

*Course on "Inverse Methods in Atmospheric Science"  
1 - 12 October 2001*

301/1332-19

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"DOAS Retrievals"

**M. VAN ROOZENDAEL**  
**Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy**  
**Brussels**

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*Please note: These are preliminary notes intended for internal distribution only.*





# DOAS retrievals

Michel Van Roozendael  
Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy

## Outline

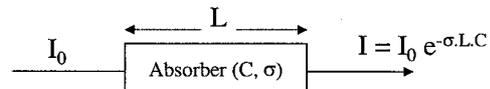
- What is DOAS ? Principle and basic equations
- Optimum instrumental design
- DOAS applications
  - Long-path (active DOAS)
  - Balloon-borne solar occultation DOAS
  - Zenith-sky DOAS
  - DOAS from satellite
- Future of DOAS

## What is DOAS ?

- **DOAS = Differential Optical Absorption Spectroscopy**
- Technique of remote sensing allowing the determination of the abundance of atmospheric trace species by use of their structured absorption bands in the UV and visible spectral regions

- **Absorption spectroscopy**

- Beer-Lambert law :



- Absorption spectroscopy:

$$C = -\frac{1}{\sigma \cdot L} \cdot \ln \left( \frac{I}{I_0} \right)$$

- Problems for atmospheric applications:

- Usually  $I_0$  cannot be easily determined
    - Several terms (incl. molecular absorption and scattering) contribute to the total attenuation at one wavelength (spectral interference)

## Differential absorption technique : early days

- Atmospheric molecular species show structured absorption bands in the UV and visible regions, e.g.  $O_3$  in the Huggins bands

→ Basic idea pioneered by Dobson in the 1930s in designing the famous Dobson total ozone spectrophotometer : the total atmospheric abundance of  $O_3$  can be derived from a measure of the relative intensities of the solar light at 2 (or more) UV wavelengths.



Gordon Dobson

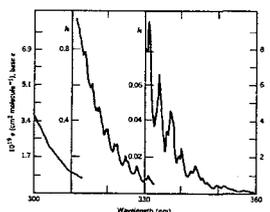
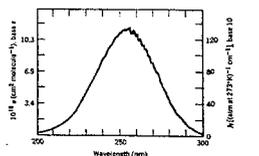


Fig. 1 UV spectrum of ozone.<sup>14</sup>

## The Dobson spectrophotometer

Dobson equation:

$$I = I_0 \exp\{-[\alpha \cdot X \cdot \mu + \beta \cdot M + \delta \cdot A]\}$$

$$I' = I'_0 \exp\{-[\alpha' \cdot X \cdot \mu + \beta' \cdot M + \delta' \cdot A]\}$$

↓ Ratioing, taking logarithm and regrouping terms:

$$X = \frac{N - (\beta - \beta') \cdot M - (\delta - \delta') \cdot A}{(\alpha - \alpha') \cdot \mu}$$

**N factors:**  $N = \ln\left(\frac{I}{I'_0}\right) - \ln\left(\frac{I'}{I_0}\right)$



where:

$\alpha = O_3$  absorption coefficient

$X = O_3$  total column

$\mu =$  geometric airmass factor

The  $O_3$  absorption is the main factor affecting the relative intensities at the pair of wavelengths !

## Modern DOAS

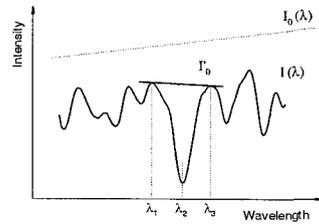
- Extension of the differential absorption method to other trace species than  $O_3$  triggered by the development in the 1980s of low-noise multichannel array detectors  $\rightarrow$  full spectral information available with high S/N ratios ( $>10^4$ )
- **Principle of modern (spectral) DOAS:**

$$I^\lambda = I_0^\lambda \exp(-\tau_{Rayleigh} - \tau_{Mie} - \tau_a)$$

$$\downarrow$$

$$\ln I^\lambda = \ln I_0^\lambda - \underbrace{\tau_{Rayleigh} - \tau_{Mie}}_{\text{broadband}} - \underbrace{\tau_a}_{\text{structured}}$$

can be approximated by a smooth function of  $\lambda$  (e.g. polynomial)



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## DOAS principle (cont.)

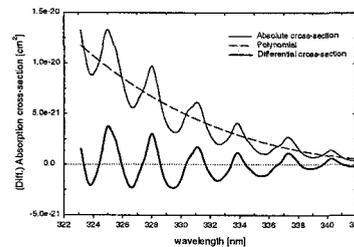
- **Differential cross-sections**
  - Although not absolutely needed, it is a usual practice to use differential cross-sections obtained by separating the low-frequency part from the high frequency part of the cross-sections:

$$\sigma(\lambda) = \sigma'(\lambda) + \sigma_{\text{broadband}}(\lambda)$$

$\rightarrow$  **DOAS basic equation:**

$$\ln I^\lambda = \ln I_0^\lambda - P(\lambda) - \sum_i \sigma'_i \cdot N_i$$

where:  $P(\lambda)$  = polynomial  
 $\sigma'_i$  = differential cross-section of species  $i$   
 $N_i$  = slant column of species  $i$



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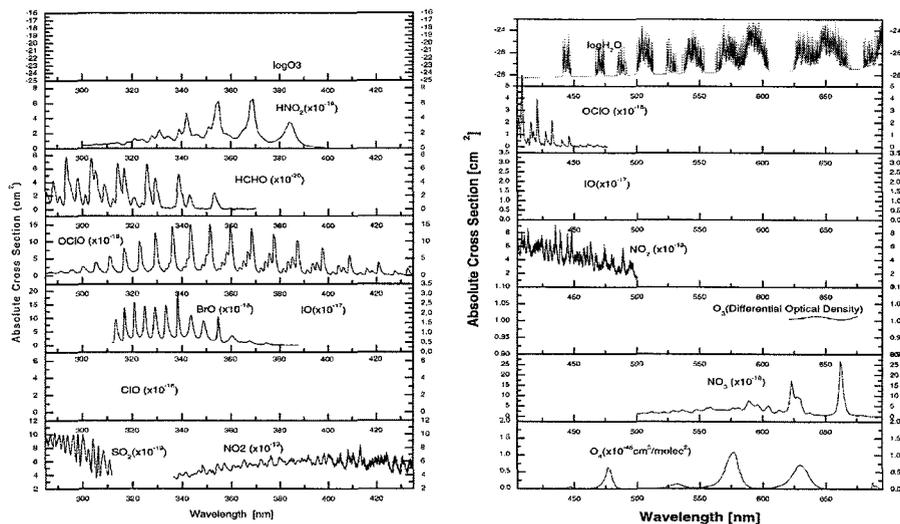
## DOAS retrieval in practice

- Actual DOAS retrievals are often complicated by the need to account for additional effects which might be application-specific (some of them will be further developed later in the talk)
- One common and very usual problem found in practice is the need to account for inaccuracies or instabilities in the wavelength registration of both laboratory cross-section data and measured spectra, which leads to a slight modification of the DOAS equation:

$$\ln I(a + b\lambda) = \ln I_0^\lambda - P(\lambda) - \sum_i \sigma'_i N_i$$

where  $a$ ,  $b$  are **shift and stretch parameters** simultaneously fitted, together with  $N_i$  and polynomial coefficients, in a **non-linear least-squares process**. Similar shift and stretch parameters may have to be considered for the  $\sigma'_i$  as well.

## Differential absorption cross-sections



## Optimum instrumental design (1)

- **Optimum resolution** → trade-off between resolution and sensitivity, optimum resolution determined by the width of the molecular absorption structures (typically 0.2 to several nm depending on species)
- **Spectrometer design** : grating versus Fourier Transform spectrometers
  - FTS* → high resolution, accurate wavelength registration but low sensitivity and high cost
  - Grating spectrometers* → low resolution, wavelength registration unstable, but high light throughput, simplicity and (relatively) low costs → optimal choice for most DOAS applications
- **Detectors** – requirements: low noise, high sensitivity
  - Cooled diode-array detectors (high sensitivity, fast readout)
  - new generation of CCD (back-illuminated, UV-enhanced sensitivity - slow readout, but 2D imaging capability opens new applications)

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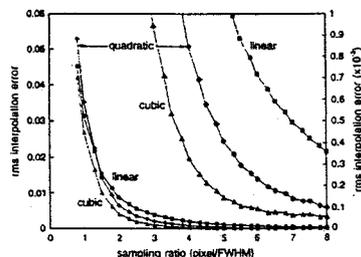
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## Optimum instrumental design (2)

- **Polarisation response** of grating spectrometers
  - Potential source of artefact for applications using polarised light sources (e.g. the zenith sky light). Optimised DOAS instruments use fiber optic bundles to depolarise incoming light, or select one constant direction of polarisation
- **Optimum wavelength sampling** → trade-off between sampling and spectral coverage (array detectors usually limited to 1000-2000 pixels max.).

! The slit function must be oversampled to minimise interpolation errors → the optimum is approx. 6 pixels/FWHM

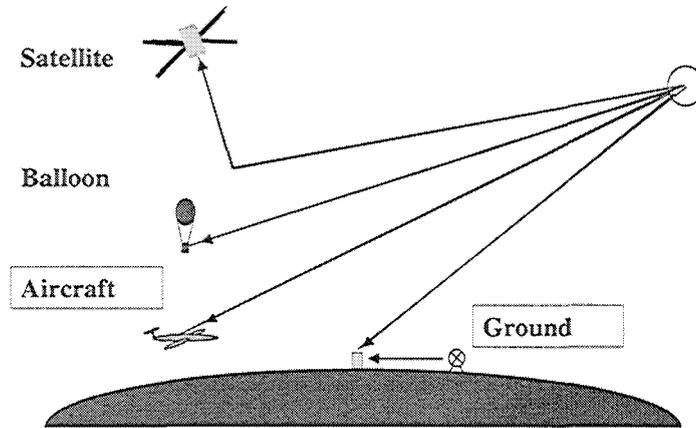
(Roscoe et al., *App. Optics* 35,427,1996)



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## DOAS remote-sensing applications



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## Long-path DOAS

- **Applications** : air pollution monitoring and process studies
- **Light sources** → requirements: minimum spectral variations, brightness
  - Incandescent lamps or arc lamps (e.g. Xenon arc lamps)
  - Laser (DOAS measurement of OH)
- **Difficulties**:
  - Unwanted spectral structures in light source spectrum (e.g. atomic lines)
  - Stray-light rejection – important because stray-light reduces measured optical densities !
  - Spectral interferences → fitting windows must be chosen to minimise the correlation between cross sections of species absorbing in the same interval
  - Variations of the angular distribution of the light source intensity → produces unwanted residuals due to angular dependence of PDA response. Can be minimised by the use of a quartz-fiber mode coupler.

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## Illumination of spectrograph-detector system

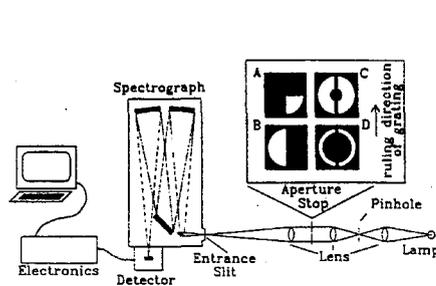
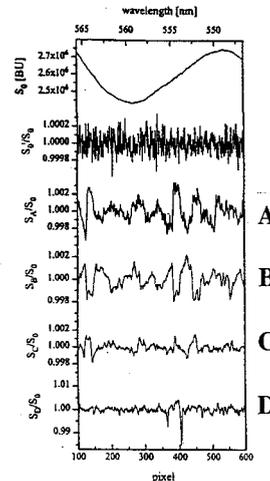


Fig. 1. Experimental setup to investigate the dependence of the spectrograph-detector system on the illumination. The aperture stops A, B, C, and D are inserted into the collimated light beam, which is produced by two lenses and a 200- $\mu\text{m}$  pinhole. The light is focused on the entrance slit of the spectrograph by another lens.

(Stutz et al., *App. Optics* 36, 1105, 1997)



## The fiber mode mixer solution

### Mode mixer setup

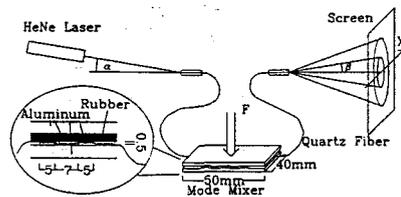
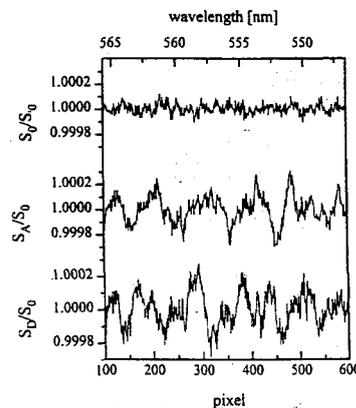


Fig. 5. Experimental setup to investigate mode coupling in a multimode quartz fiber. The light beam of a helium-neon laser is fed into the fiber at an angle  $\alpha$ . The fiber is placed between two plates with a step profile. A sheet of rubber is placed between the top aluminum plate and the profile to protect the fiber. The plates can be pressed together with a force  $F$  to introduce microbending to the fiber. The light intensity leaving the fiber is measured with a photoresistor on a screen at a 15-cm distance from the fiber end along the X axis.

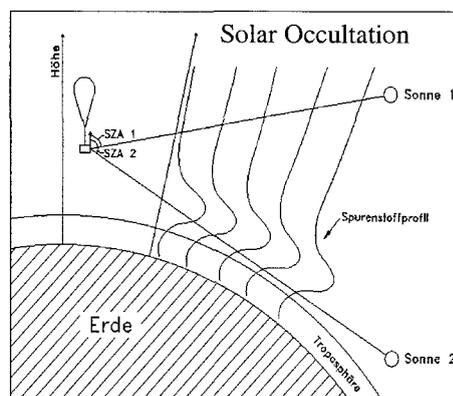
(Stutz et al., *App. Optics* 36, 1105, 1997)

→ Improvement of residuals by one order of magnitude !



## Balloon-borne solar occultation DOAS

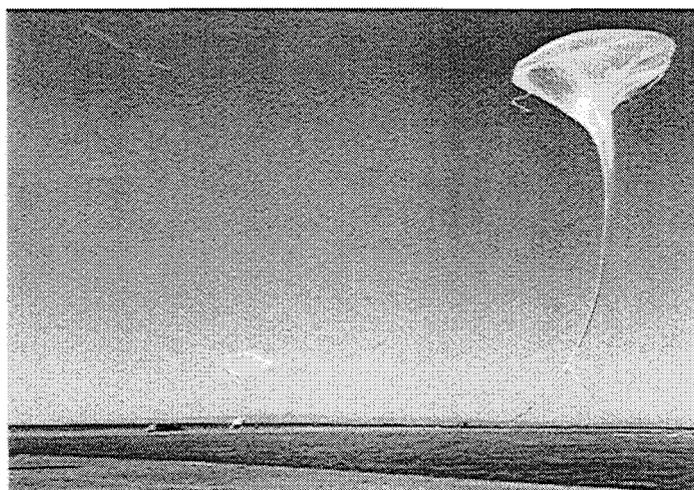
- Vertical profiles can be derived (onion peeling method) from measurements during ascent and occultation
- **Relevant molecules** :  $\text{NO}_2$ ,  $\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{OCIO}$ ,  $\text{BrO}$ ,  $\text{IO}$  (?),  $\text{HCHO}$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{O}_4$
- **Application**: stratospheric ozone chemistry – processes, model verifications, satellite validation...



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## Launch of LPMA/DOAS balloon in Leon (Spain), March 1998



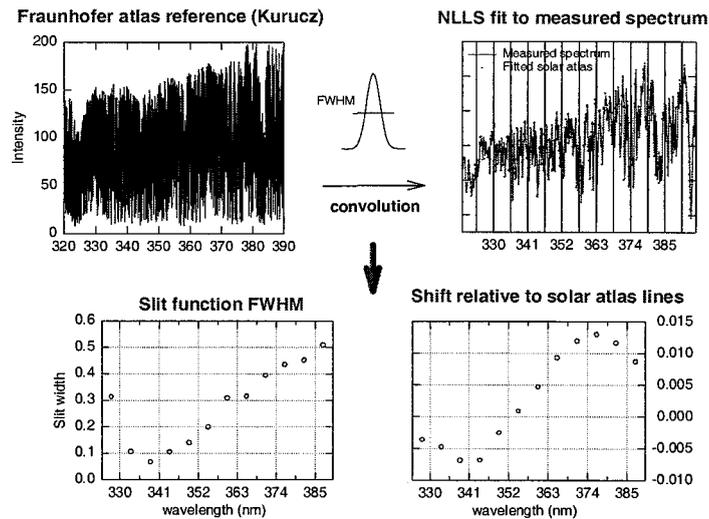
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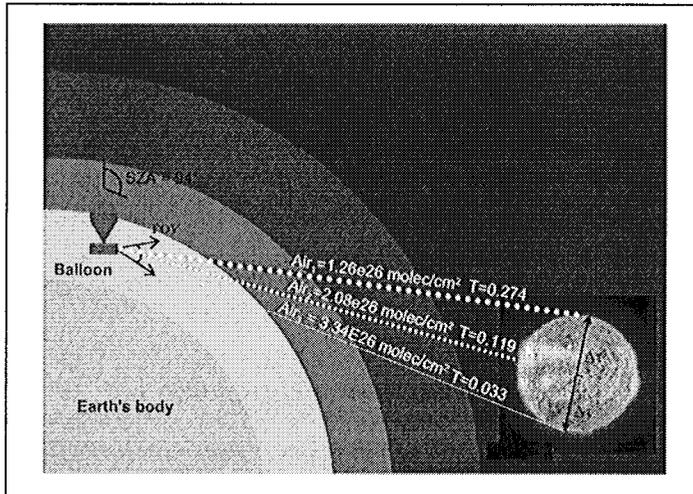
## DOAS using solar light as a source

- Solar spectrum highly structured in the UV and visible regions
- **Advantage:** solar structures can be used as internal wavelength calibration
- **Difficulties:**
  - **Solar  $I_0$  effect :**
    - laboratory cross sections are usually not measured with the field instrument using the sun as source, hence they must be filtered to match the instrument resolution.
    - Problem:**  $F \otimes \{I_0 e^{-\tau}\} \neq \{F \otimes I_0\} \cdot e^{-F \otimes \tau}$  ( $F$  = Instrument slit function)
    - Solution:**  $\sigma_{corrected} = \frac{1}{X} \left[ \frac{F \otimes I_0 \exp(-\sigma \cdot X)}{F \otimes I_0} \right]$  ← Solar  $I_0$  correction
  - **Residual amount in the reference spectrum**
    - The control spectrum ( $I_0$ ) is not measured outside the atmosphere → usually it contains a residual atmospheric absorption which must be estimated (Langley plot technique) and added to the measured slant column.

## Wavelength calibration using solar lines



## Occultation Geometry

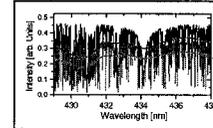
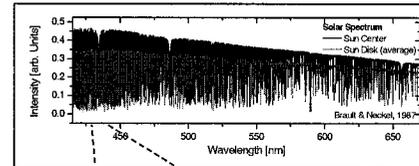


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Institut für Umweltphysik  
University of Heidelberg

## Solar Center – Limb Darkening (CLD)



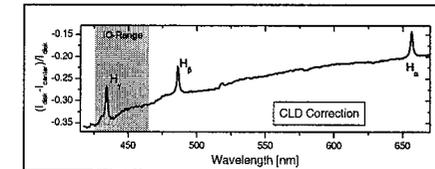
Convoluted to  
instrumental  
resolution

Assumption :

$$I_0 \rightarrow I_0 + a(I_0 - I_c)$$

Fitting Procedure:

$$\ln(I_0(1 + a(I_0 - I_c)/I_0)) \\ \approx \ln I_0 + a((I_0 - I_c)/I_0)$$



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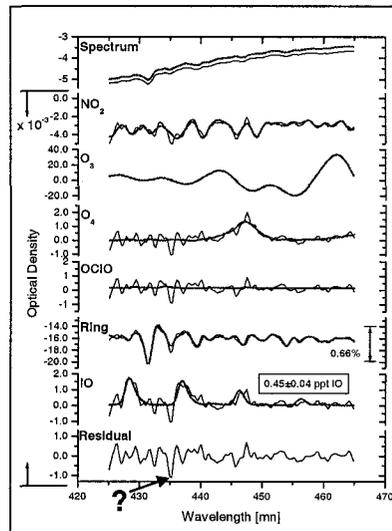


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## IO Evaluation (1)

[naive approach]

Kiruna, Northern Sweden  
Feb. 10, 1999, SZA = 94.5°



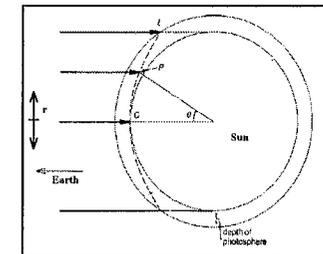
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## Solar Center - Limb Darkening

- Emission at distance  $r$  (or with angle  $\theta$ ) comes from higher and colder layers
- $\lambda$ -Dependent intensity decrease towards limb
- Effect occurs also for absorption lines, but dependence on  $r$  is different
- Optical densities of Fraunhofer lines are changing:  $OD = OD(r)$



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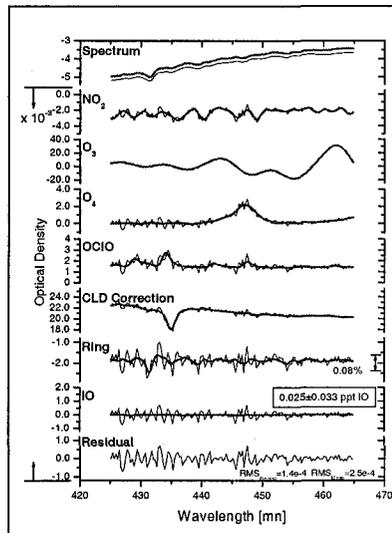


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### IO Evaluation (3)

[advanced approach ]

Kiruna, Northern Sweden  
Feb. 10, 1999, SZA = 94.5°



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## Zenith-sky DOAS

- Total columns of stratospheric species can be retrieved from measurements of the zenith sky light at twilight –  
Operational advantages : easy to operate, weakly affected by clouds
- **Application:** monitoring of stratospheric trace species – NDSC (Network for the Detection of Stratospheric Change)
- **Relevant molecules:** NO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>, BrO, OCIO, IO, ..., HCHO, H<sub>2</sub>O, O<sub>4</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>

### Zenith-sky geometry

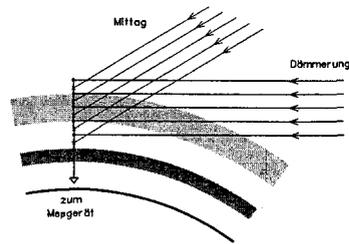


Abbildung 3.1: Beobachtungsgeometrie für Zenitmessungen.

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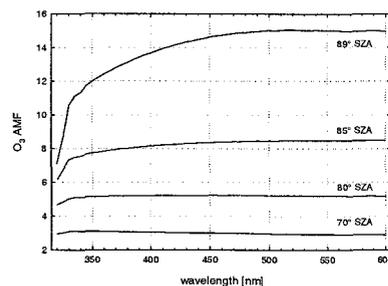
## Zenith sky DOAS retrieval

- **The optically thin atmosphere approximation**
  - The effective absorption seen in zenith-sky radiances corresponds to a complex combination of photons having travelled through a scattering/absorbing atmosphere. Strictly speaking the DOAS method is only applicable if the effective photon path-length through the absorbing layer of interest doesn't vary too much with the wavelength (true for an optically thin atmosphere).

→ **Zenith-sky DOAS equation:**

$$\ln I^\lambda = \ln I_0^\lambda - P(\lambda) - \sum_i \sigma'_i(\lambda) \cdot V_i \cdot AMF_i$$

where  $V_i$  = vertical column  
 $AMF_i$  = single wavelength  
 air mass factor



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## AMFs and vertical profiling capabilities

- AMF calculation requires radiative transfer modeling  $\rightarrow AMF = \frac{\text{Slant column}}{\text{Vertical column}}$
- Weak dependence on vertical profile shape (stratosphere) up to 90° SZA

- Above 90° SZA, the dependence of the AMFs on the altitude of the absorber can be used to derive low resolution (5 km at best) vertical distributions. Method demonstrated for NO<sub>2</sub>.

(Preston et al., JGR 102, 19089, 1997)

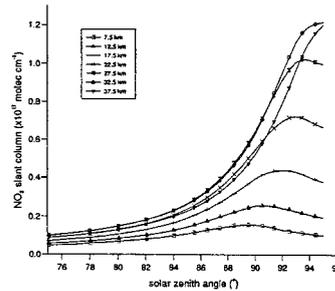


Figure 3.1: The variation of NO<sub>2</sub> slant column values with SZA for Gaussian (FWHM = 5 km) NO<sub>2</sub> profiles with the peak mixing ratio at different altitudes (see legend). Chemistry is included and a 2-D slant column calculation (see Chapter 4) is used.

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## NO<sub>2</sub> vertical profiling

### Weighting functions

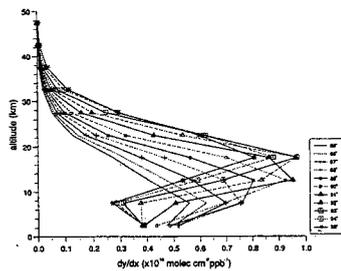


Figure 3.3: A series of weighting functions based on column model output for Cambridge (52°N) in July. Each weighting function corresponds to a different measurement SZA (see legend).

### Averaging kernels

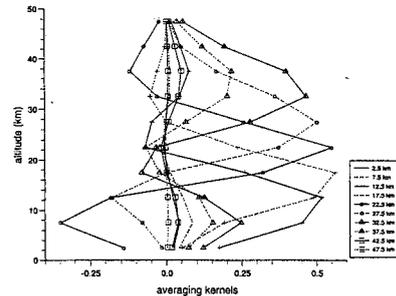


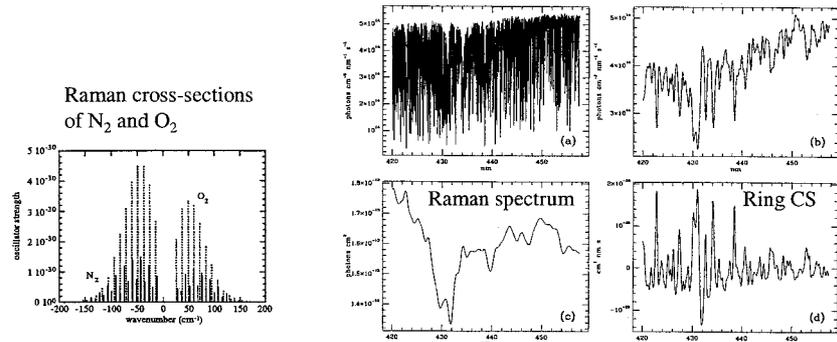
Figure 5.2: Averaging kernels calculated using a typical NO<sub>2</sub> vertical profile for Cambridge (52°N) in July. Each averaging kernel corresponds to a different profile altitude (see legend).

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## Ring effect

- Rotational Raman scattering by molecular  $N_2$  and  $O_2$  responsible of the so-called Ring effect (inelastic scattering process)
- Very significant effect – can be measured or modelled

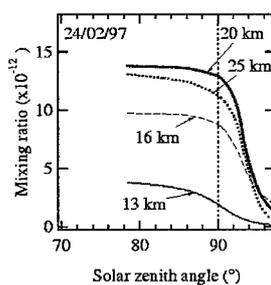


(Chance and Spurr, *App.Optics*, 36, 5224,1997)

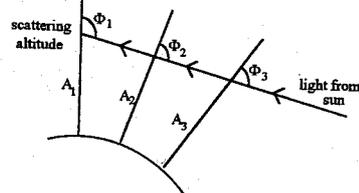
## Photochemical effects

- Interpretation of zenith-sky measurements of photochemically active species like BrO and OCIO complicated by the need to account for 2D inhomogeneity in their concentration field.

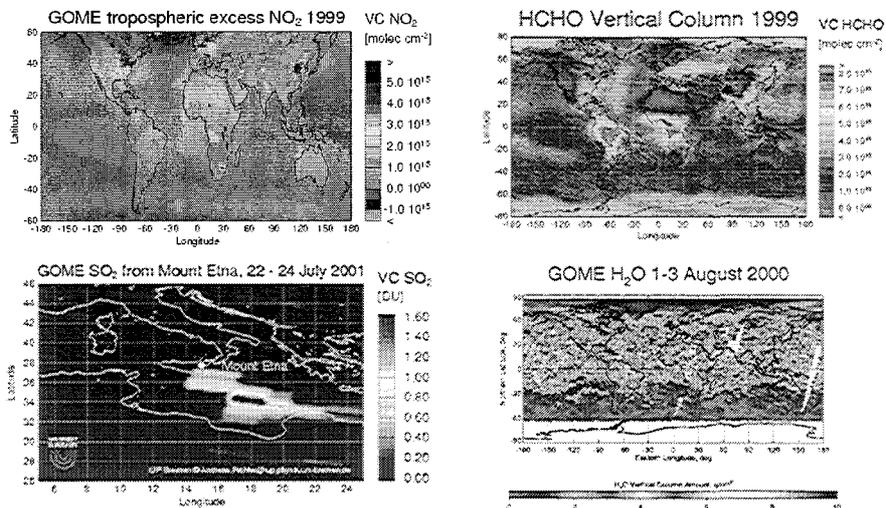
Calculated variation of BrO vmr at sunset



SZA variation in successive atmospheric layers (twilight)



## DOAS measurements from GOME



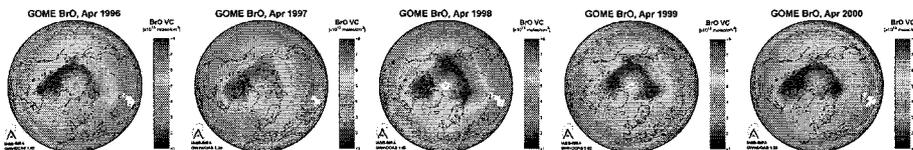
Courtesy IUP, Bremen

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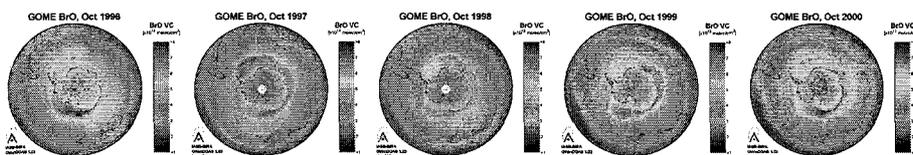
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## GOME polar spring boundary layer BrO

### Monthly-averaged BrO over Arctic, April, 1996-2000



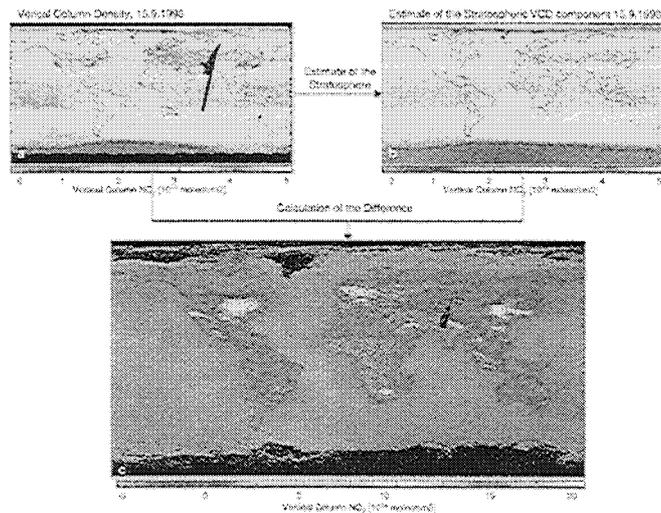
### Monthly-averaged BrO over Antarctic, October, 1996-2000



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## Tropospheric NO<sub>2</sub> from GOME

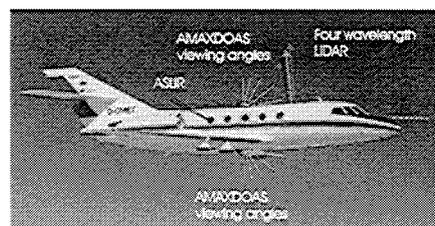


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## Future of DOAS

- New/extended applications
  - Long-path DOAS tomography using multiple beams
  - Multi-axis scattered light DOAS from the ground and from aircraft → probing the troposphere using passive DOAS
- Extension of DOAS towards the IR (modified DOAS approach)
- New generation of UV-visible satellites following GOME concept (SCIAMACHY, OMI, GOME-2, ...)



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# NDSC Sites

