	ESA Climate Change Initiative (CCI) Product User Guide Version 2 (PUGv2) for the CO2_TAN_OCFP version 1 product from the University of Leicester for the Essential Climate Variable (ECV) Greenhouse Gases (GHG)	Page 1
		V2
		10 th February 2021

ESA Climate Change Initiative Plus (CCI+)

Product User Guide version 2.0 **(PUGv2.0) for the University of Leicester** **Full-Physics XCO₂ TanSat data product** **(CO2_TAN_OCFP version 1)**


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The University of Leicester Full-Physics **Retrieval Algorithm for the retrieval of** **XCO₂ from TanSat** **for the Essential Climate Variable (ECV)** **Greenhouse Gases (GHG)**

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	ESA Climate Change Initiative (CCI) Product User Guide Version 2 (PUGv2) for the CO2_TAN_OCFP version 1 product from the University of Leicester for the Essential Climate Variable (ECV) Greenhouse Gases (GHG)	Page 2
		V2
		10 th February 2021

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	ESA Climate Change Initiative (CCI) Product User Guide Version 2 (PUGv2) for the CO₂_TAN_OCFP version 1 product from the University of Leicester for the Essential Climate Variable (ECV) Greenhouse Gases (GHG)	Page 3
		V2
		10 th February 2021

Table of Contents

1	<i>Summary</i>	5
2	<i>Introduction</i>	6
2.1	The ACGA/TanSat Instrument.....	6
2.2	The University of Leicester Full-Physics XCO ₂ Product	6
2.3	Validation	6
3	<i>Product Description</i>	9
3.1	Product Content and Format	9
3.2	Quality Flags and Metadata.....	9
3.3	Bias correction	10
3.4	Data Usage.....	10
3.5	Tools for Reading the Data	10
3.6	Known Limitations and Issues	10
3.7	Global data plots	11
3.8	Data file content	12
4	<i>Acknowledgement</i>	14
5	<i>References and Further Reading</i>	14


	ESA Climate Change Initiative (CCI) Product User Guide Version 2 (PUGv2) for the CO2_TAN_OCFP version 1 product from the University of Leicester for the Essential Climate Variable (ECV) Greenhouse Gases (GHG)	Page 4
		V2
		10 th February 2021

List of Tables

Table 1. Product quality filter; retrievals that satisfy these criteria are marked as good.....	9
Table 2. Bias correction coefficients. The coefficient for each row from left to right indicate the footprint. 10	
Table 3. Common variables for the CO2_TAN_OCFP data product.	12
Table 4. Additional variables for the CO2_TAN_OCFP data product.....	13

List of figures


Figure 1: Comparison of the CO2_TAN_OCFP V1.0 (orange) with the TCCON XCO ₂ (blue, overpass mean) between March 2017 and May 2018. The overpass-mean from TanSat is indicated with large orange solid circles with error bars indicating the standard deviation, and small orange points show individual soundings. We plot all measurements that satisfy the co-location criteria of an overpass.....	7
Figure 2: Comparison of individual retrieved XCO ₂ from TanSat with the overpass mean of TCCON XCO ₂ for the time period of March 2017 to May 2018 across all 20 TCCON sites. Each TCCON site is given by different colour and symbol. Statistics for mean bias and RMSE (calculated by averaging the bias and RMSE of each site) are given along with the correlation coefficient.	8
Figure 3: Global XCO ₂ concentrations as a function of longitude and latitude for June and August 2017 as observed by TanSat. The soundings have been bias-corrected and filtered as per Table 1.....	11
Figure 4: Standard deviation (1 σ) of XCO ₂ concentrations from Figure 3-1 as a function of longitude and latitude for June and August 2017.	11

	ESA Climate Change Initiative (CCI) Product User Guide Version 2 (PUGv2) for the CO2_TAN_OCFP version 1 product from the University of Leicester for the Essential Climate Variable (ECV) Greenhouse Gases (GHG)	Page 5
		V2
		10 th February 2021

1 Summary

This document is the Product User Guide Version 2 (PUGv2), which is a deliverable of the ESA project GHG-CCI+. The GHG-CCI+ project is a continuation of the ESA Climate Change Initiative (CCI) project. The GHG-CCI+ project will deliver the Essential Climate Variable (ECV) Greenhouse Gases (GHG). State-of-the-art retrieval algorithms for remote sensing of the GHG and the ECV will be developed further in the frame of this project. Multi-year carbon dioxide (CO₂) data sets will be generated and validated.

The Atmospheric Carbon-dioxide Grating Spectrometer ACGS on TanSat will be used to produce the core GHG-ECV products (XCO₂). The instrument measures Near Infra-Red (NIR) and Short Wave Infra-Red (SWIR) spectra of reflected solar radiation which are sensitive to CO₂ concentration changes close to Earth's surface. Consequently, they offer information on regional surface fluxes. The accuracy requirements for such an application are demanding. This document describes the University of Leicester Full-Physics XCO₂ (CO2_TAN_OCFP) data product so that it will be clear for the user how to use the products. The description includes quality flags and metadata, data format, product grid and geographical projection, known limitations, available tools for decoding and interpreting the data.

	ESA Climate Change Initiative (CCI) Product User Guide Version 2 (PUGv2) for the CO₂_TAN_OCFP version 1 product from the University of Leicester for the Essential Climate Variable (ECV) Greenhouse Gases (GHG)	Page 6
		V2
		10 th February 2021

2 Introduction

2.1 The ACGA/TanSat Instrument

The Chinese Global Carbon Dioxide Monitoring Scientific Experimental Satellite (TanSat) is the first Chinese CO₂ monitoring satellite, launched on 22 December 2016. TanSat provides global measurements of total column CO₂ from its NIR/SWIR band. The mission aims are to monitor the column density of CO₂ precisely and frequently worldwide, to study the absorption and emission levels of CO₂ on a regional scale over a certain period of time, and to develop and establish advanced technologies that are essential for precise CO₂ observations /Liu et al., 2018/.

As the primary instrument onboard TanSat, Atmospheric Carbon dioxide Grating Spectrometer (ACGS) is designed to measure NIR/SWIR backscattered sunlight in the molecular oxygen (O₂) A band (0.76 μ m) and two CO₂ bands (1.61 and 2.06 μ m). Total column CO₂ is mainly determined from measurements of its absorption lines in the weak band (1.61 μ m). Sunlight is significantly scattered and absorbed by air molecules and suspended particles (e.g., clouds and aerosols), which would result in serious errors in CO₂ retrievals. Consequently, more information from cloud and aerosol measurements is required for the CO₂ retrieval to correct the light path. This is acquired by the O₂ A band that provides information on altitude and total amount (optical depth) of aerosols and clouds due to almost constant and stable O₂ concentrations in the atmosphere. In comparison, the interference from water vapour absorption is relatively weak. However, the CO₂ weak band is spectrally far away from the O₂ A band, and aerosol and cloud optical properties depend on wavelength. Thus, it is also necessary to constrain this spectral variation which is one of the purposes of the strong CO₂ band. The strong CO₂ band also provides information on water vapour and temperature, which reduces impacts from uncertainties in these parameters.

The design of the optical layout of ACGS and the specifications of instrument optical parameters can be found in a previous study /Lin et al., 2017/. The footprint on the ground is 2 km \times 2 km in the nadir mode with 9 footprints in each swath and a total width of the field of view (FOV) of \sim 18 km at nadir. The first global carbon dioxide maps produced from TanSat measurements have been produced by the IAPCAS (Institute of Atmospheric Physics Carbon dioxide retrieval Algorithm for Satellite remote sensing) TanSat algorithm /Yang et al., 2018/, and then verified (\sim 2.11 ppm of precision in 8 TCCON sites average) by TCCON Total Carbon Column Observing Network measurements /Liu et al., 2018/.


2.2 The University of Leicester Full-Physics XCO₂ Product

The Leicester CO₂_TAN_OCFP V1.0 product is retrieved from ACGS/TanSat NIR and SWIR spectra using the University of Leicester (UoL) Full-Physics Retrieval Algorithm modified for the use of TanSat spectra. The retrieval algorithm uses an iterative retrieval scheme based on Bayesian Optimal Estimation Method (OEM) to retrieve a set of atmospheric, surface and instrument parameters, referred to as the state vector, from measured spectral radiances /Boesch et al., 2011; Connor et al., 2008/. The forward model, used to relate the state vector to the measured radiances, includes the LIDORT /Spurr et al., 2008/ and TWOSTR /Spurr et al., 2011/ radiative transfer models combined with a fast 2 orders of scattering vector radiative transfer code /Natraj et al., 2008/. In addition, we use the low-streams interpolation functionality of the code /O'Dell et al., 2010/ to accelerate the radiative transfer component of the retrieval algorithm. The TanSat XCO₂ data is produced by using the O₂ A band together with the weak CO₂ band.

2.3 Validation

Validation of our retrieved XCO₂ has been performed against TCCON /Wunch et al., 2013/, a global network of ground-based high-resolution Fourier transform spectrometers recording direct solar spectra in the NIR/SWIR spectral region, itself validated against aircraft measurements.

Figure 1 shows retrieved TanSat XCO₂ compared to 20 TCCON sites for the period March 2017 to May 2018, using the TCCON data (GGG2015, retrieved from TCCON data archive on 1 June 2019), and co-

	ESA Climate Change Initiative (CCI) Product User Guide Version 2 (PUGv2) for the CO₂_TAN_OCFP version 1 product from the University of Leicester for the Essential Climate Variable (ECV) Greenhouse Gases (GHG)	Page 7
		V2
		10 th February 2021

located spatially and temporally by selecting TanSat soundings only in a $\pm 3^\circ$ latitude/longitude box around the TCCON site, and ± 1 hours of each TCCON measurement.

Overall a good agreement between TCCON and CO₂_TAN_OCFP v1.0 is found, with the magnitude and phase of the seasonal cycle being well captured over a variety of sites /Yang et al., 2020/. Figure 2 shows the total correlation across all sites with individual soundings, with a correlation coefficient of 0.82 and a RMSE of 1.78 ppm.

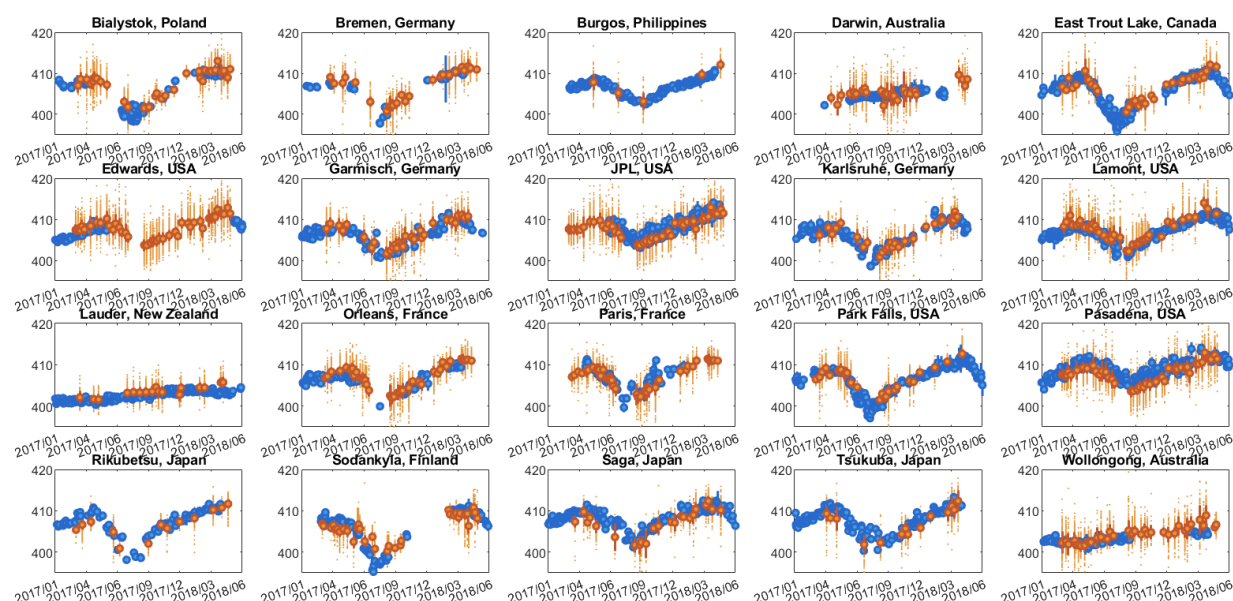



Figure 1: Comparison of the CO₂_TAN_OCFP V1.0 (orange) with the TCCON XCO₂ (blue, overpass mean) between March 2017 and May 2018. The overpass-mean from TanSat is indicated with large orange solid circles with error bars indicating the standard deviation, and small orange points show individual soundings. We plot all measurements that satisfy the co-location criteria of an overpass.

	ESA Climate Change Initiative (CCI) Product User Guide Version 2 (PUGv2) for the CO₂_TAN_OCFP version 1 product from the University of Leicester for the Essential Climate Variable (ECV) Greenhouse Gases (GHG)	Page 8
		V2
		10 th February 2021

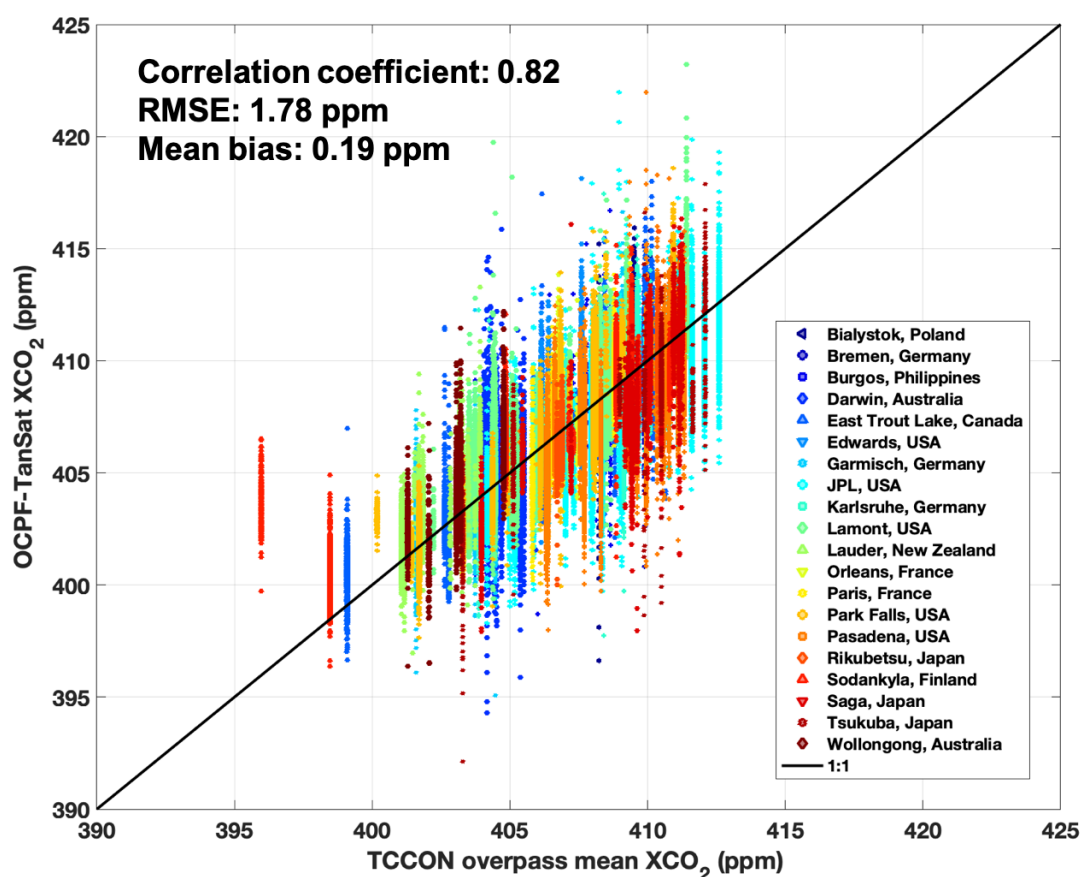



Figure 2: Comparison of individual retrieved XCO₂ from TanSat with the overpass mean of TCCON XCO₂ for the time period of March 2017 to May 2018 across all 20 TCCON sites. Each TCCON site is given by different colour and symbol. Statistics for mean bias and RMSE (calculated by averaging the bias and RMSE of each site) are given along with the correlation coefficient.

	ESA Climate Change Initiative (CCI) Product User Guide Version 2 (PUGv2) for the CO₂_TAN_OCFP version 1 product from the University of Leicester for the Essential Climate Variable (ECV) Greenhouse Gases (GHG)	Page 9
		V2
		10 th February 2021

3 Product Description

3.1 Product Content and Format

XCO₂ data are stored in the NetCDF format, with each daily file containing soundings around each TCCON site. Table 3 provides a description of the variables common to all ESA GHG-CCI data products, and all necessary parameters to make use of the data (e.g. a-priori data, column averaging kernels, quality information, etc.). Table 4 contains additional product-specific variables, such as instrument flags and important ancillary retrieval information.

3.2 Quality Flags and Metadata

The data product contains an “xco2_quality_flag” variable, indicating whether the data has passed our quality checks. In normal use, only data with an xco2_quality_flag equal to 0 should be used. Only TanSat soundings that pass the cloud screen (i.e. apparent surface pressure difference between O₂-A band retrieval and ECMWF surface pressure is within 20 hPa) have been processed to retrieve XCO₂. Post-filtering checks for a successful retrieval outcome (a solution is converged upon in the full physics routine), and filters as detailed in Table 1 are applied. Note that Grad CO₂ is defined as

$$\text{Grad CO}_2 = [(\text{CO}_2^{\text{ret},S} - \text{CO}_2^{\text{ret},700}) - (\text{CO}_2^{\text{apr},S} - \text{CO}_2^{\text{apr},700})],$$

where $\text{CO}_2^{\text{ret}/\text{apr},S}$ is the retrieved/a-priori CO₂ concentrations at the surface respectively, and $\text{CO}_2^{\text{ret}/\text{apr},700}$ is the retrieved/a-priori CO₂ concentrations at 700hPa respectively. Delta P_{surf} (ΔP_{surf}) is defined as

$$\Delta P_{\text{surf}} = (P_{\text{surf},\text{ret}} - P_{\text{surf},\text{apr}}),$$

where $P_{\text{surf},\text{ret}/\text{apr}}$ are the retrieved and a-priori surface pressures respectively.

Table 1. Product quality filter; retrievals that satisfy these criteria are marked as good.

Parameter	Acronym	Filter /min, max/
Retrieval changes of CO ₂ gradient between 700hPa and surface	Grad CO ₂	/-4.34, 21.47/
Retrieval changes on surface pressure from a-priori	ΔP_{surf}	/-4.45, 1.99/
Continuum correction coefficients of cos(x) of O ₂ A band*	Continuum B1C3	/-0.76, 0.60/
Zero offset wavelength dependence slope of weak CO ₂ band	Zerooff B2S	/-0.14, 0.017/
Surface albedo of CO ₂ weak band	AlbedoB2	/0.033, 0.33/
Over water body (land fraction > 0.99 from L1B data)	-	Yes
Convergence in 10 iterations	-	Yes

*The detailed explanation is in the Algorithm Theoretical Basis Document Version 1 (ATBDv1), in section 4.2.3.6 Additional correction of the continuum, page 21.

3.3 Bias correction

For this data product, a bias correction is calculated and applied independently for each across-track footprint. The parameters for the bias correction are inferred from a multiple linear regression analysis of the difference between TanSat and TCCON XCO₂ observations for same the parameter P_i as used in post-screening (quality flags):

$$\Delta_{xco2} = \sum_{i=1}^5 A_i \cdot P_i + B.$$

These parameters are selected by the rank of the XCO₂ error (individual difference to TCCON measurement) correlations (correlation coefficient). The coefficient A_i and offset B are optimized in the regression and used for bias correction of each individual retrieval. More details are given in Table 2.

Table 2. Bias correction coefficients. The coefficient for each row from left to right indicate the footprint.

Parameter1	Grad CO ₂ : The retrieval changes of layer CO ₂ gradient between 700hPa and surface								
Coefficient1	0.094	0.096	0.082	0.094	0.099	0.123	0.123	0.130	0.083
Parameter2	ΔP_{surf} : The retrieval changes on surface pressure from a-priori								
Coefficient2	2.00	2.11	1.97	1.65	1.30	1.43	1.38	0.51	-0.027
Parameter3	Continuum B1C3: Continuum correction coefficients of cos(x) of O ₂ A band								
Coefficient3	-0.31	-0.41	-0.47	-0.68	-0.41	0.20	-0.17	-0.88	-1.14
Parameter4	Zeroff B2S: Zero offset wavelength dependent-slope of CO ₂ band								
Coefficient4	-2.02	-6.26	-11.41	-8.86	-0.80	-1.65	-3.65	-0.39	6.32
Parameter5	AlbedoB2: Surface albedo of CO ₂ weak band								
Coefficient5	-11.48	-12.26	-12.97	-10.66	-5.81	-7.24	-9.26	-7.90	-4.85
Parameter6	Constant								
Coefficient6	1.08	1.19	1.38	1.31	0.84	0.92	0.91	0.77	0.92

3.4 Data Usage


The xco2_quality_flag variable must be applied to the data before use; a value of 0 indicates that the data has passed our quality control, while a value of 1 indicates that one filter in the quality control process has not passed. Soundings where more than one filter was not passed were excluded from the final dataset. All vertically resolved data is provided on levels (each layer surface as opposed to layers). This is especially important when applying UoL averaging kernels to model data.

3.5 Tools for Reading the Data

The data are stored in NetCDF (.nc) format, which can be read with standard tools..

3.6 Known Limitations and Issues

- As discussed in Section 1.1, we currently apply a bias correction to the data based upon a regression of geophysical parameters against the difference to the TCCON data.
- A preliminary comparison of our XCO₂ a posteriori error against the standard deviation of the TCCON-OCFP differences has indicated that our error estimates are in a similar range to the scatter of TCCON-OCFP differences but some outliers exist. Further exploration of this will be performed as part of the validation exercises.

	ESA Climate Change Initiative (CCI) Product User Guide Version 2 (PUGv2) for the CO2_TAN_OCFP version 1 product from the University of Leicester for the Essential Climate Variable (ECV) Greenhouse Gases (GHG)	Page 11
		V2
		10 th February 2021

3.7 Global data plots

CRDP#6 provides two months of filtered and bias-corrected TanSat data globally (over land). CRDP#6 uses the same retrieval (CO2_TAN_OCFP V1.0) as CRDP#5 which provides data over TCCON sites for March 2017 to May 2018. The monthly mean XCO₂ for June and August 2017 binned to 2x2 degree squares are plotted in Figure 3. The corresponding standard deviations are plotted in Figure 4.

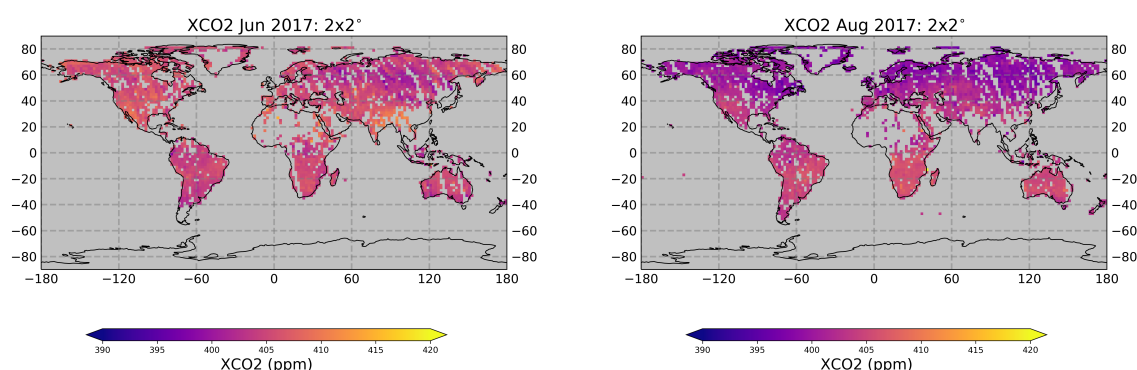


Figure 3: Global XCO₂ concentrations as a function of longitude and latitude for June and August 2017 as observed by TanSat. The soundings have been bias-corrected and filtered as per Table 1.

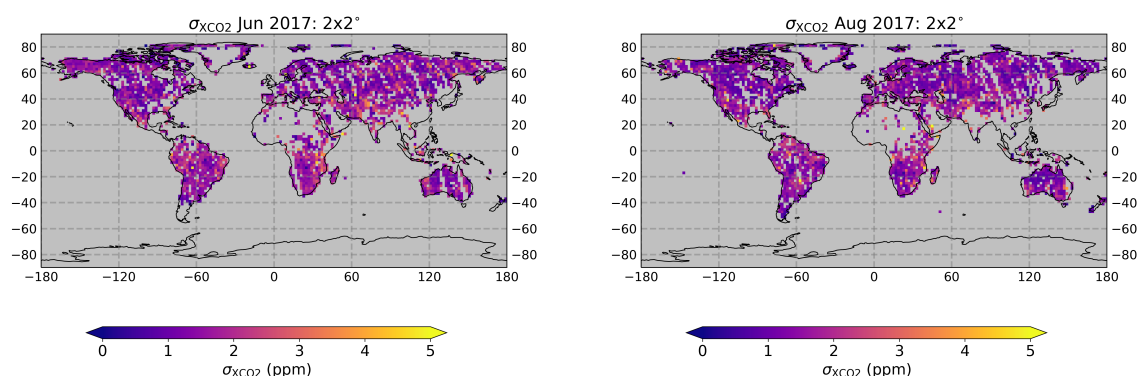



Figure 4: Standard deviation (1σ) of XCO₂ concentrations from Figure 3 as a function of longitude and latitude for June and August 2017.

	ESA Climate Change Initiative (CCI) Product User Guide Version 2 (PUGv2) for the CO2_TAN_OCFP version 1 product from the University of Leicester for the Essential Climate Variable (ECV) Greenhouse Gases (GHG)	Page 12
		V2
		10 th February 2021

3.8 Data file content

NetCDF data files contain all of the common parameters for the ESA GHG-CCI data products (as outlined in the GHG-CCI Product Specification Document v4) as well as additional product specific parameters. A dimension of n refers to the number of retrievals per file, whilst a dimension of m refers to the number of levels retrieved for each sounding (typically 20).

Table 3. Common variables for the CO2_TAN_OCFP data product.

Name	Type	Dimensions	Units	Description
solar_zenith_angle	float	n	degree	Angle between line of sight to the sun and local vertical
sensor_zenith_angle	float	n	degree	Angle between the line of sight to the sensor and the local vertical
time	double	n	seconds since 1970-01-01 00:00:00	Measurement time
longitude	float	n	degrees east	Centre longitude
latitude	float	n	degrees north	Centre latitude
pressure_levels	float	n, m	hPa	Vertical altitude coordinate in pressure units as used for averaging kernels
pressure_weight	float	n, m		Pressure weights as used for averaging kernels
xco2	float	n	1e-6	Retrieved column-averaged dry-air mole fraction of atmospheric CO ₂ (XCO ₂) in ppm. Bias correction applied
xco2_no_bias_correction	float	n	1e-6	Retrieved column-averaged dry-air mole fraction of atmospheric CO ₂ (XCO ₂) in ppm. No bias correction applied
xco2_uncertainty	float	n	1e-6	Statistical uncertainty of XCO ₂ in ppm (1σ)
xco2_averaging_kernel	float	n, m		XCO ₂ averaging kernel (a profile = vector for each single observation). Quantifies the altitude sensitivity of the XCO ₂ retrieval.
co2_profile_apriori	float	n, m	1e-6	<i>A-priori</i> mole fraction profile of atmospheric CO ₂ in ppm.
xco2_quality_flag	byte	n		Quality flag for XCO ₂ retrieval, 0=good, 1=bad.



	ESA Climate Change Initiative (CCI) Product User Guide Version 2 (PUGv2) for the CO2_TAN_OCFP version 1 product from the University of Leicester for the Essential Climate Variable (ECV) Greenhouse Gases (GHG)	Page 13
		V2
		10 th February 2021

Table 4. Additional variables for the CO2_TAN_OCFP data product.

Name	Type	Dimensions	Units	Description
exposure_id	char	n, 17		Exposure identification number of the sounding
surface_altitude	float	n	m	Altitude is the (geometric) height above the geoid, which is the reference geopotential surface, as derived from L1B data
surface_altitude_stdev	float	n	m	Standard deviation of the surface elevation within the area of the TanSat sounding, as derived from L1B data.
surface_air_pressure_apriori	float	n	hPa	<i>A-priori</i> surface pressure value
surface_air_pressure_apriori_std	float	n	hPa	<i>A-priori</i> surface pressure standard deviation
gain	byte	n		TanSat has only one instrument gain mode. It is set to 1.
air_temperature_apriori	float	n, m	K	Air temperature is the bulk temperature of the air, not the surface (skin) temperature.
h2o_profile_apriori	float	n, m	ppm	<i>A-priori</i> mole fraction profile of atmospheric H ₂ O in ppm.
total_aod	float	n		Retrieved total aerosol optical depth
aod_type1	float	n		Retrieved AOD type 1
aod_type2	float	n		Retrieved AOD type 2
cirrus	float	n		Retrieved AOD cirrus
retr_flag	byte	n		Retrieval type flag (0 = land, 1 = glint).

	ESA Climate Change Initiative (CCI) Product User Guide Version 2 (PUGv2) for the CO₂_TAN_OCFP version 1 product from the University of Leicester for the Essential Climate Variable (ECV) Greenhouse Gases (GHG)	Page 14
		V2
		10 th February 2021

4 Acknowledgement

We would like to thank International Reanalysis Cooperation on Carbon Satellites Data (IRCSD) and The Cooperation on the Analysis of carbon SATellites data (CASA) who provided the TanSat L1B data through international collaboration.

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