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Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics Discussions

Interactive comment on "Technical Note: New ground-based FTIR measurements at Ile de LaRéunion: observations, error analysis, and comparisons with independentdata" *by* C. Senten et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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This is an attempt to synthesize the partially controversial aspects and comments within this interactive discussion.

- The paper had been originally submitted as an ACP Research Article but, after critical access review, it has been re-submitted as an ACP Technical Note.

- Two out of 3 reviewers have not recommended this Technical Note for final publication in ACP, mainly by the same reason, namely that there is no significant new science contained, and the more technical validation material was submitted in parallel to the

ACE validation special issue (RC S14, RC S51).

- One colleague pointed out that this paper would be a very nice tutorial for beginners within this filed, trying to rectify publication as an ACP Technical note by this purpose (SC S113).

- It was held against, that the official ACP reviewer instructions are identical for ACP Research Articles and ACP Technical Notes, requiring new science or new scientific methods in both cases (see reviewer instructions listed in RC S115).

- One colleague tried to help to correct some inconsistencies in the error analysis (SC S71).

- Another colleague tried to find arguments that still some scientific findings would be contained within the paper (SC S549), which is somewhat contradictory, since the authors themselves had stated that

- "... the goal of the paper is not to report scientific findings but to inform the scientific community about new FTIR observations at the NDACC complementary site La Reunion" (AC S47).

- It has been claimed to be the "truth" that an ACP Technical Note would only require "conclusions" which would not necessarily be based upon any new science finding or new scientific method (SC S697). If this interpretation would be correct, an ACP Technical Note would be comparable to so-called "grey literature". In consequence, many scientists would regret having published own ACP Technical Notes in the past, and try to consult other journals demanding and thereby honouring new science methods and achievements.

- Finally, a very interesting argument for acceptance as an ACP Technical Note was, that otherwise e.g. by publication on the BIRA web server, the paper might not be visible "for ever" since the funding for the BIRA research could end some day in the future (AC S679). But - the existing ACPD Technical Note, even without ACP acceptance,

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will anyway be posted "for ever" on the ACPD web server - so where is the problem of non-acceptance for ACP?

At this point it might be useful to come back to what is officially written down on the ACP web site under "Manuscript types", namely:

"Research articles report substantial new results and conclusions from scientific investigations atmospheric chemistry and physics within the scope of the journal."

"Technical notes report new developments, significant advances, or novel aspects of experimental and theoretical methods and techniques which are relevant for scientific investigations within the scope of the journal."

This being said one might re-consider the authors reply (AC S47): "... the goal of the paper is not to report scientific findings but to inform the scientific community about new FTIR observations at the NDACC complementary site La Reunion"

- this is a clear statement, and finally one major question remains:

Can a manuscript about setting up and characterizing one more commercial Bruker-type FTIR instrument at any new place in the world these days still be considered as "reporting on novel aspects of experimental and theoretical methods", thus by definition rectifying publication as an ACP Technical Note, or not?

End of comment.

Interactive comment on Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., 8, 827, 2008.