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Ozone and Aerosol Optical Depth Retrievals Using the Ultraviolet Multi-Filter Rotating Shadow-band Radiometer

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Abstract: The ultraviolet multi-filter rotating shadowband radiometer (UV-MFRSR) is a seven-channel radiometer with narrowband filters centered between wavelengths 300 and 368 nm. Four of the middle wavelengths in this device are near those used in the Dobson spectrometer to retrieve ozone column abundance. In this paper measurements from Mauna Loa Observatory (MLO) were used, first, to calibrate the instrument using the Langley plot method, and, subsequently, to derive column ozone and aerosol optical depths. The ozone derived from the UV-MFRSR was compared to the ozone measured by a Dobson spectrophotometer that operates daily at the MLO resulting in column values within about 1 DU on average for 43 days in 2018. The aerosol optical depth (AOD) retrievals are more challenging. Generally, the AOD increases with wavelength between 305 and 332 nm; not what is expected given the typical AOD wavelength dependence at visible wavelengths. An example of this behavior is discussed, and research by others is cited that indicates similar behavior at these wavelengths, at least for the low aerosol optical depth conditions encountered at high altitude sites.

Introduction

Most historical network measurements of column ozone from the surface used Dobson or Brewer spectrometers, and these continue as the predominant ozone measurement instruments today. Brief explanations of these two devices and comparisons of concurrent and collocated measurements of total column ozone are given in Staehelin et al. (2003). Gao et al. (2001) demonstrated that ozone could be retrieved using the ultraviolet multi-filter rotating shadow-band radiometer (UV-MFRSR), which agreed with those values retrieved from either collocated Dobson and/or Brewer spectrophotometers to within 1-2%.

The wavelengths used for ozone retrievals in the UV-MFRSR more closely match wavelengths in the Dobson rather than the Brewer spectrophotometer. Typically, ozone retrieved from the Dobson uses the AD wavelength pairs ‘A’ 305.5/325.4 and ‘D’ 317.6/339.8. Since there is no filter near 339.8 nm, the UV-MFRSR uses filters near the ‘A’ pair and the Dobson ‘C’ pair 311.5/332.4. The filters in the UV-MFRSR that are used for ozone measurements are nominally the 305/325 nm pair and the 311/332 nm pair with carefully measured profiles of these filters used for actual retrievals.

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The basic procedure consists of measuring extinction at two wavelengths with one chosen to be more strongly attenuated than the other in the Hartley-Huggins ultraviolet bands. The basic extinction equation can be written

$$I(\lambda) = I_0(\lambda) \cdot \exp\left[-\tau_{ray}(\lambda)m_{ray}(\lambda)\left({}^{P}/_{P_o}\right) - \tau_{oz}(\lambda)m_{oz}(\lambda) - \tau_{aer}(\lambda)m_{aer}(\lambda)\right] \quad (1)$$

or, equivalently,

$$V(\lambda) = V_0(\lambda) \cdot \exp\left[-\tau_{ray}(\lambda)m_{ray}(\lambda)\left({}^{P}/_{P_o}\right) - \tau_{oz}(\lambda)m_{oz}(\lambda) - \tau_{aer}(\lambda)m_{aer}(\lambda)\right] \quad (2)$$

since the ratios I/I_o and V/V_o are equal.

In these equations:

$I(\lambda)$ = spectral irradiance measured by the instrument at the surface
$I_0(\lambda)$ = spectral irradiance measured by the instrument at the top of the atmosphere
$V(\lambda)$ = signal (voltage) measured by the instrument at the surface
$V_0(\lambda)$ = signal (voltage) measured by the instrument at the top of the atmosphere
τ's = optical depths for Rayleigh scattering (ray), ozone (oz), and aerosol (aer)
P, P_o = atmospheric pressure at the measurement site and at sea level, respectively
m's = airmasses for Rayleigh, ozone, and aerosol relative to a vertical path; they differ slightly because each has a different distribution with altitude in the atmosphere.

If we write ozone optical depth as $\tau_{oz} = \alpha_{oz} \cdot \eta_{oz}$, where α_{oz} is the ozone absorption coefficient and η_{oz} is the abundance of ozone, we can solve for η_{oz} by rearranging terms in two versions of eqn. (2) representing the two wavelengths in the pair (the longer wavelength is indicated by primes). Therefore, dropping the explicit λ dependence for clarity, we get for ozone abundance

$$\eta_{oz} = \frac{N - \left(\tau_{ray} - \tau'_{ray}\right)m_{ray}\left({}^{P}/_{P_o}\right) - \left(\tau_{aer} - \tau'_{aer}\right)m_{aer}}{\left(\alpha_{oz} - \alpha'_{oz}\right)m_{oz}}, \quad (3)$$

where N is defined as

$$N = \ln\left({}^{V_o}/_{V'_o}\right) - \ln\left({}^{V}/_{V'}\right).$$

Since all of the parameters of eqn. (3) are known or can be calculated, one could solve for η_{oz} if the term $(\tau_{aer} - \tau'_{aer})$, i.e., the aerosol optical depths at the two wavelengths were known. To curtail this requirement, the 'A' and 'C' wavelength pairs are used, and the assumption is made that since the wavelength separation of each pair is nearly the same and the wavelength dependence over this small wavelength region is expected to be nearly linear, subtraction of eqn. (3) applied to each pair will come very close to eliminating the aerosol terms because subtraction

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of aerosol terms should be near zero if these assumptions hold. The resulting equation used to calculate ozone is

$$\eta_{oz} = \frac{N_1 - N_2 - [(\tau_{ray} - \tau'_{ray})_1 - (\tau_{ray} - \tau'_{ray})_2]m_{ray}(P/P_o)}{[(\alpha_{oz} - \alpha'_{oz})_1 - (\alpha_{oz} - \alpha'_{oz})_2]m_{oz}}, \quad (4)$$

where

$$N_1 = \ln\left(V_{o,305}/V'_{o,325}\right) - \ln\left(V_{305}/V'_{325}\right),$$

and

$$N_2 = \ln\left(V_{o,311}/V'_{o,332}\right) - \ln\left(V_{311}/V'_{332}\right).$$

Calibration and Ozone Measurement Comparisons

The Langley calibration of the UV-MFRSR was performed at NOAA's Mauna Loa Observatory (Latitude = 19.5362°N; Longitude = 155.5763°W; 3397 m). The height of the observatory often allows measurements to be made in clean, free-tropospheric air above the marine boundary layer, especially in the morning hours.

UV-MFRSR data were obtained on 242 days in 2018 beginning on 14 February and ending on 15 October. There were 139 successful Langleys during this period that produced estimated Vo's with only 27 of these during the afternoon hours. Looking at the retrieved Vo's as a function of time there is a hint of a decrease, but not one filter indicates a statistically significant decline, therefore, averages of Vo's over the entire period are used in the ozone and aerosol retrievals.

Ozone is a standard measurement at NOAA's Mauna Loa Observatory and has been made with near continuous sampling since 1963. The Dobson spectrophotometer makes AD paired measurements to determine ozone using absorption coefficients measured by Bass and Paur (1985). No estimate of the ozone column below the observatory, which could be on the order of 5% of the column total at sea level, is made. Therefore, the column measurements made using the UV-MFRSR can be directly compared to the Dobson column measurements if one uses the Bass and Paur (1985) absorption cross-sections for the UV-MFRSR channels.

Since the Dobson generally uses the AD pair for the total column ozone calculation, we investigated the difference between AC and AD Dobson retrievals on two clear days at Mauna Loa that were used for Langley calibrations of the Dobson thus giving us more than the operational 1000, 1200, and 1400 local time ozone measurements. It is important to assess any differences since the UV-MFRSR uses wavelengths close to the AC pair for its ozone retrievals. Figure 1 illustrates the difference between Dobson measurements with the two different

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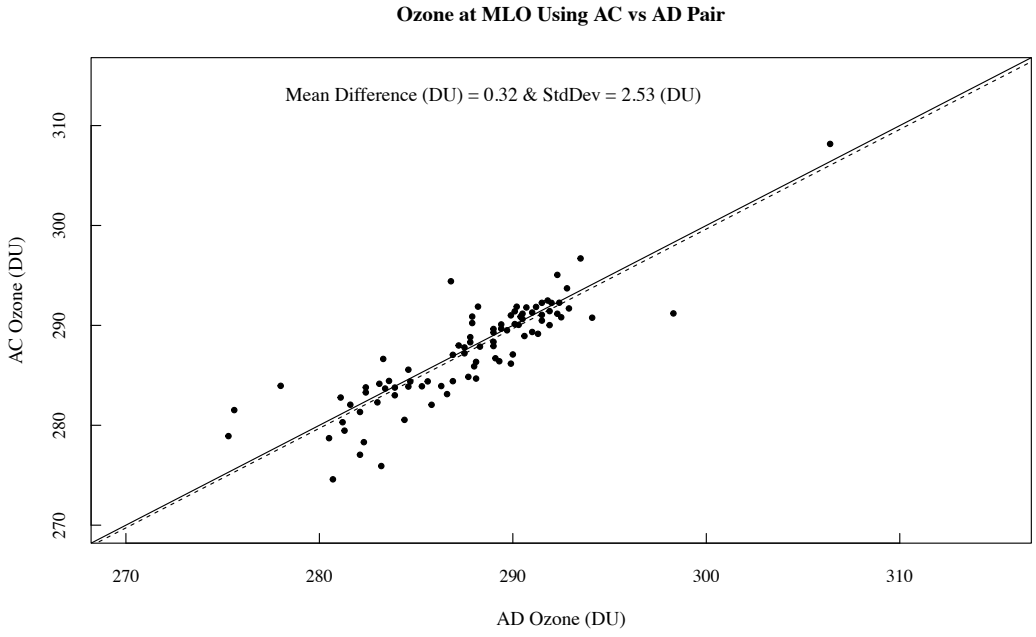

Figure 1. Plot of ozone measured by a Dobson unit at Mauna Loa Observatory retrieved using the Dobson AC pair versus the Dobson AD pair. Solid diagonal line is 1:1 line and dashed line is linear least-squares fit. The mean difference and standard deviation of the samples are given on the plot.

wavelength pairs. The mean difference in retrieved ozone for the 90 points compared in the plot is less than 0.5 DU and the standard deviation among the 90 samples is close to 2.5 DU. Therefore, using the AC pair of the UV-MFRSR for ozone retrievals and comparing to AD-pair Dobson ozone should be acceptable.

Figure 2 is a plot of the ozone time series retrieved from the Dobson AD pair and the UV-MFRSR AC pair for the 2018 data that were matched by day of year. In the case of the Dobson,

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one measurement is chosen from the three daily measurements made at 1000, 1200 and 1400

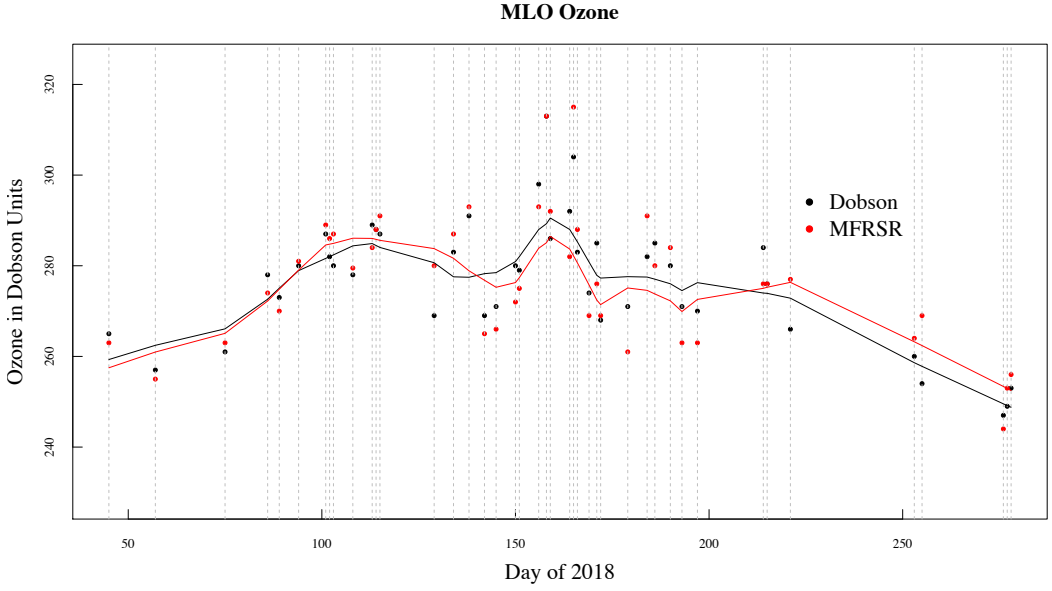

Figure 2. Time series plot of Mauna Loa Observatory for 43 days of retrieved ozone for 2018 using the Dobson spectrophotometer (black dots) and the UV-MFRSR (red dots). The lines are lowess fits using 0.25 of the points for the lowess fit at each point. The Dobson uses one of three measured points for the daily value, and the UV-MFRSR uses the median of all 20-second, clear-sun data for air masses less than three.

local standard time. Only direct sun measurements made with the Dobson are used for this comparison. For the UV-MFRSR data, which is sampled every 20 seconds, a median value of all points, which are made at less than three air masses and that pass cloud-screening, is used. Since measurements from the two instruments are made differently and no attempt to make them coincident, except for occurring on the same day, there is no expectation of perfect agreement given any diurnal variability. The average difference over the 43-day sample is about 0.10 Dobson units. The lowess fits to the two data sets track each other rather closely matching dips and peaks throughout the measurement period.

Sources of Uncertainty

Uncertainties in using a UV-MFRSR for ozone retrievals were discussed thoroughly by Gao et al. (2001). In this paper only data taken at less than three air masses (about 71° solar-zenith angle were used because (1) air mass determination is less certain at higher solar-zenith angles and the cosine response correction for the UV-MFRSR is larger and more difficult to pinpoint and, therefore, more uncertain. The extraterrestrial responses for the four filters used to retrieve ozone were averages for the 242-day period in 2018 as stated earlier. The uncertainties in extraterrestrial responses were between 0.2% and 0.3%. The ozone absorption coefficients were those measured by Bass and Paur (1985) adjusted for mid-latitude seasonal variations. The effective absorption coefficients were weighted by each of the four filter profiles, as were the

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Rayleigh scattering optical depths. The Rayleigh optical depths were pressure corrected using on-site measurements of atmospheric pressure.

Always a major concern when working in the ultraviolet is light from outside the band passes contributing to the measured signal. Si-C (silicon carbide) is the detector for the 300 nm and 305 nm filters. GaP (gallium phosphide) is used as the detector in the five longest wavelength filters. To measure the extent of the possible long-wavelength leakage, we used a Schott glass OG530 placed over the entrance optic being careful to block light paths from the edges that might reach the entrance diffuser optic. The transmission below 460 nm is 0.00001, therefore no light should reach the detectors with the OG530 completely covering the entrance optic. If higher orders of light from the interference filters would reach the detectors, they would begin to be a problem around 600 nm for the 300-nm filter and at longer wavelengths for the other six filters. The nighttime dark readings and 530 Schott blocking filter readings on a clear, sunny day were compared. These readings agreed within the detection limit for the UV-MFRSR.

Aerosol optical depth retrievals

After subtracting the large ozone and Rayleigh optical depth contributions to the total optical depth, a residual remains that is assumed to be aerosol extinction. Historically, at Mauna Loa the aerosol optical depths (AODs) are, in most cases, very small in the visible except in the aftermath of volcanic eruptions (Dutton et al., 1994). The current paper examines AODs in the ultraviolet at 305.6, 311.4, 317.5, 325.2, 332.4, and 367.8 nm where measurements of AOD are infrequently made. These wavelengths are shorter than those measured by most sunphotometers except for the 368 nm wavelength.

Figure 3 is typical of the AOD versus wavelength plots from the 43 days of measurements plotted in Fig. 2. *Typical* visible wavelength dependent behavior indicates a negative slope on this type of plot, however, the slope is positive from 305 to 332 nm and then becomes negative after that, with the 368-nm wavelength AOD smaller than the 332-nm wavelength. A careful search for systematic errors in a paper by Carlund et al. (2017) that examines another narrowband filter instrument for the ultraviolet did not explain the similar wavelength dependence (see the right-hand-side of their Fig. 6) that they measured for low aerosol optical depth days in Davos, Switzerland.

We also looked at nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) as a possible contaminant that if not removed could explain this wavelength behavior, however, the typical amount of NO_2 in the column above Mauna Loa would necessitate a correction of less than 0.001 optical depths at 332 nm, less at the shorter wavelengths, and slightly more at 368 nm. When only considering the 332 nm and 368 aerosol optical depths the plot indicates the typical visible wavelength dependence. Although Fig. 3 is the only plot of AOD shown, all of the 43 days showed similar behavior.

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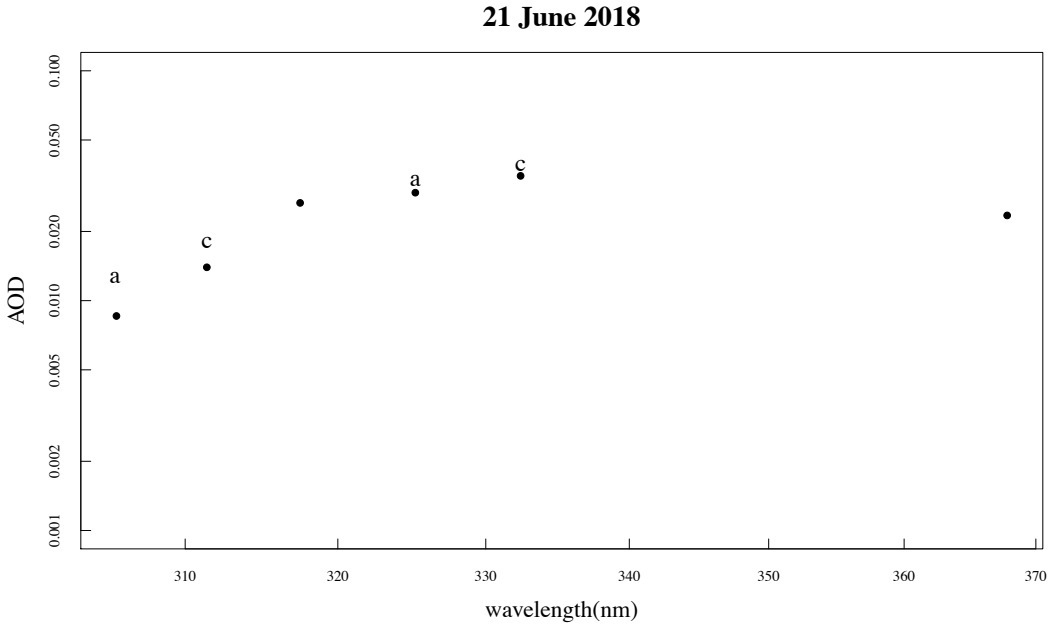

Figure 3. This plot indicates the AOD versus wavelength for the UV-MFRSR filter set at Mauna Loa Observatory. Instead of a negative slope, this figure, which is typical of the 43 days in this study, indicates a positive slope with a negative slope indicated only by the two longest wavelengths. The 'a' and 'c' labels are included to indicate the wavelength pairs used for the ozone retrievals.

Discussion

This paper focuses on data from the Manua Loa Observatory only. It corroborates results reported by Gao et al. (2001) regarding the UV-MFRSR's ability to retrieve ozone column that is in agreement with the Dobson instrument at Mauna Loa Observatory. Figure 2 demonstrates this agreement even though there was no attempt to synchronize ozone observations other than to have them occur on the same day.

Aerosol optical depths were measured in this very clean environment with expected low values, but an unexpected wavelength dependence. This wavelength dependence is similar to that obtained with an independent, sun-pointed narrowband filter instrument developed and operated at the World Radiation Center (WRC) in Davos, Switzerland. Our and the WRC's attempts to explain this wavelength dependence have yet to yield an understanding of the physics at work here. Systematic biases may be responsible; a better understanding of the very large optical depths associated with ozone absorption and Rayleigh scattering at these wavelengths that have to be subtracted to obtain the small AOD at these wavelengths may require more investigation. On the other hand, further study of environments with somewhat larger aerosol optical depths may indicate that this is, perhaps, associated with aerosol size distributions in some conditions.

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Author contributions: JM drafted the paper and produced the figures. GM produced the data for Fig. 1 and provided details about the Dobson ozone retrievals using the AD and AC pairs.

Competing interests. The contact author has declared that none of the authors has any competing interests.

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