

Interactive comment on “Quality assessment of the Ozone_cci Climate Research Data Package (release 2017): 1. Ground-based validation of total ozone column data products” by Katerina Garane et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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The manuscript presents the validation study for the merged satellite total ozone record obtained from the GOME-type satellite ozone sensors. In this work the new dataset is validated against the ground-based network of Dobson, Brewer and SAOZ instruments. Presented study fits well to the scope of the problems covered in the AMT. The manuscript is well written and organized.

Major comments:

-Most of the results presented in the study are shown for the hemispheric monthly

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means. However, the description of the methodology to compute these hemispheric means is not provided. These means could be computed in a number of ways (e.g. with/without weights), thus it would be important to provide a brief description in the text or in the appendix/supplement. Scientific results should be reproducible, and the clear description of the methods is an important component to ensure the robustness of the results.

-In the Tables in the Supplement, please, indicate the time periods for which the data from individual ground-based stations were used in this study.

-Page 9, lines 15-18: I don't quite understand the reason for not showing a plot with the SZA dependence for Dobson comparisons. Authors stated that Dobson observations depend on the stratospheric temperature, which should produce an artificial dependence on SZA. At the same time, when authors discuss results for comparisons with Brewer and SAOZ, they claim that the observed dependence on SZA for satellite measurements doesn't matter because all satellites show consistent patterns relative to ground-based stations. If so, why don't to show results with Dobson if the goal is to check consistency among satellite records.

Page 12, line 15: authors mentioned that the results of the comparison with measurements at Izana station were adjusted to account for the station's elevation. Have these adjustments been applied to any other station? This should be clearly described in the text.

- Page 12-13, Table 1: I found that the quantities shown in Table 1 are not well described. I think this part needs some major revision, including terms that are used in the table. For example, I would recommend using a term “mean bias” instead of “monthly mean bias” and mentioning in the text that the mean bias was computed from monthly mean differences, because to me “monthly mean bias” would mean the bias in a specific month, while, if I understood this correctly, the biases shown in Table 1 were computed over the entire data record. I don't quite understand what is “monthly mean

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variability" in Table 1. The 1-sigma standard deviations for biases are shown along with the biases. In the text this quantity is explained as "the variability of the monthly mean standard deviation values". Is that the variability of the standard deviations of differences in individual months? I would also recommend replacing "Seasonality" with "seasonal bias". The two last lines in the table are very confusing (Latitude and SZA). At first, I thought they show the mean differences in latitude and sza between satellite and ground based observations. But according to the text these are the mean differences in ozone between satellite and ground-based observations, calculated by averaging all points shown in Figure 4 and Figure 5. I understand that if you try to bin differences in smaller bins (like you did with SZA) you can uncover some dependence on SZA. Then it would make sense to name these quantities as "Latitudinal biases" and "SZA biases". But why do you expect results to be different from the mean biases if you average over the entire latitude range? Please, explain.

-Page 15 lines 25-31 and Page 16 lines 1-2: In this part of the manuscript authors describe the correction factors against OMI that were used to correct individual satellite time series. It is stated that "we apply correction factors using the seasonal mean differences. . .". Then it mentioned that the drift in GOME 2A have been accounted for. Is it a static correction that depends on lat/lon and month of the year only? Or have you implemented time-dependent corrections? Please, explain that in the text.

-Page 17, lines 10-20: you need to explain what was done in the merging process when data from two or more instruments are available. Did you simply average all available data? Did you use some weights?

-Looking at the results showing in Figure 11, it seems to me that the merged dataset almost fully overlaps with OMI. This is expected since all individual datasets have been corrected against OMI, and OMI has a very dense spatial and temporal coverage. My question here: what is the value of using GOME 2A or GOME 2B in the merged product? Please, provide an explanation in the text.

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-Figure 7: I would suggest to keep the range for the time scale (X-axis) the same for all 4 panels;

-Figure 9: it's very hard to see blue letters on the green background. I would suggest to move satellite timelines either to the top or bottom of the figure.

-Figure 10, left panel: why there is no point for Level 3 product in 80-90N latitude bin even though data for all individual instruments are shown;

-I am puzzled why the Level 3 value in 70-80S latitude bin is higher then for any given individual instrument.

Minor comments:

- All abbreviations should be spelled out when used for the first time in the text. For instance, there are many abbreviations in the Abstract and Introduction that are not explained: P. 1, line 15: "GOME-type" – please, spell out "GOME"; P. 1, line 18: "GOD-FIT", "ERS", "OMI", "SCIAMACHY" –please, spell them out; P. 2, line 33: please, spell out "SAOZ"; P. 3, line 7: please, spell out "BIRA-IASB" and "DLR"; P. 3, line 10: please, spell out "LIDORT"

- P.3 lines 25-28: It is not quite clear from the context which quantity has "been estimated to rise up to +/-2%": systematic uncertainty in the ozone cross sections or ozone itself? Please, consider re-wording this statement.

- P. 14, line 23: I guess it should be "NOAA 18" (not NOAA 16) to match with the labels on the right panel of Figure 6.

-There are several places in the manuscript where authors use words "excellent", "exceptional" etc. I would recommend to avoid these statements in the scientific publication and rather provide quantitative results like "the stability within +/-1%" or "biases less than 2%".