

Can turbulence within the field of view cause significant biases in radiative transfer modelling at the 183 GHz band?

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1 Changes from comments from the referees

First of all I would like to thank the referees for their helpful comments, which I highly appreciate and will certainly make the paper more readable. Answers to the referee's comments are written in boldface font below.

1.1 Anonymous Referee #1

5 Received and published: 24 August 2018

This is a very good paper proposing a possible explanation for discrepancies between calculated and observed radiances at 183 GHz, which is an important issue for climate science and weather forecasting.

Many thanks for the positive comments.

Firstly, I agree with the comments made by Stefan Buehler.

10 **Answers to Stefan Buehler are given below**

I think the occurrence of biases arising from non-linearity is a more general issue than the effects of small scale turbulence, though it is a legitimate hypothesis that this is the main mechanism for the observed biases.

A couple of sentences have been introduced in the introduction highlighting that there can be other mechanisms causing the observed biases besides turbulence

15 The paper does not consider other sources of non-linearity error that could also generate biases, for example clouds (and here I stress bias due to non-linearity of cloudy RT, not just because clouds are not well known or detected). Also large scale discontinuities such as weather fronts. The paper does not attempt to prove that, globally, the size and prevalence of sub-fov scale variability due to turbulence is consistent with the measured bias. The paper notes that when sampling is biased to scenes

with low turbulence no bias would be found, using this to explain why the bias was found in the Bobryshev study. But as this is plausible it equally follows that sampling has a major impact on the bias, and therefore comparisons with the size of turbulence at selected locations is simply one realisation of a pdf of biases due to this effect that can range from zero (as the paper notes) to considerable. Therefore would we not expect significant variability in the bias, depending on meteorological conditions, and also local effects? I feel as the paper is proposing turbulence as a major mechanism for explaining the observed bias (in global fields, and similar everywhere) it needs to be able to demonstrate that the effect has the same geographical variation (or lack of it). I found this discussion to be missing in the paper.

Again, a couple of sentence have been added to the introduction to highlight that clouds could also be a cause of discrepancies.

10 However the paper is short and only presents this as a hypothesis. I think they provide sufficient evidence to show that this hypothesis is not easily dis-proven, but agree more work is needed. I therefore feel that the paper is an important contribution and should be published without major changes. However I would like to see these two minor points addressed, in addition to the points raised by Stefan Buelher: 1. Sub FOV scale variations due to turbulence is one example a more general issue with errors arising from non-linearity in the radiative transfer - there are others.h 2. We need to prove that on a global scale the size and variability of biases arising from this mechanism is consistent with observed biases - at present it is only shown it is capable of producing biases of a magnitude not inconsistent with observations, a necessary but not sufficient condition to consider this the most probable explanation for the global biases seen.

15 **Agreed with the referee, that the conclusions as they stand might mislead the reader into thinking that turbulence effects have been completely proven to be the cause of the biases. A new paragraph has been now introduced in the conclusions to remark this aspect.**

By and large the text was highly readable with few typos / grammar errors, but I expect the journal will pick these up e.g. Moore rather than more on p4, "These kind of turbulences" is an awkward expression.

Typos corrected. "These kind of turbulence" changed to "These high turbulence phenomena".

20 In summary this is a very interesting paper and a very important contribution to this discussion and I congratulate and thank the authors for their work.

Many thanks

1.2 Anonymous Referee #2

Received and published: 10 September 2018

30 This paper looks at the effect of the atmospheric turbulence in the radiative transfer simulations in the 183GHz band in order to analyze the origin of the differences that have been noticed recently between the calculated and observed radiances in this band. This is an important contribution because the sources of this differences are numerous, from colocation effects to spectroscopic uncertainties, and may compensate or enhance each other due to non-linearities.

The paper is very shaped and its focus is clearly stated: to what extend sub-FOV turbulence can explain these discrepancies?

Many thanks

However, in addition to the points raised by Referee #1 and Stefan Buehler, I have some comments that should be quickly handled.

#1: Radiosonde data have been used to compute the turbulence: how many doublets compose the dataset? I didn't find the relevant information in the paper while this should be specified in order to test the robustness of the computation, if that makes sense for the computation of turbulence.

Many thanks for pointing this out, it is an important point which has been omitted. In the section about radiosondes this number is included now (a total of 625 sonde pairs). The total number of data pairs is also mentioned now (658,217).

#2: Following Stefan Buehler's comment: the Taylor expansion seems to lack some cross terms. I would like to see the full Taylor expansion where $B=f(R,T)$, and then decompose into a part only in R, a part only in T and a cross term.

This has been modified now in the new version.

#3: The evaluation of turbulence is computed using 1 single tropical profile, extracted from ECMWF analysis. Why not an observed profile? With the CINDY/DYNAMO campaign in 2011, a lot of high-resolution profiles are available. Could the author explain why they chose a modelled profile? Is it that straightforward to apply midlatitudes/almost polar coefficients for turbulence to a tropical situation? I think that this should be discussed a little bit in the analysis (p6, lines 1-6).

A new line has been included explaining why a tropical profile has been selected: "The reason to choose a tropical profile is because high turbulence in the high troposphere seems to be more likely to happen in these regions"

The purpose of the paper is to show that the turbulence effect is a plausible mechanism to explain the biases, not to do an exhaustive study. A new paragraph in the conclusion tries to stress this now. This is why only one profile has been used. Also, it has been explained in this same paragraph that turbulence measurements have been done in one region and extrapolated to other regions.

#4: Also, the final computations are performed for a zenith angle of 60 deg. Surely a nadir test would result in smaller impacts, but that would give the expected range of amplitude.

Same explanation as before. The new paragraph in the conclusion also remarks the single satellite zenith angle.

#5: In summary, the message that I keep from this work is that including the turbulence term in an error budget when performing cal/val should be almost mandatory, at least for 183GHz band sounders. I thus believe that a message like this one should be stated at the end of the paper: this would constitute a strong recommendation for launching doublets of RAOBS while planning a cal/val framework for microwave (183GHz at least) instruments.

This additional conclusion has been added at the very end of the paper. Thanks for pointing this out.

Minors comments: #1: Maybe at a little "e" p4, line 22, after "water vapour partial pressure" so that the terms in Fig 1 can be related to the text.

Done

#2: Fig 3 should be modified a little bit. The computations are done for some channels of SAPHIR: the reference to the channels would be clearer if the notation $f_0 \pm XX$ (C1; C3; C6) was used in the inset, with f_0 defined in the legend. Another cosmetic point: The figure would be easier to read if the same color with different patterns (plain for dB/dR; dotted for d2B/dR2) was used for the same frequency. Now it is confusing.

Done

#3: There seems to be a confusion between the colors of Fig 4 and the Discussion section (p6, lines 11-29). The text mentions a brown line that I don't see and I think that it should be the green line. Please check. I think that this might be due to the colors used: the lines ($\text{eps}=1500; \text{dR}=0.32$) / ($\text{eps}=5; \text{dR}=3 \cdot 10^{-3}$) are too similar to distinguish. The colors need to be modified to avoid colors that the eye cannot clearly distinguish.

Yes, there is a confusion. Text has been modified and colors in the figure also.

1.3 Comments by Stefan Buehler

Dear Xavier,

thank you for this very interesting study. I find your approach to regard and express scene inhomogeneity as a function of turbulence strength for this type of sensor very innovative and fascinating.

Many thanks

There are a couple of things that I do not understand, and perhaps expanding more on them will help also others.

First of all, mathematically, in Equation 3, should there perhaps be cross terms also in the second derivative ($\partial^2 / (\partial R \partial R_j)$), basically the Hessian matrix?

Yes, there should be a cross term. This discussion has now been extended in the new version of the paper, where we start from the full Taylor expansion and proceed from there.

The second point I'm confused about is the humidity offset ΔR . It would be nice if you could show whether you can also achieve a reasonable fit with just the offset alone, without assuming any turbulence, as a null-hypothesis. Would that require unreasonable offset values?

It is shown in the new version of the paper now. But if reasonable values of ΔR and ΔT would fit the data, the bias would not be there in the first place.

From the second derivatives in Figure 3, I get the impression that the effect of turbulence is only to increase the brightness temperature. Is this correct, or am I misunderstanding something? So turbulence could help reduce the discrepancy between observations and model close to the line center, but, without the additional humidity offset, would increase the discrepancy in the wings?

No, the turbulence effect is strongly dependant on the frequency.

I think the discussion would be clearer if in Figure 4 you would include curves where there is only turbulence, no humidity offset, or add an additional figure for this. So that one can better judge the size of radiative effect that follows from reasonable assumptions on turbulence alone. The additional humidity offset makes it much harder to interpret the results, since already a modest offset creates a big radiative bias, which is hard to disentangle from the effect of turbulence that is your main subject.

This is done now in the new version of the paper.

Kind regards, and thank you for opening up this interesting topic.

Many thanks

Stefan

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Abstract. The hypothesis whether turbulence within the passive microwave sounders field of view can cause significant biases in radiative transfer modelling at the 183 GHz water vapour absorption band is tested. A novel method to calculate the effects of turbulence in radiative transfer modelling is presented. It is shown that the turbulent nature of water vapour in the atmosphere can be a critical component of radiative transfer modelling in this band. Radiative transfer simulations are performed comparing a uniform field with a turbulent one. These comparisons show frequency dependent biases which can scale up to several Kelvin in brightness temperature. These biases can match experimentally observed biases, such as the ones reported in Brogniez et al. (2016). Our simulations show that those biases could be explained as an effect of high intensity turbulence in the upper troposphere. ~~This kind of turbulence is~~ These high turbulence phenomena are common in clear air turbulence, storm or cumulus cloud situations.

10 1 Introduction

Radiative Transfer Models (RTM) are key tools in the microwave and infrared atmospheric remote sensing of the atmosphere. They are used to model the radiances at the top of the atmosphere as measured from satellites. The main inputs to the RTMs are atmospheric profiles of temperature, water vapour and trace gases, as well as surface properties, such as surface temperature and emissivity. The RTM simulate the absorption and emission of the molecular constituents of the atmosphere in a layer-by-layer approach. Their accuracy depends on the accuracy to which the spectral properties of the molecular absorption/emission lines are known, as well as the quality and vertical resolution of the vertical profiles of temperature, pressure and concentration of absorbing gases. By applying inversion techniques to these RTMs, such as Optimal Estimation (Rodgers, 2000), the physical parameters of the atmosphere can be obtained from radiances observed from satellites. These inversion techniques are commonly used in retrieval processes, where atmospheric properties are directly estimated from the measurements. They

are also used in Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) models, where measured radiances are assimilated as corrections to forecasts to form what are best estimates of the atmosphere, known as analyses. RTMs are, therefore, elements that bridge the gap between measured satellite radiances and atmospheric physical parameters such as profiles of temperature and water vapour concentration.

5 Although RTMs have achieved a high degree of accuracy, there is often, in practice, a systematic mismatch between what is observed and what is calculated from the RTMs. Their cause is varied and can range from an incorrect or incomplete implementation of the radiative transfer model setup, to uncalibrated instrumental effects or deviations in their nominal performance. These systematic mismatches are usually solved, in practice, by determining, for a particular satellite instrument, an offset or bias between measured and calculated radiances. This bias is then later corrected for in retrievals and NWP assimilation systems. This practical fix is far from perfect, since deviations between systems are corrected with a simple bias or offset, when the reality can be more complex, depending on the underlying physical principles behind these systematic mismatches. For example, if a satellite system is deviating from its nominal behaviour, ideally, the physical principles behind it should be sought for and corrected. If, on the other hand, radiative transfer is not modelled properly, the missing physical pieces should be put in place such that satellite measurements and RTM calculated radiances are consistent.

15 One of such mismatches occur in the 183 GHz water vapour absorption band, which has been noted by Clain et al. (2015) and Moradi et al. (2015). To discuss this effect, a “Joint workshop on uncertainties at 183 GHz” (Brogniez, English and Mahfouf, 2015) was convened to discuss biases observed between measurements at 183 GHz and calculations using different RTMs plus either radiosondes or short range forecasts from NWP systems. The results were reflected in a paper published one year later (Brogniez et al., 2016). The experimental values of the differences between observed and calculated brightness temperatures between the SAPHIR Megha-Tropiques instrument ~~and versus~~ Météo France NWP profiles plus the RTTOV v11 RTM are reproduced here as blue dots in Figure 4. ~~Further~~ For further information and more results, with data from other instruments and other NWP models, please refer to Brogniez et al. (2016).

The potential causes behind these biases can be varied. Many plausible hypothesis could be formulated, such as poorly modelled gas absorption, effect of clouds, etc. In this paper we will discuss whether these significant detected biases can be caused by turbulence effects in the atmosphere. The rationale behind this hypothesis is based on the fact that radiative transfer is an extremely non-linear process. It is then possible that the average of the radiances at the top of the atmosphere, obtained from several neighbouring different atmospheric profiles, are not necessarily equal to the radiance computed from the average of all profiles. Which in turn, implies that radiances coming from a turbulent medium within the field of view of the instrument may be different from the radiances originating in a uniform medium.

25 Turbulence is a well known phenomena occurring in the atmosphere. Its spatial properties are commonly measured from the ground using in-situ or remote sensing instruments. Turbulence in the troposphere is measured using sonic anemometers on meteorological towers (Champagne et al., 1977), hot wire anemometers suspended on tethered lifting systems (Frehlich et al., 2006), wind profiling radars (Hocking, 1985), passive microwave sounding (Kadygrov et al., 2003), Doppler wind lidars (see review from Sathe and Mann (2013) and references therein), elastic backscatter lidars (e.g. Pal (2010)), ozone differential absorption lidars (Senff et al., 1996), water vapor differential absorption lidars (e.g., Senff, Bösenberg and Peters (1994);

Kiemle et al. (1997); Wulfmeyer (1999); Lenschow et al. (2000), and water vapor Raman lidars (e.g., Wulfmeyer et al. (2010); Turner et al. (2014); Behrendt et al. (2015)). Individual sonde measurements have also proved to be a suitable instrument to measure turbulence (Thorpe (1977); Wilson, Daludier and Luce (2011)).

5 In the stratosphere, the measure of turbulence is tightly linked to the measure of gravity waves, since they share similar time and spatial scales. Detection of turbulence or gravity waves is usually made with remote sensing instruments. One of them is the satellite based Microwave Limb Sounder (MLS; Waters et al. (2006)) with which gravity waves can be detected (e.g. McLandress, Alexander and Wu (2000), Jiang et al. (2004)). Passive microwave sounders on board of polar orbiting satellites have also been used to detect gravity waves (e.g. Eckermann and Wu (2006)). Airglow measurements can also be used to detect gravity waves, either using ground based measurements (e.g. Sedlak et al. (2016)) or space borne ones (e.g. Yue, Hoffmann
10 and Straka (2014)). Infrared hyperspectral sounders such as AIRS and IASI have also proven to be useful for the measurement of gravity waves (Hoffmann et al. (2014)).

The effect of turbulence in the modelling of the propagation of light in the atmosphere is taken into consideration in certain fields of astronomy and communication, where different effects of scintillation are studied. Studies of this sort are abundant in the literature (e.g. Leroy et al. (1979), Lencioni et al. (1981)). Although high variability effects in the atmosphere are taken
15 into account when looking for gravity waves in the stratosphere (e.g. Eckermann and Wu (2006)), they are often neglected in operational radiative transfer modelling for passive microwave sounders. The main reason for this is that operational radiative transfer models need to be fast and any saving in the already relatively heavy computation time is welcomed. Therefore, phenomena that do not, at first sight, seem to be needed are excluded. One such example is the effect in radiative transfer modelling of atmospheric turbulence within the field of view of microwave or infrared ~~instrument~~instruments. In this paper,
20 an attempt to evaluate its significance in the radiative transfer modelling of the microwave 183 GHz band is shown. It will be shown that this effect can be quite important in some situations. The intensity of turbulence can vary several orders of magnitude within the troposphere. The typical values that will be used in this paper will be taken from Chen (1974), in particular, its Fig. 2. Typical values in the low troposphere are usually in the range between 1 and 10 cm²/s³ (Chen, 1974). Close to the tropopause, values vary greatly spanning from 10⁻³ to 10⁴ cm²/s³. These latter huge values occur in clear air turbulence, severe storm or
25 cumulus cloud situations. It should be noted that in some particular cases, turbulence intensity could be outside of these limits and could well exceed the maximum values that are there stated.

In section 2 a quantitative estimation of turbulence is made from measurements from dual sequential radiosondes. Section 3 shows how to calculate the effects of turbulence in radiative transfer modelling. In the discussion section, section 4, ~~the estimation of turbulence from radiosondes is extrapolated to general situations. Its~~its effect in the top of the atmosphere
30 radiances is calculated and comparisons are made with the observed biases (Brogniez et al., 2016). In the conclusions section a summary of the results is made.

2 Turbulence from radiosondes

In this section, an estimation of the order of magnitude of atmospheric turbulent variables is performed. Parameters such as turbulent energy dissipation rates, turbulence length scales and turbulent atmospheric parameter variance are determined from sonde measurements. The main objective is to estimate the order of magnitude of these parameters, and, by the use of an RTM, an estimate of the order of magnitude of turbulent effects in microwave brightness temperature can be made.

The analysis of radiosonde data for its comparison with satellite measurements has shown that temperature and water vapour have a spatial behaviour that is difficult to determine from just one radiosonde measurement (Calbet et al., 2017). ~~More~~ More than one measurement is needed to resolve the small scale variability of the atmosphere, such as launching two consecutive sondes (Calbet et al., 2011, 2017). Another alternative is to make a spatial average of the measurements (Buehler et al., 2004) or to have a low spatial variability (Bobryshev et al., 2018) to have consistency between radiosonde and satellite measurements. The reason behind this is that spatial and temporal scales for water vapour are extremely small, as shown, for example, by Carbajal-Henken et al. (2015). This kind of behaviour is typical of turbulent systems, such as the atmosphere.

Tools often used in turbulence are structure functions, which are closely related to spatial auto-correlation ones. To effectively determine and quantify the turbulent nature of the atmosphere, the structure function of temperature and water vapour was determined. This was done with radiosonde data coming from the EUMETSAT MetOp campaigns which took place in 2007 and 2008 at Lindenberg and Sodankylä. In these campaigns, two consecutive radiosondes were launched from the same site with 50 min. time difference. From now on, they will be referred here as sequential sondes. From Lindenberg and Sodankylä 266 and 359 sonde pairs were launched, respectively, making a total of 625 sonde pairs. The instrument payload analysed here are the conventional RS92 radiosondes. For more details of this campaign and its instrumentation we refer the reader to Calbet et al. (2011). The data was later processed by GRUAN (Dirksen et al., 2014), which, among other advantages, greatly removes the humidity measurement dry biases usually present in RS92 measurements at the high troposphere (Miloshevich et al., 2009).

The computed structure functions for temperature and water vapour are shown in Figure 1. In the case of the temperature field, differences at the same pressure levels between the sequential sondes were calculated. To this difference, an effective distance was assigned. This effective distance is the real spatial distance between sequential sondes plus the time difference multiplied by the wind measured by the radiosondes at that level. The average of the square of this temperature difference is then calculated for different effective distance bins. The same analysis was performed for water vapour, but in this case, using the difference in water vapour partial pressure, e, divided by the average of the two water vapour partial pressures from the sequential sondes. In order to achieve a significant sample size, the results for all radiosonde pressure levels ~~combined have~~ been combined. The resulting total number of data pairs, coming from the 625 sequential sonde pairs, is 658,217. Results are shown in Fig. 1.

The typical behaviour for turbulence, as measured in the laboratory, is observed in the structure function plots (Fig. 1). For very small scales, which are not observable in these sequential sonde measurements, it constitutes what is known as the dissipation range (delineated by blue arrows in the figure). As the scale is enlarged, the inertial range is seen (red arrows). This range spans from very small scales to approximately 6 km. A decrease in the structure function is usually observed at larger

scales, where forcings are induced, which constitutes the energy injection range (green arrows in the figure). Finally, at very large scales, the synoptic differences are observed (magenta arrows).

Within the inertial range, the structure function typically exhibits a power law behaviour with a 2/3 exponent following Kolmogorov's theory of turbulence (Frisch, 1995). The two-thirds law from Kolmogorov states that

$$5 \quad \langle (\delta v(l))^2 \rangle = C \varepsilon^{2/3} l^{2/3}, \quad (1)$$

where v is a parameter measured in the fluid, C is a universal dimensionless constant, which needs to be determined from experimental data, and l is the distance between the points where the parameter difference is determined. The mean energy dissipation rate per unit mass, ε , effectively constitutes a measure of the intensity of turbulence. The measurements from sequential sondes, within the inertial range, follow this law remarkably well. The measured slopes are 0.84 ± 0.14 and $0.78 \pm$
10 0.18 for temperature and water vapour respectively. These values are consistent with the theoretical one of 2/3.

To determine the constants in the above equation, the four-fifths law from Kolmogorov's theory (Frisch, 1995) is needed

$$\langle (\delta v_{\parallel}(l))^3 \rangle = -\frac{4}{5} \varepsilon l, \quad (2)$$

where v_{\parallel} is the velocity in the direction of the flow. This quantity can be estimated from the radiosonde measurements by using the u wind component. This relationship is shown in Figure 2. A value of $\varepsilon = 5.2 \text{ cm}^2/\text{s}^3$ fits well within the inertial
15 range. This is typical of the lower troposphere, with values usually between 1 and $10 \text{ cm}^2/\text{s}^3$ (Chen, 1974). ~~Close to the tropopause, values can vary greatly (Chen, 1974), spanning from 10^{-3} to $10^4 \text{ cm}^2/\text{s}^3$. These latter huge values occur in clear air turbulence, severe storm or cumulus cloud situations.~~

3 Radiative Transfer Modelling

We can now try to answer the question whether turbulence can have a significant effect in the RTM calculations. In this
20 section, the radiance originating from a single profile will be compared to the one generated from this same profile perturbed by turbulence.

The turbulent perturbation from a single profile will be calculated by means of averaging, over the inertial range within the field of view of the instrument, a Taylor expansion of the radiances. ~~Humidity and temperature expansions will be done separately, since, as we shall see, temperature effects are negligible. For humidity, defining~~ The humidity variable used in this
25 Taylor expansion will be the same as the one used in the structure function plot, Figure 1. To simplify the notation, this variable will be defined as $\delta R \equiv \delta e/e$, we have for the brightness temperature, B . The full Taylor expansion would then read,

$$\langle \delta B \rangle \approx \sum_{i=1}^{\text{All Levels}} \frac{\partial B}{\partial R_i} \langle \delta R_i \rangle + \frac{\partial B}{\partial T_i} \langle \delta T_i \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 B}{\partial R_i^2} \langle (\delta R_i)^2 \rangle + \frac{\partial^2 B}{\partial T_i \partial R_i} \langle \delta T_i \delta R_i \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 B}{\partial T_i^2} \langle (\delta T_i)^2 \rangle, \quad (3)$$

where we have made the important assumption that the correlation between different levels is zero, i.e.,

$$\langle \delta B_i \delta B_j \rangle = \langle \delta T_i \delta B_j \rangle = \langle \delta T_i \delta T_j \rangle = 0 \text{ if } i \neq j. \quad (4)$$

As will be shown later, the terms in Eq. 3 involving the temperature are negligible, leaving the simplified solution,

$$\langle \delta B \rangle \approx \sum_{i=1}^{\text{All Levels}} \frac{dB}{dR_i} \langle \delta R_i \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \frac{d^2 B}{dR_i^2} \langle (\delta R_i)^2 \rangle. \quad (5)$$

5 ~~Similar results can be obtained for temperature by just substituting R_i for T_i .~~ The first (linear) term in this equation is proportional to the Jacobian. This result indicates that given a deviation of the mean humidity field of zero, the mean deviation in brightness temperature is directly proportional to the second derivative of the brightness temperature with respect to humidity.

It is now possible, by means of Eq. 5, to estimate in practice the magnitude of the brightness temperature deviations. Note that the average in this equation is taken over the complete field of view of the instrument, typically 10 km at nadir for SAPHIR. The value of fluctuations in humidity, $\langle (\delta R_i)^2 \rangle$, will vary within the field of view (inertial range in Fig. 1) and with turbulence intensity (ϵ in Eq. 1). To simplify, an approximate average is taken for the humidity fluctuations as a function of turbulence intensity. A value of $\langle (\delta R_i)^2 \rangle = 0.05$ is adopted for a turbulence intensity of $\epsilon = 5 \text{ m}^2/\text{s}^3$ $\epsilon = 5 \text{ cm}^2/\text{s}^3$, both parameters approximated from the values obtained from sonde measurements as in Figs. 1 and 2. For other turbulence intensities, humidity fluctuations are scaled following Eq. 1, ~~expressing ϵ in units of cm^2/s^3 ,~~

$$15 \quad \langle (\delta R_i)^2 \rangle \approx 0.05 (\epsilon/5.0)^{2/3}. \quad (6)$$

The same arguments can also be applied to the temperature field fluctuations, in which case, the full Taylor expansion equation should be used (Eq. 3).

A single profile is chosen from a typical tropical location at Manus island and it is extracted from ECMWF analyses. The reason to choose a tropical profile is because high turbulence in the high troposphere seems to be more likely to happen in these regions. The profile has 50 levels from the lowest level at 1010 hPa to the highest one at $5 \cdot 10^{-3}$ hPa. Figure 3 illustrates the lower levels of the profile, the Jacobians and the second derivatives for a few close to SAPHIR frequencies. Satellite zenith angle is fixed to 60 degrees. Derivatives of the brightness temperature are calculated by finite differences using the AM 9.2 radiative transfer model (Paine, 2016). Final results of the brightness temperature differences are shown in Figure 4.

4 Discussion

4.1 Simulations

Simulations comparing radiances with turbulence versus radiances without them are shown in Figure 4. Results show differences in brightness temperatures when locating turbulence in different layers in the troposphere, with various turbulent intensities and with varying perturbations in temperature and humidity. Several interesting features can be observed:

- When only turbulent perturbations in temperature are considered (~~dashed blue line~~), $\langle (\delta T_i)^2 \rangle \neq 0$, the results in brightness temperature difference are very small and nearly negligible (~~dashed blue line~~). In this case, the full Taylor expansion formula is needed (Eq. 3).
- With low turbulent intensities in humidity, $\varepsilon = 5 \text{ cm}^2\text{sec}^{-3}$, located in the high troposphere, between 170 and 370 hPa, and with an offset in humidity of $\delta R = 3 \cdot 10^{-3}$ (~~brown-magenta~~ line) the effects are positive in frequencies near the center of the 183 GHz line and negative further away. The brightness temperature differences are of only a few tenths of a Kelvin.
- With higher turbulent intensities in humidity, $\varepsilon = 10 \text{ cm}^2\text{sec}^{-3}$, located in the high troposphere (~~brown-green~~ line) results are slightly higher than in the previous case.
- With the highest observed turbulent intensities in the low troposphere, $\varepsilon = 10 \text{ cm}^2\text{sec}^{-3}$, and locating the humidity turbulent simulations in the low troposphere, between 480 and 1010 hPa, and with an offset in humidity of $\delta R = 10^{-2}$ (orange line) the biases show a different behaviour, they are negative in frequencies near the center of the 183 GHz line and positive further away. The brightness temperature differences are of only a few tenths of a Kelvin.
- Locating the turbulence in the high troposphere and fitting the parameters to follow the experimental ~~results-data~~ (blue dots) the results are ~~$\varepsilon = 1500 \text{ cm}^2\text{sec}^{-3}$ and $\delta R = 0.32$~~ $\varepsilon = 1200 \text{ cm}^2\text{sec}^{-3}$, $\delta T = -1 \text{ K}$ and $\delta R = 0.18$ (red line). The brightness temperature differences are of the order of a few Kelvin. The simulations fit very well the experimental data. Also, ~~an offset in humidity is~~ offsets in temperature and humidity are necessary. This offset is positive and is quite high, meaning that the average value of humidity in nature is actually higher than in the spatially uniform model.
- With the highest observed turbulent intensities in the high troposphere, $\varepsilon = 10^4 \text{ cm}^2\text{sec}^{-3}$, and locating ~~the humidity turbulent simulations in the~~ it in the same high troposphere, the brightness temperature differences are up to several ~~tens~~ of Kelvin (black line).

4.2 Behaviour of the different terms

The orders of magnitude and the behaviour of the various terms in both Taylor expansions (Eq. 3 and 5) will be analysed here. The cross-correlation term in humidity and temperature in Eq. 3 is not directly described in Kolmogorov's theory

of turbulence, and, therefore, it is not easy to estimate. Since we are only interested, at this stage, in estimating the order of magnitude, the gross assumption that the cross-correlation is equal to the product of both variations can be made,

$$\langle \delta T_i \delta R_i \rangle \sim \langle \delta T_i \rangle \langle \delta R_i \rangle. \quad (7)$$

Results are shown in Figure 5. The following features can be observed:

- 5 – Using the full Taylor expansion (Eq. 3) and if only an offset in temperature is introduced (orange line), the brightness temperature is displaced with hardly any frequency dependence.
- Using the full Taylor expansion (Eq. 3) and if only a humidity offset is introduced (blue line), the brightness temperature is displaced, but there are also differences of a few Kelvin which depend on the frequency.
- 10 – Placing high values of turbulence in the high troposphere and no perturbations in temperature or humidity, the effects of turbulence can be clearly seen (green line). It generates an overall positive displacement in brightness temperature of several Kelvin and it is very strongly dependant on the frequency. The full Taylor expansion formula has been used here (Eq. 3).
- To shift this curve down in order to fit the experimental data (blue dots), an offset is required. This can be achieved with a temperature or a humidity bias (red line). In this paper, both have been utilised ($\delta T = -1$ K, $\delta R = 0.18$), but any other appropriate combination of offsets would also fit the data. An offset in humidity partially compensates the turbulence effect, as can be seen from the differences between the red and the green line. The full Taylor expansion formula has been used here (Eq. 3).
- 15 – To verify that the temperature terms from Eq. 3 are negligible, the same parameters as in the red line are used to plot the reduced Taylor expansion from Eq. 5 (black line). Due to their small difference, the black and red curve are nearly indistinguishable. The black line in this plot is identical to the red one from Figure 4.
- 20 – Finally, as a simple test to check whether temperature and humidity offsets would fit the experimental data by themselves, without any turbulence effect, the purple curve is shown. This curve comes close to the observed data (blue dots), but with unreasonable values of temperature and humidity offsets ($\delta T = -8$ K, $\delta R = -0.8$).

5 Conclusions

- 25 Effects of turbulence in radiative transfer modelling stems from the fact that the process is highly non-linear. In other words, the average of the radiances coming from different profiles located within an instrument field of view can potentially be different from the radiance obtained using the average of all the profiles. Effects of turbulence in temperature fields seem to have a low impact in the radiative transfer modelling (dashed blue line of Fig, 4). Humidity turbulent effects seem to affect significantly the radiance biases, ranging up to several Kelvin.

Turbulence simulations can match experimentally observed biases as summarized by Brogniez et al. (2016). Biases are positive close to the center of the absorption band and negative at the wings. To achieve this match, turbulence has to be of high intensity and located in the high troposphere (red line in Fig. 4). These ~~kind of turbulence usually occurs~~ high turbulence phenomena usually occur in places with clear air turbulence, regular or severe storms and cumulus clouds (Chen, 1974).

5 Turbulence simulations placed at the low troposphere create biases which have an opposite behaviour as to the ones originating at the high troposphere. In other words, negative in the center of the absorption band and positive at the wings (orange line in Fig. 4).

Note that the calculations presented here have been made with just one atmospheric profile and one satellite zenith angle since the sole purpose of the exercise is to test whether the turbulence effect hypothesis can plausibly explain the observed
10 biases. Biases shown in more general studies, such a (Brogniez et al., 2016), are usually the result of an average of many different cases at different locations. To verify precisely that these biases do originate from turbulence effects, many different cases at different locations should be analysed to finally calculate a global bias, which can then be compared with the measured ones. Turbulence effects will also depend strongly on each scene analysed. Furthermore, in this paper, turbulence properties have been measured with radiosondes at mid-latitudes (Sodankylä and Lindenberg) and this is being extrapolated to other
15 regions by only changing the turbulence intensity (mean energy dissipation rate per unit mass, ϵ). A more local measurement of turbulence would better characterize the scenes under scrutiny.

Bobryshev et al. (2018) have also tried to reconcile the biases found between microwave satellite instruments and sonde measurements plus radiative transfer modelling. By correcting dry biases from sonde measurements and selecting fields of view which are unaffected by clouds and are spatially homogeneous they achieved agreement between satellite and sonde
20 measurements. They are, in practice, selecting scenes with low turbulence such that its effects in radiative transfer modelling are not significant. These results are therefore consistent with the ones presented in this paper.

In summary, turbulence within the field of view of microwave instruments seems to have a significant effect in the modelling of radiative transfer, which, if ignored can give rise to significant biases up to several Kelvin in the 183 GHz band. These biases are frequency dependant. To confirm this hypothesis, more precise and further modelling and its corresponding comparisons
25 with measurements at different frequencies in the microwave and the infrared, in this latter case, under clear sky conditions, would be needed. Coincident turbulence measurements of the atmosphere might also be necessary to close the problem.

Another, additional conclusion, that can be envisaged from these results is that when comparing atmospheric profiles with sondes for precise calibration or validation either a turbulent term should be added in the uncertainty budget or dual sequential radiosondes should be used. This will be the subject of another future paper.

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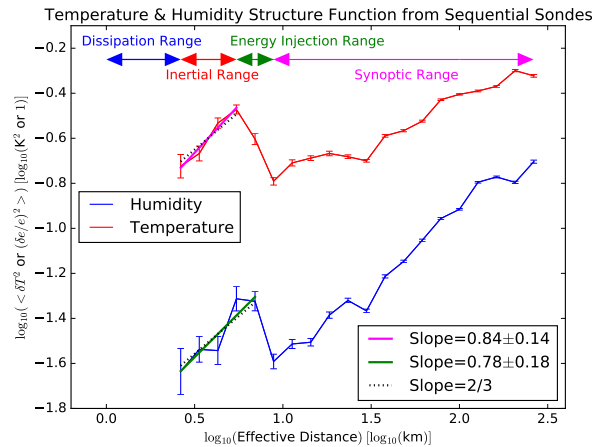


Figure 1. Temperature and water vapour structure function

Wulfmeyer, V.: Investigations of humidity skewness and variance profiles in the convective boundary layer and comparison of the latter with large eddy simulation results, *J. Atmos. Sci.*, 56, 1077–1087, 1999a.

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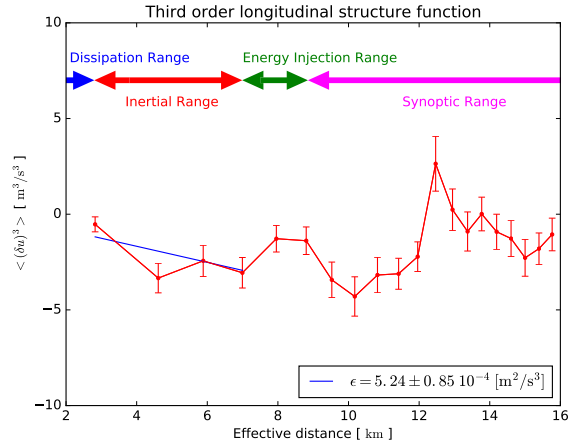


Figure 2. Third order longitudinal structure function for u .

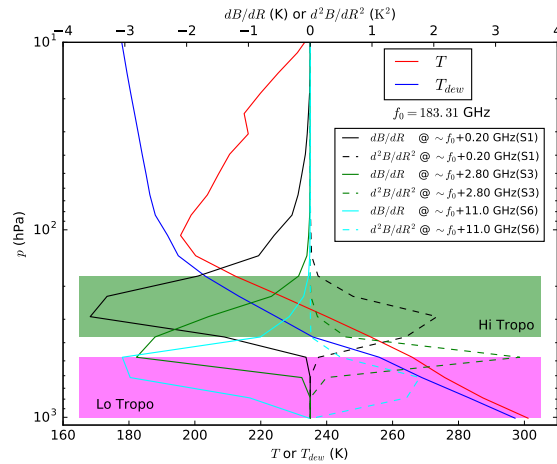


Figure 3. Temperature and humidity, as dew point temperature, profiles used in this paper. Highlighted are the regions denoted as “Hi Tropo” and “Lo Tropo” in Fig. 4. Jacobians, dB/dR , and second derivatives, d^2B/dR^2 , of brightness temperature versus humidity for a few close to SAPHIR frequencies channels are also plotted. Precise frequencies are: $183.50 \text{ GHz} \approx \text{S1 channel}$, $186.10 \text{ GHz} \approx \text{S3 channel}$ and $194.30 \text{ GHz} \approx \text{S6 channel}$.

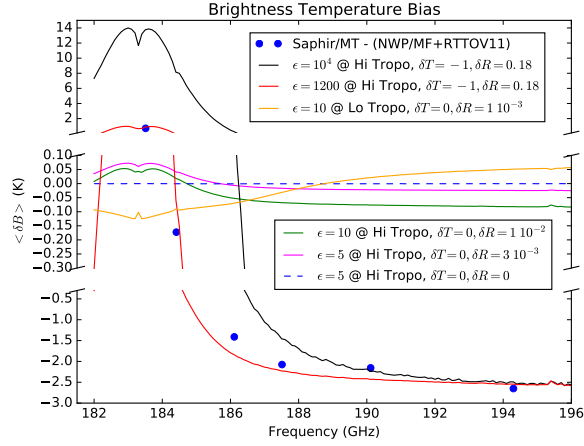


Figure 4. Brightness temperature deviations calculated for different levels in the troposphere (as shown in Fig. 3), various turbulence intensities, ϵ in $\text{cm}^2\text{sec}^{-3}$, and adjusted offsets in temperature and humidity. Blue dots are experimental values of observed minus calculated brightness temperatures between the SAPHIR Megha-Tropiques instrument and versus Météo France NWP profiles plus the RTTOV v11 RTM (from Brogniez et al. (2016)).

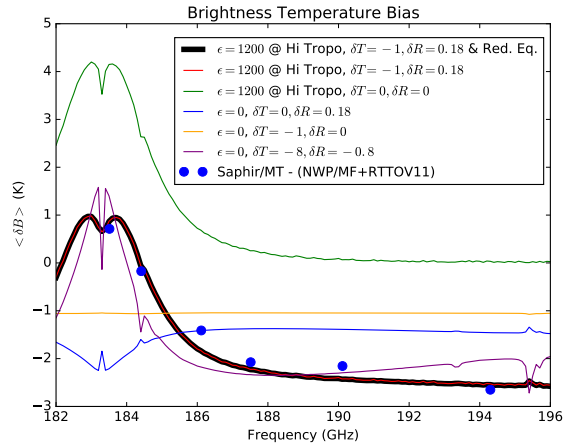


Figure 5. Same as Figure 4, but setting parameters to analyse the behaviour of the different terms in the Taylor expansions from Eq. 3 and 5. The full Taylor expansion (Eq. 3) is used to calculate all the lines in this plot except for the black one which uses the reduced Taylor expansion from Eq. 5.