

# Chemical data assimilation at BIRA – IASB

*Belgisch Instituut voor Ruimte – Aëronomie  
(Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy)  
BIRA – IASB*

## >> OUTLINE

- **Introduction**
- **What is chemical data assimilation?**
- **Why do we need chemical data assimilation?**
- **4D–VAR chemical data assimilation system**
- **Physical consistency, Self consistency, Independent observations**
- **Added value**
- **Inverse modelling: emission estimations**

Global Earth - System Monitoring, ECMWF, Sept. 2005

## >> OUTLINE

Belgian Assimilation System of Chemical Observations  
from Envisat (BASCOE) <http://bascoe.oma.be>

IMAGES

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>> Introduction

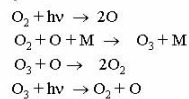
- **Focus on the Stratosphere:**
  - Chemical processes are well understood: high level of confidence in modelling results. (?)
  - Mature remote sensing technology (UARS, ENVISAT, SAGE, CRISTA, POAM ...)
- **If models are perfect, no data assimilation is needed**



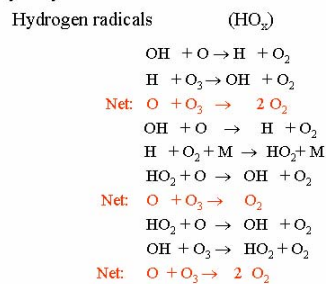
>> Introduction >> Overview chemistry

Gas phase chemistry

Chapman Cycle



Catalytic cycles



Hydrogen Source Gases: H<sub>2</sub>O, CH<sub>4</sub>

- Long term trends
- HO<sub>x</sub> chemistry in the upper stratosphere and mesosphere

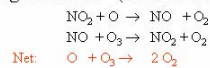
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>> Introduction >> Overview chemistry

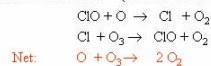
2. Nitrogen radicals (member of NO<sub>y</sub>)



Nitrogen Source Gas: N<sub>2</sub>O (and ...)

- Long term trends
- NO<sub>y</sub> partitioning (in the lower stratosphere: aerosols)

3. Chlorine radicals (member of Cl<sub>y</sub>)



Chlorine Source Gases: Organic Chlorine

- Long term trends
- Cl<sub>y</sub> partitioning (in the lower stratosphere: aerosols)



>> Chemical data assimilation

**Chemical data assimilation**

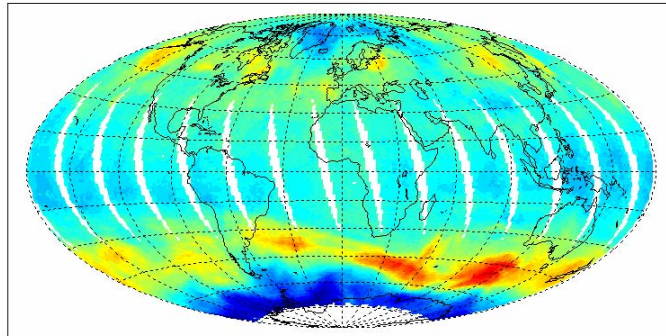
- **Inert tracer assimilation**
- **Tracer with parameterized chemistry assimilation**
- **Multiple species with chemical interactions**



**Necessity**

>> Why chemical data assimilation >> Model shortcomings

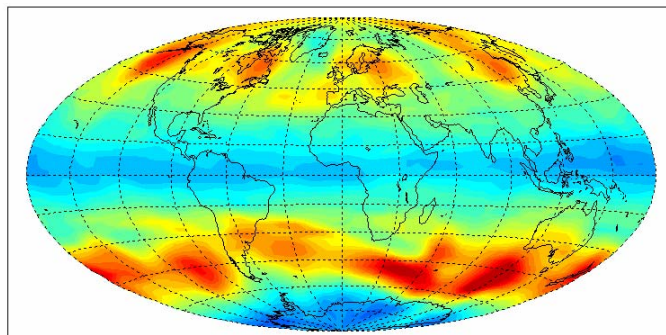
TOMS total ozone 28 August 2003



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>> Why chemical data assimilation >> Model shortcomings

Free model total ozone 28 August 2003, 12 UTC



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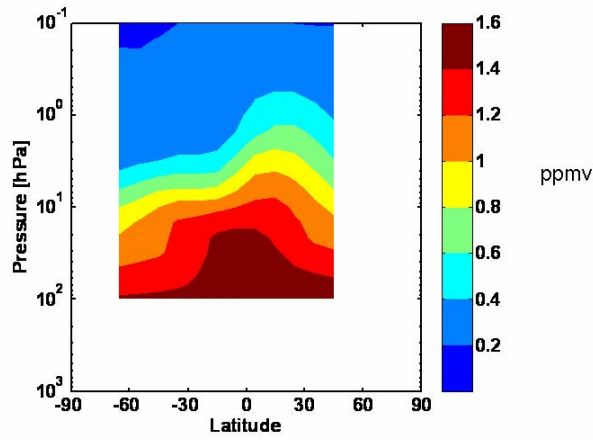
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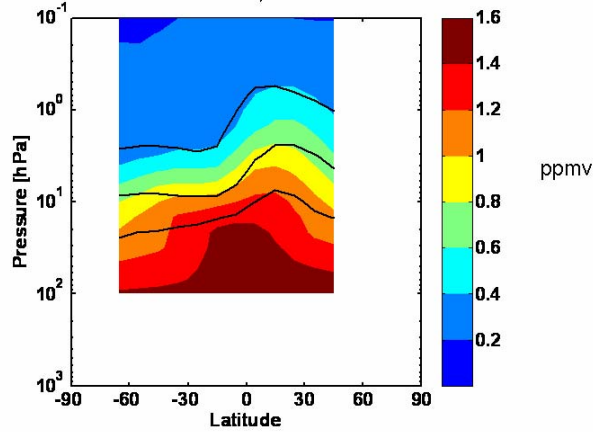
>> Why chemical data assimilation >> Model shortcomings

HALOE CH<sub>4</sub> monthly gridded zonal mean, August 2003



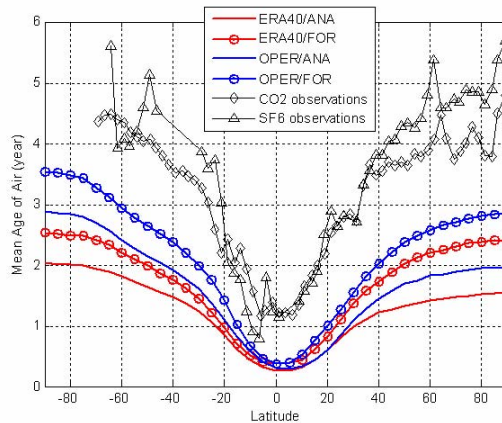
>> Why chemical data assimilation >> Model shortcomings

HALOE CH<sub>4</sub> monthly gridded zonal mean, August 2003  
Free Model Run co-located, isolines



>> Why chemical data assimilation >> Model shortcomings

Problem: input dynamics, confirmed by mean age of air experiment



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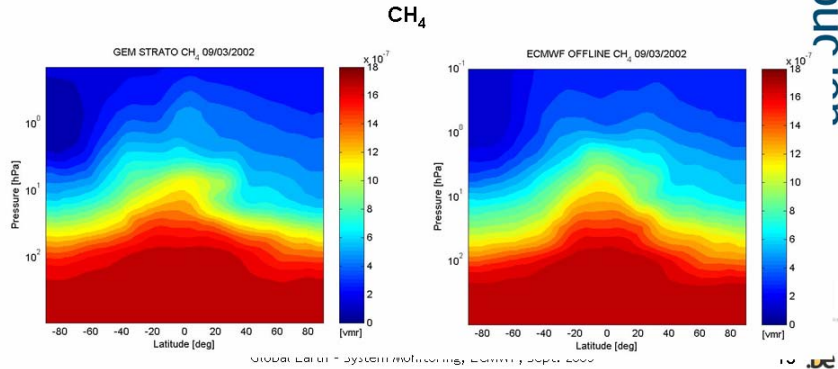


>> Why chemical data assimilation >> Model shortcomings



GEM STRATO (MSC) with BASCOE chemistry vs. BASCOE driven by ECMWF

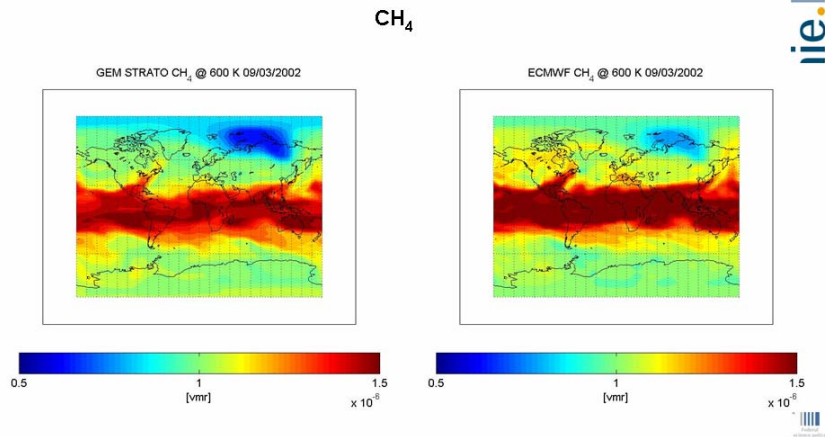
- 3 month free model run
- Same initial conditions
- Matching resolution
- Identical chemistry
- No Feedback



>> Why chemical data assimilation >> Model shortcomings



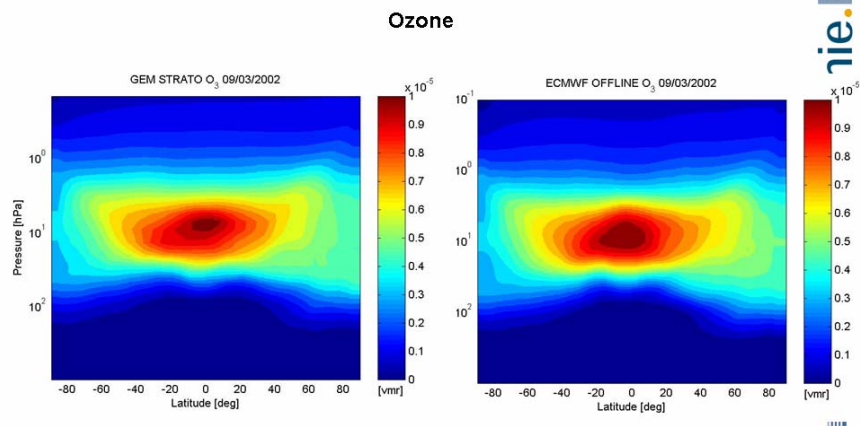
BASCOE driven by GEM-STRATO vs BASCOE driven by ECMWF



>> Why chemical data assimilation >> Model shortcomings



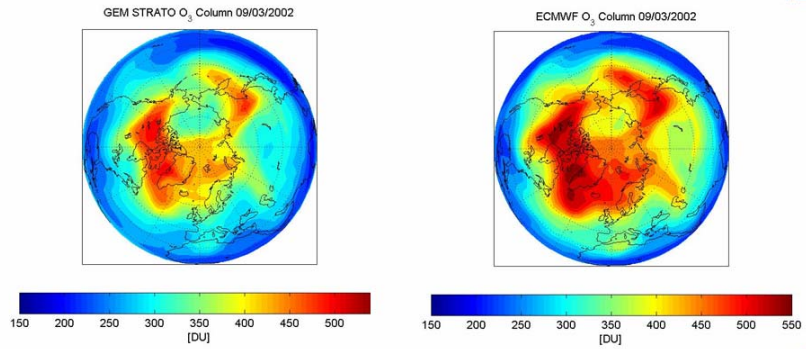
BASCOE driven by GEM-STRATO vs BASCOE driven by ECMWF



>> Why chemical data assimilation >> Model shortcomings

BASCOE driven by GEM-STRATO vs BASCOE driven by ECMWF

Total ozone



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>> Why chemical data assimilation >> Model shortcomings

Model Shortcomings:

- Effect of dynamical assimilation
- Effect of different dynamical assimilation systems
  
- Dynamics driven shortcomings
  
- Chemical modelling shortcomings (not shown)

>> 4D – VAR

4D-var assimilation : find  $x(t_0)$  minimizing  $J$

$$J = \frac{1}{2} [x(t_0) - x^b(t_0)]^T B_0^{-1} [x(t_0) - x^b(t_0)] + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N (y^o(t_i) - H[x(t_i)])^T R_i^{-1} (y^o(t_i) - H[x(t_i)])$$

With the constraint

$$\frac{dx(t)}{dt} = M[x(t)]$$

- $x(t_0)$ : control variable  $n \approx 5.6 \cdot 10^6$
- $x^b$ : *a priori* state of the atmosphere ( *background* )
- $y^o(t_i)$ : observations, de dimension  $p \approx 5 \cdot 10^4$  ( $\sim 7 \cdot 10^5$ )
- $x(t_i)$ : model state
- $H$ : observational operator
- $M$ : model operator
- $B$ : background error covariance matrix
- $R$ : observational error covariance matrix

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>> 4D – VAR >> BASCOE

- **Model (3D - Chemical Transport Model)**
  - horizontal:  $3^{\circ}.75 \times 3^{\circ}.75$  (96 x 49 pts); vertical: 37 pressure levels, surface  $\rightarrow$  0.1 hPa (subset of ECMWF hybrid levels, keeping stratospheric levels)
  - 57 chemical species (control variables), 200 reactions
  - 4 types of PSC particles (36 size bins): NOT assimilated
  - Eulerian, driven by ECMWF 6h analyses/forecast
  - advection by Lin & Rood (1996) with 30' time step
- **Assimilation set-up**
  - Adjoint of chemistry and transport
  - Assimilation time window: 24 hours
  - B diagonal; 20 % of first guess distribution (= univariate)
  - Quality check: 1<sup>st</sup> climatological behaviour; 2<sup>nd</sup> first guess based QC
- **Observations**
  - ESA Envisat MIPAS L2 products, Near Real Time (NRT) and Offline (OFL)
  - O<sub>3</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>O, N<sub>2</sub>O, CH<sub>4</sub>, HNO<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>
  - Representativeness error: 8.5 %



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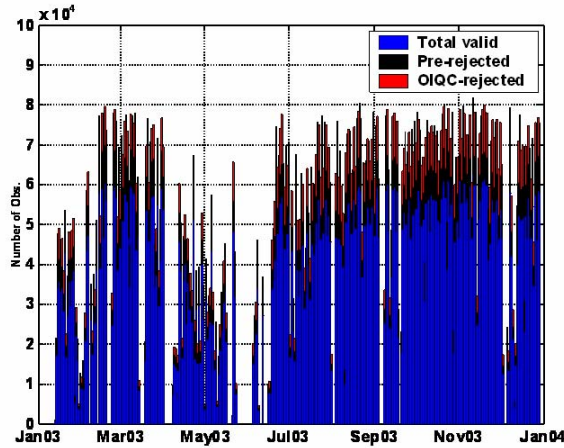


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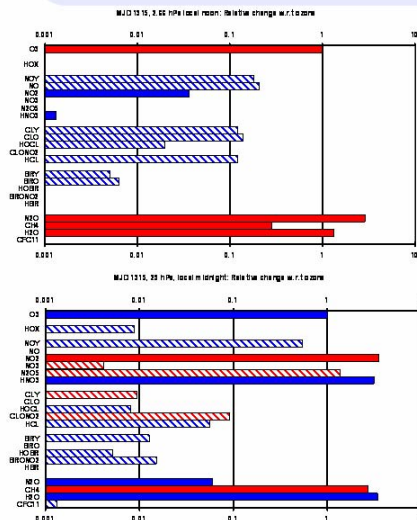
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4D – VAR >> BASCOE >> OFL number of observations



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4D – VAR >> BASCOE >> Multi-variate nature



Multi-variate nature

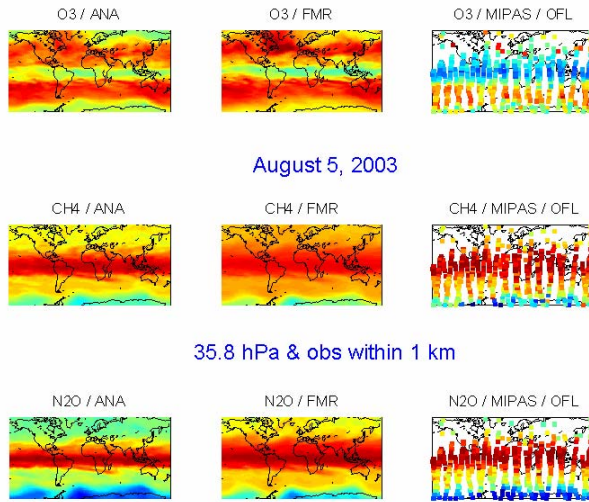
- Diagonal B
- $(x^a(t_0) - x^b(t_0))$
- Local noon and local midnight
- August, 7, 2003
- Full: observed species
- Striped: unobserved species



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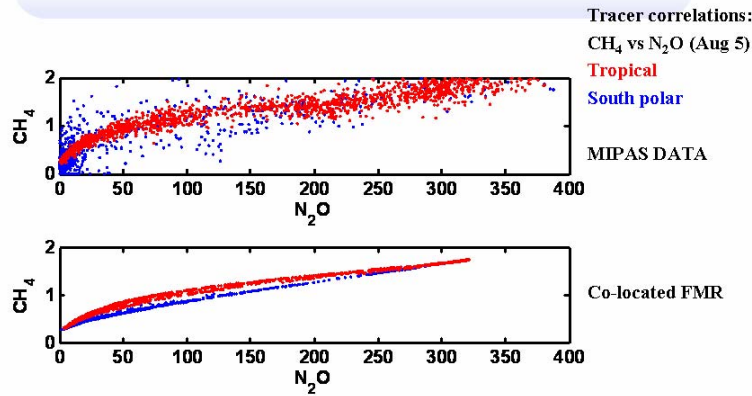


4D – VAR >> BASCOE >> Physical consistency



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4D – VAR >> BASCOE >> Physical consistency



Tracer correlations:  
CH<sub>4</sub> vs N<sub>2</sub>O (Aug 5)

Tropical  
South polar

MIPAS DATA

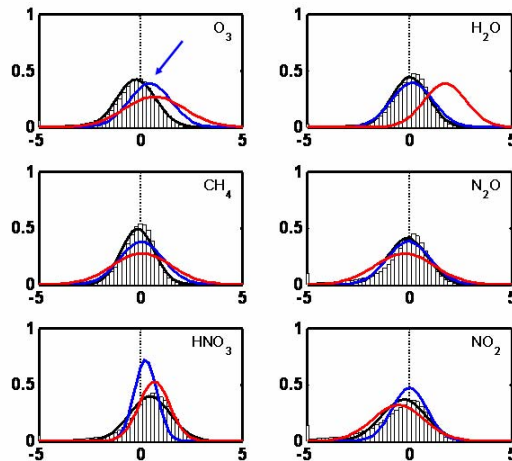
Co-located FMR

Co-located analysis  
= correlation  
Needs validation

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4D – VAR >> BASCOE >> Self – consistency

- OmF:
  - Observation – first guess
  - Normalized by R
  - = Gaussian distribution
  - OFL
  - NRT
  - FMR
  - OFL vs NRT
  - Consistency
  - Added value w.r.p FMR



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4D – VAR >> BASCOE >> Self – consistency >> model improvement

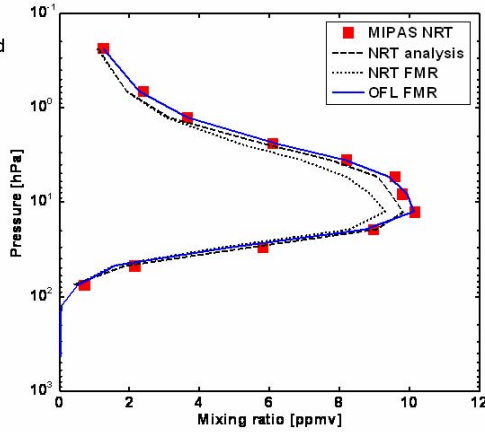
NRT results:

Ozone @ 1 hPa underestimated

- Analysis = free model
- Model not constrained
- O<sub>2</sub> main source of O<sub>3</sub>
- O<sub>2</sub> not a control variable



- J<sub>O<sub>2</sub></sub> increased by 25 %
- New free model
- Better agreement



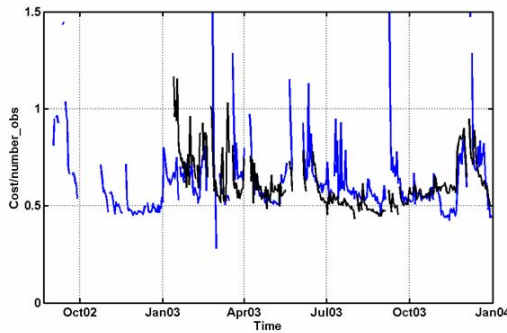
4D – VAR >> BASCOE >> Self – consistency

Self – consistency 4D – VAR:

$$E[J_{analysis}] = p/2$$

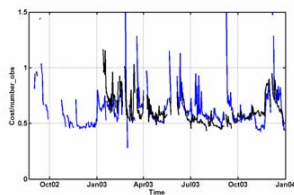
Time series J<sub>analysis</sub>/p

NRT  
OFL



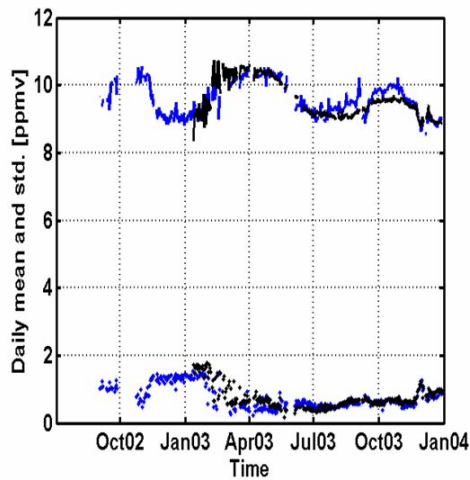
Monitoring capability

4D – VAR >> BASCOE >> Self – consistency >> monitoring



Monitoring capability  
Daily mean MIPAS ozone, [-10,10] at 14 hPa

J<sub>analysis</sub> transients correlate with ozone daily mean transients



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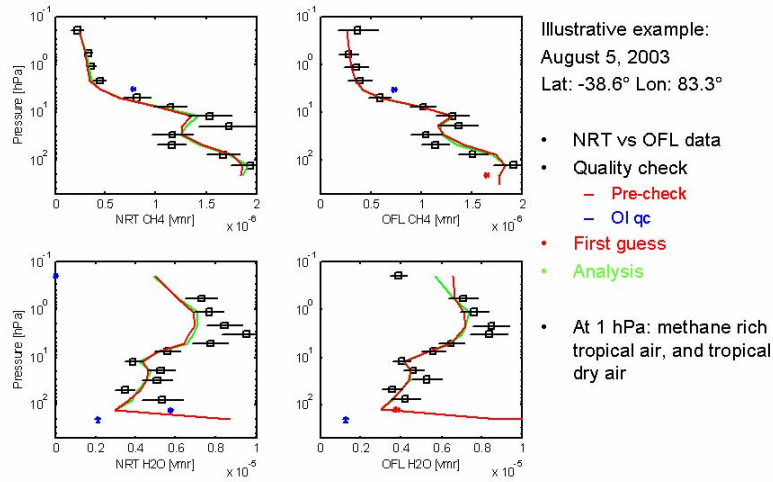
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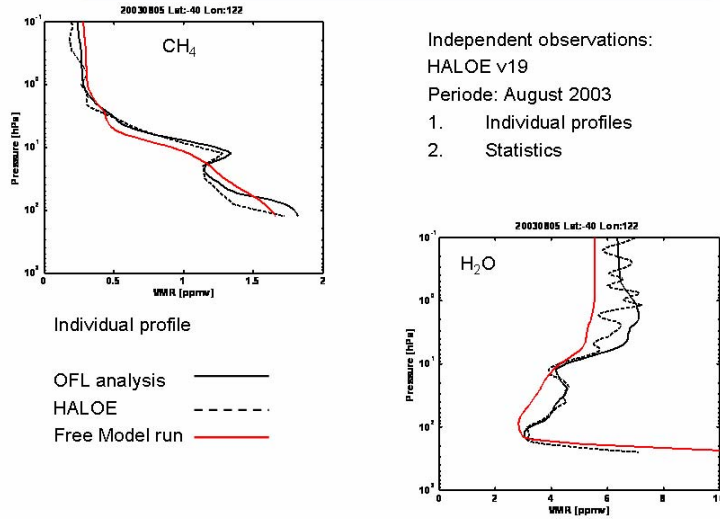
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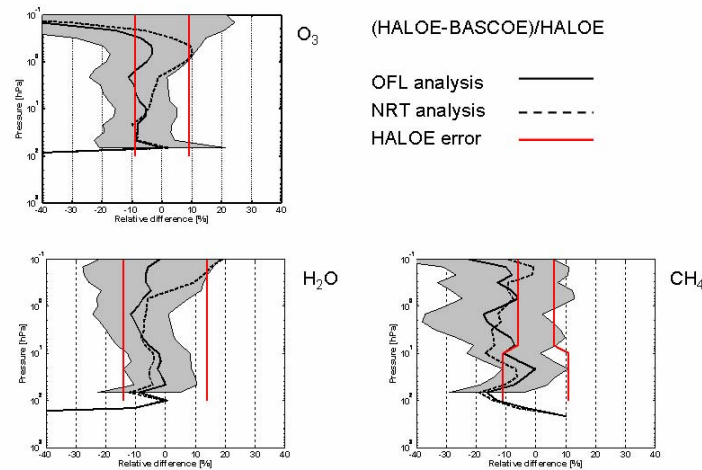
4D – VAR >> BASCOE >> Example



4D – VAR >> BASCOE >> Independent observations



4D – VAR >> BASCOE >> HALOE August 2003



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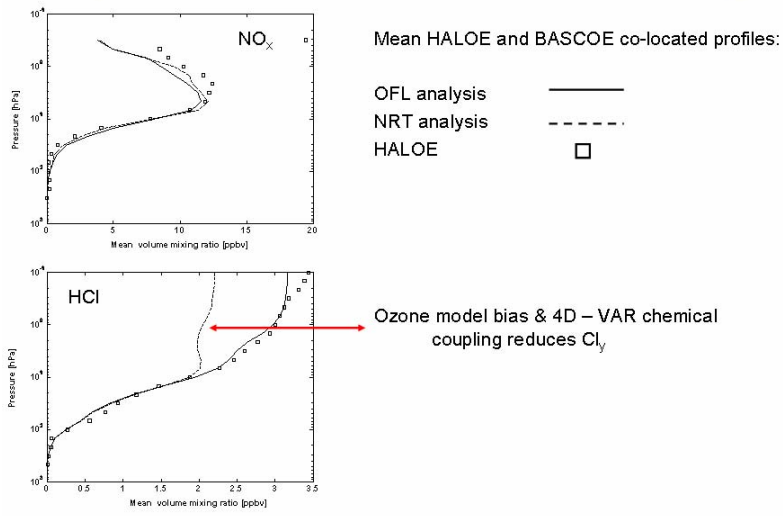
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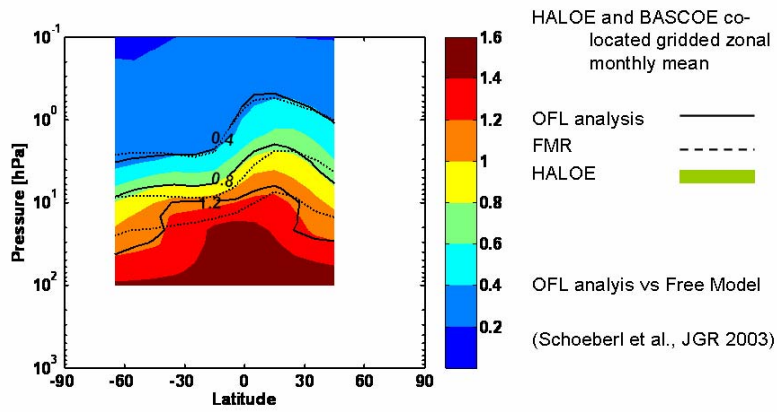
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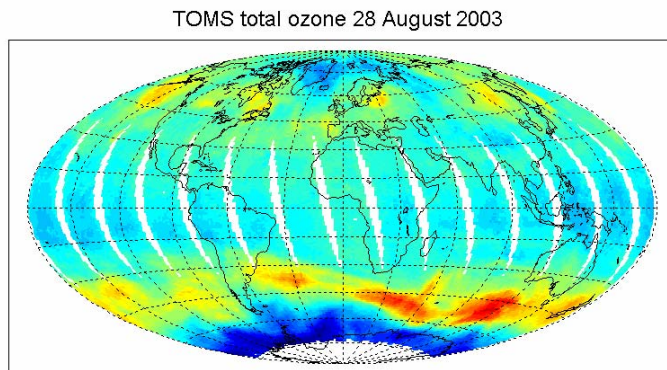
4D – VAR >> BASCOE >> HALOE August 2003



4D – VAR >> BASCOE >> Added value



4D – VAR >> BASCOE >> Added value



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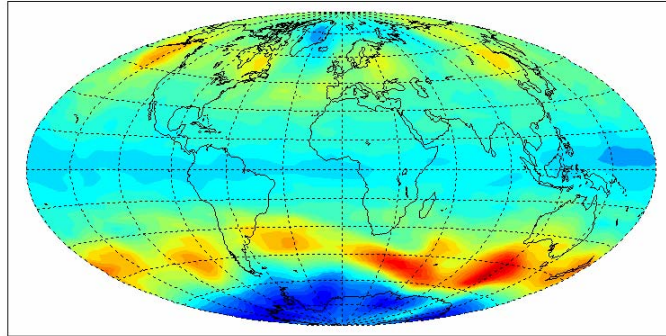
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4D – VAR >> BASCOE >> Added value



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Analysis total ozone 28 August 2003, 12 UTC



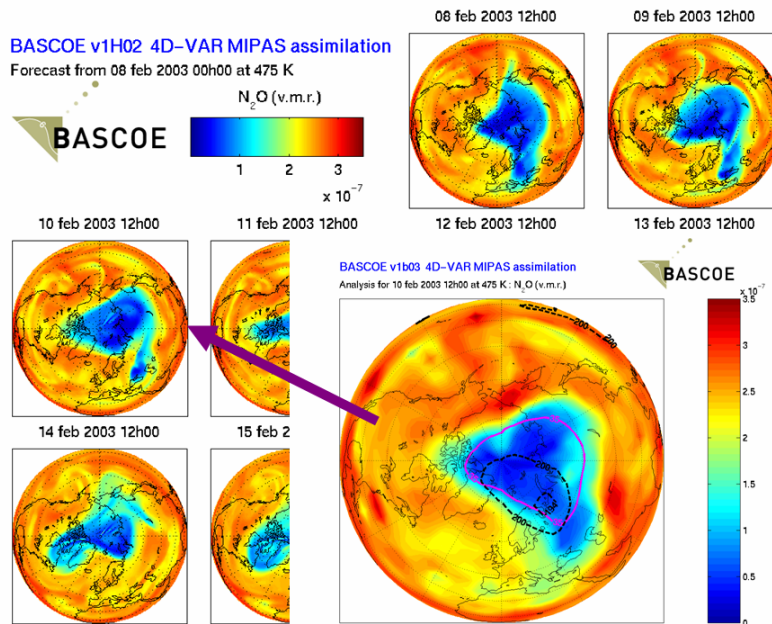
4D – VAR >> BASCOE >> Added value >> Chemical forecasts

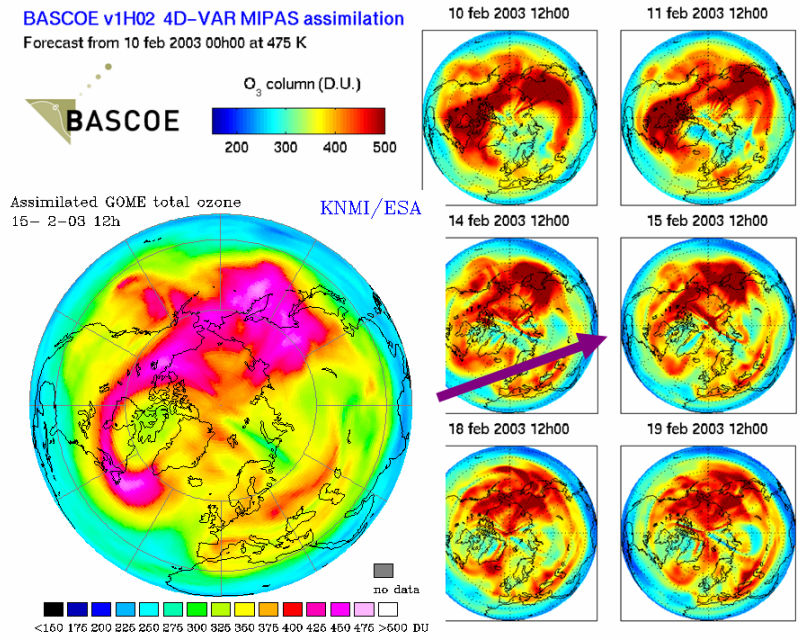


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The operational implementation with NRT MIPAS allows to produce chemical forecasts

Examples with verification





4D-VAR >> BASCOE >> Conclusions

**4D-VAR chemical data assimilation system**

- Multi-variate nature of 4D-VAR
- Benefit
- Model bias sensitivity
- **Overall Consistency**
- **Independent observations**
- **Added value (non-exhaustive)**
  - Monitoring
  - Bias detection
  - Correction for dispersive dynamics
  - Chemical forecasts
- **Potential related to efforts**

>> Inverse modelling

**Inverse modelling at BIRA – IASB**

J. – F. Muller & J. Stavrakou

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(Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy)

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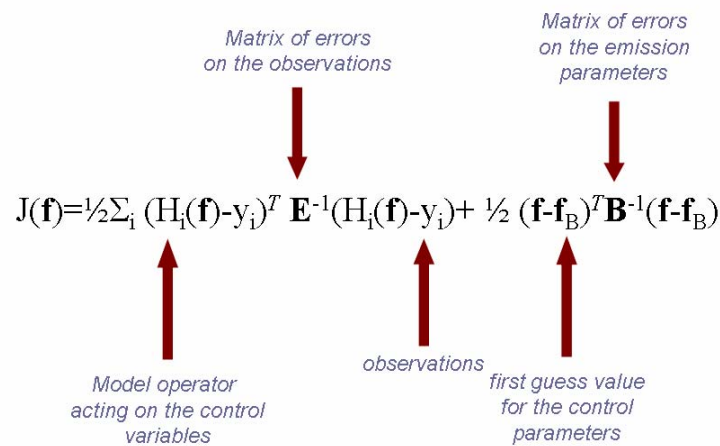
>> Inverse modelling

**Focus:**

**Tropospheric reactive gases (ozone precursors CO, NO<sub>x</sub>, non-methane VOCs)**



>> Inverse modelling



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>> Inverse modelling

- Find best values of emission parameters, i.e. minimize the cost function
- Previous studies for reactive gases (CO, NO<sub>x</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>O) inverted for a small number of emission parameters (big-region approach)
- Most previous studies used a linearized CTM, (i.e. OH unchanged by emission updates) ⇒ straightforward minimization of the cost (matrix inversion)
- Non-linearity is best handled using the adjoint model technique (Muller & Stavrou 2005) also used in 4D-Var assimilation
- This technique allows also to perform grid-based inversions



>> Inverse modelling

Grid – based inversion

- Observations used: CO columns from MOPITT (05/2000 – 04/2001)
  - Model used: IMAGES, 5°x5° (Müller and Stavrakou 2005)
  - Number of control parameters >> number of independent observations
- ⇒ need additional information : correlations between errors on a priori emissions, estimated based on country boundaries, ecosystem distribution, geographical distance



>> Inverse modelling

