



## A broadband cavity-enhanced spectrometer for atmospheric trace gas measurements and Rayleigh scattering cross sections in the cyan region (470-540 nm)

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**Abstract.** A cavity-enhanced absorption spectrometer (CEAS) for quantification of atmospheric trace gases that absorb in the cyan region of the electromagnetic spectrum (470 to 540 nm), including NO<sub>2</sub> and I<sub>2</sub>, is described. The instrument uses a light-emitting diode coupled to a 1 m optical cavity consisting of a pair of mirrors in stable resonator configuration. Transmitted light is monitored using a grating spectrometer and charge-coupled device array detector. The average mirror reflectivity was determined from the N<sub>2</sub>/He and Ar/He ratios of scattering coefficients and was ~99.98% at its maximum, yielding an effective optical path length of 6.3 km. Cross-sections of N<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>2</sub>, air, Ar, CO<sub>2</sub>, and CH<sub>4</sub> scattering and of O<sub>4</sub> absorption were measured and agree with literature values within the measurement uncertainty. Trace gas mixing ratios were retrieved using the spectral fitting software DOASIS from 480 to 535 nm. Under laboratory conditions, the 60 s, 1 $\sigma$  measurement precisions were  $\pm 105$  and  $\pm 38$  pptv for NO<sub>2</sub> and I<sub>2</sub>, respectively. The CEAS sampled ambient air in Ucluelet, BC, in July 2015. CEAS retrievals agreed with independent measurements of NO<sub>2</sub> by blue diode laser cavity ring-down spectroscopy ( $r^2 = 0.975$ ), but ambient I<sub>2</sub> concentrations were below the detection limit.

**Keywords:** Cavity-enhanced spectroscopy, cyan region, Rayleigh scattering cross-sections, atmospheric trace gas measurements, nitrogen dioxide, iodine

### 1 Introduction

Broadband cavity-enhanced absorption spectroscopy (CEAS) has emerged in recent years as a sensitive technique for direct measurement of atmospheric trace gases (Fiedler et al., 2003; Gherman et al., 2008; Vaughan et al., 2008; Washenfelder et al., 2008; Schuster et al., 2009; Thalman and Volkamer, 2010; Hoch et al., 2014) and of aerosol optical extinction (Thalman and Volkamer, 2010; Bluvshstein et al., 2012; Washenfelder et al., 2013). Similar to other cavity-enhanced techniques (Gagliardi and Loock, 2014), CEAS owes its high sensitivity to highly reflective mirrors (reflectivity,  $R > 99.9\%$ ) which yield long effective absorption path lengths. In CEAS, light generated from a high intensity broad-band light source (e.g., a Xe arc lamp) is transmitted through an optical cavity set up in a stable resonator configuration. The output spectrum is integrated yielding extinction spectra from which mixing ratios are retrieved using techniques analogous to those used in differential optical absorption spectroscopy (DOAS) (Platt and



Stutz, 2008). To date, CEAS has been used to quantify mixing ratios of many atmospherically important trace gases, including nitrogen dioxide ( $\text{NO}_2$ ) (Langridge et al., 2008; Gherman et al., 2008; Triki et al., 2008; Thalman and Volkamer, 2010; Wu et al., 2014; Min et al., 2016), the nitrate radical ( $\text{NO}_3$ ) (Langridge et al., 2008; Schuster et al., 2009), iodine ( $\text{I}_2$ ), the iodine oxides IO and OIO (Vaughan et al., 2008), glyoxal ( $\text{HCOHCO}$ ) (Washenfelder et al., 2008; Thalman and Volkamer, 2010; Coburn et al., 2014; Min et al., 2016), methyl glyoxal ( $\text{CH}_3\text{COCHO}$ ) (Thalman and Volkamer, 2010; Thalman et al., 2015; Min et al., 2016), molecular bromine ( $\text{Br}_2$ ), bromine monoxide ( $\text{BrO}$ ) (Chen and Venables, 2011; Hoch et al., 2014), formaldehyde (Washenfelder et al., 2016), and nitrous acid ( $\text{HONO}$ ) (Gherman et al., 2008; Wu et al., 2014; Min et al., 2016).

The accuracy of retrievals depends on knowledge of relevant absorption and scattering (i.e., Rayleigh) cross-sections (which both contribute to the optical extinction) and of the mirror reflectivity. Because of its high sensitivity, CEAS in turn has been utilized to measure these parameters. For example, Axson et al. and Kahan et al. recently reported the absorption cross-sections of  $\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  (Axson et al., 2011; Kahan et al., 2012), and Thalman and Volkamer reported scattering cross-sections of  $\text{N}_2$ ,  $\text{O}_2$ , Ar, and air (2010) for several wavelength intervals (345 – 390, 435 – 490, 515 – 545, 560 – 600, and 600 – 700 nm).

In spite of the large number of CEAS instruments that have been constructed, the mid-visible region has received relatively little attention to date, other than the pioneering study by Vaughan et al. (2008), even though the absorption maxima of several key atmospheric traces gases, such as  $\text{NO}_2$  and the iodine species  $\text{I}_2$ , IO and OIO, are located in this wavelength interval (Figure 1). The study of iodine chemistry has been of considerable interest due to potential effects on the formation of new particles and atmospheric oxidising capacity through, for example, catalytic destruction of  $\text{O}_3$ , altering the partitioning of  $\text{NO}_x$  ( $= \text{NO} + \text{NO}_2$ ) and  $\text{HO}_x$  ( $= \text{HO} + \text{HO}_2$ ), or the activation of chlorine and bromine from sea salt aerosol in the marine and polar boundary layer, near salt lakes and volcanoes, and in the stratosphere (Saiz-Lopez et al., 2012). Prior laboratory measurements by Vaughan et al. used a 150 W Xenon arc lamp; such light sources tend to flicker, i.e., exhibit intensity fluctuations, which add noise to the absorption spectrum. For this and other reasons (such as compactness, heat generation, etc.), light-emitting diodes (LEDs) are now commonly used to generate broad-band radiation (Washenfelder et al., 2008; Min et al., 2016).

In this paper, we describe an LED-powered broadband CEAS operated in the cyan region of the electromagnetic spectrum. We report laboratory measurements of scattering cross-sections for  $\text{N}_2$ ,  $\text{O}_2$ , Ar,  $\text{CO}_2$ ,  $\text{CH}_4$  and air from 480 to 535 nm and demonstrate detection of  $\text{NO}_2$  and  $\text{I}_2$  in laboratory-generated air. The CEAS was operated during the Ozone-depleting Reactions in a Coastal Atmosphere (ORCA) field campaign, conducted July 8-31, 2015 at the Amphitrite Point Observatory (APO) in Ucluelet on the west coast of Vancouver Island, British Columbia (Tokarek et al., 2017). Kelp forests are present along this coast line (Watson and Estes, 2011), which are expected to emit  $\text{I}_2$  (Dixneuf et al., 2009; Nitschke et al., 2015). Mixing ratios of  $\text{NO}_2$  retrieved from the cyan CEAS data are compared to those measured by a co-located blue diode laser cavity ring-down spectrometer. The potential of the instrument for quantification of iodine species in laboratory and field experiments is assessed.

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## 2 Theory

### 2.1 Cavity-enhanced spectroscopy

The principle of broadband trace gas measurements by CEAS has been described elsewhere (Fiedler et al., 2003; Washenfelder et al., 2008). Briefly, broadband radiation is continuously injected and trapped between a set of highly  
 75 reflective mirrors forming a stable resonant cavity. The integrated cavity output intensity represents the combined extinction by the mirrors and the intra cavity medium. The absorption coefficient,  $\alpha_{abs}(\lambda)$ , is given in terms of the transmission signal through the cavity (Washenfelder et al., 2008) by Eq. (1):

$$\alpha_{abs}(\lambda) = R_L \left( \frac{1-R(\lambda)}{d} + \alpha_{Ray}(\lambda) \right) \left( \frac{I_0(\lambda)-I(\lambda)}{I(\lambda)} \right) \quad (1)$$

Here,  $R_L$  (see Sect. 3.3) is the ratio of the cell length ( $d \approx 102$  cm) divided by the length occupied by the sample ( $d_0 \approx$   
 80 73 cm),  $R(\lambda)$  is the average wavelength dependent mirror reflectivity,  $d$  is the distance between the two reflective surfaces (i.e. the cavity length),  $\alpha_{Ray}(\lambda)$  is the sum of all Rayleigh scattering sample constituents,  $I_0(\lambda)$  is the intensity spectrum in the absence of absorbers in the cavity cell, and  $I(\lambda)$  is the intensity spectrum measured in the presence of absorbers. When measurements are carried out in variable pressure environments (e.g., aircraft altitude change), an additional term ( $\Delta\alpha_{Ray}(\lambda)$ ) is added to Eq. (1) to account for pressure fluctuations (Min et al., 2016). If multiple  
 85 absorbers are present in the cavity, the absorption coefficient becomes the sum of all species expressed as in Eq. (2) (Washenfelder et al., 2008).

$$\alpha_{abs} = \sum_i^n \alpha_i(\lambda) = \sum_i^n N_i \sigma_i(\lambda, T, p) \quad (2)$$

Here,  $\sigma_i(\lambda, T, p)$  is the wavelength, temperature, and pressure-dependent absorption cross-section, and  $N_i$  is the number density of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  absorbing gas.

### 90 2.3 Determination of Rayleigh scattering cross-sections

Cavity-enhanced spectroscopic techniques allow accurate and precise measurements of Rayleigh scattering cross-sections of pure gases over broad wavelength regions (Naus and Ubachs, 2000; Sneep and Ubachs, 2005; Axson et al., 2011; Kahan et al., 2012; Thalman et al., 2014). If the mirror reflectivity  $R(\lambda)$  is known, the scattering cross-section of any gas can be determined by measuring its extinction and that of a reference gas (Thalman et al., 2014), e.g., for  
 95 CO<sub>2</sub> and using He as a reference:

$$\alpha_{Ray}^{CO_2}(\lambda) = \left( \left( \frac{1-R(\lambda)}{d} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{I_{CO_2}(\lambda)}{I_{He}(\lambda)} \right) + \alpha_{Ray}^{He}(\lambda) \right) \left( \frac{I_{He}(\lambda)}{I_{CO_2}(\lambda)} \right) \quad (3)$$

Here,  $\alpha_{Ray}(\lambda)$  is the optical extinction (in cm<sup>-1</sup>) caused by the intra-cavity scattering medium. The scattering cross-sections are then calculated through division by the number density of the gas ( $N_{gas}$ ), i.e.,

$$\sigma_{Ray}(\lambda) = \frac{\alpha_{Ray}(\lambda)}{N_{gas}} \quad (4)$$



100 Scattering cross-sections can be predicted if the refractive index,  $n$ , of a gas is known (Naus and Ubachs, 2000; Sneeep and Ubachs, 2005), hereafter referred to as an " $n$ -based" cross-section:

$$\sigma(\nu) = \frac{24\pi^3\nu^4}{N^2} \left( \frac{n^2(\nu)-1}{n^2(\nu)+1} \right)^2 F_k(\nu) \quad (5)$$

Here,  $\nu$  is the frequency in wavenumbers ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ),  $n(\nu)$  is the frequency dependent refractive index of the gas, and  $F_k$  is the King depolarization ratio which describes the effect of molecular anisotropy (King, 1923).

## 105 **3 Experimental**

### **3.1 Description of the CEAS instrument**

The CEAS instrument consists of an LED light source, collimating optics, a high finesse resonant optical cavity, focusing optics, specialized fibre bundle, and a spectrograph equipped with a charge-coupled device (CCD) camera (Figure 2).

110 The resonant optical cavity consists of two dielectric-coated, plano-concave fused silica substrate mirrors (Advanced Thin Films, Boulder, CO, USA) with maximum reflectivity from 460 to 550 nm, 2.54 cm in diameter, 0.635 cm thickness, and 1 m radius of curvature. To span a broad wavelength range, the mirrors were coated with two highly reflective substrates, resulting in a double maximum in their reflectivity. The mirrors were mounted on both ends of a 102 cm long cell with a gas sampling region of  $\sim 73$  cm and housed in a custom-built mount equipped with purge  
115 gas ports. A flow of 50 standard cubic centimeters per minute (sccm) of ultrapure air ("zero" grade, Praxair) set using 50  $\mu\text{m}$  critical orifices (Lenox Laser, Glen Arm, MD, USA) and a gas regulator back pressure of 20 pounds per square inch (psi; 1 psi = 6.9 kPa) was directed to each mirror to protect the optical surfaces from contamination. The mirror mounts were attached to adjustable kinematic mounts (Newport U200-A, Irvine, CA, USA) each equipped with 3 set screws for mirror alignment. The gas sampling region was enclosed using 1.9 cm outer diameter (o.d.) and 1.59 cm  
120 inner diameter (i.d.) fluorinated ethylene propylene (FEP) Teflon™ tubing (Saint Gobain Plastics, Chemfluor series). The Teflon™ tube was held in place by a custom enclosure constructed from Aluminium. Gases entered and exited the sampling region through 1.9 cm o.d. perfluoroalkoxy alkane (PFA) Teflon™ fittings (Entegris Fluid Handling, Billerica, MA, USA).

The LED (Thorlabs M505L3, Newton, NJ, USA) output was collimated into the cavity by a single  $f/0.8$  aspheric condenser lens (Thorlabs ACL2520U-A). The cavity output was collected and focused by a 2.5 cm diameter  $f/1$  lens  
125 through a non-polarizing quartz beam splitter (Thorlabs BS025) onto a 0.5 cm (diameter)  $f/4$  fibre adapter that couples the radiation into a 2 m long 0.22 numerical aperture (NA) fibre bundle (Thorlabs BFL200HS02). The beam splitter has 90% transmission efficiency in the plane parallel to the cavity and 10% in the orthogonal plane and was used to direct the emission lines of a Hg(Ne) spectral calibration lamp (Newport Oriel 6032) towards the detector for  
130 calibration of the spectrometer wavelength scale and line width. The fibre bundle consists of  $7 \times 200 \mu\text{m}$  optical fibres arranged with circular and linear configurations on the input and output, respectively. The fibre bundle output was oriented linearly along the spectrograph entrance slit to optimize coupling of the cavity output similar to (Min et al., 2016; Washenfelder et al., 2016), and illuminated the full vertical dimension of the CCD. Spectra were acquired by a



135 150 cm focal length  $f/4$  dual grating Czerny-Turner spectrograph (Princeton Instruments Acton SP2156, Trenton, NJ, USA) which back-illuminates a 16-bit  $1340 \times 100$  pixel CCD array (Princeton Instruments, PIXIS 100B), mounted at the focal plane of the spectrograph and Peltier-cooled to  $-80$  °C to reduce thermal noise. The spectrograph was configured with a  $1200$  groove  $\text{mm}^{-1}$  grating blazed at  $500$  nm. This configuration along with the grating positioned at  $500$  nm central wavelength yielded spectral coverage from  $446.9$  to  $563.2$  nm spanning a total of  $1340$  discrete wavelength points. The Acton SP2156 spectrograph shipped with a mechanical shutter, which was removed in lieu of software control of the integration time via LABVIEW™ (National Instruments, Austin TX, USA).

A fixed entrance slit width of  $50$   $\mu\text{m}$  yielded an approximately Gaussian profile with full-width at half maximum (FWHM) of  $(0.330 \pm 0.003)$  nm at  $540.06$  nm. Other spectral lines (e.g.,  $520.39$  nm) showed slightly degraded resolution of roughly  $(0.360 \pm 0.016)$  nm (Figure S1). An integration time of  $5$ – $6$  s saturated the CCD pixels  $80$ – $90\%$  of their well depth near  $500$  nm.

145 All mechanical and optical components were mounted on an optical breadboard (Thorlabs MB2448) bolted onto aluminium structural rails ( $80/20$ , Columbia City, IN, USA). The net instrument weight including the breadboard and railing is  $< 90$  kg and the overall power consumption below  $300$  W.

The CEAS samples air through a  $47$  mm diameter, circular, permeable polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) Teflon™ membrane filter with  $1$   $\mu\text{m}$  pore size (Pall Teflon™ Series, Port Washington, NY, USA) housed in a PFA Teflon™ filter holder (Cole-Parmer R-06621-40) and through  $0.635$  cm outer diameter and  $0.476$  cm FEP Teflon™ tubing. The sample flow was set using a mass flow controller (MFC, MKS Instruments 100 B series,  $15$  standard litres per minute (slpm) capacity, Andover, MA, USA) connected to a diaphragm pump (KNF Neuberger UNO26.1.2ATP, Trenton, NJ, USA). The sample flow was in the range  $1.5$ – $2.5$  slpm resulting in a sample residence time of  $5.9$ – $3.5$  s. The gas temperature was measured using a K-type thermocouple (Omega, Laval, QC, Canada) attached to the aluminium sample cell enclosure. Pressure was measured using a pressure transducer (MKS Baratron capacitance manometer 722B) mounted on the exhaust portion of the CEAS between the gas sample cell and the MFC.

150 The light source is a small footprint ( $1 \times 1$  mm) broadband LED (M505L3, Thorlabs) mounted on the end of a heat sink supplied by the manufacturer. We modified this assembly by mounting a Peltier module (CUI Inc. CP30238, Tualatin, Oregon, USA) between the LED and the heat sink for temperature control using a proportional–integral–derivative (PID) controller (Omega CNi3253) to  $30.0 \pm 0.1$  °C. If not stabilized, the LED output red-shifted  $\sim 0.1$  nm per °C temperature change. The LED was operated just below the maximum current of  $1000$  mA ( $3.3$  W of electrical power) to achieve a manufacturer quoted optical minimum output power of  $\sim 400$  mW.

155 The LED output spectrum was characterized by an asymmetric Lorentzian shape, an emission maximum at  $507.5$  nm, and a peak width of  $22.5$  nm FWHM, and was a good match with the mirror reflectivity curve (Figure 3).

### 165 3.2 Determination of the mirror reflectivity

The response of the CEAS instrument depends on  $R(\lambda)$  and  $d_0$  (Eq. (1)), which need to be accurately known. If an optical cavity is filled with a non-absorbing and inert gas, and aerosol are removed by filtering, the optical extinction is due to gas scattering only. In this case,  $R(\lambda)$  can be derived from the extinction caused by two individual gases with known and different scattering cross-sections such as  $\text{N}_2$  and He (Washenfelder et al., 2008):



$$170 \quad R(\lambda) = 1 - d \frac{\alpha_{Ray}^{N_2}(\lambda) \frac{I_{N_2}(\lambda)}{I_{He}(\lambda)} - \alpha_{Ray}^{He}(\lambda)}{1 - \frac{I_{N_2}(\lambda)}{I_{He}(\lambda)}} \quad (6)$$

Here,  $I_X(\lambda)$  and  $\alpha_{Ray}^X(\lambda)$  are the intensities and extinction coefficients of  $N_2$  and He, respectively, and  $d$  is in units of cm. Other pairs (e.g., He and Ar) may be used as well. For this work, we chose scattering cross-sections from (Peck and Khanna, 1966) for  $N_2$ , (Cuthbertson and Cuthbertson, 1932) for He, and (Peck and Fisher, 1964) for Ar. Typically, combinations with He provide a higher signal-to-noise due to He having a much smaller scattering cross-section than  
 175 other gases (Thalman et al., 2014). The above approach assumes that scattering and absorption within the optical cavity are small (Washenfelder et al., 2008) and neglects absorption and scattering due to the mirror substrate.

To determine  $R(\lambda)$  in this work, the cavity output intensity was recorded when the cell was filled with high purity  $N_2$  (99.998%) or with He (99.998%) to atmospheric pressure. In each case, the gases were continuously injected through the purge ports until all other sample cell constituents were displaced through the open inlet port. To corroborate the  
 180 results, the cavity was also filled with Ar (99.998%), which has slightly larger scattering cross-sections than that of  $N_2$ .

Figure 3a shows cavity-enhanced transmission spectra with the optical cavity filled with  $N_2$ , He, and Ar, each averaged over a 15 min time period. The intensity difference due to scattering by Ar and  $N_2$  was more pronounced in the case when the sample cell was filled with He (Figure 3a, inset), as expected based on their relative cross-sections (Thalman  
 185 et al., 2014).

Figure 3b shows the reflectivity spectra calculated using Eq. (6). The reflectivity curves are essentially smooth continua, with maximum reflectivity of  $\sim 99.98\%$ . The relative difference between the reflectivity calculated from the ratios of Ar/He and  $N_2$ /He was  $< 1.6 \times 10^{-6}$  in the 480–530 nm range. Arbitrarily, the  $N_2$ /He mirror curve was chosen to calculate the mirror reflectivity for the remaining data analysis in this work with the exception of the scattering  
 190 cross-sections of  $N_2$  and  $CO_2$  (see Sect. 4.1.1 and 4.1.5) for which the Ar/He pair was used. The observed reflectivity corresponds to a total path length ( $\approx d/(1-R)$ ) of 5.5 and 6.3 km near 485 nm and 520 nm, respectively. Intermittent measurements of mirror reflectivity showed that it remained unchanged throughout this work; in particular, no difference in reflectivity was found prior to and following the ORCA campaign.

The overall uncertainty in the measured mirror reflectivity was  $\pm 2.3\%$ , resulting from addition by quadrature of a  $\pm 1\%$   
 195 uncertainty in the  $N_2$  scattering cross-section (Peck and Khanna, 1966), a  $\pm 2\%$  uncertainty in the He cross-section (Washenfelder et al., 2008; Min et al., 2016),  $\pm 0.4\%$  uncertainty in temperature,  $\pm 0.1\%$  uncertainty in pressure, and  $\pm 0.1\%$  random noise due to photon counting statistics.

### 3.3 Determination of the effective optical absorption path

Knowledge of the path length over which sampled air is present ( $d_0$ ) is essential in experiments involving resonant  
 200 optical cavities, especially when purging gases are used to maintain clean mirrors as in this work. If the mirror reflectivity  $R$  is known,  $d_0$  can be determined by measuring the extinction of a known amount of a strongly absorbing, non-reactive gas with known absorption cross-section, which is sampled through the inlet port. Combining Eq. (1) and Eq. (2) and rearranging gives an expression for  $d_0$ :



$$d_0 = \frac{\delta I(\lambda)}{\sigma N} (1 - R(\lambda) + d\alpha_{Ray}(\lambda)) \quad (7)$$

205 Here,  $\delta I(\lambda) = [I_0(\lambda) - I(\lambda)]/I(\lambda)$ . In this work, we used water vapour and the absorption cross-section of H<sub>2</sub>O from (Coheur et al., 2002) to determine  $R_L = d/d_0$ . A saturated gas stream of water vapour was generated by bubbling air through a water reservoir at a temperature of 298 K and pressure of 0.88 atm. Using Eq. (4),  $d_0$  was found to be 73.2±0.7 cm, in agreement with the physical dimension (~73 cm) of the CEAS sample path. With  $d = 102.0$  cm, this gives  $R_L = 1.39±0.01$ .

### 210 3.4 Reference absorption cross-sections

Figure 1 shows trace absorbers in the 480–530 nm window calculated as extinction ( $\alpha_i(\lambda) = \sigma_i(\lambda)N$ ) for typical atmospheric mixing ratios. CEAS analysis was performed using the high-resolution NO<sub>2</sub> absorption cross-section of Voigt et al. (2002) and the cross-sections of Spietz et al. for OIO (2005) and I<sub>2</sub> (2006), respectively. The NO<sub>2</sub> cross-section was convolved with the instrument function corresponding to a sharp peak line (540.06 nm) in the emission spectrum of the Hg(Ne) calibration lamp (Figure S2), which was also used to calibrate the wavelength scale of the spectrometer.

215 The CEAS spectrometer resolution was 0.33 nm in the 480–530 nm window, whereas the NO<sub>2</sub> literature spectrum was recorded at a higher resolution of better than 0.005 nm (Voigt et al., 2002). Convolution of the NO<sub>2</sub> reference spectrum effectively degraded the high-resolution spectrum but was required for the least-squares analysis. The literature cross-sections of I<sub>2</sub> and OIO (2005; 2006) were not convolved because their resolution was lower than that of the CEAS.

220 The NO<sub>2</sub> absorption cross-section is somewhat pressure-dependent, which is important considering that the CEAS was operated at ~350 Torr in the field. Voigt et al. (2002) reported cross-sections at 1000 and 100 Torr (in N<sub>2</sub>). Following convolution to the (relatively) low resolution CEAS instrument, these differences were judged to be small  
225 (2 – 5% in the 480 – 530 nm range).

### 3.5 Spectral fitting

The DOAS intelligent system (DOASIS; (Kraus, 2003)) was used to retrieve gas-phase concentrations. Optical extinction data collected in laboratory experiments were fitted using the literature absorption spectra (Sect. 3.3) and a third-degree polynomial to represent broad-band processes (e.g., temperature fluctuation, Mie scattering and extinction by aerosols). The "spectral shifting" setting in DOASIS was set to ±0.2 nm, and stretching was disallowed.  
230 The contributions of water vapor to the optical extinction was neglected since the relative humidity of the air sampled during the background measurement was the same as during the measurement of NO<sub>2</sub> or I<sub>2</sub>.

The same parameters were used to fit the data from the ORCA field campaign except that in an effort to minimize the fit residuals, the absorption cross-section of H<sub>2</sub>O (Coheur et al., 2002) was also included in the fit. Further, the optical  
235 extinction ( $\alpha$ ) values, as per Eq. (1), were smoothed using a fourth order polynomial filter (Savitzky and Golay, 1964).



Smoothing improved the root mean square (RMS) of the residuals and the fit uncertainty by a factor of ~2 (Figure S3).

### 3.6 Description of CRDS instrument

240 The CEAS instrument quantified NO<sub>2</sub> in parallel to a blue diode laser CRDS, which has been described previously (Paul and Osthoff, 2010; Odame-Ankrah, 2015). Briefly, mixing ratios of NO<sub>2</sub> are quantified by optical absorption using a continuous wave (cw) laser whose emission is centered at 405 nm (Power Technology IQμ2A105, Little Rock, AR, USA). The radiation is square-wave (on/off) modulated at a repetition rate of 1 kHz (50% duty cycle) and enters a 111 cm long stable resonator formed by two highly reflective mirrors (2.54 cm diameter; Advanced Thin Films, Boulder, CO, USA) in a concentric configuration. The cavity output is coupled into a 200 μm diameter, 0.22 numerical  
245 aperture, multimode optical fibre (Thorlabs M25L01) illuminating a photomultiplier tube (Hamamatsu Photonics H9433-03MOD, Japan). The ring-down decay traces are co-added and fitted to an exponential using the discrete sums algorithm described by Everest and Atkinson (2008).

The CRDS NO<sub>2</sub> channel was operated in parallel to a CRDS NO<sub>x</sub> channel, to which a small flow of O<sub>3</sub> in O<sub>2</sub> was added to convert NO to NO<sub>2</sub>, similar to the method described by Fuchs et al. (2009). Following the O<sub>3</sub> addition point,  
250 the sampled air passed through a coiled reaction chamber with a total residence time of ~7 s to ensure complete titration and a linear response up to ~100 ppbv of NO (Odame-Ankrah, 2015). An identical chamber was added to the NO<sub>2</sub> channel to match the response times of the two channels. Mixing ratios of NO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> measured by CRDS were accurate within ±10% (Osthoff et al., 2017).

### 3.7 Generation and delivery of calibration gases

255 Figure 2b shows the setup for delivery and sampling of NO<sub>2</sub>. NO<sub>2</sub> was generated by mixing the output of a standard NO cylinder (100.2±1.0 ppmv in N<sub>2</sub>; Scott-Marrin, Riverside, CA, USA) delivered using a 20 sccm all metal MFC (MKS Instruments 1479A) with O<sub>3</sub> produced by illuminating a flow of O<sub>2</sub> (Praxair) with a 254 nm Hg pen-ray lamp (Jelight, Irvine, CA, USA) and dilution with zero air.

Iodine was purchased in a solid crystalline form (≥99.8%, Sigma-Aldrich, Oakville, ON, Canada). Small amounts  
260 were placed in a Teflon™ permeation tube (VICI Metronics, Poulsbo, WA, USA); these tubes were sealed on both ends with PTFE plugs compressed with stainless steel rings and were (individually) placed in a temperature-controlled permeation chamber (Vici Metronics, model 120-1) operated with a constant air flow of ~0.3 litres per minute. The flow from the permeation chamber was diluted with zero air, yielding iodine concentrations in the range of ~70 pptv up to 21 ppbv depending on chamber temperature and permeation tube dimensions (i.e., wall thickness and length).

### 265 3.8 ORCA field campaign

The CEAS was operated alongside the CRDS during a four week long field intensive conducted at the Amphitrite Point Observatory (APO) on the west coast of Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada (Tokarek et al., 2017).





The APO was established as a marine background monitoring site but is sporadically impacted by NO<sub>x</sub> emissions mainly from ship and boat traffic in the region (McKendry et al., 2014).

270 The CEAS and CRDS sampled, in parallel, from a 5.5 m long common 0.63 cm o.d. and 0.48 cm i.d. FEP Teflon™ inlet line, flooded with calibration gases and zero air in regular intervals. Zero air was generated using a custom-built zero air generation system (Odame-Ankrah, 2015), which delivered air at ambient relative humidity that was free of trace gases such as NO<sub>2</sub>, NO, I<sub>2</sub>, or O<sub>3</sub>. A flow restriction was placed upstream of the inlet filter. When the CEAS was operated at a flow rate of 5 slpm, an average ( $\pm 1\sigma$ ) sample cell pressure of 355 ( $\pm 17$ ) Torr and inlet residence time of

275 2.3 s were achieved. The cell pressure varied over short time periods with a standard deviation of  $\pm 1.8$  Torr. The CEAS transmission spectrum was integrated for 9 s, resulting in  $\sim 90\%$  saturation of the CCD at 500 nm. Dark spectra (to characterize the spectrometer offset) were acquired daily with the same integration time (9 s). Wavelength calibration spectra of the Hg(Ne) lamp were collected daily over a period of 2 min and showed that the spectrometer wavelength scale remained relatively unchanged ( $\pm 0.02$  nm) over the region of interest. The mirror reflectivity was

280 measured prior to and after the campaign and agreed within  $\pm (1 \times 10^{-7})$ . Data were averaged over 60 s post-campaign prior to analysis.

## 4 Results

### 4.1 Measurements of cross-sections of pure gases

285 The extinction cross-sections of N<sub>2</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub> (based on mirror reflectivity determined from the Ar/He ratio of scattering coefficients) O<sub>2</sub>, air, Ar, and CH<sub>4</sub> (based on mirror reflectivity determined from the N<sub>2</sub>/He ratio of scattering coefficients) in the 480–535 nm wavelength range are shown in Figure 4; values at selected wavelengths are summarized in Table 1. For N<sub>2</sub>, Ar, and CO<sub>2</sub>, the extinction is due to scattering only. In contrast, the spectra of O<sub>2</sub>, air and CH<sub>4</sub> include optical losses due to absorption in addition to scattering. The systematic uncertainty of these data

290 was  $\pm 2.5\%$ ; the systematic errors arise mainly from uncertainties in the mirror reflectivity ( $\pm 2.3\%$ , see Sect. 3.2) and errors in the scattering cross-section terms in Eq. (3). The precision of the data (calculated after subtracting a 4<sup>th</sup> order polynomial from the observed cross-sections) varies from  $\pm 2.5\%$  for the CO<sub>2</sub> data shown in Figure 4e to  $\pm 0.9\%$  for the N<sub>2</sub> data shown in Figure 4b.

#### 4.1.1 Nitrogen

295 Figure 4b shows the measured scattering cross-sections of N<sub>2</sub> at a temperature of  $299.0 \pm 0.1$  K and pressure of  $660.0 \pm 0.5$  Torr between 480 and 535 nm. Superimposed are *n*-based cross-sections predicted using Eq. (5), data by (Peck and Khanna, 1966), and the King correction factor by (Bates, 1984). In addition, the single wavelength CRDS measurement at 532.2 nm by (Sneep and Ubachs, 2005) and the nephelometer data of (Shardanand and Rao, 1977) are shown.

300 The CEAS data are marginally larger than the *n*-based prediction, with the percent difference ranging from +0.2% at 525.07 nm to +1.3% at 485.03 nm (Table 1). These differences are well within the margin of measurement error



( $\pm 2.5\%$ ), set in this case by the accuracy of the scattering cross-sections of He ( $\pm 2\%$ ) and Ar ( $< 1\%$ ). The CEAS data differ from the CRDS data of (Sneep and Ubachs, 2005) at 532.2 nm by +7.1%, though the error bars overlap; the measurement uncertainty of the CRDS data alone is  $\pm 9.4\%$ . The CEAS measurements also differ by +4.6% at 488.0 nm and by +8.8% at 514.5 nm) from the data of (Shardanand and Rao, 1977) but are within combined measurement error ( $\pm 2.5\%$  and  $\pm 11\%$ , respectively).

#### 4.1.2 Argon

The scattering cross-sections of Ar at 299.0 $\pm$ 0.1 K and 660.0 $\pm$ 0.5 Torr are shown in Figure 4b. Superimposed are the  $n$ -based cross-sections calculated using data from (Peck and Fisher, 1964) and the King correction factor from (Bates, 1984). The single-wavelength measurement of (Sneep and Ubachs, 2005) and the nephelometer data of (Shardanand and Rao, 1977) are shown for comparison.

The observed scattering cross-sections are marginally larger than the  $n$ -based prediction, by +1.3% at shorter wavelengths and +0.21% at 515.06 nm (Table 1). These differences are within measurement error of the CEAS ( $\pm 2.5\%$ ) inferred from the accuracy in the determination of the scattering cross-sections of He ( $\pm 2\%$ ) and N<sub>2</sub> ( $\pm 1\%$ ) used in the determination of the mirror reflectivity. The CEAS cross-sections differ from the CRDS data by (Sneep and Ubachs, 2005) at 532.2 nm and are well within either measurement error bar (Figure 4b). In contrast, the CEAS values differ from the nephelometer data by -10.8% at 488.0 nm and by -5.1% at 514.5 nm, though they are within the  $\pm 11\%$  uncertainty of the nephelometer.

#### 4.1.3 Oxygen

The extinction cross-sections of O<sub>2</sub> (at a temperature of 299 K and a pressure of 660 Torr) are shown in Figure 4c next to the  $n$ -based predictions based on (Bates, 1984) and the nephelometer measurements of (Shardanand and Rao, 1977). The CEAS data show two absorption bands due to the oxygen dimer, O<sub>4</sub>, centered at 477 nm and 532 nm (Thalman and Volkamer, 2013). In the 490 – 515 nm wavelength interval, the contribution of these absorption bands to the total extinction is negligible ( $< 0.2\%$  at 515 nm), i.e., the extinction is dominated by scattering. In this region, the observed cross-sections are slightly larger than the  $n$ -based data of (Bates, 1984): the differences range from +8.3% at 495.08 nm to +2.5% at 515.06 nm (Table 1). Relative to the nephelometer measurements, the CEAS data differ by +8.7% at 488 nm and by +15.3% at 514.5 nm.

We calculated the absorption cross-section of O<sub>4</sub> by subtracting the scattering cross-section of (Bates, 1984), upshifted by  $+3.86 \times 10^{-28}$  cm<sup>2</sup> molecule<sup>-1</sup> (i.e., by 6%) to match the  $n$ -based data to the observed extinction from 487 nm to 516 nm, from the extinction shown in Figure 4c, and dividing by the number density of O<sub>2</sub> ( $2.13 \times 10^{19}$  molecules cm<sup>-3</sup>). The result is shown in Figure S4. The error for this absorption cross-section calculation is estimated at  $\pm 8.5\%$ , with the largest source of error being the correction to the scattering cross-section extrapolated from the region where absorption is negligible. For the smaller band between 520 and 540 nm, the observed cross-section of  $(1.08 \pm 0.09) \times 10^{-46}$  cm<sup>5</sup> molecule<sup>-2</sup> is in agreement with recent room-temperature measurements by other groups (Table S1). For the larger band between 467 and 485 nm, the peak cross-section of  $(6.2 \pm 0.5) \times 10^{-46}$  cm<sup>5</sup> molecule<sup>-2</sup> is smaller than that



reported in recent measurements (Thalman and Volkamer, 2013; Sneepe et al., 2006), though the shape of the peak is identical and the error bars overlap.

#### 4.1.4 Air

340 Figure 4d shows the extinction spectrum of ultrapure air ("zero" grade, Praxair) at a temperature of  $(298.5 \pm 0.1)$  K and pressure of  $(660.5 \pm 0.5)$  Torr. Superimposed is the  $n$ -based prediction from the refractive index data of (Penndorf, 1957) and King correction factor from (Bodhaine et al., 1999).

The sample cylinder contains a sufficiently high quantity of  $O_2$  ( $\sim 19.5\%$  by volume, Praxair) for  $O_4$  absorption bands to appear at 477.5 and 531.5 nm. In the 495 - 515 nm wavelength region, the cross-sections observed by CEAS are slightly larger than the  $n$ -based prediction, by +4.0%, +3.0%, and +6.8% at 495, 505, and 515 nm, respectively (Table 1).  
345

#### 4.1.5 Carbon dioxide

Figure 4e shows the scattering cross-sections of  $CO_2$  at  $(299.0 \pm 0.1)$  K and  $(660.0 \pm 0.5)$  Torr for the 475 - 540 nm wavelength interval. Superimposed are the  $n$ -based prediction based on (1973), nephelometer measurements (1977), and a CRDS measurement at 532.2 nm (2005). The observed scattering cross-sections differ from the  $n$ -based prediction by -2.9%, +2.4% and -2.8% at 485 nm, 505 nm, and 525 nm, respectively (Table 1). In contrast, the CRDS measurement at 532.2 nm, which has a relatively high uncertainty of  $\pm 6.5\%$  at the  $1\sigma$  level, is 11% lower than the CEAS measurement. The nephelometer measurements (1977), on the other hand, are significantly larger than the other data shown and appear to be in error.  
350

#### 4.1.6 Methane

355 Figure 4f shows the extinction spectrum of  $CH_4$  (research grade, 99.97%) for the 475 - 550 nm interval at  $(298.5 \pm 0.1)$  K and  $(660.5 \pm 0.5)$  Torr. The  $CH_4$  spectrum in this region contains a number of combination and overtone absorption bands near 484.7, 486.1, 509.6, 522.0, and 543.4 nm that have been assigned by (Giver, 1978). These bands are relevant to studies simulating the atmospheres of Jovian planets (e.g., Uranus, Neptune) and Saturn's moon Titan that contain  $CH_4$  (Karkoschka, 1994). Superimposed are CRDS data by (Sneepe and Ubachs, 2005) and the  $n$ -based scattering cross-sections, calculated using the parameterization by Sneepe and Ubachs, and refractive index data from (Hohm, 1993), assuming a depolarization ratio of unity and nephelometer data by (Shardanand and Rao, 1977) extrapolated using Eq. (5) (dashed line). In spite of the many absorption bands, there are small windows where the optical extinction appears to be dominated by scattering and a comparison with literature is feasible. There is very little difference (within combined measurement errors) between CEAS and interpolated nephelometer data at those  
360 wavelenghts. At 492.06 nm and 527.28 nm, for example, the data are within -0.07% and 0.17%, respectively (Table 1). There is also reasonable agreement between the CEAS and CRDS data 532.2 nm, which differ by 4.7% but compares well with the total CEAS uncertainty of 4.6% for  $CH_4$ .  
365



## 4.2 Measurement of trace gas mixing ratios

### 4.2.1 Nitrogen dioxide

370 An example NO<sub>2</sub> CEAS measurement is shown on Figure 5a. The figure shows the measured optical extinction ( $\alpha$ ) for a routine calibration period during the ORCA campaign on 22 Jul, 2015 at 11:52:07 to 11:57:02 (UTC). Superimposed is a fit determined with DOASIS. An NO<sub>2</sub> mixing ratio of  $(11.6 \pm 0.4)$  ppbv was retrieved. The residual spectrum is lacking structure, indicating that other absorbers are not significant in this wavelength region.

During the ORCA campaign, the inlet of the CEAS (and CRDS, which sampled in parallel) was overflowed every 30  
375 min with a standard gas mixture of  $\sim 20$  ppbv NO<sub>x</sub> containing up to 16 ppbv of NO<sub>2</sub> in zero air and with  $\sim 130$  ppbv of NO added to ambient air. The zero air was generated using a scrubber constructed in-house that delivered air with a similar moisture content as ambient air. A subset of these data (and the ambient air data sampled in between) is shown in Figure 6a.

High concentrations of NO in air are prone to oxidation (by O<sub>3</sub> and, to a lesser degree, by O<sub>2</sub>) to NO<sub>2</sub> (Atkinson et al.,  
380 2004). Because the CRDS had a longer inlet residence time (7 s) than the CEAS (2.3 s), it observed greater conversion of NO to NO<sub>2</sub> when the high NO concentration standard was sampled in an ambient air matrix. On the other hand, when the lower concentration NO<sub>x</sub> standard was sampled in O<sub>3</sub>-free air, the two instruments agreed well (Figure 6a). Shown in Figure 7a is a scatter plot of all of the NO<sub>x</sub> calibration data. This plot shows a linear relationship with a slope of  $0.923 \pm 0.009$ , an intercept of  $0.18 \pm 0.09$  ppbv, and  $r^2 = 0.975$ . The slope of the line in Figure 7a reveals 7.7%  
385 difference in measurement of the calibration standard.

In ambient air, the median NO<sub>2</sub> mixing ratio during ORCA was 1.24 ppbv. Shown in Figure 6b is a time series of a subset of ambient air NO<sub>2</sub> measurements. The CEAS NO<sub>2</sub> data clearly exhibit more scatter than the CRDS NO<sub>2</sub> data and occasionally fall below zero. The scatter plot of CEAS and CRDS NO<sub>2</sub> data (Figures 7b and 7c) suggest that the CRDS data were systematically higher than the CEAS data, by 15% when sampling ambient air (Figure 7c). When  
390 data are filtered by removing all CEAS points below a factor of three times the standard deviation of a blank measurement for 60 s ( $\sim 1$  ppbv; see Sect. 4.3), the slope of the scatter plot, when forced through an intercept of zero, is  $0.98 \pm 0.01$  ( $r^2 = 0.070$ ).

### 4.2.2 Molecular iodine

Figure 5b shows an example of an I<sub>2</sub> measurement. The extinction spectrum was recorded during the ORCA campaign  
395 on 18 Jul 2015, when I<sub>2</sub> from a permeation source had been added to the inlet and represents a 60 s average. A mixing ratio of  $(10.1 \pm 0.2)$  ppbv was retrieved in this example.

Figure S5 shows spectra of laboratory generated I<sub>2</sub> samples and their respective absorption spectra, fits, and residuals. The smallest amount of I<sub>2</sub> that was produce without dilution of the permeation chamber output flow was  $\sim 21$  pptv. Fit results near 20 pptv showed large residuals ( $\pm 27\%$ ) indicating that the CEAS was near its detection limit.

400 A sample time series of laboratory I<sub>2</sub> measurements (30 s averaged data) is shown in Figure S6. Gas streams containing I<sub>2</sub> were generated using four permeation tubes of different wall thickness, that were exchanged while the output of the permeation was bypassed and the CEAS sampled zero air. The CEAS responded rapidly to concentration changes: for



example, at 22:05, the response 30 s after "zeroing" was 10% of the preceding value, indicating that memory effects (from slow adsorption / desorption kinetics of iodine on the inner walls of the inlet) were negligible. Figure S7 shows a sample time series of I<sub>2</sub> mixing ratios during the ORCA campaign. Concentrations of I<sub>2</sub> in ambient air were below the instrument's detection limit. At 22:30 UTC, I<sub>2</sub> from a diffusion source was added to the inlet. The square-wave response and quick rise and fall times suggest the absence of inlet transmission losses.

#### 4.3 Accuracy and limits of detection

The accuracy of the CEAS NO<sub>2</sub> measurement is influenced by uncertainties in the absorption cross-section of NO<sub>2</sub> (3%) (Voigt et al., 2002), fit errors (3 – 5%), which can be reduced to 2 – 4% by smoothing, scattering cross-sections (2.5%) (see Sect. 3.2 and 4.1), and calibration errors in the mass flow controller reading (1%), sample cell pressure readout (0.5%), and temperature measurement (0.7%). The total uncertainty, expressed as the square root of the individual errors summed in quadrature, is  $\pm(5.5 - 7.6)\%$ .

The limits of detection (LOD) were assessed through Allan deviation analyses (Werle et al., 1993). For NO<sub>2</sub> sampled at a flow of 1.5 slpm and cell pressure of 668 Torr, the Allan deviation was  $\pm 278$  pptv for 10 s data, 105 pptv for 60 s data, 49 pptv for 5 min data averages (Figure 8a). At the higher sample flow of 5 slpm and reduced cell pressure of 350 Torr used during the ORCA campaign, the Allen deviation was  $\pm 137$  pptv for 334 s data (Figure S8).

For I<sub>2</sub> in laboratory-generated samples under optimal conditions, typical  $1\sigma$  fit errors (when integrated over 60 s) were  $\pm 5.8$  pptv for 21 pptv I<sub>2</sub> and  $\pm 7$  pptv for 350 pptv I<sub>2</sub> (Figure S6). The accuracy for I<sub>2</sub> was (5.4 – 6.4)%, with main contribution from error in the high-resolution absorption cross-section of I<sub>2</sub> (Spietz et al., 2006). The Allan deviation plot in Figure 8b demonstrates  $1\sigma$  measurement precisions for I<sub>2</sub> of  $\pm 38$  pptv for 60 s and  $\pm 16$  pptv for 5 min averaged data. During ORCA, the  $1\sigma$  precisions were  $\pm 100$  pptv for 60 s and  $\pm 50$  pptv, respectively.

For OIO, the Allan deviation analysis gives  $1\sigma$  measurement precisions of  $\pm 4.6$  pptv for 60 s and  $\pm 1.8$  pptv for 5 min averaged data (Figure S9) in the laboratory.

#### 425 5 Discussion

The CEAS described in this work adds to a growing number of instruments designed for measurement of atmospheric trace gases (Table 2). It differentiates itself foremost through its unique wavelength region, where several trace gases of atmospheric interest (e.g., NO<sub>2</sub>, I<sub>2</sub>, IO, OIO) absorb (Figure 1). Measurements of optical absorption in the cyan region enable simultaneous quantification of I<sub>2</sub>, IO, and OIO in a single channel. Currently, such measurements require multiple detection channels, for example quantification of I<sub>2</sub> and OIO mixing ratios using the 525 – 555 nm range and those of IO the 420 – 460 nm window in a separate channel (Vaughan et al., 2008). A reduction of channels and LEDs corresponds to savings in space and power requirements, important considerations in the field.

As such, this paper has laid some of the ground work for future measurements in the cyan spectral region, in that we measured relevant scattering and absorption cross-sections of pure gases (see S.I.). Such information is needed to determine mirror reflectivity and is useful to probe the consistency of scattering cross-sections reported for this



wavelength region (of which there have been relatively few) and, hopefully, improve upon their accuracy, to better describe transmission of radiation through the atmosphere.

440 Scattering cross-section measurements for non-absorbing gases agree with all recent literature values (Figure 4 and Table 1). For example, the CEAS scattering cross-section measurements agree, within the combined experimental uncertainties ( $1\sigma$ ), with the CRDS data by (Sneep and Ubachs, 2005) at 532.2 nm for  $N_2$ , Ar,  $CO_2$ , and  $CH_4$ , and with the nephelometer measurements of (Shardanand and Rao, 1977) at 488.0 and 514.5 nm for  $N_2$ , Ar,  $O_2$ , and  $CH_4$ . For  $CO_2$ , the CEAS data closely match the data by Bideau-Mehu et al. (1973) and recent data by (He et al., 2018); the older data by (Shardanand and Rao, 1977), in contrast, appear high (Figure 4e).

445 In the case of  $CH_4$ , to lesser extent,  $O_2$  and, air, the analysis is complicated by absorption lines. For  $O_2$ , our data and derived collisional-induced absorption cross-sections agree with literature (Table S1). For regions that appear to be free of absorption bands, the CEAS data for  $CH_4$  (Figure 4f) agree with cross-section measurements of (Shardanand and Rao, 1977) but not with the more recent work of (Hohm, 1993) whose data appear high. The CRDS data point by (Sneep and Ubachs, 2005) is on a shoulder of a large absorption band and hence not a valid measurement of scattering but extinction cross-section; their data agrees with the extinction cross-section observed in this work. Accurate  
450 knowledge of the scattering cross-section of  $CH_4$  is important to the study of planetary bodies with atmospheric content of  $CH_4$  such as Saturn's moon Titan. Future studies should re-examine the scattering cross-section measurements of  $CH_4$  to resolve the reported differences.

The detection limit for  $NO_2$  achieved under laboratory conditions in this work (49 pptv for 5 min data) is compared to instruments operated in other wavelength regions (Table 2). However, the CEAS measurement precision in this work  
455 was surpassed by the more mature blue diode CRDS, though future upgrades (e.g., more highly reflective mirrors, more sensitive spectrometer, etc.) may improve the CEAS precision. On the other hand, the CEAS may ultimately be more accurate. Unlike CEAS where all absorbing molecules are incorporated in the fit, the measurement of  $NO_2$  by blue diode laser CRDS is prone to potential interference from molecules that absorb at 405 nm such as glyoxal and methyl glyoxal (Fuchs et al., 2009). For example, Fuchs et al. estimated that the presence of glyoxal could introduce  
460 an interference of  $\sim 1\%$  in polluted and up to 10% in forested environments (Fuchs et al., 2009). The low precision of the data in the scatter plot shown in Figure 7c prevents us from drawing a definitive conclusion as to the magnitude of such interferences. Still, future comparisons of CEAS and blue diode CRDS measurements of ambient  $NO_2$  should be conducted. The data presented in this manuscript show that accurate measurements of  $NO_2$  in ambient air by a cyan CEAS are possible.

465 The sensitivity for  $I_2$  and OIO (16 and 1.8 pptv for 5 min averaged data under laboratory conditions) suffices for their quantification in environmental chamber studies (Dixneuf et al., 2009). Further, these LODs are below maximum  $I_2$  and OIO abundances reported at Mace Head, Ireland, of 94 and 13 pptv (Bitter et al., 2005) and 61 and 9.2 pptv (Peters et al., 2005), respectively, but above the maximum  $I_2$  level of 4 pptv reported in California (Finley and Saltzman, 2008). This implies that iodine species on the West coast of British Columbia, Canada, might have been detected if  
470 the instrument had been operated optimally. Even then, the LOD for  $I_2$  of 76 pptv ( $2\sigma$ , 60 s average) is larger than the LOD of 26 pptv ( $2\sigma$ , 60 s average) reported by Vaughan et al. (2008). This suggests that improvements are possible.



Below we discuss potential instrument modifications to improve the detection limit and sampling of iodine species in future field deployments.

One area for improvement is the thermal management of the LED. Its intensity and wavelength drifts with temperature, necessitating temperature stabilization to achieve a constant emission profile. In this work, the cyan LED was stabilized by mounting a single Peltier thermoelectric module and thermocouple between the heat sink and the LED. When evaluated in the climate-controlled laboratory, this yielded a cavity emission profile that varied along the entire wavelength range (446.9–563.2 nm) of the spectrometer by  $\pm 15$  counts (Figure S10). At 500 nm, this corresponded to an absorption coefficient of  $\pm 1 \times 10^{-9} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . During the field deployment, however, the LED was subject to greater output fluctuations, since the trailer temperature was not as well controlled as in the laboratory, and thermal gradients between the LED and thermocouple may have come into play.

When deployed in the field, the performance of the CEAS was also compromised by variable cell pressure which added noise to the optical extinction, caused in part by the large pressure drop from  $\sim 760$  to  $\sim 350$  Torr. Furthermore, we discovered post-campaign that the alignment of the round-to-linear fiber bundle is very sensitive to vibrations, which would have added additional noise during the field campaign. In future deployments, improved pressure, temperature and vibrational stabilization of the sample cell (as it is common in aircraft deployments, for example) and instrument will be paramount.

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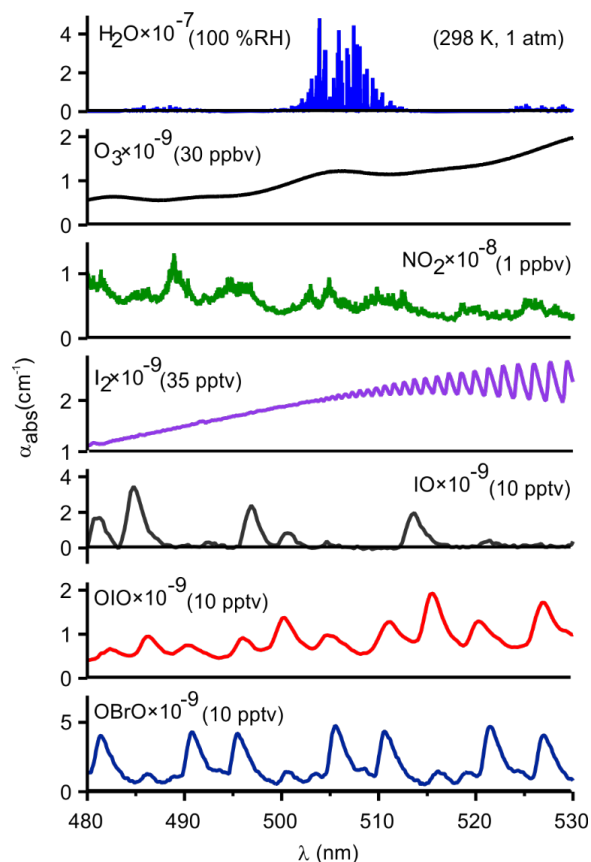
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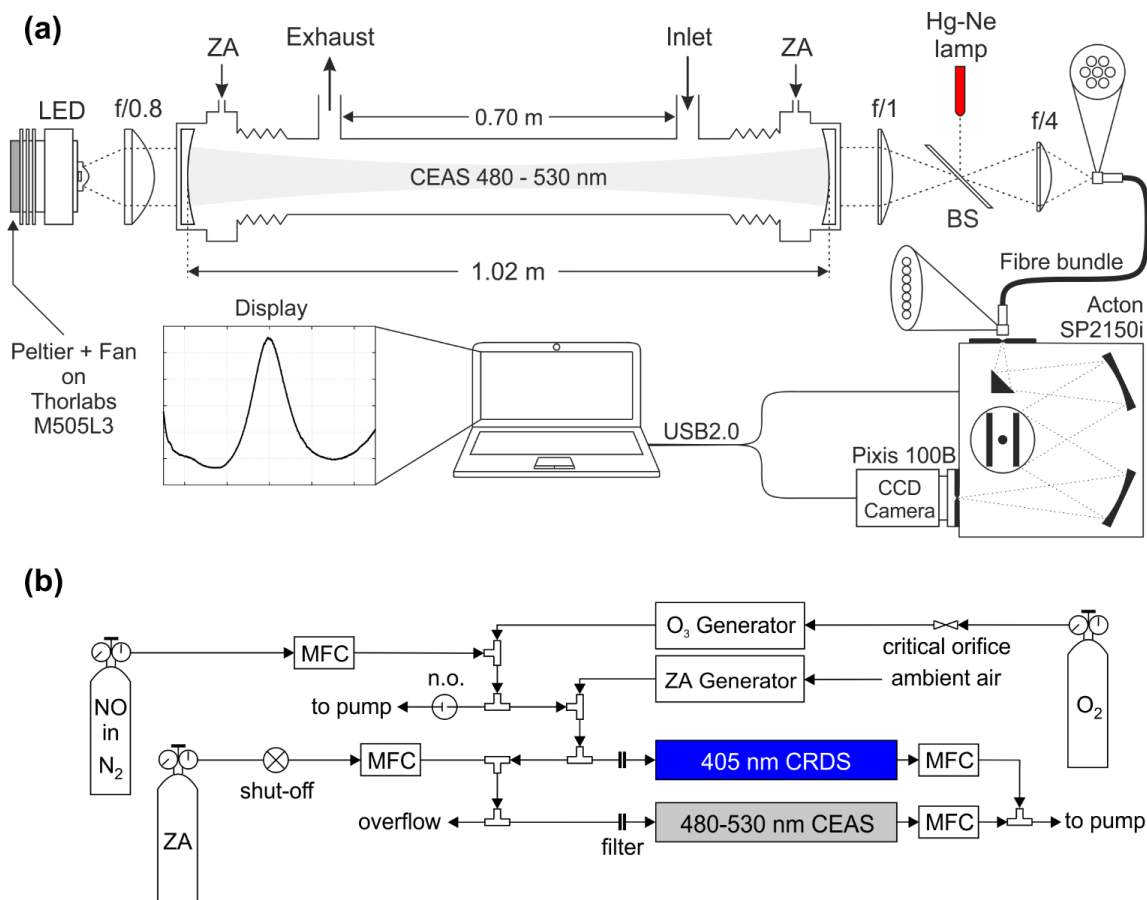


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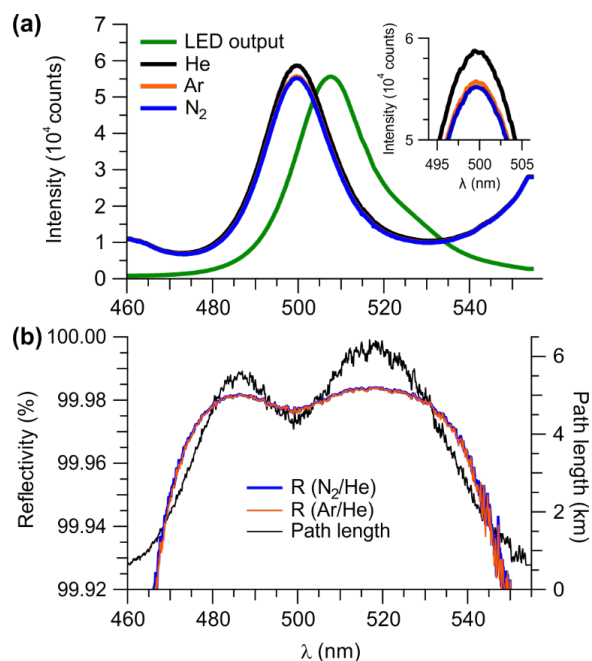


**Figure 1.** Absorption coefficients for atmospheric absorbers in the cyan region at typical tropospheric abundances (stated in brackets after each species). Absorption cross-sections were downloaded from the Max-Planck Institute for Chemistry's web site located at [www.uv-vis-spectral-atlas-mainz.org](http://www.uv-vis-spectral-atlas-mainz.org) and are based on the following:  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (Coheur et al., 2002),  $\text{O}_3$  (Burkholder and Talukdar, 1994),  $\text{NO}_2$  (Voigt et al., 2002),  $\text{I}_2$  (Spietz et al., 2006),  $\text{IO}$ ,  $\text{OIO}$  (Spietz et al., 2005), and  $\text{OBrO}$  (Knight et al., 2000). The absorption cross-section of  $\text{O}_4$  is shown in Figure S4.

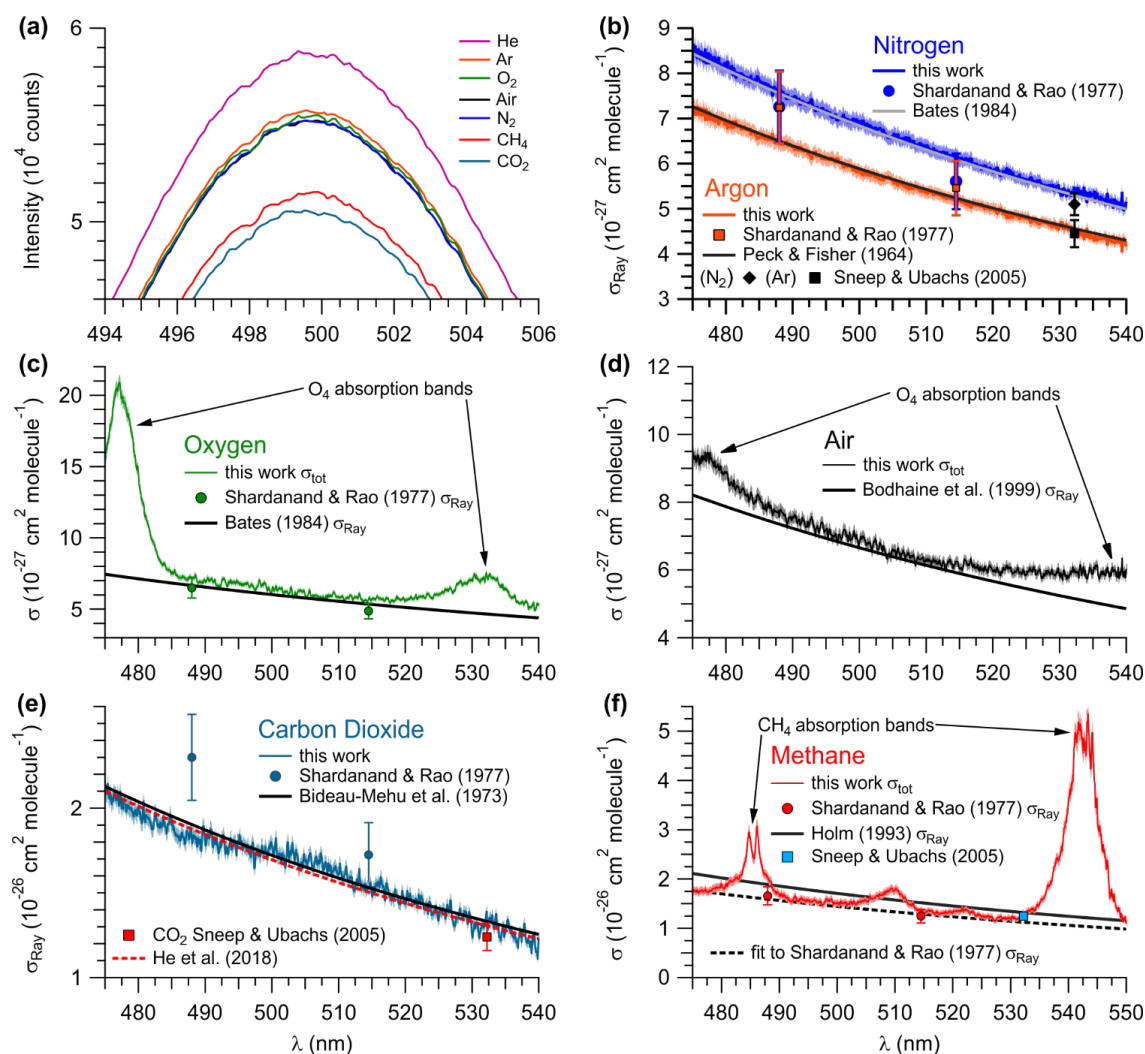
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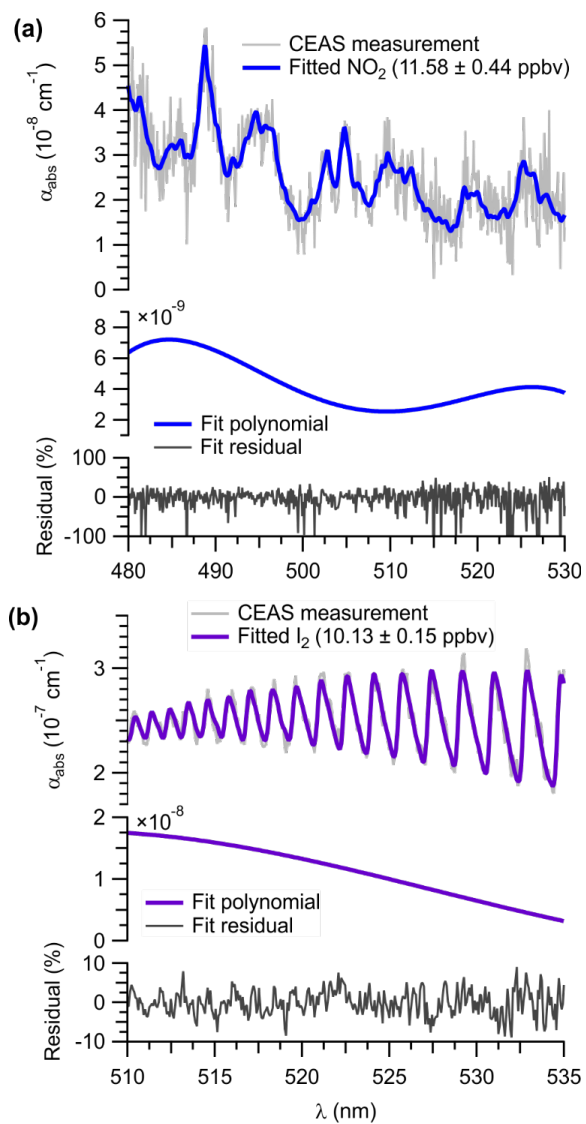
670 **Figure 2.** (a) Setup of the cyan CEAS (not to scale). (b) Setup of  $\text{NO}_2$  calibration gas delivery for instrument characterization experiments. Abbreviations: LED – light emitting diode, BS – quartz beam splitter, CCD – charge-coupled device, ZA – zero air, USB – universal serial bus, and MFC – mass flow controller.



**Figure 3.** (a): Transmission spectra (averaged over 15 min) observed when the sample cell was filled with He, Ar, or N<sub>2</sub>. The LED output spectrum (in arbitrarily scaled units) is superimposed. (b): Mirror reflectivity and effective path length (based on Ar/He) calculated from the data shown in panel (a).



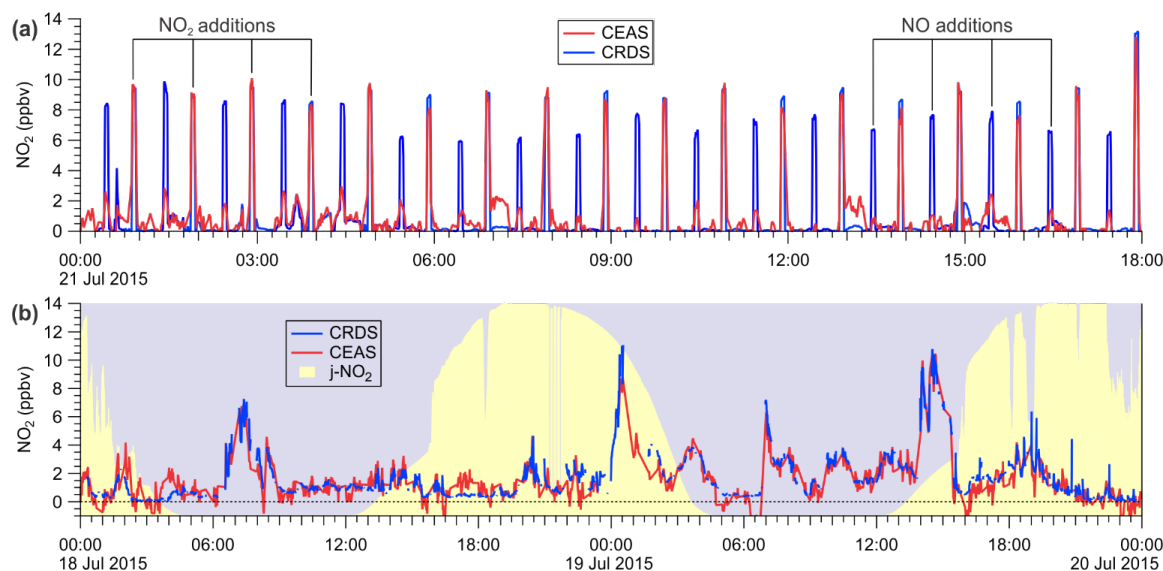
**Figure 4.** Measurements of pure gases. (a) Relative intensities of the CEAS signal due to each sampled gas. Extinction cross-sections of (b) 99.998% N<sub>2</sub> (shown in blue) and 99.998% Ar (red), (c) air (black), (d) 99.99% O<sub>2</sub> (green), (e) 99.95% CO<sub>2</sub> (teal), and (f) 99.97% CH<sub>4</sub> (red). Shaded areas represent  $\pm 2.5\%$  error margin in N<sub>2</sub>, Ar, O<sub>2</sub>, air, and CO<sub>2</sub>, and 4.6% in CH<sub>4</sub>.  $\sigma_{\text{Ray}}$  - Rayleigh scattering cross-section;  $\sigma_{\text{tot}}$  = total extinction cross-section ( $=\sigma_{\text{Ray}} + \sigma_{\text{abs}}$ ).



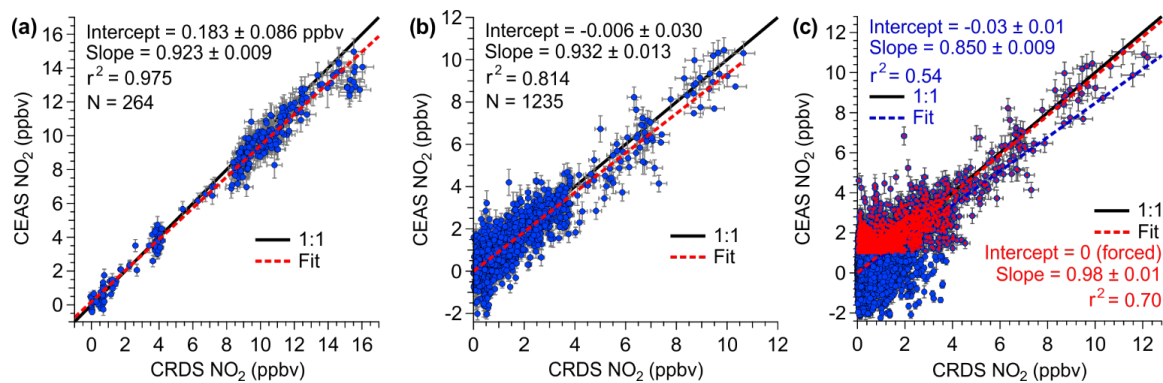
**Figure 5.** Spectral fits to 60 s CEAS signal, including a 3<sup>rd</sup> order polynomial and fit residual, for **a)**  $\text{NO}_2$  (ambient)

685 and **b)**  $\text{I}_2$  (calibration) during the ORCA field campaign.





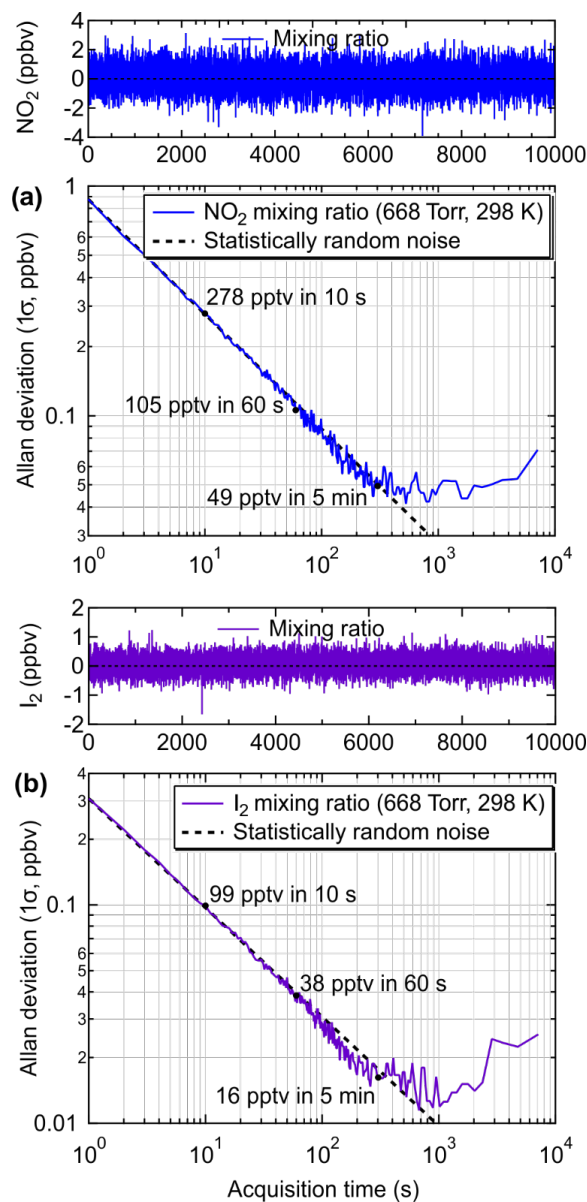
**Figure 6.** (a) Sample time series of continuous CEAS and CRDS data collected during the ORCA campaign showing measurements of ambient air, NO<sub>2</sub>-free "zero" air (every 30 min), and hourly standard additions of NO<sub>2</sub> (~10 ppbv) in "zero air" and NO (~130 ppbv) to ambient air. When high concentrations of NO were added, more NO<sub>2</sub> was observed by CRDS due to this instrument's longer inlet residence time. (b) Sample time series of ambient air NO<sub>2</sub> mixing ratios observed by CEAS and CRDS during ORCA.



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**Figure 7.** Scatter plots and straight-line fits of CEAS and CRDS NO<sub>2</sub> mixing ratios for: (a) standard additions and calibrations, (b) ambient air measurements on 18-19 Jul, 2015, and (c) ambient air measurements of the entire campaign. For the fit line shown in red, CEAS retrievals with NO<sub>2</sub> mixing ratios <1 ppbv were excluded. All data were averaged to 60 s.

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**Figure 8.** Allan deviation plots of data collected while the CEAS was sampling zero air to determine the optimum integration time of: (a) the calculated NO<sub>2</sub> mixing ratios at 668 Torr (1.5 slpm sample rate) and 298 K, and (b) the calculated I<sub>2</sub> mixing ratios under the same conditions.

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**Table 1.** Summary of observed and  $n$ -based Rayleigh scattering cross-sections.

Gas (Purity)	$\lambda$ (nm)	$\sigma_{Ray}$ (this work) <sup>a</sup> ( $10^{-27}$ cm <sup>2</sup> molecule <sup>-1</sup> )	$\sigma_{Ray}$ ( $n$ -based) <sup>b</sup> ( $10^{-27}$ cm <sup>2</sup> molecule <sup>-1</sup> )	$\sigma_{Ray}$ (CRDS) <sup>d</sup> ( $10^{-27}$ cm <sup>2</sup> molecule <sup>-1</sup> )	$(n-1) \times 10^{-6}$	$F_k^c$
N <sub>2</sub> (99.998%)	485.03	7.85	7.74	-	284.97	1.034
	495.08	7.16	7.12	-	284.70	
	505.01	6.61	6.56	-	284.45	
	515.06	6.09	6.06	-	284.22	
	525.07	5.61	5.60	-	283.99	
	532.20	5.49	5.30	5.1(±0.2)	283.84	
O <sub>2</sub> (99.99%)	485.03	-	6.83	-	273.34	1.096
	495.08	6.84	6.28	-	273.03	
	505.01	5.96	5.78	-	272.74	
	515.06	5.72	5.33	-	272.46	
	525.07	-	4.93	-	272.21	
Air <sup>e</sup>	485.03	-	7.54	-	279.38	1.133
	495.08	7.22	6.93	-	279.10	
	505.01	6.60	6.39	-	278.84	
	515.06	6.04	5.89	-	278.59	
	525.07	-	5.45	-	278.36	
Ar (99.998%)	485.03	6.58	6.67	-	269.02	1.000
	495.08	6.10	6.13	-	268.77	
	505.01	5.61	5.65	-	268.54	
	515.06	5.19	5.22	-	268.31	
	525.07	4.81	4.82	-	268.11	
	532.20	4.40	4.56	4.4 (±0.3)	267.97	
CO <sub>2</sub> (99.97%)	485.03	19.0	19.5	-	429.81	1.136
	495.08	18.0	17.9	-	429.33	
	505.01	16.9	16.5	-	428.88	
	515.06	14.7	15.2	-	428.46	
	525.07	13.7	14.1	-	428.06	
	532.20	13.9	13.3	12.4(±0.8)	427.79	
CH <sub>4</sub> (99.95%)	492.06	15.4	15.4 <sup>f</sup>	-	483.22	1.000
	497.46	14.7	14.7 <sup>f</sup>	-	482.87	
	501.72	14.5	14.2 <sup>f</sup>	-	482.59	
	516.92	12.8	12.6 <sup>f</sup>	-	481.66	
	527.28	11.6	11.7 <sup>f</sup>	-	481.08	
	532.20	13.1	13.2 <sup>f</sup>	12.5(±0.2)	480.81	

<sup>a</sup> The absolute uncertainty is  $\pm 2.5\%$  (see Sect. 4.1); <sup>b,c</sup> See text for references of  $n$ -based scattering cross-sections and references therein for corresponding calculations of King correction factors; <sup>d</sup> From (Sneep and Ubachs, 2005);



uncertainty is stated as  $1\sigma$ . <sup>e</sup>The ratio of  $N_2/O_2$  in the cylinder was  $\sim 80.5/19.5$ ; <sup>f</sup>Comparison is to the fitted expression  
710 to the data set of (Shardanand and Rao, 1977).



**Table 2.** Selected CEAS detectors for quantification of NO<sub>2</sub> in the near-UV and visible region of the electromagnetic spectrum

	Arc 330 (Washenfelde r et al., 2016)	Violet 365 (Gherman et al., 2008)	Blue 455 (Min et al., 2016)	Blue 455 (Langridge et al., 2006)	Blue 465 (Thalman and Volkamer, 2010)	Red 643 (Triki et al., 2008)	Red 660 (Wu et al., 2014)	Cyan 508 (This work)
Light source manu-facturer	Energetiq	Omicron Latronics	LEDEngin	Lumileds Luxeon	LEDEngin	Lumileds Luxeon	Marubeni America	Thorlabs
model	Laser-driven arc lamp	n/a	LZ1-00DB05	LXHL-PR09	LZ1-00DB05	LXHL- MD1D	SMB660N- 1100	M505L3
optical power (W)	125 W	0.105	1	0.450	1.0	0.190	0.300	0.440
$\lambda_p \pm \text{FWHM}^a$ (nm)	n/a	365±12	460±5	455±20	465±22	643±20	660±14	508±30
Fit range(s) (nm)	315-350	366 – 378	438 – 468	441 – 463	435 – 465 455 – 487	640 – 670	353 – 376	480 – 530
Mirror reflectivity (%)	99.93	99.94	99.997	99.976	99.9964	99.991	99.925	99.9998
Cell length (m)	1.00	1.15 and 4.50	0.48	1.50	0.99	2.00	1.76	1.02
Path length <sup>b</sup> (km)	1.43	1.9 and 7.5	17.8	6.25	27.5	22	2.1	510
Integration time (s)	30	600	5	30	60	60	120	60
LOD (1 $\sigma$ , ppbv)	0.14 <sup>#</sup>	0.38 <sup>*</sup>	0.04 <sup>#</sup>	0.10 <sup>*</sup>	0.030	9.0 <sup>*</sup>	1	0.11 <sup>*</sup> 0.53 <sup>#</sup>

<sup>a</sup> peak wavelength + full-width at half maximum; <sup>b</sup> effective path length,  $L_{\text{eff}} = 1/(1-R)$ ; \* laboratory sample; # field