ESA Climate Change Initiative “Plus” (CCI+)

Product User Guide

Version 1.1 (PUGv1.1)

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for the RemoTeC XCH_4 GOSAT2 Data Product CH4_GO2_SRPR (v1.0.0)

for the Essential Climate Variable (ECV)

Greenhouse Gases (GHG)

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1. Purpose of document

This document describes the Product User Guide (PUG) of the CH4_GO2_SRFP product which is a deliverable for the ESA GHG-CCI+ project led by University of Bremen, Germany.

Within the project satellite-derived atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO_2) and methane (CH_4) Essential Climate Variable (ECV) data products are generated and delivered to ESA for inclusion into the ESA-GHG-CCI+ database from which users can access these data products and the corresponding documentation.

The satellite-derived data products are:

- Column-averaged dry-air mixing ratios (mole fractions) of CO_2 and CH_4, denoted XCO_2 (in parts per million, ppm) and XCH_4 (in parts per billion, ppb), respectively.

This document will be focused on the XCH_4 Level-2 product retrieved using the GOSAT-2 Proxy algorithm developed by SRON Netherlands Institute for Space Research, The Netherlands.

2. Greenhouse gases Observing SATellite-2 (GOSAT-2)

The Japanese Greenhouse gases Observing SATellite-2 (GOSAT2) was launched on 29th October 2018 and started operational observations form February 2019. GOSAT2 provides dedicated global measurements of total column CO_2 and CH_4 from its SWIR bands. It is equipped with two instruments, the Thermal And Near Infrared Sensor for carbon Observations - Fourier Transform Spectrometer-2 (TANSO-FTS2) as well as a dedicated Cloud and Aerosol Imager-2 (TANSO-CAI-2).

The TANSO-FTS2 instrument (Nakajima et al., 2017) has five spectral bands with a high spectral resolution 0.2 cm^{-1}. Three operate in the SWIR at 0.75-0.77, 1.56-1.69 and at the extended 1.92-2.33 µm range, providing sensitivity to the near-surface absorbers. The fourth and fifth channels operating in the thermal infrared between 5.5-8.4 and 8.4-14.3 µm providing mid-tropospheric sensitivity.

The measurement strategy of TANSO-FTS2 is optimized for the characterization of continental-scale sources and sinks. TANSO-FTS2 utilizes a pointing mirror to perform off-nadir measurements at the same location on each 6-day repeat cycle. The pointing mirror allows TANSO-FTS2 to observe up to ±35° across track and ±40° along-track. These measurements nominally consist of 5 across track points spaced ~160 km apart with a ground footprint diameter of approximately 9.7 km and a 4 second exposure duration. The satellite has an intelligent pointing monitor camera which makes it possible to adjust the line of sight of the FTS to steer away from cloud contaminated areas. Whilst the majority of data is limited to measurements over land where the surface reflectance is high, TANSO-FTS2 also observes in sunglint mode over the ocean.

3. RemoTeC retrieval algorithm

The CH4_GO2_SRPR product is retrieved from GOSAT-2 TANSO-FTS SWIR spectra using the RemoTeC algorithm that has been jointly developed at SRON and KIT. The algorithm retrieves simultaneously XCH_4 and XCO_2. For the retrieval, we analyze four spectral regions: the 0.77 µm oxygen band, two CO_2 bands at 1.61 and 2.06 µm, as well as a CH_4 band at 1.64 µm. Within the retrieval procedure the sub-columns of CO_2 and CH_4 in different altitude layers are being retrieved. To obtain the column averaged dry air mixing ratios XCO2 and XCH4 the sub-columns are summed up to get the total column which is divided by the dry-air columns obtained from ECMWF model data in combination with a surface elevation data base. As the PROXY retrievals perform a non-scattering retrieval, the retrieved XCH4 column cannot be used directly, as effects of aerosol scattering modify the light path. To correct for this, in the PROXY approach, the retrieved XCH4 column is divided by the retrieved XCO_2 column at the 1.61 µm band and then multiplied by a XCO_2 total column obtained from the Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS) v18r2 product (Chevallier et al., 2019).

The retrieved XCH_4 has been validated with ground based TCCON measurements. To further improve accuracy a bias correction has been developed based on TCCON comparisons. We use the GGG2014 release of the TCCON data (Wunch et al., 2015). More details on the technical aspects of the retrievals can be found in the ATBD GO2-SRPR document (ATBDv1.1, 2020).

4. XCH_4 data product (RemoTeC-PROXY, Feb-October 2019)

In this section, we show examples of the new GOSAT-2 XCH_4 PROXY data product by showing averaged maps (Sect. 4.1) and by giving a summary of the validation results relative to TCCON (Sect. 4.2).

4.1 Global maps

Figure 1 and **Figure 2** show global mean maps of the RemoTeC GOSAT-2 XCH_4 PROXY data product. **Figure 1** shows the bias-corrected XCH_4 data and **Figure 2** the scaled random error, which is described in detail in (E3UBv1.1, 2020). As can be seen, the spatial coverage is limited by cloud-cover (the observations correspond to cloud free scenes), sun illumination conditions, etc.

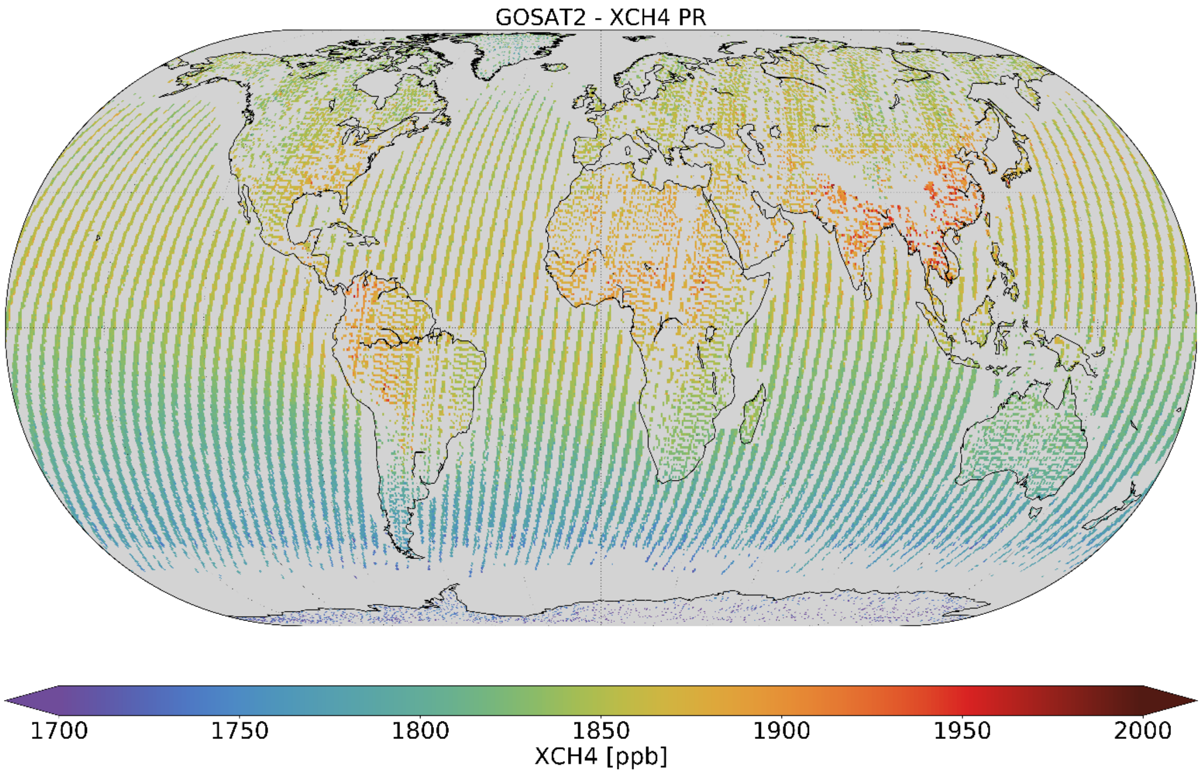

Figure 1: Global XCH_4 [ppb] for the February-2019 - October 2019 period for the CH4_GO2_SRPR product on a 2 by 2 degree resolution.

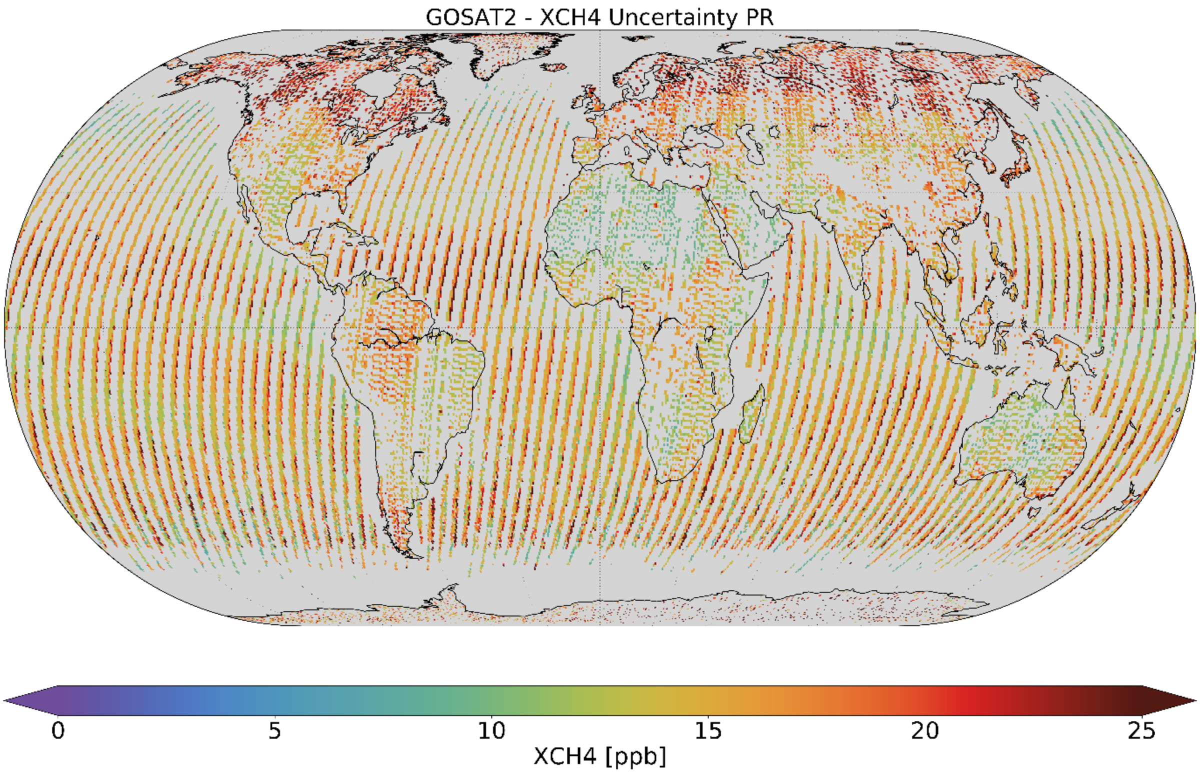

Figure 2: As **Figure 1** but for the corresponding uncertainty.

4.2 Validation with TCCON

This section summarizes the main validation results presented in the RemoTeC GOSAT-2 ESA GHG CCI+ End-to-End ECV Uncertainty Budget Version 1.1 (E3UBv1.1, 2021) document.

We used ground based TCCON GGG2014 (Wunch et al., 2015) data obtained from http://tccon.ornl.gov as reference data set. We co-located GOSAT-2 and TCCON measurements with a maximum time difference of 2h, a maximum distance of 2.5 degrees in both longitudinal and latitudinal directions. An altitude correction is applied to account for elevation differences.

In cases with multiple TCCON measurements of the same site co-locating with a GOSAT-2 sounding, we averaged the TCCON measurements. In total, we found about 2642 co-locations with TCCON during the nine-month validation period Feb-Oct 2019. As not all TCCON sites updated their datasets it was only possible to use 9 sites which limits the number of co-locations.

Figure 3 shows the co-locations of 9 sites with non-glint observations. Statistics per site statistics are shown in **Figure 4**. Detailed bias and scatter, i.e., single sounding precision measured by the standard deviation of the difference to TCCON after removing systematic effect are described in E3UBv1.1 (2021).

The standard deviation of the site biases (spatial accuracy) is 4.2 ppb. TCCON observes these gases with a precision on mole fractions of ~0.15% and ~0.2% for CO_2 and CH_4 respectively (Toon et al., 2009). The single measurement precision of GOSAT-2 compared to TCCON amounts to 15.3 ppb.

The validation results can be summarized as follows:

- Single measurement precision ("precision", 1-sigma): 15.3 ppb
- Mean bias (all observations, global offset): 0.10 ppb
- Spatial accuracy (standard deviation site biases): 4.2 ppb

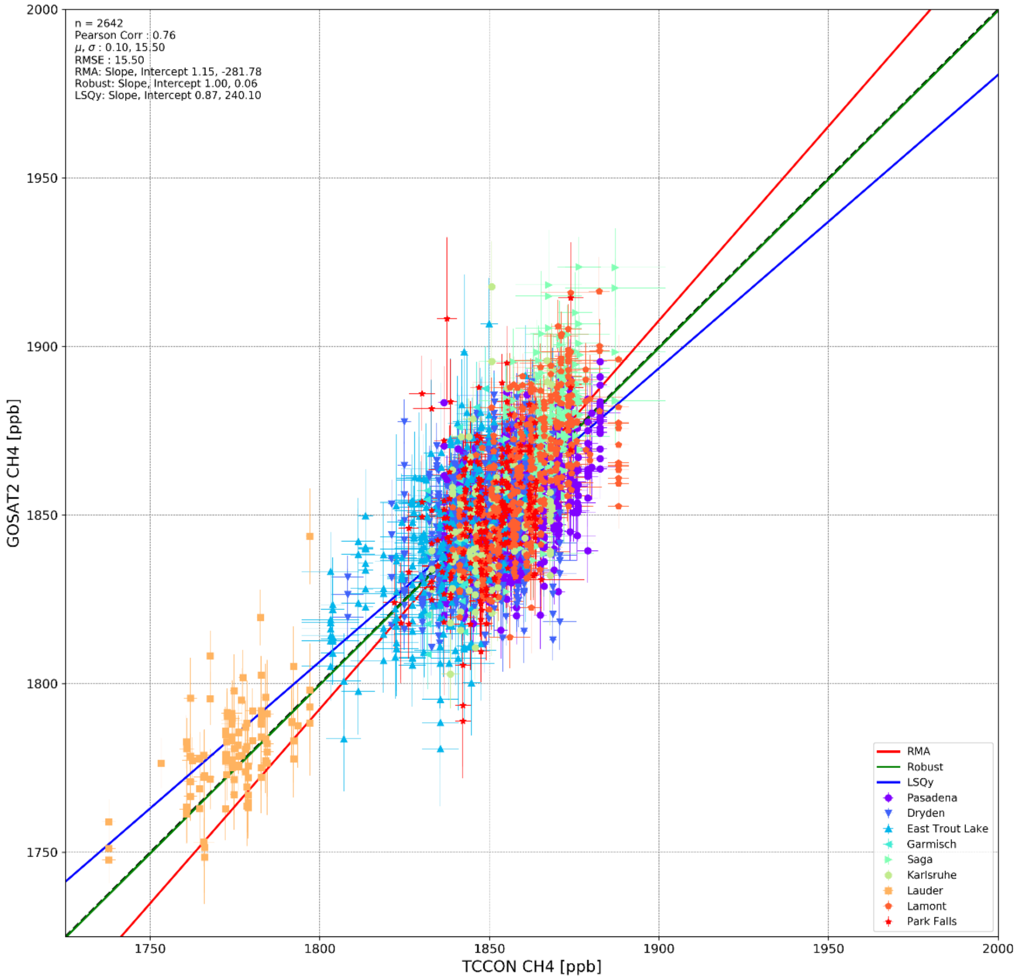

Figure 3 Validation of non-glint single soundings of PROXY-CH_4 with co-located TCCON measurements at all TCCON sites for the period Feb-Oct 2019. Numbers in the figures: μ = bias, i.e., average of the difference; σ = single measurement precision, i.e., standard deviation of the difference; N = number of co-locations.

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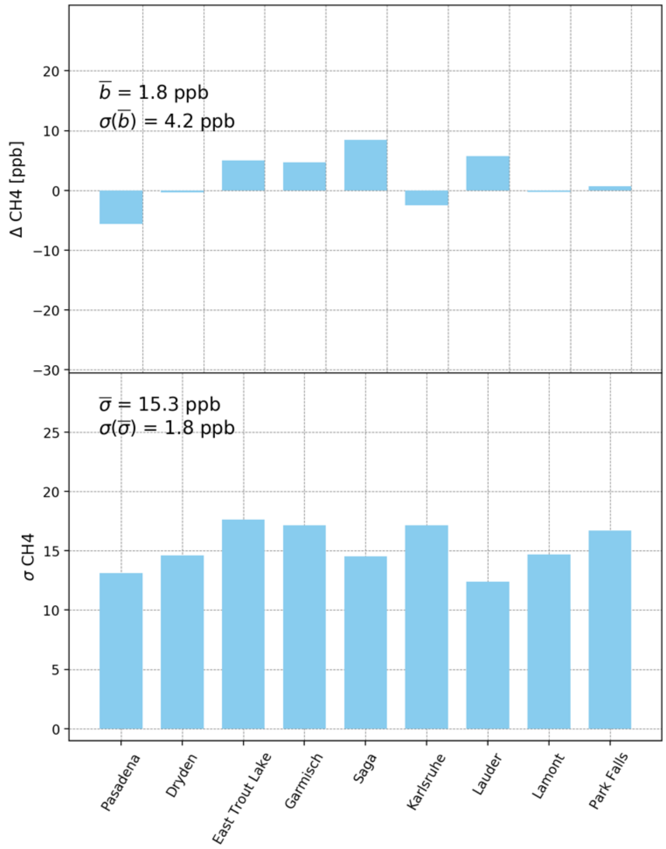

Figure 4: Validation statistics bias (**top**) and scatter (**bottom**) per TCCON site for RemoTeC PROXY CH_4 (bias corrected). The summarizing values ("overall") represent the standard deviation of the site biases and the average scatter relative to TCCON.

4.3 Bias correction

From comparison with TCCON it was found that the error in XCH_4 correlates with the retrieved albedo α at 1.6 um in band 2. Based on this correlation the following bias correction has been developed for XCH_4:

$$\mathrm{XCH4}_{\mathrm{corr}} = \mathrm{XCH4} * (a + b * \alpha)$$

with a = 0.9904 , b = 0.0144.

The bias correction parameters are obtained from fits to the GOSAT-2-TCCON differences.

For **sunglint** observations there were not enough co-located TCCON observations, therefor the parameter was obtained from comparison to GOSAT-1 data:

$$\mathrm{XCH4}_{\mathrm{corr}} = \mathrm{XCH4} * a$$

with a = 0.99445.

5. Description of data format

5.1 Product Content and Format

The RemoteC XCH4 data product is stored per day in a single NetCDF file. Retrieval results are provided for the individual GOSAT-2 spatial footprints. The product file contains the key products, i.e. the retrieved column averaged dry air mixing ratio XCH_4 with and without bias correction. Information relevant for the use of the data is included in the data file, like the vertical layering and averaging kernels. Also, the parameters that are retrieved simultaneously with XCH_4 are included (e.g. surface albedo), as well as retrieval diagnostics like retrieval errors, quality of the fit.

Table 1: Common dimensions for the CH4_GO2_SRPR product

Dimension	Type	Unlimited	Units	Description
sounding_dim	int	no		Number of sounding
polarization_dim	int	no		Number of polarization = 2
level_dim	int	no		Number of level = 5
layer_dim	int	no		Number of layer = 4
window_dim	int	no		Number of retrieval window = 4
char_l1bname	int	no		Number of character of L1B name = 44

Table 2: Common variables for the CH4_GO2_SRPR product

Variable	Type	Dim.	Units	Description
solar_zenith_angle	float	sounding_dim	degrees	Angle between line of sight to the sun and local vertical

sensor_zenith_angle	float	sounding_dim	degrees	Angle between the line of sight to the sensor and the local vertical
time	float	sounding_dim	seconds	Seconds since 1970-01-01 00:00:00
longitude	float	sounding_dim	degrees_east	Center longitude
latitude	float	sounding_dim	degrees_north	Center latitude
pressure_levels	float	sounding_dim, level_dim	hPa	Pressure levels
pressure_weight	float	sounding_dim, layer_dim		Layer dependent weights needed to apply the averaging kernels
xch4	float	sounding_dim	1e-9	Retrieved column dry-air mole fraction of atmospheric methane (XCH4) in ppb
xch4_uncertainty	float	sounding_dim	1e-9	1-sigma (scaled) uncertainty of the retrieved column-average dry-air mole fraction of atmospheric methane
xch4_averaging_kernel	float	sounding_dim, layer_dim		Normalized column averaging kernel
ch4_profile_apriori	float	sounding_dim, layer_dim	1e-9	A priori dry-air mole fraction profile of atmospheric methane
xch4_quality_flag	int	sounding_dim		Quality flag for XCH4 retrieval, 0 = good, 1 = bad

Table 3: Product specific (additional) variables for the CH4_GO2_SRPR product

Name	**Type**	**Dim.**	**Units**	**Description**
flag_landtype	int	sounding_dim		0 = land, 1 = ocean
flag_sunglint	int	sounding_dim		0 = no sunglint, 1 = sunglint
gain	int	sounding_dim		gain setting of sensor
exposure_id	int	sounding_dim		Exposure identification number of the sounding

l1b_name	char	sounding_dim, char_l1bname		Name of the Level 1B file of the sounding
signal_to_noise_window	float	sounding_dim, window_dim, polarization_dim		Signal to noise ratio per retrieval window and for both polarization directions
dry_airmass_layer	float	sounding_dim, layer_dim	m-2	Dry airmass per layer
altitude	float	sounding_dim	m	Vertical altitude above the surface
air_temperature	float	sounding_dim, level_dim	K	The bulk temperature of the air at each level
surface_altitude_stdv	float	sounding_dim	m	Standard deviation of the surface elevation within the sounding
x_wind	float	sounding_dim, level_dim	m s-1	Eastward wind velocity
y_wind	float	sounding_dim, level_dim	m s-1	Northward wind velocity
chi2	float	sounding_dim		Chi-squared value of the sounding
optical_thickness_of_atmosphere_layer_due_to_ambient_aerosol	float	sounding_dim, window_dim		Scattering optical thickness per retrieval window
raw_xch4_err	float	sounding_dim	1e-9	1-sigma (unscaled) statistical uncertainty of the retrieved column-average dry-air mole fraction of atmospheric methane
h2o_column_1593	float	sounding_dim	m-2	Retrieved total water column at 1593 nm
h2o_column_1629	float	sounding_dim	m-2	Retrieved total water column at 1629 nm
h2o_column_2042	float	sounding_dim	m-2	Retrieved total water column at 2042 nm
surface_albedo_758	float	sounding_dim		The retrieved albedo at 758 nm
surface_albedo_1593	float	sounding_dim		The retrieved albedo at 1593 nm
surface_albedo_1629	float	sounding_dim		The retrieved albedo at 1629 nm
surface_albedo_2042	float	sounding_dim		The retrieved albedo at 2042 nm
intensity_offset_o2a	float	sounding_dim	W cm-2	The retrieved intensity offset in the O2A band

intensity_offset_band_2	float	sounding_dim	W cm-2	The retrieved intensity offset in spectral window 2
intensity_offset_band_3	float	sounding_dim	W cm-2	The retrieved intensity offset in spectral window 3
intensity_offset_band_4	float	sounding_dim	W cm-2	The retrieved intensity offset in spectral window 4
raw_xch4	float	sounding_dim	1e-9	Retrieved column dry-air mole fraction of atmospheric methane (XCH4) in ppb before scattering correction
xch4_no_bias_correction	float	sounding_dim	1e-9	Retrieved column dry-air mole fraction of atmospheric methane (XCH4) in ppb before bias correction
raw_xco2	float	sounding_dim	1e-6	Retrieved column dry-air mole fraction of atmospheric carbon dioxide (XCO2) in ppm before scattering correction
xco2_apriori	float	sounding_dim	1e-6	A priori dry-air mole fraction of atmospheric carbon dioxide
co2_profile_apriori	float	sounding_dim, layer_dim	1e-6	A priori dry-air mole fraction profile of atmospheric carbon dioxide
xco2_averaging_kernel	float	sounding_dim, layer_dim		Normalized column averaging kernel for carbon dioxide
raw_xco2_err	float	sounding_dim	1e-6	1-sigma (unscaled) statistical uncertainty of the retrieved column-average dry-air mole fraction of atmospheric carbon dioxide

5.2 Quality Flags and Metadata

There is a quality flag "xch4_quality_flag" included in the data file. The quality flag can have 2 values:

- 0: retrievals for **normal** or **sunglint** data, quality has been checked
- 1: data should not be used (e.g. bad fit to data, residual cloud contamination)

For a GOSAT-2 ground pixel to be processed by the RemoTeC PROXY algorithm it has to fulfill the following criteria: GOSAT-2 nominal quality flags should be good and the standard deviation of the elevation in the pixel should be less than 1000 meters (to filter out the most extreme terrain).

After the retrieval the data that fulfill the following criteria are flagged as '0':

- Number of iteration steps in retrieval < 10.
- $\chi 2$ of fit < 7.
- SNR > 50.
- Standard deviation of surface elevation within GOSAT-2 ground pixel should be < 150 m
- SZA < 75°.
- 0.98 < CO2 (1.6 micron) / CO2 (2.0 micron) < 1.15
- 0.88 < O2 (retrieved) / O2 (prior) < 1.035
- 0.9 < H2O (1.6 micron) / H2O (2.0 micron) < 1.5

5.3 Recommended data usage

It is strongly recommended to only us the bias-corrected data in: "xch4" except if users explicitly correct for biases their selves (e.g. in an inverse modeling framework). Here, it should be noted that the bias correction has been developed independently for the different GOSAT-FTS-2 instrument settings **(normal**, **sunglint**).

Also, use only data over land (land_type=0) except for sunglint cases.

If the data are to be compared with other XCO_2 and/or XCH_4 data for which vertical profile information is available (e.g. inverse modeling, comparison to models, comparison to measured profiles), the column averaging kernels should be used. Here it should be noted that **the column averaging kernels are to be applied to layer sub-columns (m-2)** , as these are the quantities directly retrieved in the RemoTeC algorithm. For model comparisons the retrieved XCO_2 should be compared to $[VCO2]'_{model}/[VAIR]_{model}$ where $[VAIR]_{model}$ is the total dry air column provided by the model and $[VCO2]'_{model}$ is the model total CO_2 column after applying the column averaging kernel, viz.:

$$[VCO2]'_{model} = [VCO2]_{prior} + \mathbf{a}^T(\mathbf{x}_{model} - \mathbf{x}_{prior})$$

where $[VCO2]_{prior}$ is the prior CO_2 total column used in the retrieval, $\mathbf{x}_{model}$ is the vertical CO_2 profile from the model (as sub-columns) and $\mathbf{x}_{prior}$ is the prior vertical profile from the retrieval. For application of the column averaging kernel the model vertical profile should be re-calculated on the vertical grid of the retrieval (preferred) or the averaging kernel has to be interpolated to the vertical grid of the model.

5.4 Tools for Reading the Data

The data are stored in NetCDF format which can be read with standard tools in the common programming languages (IDL, Matlab, Python, Fortran90, C++, etc).

6. References

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