

***Interactive comment on “A study of synthetic
 $^{13}\text{CH}_4$ retrievals from TROPOMI and Sentinel
5/UVNS Part 1: non scattering atmosphere” by
Edward Malina et al.***

Anonymous Referee #2

Received and published: 29 March 2019

The manuscript presented a study on retrievals of $^{13}\text{CH}_4$ from TROPOMI and Sentinel 5/UVNS. It is well written and very informative. I suggest it be accepted from publication after minor revision.

Major comments:

1. Although reference papers are provided, I think it is helpful for the reader if the authors can provide a clearer description of the remoTeC algorithm, for example, the components of the state vector etc.
2. More explanations about why the average kernel for $^{13}\text{CH}_4$ is different from $^{12}\text{CH}_4$ are also welcome.

C1

Minor comments:

1. Line 21, Page 1: 'The disagreement ...' The bottom-up approaches have large uncertainty as well.
2. Line 22, Page1: 'or incorrect transport ...', There also are large uncertainties in modelling CH_4 chemical losses.
3. Line 15, Page 3: 'Parker et al.,...', Works by Frankenberg et al., 2005 and 2011 should also be cited.
4. Line 10, Page 5: A comparison of $^{13}\text{CH}_4$ and $^{12}\text{CH}_4$ absorptions at different atmosphere levels can be useful for the reader to understand the different sensitivity of the TROPOMI instrument to their abundance.
5. Line 28, Page 6: '...and that is potential...', The whole sentence is not clear.
6. Fig 1: no unit shown for Jacobian. Also, no right-hand scale for $^{12}\text{CH}_4$.
7. Line 5, '...errors in Figure 4...'. Some explanation about the spots with high uncertainty (>1.5 ppb) will be helpful

Interactive comment on Atmos. Meas. Tech. Discuss., doi:10.5194/amt-2018-450, 2019.

C2