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Retrival of the vertical columns of CH₄ over Mexico City using Solar Absortion Infrared Spectroscopy.

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Although the concentration of CH_4 in the atmosphere is well known and many studies show that the concentration of this gas has more than doubled since the industrial revolution, the emission sources are poorly identified and usually have large uncertainties. However, due to the importance of this green house gas in climate forcing, more studies on its concentration and distribution need to be made globally through satellite measurements and international networks, but also on the regional and local scales.

In this work we present the first results of CH_4 vertical columns measured from a station located in the university campus of UNAM in Mexico City. We describe the methodology based on solar absorption FTIR spectroscopy and present preliminary results from 2007 until present.