

***Interactive comment on “Formic acid above the  
Jungfraujoch during 1985–2007: observed  
variability, seasonality, but no long-term  
background evolution” by R. Zander et al.***

**Anonymous Referee #1**

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The manuscript "Formic acid about the Jungfraujoch..." by R. Zander et al. presents a long-term trend study of HCOOH total columns above the NDACC FTIR site Jungfraujoch. I have not many comments. The results are of significant scientific relevance, the applied procedures and results are described in a careful, clear and instructive manner, accurate tables and figures are provided. The only (negligible) peculiarity of this research paper is that in some passages it approaches the style of a review article, as the own new results are embedded into an exhaustive review of previous studies. However, as this discussion is well-informed and provides useful compilation of various

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results, why should we take offense at this bonus?

A short list of technical corrections/comments:

A figure showing the a-priori and the column sensitivity might be useful.

On page 8, it is explained that a subset of results has been excluded based on objective criteria. I do not understand why a result below a certain threshold should be omitted from a timeseries (if the quality of the measured spectrum and fit etc is ok), as this bears the danger to introduce a high bias in the dataset?

page 3: missing full stop in middle of page

page 5: SciSat

page 15: missing full stop near end of first para

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Interactive comment on Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., 10, 14771, 2010.

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