

Data assimilation of satellite retrieved ozone, carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide with ECMWF's Composition-IFS

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Abstract

Daily global analyses and 5-day forecasts are generated in the context of the European Monitoring Atmospheric Composition and Climate (MACC) project using an extended version of the Integrated Forecasting System (IFS) of the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF). The IFS now includes modules for chemistry, deposition and emission of reactive gases, aerosols, and greenhouse gases, and the 4-dimensional variational data assimilation scheme makes use of multiple satellite observations of atmospheric composition in addition to meteorological observations. This paper describes the data assimilation setup of the new Composition-IFS (C-IFS) with respect to reactive gases and validates analysis fields of ozone (O_3), carbon monoxide (CO), and nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) for the year 2008 against independent observations and a control run without data assimilation. The largest improvement in CO by assimilation of Measurements of Pollution in the Troposphere (MOPITT) CO columns is seen in the lower troposphere of the Northern Hemisphere (NH) Extratropics during winter, and during the South African biomass burning season. The assimilation of several O_3 total column and stratospheric profile retrievals greatly improves the total column, stratospheric and upper tropospheric O_3 analysis fields relative to the control run. The impact on lower tropospheric ozone, which comes from the residual of the total column and stratospheric profile O_3 data, is smaller, but nevertheless there is some improvement particularly in the NH during winter and spring. The impact of the assimilation of tropospheric NO_2 columns from the Ozone Monitoring Instrument (OMI) is small because of the short lifetime of NO_2 , suggesting that NO_2 observations would be better used to adjust emissions instead of initial conditions. The results further indicate that the quality of the tropospheric analyses and of the stratospheric ozone analysis obtained with the C-IFS system has improved compared to the previous 'coupled' model system of MACC.

1 Introduction

Air pollution has become the biggest environmental health risk killing about 7 million people in 2012 according to a recent WHO study (WHO 2014). It is therefore important to provide air quality forecasts on global, regional and local scales to enable vulnerable people to take preventative action during pollution episodes. The Monitoring Atmospheric Composition and Climate (MACC) project (www.copernicus-atmosphere.eu) is the pre-operational atmospheric service of the European Copernicus programme funded by the European Commission's Framework Program 7 (FP7). MACC will evolve into the Copernicus Atmospheric Monitoring Service in 2015. MACC combines state-of-the art chemistry and transport models with satellite data from various sensors to provide consistent global analyses and forecasts of 3-dimensional fields of the atmospheric composition, including ozone (O₃), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), sulphur dioxide (SO₂), formaldehyde (HCHO), as well as methane (CH₄), carbon dioxide (CO₂) and aerosols (Flemming et al. 2013). The MACC- system is run routinely in near-real time (NRT) and provides daily 5-day forecasts of tropospheric and stratospheric composition at a horizontal resolution of about 80 km globally. For details of the system configuration, see http://www.copernicus-atmosphere.eu/oper_info/. An earlier version of the system was also used to produce a 10-year reanalysis of atmospheric composition data covering the years 2003 to 2012 (Inness et al. 2013).

To improve the quality of the MACC forecasts the initial conditions for some of the chemical species (O₃, CO, NO₂, SO₂, CH₄, CO₂, aerosols) are provided by data assimilation of atmospheric composition observations from satellites (Benedetti et al., 2009; Inness et al., 2013; Massart et al., 2014) in the MACC NRT systems. The use of data assimilation for atmospheric composition goes back almost two decades (Fisher and Lary, 1995; Elbern et al., 1997; Elbern and Schmidt, 1999, 2001; Lamarque et al., 1999; Khattatov et al., 2000, Ménard et al., 2000; Errera and Fonteyn, 2001). The overview articles by Carmichael et al. (2007) and Sandu and Chai (2011) describe the various approaches used for chemical data assimilation, including variational methods such as 3- and 4-dimensional Variational (3D-Var and 4D-Var) assimilation (e.g., Elbern and Schmidt, 2001; Chai et al., 2007; Errera et al. 2008, Hooghiemstra et al., 2011), Kalman Filters (e.g., Khattatov et al., 2000; Parrington et al., 2008 and 2009) and Ensemble Kalman Filters (e.g. Arellano et al., 2007; Miyazaki et al. 2012a; Gaubert et al. 2014). Geer et al. (2006) compared different ozone analyses constructed using

various assimilation techniques. The MACC system uses ECMWF's 4D-Var assimilation algorithm (Courtier et al., 1994). The variational methods aim to minimize a cost function that measures the difference between the model background field and the observations by adjusting chosen control variables in order to obtain the best possible forecast. Control variables can for example be the initial conditions (as done in the MACC and ECMWF system, e.g., Dragani et al., 2011), but also emission rates (Tanimoto et al. 2008; Miyazaki et al. 2012b) or other chemical parameters such as kinetic rate constants (Barbu et al. 2009).

While several of the initial studies concentrated on stratospheric ozone (e.g., Hólm et al., 1999; Khattatov et al., 2000; Eskes et al., 2002, 2003; Dethof and Hólm, 2004) data assimilation code has now also been implemented to assimilate tropospheric atmospheric composition data in both global and regional model systems (Lahoz et al., 2007; Zhang et al., 2012; Miyazaki et al., 2012a). Many studies still concentrate on ozone (e.g., Barré et al., 2014, Emili et al., 2014, Gaubert et al., 2014), but the assimilation of other species, such as CO (Yudin et al., 2004; Tangborn et al., 2009; Klonecki et al., 2012) and NO₂ (Wang et al., 2011; Miyazaki et al., 2012b; Silver et al., 2013) is also being tested. Furthermore, some studies looked at the benefits obtained by the combined assimilation of several species (Hanea et al., 2004; Elbern et al., 2007; Miyazaki et al., 2012a).

Several of the studies listed above concentrated on case studies or were run for time periods of a few months at the most. As far as we are aware, the MACC system is the only system run routinely every day to provide global forecasts for atmospheric composition while using data assimilation to provide initial conditions for several species. Concerning reactive trace gases, which are the focus of this paper, the initial version of the MACC system (Hollingsworth et al., 2008) used a coupled setup (Flemming et al., 2009a) in which the Model for OZone And Related chemical Tracers (MOZART-3; Kinnison et al., 2007; Stein et al., 2009) Chemical Transport Model (CTM) was coupled to ECMWF's Integrated Forecasting System (IFS) using the Ocean Atmosphere Sea Ice Soil coupling software (OASIS-4; Valcke and Redler, 2006). The main motivation for developing the coupled system was that the IFS data assimilation algorithm could be used for composition and Numerical Weather Prediction assimilation without the need to integrate complex chemistry schemes. However, this model setup was numerically expensive because of the overhead of the coupler and it did not scale well on ECMWF's supercomputer. Fields had to be interpolated between the IFS and CTM model grids and transport processes were duplicated. Experience during GEMS and MACC had shown that

another disadvantage of the coupled system was that the chemical tendencies were unchanged during the one hour coupling intervals which could lead to problems at the day-night boundary for species with a short chemical lifetime. It was therefore decided to implement the chemistry scheme and its solvers directly in the IFS, together with modules for photolysis, wet and dry deposition, as well as emission injection, to create a more efficient model system called the Composition-IFS (C-IFS, Flemming et al., 2015). Of three candidate CTM versions available in MACC, the chemistry scheme of the Tracer Model 5 (TM5, Huijnen et al., 2010a) was implemented first, while C-IFS versions with MOZART and MOdèle de Chimie Atmosphérique à Grande Echelle (MOCAGE) have only become available recently. Therefore, this paper focuses on the analysis of data assimilation studies performed with C-IFS TM5, i.e., the model that is described in Flemming et al. (2015).

Flemming et al. (2015) showed that the current version of the on-line C-IFS implementation using the Carbon Bond Mechanism 5 (CB05, Yarwood et al., 2005) chemical mechanism performed better in forecast mode in many aspects than the previously used MOZART CTM version. Tropospheric CO biases were smaller in the Northern Hemisphere as were O₃ biases in the upper troposphere. The diurnal cycle of surface ozone was also better represented in C-IFS. However, some problems remained with C-IFS, e.g., an overestimation of surface ozone in late summer and autumn. Tropospheric CO was still underestimated, particularly over Europe and North America, with the largest bias in winter and spring (see Stein et al., 2014 for a detailed discussion of this issue). CO was also underestimated over African biomass burning areas. Furthermore, tropospheric NO₂ was largely underestimated over East Asia during the winter. In this study we will show that by assimilating O₃, CO and NO₂ observations into C-IFS the analyzed fields show an improved representation of atmospheric composition.

This paper describes the C-IFS data assimilation setup and shows results from initial C-IFS assimilation experiments using O₃, CO and NO₂ satellite retrievals for the year 2008. The resulting analysis fields are validated against independent observations and compared with global 3-dimensional fields from the MACC reanalysis (Inness et al., 2013) to assess how the C-IFS data assimilation system compares with the MACC coupled system. The paper is structured in the following way. Section 2 describes the C-IFS model and data assimilation system. Section 3 describes the experiment setup and the data used in the assimilation experiments. Section 4 shows results from the data assimilation experiments and validation

against independent observations and fields from the MACC reanalysis. Section 5 finishes with conclusions and outlook.

2 Description of the C-IFS model and data assimilation system

2.1 C-IFS model

The current chemistry scheme implemented in C-IFS is a modified version of the CB05 chemical mechanism implemented in the TM5 CTM (Huijnen et al., 2010a; Williams et al., 2013; Huijnen et al., 2014). This is a tropospheric chemistry scheme with 54 species and 126 reactions. For stratospheric ozone the chemical tendencies above the tropopause are computed by a parameterisation based on Cariolle and Teyssèdre (2007). Monthly mean dry deposition velocities are currently based on climatological fields from MOCAGE (Michou et al., 2004). The module for wet deposition is based on the Harvard wet deposition scheme (Jacob et al., 2000 and Liu et al., 2001).

This C-IFS system, called C-IFS (CB05) for the remainder of this paper, has been documented and extensively tested in forecast mode (Flemming et al. 2015 and Huijnen et al. 2014). It has also run routinely as a CTM without data assimilation since November 2012 producing daily 5-day forecasts. A more detailed description of C-IFS (CB05) and the differences between it and the previously used coupled IFS-MOZART system is given in Flemming et al. (2015).

The anthropogenic emissions used in the C-IFS runs described in this paper come from the MACCity emission data base (Granier et al., 2011), with increased winter-time road traffic CO emissions over North America and Europe according to an early version of the emission correction described by Stein et al. (2014). Biomass burning emissions are provided by MACC's Global Fire Assimilation System (GFAS v1.0, Kaiser et al. 2012), and biogenic emissions are taken from the POET database for the year 2000 (Granier et al. 2005; Olivier et al. 2003), with isoprene emissions from MEGAN2.1, again for the year 2000 (Guenther et al., 2006). The emissions are injected at the surface and distributed over the boundary layer by the model's convection and vertical diffusion scheme.

2.2 C-IFS data assimilation system

The chemical species O_3 , CO , NO_2 , SO_2 and HCHO are incorporated into the ECMWF 4D-Var analysis as additional model variables and can be minimized together with the meteorological ECMWF control variables. O_3 , CO , and NO_2 are actively assimilated in the model runs described in this paper, i.e., they influence the initial conditions for these species, whereas SO_2 and HCHO are only monitored passively and not discussed any further in this paper. SO_2 data are only assimilated in the MACC system for volcanic eruptions (e.g., Flemming and Inness 2013) and HCHO retrievals have large errors and are only used for monthly mean evaluation. At present, the background errors for the chemical species are univariate, i.e., the error covariance matrix between chemical species or between chemical species and dynamical fields is diagonal. Although Miyazaki et al. (2012a) have shown the benefit of including correlations between the background errors of different chemical species, this is not yet included in the C-IFS system. Hence, each compound is assimilated independently from the others. Furthermore, the coupling of tracers and wind field via the adjoint of the tracer continuity equation is also disabled. This restricts the impact of the tracer assimilation on the meteorological fields and allows us to develop the assimilation of the atmospheric composition data without degrading the meteorological analysis.

In the ECMWF data assimilation system the background error covariance matrix is given in a wavelet formulation (Fisher, 2004, 2006). This allows both spatial and spectral variations of the horizontal and vertical background error covariances. The MACC background errors are constant in time. The background errors for O_3 and NO_2 used in the C-IFS experiments are based on the ones used in the coupled MACC system (see Inness et al., 2009 and Inness et al., 2013), while the background errors for CO are newly calculated for the C-IFS data assimilation runs from an ensemble of C-IFS forecast runs that contained 10 members with perturbations to the model physics, observations, sea surface temperatures and emissions. Differences between pairs of background fields were calculated which have the statistical characteristics of the background errors. It is planned to recalculate all the background error statistics with the latest version of C-IFS and test these in further assimilation experiments.

The vertical correlations of the O_3 and CO background errors were restricted to 5 model levels below and above a level to decouple the lower troposphere from the upper troposphere and stratosphere. The vertical correlations of the O_3 and CO background errors were restricted to 5 model levels below and above a level to decouple the lower troposphere from the upper

1 troposphere and stratosphere. This corresponds to a physical difference of about 0.2 - 1 km in
2 the lower troposphere, 1-2 km in the mid troposphere and about 3 km in the upper troposphere.
3 The reason for this was that the original background errors had vertical correlations between
4 the upper troposphere/stratosphere and near-surface levels that degraded lower tropospheric
5 ozone when there was a bias in stratospheric ozone. By limiting the vertical correlations to the
6 neighbouring levels this degradation was avoided.

7 In the MACC system a logarithmic control variable is used for NO₂, because if the analysis
8 were based on a linear mixing ratio scale it would be prone to large extrapolation errors, due to
9 the high variability of NO₂ in space and time and the difficulties in modelling the error
10 covariances. The NO₂ background errors were designed to be practically zero in the
11 stratosphere, because only tropospheric NO₂ columns are assimilated in this study and the
12 influence of the assimilation is designed to be limited to the troposphere. The vertical
13 correlation matrix for NO₂ is diagonal, i.e. there are no correlations between neighbouring
14 levels. Profiles of the standard deviation (SD) of the background errors for CO, O₃ and NO₂ are
15 shown in Figure 1.

16 The observation error and background error covariance matrices determine the relative weight
17 given to the observations and the background in the analysis. The C-IFS observation error
18 covariance matrix is diagonal, i.e., the observation errors are assumed to be uncorrelated in the
19 vertical and horizontal. By assimilating partial columns we hope to avoid vertical error
20 correlations. For the chemical observations, observation error values given by the data
21 providers are used. A minimum value of 5 % is used to include any observation operator error
22 and a representativeness error that could arise because of differences in resolution of
23 observation and the model, and that accounts for scales unresolved by the model. This minimum
24 value will need to be reassessed as the model improves and new observational datasets become
25 available.

26 Observation operators are needed to calculate the model equivalent of the assimilated
27 observations, i.e., of satellite retrievals of the atmospheric composition. The O₃, CO and NO₂
28 observations used in the IFS are total or partial column data, i.e., integrated layers bounded by
29 a top and a bottom pressure. The model's background values are either calculated as a simple
30 vertical integral between the top and the bottom pressure levels or by using averaging kernels
31 if these are provided in the data to give the partial or total columns at the time and location of

the observations (see also Inness et al. 2013). More information about the assimilated data sets is given in section 3.2 below.

3 Experiment setup and data

3.1 Experiments

To test C-IFS (CB05) in data assimilation mode two experiments were run for the year 2008: An assimilation run (CIFS-AN) in which O₃, CO and NO₂ satellite retrievals (see Table 1) were assimilated in addition to the available meteorological data, and a control run (CIFS-CTRL) in which only the meteorological data were assimilated. The underlying C-IFS (CB05) model is identical to the setup described in Flemming et al. (2015) apart from the anthropogenic emissions which were the original MACCCity emissions in their runs, i.e. with no adjustment of CO emissions. Both experiments were initialized with data from a C-IFS forecast for 31 December 2007, run at a horizontal resolution of about 80 km (T255 horizontal truncation), and had 60 model levels between the surface and 0.1 hPa.

All observations were assimilated in 12-h assimilation windows (9z-21z, 21z-9z), in which two minimizations were run at T95 and T159 corresponding to horizontal resolutions of about 210 km and 120km, respectively. The first minimization is run with simplified physics, while the second minimization is performed with improved physics after an update of the model trajectory at high resolution (Mahfouf and Rabier, 2000). Because the physics parameterizations are computationally expensive the second update carries out fewer iterations of minimization than the first. 12-h assimilation windows are the standard setup of the ECMWF system at present, and it will have to be assessed in further studies if this window length is ideal for the MACC system, or if a shorter window would be better for the assimilation of shorter lived species. The experiments used IFS model cycle CY40R1, see documentation at <http://nwmstest.ecmwf.int/research/ifsdocs/CY40r1/> and <https://software.ecmwf.int/wiki/display/IFS/Operational+changes>.

3.2 Satellite data used in the experiments

Table 1 shows the atmospheric composition retrievals for CO, O₃ and NO₂ that were assimilated in CIFS-AN. Averaging kernels were used for the calculation of the model's first-guess fields in the observation operators (see Inness et al. 2013) where available, i.e., for CO data (Thermal Infrared retrieval product) from the Measurements of Pollution in the Troposphere (MOPITT)

1 instrument and NO₂ data from Ozone Monitoring Instrument (OMI). Background quality
2 checks and variational quality control (Andersson and Järvinen, 1999) were applied to all
3 atmospheric composition data. The background quality check rejected observations if the
4 square of the normalized background departure was greater than 5, while the variational quality
5 control reduced the weight of observations that had large departures but still passed the first-
6 guess check. Data flagged as ‘bad’ by the data providers were discarded.

7 The satellite retrievals of atmospheric composition, which passed all these quality checks, were
8 thinned to a horizontal resolution of 1° x 1° by randomly selecting an observation in the grid
9 box to avoid oversampling and spatially correlated observation errors. A possible limitation of
10 this thinning method is that it might lead to the assimilation of noisy or unrepresentative
11 observations in areas of low background concentrations or to representativeness errors over
12 polluted areas where the true state might be very heterogeneous. However, tests carried out
13 assimilating MOPITT CO data averaged on a 1°x1° grid (not shown in this paper) gave very
14 similar results to assimilating the thinned MOPITT CO data, giving us confidence that our
15 thinning method performs well. The assimilation of averaged NO₂ ‘super-observations’ will be
16 tested in the future.

17 Variational bias correction (Dee and Uppala, 2009) was applied to ozone column data from the
18 OMI and the SCanning Imaging Absorption spectroMeter for Atmospheric CHartographY
19 (SCIAMACHY), while the partial column Solar Backscatter ULTa-Violet (SBUV/2), and
20 profile Microwave Limb Sounder (MLS) and Michelson Interferometer for Passive
21 Atmospheric Sounding (MIPAS) data were used to anchor the bias correction, i.e., they were
22 assimilated without bias correction. Experience from the MACC reanalysis has shown that it is
23 important to have an anchor for the bias correction, to avoid drifts in the fields (Inness et al.,
24 2013). The SBUV/2 data were chosen as anchor because they are a high quality reprocessed
25 dataset. The MLS and MIPAS profile data were not bias corrected because experience in REAN
26 had shown that the SBUV/2 data could not anchor all the layers of the higher resolved profile
27 data and that drifts in individual layers could lead to problems in the vertical O₃ distribution
28 (Inness et al. 2013). For CO and NO₂ data no bias correction was applied in CIFS-AN because
29 data from only one instrument were assimilated and it was not possible to anchor the variational
30 bias correction.

3.3 Evaluation data

The two experiments CIFS-AN and CIFS-CTRL, as well as fields from the MACC reanalysis (REAN, Inness et al. 2013), are compared against each other and independent observations that were not used in either CIFS-AN and REAN. Initial evaluation results from REAN are shown in Inness et al. (2013) and more detailed evaluation can be found in the MACC reanalysis validation reports available from http://www.copernicus-atmosphere.eu/services/aqac/global_verification/validation_reports/. It should be noted that the configurations of REAN and CIFS-AN are different because the underlying chemical model and some of the assimilated datasets have changed (see Table S1 and also Inness et al. 2013). For example, IASI CO retrievals were assimilated in REAN in addition to MOPITT CO columns when they became available from April 2008 onwards, which led to a pronounced change in the CO analysis fields. To avoid such a change in the 2008 C-IFS experiments only MOPITT retrievals are assimilated in CIFS-AN.

Several of the differences between CIFS-AN and REAN (for example differences in the chemical mechanisms, the biomass burning emissions, the dry deposition velocity fields, and an enhancement factor for traffic CO emissions in C-IFS) are likely to have an impact in the lower troposphere, where the sensitivity of the assimilated satellite data is low. Nevertheless, it is useful to compare CIFS-AN with REAN because REAN is a documented and widely used dataset produced with the coupled MACC system that can serve as a benchmark for the evaluation of CIFS-AN.

Table 2 lists the datasets used in this paper for the evaluation of CO, O₃ and NO₂ fields. More detailed information about the evaluation datasets can be found in the supplement.

4 Results

This section presents results from the C-IFS experiments highlighting the impact of the assimilation of satellite data on the CO, O₃ and NO₂ fields in CIFS-AN.

4.1 Carbon monoxide

4.1.1 Impact of the CO assimilation

As a first step, the impact of the assimilation of MOPITT total column CO (TCCO) data in CIFS-AN is evaluated by looking at the distribution of analysis departures (i.e., observation

minus analysis (obs-an) values) in the form of histograms from CIFS-AN and CIFS-CTRL for 2008, for all MOPITT data that were flagged as good quality by the data producers (Figure 2). Note that in CIFS-CTRL the MOPITT TCCO data were included passively in the analysis, so that the departures statistics could be calculated. Figure 2 shows that the analysis is drawing to the MOPITT data and the biases with respect to MOPITT are more than halved in all regions compared to CIFS-CTRL. The values of the annual mean departures (listed in Figure 2), their root mean square (RMS) and SD for the NH, Tropics and SH show that there are reductions in all these diagnostics in all areas. The plots also show that CIFS-CTRL underestimates CO in the NH compared to MOPITT (obs-an > 0) and overestimates CO (obs-an < 0) in the Tropics and SH. This is in agreement with what was found for C-IFS (CB05) forecast runs by Flemming et al. (2015).

The seasonal mean TCCO analysis increments (analysis minus forecast values) and a timeseries of zonal mean TCCO analysis increments are shown in the supplementary material (Figures S1 and S2). They illustrate where the assimilation reduces or increases the TCCO field. It should be noted that after a large initial correction (Figure S2) the TCCO increments are small: less than 1 % in the zonal mean and less than 4 % in the seasonal means. This illustrates that the analysis is drawing to the TCCO data and that the information brought into the analysis by the data is maintained and carried over into the subsequent analysis cycles.

Figure 3 shows zonal mean timeseries of MOPITT TCCO data which are used in CIFS-AN between 65°N and 65°S, MOPITT analysis departures from CIFS-AN and CIFS-CTRL, and differences between the experiments. The analysis departures are small in CIFS-AN, while they show an overestimation in CIFS-CTRL in the NH and an underestimation in the Tropics and SH (as already noted in Figure 2). The assimilation increases TCCO at high northern latitudes in winter and spring, when the CO lifetime is longest, and reduces it in the Tropics throughout the year. This is also confirmed in Figure 4 which shows the seasonal mean vertical differences between CIFS-AN and CIFS-CTRL. In all seasons, CO is reduced in the tropics throughout the troposphere and in the mid and upper troposphere in the SH. It is also reduced in the upper troposphere of the NH in March, April, May (MAM), June, July, August (JJA) and September, October, November (SON). CO is increased below 400 hPa in the NH extratropics in January and February (JF), MAM and SON and in the SH in MAM, JJA and SON, with the largest increases in the boundary layer. In JJA the biggest increase in the NH is seen around 400 hPa, where MOPITT has the largest sensitivity.

1 It should be noted that even though TCCO data are assimilated in CIFS-AN transport processes
2 lead to a change in the vertical CO profiles. The assimilation of TCCO data leads to increased
3 CO columns in the Extratropics and to decreased CO columns in the Tropics (Figure 2) with
4 corresponding positive and negative analysis increments throughout the troposphere. Poleward
5 transport from the Tropics in the upper troposphere then leads to the lower CO concentrations
6 in the Extratropical upper troposphere in CIFS-AN seen in Figure 4.

7 The most likely reason for the underestimation of CO in CIFS-CTRL in the NH Extratropics is
8 an underestimation of the anthropogenic emissions. This is also discussed in Flemming et al.
9 (2015). It should be noted that low CO values are found by most of the CTMs regardless of the
10 emission inventory used (e.g. Shindell et al., 2006; Kopacz et al., 2010; Fortems-Cheiney et al.,
11 2011), and that the MACCity anthropogenic emissions are in the same range as the emissions
12 provided by the few other emission inventories available for the post-2000 period (Granier et
13 al., 2011a). A possible reason for the general overestimation of CO in the Tropics could be too
14 large GFAS biomass burning emissions (Flemming et al. 2015). The only exception is the
15 strong underestimation of CO in the biomass burning maximum in Southern Africa, which
16 points to an underestimation of the GFAS biomass burning emissions in that area (see Figure 5
17 below).

18 4.1.2 CO evaluation against independent observations

19 Figure 5 shows timeseries of monthly mean CO from MOZAIC aircraft data and the three
20 experiments averaged over the lower troposphere (LT, 1000-700 hPa), the mid troposphere
21 (MT, 700-400 hPa) and the upper troposphere (UT, 400-200 hPa) near Frankfurt and Windhoek
22 airport. At Frankfurt, which has the largest number of profiles per month of all MOZAIC
23 airports, all experiments manage to reproduce the seasonal cycle seen in the observations with
24 highest CO values at the end of northern spring due to the longer lifetime of CO and higher
25 anthropogenic emissions during winter and spring. CIFS-CTRL underestimates CO in the LT
26 and MT throughout the year with the largest bias of between 20-40 parts per billion (ppb) in LT
27 during the winter months, when CO concentrations are highest. In UT CIFS-CTRL
28 overestimates CO. This was also noticed in the stand-alone C-IFS runs described by Flemming
29 et al. (2015).

30 The assimilation of MOPITT TCCO data improves the fit to the MOZAIC data by increasing
31 CO in LT and MT and reducing it in UT during the winter and spring months. This change

1 agrees with the zonal mean differences seen between CIFS-AN and CIFS-CTRL in Figure 4
2 and illustrates that assimilating total column CO data can help to improve the vertical structure
3 of the CO field by applying a 4D-Var technique. Between June and October, when the model
4 performs better, the differences between CIFS-AN and CIFS-CTRL are small. Compared to
5 REAN, which was created with an earlier version of the MACC system, CIFS-AN has an
6 improved fit to the MOZAIC data in LT throughout the year, with particular improvements
7 during winter and spring. This can partly be attributed to differences in the traffic emissions
8 used in the runs. Stein et al. (2014) showed that the increased anthropogenic traffic emissions
9 used in CIFS-AN had a large and positive effect on modelled NH CO concentrations. However,
10 even when using the same anthropogenic emissions (as done in Flemming et al., 2015, their
11 Figure 8) the MOZART-CTM, which was coupled to IFS in REAN, has lower CO values at
12 Frankfurt than a C-IFS (CB05) stand alone run. Hence differences between the MOZART and
13 C-IFS (CB05) physics and chemistry (e.g., different OH distributions and different
14 parameterizations of dry deposition) also contribute. REAN agrees better with the MOZAIC
15 data in MT during summer which is likely to be due to the assimilation of additional IASI
16 TCCO data in REAN.

17 At Windhoek all experiments underestimate the September/October maximum due to biomass
18 burning in LT and MT, but the assimilation of TCCO data leads to increased CO values in
19 CIFS-AN and REAN and therefore smaller negative biases than CIFS-CTRL which
20 underestimates the peak by 40-50 ppb, possibly due to an underestimation in the GFAS CO
21 emissions. At other times of the year the impact of the assimilation in LT and MRT is smaller,
22 and CIFS-AN has slightly lower CO values in LT and MT than CIFS-CTRL, which improves
23 the fit to the MOZAIC data during some months and degrades it during others. The largest
24 impact of the assimilation from January to September can be seen in UT where CIFS-AN is
25 about 10 ppb lower than CIFS-CTRL. This is in agreement with the zonal mean differences
26 seen in Figure 4. Here, the fit to the MOZAIC data is degraded in CIFS-AN from January to
27 April, but improved during the summer. CIFS-AN and REAN are of similar quality at
28 Windhoek. REAN has a better fit to the MOZAIC data during in LT and MRT during the
29 biomass burning season, but a larger negative bias than CIFS-AN in UT.

30 CO from the C-IFS experiments is further validated against NDACC FTIR data for timeseries
31 of tropospheric CO columns (from the surface to 10 km), as well as annually averaged CO and
32 bias profiles (Figure 6). All experiments underestimate the tropospheric CO columns at the

1 northern FTIR stations with annual mean biases at Eureka of -6.0 %, -7.3 %, -16.9 % and at
2 Jungfraujoch of -3.5 %, -3.5 % and -3.0 % for CIFS-AN, CIFS-CTRL and REAN, respectively.
3 At Eureka, the largest difference between CIFS-AN and CIFS-CTRL are seen during winter.
4 This agrees with the TCCO differences seen in Figure 3. As already seen in Figure 4, in the NH
5 the assimilation of MOPITT TCCO leads to increased CO values in the mid and lower
6 troposphere and to reduced CO values in the upper troposphere. This improves the fit to the
7 FTIR data in CIFS-AN at Jungfraujoch and at Eureka in the lower and mid troposphere, but
8 leads to a worse fit than CIFS-CTRL in the upper troposphere at Eureka. REAN has a larger
9 negative bias at Eureka after April. In Inness et al. (2013) and MACC Reanalysis validation
10 reports (available from www.copernicus-atmosphere.eu) it was noted that the assimilation of
11 IASI TCCO retrievals that started in REAN in April 2008 led to lower surface CO values in
12 Polar regions. This was the result of differences between the assimilated MOPITT and IASI
13 CO data. IASI data are lower than MOPITT over land and in the SH, with particularly large
14 differences at high northern latitudes during winter (George et al. 2015, submitted to AMT).
15 While the assimilation of IASI CO improved the fit to surface observations over the Antarctic
16 it led to larger negative biases at Arctic stations (see also GAW evaluation below).

17 At Izaña all experiments overestimate CO below 500-600 hPa, and underestimate it above, with
18 the largest biases in REAN. The differences between CIFS-AN and CIFS-CTRL are small,
19 which can also be seen in the annual mean tropospheric column biases of -6.6% for CIFS-AN
20 and -7.5 % for CIFS-CTRL. At the SH station of Lauder all models underestimate CO below
21 700 hPa and overestimate it above, with the largest positive bias in CIFS-CTRL and lowest in
22 REAN. This large bias in CIFS-CTRL can also be seen in the Lauder FTIR timeseries of
23 tropospheric CO. Figure 6 illustrates that the large reduction in upper tropospheric CO values
24 due to the assimilation of MOPITT TCCO (seen in Figure 4) leads to an improved fit with the
25 FTIR data in this region.

26 Figure 7 shows an evaluation of monthly mean surface CO volume mixing ratios from the
27 experiments against a selection of GAW stations. As already seen in the difference plots in
28 Figure 4 and the MOZAIC LT comparison in Figure 5 the differences between CIFS-AN and
29 CIFS-CTRL in the NH are largest during the winter season, when the CO lifetime is longest
30 and the assimilation of MOPITT TCCO leads to increased surface CO values. The seasonal
31 cycle is very well captured by CIFS-AN at Alert with a negligible annual mean bias, while
32 CIFS-CTRL has a bias of - 7 parts per billion volume (ppbv). At Mace Head there is again good

1 agreement of CIFS-AN with the observations with a mean bias of 4 ppbv, compared to -6ppbv
2 in CIFS-CTRL. At both stations REAN has a larger negative bias (-30 ppbv and -8 ppbv,
3 respectively). This is in agreement with the large negative bias of REAN relative to FTIR data
4 at Eureka (Figure 6) and due to the assimilation of IASI TCCO retrievals that started in REAN
5 in April 2008 and led to lower surface CO values in Polar regions. At Key Biscayne all 3
6 experiments agree well with the observations, and REAN has the smallest annual mean bias.
7 At Ascension Island the experiments capture well the change from low CO surface
8 concentrations between January to June, to higher values from August onwards, which are
9 related to transport of CO rich air from the African biomass burning areas. REAN overestimates
10 CO during the second half of the year and has the largest annual mean bias (7ppbv). CO values
11 are lower in CIFS-AN than in CIFS-CTRL (-3 ppbv and 2ppbv mean bias, respectively), but
12 mainly within the SD of the observations. The lower values in CIFS-AN than in CIFS-CTRL
13 between January and July agree with what is seen in comparison with MOZAIC data at
14 Windhoek in LT (Figure 5). At Samoa all 3 experiments capture the low CO background values
15 over the Pacific, but CIFS-CTRL overestimates CO more throughout the year (mean bias of 4
16 ppbv), while CIFS-AN underestimates it in the first half of the year and overestimates it in the
17 second half, leading to an annual mean bias of 0 ppbv. At South Pole CIFS-AN and CIFS-
18 CTRL overestimate the surface CO values with larger biases in CIFS-AN than in CIFS-CTRL
19 (9 ppbv and 7 ppbv, respectively). In REAN the agreement with the observations is noticeably
20 improved after the start of the assimilation of IASI CO in April 2008.

21 The comparisons with independent validation data have shown that by assimilating total
22 column CO retrievals several aspects of the three-dimensional CO field can be improved
23 compared to a control run without data assimilation. In the NH, the largest impact is an increase
24 of CO in the lower troposphere and at the surface during NH winter and spring. In the Tropics
25 CO is decreased throughout the troposphere, and in the SH CO is decreased in the mid to upper
26 troposphere. It may be possible to further improve the vertical structure of the CO field by
27 assimilating retrieved CO profiles from MOPITT, IASI or TES instead of the total column
28 products. The C-IFS (CB05) model has problems capturing the summer-time CO maximum
29 due to biomass burning at Windhoek in the SH, and the assimilation can only partly correct
30 this. Here it might be beneficial to have improved biomass burning emissions that use a more
31 realistic injection height. Also C-IFS (CB05) overestimates CO production originating mostly
32 from isoprene emissions and chemistry over Indonesia and Central Africa (see Figure S1).

4.2 Ozone

4.2.1 Impact of the O₃ assimilation

The histograms of SCIAMACHY and OMI analysis departures in Figure 8 illustrate that CIFS-CTRL has large TCO₃ biases and that the assimilation of ozone retrievals is essential to improve the fit with the OMI and SCIAMACHY data. The signs of the biases are consistent for SCIAMACHY and OMI. TCO₃ is dominated by ozone in the stratosphere and having a simple photochemical parametrisation of the stratospheric ozone chemistry (see Section 2.1) is a weakness of C-IFS (CB05). CIFS-CTRL overestimates TCO₃ in the NH (obs-an < 0) with a mean annual bias of 22 Dobson Units (DU) relative to SCIAMACHY and 14 DU relative to OMI. It underestimates TCO₃ in the Tropics by -18 DU relative to SCIAMACHY and -28 DU relative to OMI in the annual mean, and in the SH by -7 DU relative to SCIAMACHY and -19 DU relative to OMI. Figure 9 shows that, as expected, the fit to MLS and MIPAS profile data is also strongly improved and that the assimilation of ozone retrievals leads to much smaller biases and SDs of the departures in the vertical in CIFS-AN.

Figure 10 shows the zonal mean TCO₃ differences of the experiments and the assimilated OMI observations, and illustrates how the assimilation leads to lower O₃ values in the Extratropics and higher values in the Tropics and to a much improved fit with the OMI data compared to CIFS-CTRL. The seasonal mean vertical differences between CIFS-AN and CIFS-CTRL are given in Figure 11 and show large differences between the two experiments. Seasonal mean OMI analysis increments and a timeseries of the zonal mean analysis increments are shown in the supplement (Figures S4 and S5). Like for CO, the analysis increments are small (mainly less than 1%) after an initial adjustment in January 2008.

4.2.2 Stratospheric and total column ozone evaluation

Figure 12 shows timeseries of the monthly mean TCO₃ from the experiments and KNMI's Multi Sensor Reanalysis (MSR) for the year 2008 for the NH, Tropics and SH. Note that the MSR also used SBUV/2, SCIAMACHY and OMI data which are assimilated in CIFS-AN. The figure confirms that the assimilation of ozone retrievals leads to a greatly improved TCO₃ in CIFS-AN compared to CIFS-CTRL which overestimates TCO₃ with respect to the MSR data in the NH by up to 40 DU, and underestimates it in the Tropics (up to -50 DU) and to a smaller extent in the SH (up to -30 DU, but good agreement of the columns from April to July). Despite the simple stratospheric ozone parameterization (see Section 2.1) used in C-IFS (CB05), CIFS-

AN shows better agreement with the MSR data than REAN, illustrating the strong constraints of the assimilation of ozone data for providing good quality total column fields.

Figure 13 shows timeseries of monthly mean stratospheric O₃ biases between the experiments and ACE-FTS and MIPAS data for stratospheric layer between 30-70 hPa for the Antarctic, Tropics and Arctic. Plots for the layers 10-30 hPa and 70-150 hPa are shown in Figures S5 and S6 in the supplement. The figures show that in all three altitude ranges the assimilation leads to an improved fit to the ACE and MIPAS data and that biases and SDs are much reduced in CIFS-AN compared to CIFS-CTRL. The biases of CIFS-AN with respect to ACE-FTS are never larger than 15%. The assimilation corrects especially well the large biases modeled by CIFS-CTRL above the Antarctic. Lefever et al. (2015) showed that this success is primarily due to the assimilation of profile data, such as MLS or MIPAS. The differences between CIFS-AN and REAN are small in all areas and altitude ranges.

4.2.3 Tropospheric and surface ozone evaluation

Timeseries of monthly mean tropospheric O₃ from ozone sondes and the experiments averaged over the LT, MT and UT are shown in Figure 14 for Europe, North America and East Asia and in Figure 15 for Tropics, Arctic and Antarctic. It should be stressed that only ozone total column and stratospheric profile ozone data (see Table 1) are assimilated in CIFS-AN and REAN and that the impact on the troposphere comes as the residual of combining those datasets. The seasonal cycles are well reproduced in all experiments in most areas, but there are some biases compared to the sonde data, particularly in LT and for CIFS-CTRL also in UT. In all 6 areas, O₃ in the UT is improved in CIFS-AN compared to CIFS-CTRL as the impact of the assimilation of stratospheric and total column ozone data corrects model biases here. CIFS-AN and REAN are generally very close in the UT, except in the Tropics where CIFS-AN fits the observations better.

Note that the tropopause is higher in the Tropics and that O₃ in UT is more influenced by the modelling of tropospheric processes, and hence differences in the chemistry schemes, than at higher latitudes where downward O₃ transport from the stratosphere is larger (e.g. Škerlak et al., 2014). In MT and LT the differences between CIFS-AN and CIFS-CTRL are smaller than in UT, but there are larger differences between CIFS-AN and REAN here. This indicates that

the impact of the assimilated data gets smaller and the differences between the chemistry schemes become more important lower in the troposphere.

In LT the spring and summer time O₃ maxima over Europe and North America are overestimated by CIFS-CTRL and this overestimation is not corrected in CIFS-AN. However, during winter and spring the assimilation has some impact on LT, and CIFS-AN agrees better with the observations over Europe and North America than CIFS-CTRL. REAN also overestimates O₃ in LT over Europe during the summer, but less so over North America. In MT CIFS-AN has the best fit to the observations over Europe, but a worse fit than CIFS-CTRL over North America.

Over East-Asia (the average of Hong-Kong and three Japanese stations, see Table S5) O₃ in LT is overestimated throughout the year with little differences between CIFS-CTRL and CIFS-AN, apart for smaller biases in CIFS-AN from October to December. REAN also overestimates O₃ in LT but has the best fit to the observations from March to May. In MT the assimilation leads to an improved fit with the sondes over East Asia during winter. At other times of the year CIFS-AN and CIFS-CTRL are similar and agree better with the sondes than REAN.

The O₃ timeseries in the Tropics (Figure 15) are characterized by two ozone maxima due to biomass burning during the dry seasons in South America (April/May) and Indonesia (September). CIFS-CTRL can not reproduce these peaks well in the MT and UT and the assimilation improves the fit to the sondes, particularly in UT and to a smaller extent in MT. In LT CIFS-AN has a larger positive bias than CIFS-CTRL. CIFS-CTRL also had problems capturing the high CO values seen at Windhoek during the biomass burning season (see Figure 5) and the lower O₃ values might be a result of an underestimation of the O₃ production because of an underestimation of the precursors.

In the Arctic the seasonal cycle with maximum in late spring is well reproduced in all experiments, but there are some biases. In LT CIFS-CTRL overestimates the observed O₃ while CIFS-AN and REAN underestimate O₃. In the MT CIFS-CTRL has the best agreement with the observations while CIFS-AN has a negative bias. CIFS-AN and REAN agree best with the observations in UT.

In the Antarctic CIFS-AN and CIFS-CTRL underestimate O₃ in LT and MT but roughly capture the seasonal cycle, while REAN has problems reproducing the ozone distribution in LT and MT. This is due to vertical correlation in the background error statistics used in REAN. REAN did not perform well in the Polar lower troposphere because large biases in stratospheric ozone

1 in the underlying model in Polar regions (see Inness et al. 2013) required large corrections by
2 the analysis. The background errors used in REAN had vertical correlations between the lower
3 troposphere and the upper troposphere and stratosphere which led to poor vertical tropospheric
4 O₃ profiles over the poles as the assimilation of stratospheric data led to (unwanted) changes
5 near the surface. The ozone background errors were modified for CIFS-AN (see section 2.2) to
6 remove these correlations, and CIFS-AN scores better here.

7 In all runs NO₂ is underestimated over areas of anthropogenic pollution (see Figures 22 and 23
8 below), which is a well known problem in the MACC system (Inness et al. 2013; Flemming et
9 al. 2015). The model is not able to resolve local-scale high levels of Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x)
10 observed in polluted areas because of its coarse resolution, but distributes this over the whole
11 gridbox. Therefore, with more diluted NO₂ in high pollution regions, the model is shifted
12 towards a regime of O₃ production (NO_x-limited) rather than O₃ loss, which might contribute
13 to the positive O₃ bias seen in LT in all areas except Antarctica. Such high bias of O₃ in the LT
14 at northern mid-latitudes is a general problem of global-scale CTMs, e.g., Young et al. (2013).

15 Figure 16 shows modified normalized mean biases (MNMBs) and correlation coefficients (see
16 supplement for definitions) from the 3 experiments against GAW stations (see Table S4) for
17 2008. CIFS-CTRL has a positive bias at the surface, except over Antarctica, as already seen in
18 Figures 14 and 15. The assimilation generally leads to lower surface O₃ and reduces the MNMB
19 in the Arctic and NH Midlatitudes, but the differences are small. The correlations are not
20 changed noticeably in CIFS-AN. REAN has larger negative biases than the C-IFS runs in the
21 Polar Regions and in Midlatitudes. The differences between REAN and CIFS-AN are
22 particularly large in the Polar Regions due to the background error formulation used in REAN
23 as already discussed above.

24 In summary, comparing the experiments with tropospheric ozone observations shows that there
25 is some positive impact on the troposphere, even though only O₃ total column and stratospheric
26 profile data (see Table 1) were assimilated. The improvement is particularly large in the UT,
27 but smaller in MT and LT where characteristics of the underlying chemistry scheme become
28 more important. There are, however, some pronounced improvements in CIFS-AN compared
29 to REAN in LT and surface ozone, which are at least partly the result of modifications to the
30 ozone background error correlations used in CIFS-AN.

4.3 Nitrogen Dioxide

4.3.1 Impact of the NO₂ assimilation

The histograms of OMI analysis and first-guess departures in Figure 17 illustrate that the reductions of bias, RMS and SD due to the assimilation of OMI tropospheric NO₂ column (TRCNO₂) retrievals are much smaller than the impact seen from the assimilation of CO and O₃ data (Figures 2 and 8) and the distributions remain skewed towards positive departures (observations > analysis). This does not mean that the assimilation of NO₂ has no impact in the model. Figure 18 shows the seasonal mean NO₂ analysis column increments from CIFS-AN and illustrates that the NO₂ increments are considerably larger (> 20% over most land surfaces) than the average increments for CO and O₃ (see Figures S1 and S3). These large NO₂ analysis increments can further be seen in the zonal mean time series (Figure 19).

Figure 19 also illustrates that, unlike the TCCO and TCO₃ increments, there is no initial adjustment followed by smaller analysis increments, but that the increments remain of similar magnitude throughout 2008. For CO and O₃ the analysis is drawing to the assimilated data and the information is maintained and carried over into the next analysis cycles, because of the longer lifetimes of these species. The background field for a subsequent analysis cycle is therefore closer to the data, and the analysis increments get smaller with time. Because of the short lifetime of NO₂, however, the information brought into the analysis by the OMI NO₂ data is quickly lost and not carried over into the next analysis cycle.

This is further illustrated in Figure 20 which compares seasonal mean differences between the NO₂ analysis fields from CIFS-AN and CIFS-CTRL and differences of 12 hour forecasts started from these analyses. While there are large differences between the CIFS-AN and CIFS-CTRL NO₂ analyses, these differences are almost entirely lost in the subsequent 12 hour forecast. The largest remaining differences between the forecasts are seen in JF in the NH when the NO₂ lifetime is longest. This means that with the 12h 4D-Var configuration used in CIFS-AN, most of the information brought into the analysis by OMI TRCNO₂ is lost in the subsequent 12 hour long trajectory. This is made worse by the fact that OMI NO₂ observations are only available during the day, when NO₂ is photolysed by sunlight, and observations are only available for part of the globe during every analysis cycle.

As noted by Carmichael et al. (2007), Wang et al. (2008) and Silver et al. (2013) perturbations of the initial conditions can be brief for short lived species, as forcing from sources and sinks

such as chemistry and emissions will drive the fields back to chemical equilibrium. This limits the usefulness of data assimilation in adjusting the initial conditions for species such as NO₂. Wang et al. (2008) found a small improvement in surface NO₂ concentrations when they assimilated OMI NO₂ retrievals over Europe, and also some improvement in the next day forecast. They concluded that the impact might vary with season because of the shorter lifetime of NO₂ during the summer. This agrees with our Figure 20. Our study confirms that short lived species like NO₂ would be more successfully corrected by adjusting the emissions instead of the initial conditions (e.g., Elbern et al. 2000; Miyazaki et al. 2012a). It is planned to include emissions in the control vector in the future so that they can be adjusted in addition to the initial conditions in the MACC system.

4.3.2 Tropospheric NO₂ evaluation

The evaluation with GOME-2 TRCNO₂ data in Figure 21 confirms that, in absolute terms, the differences between CIFS-AN and CIFS-CTRL are small. Figure 21 shows maps of annual mean TRCNO₂ from GOME-2 and the three experiments. The experiments capture the global NO₂ distribution seen by GOME-2 well with high values over areas of high anthropogenic, as well as boreal and tropical biomass burning emissions. This illustrates that C-IFS (CB05) and the coupled MACC system that was used in REAN have a reasonable NO₂ field despite the limited impact of the NO₂ assimilation (Figure 17). However, there are some noticeable differences between the modelling experiments and the GOME-2 retrievals. The experiments underestimate TRCNO₂ over the regions of anthropogenic pollution in Europe, North-America and East Asia and also the tropospheric background values over Africa, Eurasia and Australia. Furthermore, the models overestimate satellite values over India, the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea, and ship tracks (e.g., over the Indian Ocean) are more pronounced in the experiments than in the GOME-2 columns. The ship plumes are highly concentrated just after release, and fast initial chemistry is not described in the coarse resolution model with instantaneous chemistry. On the other side, ship emission inventories are also very uncertain and may be too high (Vinken et al., 2014).

Comparison of the experiments against area averaged timeseries of monthly mean GOME-2 TRCNO₂ shows that magnitude and seasonality of tropospheric NO₂ columns (Figure 22) over Europe and North-America are rather well reproduced, indicating that emission patterns and NO_x photochemistry are reasonably represented here. However, all experiments tend to be lower than GOME-2 NO₂ over Europe during the summer, but the differences might be within

1 the error bars of the retrieval which can have large uncertainties (e.g., van Noije et al., 2006).
2 This low bias against satellite data was also seen for other regional models (Huijnen et al.
3 2010b). The simulations significantly underestimate the annual cycle of NO₂ columns over
4 East-Asia, where the wintertime maximum is severely underestimated while the summertime
5 values agree better. Part of this might be due to an overestimation of TRCNO₂ by the GOME-
6 2 retrieval, which gives higher values here during winter than other retrieval algorithms (van
7 Noije, 2006). Further reasons could be an underestimation of anthropogenic NO₂ emissions,
8 too short lifetime of simulated NO₂, and uncertainties in the chemistry, e.g. regarding photolysis
9 rates or modelling of wet and dry deposition. It will have to be investigated how important
10 factors like injection height, diurnal cycle of the emissions and the horizontal model resolution
11 are for correctly modelling the TRCNO₂ values in this area. All runs tend to exaggerate the
12 annual cycle for South Africa, where they overestimate NO₂ during the biomass burning season.
13 This was already noted for REAN in Inness et al. (2013) and seems to be related to too large
14 NO_x emission factors used in GFAS. The differences between CIFS-AN and CIFS-CTRL are
15 small. The largest differences are seen over the Eastern US where CIFS-AN has higher NO₂
16 values than CIFS-CTRL with leads to smaller biases from February to July, and larger biases
17 during the rest of the year.

18 Figure 23 evaluates NO₂ profiles from CIFS-AN and CIFS-CTRL against MAX-DOAS
19 measurements over Beijing from the surface to 3.5 km. The MAX-DOAS instrument is located
20 in the Beijing city centre close the Olympic Stadium and the horizontal extent of the
21 measurements varies between a few and a few dozen of km, depending on the pollution, so the
22 representative error of the model relative to the measurements is bound to be large. Both
23 experiments have a negative NO₂ bias, but there is a clear difference between the experiments
24 and a smaller bias in CIFS-AN. The mean bias of the partial column is reduced from - 22 % in
25 CIFS-CTRL to -14 % in CIFS-AN. These values are larger than the mean relative uncertainty
26 for all measurements which is 12% (Hendrick et al., 2014). The timeseries of the NO₂ columns
27 shows that when there is quite homogeneous urban pollution, e.g., between the end of June and
28 the middle of August, the model fits the observations well. This is not the case in autumn/winter
29 when there are numerous strong local pollution events. Now the pollution background is still
30 well captured by the model but the high NO₂ peaks are not (despite some improvements in
31 CIFS-AN). This agrees with the larger underestimation seen in East Asia relative to GOME-2
32 during winter.

5 Conclusion and future outlook

A new chemistry transport model, the Composition-IFS (Flemming et al., 2015), was developed as part of the MACC project. This C-IFS model is based on ECMWF's Integrated Forecasting System and includes modules for chemistry, deposition and emissions of reactive gases. Several of the chemistry variables have been included as control variables in the data assimilation part of the IFS so that initial conditions for these fields can be modified by assimilating observations of atmospheric composition. The performance of C-IFS in data assimilation mode was tested by assimilating satellite retrievals of CO, O₃ and NO₂ from various sensors (see Table 1) for the year 2008. The results were compared with a control run without data assimilation, with fields from the MACC reanalysis and with independent observations (see Table 2).

Assimilating MOPITT TCCO led to an improved total column CO field compared to the control run, and also to some improvements in the vertical distribution of CO and the CO concentrations in the lower troposphere, with the largest impact in the NH winter. In the Tropics there was also some improvement compared to the control run in surface and lower tropospheric CO in the C-IFS analysis, particularly during the South African biomass burning season. The C-IFS analysis captured the seasonal cycle of surface CO better than the MACC reanalysis at several GAW stations. In future work, it will be tested if the assimilation of MOPITT, IASI or TES CO profiles can help to further correct the 3-dimensional distribution of CO. Furthermore, model runs will be carried out to assess if using the latest GFAS v1.2 biomass burning emissions, which use a plume rise model to calculate injection heights, can lead to an improved representation of CO in the lower and mid troposphere during the tropical biomass burning season.

The simple stratospheric ozone photochemical parameterisation used by the stand alone C-IFS (CB05) system to model the stratospheric ozone field was always designed to be used in a data assimilation context and leads to a very biased stratospheric and total column ozone field in the C-IFS control run. The assimilation of a combination of ozone total column and stratospheric profile retrievals (see Table 1) greatly improves the total column, the stratospheric and the upper tropospheric ozone field in the C-IFS analysis compared to the control run. No tropospheric O₃ data were assimilated in our tests. Therefore, the impact on tropospheric O₃ came from the residual of total column O₃ and the stratospheric profile data and was smaller in the mid and lower troposphere than in the upper troposphere, as characteristics of the chemistry scheme became more important. For example, a large positive bias in lower tropospheric ozone over

1 East-Asia was not reduced by the analysis, and there was little impact on lower tropospheric
2 ozone over Europe and North America during the summer. Nevertheless, there was some
3 improvement in the C-IFS analysis in the troposphere and the positive ozone bias seen in the
4 C-IFS control run over Europe and North America during winter and spring in the lower
5 troposphere was reduced. It is planned to test the assimilation of IASI tropospheric O₃ columns
6 or IASI O₃ profiles in combination with the MLS and ozone column data, which should allow
7 for a better correction of tropospheric ozone (e.g., Emili et al. 2014; Barré et al. 2014). Despite
8 its simple O₃ chemistry parametrisation the C-IFS O₃ analysis was of similar quality to the
9 MACC reanalysis which used a more comprehensive stratospheric ozone chemistry scheme.

10 The impact of the assimilation of tropospheric NO₂ column retrievals was small because of the
11 short lifetime of NO₂. Even though the assimilation led to large analysis increments this
12 information was not retained by the model, and most of the impact of the data assimilation was
13 lost from one analysis cycle to the next. It might be possible to improve this slightly by using a
14 shorter assimilation window, e.g., 6h 4D-Var, and by using NO₂ retrievals from more than one
15 satellite with different overpass times, but ideally the NO₂ data should be used to adjust the
16 emissions instead of or in addition to the initial conditions. Compared to GOME-2 TRCNO₂
17 retrievals, C-IFS with and without assimilation of OMI TRCNO₂ data, severely underestimated
18 wintertime NO₂ over East Asia and overestimated NO₂ over Southern Africa during the biomass
19 burning season. At other times and in other regions the agreement was better. An
20 underestimation was also found with respect to MAX-DOAS observations at Beijing. However,
21 in order to increase the statistical significance of the validation effort using MAX-DOAS data,
22 comparisons will be further extended to other stations.

23 A future study could look at the model response of one assimilated component to another, e.g.
24 the response of model O₃ to the assimilation of NO₂ and CO data. This could be a first step
25 towards investigating the interactions between the different chemical species before assessing
26 the impact of cross correlations in the assimilation of multiple chemical species. Further plans
27 for the development of the C-IFS data assimilation system include the recalculation of the
28 background error statistics for all MACC control variables with the latest configuration of the
29 model, to include emissions in the control vector so that they can be adjusted in addition to the
30 initial conditions, especially for NO₂, and to investigate the impact of the chemical assimilation
31 on the wind field, which has been suppressed so far.

1 In data assimilation mode C-IFS performs similarly well or better than the coupled system used
2 in the MACC reanalysis for CO, O₃ and NO₂, especially in the lower troposphere and at the
3 surface. Based on many tests and comparisons the MACC pre-operational NRT system has now
4 been switched to C-IFS (CB05) to provide daily routine global analysis and forecast fields. The
5 reduced numerical cost of C-IFS (Flemming et al., 2015) will allow to run this system at higher
6 resolution which may lead to additional improvements in the forecasted fields.

7 One limitation of the current C-IFS (CB05) system is that it does not contain a comprehensive
8 stratospheric chemistry scheme, and this paper has shown the resulting problems for
9 stratospheric ozone in the C-IFS control run. While a good stratospheric ozone analysis can be
10 obtained by using a simple stratospheric ozone photochemical parametrisation and assimilating
11 ozone observations, other stratospheric species are not available or poorly constrained in C-IFS
12 (CB05). Work is under way to extend the C-IFS (CB05) scheme with the stratospheric chemical
13 mechanism of the Belgian Assimilation System for Chemical Observations (BASCOE) scheme
14 (Errera et al. 2008). This will yield a CTM that can model both the troposphere and the
15 stratosphere. Furthermore, the MOZART and MOCAGE chemistry schemes, which have
16 tropospheric and stratospheric chemistry solvers, are also being implemented into the C-IFS,
17 so that in the near future the C-IFS system might be able to provide comprehensive analyses
18 and forecasts of the troposphere and the stratosphere by an ensemble of CTMs.

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Table 1: Atmospheric composition satellite retrievals that were used in CIFS-AN. PROF denotes profile data, TC total columns, TRC tropospheric columns, PC partial columns, and SOE solar elevation. PC SBUV/2 data consist of 6 layers between the surface and 0.1 hPa.

Sensor	Satellite	Provider	Version	Type	Data usage criteria	Reference
MIPAS	ENVISAT	KIT	CCI, V220	O ₃ PROF	All data used	von Clarmann et al. 2003; von Clarmann et al. 2009.
MLS	AURA	NASA	V02	O ₃ PROF	All data used	Waters et al. 2006
OMI	AURA	NASA	V003	O ₃ TC	Used if SOE >10°	Bhartia et al. 2002; Levelt et al. 2006
SBUV/2	NOAA-16	NOAA	V8	O ₃ PC	Used if SOE>6°	Bhartia et al. 1996
SBUV/2	NOAA-17	NOAA	V8	O ₃ PC	Used if SOE>6°	Bhartia et al. 1996
SBUV/2	NOAA-18	NOAA	V8	O ₃ PC	Used if SOE>6°	Bhartia et al. 1996
SCIAMACHY	ENVISAT	BIRA	CCI, fv0100	O ₃ TC	Used if SOE>6°	Stiller et al. 2012; Van Roozendaal et al. 2012
MOPITT	TERRA	NCAR	V5	CO TC	Used if 65°S<lat<65°N	Deeter et al. 2010; Deeter et al. 2013
OMI	AURA	KNMI	V1.1	NO ₂ TRC	Used if SOE>6° and 60°S<lat<60°N	http://www.temis.nl , Wang et al. 2008

1 Table 2: Summary of validation data sets used in this study. A more comprehensive description
2 of the data sets can be found in the supplementary material.

Data set	Validated fields	Uncertainty	References
MOZAIC	CO profiles at Frankfurt (837 profiles) and Windhoek (323 profiles)	Uncertainty: ± 5 ppbv Precision: ± 5 % Detection limit: 10 ppbv	Marenco et al. (1998) Nedelec et al (2003)
NDACC FTIR	CO profiles and tropospheric columns (see Table S2 for list of stations)	Uncertainty (smoothing uncertainty not included): Trop. columns 5-9 % Individual levels: 10-25 %	Dils et al. (2006) De Laat et al. (2010) Langerock et al. (2014)
GAW	Surface CO (see Table S3) and O ₃ (see Table S4)	$\pm 2 - 5$ ppbv (CO) ± 1 ppbv (O ₃)	Oltmans and Levy (1994) Novelli and Masarie (2014)
Multi Sensor Reanalysis	Total column O ₃ (TCO ₃)	~ 1 DU	Van der A et al. (2010)
ACE-FTS	Stratospheric O ₃ profiles	Bias < 5% (15-45 km) Precision: 12-15 % above 20 km 17 - 30 % below 20 km	Dupy et al. (2009)
MIPAS	Stratospheric O ₃ profiles	5-10 % (larger near boundaries of retrieval range)	Raspollini et al. (2013)
Ozonesondes	O ₃ profiles	-14 to 16 % above 10 hPa 5 % between 200-10 hPa -7 to 17 % below 200 hPa	Komhyr et al. (1995) Steinbrecht et al. (1998)
GOME-2	Tropospheric NO ₂ columns (TRCNO ₂)	$\pm 20 - 30$ %	Richter et al. (2011)
MAX-DOAS at Beijing	NO ₂ profiles	12%	Hendrick et al. (2014)

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1 6 Figures

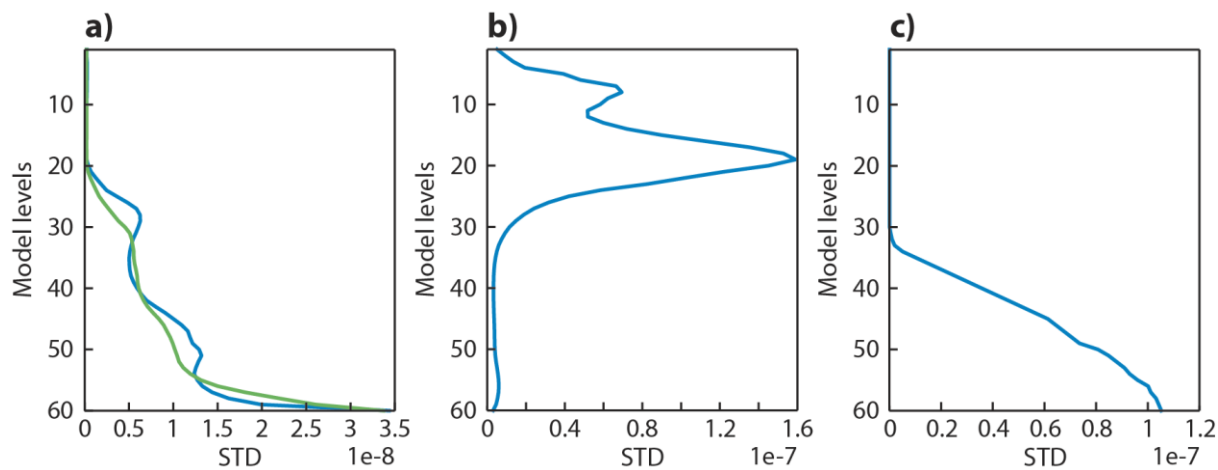


Figure 1: Background error SD profiles (blue) at 50°N, 10°E for (a) CO in kg/kg, (b) O₃ in kg/kg and (c) log(NO₂), dimensionless. Also shown in (a) is the profile for the CO background error SD of the original MACC system used in REAN (green).

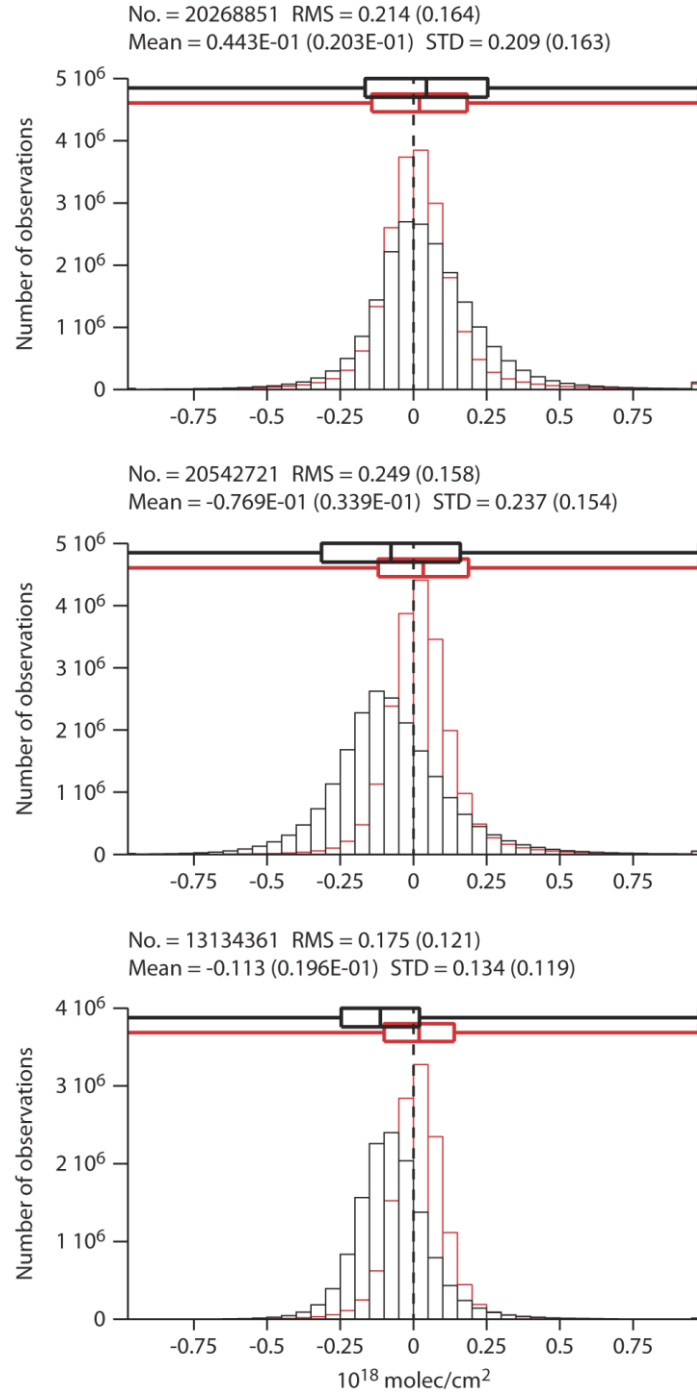


Figure 2: Histograms of MOPITT TCCO analysis departures (observation minus analysis) for CIFS-AN (red) and CIFS-CTRL (black) for 2008 averaged over the NH (90-20°N), the Tropics (20°N-20°S) and the SH (20-90°S) for all good data in 10^{18} molecules/cm². Also shown above the panels are the number of observations that make up the average, as well as the mean, RMS and SD of the departures with values for REAN in brackets.

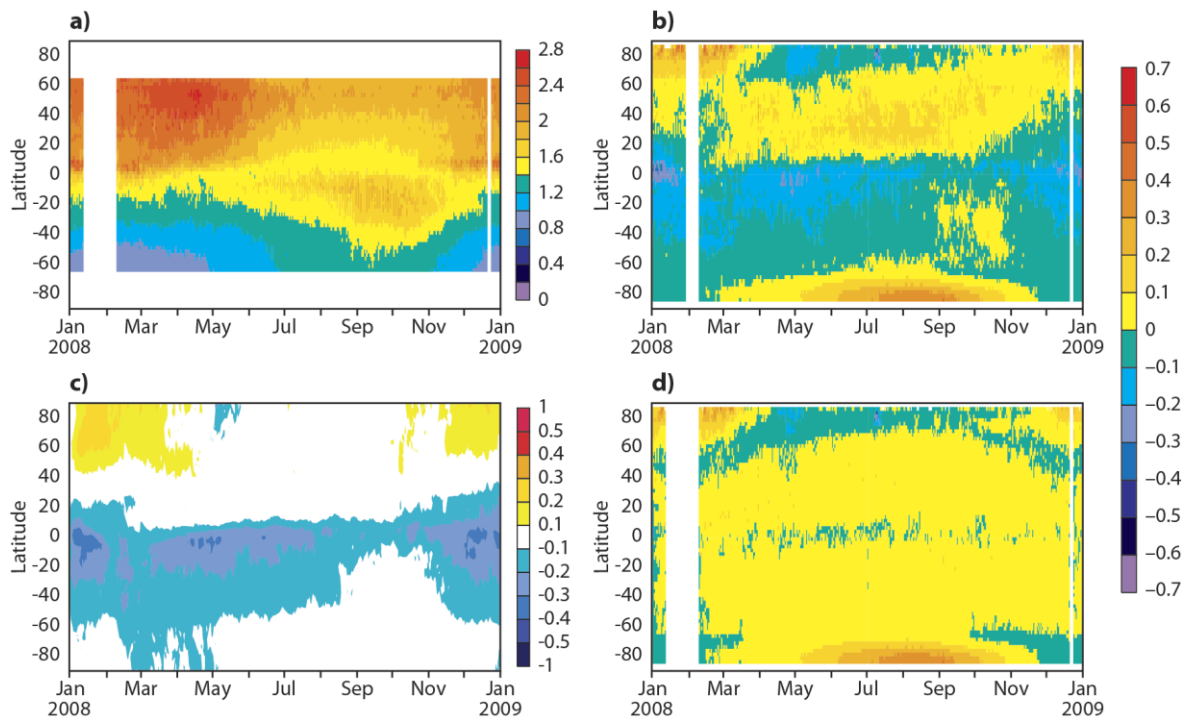


Figure 3: Timeseries of (a) zonal mean TCCO from the MOPITT data used in CIFS-AN, (b) TCCO analysis departures (observations minus analysis) from CIFS-CTRL and (d) TCCO analysis departures from CIFS-AN, all in 10^{18} molecules/cm². Shown in (c) is the zonal mean relative difference in % of CIFS-AN minus CIFS-CTRL. In (a) red indicates higher values of the field, blue lower values. In (b) - (d) red indicates positive values, blue negative values.

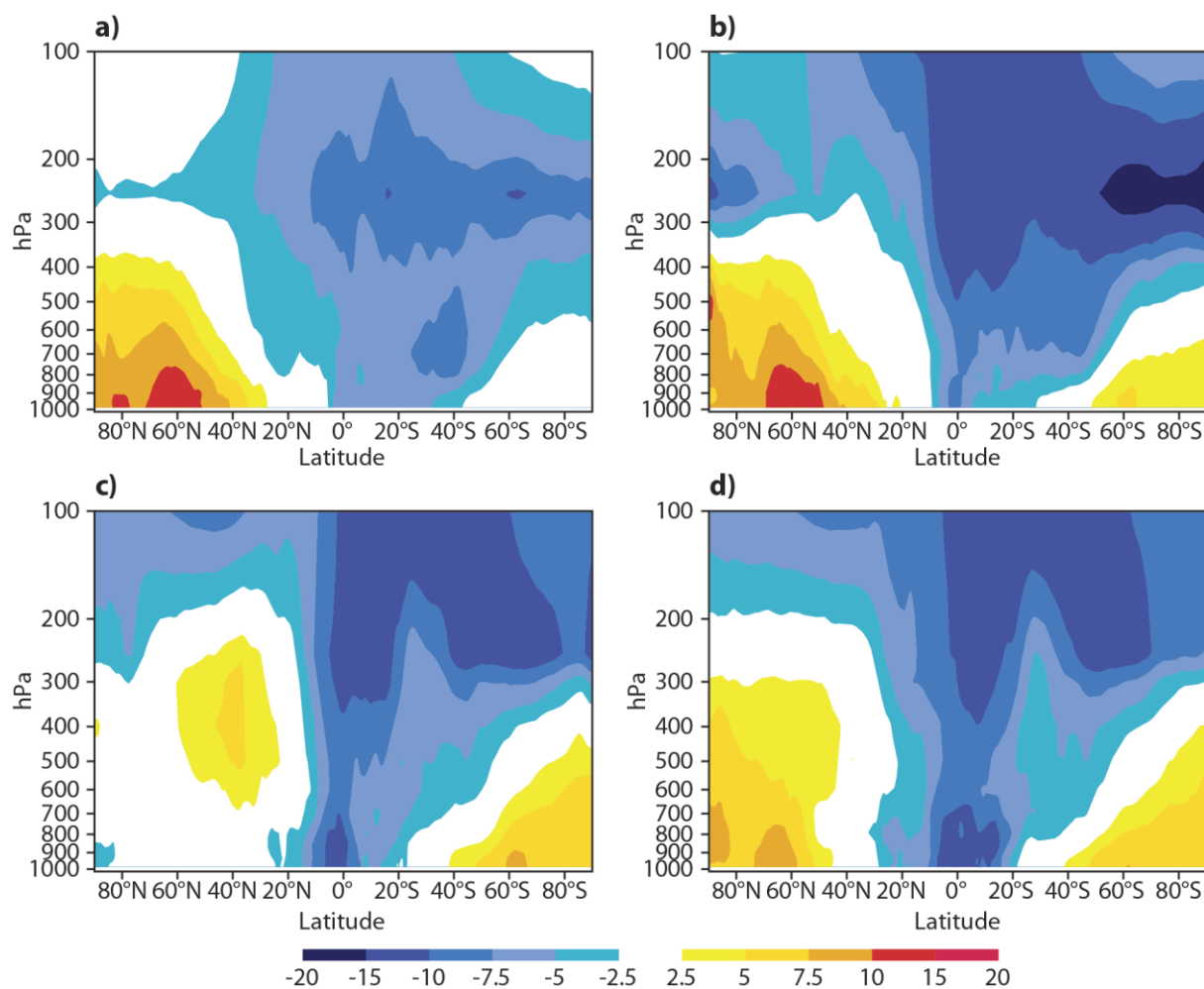


Figure 4: Cross sections of the seasonal mean zonal mean CO differences between CIFS-AN minus CIFS_CTRL in ppb for (a) JF, (b) MAM, (c) JJA and (d) SON 2008. Red indicates positive values, blue negative values.

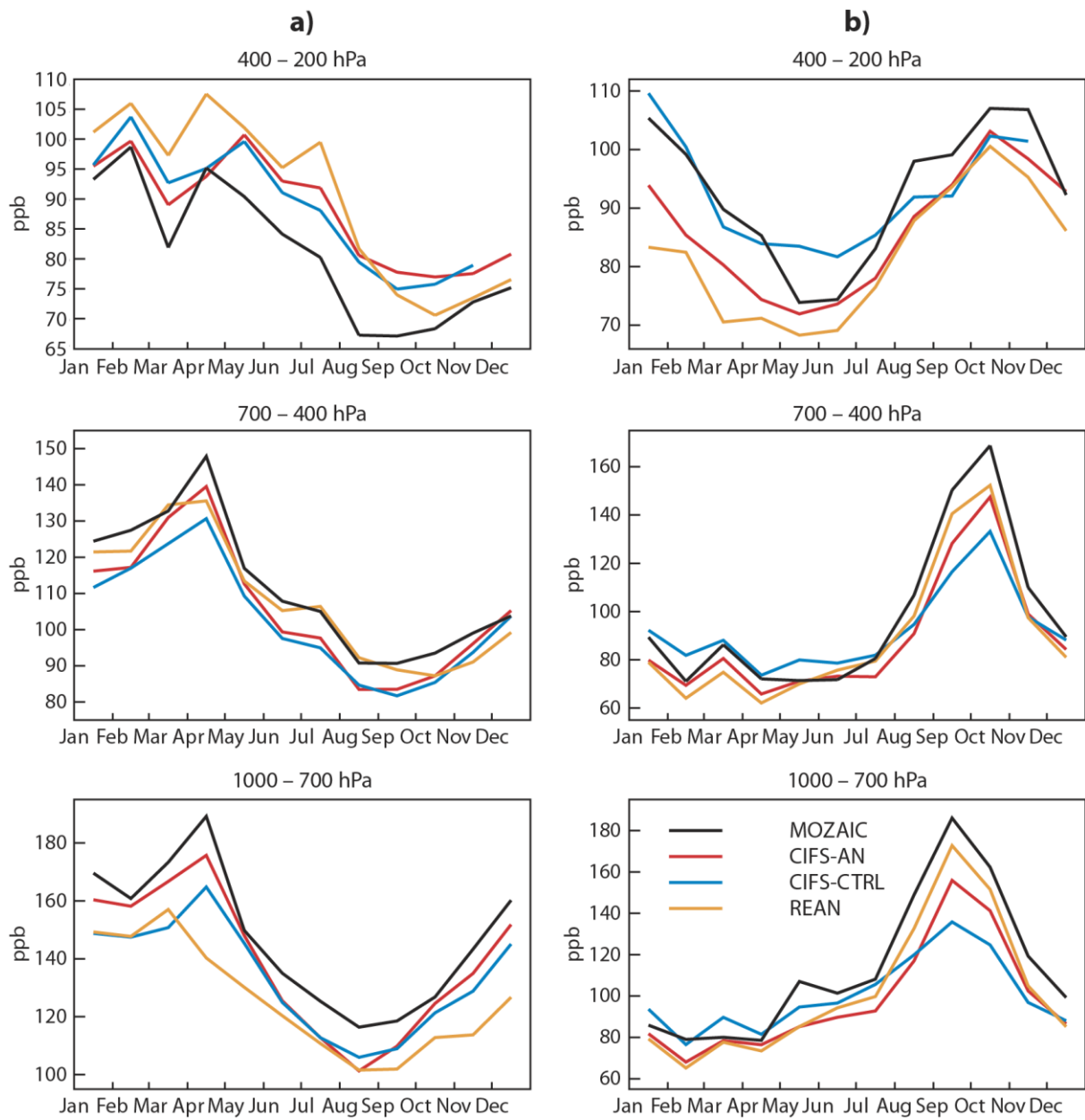
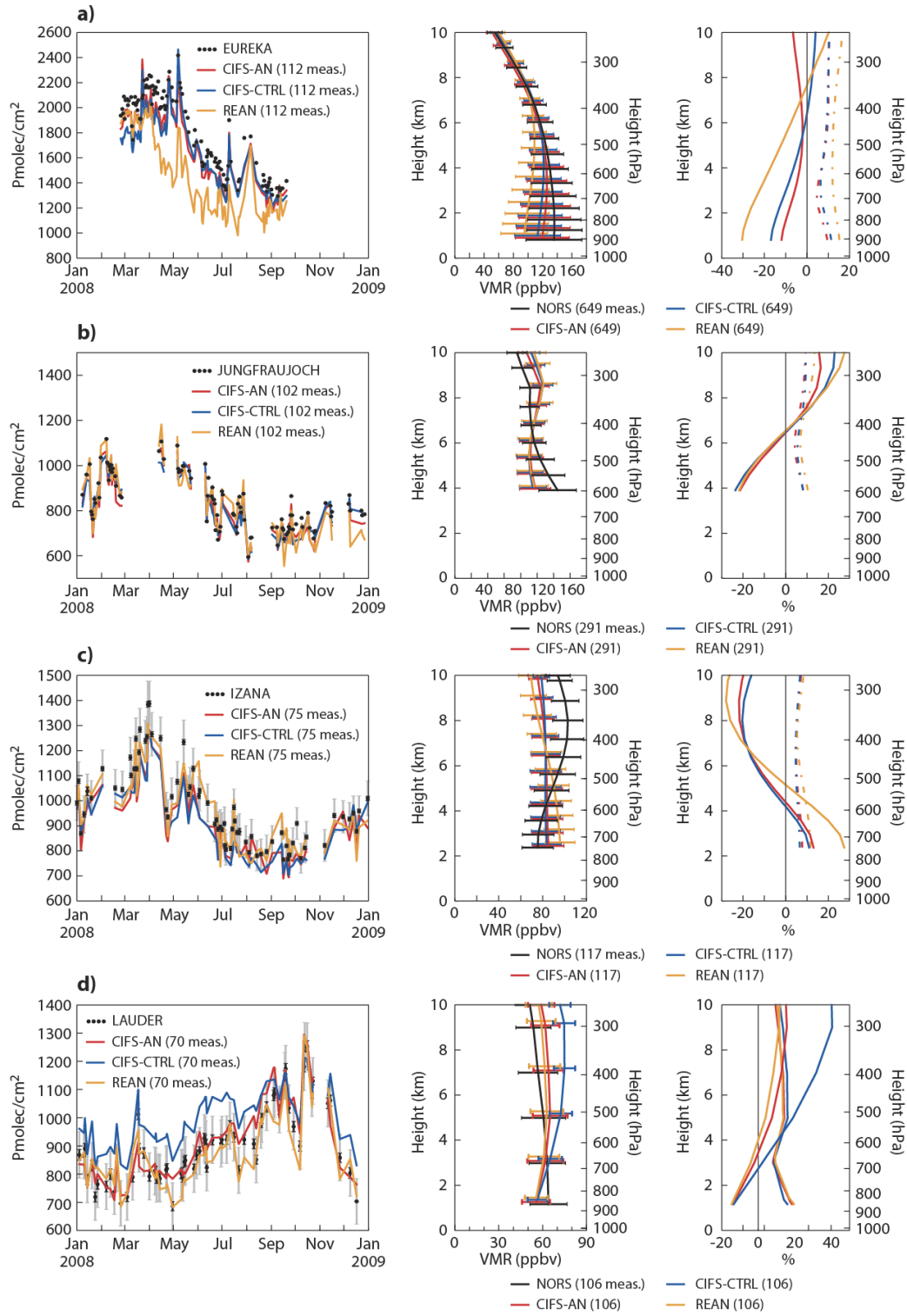


Figure 5: Timeseries of monthly mean tropospheric CO in ppb over (a) Frankfurt (50°N, 8.6°E, 837 profiles) and (b) Windhoek (22.5°S, 17.5°E, 323 profiles) averaged in the pressure bands 1000-700 hPa (bottom), 700-400 hPa (middle) and 400-200 hPa (top) from MOZAIC aircraft data (black), CIFS-AN (red), CIFS-CTRL (blue) and REAN (orange) in 2008.



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2 Figure 6: Timeseries of daily mean tropospheric CO columns (surface to 10 km) in 10^{15}
3 molecules/cm² (left), annual mean CO VMR profiles in ppbv (middle) and annual mean bias
4 (model minus observation) profiles in % (right, with dashed lines for spread) for the year 2008
5 for 4 GND NDACC stations: (a) Eureka, (b) Jungfraujoch, (c) Izaña and (d) Lauder. CIFS-AN
6 is shown in red, CIFS-CTRL in blue and REAN in orange.

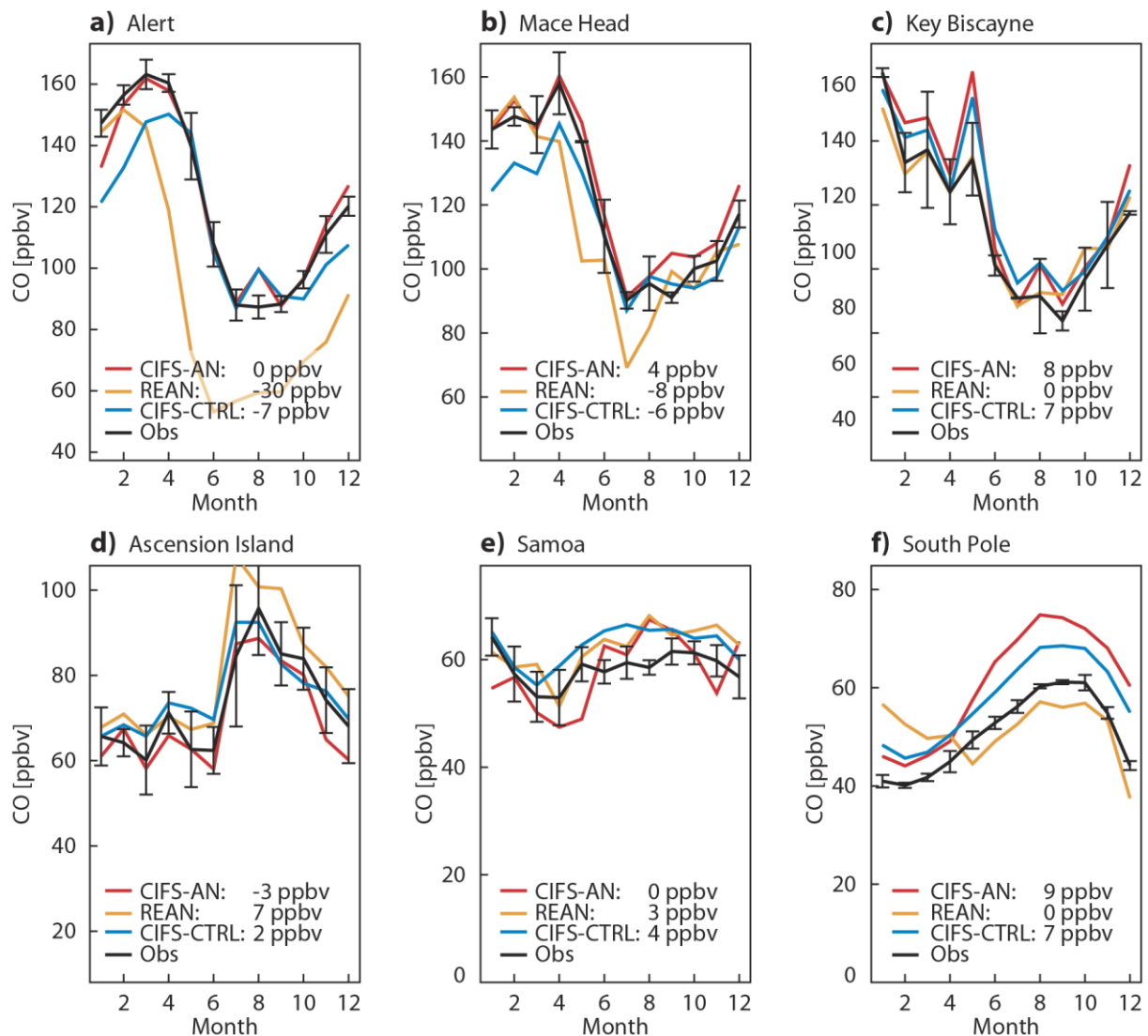


Figure 7: Timeseries for 2008 of monthly mean surface CO volume mixing ratios (ppbv) at a selection of GAW stations (black), CIFS-AN (red), CIFS-CTRL (blue) and REAN (orange): (a) Alert (82.3N, 62.2W), (b) Mace Head (53.2°N, 9.5°W), (c) Key Biscayne (25.4°N, 80.9°W), (d) Ascension Island (7.6°S, 14.3°W), (e) Samoa (13.5°S, 171.5°W) and (f) South Pole (90°S, 0°E). Error bars (only shown for the observations) denote the monthly mean variability in the observations. Also given is the annual mean bias of the three experiments.

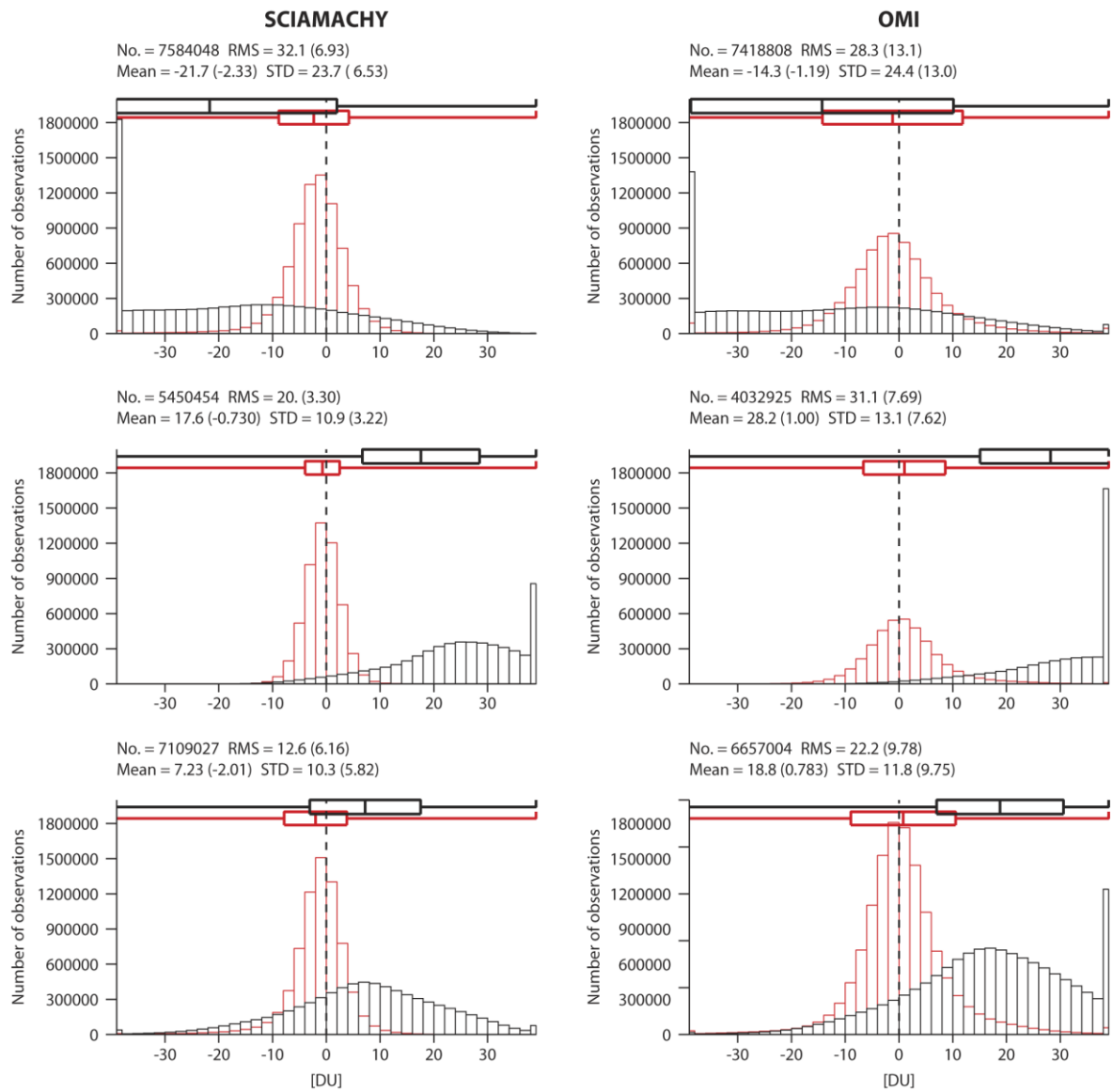
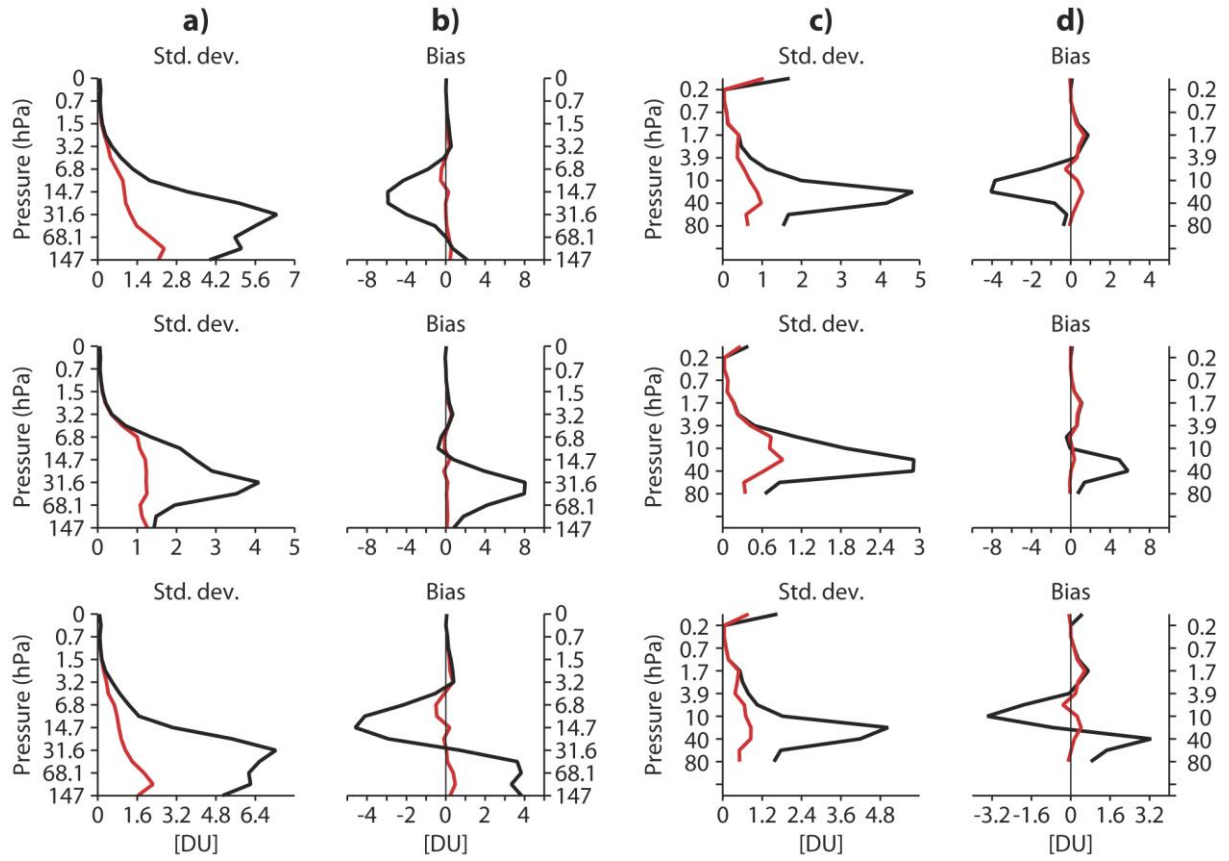


Figure 8: Histograms of SCIAMACHY (left) and OMI (right) TCO3 analysis departures in DU for CIFS-AN (red) and CIFS-CTRL (black) for 2008 averaged over the NH (90-20°N, top), the Tropics (20°N-20°S, middle) and the SH (20-90°S, bottom) for all good data. Also shown above the panels are the number of observations that make up the average, as well as the mean, RMS and SD of the departures with values for REAN in brackets.



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2 Figure 9: (a) Annual mean SD of MLS analysis departures and (b) MLS analysis departures, as
3 well as (c) SD of MIPAS analysis departures and (d) MIPAS analysis departures in DU from
4 CIFS-AN (red) and CIFS-CTRL (black) averaged over the NH (90-20°N, top), the Tropics
5 (20°N-20°S, middle) and the SH (20-90°S, bottom) for all good data in 2008.

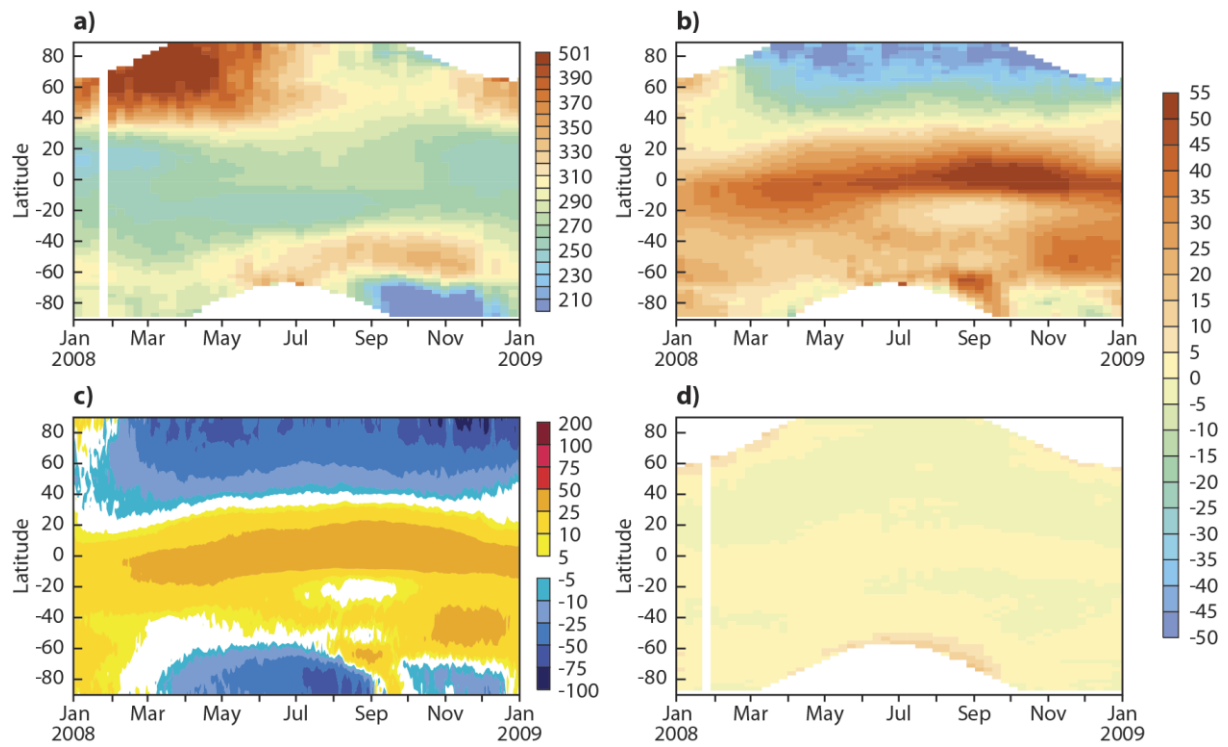


Figure 10: Timeseries of (a) zonal mean TCO3 in DU from OMI, zonal mean TCO3 analysis departures in % of (b) CIFS-CTRL and (d) CIFS-AN, and (c) of the zonal mean relative difference of CIFS-AN minus CIFS-CTRL. In (a) red indicates higher values of the field, blue lower values. In (b) - (d) red indicates positive values, blue negative values.

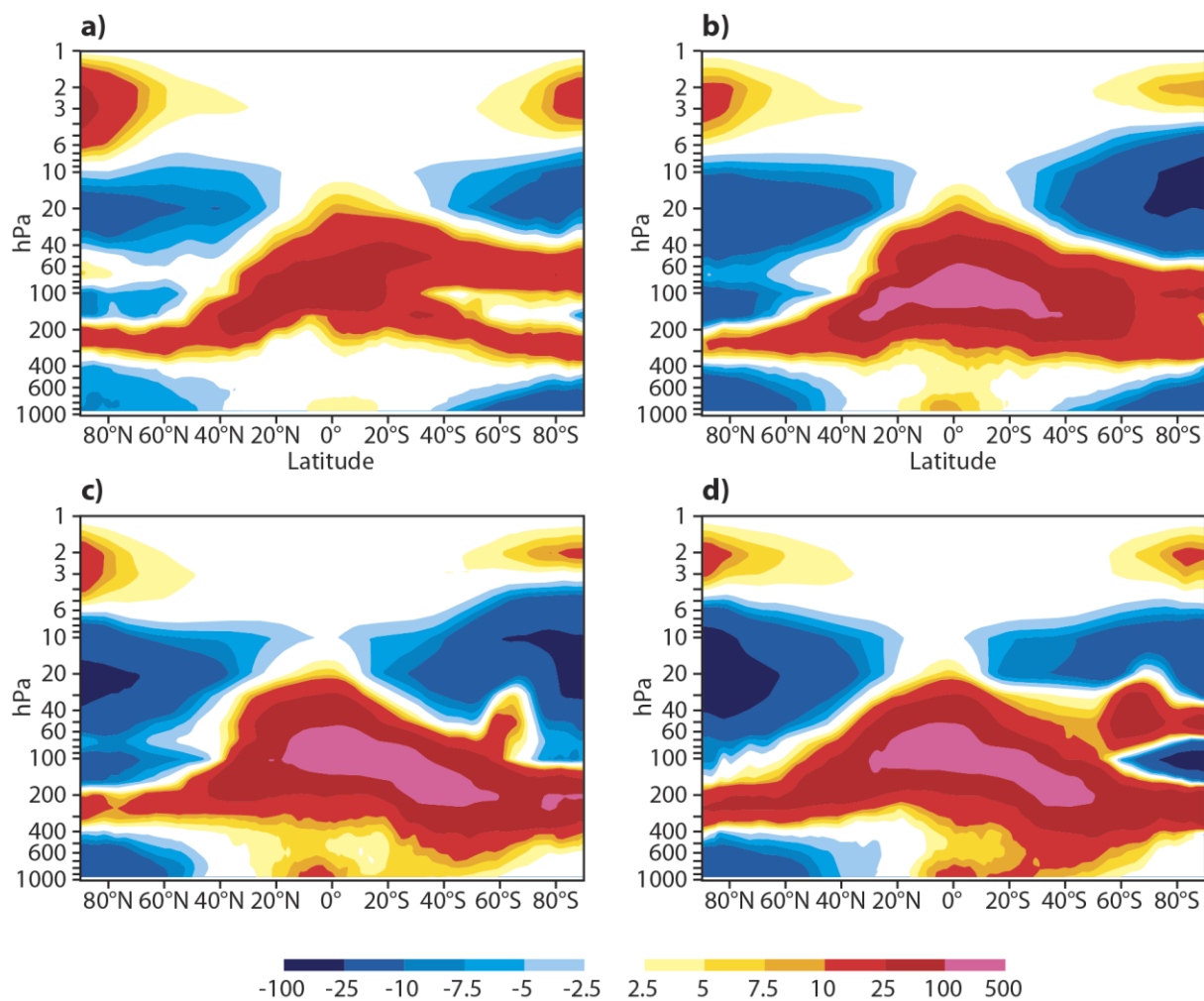


Figure 11: Cross sections of seasonal mean zonal mean relative O₃ differences in % between CIFS-AN minus CIFS_CTRL in ppb for (a) JF, (b) MAM, (c) JJA and (d) SON 2008. Red indicates positive values, blue negative values.

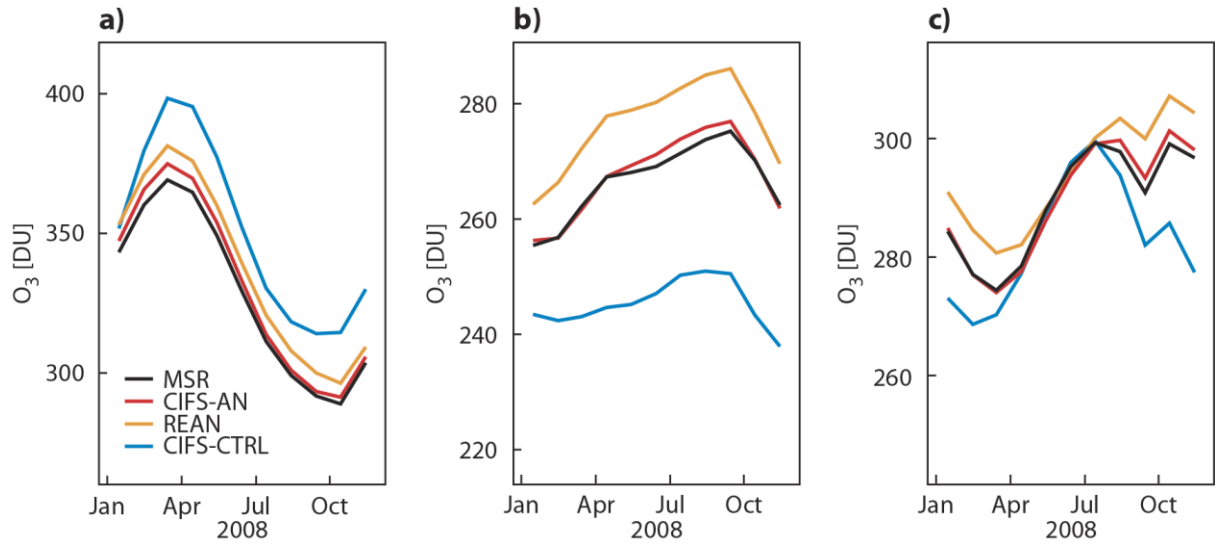


Figure 12: Timeseries for 2008 of the mean TCO3 of CIFS-AN (red), CIFS-CTRL (blue), REAN (orange) and the multi sensor reanalysis (black) in DU averaged over the (a) NH Extratropics (30°N-90°N), (b) Tropics(30°S-30°N) and (c) SH Extratropics (90°S-30°S) .

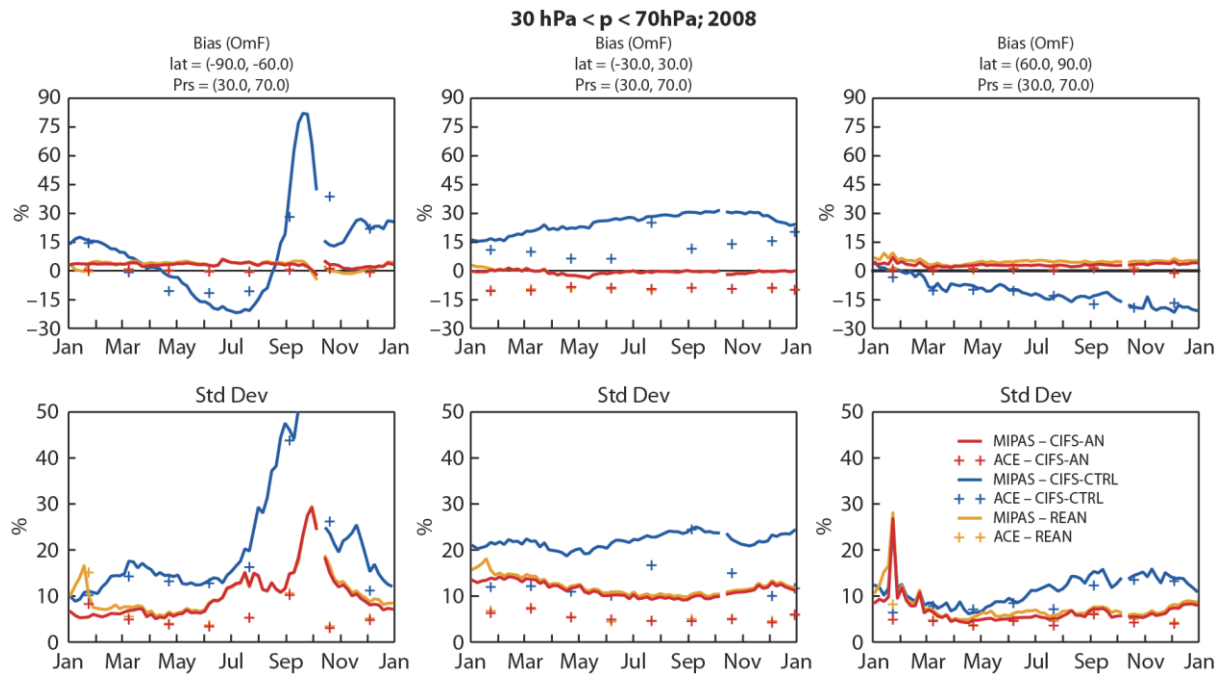


Figure 13: Timeseries for 2008 of monthly mean differences (top) and SD (bottom) in % of the experiments, ACE data (plus symbols) and MIPAS data (solid) averaged over the pressure range between 30 and 70 hPa, for the Antarctic (90°S to 60°S, left), the Tropics (30°S to 30°N, centre) and the Arctic (60°N to 90°N, right). CIFS-AN is shown in red, CIFS-CTRL in blue, and REAN in orange.

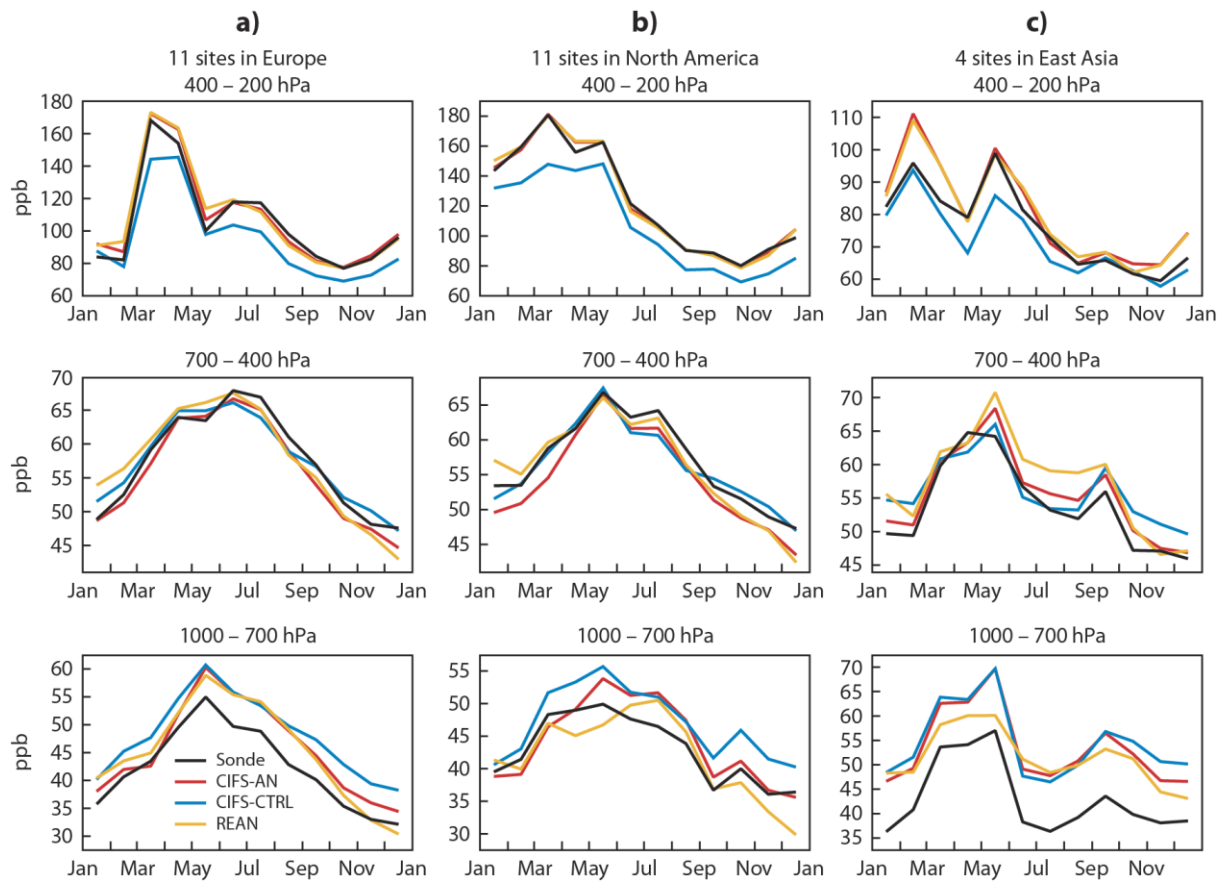


Figure 14: Timeseries of monthly mean tropospheric O₃ in ppb over (a) Europe (11 stations), (b) North-America (11 stations) and (c) East Asia (4 stations) averaged in the pressure bands 1000-700 hPa (bottom), 700-400 hPa (middle) and 400-200 hPa (top) from ozonesondes (black), CIFS-AN (red), CIFS-CTRL (blue) and REAN (orange) in 2008.

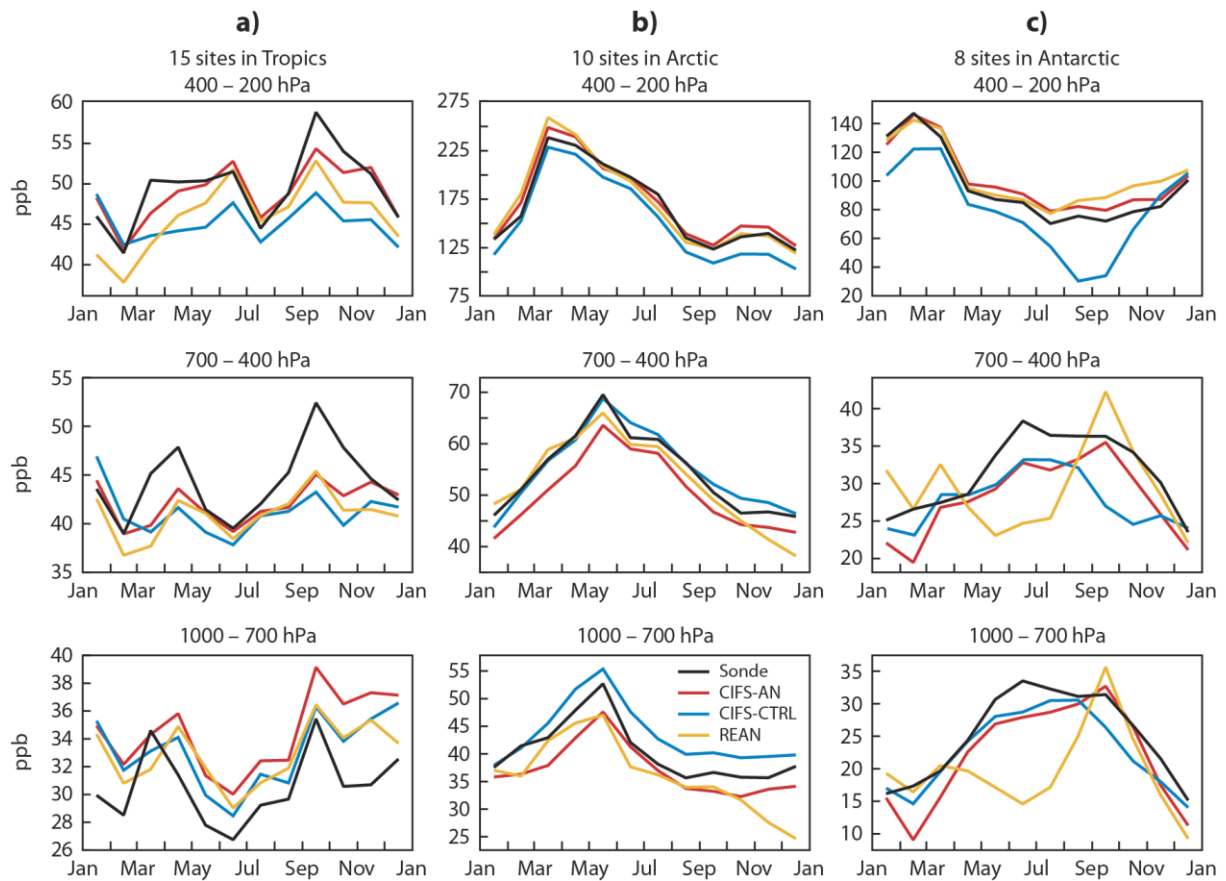


Figure 15: Timeseries of monthly mean tropospheric O₃ in ppb over (a) Tropics (15 stations), (b) Arctic (10 stations) and (c) Antarctic (8 stations) averaged in the pressure bands 1000-700 hPa (bottom), 700-400 hPa (middle) and 400-200 hPa (top) from ozonesondes (black), CIFS-AN (red), CIFS-CTRL (blue) and REAN (orange) in 2008.

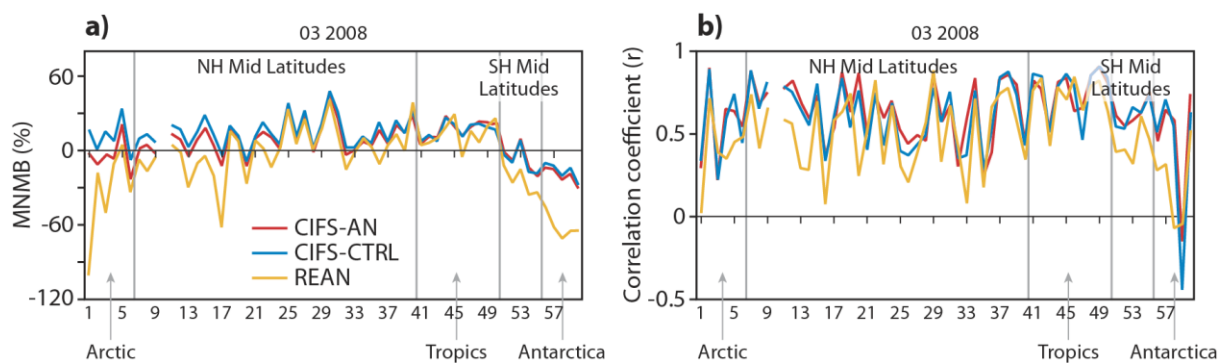
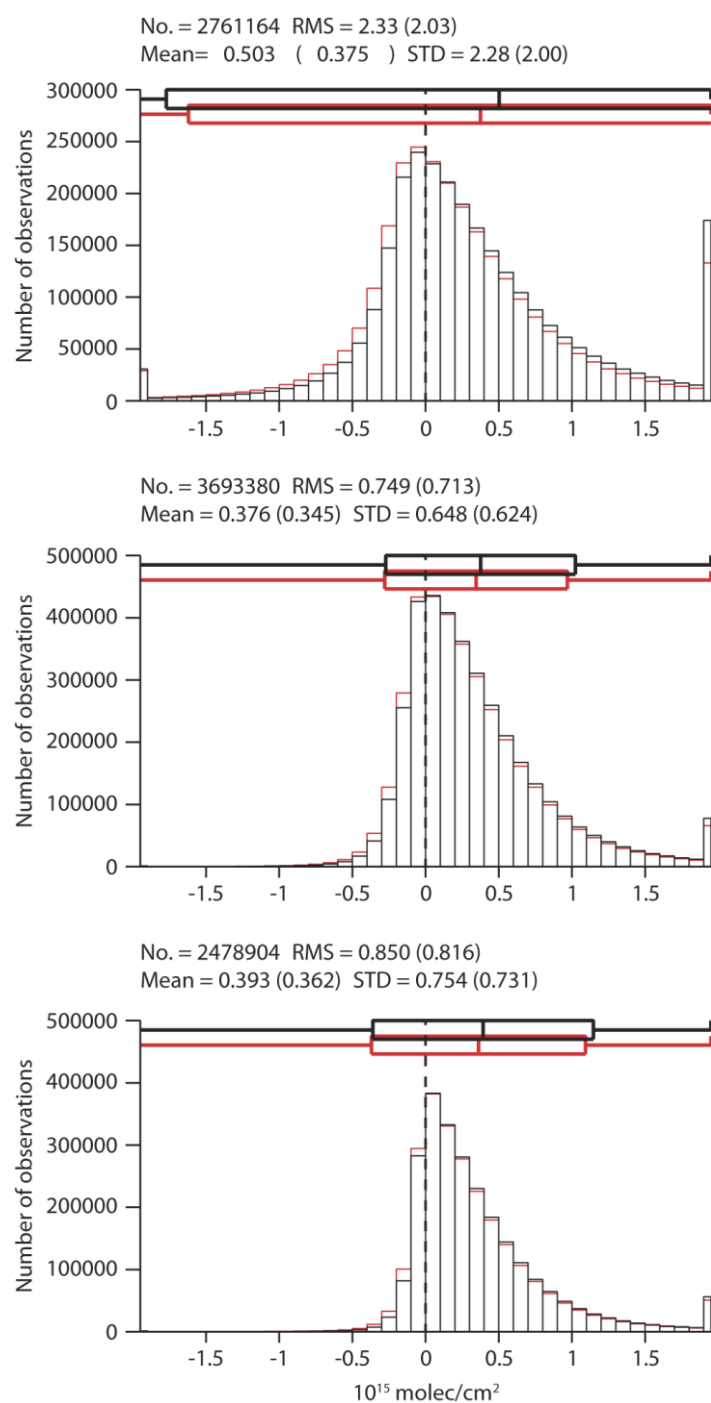


Figure 16: (a) Modified normalized mean biases (MNMBs) in % and (b) correlation coefficients (from daily mean values) for GAW stations during the whole of 2008. The stations are ordered by latitude from north to south. For station numbers see Table S4. CIFS-AN is shown in red, CIFS-CTRL in blue and REAN in orange.



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2 Figure 17: Histograms of OMI TRCNO2 analysis departures for CIFS-AN (red) and CIFS-
3 CTRL (black) for 2008 averaged over the NH (90-20°N, top), the Tropics (20°N-20°S, middle)
4 and the SH (20-90°S, bottom) for all good data in 10^{15} molecules/cm². Also shown above the
5 panels are the number of observations that make up the average, as well as the mean, RMS and
6 SD of the departures with values for REAN in brackets.

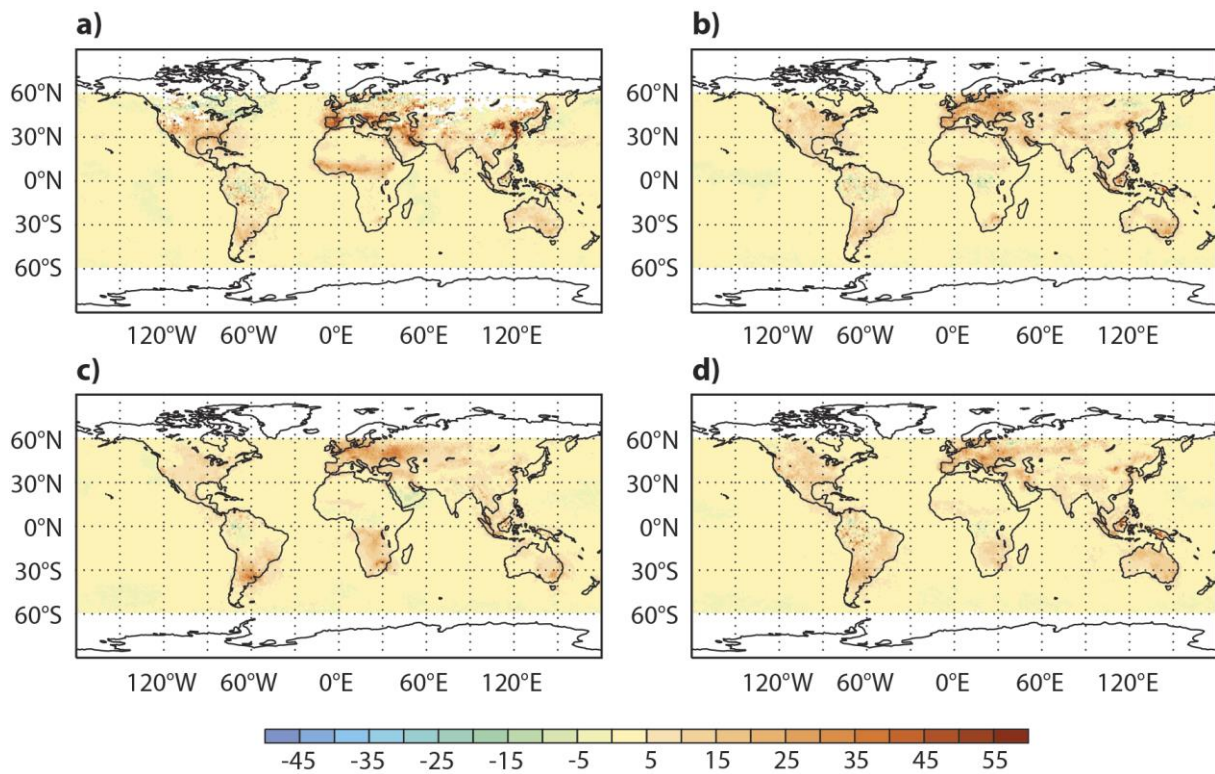


Figure 18: OMI TRCNO2 analysis increment (analysis minus forecast) in % from CIFS-AN averaged over (a) JF, (b) MAM, (c) JJA and (d) SON 2008. Red indicates positive values, blue negative values.

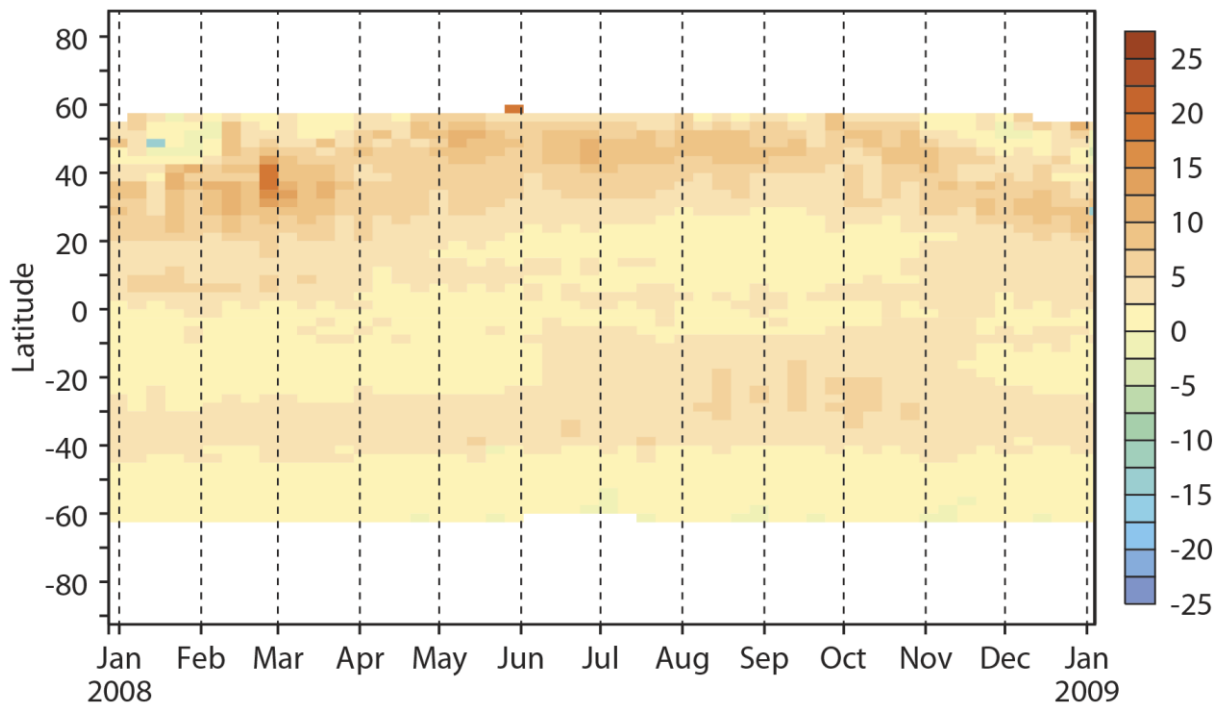


Figure 19: Timeseries of weekly averaged zonal mean OMI TRCNO2 analysis increment (analysis minus forecast) in % for 2008. Red indicates positive values, blue negative values.

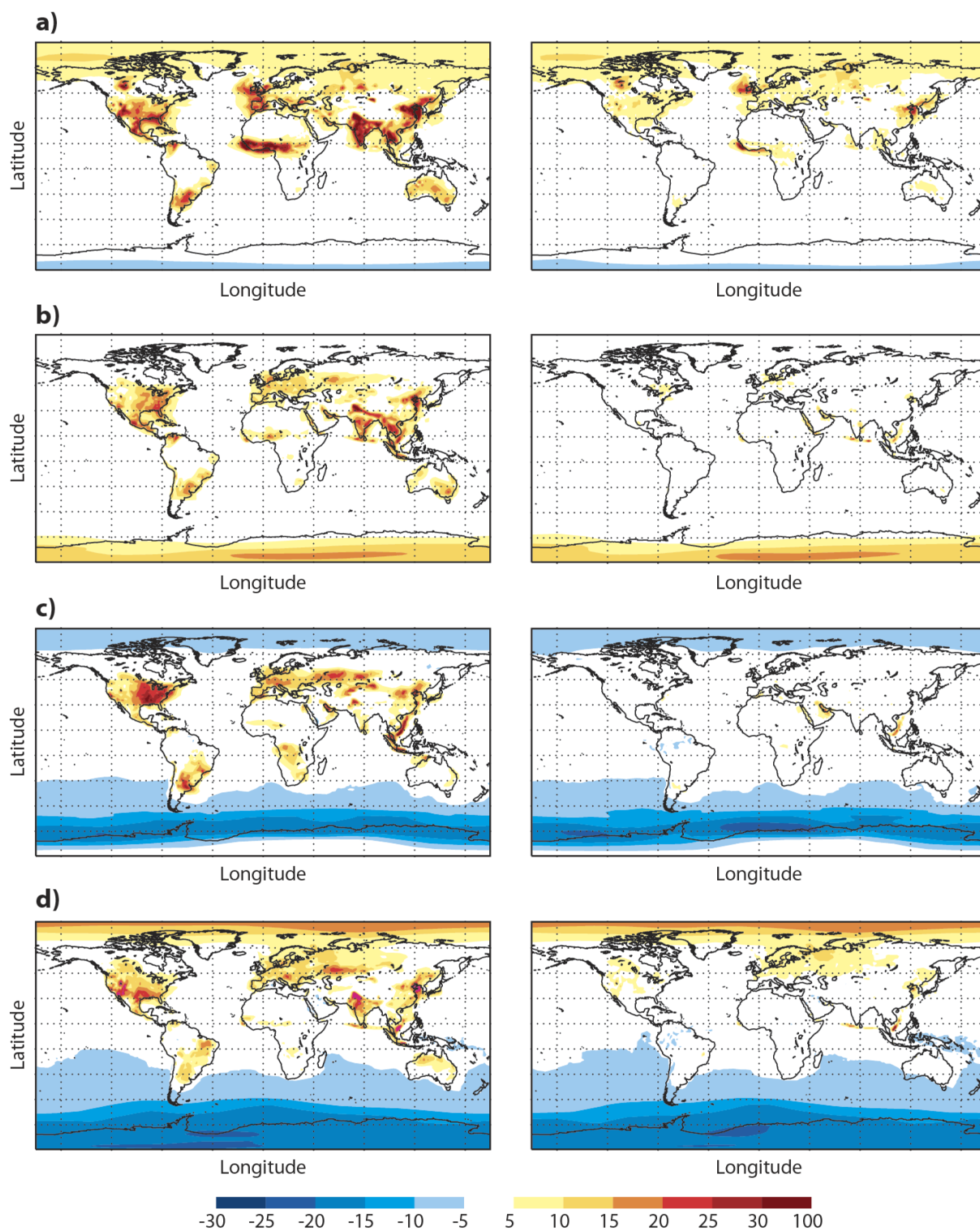


Figure 20: Seasonal mean differences of analysis fields from CIFS-AN minus CIFS-CTRL (left panels) and differences of 12h forecasts from CIFS-AN minus CIFS-CTRL (right panels) in 10^{15} molec/cm² for (a) JF, (b) MAM, (c) JJA and (d) SON 2008. Red indicates positive values, blue negative values.

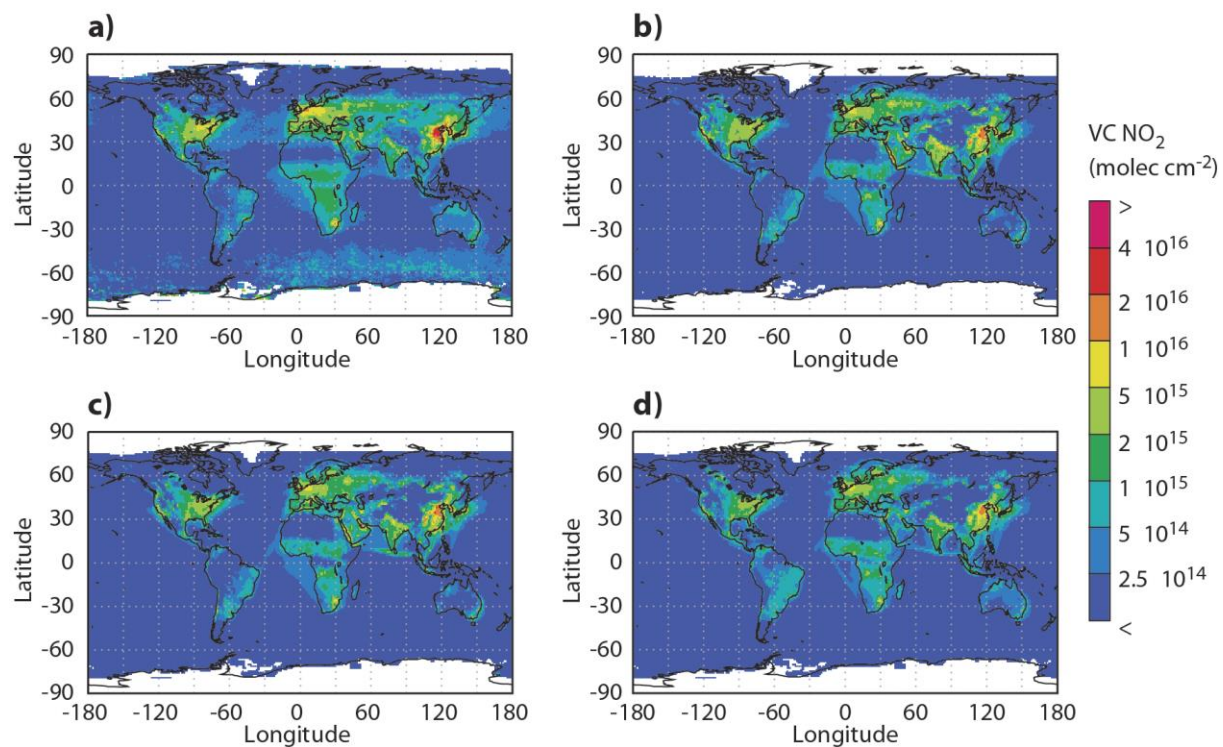


Figure 21: NO₂ tropospheric column retrievals for 2008 from (a) GOME-2, (b) CIFS-AN, (c) CIFS-CTRL and (d) REAN in 10¹⁵ molecules/cm². Red indicates higher values, blue lower values.

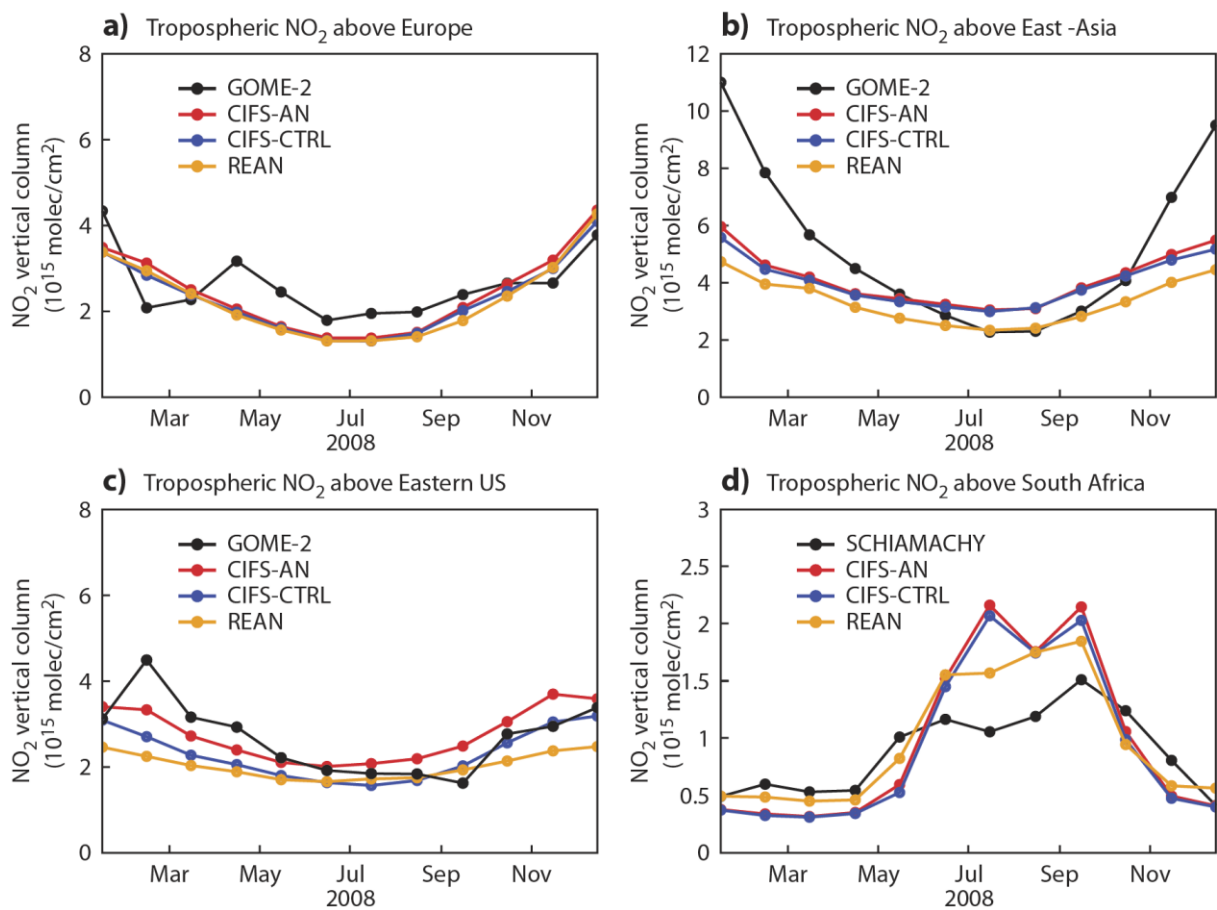


Figure 22: Timeseries of area-averaged tropospheric NO₂ columns from GOME-2 retrievals (black), CIFS-AN (red), CIFS-CTRL (blue) and REAN (orange) for (a) Europe, (b) East-Asia, (c) Eastern US and (d) South-Africa in 10¹⁵ molecules/cm².

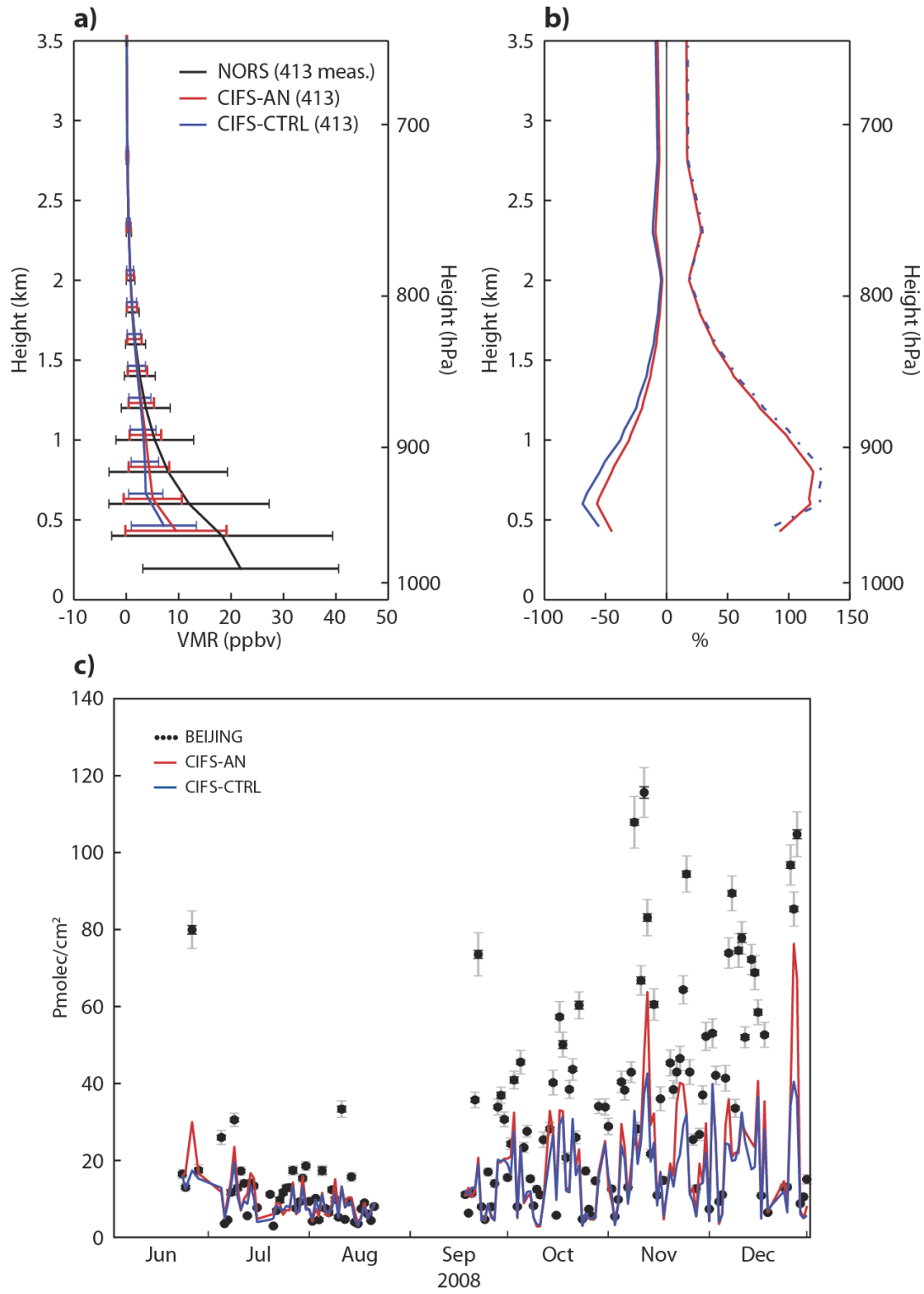


Figure 23: (a) Mean NO₂ profiles in ppbv from UVVIS DOAS instrument at Beijing (black), CIFS-AN (red) and CIFS-CTRL (blue), (b) mean bias (solid line) and SD (dotted lines) profiles in % for the period 1 June to 31 December 2008, and (c) timeseries of daily mean partial NO₂ column for the layer between 0.3 and 3.5 km in 10¹⁵ molecules/cm². 413 measurements were available during the period.

