

Interactive comment on “MAX-DOAS measurements of formaldehyde in the Po-Valley” by A. Heckel et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

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This paper presents measurements of formaldehyde columns and concentrations obtained using a novel remote-sensing technique called multi-axis differential optical absorption spectroscopy (MAX-DOAS). The observations under discussion were performed during a four weeks campaign that took place in summer 2002 near Milano. The subject of the paper is clearly within the scope of Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics.

Although the MAX-DOAS technique developed in this paper is still under development in particular as regards the inversion methodology, the authors present a convincing analysis of their observations showing clearly the potential and the limitations of a relatively simple but promising technique to monitor key tropospheric trace gases with some profile information and good time resolution. Without any doubt, this paper provides an excellent scientific basis to help in future developments of the MAX-DOAS

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technique.

As to editorial matters, the manuscript is clear, concise and overall well written. The organisation is logical and supports well the author's purpose. Adequate credit to previous work is made in all places. Figures are informative, in adequate number and clearly drawn. Captions are clearly written as other parts of the text.

In summary, this paper contains new material of great interest to the ACP readership and we recommend its publication in ACP without any further modification.

Interactive comment on Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., 4, 1151, 2004.

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