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Global simulation of UV atmospheric emissions on Mars

Francisco González-Galindo (1), Miguel Ángel López-Valverde (1), Francois Forget (2), Franck Montmessin (3), and Arnaud Stiepen (4)

 Instituto de Astrofísica de Andalucía-CSIC, Sistema Solar, Granada, Spain (ggalindo@iaa.es), (2) Laboratoire de Météorologie Dynamique, IPSL, CNRS-Univ. Paris VI, Paris, France, (3) LATMOS, IPSL, CNRS-UVSQ, Guyancourt, France, (4) Laboratoire de Physique Atmosphérique et Planétaire, Univ. Liège, Belgium

Mars UV atmospheric emissions such as the CO_2 + UV doublet, the CO Cameron bands (both in the dayside) and the NO bands (in the nightside) are systematically observed by SPICAM on board Mars Express and IUVS on board MAVEN. The study of these atmospheric emissions allows the determination of the temperature and density in the Martian upper atmosphere, and helps to constrain the thermospheric circulation. While different models have been developed to study these atmospheric emissions, most of them are one dimensional and make a number of assumptions concerning the underlying neutral atmosphere and ionosphere.

Within the H2020 project UPWARDS we aim at including models of these atmospheric emissions into a state-of-the-art Global Climate Model for the Martian atmosphere, the LMD-MGCM. This will allow for a self-consistent description of these atmospheric emissions and for the characterizion of their different variability sources. Comparisons with observations will allow to retrieve information about the temperature and density in the Martian upper atmosphere. Here we will present the first results concerning the simulation of these UV emissions and the first comparisons with observations.

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