



Total column methane for the years 2003-2009 as seen by SCIAMACHY: Trends and variability

Christian Frankenberg (1), Ilse Aben (1), Peter Bergamaschi (2), Sander Houweling (1,3)

(1) SRON Netherlands Institute for Space Research, The Netherlands, (2) Institute for Environment and Sustainability, European Commission Joint Research Centre, Ispra, Italy, (3) Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research Utrecht, Utrecht, The Netherlands

We present a long-term timeseries of SCIAMACHY data, from January 2003 through March 2009, and discuss inter-annual variability and the detection of the recent trend in methane.

In a first part, we briefly discuss the technical difficulties of retrieving a consistent methane dataset from SCIAMACHY spectra after the end of 2005. We then focus on time-series over key regions. Over the Sahara, where the best signal-to-noise for SCIAMACHY can be achieved, the increase of methane in 2007 and 2008 can be clearly observed even though it is only 10-15 ppb. In other regions, the increase can also be observed but with somewhat more noise in observed month-to-month variations.

In a second part, we will further discuss long-term averages on high spatial resolution, giving indications of regional methane source regions.

In a final part, we will briefly discuss latest 4D-VAR inversion results based on SCIAMACHY data recently published in Bergamaschi et al (JGR, 2009).