



Comparison of three methods for retrieving $[O(^3P)]$ altitude profile from emissions of O_2 Atmospheric bands

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The study presents a comparison of three methods for retrieving $[O(^3P)]$ altitude profile from emissions of $O_2(b^1\Sigma_g^+, v' = 0 - 2 \rightarrow X^3\Sigma_g^-, v'')$ bands in the near IR spectral range of 629 – 997 nm. Based on balance equations of the forward problems, we obtained analytical expressions linking $[O(^3P)]$ to the volume emission rate for the corresponding transition in the framework of the YM2011 model [1]. The uncertainties of the retrieved values of $[O(^3P)]$ were estimated by the Monte Carlo simulation taking into account the errors of all model parameters [2]. Based on these uncertainties, it is possible to draw conclusions about the ranges of application of the suggested methods. Our results show that the retrieval of $[O(^3P)]$ altitude profile by using the emissions from $O_2(b^1\Sigma_g^+, v' = 1)$ can be applied only above 110 km with the relative uncertainty of 17 – 20%. As for retrieval of $[O(^3P)]$ altitude profile by using the emissions from $O_2(b^1\Sigma_g^+, v' = 2)$ and $O_2(b^1\Sigma_g^+, v' = 0)$, these methods can be applied in a wide altitude range of 90 – 140 km and 95 – 140 km, respectively. The relative uncertainty of these methods amounts 15 – 20% and 20 – 25%, respectively. This study was supported by the Russian Fund for Basic Research (grant RFBR No.17-05-00532).

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