SCIAMACHY AND FTS CO₂ RETRIEVALS USING THE OCO RETRIEVAL ALGORITHM

H. Boesch¹, M. Buchwitz², B. Sen¹, G.C. Toon¹, R. Washenfelder¹, and P. O. Wennberg³

¹Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, USA
²Institute of Environmental Physics, University of Bremen, Bremen, Germany
³Division of Geological and Planetary Sciences, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, USA

ABSTRACT
The Orbiting Carbon Observatory (OCO) mission will make the first global, space-based measurements of atmospheric CO₂ with the precision and coverage needed to characterize CO₂ sources and sinks on regional scales. OCO will acquire spectrally and spatially highly resolved measurements of reflected sunlight in the O₂ A-band and two near-infrared CO₂ bands. To test the OCO retrieval algorithm, SCIAMACHY and ground-based Fourier Transform Spectrometer (FTS) measurements at Park Falls, Wisconsin have been analyzed. Good agreement between SCIAMACHY and FTS CO₂ columns has been found with SCIAMACHY showing a much larger scatter than FTS measurements. Both, SCIAMACHY and FTS, overestimate the surface pressure by a few percent which significantly impacts retrieved CO₂ columns.

INTRODUCTION
The current knowledge about the temporal and spatial variability of CO₂ is based mainly on highly accurate in-situ measurements from a network of surface stations. Due to the sparseness of these measurements the inferred sources and sinks of CO₂ have significant uncertainties. Rayner and O’Brien [2001] showed that these source/sink retrievals will benefit from space-based measurements of the column-averaged dry-air mole fraction, X_{CO₂}, if acquired globally and bias-free with a precision of better than 2.5 ppm for a monthly mean on regional scales (~10⁶ km²).

OCO is a mission solely dedicated to the precise and accurate measurement of X_{CO₂} by acquiring spectra of reflected sunlight in the O₂ A-band at 0.76 μm and in the CO₂ bands at 1.61 μm and 2.06 μm with high spatial (3 km²) and spectral resolution (resolving power of ~ 20000). The three spectral bands will be analyzed simultaneously with an algorithm that incorporates the radiative transfer (RT) model Radiant [Christi and Stephens, 2004], an instrument simulator model, and an inverse method using the optimal estimation technique [Rodgers, 2000]. A validation program will allow verifying and improving the space-based CO₂ measurements. This is based on ground-based FTS measurements of the OCO spectral bands in direct sunlight, which will be analyzed with the same retrieval algorithm as the space-based measurements. More details about OCO can be found in Crisp et al. [2004].

The SCIAMACHY instrument on ENVISAT [Bovensmann et al., 1999] provides space-based near-infrared measurements which are similar to OCO measurements, but with much lower spectral (resolving power of 1700,1150 and 10000) and spatial resolution (30 x 60 km²). These measurements allow critically testing of the OCO retrieval algorithm under real atmospheric conditions.

In this paper we present results obtained using space-based SCIAMACHY measurements over Park Falls, Wi (46°N, 90°W). This site allows validation of the space-based measurements with ground-based FTS (Bruker 125 HR) measurements and to compare the results obtained from both instruments using the OCO retrieval algorithm.

RESULTS
We have selected SCIAMACHY nadir measurements of the O₂ A-band and of the 1.58 μm CO₂ band for overpasses over Park Falls between June and October 2004. The 2.0 μm CO₂ band in channel 7, with much higher spectral resolution, has not been used due to calibration problems caused by a build-up of an ice-layer on the detector. All SCIAMACHY radiances have been calibrated using a tool developed at University Bremen.

The SCIAMACHY and the FTS spectra have been analyzed using the OCO retrieval algorithm, which simultaneously retrieves a CO₂ profile on 12 atmospheric levels (SCIAMACHY), or a CO₂ scaling factor (FTS), a H₂O and temperature scaling factor, surface pressure, surface albedo (SCIAMACHY), and instrumental parameters. The absorption cross sections for O₂ and H₂O have been taken from HITRAN 2004 and for CO₂ from Toth et al. [personal communication]. A fixed aerosol profile with a total optical depth of 0.1 has been used. X_{CO₂} has been calculated after convergence from the retrieved CO₂ profile by applying a pressure weighting operator. All spectra with a retrieved surface pressure of less than 925 mbar have been assumed to be cloudy and have been discarded.
Figure 1 shows spectral fits of the SCIAMACHY O₂ A-band and 1.58 μm CO₂ band. The residuals show some distinct systematic structures which are most likely caused by uncertainties in the calibration or in the instrument function. The presence of the systematic structures is also reflected by the value of the root mean square (rms) of the fit of 0.5 – 1 % which is by a factor of 5 larger than the noise.

The retrieved X_CO₂ from SCIAMACHY and FTS measurements is shown in the upper panel of figure 2 (solid symbols). Consequently, SCIAMACHY X_CO₂ shows a substantially larger scatter than the precise FTS X_CO₂ measurements (1σ ~0.3 ppm). With few exceptions, X_CO₂ retrieved by both instruments agrees within the error bars. The comparison of the retrieved surface pressure from SCIAMACHY and FTS with a pressure sensor measurement at the FTS site is shown in the lower panel of figure 2. Both remote sensing measurements overestimate the pressure sensor measurements by a few percent. Some outliers can be found in the SCIAMACHY retrievals which are very likely caused by a partly cloudy scene. This overestimation of surface pressure was studied in detail by Yang et al. [2005]. They found that the surface pressure retrieval can be significantly improved by using super-Lorentz spectral functions for strong O₂ lines. This approach, however, has not been adopted in the present study. The surface pressure retrieved from SCIAMACHY also shows a tendency to increase towards fall 2004. This feature is presumably related to the increasing SZA but seems to cancel for X_CO₂, which is the ratio of the retrieved CO₂ and the O₂ columns. To demonstrate the effect of overestimating surface pressure on the retrieved X_CO₂, the surface pressure measured by the pressure sensor has been used to calculate X_CO₂ from the FTS measurements (Fig. 2, open symbols). In this case X_CO₂ is systematically larger by approx. 10 ppm.

Fig. 1. Spectral retrieval of the O₂ A-band and the 1.58 μm CO₂ band of a SCIAMACHY nadir measurement over Park Falls, Wi on July 12, 2004 (SZA = 30.7°). The discontinuity at 1.587 μm is caused by a dead detector pixel.

Fig. 2. Comparison of X_CO₂ retrieved from SCIAMACHY and ground-based FTS measurements for Park Falls, Wi (upper panel). The solid symbols show X_CO₂ calculated from the retrieved CO₂ profile and the retrieved surface pressure. Also shown is X_CO₂ generated from the FTS measurements using the surface pressure measured by a pressure sensor (open symbols). A comparison of the surface pressure retrieved from the O₂ A-band measurements of SCIAMACHY, FTS and the pressure sensor is given in the lower panel.

SUMMARY
The retrieval algorithm being developed for the OCO mission has been tested using space-based SCIAMACHY and ground-based FTS measurements at Park Falls, Wi. Good agreement between SCIAMACHY and FTS X_CO₂ has been found with SCIAMACHY showing a much larger scatter than FTS measurements, as expected from the much weaker reflected sunlight and the sensitivity to aerosol. Spectroscopic uncertainties for the strong O₂ lines in the A-band lead to an overestimation of the surface pressure which significantly impacts the retrieved X_CO₂. New lab measurements of O₂ with very long light paths will be needed to resolve this problem. As a dedicated CO₂ instrument with much higher spectral and spatial resolution OCO should achieve much higher precision and accuracy than SCIAMACHY.

REFERENCES