Contributions of the troposphere and stratosphere to CH4 model biases

Zhiting Wang¹, Thorsten Warneke¹, Nicholas M. Deutscher¹,², Justus Notholt¹, Ute Karstens³, Marielle Saunois⁴, Matthias Schneider⁵, Ralf Sussmann⁶, Harjinder Sembhi⁷, David W. T. Griffith², Dave F. Pollard⁸, Rigel Kivi⁹, Christof Petri¹, Voltaire A. Velazco², Michel Ramonet¹⁰, Huilin Chen¹¹,¹²

(1) Institute of Environmental Physics, University of Bremen, Germany
(2) Centre for Atmospheric Chemistry, School of Chemistry, University of Wollongong, Wollongong, New South Wales, Australia
(3) Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry, Germany
(4) Laboratoire des Sciences du Climat et de l'Environnement, France
(5) Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, IMK-ASF, Karlsruhe, Germany
(6) Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, IMK-IFU, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany
(7) Earth Observation Science, Department of physics and Astronomy, University of Leicester, Leicester, UK
(8) National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA), Wellington, New Zealand
(9) Finnish Meteorological Institute Arctic Research Center, FMI-ARC, Finland
(10) Laboratoire des Sciences du Climat et de l'Environnement, LSCE/IPSL, CEA-CNRS-UVSQ, Université Paris Saclay, 91191, Gif-Sur-Yvette, France
(11) Center for Isotope Research (CIO), University of Groningen, Groningen, The Netherlands
(12) Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES), University of Colorado, Boulder, CO, USA

Correspondence to: Z. Wang (zhiting@iup.physik.uni-bremen.de)

Abstract

Inverse modeling is a useful tool to retrieve CH₄ fluxes; however, evaluation of the applied chemical transport model is an important step before using the inverted emissions. For inversions using column data one concern is how well the model represents stratospheric and tropospheric CH₄ respectively.
when assimilating total column measurements. In this study atmospheric CH$_4$ from three inverse models is compared to FTS (Fourier Transform Spectrometry), satellite and in situ measurements. Using the FTS measurements the model biases are separated into stratospheric and tropospheric contributions. When averaged over all FTS sites the model bias amplitudes (absolute model to FTS differences) are 7.4±5.1 ppb, 6.7±4.8 ppb, and 8.1±5.5 ppb in the tropospheric partial column (the column from the surface to the tropopause) for the models TM3, TM5-4DVAR, LMDz-PYVAR, respectively, and 4.3±9.9 ppb, 4.7±9.9 ppb, and 6.2±11.2 ppb in the stratospheric partial column (the column from the tropopause to the top of the atmosphere). The model biases in the tropospheric partial column show a latitudinal gradient for all models, however there are no clear latitudinal dependencies for the model biases in the stratospheric partial column visible except with the LMDz-PYVAR model. Comparing modeled and FTS measured tropospheric column-averaged mole fractions reveals a similar latitudinal gradient in the model biases but comparison with in situ measured mole fractions in the troposphere does not show such latitudinal gradient, which is attributed to the different longitudinal coverage of FTS and in situ measurements. Similarly, a latitudinal pattern exists in model biases in vertical CH$_4$ gradients in the troposphere, which indicates vertical transport of tropospheric CH$_4$ is not represented correctly in the models.

1 Introduction

Atmospheric methane (CH$_4$) is the second most important anthropogenic greenhouse gas. Atmospheric CH$_4$ concentrations began to rise again in 2007 after a decade of near-zero growth (Rigby et al., 2008). Possible explanations for the stability of CH$_4$ concentrations during 1999-2006 include: an increase in anthropogenic emissions and coincident decrease in wetland emissions (Bousquet et al., 2006); decreased northern hemisphere microbial sources (Kai et al., 2011); and a combination of decreasing-to-stable fossil fuel emissions and stable-to-increasing microbial emissions (Kirschke et al., 2013). Several possible reasons for the renewed growth of CH$_4$ concentrations after 2006 have been proposed including the increase of wetland emissions during 2007 and 2008 in either the tropics, owing to greater than average precipitation, and/or in the Arctic, owing to high temperatures (Dlugokencky et al., 2009), the anthropogenic contribution in the tropics and mid-latitudes in the northern hemisphere during the period 2007-2010 (Bergamaschi et al., 2013), an increase of emissions from oil- and gas production and use during 2007-2014 (Hausmann et al., 2016), and from agriculture (Schaefer et al., 2016).

Prediction of the evolution of CH$_4$ in the atmosphere requires knowledge of the sources and sinks. Inverse modeling is usually used to retrieve fluxes from observations of atmospheric concentrations. The commonly used measurements include surface measurements from global networks, such as the NOAA/ESRL (Earth System Research Laboratory of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), and total column data from satellites, such as the SCIAMACHY (Scanning Imaging Absorption Spectrometer for Atmospheric Chartography) or GOSAT (Greenhouse gases Observing SATellite). However, compared to total column data the surface measurements characterize the boundary layer only and CH$_4$ concentrations in the boundary layer are sensitive to boundary layer height that is difficult to be accurately simulated in a global transport model. The total column
measurements are less sensitive to model errors in the vertical distributions of CH$_4$, however, they are also only sensitive to broader-scale signatures. Compared to satellite measurements surface in-situ measurements have poor spatial coverage but are more precise and less subject to biases. Total column measurements of CH$_4$ include a contribution from the stratosphere where the concentrations are influenced by dynamical processes like meridional transport, tropopause variations, and subsidence associated with the polar vortex, and chemistry. If a transport model does not accurately simulate these processes, the retrieved sources and sinks using total column measurements will not be correct (Locatelli et al., 2015a; 2015b). Especially in the polar region, the tropopause height varies strongly and the dynamical processes are complex. Turner et al. (2015) compared GOSAT CH$_4$ with GEOS-Chem simulations, and found large differences at high-latitudes. They proposed that the model bias in total column CH$_4$ at high-latitudes comes from the stratosphere since the validation with TCCON (Total Carbon Column Observing Network), NOAA surface and aircraft measurements, and HIPPO shows good performances of the model in the troposphere. Ostler et al. (2016) assessed accuracies of models in the stratosphere by replacing modeled stratospheric CH$_4$ with satellite measurements. They found that modeled stratospheric CH$_4$ shows large scatter and the corrected total columns of CH$_4$ show improved or degraded agreements with TCCON measurements depending on the used satellites and models. These results imply that satellite-based stratospheric CH$_4$ is not accurate enough to resolve a possible stratospheric contribution to model biases in total column CH$_4$ as uncovered by TCCON. TCCON-based measurements could fulfill such a role, as presented in Saad et al. (2016) and this study. Using HF as a proxy, Saad et al. (2016) derived tropospheric CH$_4$ products and investigated the impact of stratospheric and tropospheric model biases in GEOS-Chem on inversions. They found an increasing stratospheric mismatch with decreasing tropopause altitudes and a phase lag in modeled tropospheric seasonality. A small bias in the modeled CH$_4$ column could come from counteracting stratospheric and tropospheric model errors. They noted that the tropospheric time lag can produce large errors in posterior wetland emissions in high northern latitudes.

In this study the model biases in the stratosphere and troposphere are assessed with respect to the latitudinal pattern. In order to investigate the accuracy of the models several measurements are used: (i) total, tropospheric and stratospheric column-averaged CH$_4$ mole fractions measured at the TCCON (Wunch et al., 2011; Wang et al., 2014), which are used to separate stratospheric and tropospheric contributions to model bias in total columns, (ii) total column-averaged CH$_4$ mole fraction measured by GOSAT (Parker et al., 2011) and CH$_4$ profiles measured by TES (Tropospheric Emission Spectrometer) (Worden et al., 2012), (iii) surface CH$_4$ measured within the NOAA network (Dlugokencky et al., 1994) and (iv) in situ CH$_4$ profiles from aircraft campaign HIPPO (HIAPER Pole-to-Pole Observations) (Wofsy et al., 2012). In the following, Sect. 2 presents the measurements, models and analysis approach, while Sect. 3 presents the results and discussions. Conclusions are drawn in Sect. 4.

2 Measurements and models
We work here with near-infrared spectra of TCCON, from which the tropospheric CH$_4$ is derived using an a posteriori correction method in contrast to the direct profile retrieval (Sepulveda et al., 2014) being
applied to mid-infrared spectra. The tropospheric CH$_4$ is derived through removing stratospheric contributions in total column CH$_4$. The stratospheric contributions are estimated from stratospheric N$_2$O columns derived from total N$_2$O columns. A calibration of the method against in-situ measurements shows an agreement within 3.0±2.0 ppb (see Figure 1). Given the total and tropospheric CH$_4$ columns, stratospheric column-averaged CH$_4$ is derived using knowledge of the tropopause pressure. The TCCON sites used in this study are listed in Table 1, the products are all using the GGG2014 version (Wunch et al., 2015), except for at Ny-Ålesund.

The CO$_2$ proxy retrieval method (Frankenberg et al., 2011) is applied in GOSAT data, which infers dry air columns from the CO$_2$ columns retrieved from the same spectra as used in the CH$_4$ retrieval. This method assumes the CO$_2$ concentrations are known and provided by model simulations (the CarbonTracker model). The GOSAT total column-averaged dry-air CH$_4$ mole fractions used here are version UoL-OCPRv7 and only spectra measured in clear sky conditions are used (Parker et al., 2011). GOSAT has a ground footprint diameter of about 10.5 km and 4 seconds exposure duration. The TES instrument measures atmospheric radiances from which atmospheric profiles are inferred using an optimal estimation algorithm subject to a priori constraints. The CH$_4$ retrieval of TES has a DOFS (degree of freedom for signal) about 0.8~2.3, which peaks in the tropics and decrease toward high latitudes. The version F07_10 data are applied and measurements with less than 1.4 DOFS are filtered out. Validation of F07_10 data against to HIPPO measurements shows a bias of -8~5 ppb with standard deviations of 25~50 ppb below 100 hPa (Herman and Osterman, 2014).

Vertical gradients of tropospheric CH$_4$ can be qualitatively calculated by using the comparative tropospheric column-averaged CH$_4$ and surface CH$_4$. Only long-term time scales are used here, and variations with scales longer than 1.4 years are extracted from the time series of tropospheric and surface CH$_4$. TCCON and in situ sites are selected to be located close to one another so that both instruments measure similar airmasses. The sites and measurements are listed in Table 3.

The CH$_4$ measurements during HIPPO-1 to 5 are those made by a quantum cascade laser spectrometer (QCLS). Calibrations derived through comparisons with NOAA Programmable Flask Package measurements are applied.

The models used in this study are TM3, TM5-4DVAR, LMDz-PYVAR, whose details are given in Table 3. All the three models are optimized against in situ measurements at the surface through inversions of CH$_4$ surface emissions. The first two models used a common emission a priori for their inversion runs. Detailed information on the inversion methodology is discussed in Bergamaschi et al. (2015). The LMDz-PYVAR uses a different a prior and background stations as constraints, the BG-SP setup described in Locatelli et al. (2015b). The chemical reactions considered in the models are the oxidation by OH in the troposphere, and by Cl, OH and O($^1$D) in the stratosphere. The fields of the radicals are prescribed monthly with no interannual changes.

Details about the global atmospheric tracer model TM3 can be found in Heimann and Körner (2003) and the inversion method of the Jena CarboScope is described in Rödenbeck (2005). TM5-4DVAR is a four-dimensional data assimilation system for inverse modeling of atmospheric methane emission.
(Meirink et al., 2008). The system is based on the TM5 atmosphere transport model (Krol et al., 2005). LMDz-PYVAR is a framework that combines the inversion system PYVAR (Chevallier et al., 2005; Pison et al., 2009) with the transport model LMDz (Hourdin et al., 2006).

For evaluation of the models, we interpolate the simulations in time, latitudes, longitudes and pressure to match the measurements. For the total and tropospheric column-averaged CH$_4$ the model profile is integrated taking the a priori and averaging kernel into account according to Rodgers and Connor (2003) using Eq. 9 and 14 from Wang et al. (2014). In contrast to FTS and GOSAT the transformation of model CH$_4$ profiles to the counterpart of TES is done in logarithms of a priori and model quantities. The thermal tropopause calculated using the reanalysis data ERA-Interim is used in all calculations, which could not be so accurate for the TM5 and LMDz models, especially for LMDz that predicts its own meteorology fields through nudging to reanalysis data.

3 Comparison between measurements and models

The CH$_4$ column meridional distribution is sensitive to the latitudinal distribution of CH$_4$ sources and sinks, tropopause altitudes, inter-hemisphere transport in the troposphere, and the residual circulation in the stratosphere. Assessing latitudinal variabilities of biases of a model could reveal how well these processes are represented in the model. Another important concern of this study is to determine which of tropospheric or stratospheric components contribute more to the model biases in the total column. The model to FTS comparison covers the period 2007-2011 when FTS measurements are available and the comparison to GOSAT is for the period 2009-2011.

The latitudinal behavior of the model bias in total column-averaged CH$_4$ mole fractions is revealed by comparisons to FTS and GOSAT measurements as presented in Figure 2, similar to previous work (Monteil et al., 2013). CH$_4$ is emitted mainly in the northern hemisphere, destroyed mainly in the tropics by OH and has a slow inter-hemisphere transport with a temporal scale of approximately 1 year. CH$_4$ is transported into the stratosphere mostly in the tropics and back to the troposphere in the extratropics by the residual circulation. In the troposphere, CH$_4$ concentrations are higher in the northern hemisphere than in the southern hemisphere with a gradient throughout the tropics. In the stratosphere, CH$_4$ has a more or less symmetrical distribution between the two hemispheres. In Fig. 2 the model biases present a clear latitudinal dependence, similar to results revealed by other studies (e.g. Turner et al., 2015 and Alexe et al., 2015). The latitudinal dependence is similar between FTS and GOSAT northward of 50°S where FTS measurements are available. The model to measurements difference shows a North-South gradient with positive values at northern high-latitude northward of 50°S for all the models.

With FTS-derived tropospheric and stratospheric column-averaged CH$_4$ (Wang et al., 2014) it is possible to examine how the tropospheric and stratospheric partial columns contribute to the model bias in the total column-averaged CH$_4$. The partial columns are represented as the tropospheric and stratospheric column-averaged mole fractions scaled by the fraction of the partial air column. Figure 3 shows yearly and seasonal median model biases in the troposphere and stratospheric partial columns. It
is clear that model biases in the tropospheric partial column exhibit a North-South gradient with positive values in northern high-latitude during all seasons for all models. The model biases in the stratospheric partial column do not present any clear latitudinal pattern that persists through the whole year, and show significant seasonal variabilities for TM3 and TM5-4DVAR. That is consistent with the fact that stratospheric CH\textsubscript{4} distributions cycle between summer and winter hemispheric states. In the case of LMDz-PYVAR there is a permanent pattern in the stratospheric partial column biases that is more negative in the south. This pattern is consistent with the North-South gradient in the total column biases. Comparing to Fig. 2 one can see that the latitudinal pattern of model biases in total column-averaged CH\textsubscript{4} results from both the stratosphere and troposphere for LMDz-PYVAR, but arises from the troposphere for TM3 and TM5. The model biases change signs yearly and seasonally, therefore it is more appropriate to use the amplitudes (absolute model to FTS differences) to evaluate the contributions of the troposphere and stratosphere. The medians of model bias amplitudes over all FTS sites and years are 7.4±5.1 ppb in the tropospheric partial column and 4.3±9.9 ppb in the stratospheric partial column for TM3, 6.7±4.8 ppb and 4.7±9.9 ppb for TM5-4DVAR, and 8.1±5.5 ppb and 6.2±11.2 ppb for LMDz-PYVAR.

Evaluations of the models at the surface using in-situ measurements, which are assimilated into the models, show smaller biases than the tropospheric column-averaged CH\textsubscript{4}. The amplitudes are mostly below 10 ppb in the northern hemisphere except for a few outliers and below 5 ppb in the southern hemisphere (not shown). The model biases at the surface do not show any significant latitudinal dependence that is present in the model biases of both the tropospheric partial column and column-averaged CH\textsubscript{4} (see Fig. A1). It is not clear how the model biases at the surface appear in the regions where no measurements are assimilated. However, it could be true that the overestimation of the tropospheric column-averaged CH\textsubscript{4} meridional gradient is due to model biases in the mid and upper troposphere. That would mean that vertical distributions of CH\textsubscript{4} in the troposphere are not represented correctly in the models.

Figure 4 presents a comparison of modeled and measured vertical gradients of tropospheric CH\textsubscript{4}, as qualitatively represented by the difference between the tropospheric column-averaged CH\textsubscript{4} and the surface CH\textsubscript{4}. The vertical gradient is influenced by surface emissions, transport and OH fields. Generally there are negative vertical gradients in the northern hemisphere and positive vertical gradients in the southern hemisphere (except for over the southern continents in locations with strong emissions). Here we refer to decreasing CH\textsubscript{4} mole fractions with altitude as a negative vertical gradient, while increasing CH\textsubscript{4} with altitude is a positive vertical gradient. This occurs because most CH\textsubscript{4} is emitted in the northern hemisphere and mixed into the southern hemispheric Hadley cell, whose southward branch prevails in the mid and upper troposphere. In the troposphere, surface emissions cause decreasing CH\textsubscript{4} with altitude, while OH oxidation causes a negative vertical gradient. The model biases in the tropospheric vertical gradient are mostly positive in mid and high northern latitudes, and negative at other latitudes. So the overestimated tropospheric CH\textsubscript{4} in mid and high northern latitudes could not originate from overestimated emissions, which should result in a more negative vertical gradient in the troposphere.
Figure 5 shows a comparison between model simulations and HIPPO measurements. The results are longitudinally averaged for all five HIPPO missions within grids of 4° latitude and pressure increments of 10 hPa. A significant feature is an overestimation of CH₄ in the lowermost stratosphere over latitudes higher than 30°S/N, much larger than the biases in the troposphere. It is not clear whether the overestimation arises from the residual transport in the stratosphere, which appears to be too strong, a too high tropopause, an incorrect vertical CH₄ gradient across the tropopause or misrepresentation of stratospheric chemistry. Underestimations dominate in the upper southern troposphere, consistent with the results in Fig. 4 that modeled gradients of tropospheric CH₄ are biased negative as revealed by FTS and surface measurements. There are no significant patterns for the vertical gradient bias in the northern troposphere.

Unlike for the FTS, the model biases in the tropospheric column-averaged CH₄ revealed by HIPPO do not show a significant latitudinal trend (Fig. 6, only TM3 are shown there since other models gives similar behavior). This could be because the FTS measured tropospheric column-averaged CH₄ is defined differently than the mean mole fraction between the surface and thermal tropopause. In deriving the FTS tropospheric CH₄, the stratospheric CH₄ is removed via its linear correlation with N₂O. The tropopause in the FTS data therefore has a chemical definition. It is not clear how different from each other the two kinds of tropopause are during this period. A sensitivity test was conducted by shifting the thermal tropopause 200 hPa upward to include the lower stratosphere where CH₄ is overestimated by the models. The model biases compared against HIPPO then become closer to those against FTS. However, this difference of 200 hPa between the chemical and thermal tropopause is unrealistically large. In addition, the FTS measured tropospheric column-averaged CH₄ agrees well with in situ measurements in Fig. 1 where the thermal tropopause is applied.

Another possible explanation is that HIPPO sampled the atmosphere mostly in the region 150°E~110°W, over the Pacific Ocean. Apart from Izaña and Ny-Ålesund, the northern FTS sites are located inland. The longitudinal dependence of model biases is investigated with TES measured CH₄ mole fractions at 215, 464 and 680 hPa (the lower panel in Fig. 6). Because the TES profiles have limited vertical resolution, the concentrations at the three levels are not independent. The weighting function of CH₄ at 215 hPa peaks around 200 hPa in the tropics and around the 300 hPa higher than 50°N/S. The measurements at 464 hPa show the largest sensitivity around 500~600 hPa, and those at 680 hPa have similar vertical sensitivity but less weights above 400 hPa. The comparisons are separated into a region representing HIPPO sampling (referred as region I) and the remaining longitudes (referred as region II). Differences between the model biases in the two regions occur northward of 45°N most significantly at the level 215 hPa. Increases in the model biases continue in region II but decrease in region I, which is more or less similar to the differences between model biases revealed by FTS and HIPPO in these latitudes. Consistent with FTS the model-TES difference also shows a North-South gradient northward of 50°S. However, it is not clear whether the latitudinal pattern comes from the TES retrieval or model errors. Validation of TES tropospheric CH₄ with HIPPO gives near zeros biases except for latitudes 40°~60°N where the TES biases vary in -10~20 ppb (Herman and Osterman, 2014).
4 Conclusions

In this study, three inverse models for CH$_4$ are evaluated using different observations that cover different scales. The aim is to determine whether most of the model biases are from the stratosphere or troposphere. With FTS stratospheric and tropospheric column-averaged CH$_4$, derived from the FTS total column measurements, it is shown that model bias amplitudes are 7.4±5.1 ppb, 6.7±4.8 ppb, and 8.1±5.4 ppb in the tropospheric partial column for TM3, TM5-4DV AR, and LMDz39-PYVAR. The corresponding stratospheric partial column biases are 4.3±9.9 ppb, 4.7±9.9 ppb, and 6.1±11.2 ppb, respectively. The tropospheric partial column model bias exhibits a North-South gradient northward of 50°S with an overestimation in northern high-latitude for all models. There is no persistent latitudinal pattern with season in the stratospheric partial column model bias for TM3 and TM5-4DVAR.

The evaluation of the models at the surface shows a smaller bias compared to the tropospheric column-averaged CH$_4$. We assume that the tropospheric model biases are mainly located in the middle and upper troposphere although comparisons at the surface are only limited to sites where the measurements have been assimilated into the models. Comparison with HIPPO in the troposphere does not show the same latitudinal pattern in model biases as in the comparison with FTS. Two possible reasons are suggested: (i) the difference between the thermal tropopause and that in the FTS tropospheric CH$_4$ product, (ii) the latitude patterns of model biases are dependent on longitude. Using an assessment of model biases relative to TES satellite measurements, we propose that the longitudinal dependence of the model performance contributes to the difference between HIPPO and FTS. However, the tropopause altitude could cause differences during short temporal scale processes, e.g. stratospheric intrusions where the stratospheric air can sink below the thermal tropopause. Stratospheric air can also detach from the stratosphere completely and enter the troposphere. If the detached air parcels still have stratospheric properties, e.g. CH$_4$ correlates with N$_2$O as in the stratosphere, the FTS measured tropospheric CH$_4$ would exclude these air parcels; however, direct integration from the surface to the thermal tropopause, such as that used for the models and in situ profiles will include these in the tropospheric CH$_4$. More confusing situations could occur where there is strong mixing across the UTLS (the upper troposphere and lower stratosphere) and both thermal and chemical tropopause are not well defined. Future works will be devoted to clarifying the realistic content in FTS tropospheric column-averaged CH$_4$ and to defining a reasonable approach to comparing it with in situ and model products in these situations.

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(http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ccgg/aircraft/). Nicholas Deutscher is supported by an ARC-DECRA Fellowship, DE140100178. TCCON measurements at Park Falls and Lamont are possible thanks to NASA grants NNX14AI60G, NNX11AG01G, NAG5-12247, and NNG05-GD07G, and the NASA Orbiting Carbon Observatory Program, as well as technical support from the DOE ARM program (Lamont) and Jeff Ayers (Park Falls). Darwin and Wollongong TCCON support is funded by NASA grants NAG5-12247 and NNG05-GD07G and the Australian Research Council grants DP140101552, DP110103118, DP0879468 and LP0562346, as well as support from the GOSAT project and DOE ARM technical support in Darwin. The EU projects InGOS and ICOS-INWIRE and the Senate of Bremen provide financial support for TCCON measurements at Bremen, Orleans, Bialystok and Ny Alesund, and Orleans is also support by the RAMCES team at LSCE. The Lauder TCCON programme is core-funded by NIWA through New Zealand’s Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.

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Table 1. Overview of TCCON sites used.

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<th>TCCON site</th>
<th>Latitude/°N</th>
<th>Longitude/°E</th>
<th>Altitude/masl</th>
<th>Citation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ny-Ålesund</td>
<td>78.9</td>
<td>11.9</td>
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<td>Sodankylä</td>
<td>67.3668</td>
<td>26.6310</td>
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<td>Messerschmidt et al., 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Białystok</td>
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<td>23.025</td>
<td>183</td>
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<td>Bremen</td>
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<td>27</td>
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<td>130</td>
<td>Messerschmidt et al., 2010</td>
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<td>Garmisch</td>
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<td>11.063</td>
<td>740</td>
<td>Sussmann et al., 2013, Sussmann and Rettinger, 2014</td>
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<td>Park Falls</td>
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<td>Washenfelder et al., 2006</td>
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<td>Lamont</td>
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<td>Wunch et al., 2009</td>
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<td>-16.483</td>
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Table 2. Information on the models and setup details.

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<th>Model</th>
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<th>Resolution (lat×lon)</th>
<th>No. of vertical levels</th>
<th>Output time step (hour)</th>
<th>Meteorology</th>
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<td>TM3</td>
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<td>1.5</td>
<td>ECMWF-IFS</td>
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<td>LMDz-PYVAR</td>
<td>Laboratoire des Sciences du Climatet de l'Environment</td>
<td>1.875°×3.75°</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>Prediction by LMDz with nudging to ECMWF reanalysis</td>
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Table 3. FTS and in-situ sites used for comparison to FTS tropospheric column-averaged CH$_4$ and surface/tower CH$_4$.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FTS site</th>
<th>In situ site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Lat/°N</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ny-Ålesund</td>
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<td>Izaña</td>
<td>28.300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lauder</td>
<td>-45.038</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 1. Calibration results of FTS derived tropospheric column-averaged CH$_4$ mole fractions against in situ measurements. The in situ profiles are smoothed using GFIT CH$_4$ averaging kernels in the troposphere as described in Wang et al. (2014). The FTS data are averaged for the in situ measurement periods. The IMECC is an aircraft campaign over Europe (Geibel et al., 2012). The Lamont-AirCore measurements are from Greenhouse Gas Group Aircraft Program (http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ccgg/aircraft/). The AirCore data at Sodankylä is from the FTS group there.
Figure 2. Yearly and seasonal mean model bias of total column-averaged CH$_4$ mole fractions plotted as a function of latitude. The upper panel is the results using FTS data while the lower panels is for GOSAT. The difference for the models is given in yellow (TM3), blue (TM5-4DVAR), and magenta (LMDz-PYVAR). The average of FTS results is for the period 2007-2011 where FTS measurements are available, and for GOSAT in the period 2009-2011.
Figure 3. Yearly and seasonal medians of the scaled stratospheric and tropospheric contributions in modeled total column biases at TCCON sites. The sites from left to right is North to South. The white bar denotes the tropospheric bias, the grey bar for the stratospheric bias. The scale factor for the model bias are the air column fractions $P_t/1000$ (stratosphere) and $(1-P_t/1000)$ (troposphere), where $P_t$ is the tropopause pressure. The error bar are the standard deviations of the model biases. The results are averaged for 2007-2011 when FTS measurements are available.
Figure 4. Measured (black) and simulated (yellow: TM3, blue: TM5-4DVAR, LMDz-PYVAR: magenta) vertical gradients of CH$_4$ in the troposphere (top panel) and differences between the measurement and simulations (lower panel) against latitude. The results are averaged for 2007-2011 when FTS measurements are available.
Figure 5. HIPPO measured CH$_4$ and differences with models in the stratosphere (short panel) and troposphere (high panel). The result is an average for five HIPPO missions, averaged for latitudinal bins of 4° and vertical increments of 10 hPa.
Figure 6. Comparisons of CH$_4$ between TM3 and (upper panel) FTS, (middle panel) HIPPO and (lower panel) TES. In the case of HIPPO and FTS the tropospheric column-averaged CH$_4$ is compared, which is obtained from integration between surface and the tropopause (empty characters) or 200 hPa above the tropopause shifted (solid characters, only in the HIPPO case). For TES CH$_4$ mole fractions at 215 hPa, 464 hPa and 680 hPa are compared with TM3 simulations in a region 110°W~150°E (black) and the region beyond it (red) separately. Both TM3 and measurements are averaged during HIPPO 1-5 period.
Appendix

Figure A1. Latitudinal dependences of yearly averaged model biases in the tropospheric partial column (black) and the tropospheric column-averaged mole fraction (red). The three models are represented by Plus (TM3), Circle (TM5-4DVAR) and Multiplication (LMDz-PYVAR) respectively.