

Interactive comment on “Recent divergences in stratospheric water vapor measurements by frost point hygrometers and the Aura Microwave Limb Sounder” by Dale F. Hurst et al.

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Editor Comment: What could be reasons for an MLS bias drift? Please at least suggest possibilities. At the moment, the paper is too unambitious when it comes to explaining the observed discrepancies, in my view.

Author Comment: We agree with the comments of Reviewer 1, who opposes adding speculative causes of the MLS drift (i.e., without hard evidence) to the manuscript, and also discourages a delay in the publication of this manuscript until the cause is discovered. We have added short paragraphs describing how the drifts are certainly not caused by atmospheric temperature changes, and outlining the ongoing work by the MLS team to find the cause.

Author Revision: Please see the Author Revision paragraphs that address the first two comments by Reviewer 1.

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