do not list them in
4 the referee comment recapture below. Major textual changes have been marked in green
5 in both the revised manuscript as in excerpts below.

6 **1 Reply to Referee #1**

7 **1.1 General Comments**

8 General Comments: This paper describes the retrieval of temperature and H₂O,
9 O₃ and HNO₃ from limb radiances measured by the GLORIA instrument on
10 the German HALO aircraft during 2 campaigns in 2012. The paper is gener-
11 ally well written, and de- scribes the GLORIA instrument (briefly), and the
12 retrieval process. The error analysis is very illuminating. Comparisons of the
13 results from flights during 2 campaigns with the accompanying in situ mea-
14 surements serve as validation of the results. Some of the descriptions and
15 explanations should be expanded, so that the paper can be read as a stand-
16 alone contribution. GLORIA and its 1-D and 3-D data analysis show promise
17 of providing very useful data for UTLS studies.

18 **1.2 Specific Comments**

- 19 1. Abstract, l. 12- From capitalization, shouldnt acronym be BAHAMASS?
20 l. 14- FAIRO written as acronym, without explanation

21 We changed the capitalization of one S to match the acronym. FAIRO is according
22 to its users no acronym but a name. We thus changed FAIRO to Fairo.

- 23 2. Page 4: line 2- add references to Nakamura (1996) and Haynes and Shuck-
24 burgh (2000).
25 Line 9- add reference to (Gille et al. JGR, 2014), Line 14- add reference
26 (Peevey et al., JGR 2014)

27 We followed the suggestions.

- 28 3. Page 5, ll5-6- Someplace the paper should show or discuss how different
29 the 1-D and 3-D results are.

30 The focus of this paper is the description and validation of 1-D retrievals. 3-D
31 retrievals are more complex as they pose higher demands on the consistency of the
32 calibrated spectra.

33 As such, the 3-D retrievals are currently being improved upon and a direct comparison
34 of results for the discussed flight of 2014-09-26 is in preparation. The paper at
35 hand mentions the robustness of 3-D retrievals against horizontal gradients in the

1 Conclusion section, which compensates the sole major weakness of the limb sounding
2 technique.

- 3 4. GLORIA Instrument- More detail is needed, even in this short overview.
4 What are the number of pixels in the horizontal and vertical dimensions,
5 What is the composition of the detector array, and its temperature. How
6 precisely can the movements of the A/C be compensated by the gimbal
7 mounting? Does this define the pointing angle precision, or are there ad-
8 ditional components from the angle measurements? How closely spaced
9 along track are the measured profiles? Is this the spacing of the profiles
10 shown later in the paper? What is the range of GLORIA azimuth angles?

11 The textual instrument description was enhanced to “The GLORIA instrument is
12 a Fourier-Transform-Spectrometer (FTS) with a **HgCdTe infrared image detector**
13 **array (cooled to an operating temperature of 50 K) allowing** to take up to 16 384
14 spectra simultaneously. To reduce the read out time, only 6144 of these are currently
15 used. The usable spectral coverage ranges from approximately 780 to 1400 cm^{-1}
16 while the spectral sampling can be adjusted quite freely (see Tab. 2).”

17 In addition a table was added that summarises the key instrument characteristics
18 relevant for this paper (observation geometry, spectral sampling, etc.).

19 To answer the question also here: It is a HgCdTe detector array cooled down to
20 50 K. The gimbal mount stabilises the vertical view within 0.012° (1σ precision).
21 The accuracy is currently not fully characterised, but seems to be better than 0.1° .
22 We work additionally on a way to further increase the precision in L0 processing
23 for the chemistry mode, which is more susceptible due to its longer measurement
24 time (Latzko and Graf, 2015). The spacing along track would be 0.5/3.2 km in dy-
25 namics/chemistry mode, respectively. However, in dynamics mode, the instrument
26 swivels so that the same azimuth angle is measured less frequently. The results shown
27 later are reduced to use only measurements pointing at about 89° and employing the
28 forward direction of the interferogram sled. So far we have not identified any prob-
29 lems with the spectra using the other sled direction, but their processing requires a
30 significant amount of additional calibration effort, which was not yet spent. Depend-
31 ing on the measurement mode, this results in a spatial resolution of about ≈ 15 km on
32 average. The azimuth can be tuned from 45° to 135° , whereby the full 90° cannot be
33 exploited on HALO due to an obstruction by the wing at the last couple of degrees.
34 In dynamics mode the yaw angles are swiped through in 4° steps and it is intended
35 to tomographically process these sections. In this paper only the dynamics mode
36 measurements pointing to 89° are employed, which are far fewer.

- 37 5. Page 7; line 9- please explain what a genetic algorithm is. Also artifacts.

38 The paragraph was extended to

39 „The listed integrated spectral windows (ISW) used for the retrievals were selected
40 by a genetic algorithm, **which identifies the location and width of ISWs that max-**

1 imises the information gain. The algorithm recombines initially randomly selected
 2 sets of ISWs, preferring "good" sets and thus identifies a (nearly) optimal set much
 3 faster than a simple brute force search. Details are given by (Blank, 2013). The re-
 4 sulting windows were then modified to mitigate discovered instrument artefacts such
 5 as imperfectly compensated emissions of the outer window due to fast temperature
 6 changes."

7 6. Tables 1 and 3 mentioned, no mention of Table 2.

8 An appropriate reference was added to the section on regularisation.

9 7. Why necessary to extend O3 and HNO3 to 60 km, so high above A/C.

10 It is not strictly necessary to extend that high. However, *some* extension is needed
 11 to allow to compensate for errors in the a priori background profiles. Picking an
 12 altitude well above the ozone and nitric acid maxima is fully sufficient for this, even
 13 if a lower altitude might have sufficed, too. With CRISTA-NF measurements, we have
 14 even made good experience with deriving the shape of the profiles above the plane
 15 with ≈ 1 DOF from upwards pointing measurements. While the state of GLORIA
 16 calibration does not allow for this currently, we plan on doing this in the future.

17 8. Line 23 ff: The explanation of the regularization is not nearly as clear in
 18 the authors earlier papers. It should be made clearer with an equation.
 19 Why not follow Rodgers (2000), as is much more usual?

We expanded the section to fully cover the details: "The precision matrix \mathbf{S}_a^{-1} is defined as

$$\mathbf{S}_a^{-1} = (\alpha_0)^2 \mathbf{L}_0^T \mathbf{L}_0 + (\alpha_1)^2 \mathbf{L}_1^T \mathbf{L}_1 + (\alpha_2)^2 \mathbf{L}_2^T \mathbf{L}_2, \quad (1)$$

20 with $\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \alpha_2 \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\mathbf{L}_0, \mathbf{L}_1, \mathbf{L}_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$. The constraint can be separated into one
 21 constraint on the absolute value of retrieved target compared to a (climatological)
 22 mean weighted with its standard deviation and two smoothness criteria. The ma-
 23 trix \mathbf{L}_0 thus consists of a diagonal containing the reciprocal values of the standard
 24 deviations of the retrieved entities. The matrix \mathbf{L}_1 is a matrix to compute the first
 25 derivative of the vector \mathbf{x}_i by finite differences (it has -1 is on the main diagonal and
 26 1 is on the first upper side diagonal, except for some rows that would take the differ-
 27 ence of different quantities or non-neighbouring values). In addition each row of \mathbf{L}_1
 28 is scaled with the reciprocal of the standard deviation and $\sqrt{c_q/(2h_i)}$, with c_q being
 29 a quantity q specific correlation length and h_i being the vertical distance between
 30 the elements of the vector that are being subtracted from each other (Steck and von
 31 Clarmann, 2001). Tab. 3 lists the empirically derived correlations lengths. \mathbf{L}_2 is set
 32 up similarly to \mathbf{L}_1 but with finite differences approximating the second derivative
 33 instead of the first. The sources for a priori values, background values and standard
 34 deviations are listed in Tab. 4."

1 In effect, we do follow Rodgers with some exceptions in notation to make the non-
2 linear nature of the retrieval more apparent (e.g. we refrain from using K_i for the
3 Jacobi-matrix of the forward model for the i -th iteration and use the more unam-
4 biguous $\mathbf{F}'(\mathbf{x}_i)$ instead.).

5 However, due to our focus on large-scale retrievals, we focus heavily on directly con-
6 structing the precision matrix instead of the covariance matrix — otherwise we would
7 need to start our setup from scratch when progressing towards tomographic retrievals.
8 It thus resembles the regularisation employed by MLS, which is also the sum of a
9 statistical and a smoothness term (e.g. Livesey et al., 2006). This requirement pre-
10 vents our use of some popular choices of setting up the covariance in an empirical
11 way. Secondly, the optimal estimation approach is more useful if appropriate true
12 covariance matrices derived from in situ measurements are available or if the remote
13 sensing measurements can contribute only few degrees of measurements — neither is
14 true for our retrievals.

- 15 9. Page 8; l. 7; vertical correlation lengths mentioned here, but no mention
16 of Table 2.

17 We added a reference to the table.

- 18 10. Page 12; l.10: Define F'

19 We added the following text: „where $\mathbf{F}'(\mathbf{x}_f)$ is the first derivative (Jacobian matrix)
20 of the forward model \mathbf{F} evaluated at the retrieval result \mathbf{x}_f .”

- 21 11. l. 24: Is noise reduced as square root of number of spectral samples, or
22 linearly?

23 The text has been clarified to note that the square root of the number of involved
24 spectral samples is used. The relative noise components is independent of the amount
25 of samples used.

- 26 12. Page 16; l. 24: Can you say more about the problem with the 792 Q
27 branch?

28 page 17; l. 15: Is it clear that the problem is with the measurement of the
29 Q branch, as opposed to modeling its contribution?

30 As stated in the paper, the artefact is still undergoing investigation and time-
31 consuming laboratory characterisation. It expresses itself most strongly in the vicini-
32 ty of strong spectral features and may be caused by the read-out circuitry of the
33 detector chip. A second spectral region, where the effect can be observed is the
34 vicinity of the methane peak close to 1300 cm^{-1} .

35 Obviously, the CO2 Q-branch is notoriously difficult to model due to, e.g., the im-
36 perfect modelling of line-mixing. However, simply plotting the measured radiances
37 around 792 cm^{-1} spectrally and spatially shows that there is coloured „noise” much

1 stronger than expected present. Summarising, we expect a larger disagreement be-
2 tween model and measurements at the Q-branch than in other spectral regions (e.g.
3 from experience with CRISTA-NF), but not to the extent observed in GLORIA ob-
4 servations.

- 5 13. l. 20: temperature As biases towards instrument location, but arent along
6 track data being used to correct for this?

7 In principle, yes. We added: „However, we expect that the effect is mitigated by the
8 application of ECMWF temperature gradients.”

- 9 14. l. 21: In Table 4 the here is a consistent negative bias for the temperatures
10 for the three flights, which appears to contradict the sentence that ...the
11 mean difference is..but of opposite sign, indicating no consistent systematic
12 problem. Please clarify.

13 The statement was indeed misplaced and belonged into the water vapour section.
14 temperature seems to have a low bias as spelled out in the relevant section.

- 15 15. Page 19; l. 18: FAIRO is written as an acronym- please explain what it
16 means.

17 According to its maintainers FAIRO is no acronym but a name. We thus changed
18 FAIRO to Fairo.

- 19 16. Page 23; l. 23: The explanation of different air masses should be supported
20 by ECMWF or other data- it doesnt have to be shown, but to dismiss all
21 systematic differences as due to different air masses is not very convincing.

22 We did not state that all differences stem from different airmasses. The conclusions
23 states that the discrepancies can be partially explained by the different geometries
24 and a time-lag.

25 However, when looking closely at those discrepancies, we so far always found a plau-
26 sible explanation, if the two stratospheric tracers (O3 and HNO3) both disagree
27 consistently. For example, between 8:30 and 9:00 on 2012-09-26, GLORIA measures
28 lower stratospheric tracers than the in situ instruments. In this case, according to
29 retrieval results, ECMWF PV and CLaMS O3 modelling, there is a large airmass of
30 low-PV, low-O3, low-HNO3 below the flightpath. In this case, the vertical FOV and
31 averaging due to regularization (and partly probably horizontal gradients - this is
32 difficult to quantify) lower the retrieved values compared to the in situ instruments.
33 Other differences, like the drop in HNO3 at 11:30 on the same flight could meanwhile
34 be attributed to a shift in instrument offset due to a rapid warming of the window
35 by direct sunlight.

- 36 17. Figure 1: It is hard to distinguish the yellow and green. I could not find
37 the purple tangent points. Are these the same as the blue lines?

1 The flightpath lines cannot be made thicker without generating too much overlap over
2 Europe. Purple may be a misnomer, the colour seems to be actually called something
3 like “medium slate blue”. The textual description will be changed to “blue”. The
4 blue points are rather large to be visible, so they often run together and look like
5 lines. Zooming into the PDF allows to distinguish them at least at higher latitudes.

- 6 18. Figure 2: Again it is hard to distinguish the green and yellow segments-
7 can the lines be made thicker?

8 Here, the available space allows for a thickening. See revised version.

- 9 19. Figure 3: Please explain what the red lines are.

10 We added „The vertical red lines separate regions that employ different
11 aerosol/extinction profiles.”.

12 2 Reply to Referee #2

13 2.1 General Comments

14 This paper describes a 1-D retrieval method for measurements taken by the
15 GLORIA infrared limb-imager during two validation campaigns in 2012. GLO-
16 RIA is a novel instrument; the data processing for it is in its infancy and not
17 much has previously been published about it. The authors are well known in
18 their specialist field of work. They are affiliated to the institutes that have
19 developed, built and deployed the GLORIA instrument, the data processing
20 of which is the subject of this work. They also have a proven track record of
21 publishing atmospheric measurement from remote sensing instruments, as well
22 as theoretical work on retrieval methods. The authors consortium is therefore
23 well placed to have conducted this work.

24 I expect a publication of a retrieval scheme to contain a theoretical descrip-
25 tion of the algorithm used, as well as an encyclopaedia of input parameters
26 (measurement data and errors/problems therewith, prior information, approx-
27 imations used and their impact on the result, correlations, etc.). There must
28 also be a comprehensive section on the validation of the results, wherever pos-
29 sible. The manuscript as such addresses all these topics, with the exception
30 of the issues raised in the section Specific Comments. If these are addressed
31 satisfactorily, I recommend the manuscript to be published in AMT.

32 2.2 Specific Comments

- 33 1. Page 12040, line 27: The difference between dynamics and chemistry mode
34 could be explained in more detail: I.e. what is the extent of changes to the
35 spectral and spatial resolutions from one mode to the other? Also, how are

1 the different modes implemented at instrument level? The details of this
2 presumably affect the data processing.

3 The section on the GLORIA instrument has been expanded with a lot of technical
4 details including also a table with instrument specifics.

5 There is not much difference between dynamics mode and chemistry mode from
6 the processing side up to L1. The optical path employed for the acquisition of the
7 interferogram is ten times longer, which implies also a roughly ten times as long
8 measurement time and as much more data to process.

9 The major differences come up only in level 2 processing, where currently slightly
10 different philosophies are employed (retrieve many targets at once with ISWs covering
11 the whole spectrum in contrast to zooming in on a single or a small set of lines for
12 one target).

- 13 2. Page 12041, line 19: the used configuration for the GLORIA data process-
14 ing. Is there a version number to help identify this used configuration in
15 future references? If not I think there should be one.

16 We added a **V1.00** designation to the described configuration.

- 17 3. Page 12043, line 17: It is said that Table 1 describes what the optical prop-
18 erties of the aerosol extinction coefficients are, i.e. it would be interesting
19 to know what the prior information for aerosol retrieval was. However the
20 table just lists an aerosol index, which I presume is a placeholder for an
21 unspecified set of aerosol parameters?

22 Table 1 simply specifies, which ISWs share a common aerosol/extinction profile.
23 ISWs with a common index share this aerosol/extinction profile in the forward simu-
24 lation. Each of the five aerosol/extinction profiles has an identical a priori distribution
25 that decreases exponentially with increasing altitude and no spectral shape (aside the
26 one implied by the Planck curve).

- 27 4. Page 12068, Table 2: The vertical correlations lengths seem quite large.
28 What provision has been taken to ensure that the 5km correlation length
29 for water vapour doesnt affect the retrieved Tropopause altitude?

30 The correlation lengths can be related to correlation length in an auto-regressive
31 model (see Rodgers (2000)), but they are, in addition, fudge factors to regulate the
32 regularisation strength as deemed necessary from retrieval results. Further, changing
33 them by a factor of 2 changes the result only in a very small way. For example,
34 ozone has such a high correlation factor as there are so many ISWs with a high
35 signal content that otherwise the smoothing had no effect and the retrieval would
36 overfit the data (which in light of some known systematic instrument errors and a
37 still ongoing instrument characterisation would not be too good).

38 With respect to the correlation length for water vapour one needs to keep in mind
39 that the log of water vapour is being retrieved so that very strong gradients are

1 feasible even with high correlation lengths. Also, water vapour is not scaled with a
2 climatologically derived standard deviation (or effectively a SD of 1 is assumed), so
3 interpreting the configured length is a bit up for discussion.

4 So far, we have not found that changes in the parametrisation of water vapour affect
5 temperature (more the other way round). Ozone has an influence on temperature
6 due to the use of optically thin and thick ISWs around 990 cm^{-1} .

7 With respect to the chemical tropopause, vertical smoothing obviously has an ef-
8 fect and this was the major motivation for the change from linear-H₂O to log-H₂O
9 retrieval. As indicated by Fig. 5, the vertical resolution is typically below 500 m
10 for trace gases, which gives an indication of how the employed correlation length
11 translates into resolvability.

12 Currently, our thermal and chemical tropopause seem to fit very well to each other
13 and the ExTL seems to have the expected thickness so we are not aware of any
14 adverse side effects of the chosen regularisation.

- 15 5. Page 12048, lines 8ff: An error estimate for the fast forward models is
16 given by comparing the band model with the more accurate monochromatic
17 model, and then both of the fast models with the more detailed RFM.
18 However, the RFM explicitly uses the same ray tracing, so how are errors
19 from the ray tracing estimated? This is exuberated by the fact that the
20 band model is used as a priori for the monochromatic forward model in
21 the retrieval.

22 The L2 result of the band model is employed as initial guess for the retrieval with
23 the monochromatic forward model, not as a priori.

24 The influence of raytracing, which includes both refraction and mapping of the dis-
25 crete representation of the atmosphere onto a number of homogeneous cells has not
26 been examined in this study. The raytracing employed by JURASSIC samples the
27 atmosphere along the line-of-sight in regular intervals and assumes that the cell sur-
28 rounding the sample point is homogeneous. In the limit of an infinite amount of
29 samples, this introduces no representation error. Studies by Hoffmann (2006) showed
30 that a sampling distance of 2 km introduces an error of 0.025% with a standard devi-
31 ation of less than 0.1% compared to a calculation with a sampling distance of 100 m
32 (smaller step lengths did not result in meaningful differences) Thus we assume that
33 the uncertainties introduced by the band approximation dominate the uncertainties
34 introduced by the raytracing. The refraction scheme employed by JURASSIC has
35 been described by (Hase and Höpfner, 1999) and seems to be state-of-the-art.

36 The RFM follows a different approach by defining horizontal layers (which are finely
37 samples and averaged using Curtis-Godson means), for which the monochromatic
38 optical path values are calculated in a first step. In a second one, the length of the rays
39 intersecting each layer is determined and the optical path values are then mapped.
40 This approach does not lead inherently to a fine representation close to the tangent

1 point as the method JURASSIC employs, but is more efficient as multiple rays can
2 use the optical path values precalculated for one layer. Especially for optically dense
3 spectral samples, a fine spatial sampling is important. It is thus expected that
4 differences occur. Quantifying this is beyond the scope of this paper.

5 However, the largest discrepancies in studies comparing JURASSIC to RFM in the
6 past were caused by the different vertical interpolation of aerosol extinction (log-
7 linear compared to linear), which had an effect in the mean of up to 0.5% close to
8 atmospheric windows.

- 9 6. Page 12049, line 20: The characterisation of actual noise figures is still
10 in progress. The measurement noise figure is of central importance to
11 the retrieval algorithm. Its reasonable to expect than uncertainties in its
12 knowledge will have a major impact on the results. The authors claim that
13 they have evidence that the estimates they are using are accurate enough.
14 It would strengthen their case if they could quantify this statement.

15 We have quantified the thermal/white noise to an extent that gives us confidence in
16 the quality of our results but not to be already fully publishable as all differences
17 between different way to deduce the noise are not yet accounted for. For example,
18 Friedl-Vallon et al. (2014) gives a noise figure derived from black bodies, which is
19 very similar to the one employed. We currently use a noise estimate derived from
20 the variation of the imaginary part of atmospheric spectra to also partly account for
21 coloured noise such as imperfections of the calibration. This overestimate causes our
22 χ^2 to be in the order of 0.8 on average (as some effects of an imperfect calibration
23 may be corrected for by the extinction retrieval).

24 Numerical experiments involving small changes of the employed noise figures (+-50%)
25 did not show meaningfully different results except for a notable effect on the vertical
26 resolution, which could be compensated by corresponding changes to the assumed
27 correlation lengths.

- 28 7. Page 12055, line 12: The correlation of O₃ with HNO₃ and anti-correlation
29 with H₂O reflects the distinction between stratospheric air (dry, O₃ rich)
30 vs. tropospheric air. This is worth pointing out in the text since its an
31 important self-validation of the retrieval! In fact, the actual discussion of
32 the scientific findings is quite marginal - a mere couple of lines. Surely this
33 could be extended.

34 This may indeed not be obvious to all interested readers and deserves spelling out.
35 We added **This is expected due to the typical chemical composition of stratospheric
36 air (dry, O₃ and HNO₃ rich air) and tropospheric air (wet and deprived of O₃ and
37 HNO₃) and makes the observed filamentary structure plausible. From the given
38 figures, one can directly identify air masses, which were recently mixed from the
39 troposphere into the stratosphere like the filament of comparatively wet air at 12 km
1 around 10:00 UTC.**

2 A detailed discussion of the observed situation certainly deserves more room than
3 can be found in this paper that focuses on the processing side of things.

- 4 8. Page 12058, line 9: It is expected that the vertical resolution of temperature
5 can be further improved when the instrument artefacts around the CO2
6 Q-branch have been resolved. This, together with the statements that
7 not all of the campaign spectra have been processed and that the Level1
8 processing hasn't reached a final version, is the main issue I have with the
9 current manuscript. For a work that aims to become the canonical reference
10 for future scientific publications of GLORIA campaign data, I would have
11 expected it to be based on the comprehensive set of measurement data.
12 Conclusions generally stand on wobbly ground if the input data lacks the
13 seal of approval. At the very least I would like to see a solid case being
14 made to corroborate that whatever instrumental effects are possibly to be
15 identified from i.e. the CO2 Q-branch or from any of the missing scans for
16 that matter will not require significant alterations to the retrieval processor
17 as it is described in this work.

18 We added to the paper that the instrument problems at the Q-branch introduce
19 spatially and spectrally correlated coloured noise. This requires an increase of the
20 vertical smoothing to compensate, which causes the comparatively bad vertical res-
21 olution of temperature of 1 km (as mentioned in Sect.) instead of also ≈ 0.5 km that
22 we get from synthetic measurements and a reduced vertical smoothing.

23 Please note that we did not need to exclude the affected spectral regions from the
24 L2-processing for the presented flights. The only foreseen change for the processing
25 of future campaigns (or the current ones, in case we identify a way to correct for
26 the artefact in a preprocessing step) is a reduction of the c_{temp} value for the vertical
27 correlation length.

28 Thus, we expect the current L2 setup to be stable as much as such things may be
29 foreseen.

- 30 9. Page 12074, Figure 4 (and similarly Figure 5): There is a periodic struc-
31 ture (oscillations) at the top altitudes of the error profiles for offset and
32 spectroscopic parameters for CO2. I wonder what the reason for this is?
33 Its striking for O3 and HNO3, not so for Temperature and H2O (probably
34 masked by the different scales).

35 The effect of some of the systematic errors in individual profiles increases rapidly
36 above the flight altitude. As the airplane flew on effectively three distinct levels,
37 these average together to form two visible maxima (the third was above 15 km).
38 Previously, we included data up to 250 m above the flight altitude in the averaging.
39 We prepared new figures that discard all information above the flight altitude and
1 the peaks in the error plots all but disappeared (see Fig. 1 in this document).

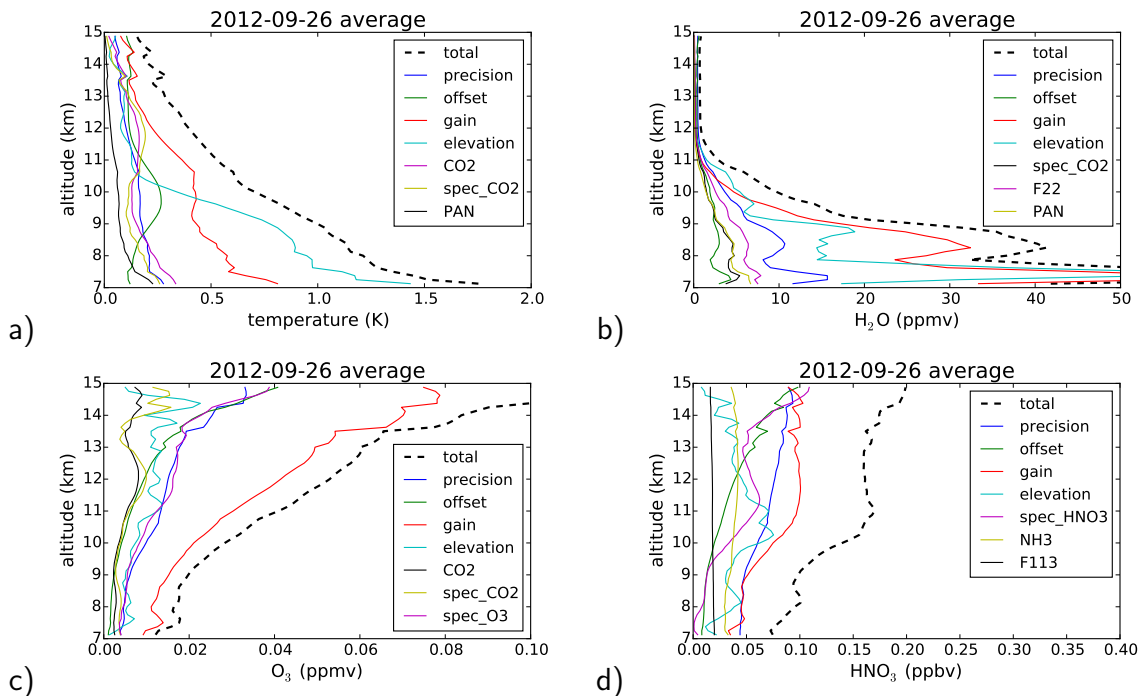


Figure 1: Total error and major error sources for the four primary targets temperature (panel **a**), H_2O (panel **b**), O_3 (panel **c**), and HNO_3 (panel **d**) averaged over the profiles of the flight of 26 September 2012. A “spec” prefix notes the error induced by spectral uncertainty of line intensities.

2 For the resolution, some peaks remain, which is expected as the resolution increases
 3 rather rapidly with decreasing altitude and becomes best at flight altitude. Thus,
 4 there are minima in the resolution at the three typical flight levels. We think that the
 5 remaining discontinuities in the error plots have the same underlying cause (minimal
 6 values for errors at flight altitudes due to the high measurement density).

7 2.3 Technical Corrections

8 10. Header: The secondary affiliation mark for author T. Guggenmoser for his
 9 current position at ESETC (*) is barely legible. Given that an affiliation
 10 entry for ESTEC already exists (3) why not just re-use the latter.

11 The “3” was in error as the co-author was at IEK during the work on this paper. It
 12 has been corrected. Further, we followed the suggestion to replace the asterisk with
 13 a regular number.

14 11. Page 12039, line 1: Could explain what the word gimbaled means. Its
 15 instrumental to the instrument concept, yet its quite an exotic term and
 1 as such not universally understood.

2 We added “To operate on an aircraft, it is placed in a gimbal (a cardanic frame),
3 which is used to stabilise the pointing against movements of the carrier and to adjust
4 the viewing direction.” to the instrument section.

- 5 12. Page 12039, line 9: What are the different modes of operation, and how is
6 dynamics mode different from chemistry mode?

7 We added the spectral sampling of dynamics mode spectra to the abstract. The
8 distinction between the two major operating modes can be found in the enhanced
9 Section 2 including a table listing key instrument characteristics.

- 10 13. Page 12039, line 15: What is FAIRO?

11 Fairo is a name and not an acronym. Correspondingly, it is written now as “Fairo”,
12 not “FAIRO”.

- 13 14. Page 12059, line 25: q_{log} is later called q_{H_2O} in the next formula. This is
14 slightly confusing. How about the following notation $q_{log}^{H_2O}$ and $q_{vmr}^{H_2O}$, or
15 using italic variables for log-space and roman variables for vmr-space?

16 The H_2O suffix was given in error, it should have been log (it obviously also represents
17 water vapour, but the paragraph deals with the conversion between log space and
18 VMR space, which is generally applicable).

- 19 15. Page 12073, Figure 3. The caption to Figure 3 could be improved. What
20 are the red vertical lines? Half of the time these seem to correlate with
21 singularities in the residuals; what is the reason for the latter? Also, the
22 text mentions a instrumental effect at the CO2 line at 792cm-1. I cant
23 recognise this in the figure, and the residuals are within their boundaries,
24 which would imply that the effect is present in the simulations too?

25 The vertical lines indicate the transition from one aerosol/extinction profile to an-
26 other, causing a discontinuity in the simulated spectra. This has been noted in the
27 caption in the revised version.

28 The instrumental effect at 792 wavenumbers causes coloured noise beyond the original
29 instrument specification. Please note that most crosses in this spectral region are
30 outside the target noise region and some even outside the threshold noise region. A
31 strong constraint on smoothness in temperature is currently used for mitigation.

- 32 16. Page 12075, Figure 5 and Page 12076, Figure 6: Sub-panels (a) (c) not
33 attributed in caption.

34 We added the description.

- 35 17. Page 12078, Figure 8; Page 12079, Figure 9; Page 12080, Figure 10: Sub-
36 panels not (a), (b) not attributed in caption.

37 Figures 8, 9, and 10 refer back to Figure 7, which gives the full explanation on the
1 displayed data.

References

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