MAX-DOAS Measurements during MCMA-2006

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Multiple Axis Differential Optical Absorption Spectroscopy (MAX-DOAS) measurements were performed in different locations throughout the Mexico City Metropolitan Aera. MAX-DOAS instruments observe scattered sunlight from a variety of viewing directions to derive slant column densities (integrated concentration of different trace gases along the light path). Networks of MAX-DOAS setups gain information on the horizontal and vertical distribution of atmospheric trace gases.

The measurements were conducted at T0, T1, T2 (quasi-lagrangian setup), Pico Tres Padres, Tenango del Aire and Cerro Chiquevite. One instrument stayed permanently at T0 and pointed simultaneously in 3 azimuth directions, while the others were changed between sites during the measurement period. Slant column densities of NO2, HCHO, CHOCHO, HONO, O4 and SO2 were retrieved to constrain transport and photochemical processes within the MCMA.

We present preliminary results of NO2 and CHOCHO time series and compare them with active DOAS measurements as well as observations from the satellite instrument SCIAMACHY. Furthermore, we show a retrieval of HONO, which to our knowledge is the first example of HONO detection by passive DOAS in the atmosphere.