

Interactive comment on “A practical demonstration on AMSU retrieval precision for upper tropospheric humidity by a non-linear multi-channel regression method” by C. Jiménez et al.

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It can be argued whether the layer averaged relative humidity is a sensible choice of retrieved variable, and the reviewer is suggesting another good possibility. As commented in the paper, we wanted a general variable that could be easily reproduced from other data sets. As profiling in the UTLS is becoming a reality, more and more data sets will be providing the humidity information as profiles. From here transformations to a more integrated measurement are possible, for comparison with other data sets without this profiling capacity, such as our data set. But for this is essential that

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the integrated variable depends as little as possible on the instrument. Our choice of variable fulfills this, it is a step forward compared with the more established use of the weighted humidity for this type of work, and requires a simple transformation in other data sets for comparison/integration purposes. We then can say then that our choice was to place more emphasis in the generality of the variable, rather than in its physical interpretation or maximum retrieval accuracy.

Interactive comment on Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., 4, 7487, 2004.

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