

Interactive comment on “The evolution of AMULSE (Atmospheric Measurements by Ultra-Light Spectrometer) and its interest in atmospheric applications. Results of the Atmospheric Profiles Of Greenhouse gasEs (APOGEE) weather balloon release campaign for satellite retrieval validation” by Lilian Joly et al.

Lilian Joly et al.

lilian.joly@univ-reims.fr

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Review#2

The evolution of AMULSE (Atmospheric Measurements by Ultra-Light Spectrometer) and its interest in atmospheric applications. Results of the Atmospheric Profiles Of

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Greenhouse gasEs (APOGEE) weather balloon release campaign for satellite retrieval validation

Anonymous Referee #2

Received and published: 3 January 2020

Thank you very much for your interest in our work. I warmly thank the Reviewer for his valuable comments which enabled us to improve this article.

General Comments

- 1) This paper should be reconsidered after major revisions.
- 2) There are sections of the paper that focus solely on IASI analysis and then shoehorn in the fact that the analysis was also done with CrIS. It would be beneficial to add more details on the analysis done with CrIS. A couple of the sections that need more information are mentioned in the specific comments.
- 3) There are many grammatical mistakes throughout that need fixing. I compiled a list of the ones I found but there are certainly more.
- 4) Overall, the structure of the paper is good.

Specific comments

- 1) Many acronyms are used without being spelled out in the abstract (CNRM, AMULSE, APOGEE, IASI, CrIS, NWP, RRTTOV, MOCAGE, CAMS)

Added

- 2) P8. Figure 2: What does the % of H₂O represent?

We changed the unit to be more explicit, we put it in ppmv (parts per million by volume).

- 3) P11. Line 3: The photo synthesis phenomenon enriching CO₂ should have a reference

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3) In section 5.1.3 and 5.2.2, the authors should add more information on CrIS. CrIS seems to be mentioned off hand while all of the analysis is done with IASI.

4) In equation 1 in section 5.1.5 \exp should be rewritten as either $\exp(O_3)$ or $O_3 = \ln(\dots)$. The superscript simul could also be shortened to just sim .

EXP means "an experiment" for example, EXPO3 means experiment for ozone case, etc.

Technical corrections

P1. Line 5-6: I recommend splitting this into two sentences. Maybe "The plug and play instrument is compact, robust, cost-effective, and autonomous. The instrument also has a low power consumption and is non-intrusive."

Corrected

P2. Line 7-8: rewrite to "The climate of the earth is currently changing quickly. Recently, evidence has accumulated showing that this climate change is directly related to human activities." Line 9: change "involve" to "create" Line 10: change "of" to "on" Line 10: remove "on Earth" Line 20: remove "the" before CH₄

All Corrected

Line 22: change "many informations" to "information" Line 25: Define the RRTOV RTTOV acronym

Corrected

P4. Line 26: change "meters" to "meters" Line 27: change "lots of preparations" to "a lot of preparation"

Corrected

P5. Line 2: change "This specificity of the balloons, to be able to access the profiles," to "The balloons' ability to access the profiles"

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Corrected

P6. Line 9: close the parentheses Line 10: change "The spectrometer weights is lower than" to "The spectrometer weighs less than" Line 13: change "send various datas" to "sends various data" Line 14: computer fixed 400m in relation to what? Line 15: capitalize AMULSE Line 23: change "at" to "a" change "about" to "for" Line 25: capitalize AMULSE

Corrected

P7. Figure 1: capitalize AMULSE, remove "of (a) CO₂, (b) CH₄ and (c) H₂O" P9. Line 3: replace "the" with "our" Line 9: change "balloon" to "balloons" Line 10: add period at the end of this sentence Line 18: change "Balloon" to "The balloon" Line 20: change "Balloon" to "The balloon" Line 20: change "cutted" to "cut" Line 29: make hypothesis plural

P11. Move the table 2 caption down a line Line 6-7: change "prospects for 2020 is to make water vapour measurements by laser diode spectrometry to have a better accuracy" to "goals for 2020 is to make water vapour measurements by laser diode spectrometry more accurate"

Corrected

P12. Line 6: change "a prior" to "a priori"

Corrected P13. Line 15, 19, 20, and 21: Either use commas or no separation between the thousand and hundred place in numbers instead of decimal points. (i.e. 1,000 or 1000)

Corrected

P16. Need to fix decimal points on this page as well. Line 4 and 5: what does "rp" mean Why did CO₂ and CH₄ become italicized midway through this page

decimal point and italicized corrected. "rp" is the abbreviation for respectively, which I

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replace here by "resp."

P17. Figure 9: If “,rp” stands for reference profiles you need a better way of conveying this Line 5: add “to” between “CO2” and “have”

In the same way $\hat{A} \hat{n}$ rp $\hat{A} \hat{z}$ means $\hat{A} \hat{n}$ respectively $\hat{A} \hat{z}$

P18. Line 8: change “validate to “verify” and remove “essentially”

Corrected

P19. Line 5: Remove “of the”

Corrected

P20. Line 13: add space to “be retrieved” Line 14: change “. Which” to “, which” Line 25: Remove “of” add the start of the sentence. I do not think “restitutions” is the right word here.

Corrected

P22. Last 2 lines: Remove italics on chemical names

Corrected

P23. Figure 12panel d: change “radiosondage” to “radiosonde”

Corrected

Interactive comment on Atmos. Meas. Tech. Discuss., doi:10.5194/amt-2019-335, 2019.

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The development of the Atmospheric Measurements by Ultra-Light Spectrometer (AMULSE) greenhouse gas profiling system and its interest in atmospheric applications

Lilian Joly¹, Olivier Coopmann², Vincent Guidard², Thomas Decarpentier¹, Nicolas Dumelié¹, Julien Cousin¹, Jérémie Burgalat¹, Nicolas Chauvin¹, Grégory Albora¹, Rabih Maamary¹, Zineb Miftah El Khair¹, Diane Tzanos³, Joël Barrié³, Éric Moulin³, Patrick Aressy³, and Anne Belleudy³

¹GSMA, UMR CNRS 7331, Université de Reims, U.F.R. Sciences Exactes et Naturelles, Reims, France

²CNRM, Université de Toulouse, Météo-France, CNRS, Toulouse, France (NWP team)

³CNRM, Université de Toulouse, Météo-France, CNRS, Toulouse, France (Instrumentation team)

Correspondence: L. Joly, GSMA, UMR CNRS 7331, Université de Reims, U.F.R. Sciences Exactes et Naturelles, Reims, France (lilian.joly@univ-reims.fr); O. Coopmann, Météo-France, CNRM/GMAP/OBS, 42 Avenue Gaspard Coriolis, 31057 Toulouse Cedex, France (olivier.coopmann@umr-cnrm.fr);

Abstract.

We report in this paper the development of an embedded ultralight spectrometer (< 3 kg) based on tuneable diode laser absorption spectroscopy (with a sampling rate of 24 Hz) in the mid-infrared spectral region. This instrument is dedicated to in-situ measurements of the vertical profile concentrations of three main greenhouse gases: carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄) and water vapour (H₂O) via standard weather and tethered balloons. The plug and play instrument is compact, robust, cost-effective, and autonomous. The instrument also has a low power consumption and is non-intrusive.

It was first calibrated during an *in situ* experiment on an ICOS (Integrated Carbon Observation System) site for several days, then used in a two experiments with several balloon flights up to 30 km altitude in the Reims-France in 2017-2018 in collaboration with Météo-France/CNRM Centre National de Recherches Météorologiques.

This paper shows the valuable interest of the data measured by AMULSE (Atmospheric Measurements by UltraLight Spectrometer) instrument during the APOGEE (Atmospheric Profiles Of Greenhouse gasEs) measurement experiment, specifically for the vertical profiles of CO₂ and CH₄, which remain very sparse. We have carried out several experiments showing that the measured profiles have several applications: for the validation of simulations of infrared satellite observations, for evaluating the quality of chemical profiles from Chemistry Transport Models (CTM) and for evaluating the quality of retrieved chemical profiles from the assimilation of infrared satellite observations. The results show that the simulations of infrared satellite observations from IASI (Infrared Atmospheric Sounding Interferometer) and CrIS (Cross-Track Infrared Sounder) instruments performed in operational mode for Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) by the Radiative Transfer Model (RTM) RTTOV (Radiative Transfer for TIROS Operational Vertical sounder) are of good quality. We also show that the MOCAGE (MOdèle de Chimie Atmosphérique à Grande Échelle) and CAMS (Copernicus Atmospheric Monitoring Service) CTMs modeled ozone profiles fairly accurately and that the CAMS CTM represents the methane in the troposphere well compared to MOCAGE. Fi-

Fig. 1.

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