



Quantification of point-source emissions of CO₂ and CH₄ using airborne absorption spectroscopic remote sensing

H. Bovensmann (1), K. Gerilowski (1), T. Krings (1), M. Buchwitz (1), T. Sachs (2), J. Erzinger (2), and J.P. Burrows (1)

(1) University of Bremen, FB1, Institute of Environmental Physics and Remote Sensing, Bremen, Germany
(heinrich.bovensmann@iup.physik.uni-bremen.de), (2) Helmholtz Centre Potsdam, German Research Centre for Geosciences (GFZ), Germany

Many natural and anthropogenic emissions of CO₂ and CH₄ occur on small to point scales. Examples are the CO₂ release by volcanoes, power plants, steel and cement production, as well as CH₄ release by mud volcanoes, large seeps, land fills or open coal mines and coal mine venting. Quantifying and verifying these emissions by independent, non-intrusive (here remote sensing) techniques is required in the context of a better understanding and management these sources. The data of airborne absorption spectrometer covering the relevant spectral absorptions of CO₂ and CH₄ has the potential to contribute to this research and application area. Recent achievements using the Methane Airborne MAPper (MAMAP) sensor - developed by the University of Bremen in cooperation with the GFZ Potsdam - show that CO₂ as well as CH₄ point source emissions can be derived from column averaged dry air mole fractions of CO₂ and CH₄ retrieved from airborne passive nadir remote sensing measurements. The developed techniques are also relevant in the context of future CO₂ and CH₄ satellite missions like OCO-2 and CarbonSat.

The paper will present first results of two campaigns performed in 2011 covering anthropogenic as well as geologic point sources of CO₂ and CH₄. The potential and limitations for future applications will be discussed.