

GOMOS VALIDATION : AIR-DENSITY AND TEMPERATURE PROFILES

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ABSTRACT

Lidar system and radio-soundings were used to validate both air-density and low and high-resolution temperature profiles of the GOMOS instrument onboard ENVISAT-1 satellite. No bias greater than 7 % was found for the air-density comparisons with lidar and there is a very strong global agreement. The conditions of the occultations have a large impact on the comparisons concerning the temperature profile. The “dark limb” measurement conditions show great agreement between 35 and 60 km with no bias greater than 5 % whereas the “bright limb” measurement conditions show poor results. The High Resolution temperature shows a very interesting potential.

1 INTRODUCTION

With the limited and late availability of Envisat data, only teams of the groundbased subgroup have begun to validate the GOMOS air-density and temperature products. The locations of the stations cover the North hemisphere from mid latitudes (40°N with radio-soundings in Italy) to high latitudes (68°N with Lidar in Norway). The instruments used in this validation are Lidars (at Toronto, Observatoire de Haute Provence and Esrange) and radio-soundings (at Uccle station in Belgium and Tito Scalo in Italy) (see the Table 1 for exhaustive comments).

The products which are validated here concerned ENVISAT level 2 files : GOM_NL__2P. They were retrieved from the ACRI-ST server on request, and generated with GOPR_LV2_5.3.

Two temperature variables are available in the GOMOS level2 files :

1. The first one is the (low-resolution) temperature (T) ; this temperature is determined from the air-density and it is a composite of three independent sources :
 - O₂ concentration,
 - Rayleigh scattering,
 - climatologic model ARLETTY (A. Hauchecorne SA/ACRI-ST) which is based on ancillary data from the European meteorological model ECMWF and the atmospheric model MSIS ;
2. The second one is High-Resolution Temperature (H RTP) ; this product is retrieved from the scintillation observed by the two GOMOS photometers.

Team	PI	Instruments	Products
AOID 153	S. Pal	lidar (Toronto - Canada) 43.66°N ; 79.4°W	density, T
AOID 222	K. H. Fricke	lidar (Esrange - Sweden) 67.9°N ; 20.1°E	density, T, H RTP
AOID 300	D. De Muer	radio-soundings (Uccle – Belgium) 50.8°N ; 4.35°E	T
AOID 360	P. Keckhut	lidar (OHP - France) 43.94°N ; 5.71°E	H RTP
AOID 9083	V. Cuomo	radio-soundings (Tito Scalo – Italy) 40.36°N ; 15.44°E	

Table 1: The AOID involved in the air-density and temperature validation.

2 AIR DENSITY

Two teams have been able to perform air-density comparisons : AOID 153 at Toronto with Dr. Pal and AOID 222 at Esrange with Dr. Fricke.

For the 25/07/2002 and 25/10/2002 at Toronto, the three GOMOS occultations (see Figure 1 and Figure 2) shows a very good global agreement but there are still some fluctuations between the GOMOS profiles and the Lidar one's. Another site at higher latitude (Esrange, see Figure 3) for the 15th of August with a distance between the GOMOS measurement and the Lidar position of about 184 km shows a similar result.

No significant deviations are reported according to the error bars – errors are the combined GOMOS and Lidar errors. A normalisation is done for both Lidar and GOMOS densities at the altitude of 35 km, that explain the perfect agreement between the two measurements at this altitude. At the top of the profiles the deviation is about 5 %.

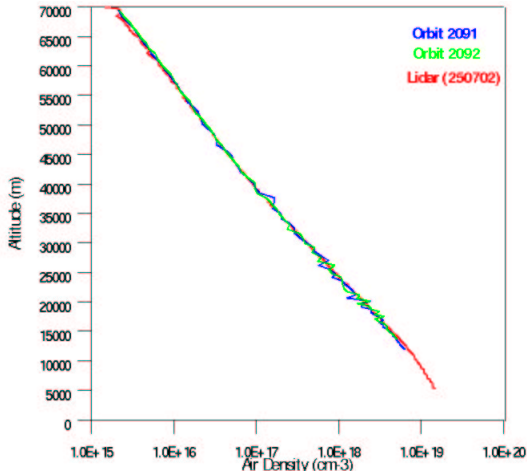


Figure 1: Density comparison for AOID 153 (star ID 18, Mv=1.17, T=9700 K for orbits no. 2091 and no. 2092).

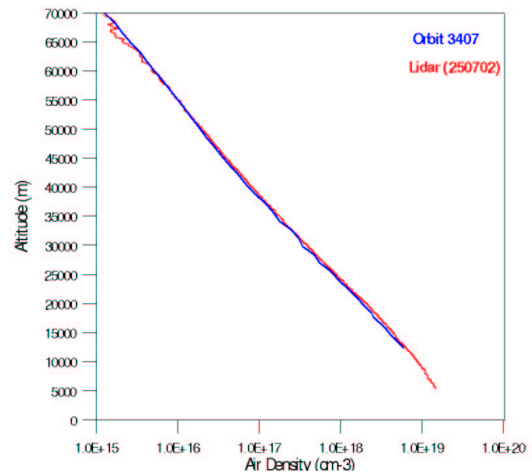


Figure 2: Density comparison for AOID 153 (star ID 84, Mv=2.40, T=4500 K for orbit no. 3407).

The statistical comparison performed over Esrange shows the profiles of the deviation of the differences between GOMOS and Lidar (see Figure 4). These lidar data are, in contrast to those performed at Toronto, relative density profiles, which implies, that these data can not validate the absolute values, but the profile shape.

The results are summarized in histograms covering the altitudes from 30 to 70 km in altitude bands of 5 km width. 38 occultations and 18 Lidar measurements are used for these results from 18/07/2002 to 23/08/2002. For each histogram, the altitude range, the number of data points and the mean value of the deviations are given. The number of points varies because of the changing altitude grid in each GOMOS profiles and because the Lidar profile reach different maximum altitudes.

As mentioned previously, the very good agreement and small width of the histograms in the two lowest altitude range (30–35 km and 35–40 km) is artificial because of the normalization at 35 km height. Due to the large error stated for the GOMOS data in the PDS files, the general agreement can include deviations among the GOMOS and Lidar profiles up to 7 %. At the higher altitudes, GOMOS density data oscillate about the Lidar data with amplitude of up to 2.6 % near the stratopause. The largest random deviations among the GOMOS and Lidar data reach up to 7 %.

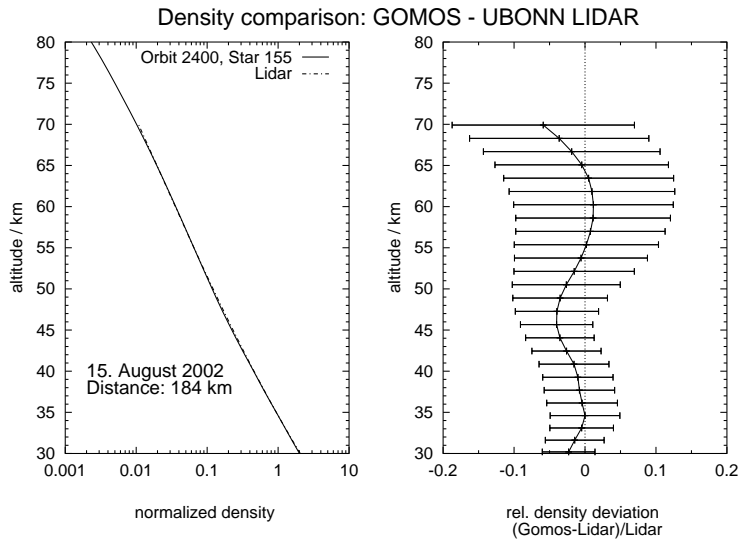


Figure 3: Density comparison for AOID 222 (star ID 155, $M_v=2.90$, $T=6600$ K for orbit no. 2400)

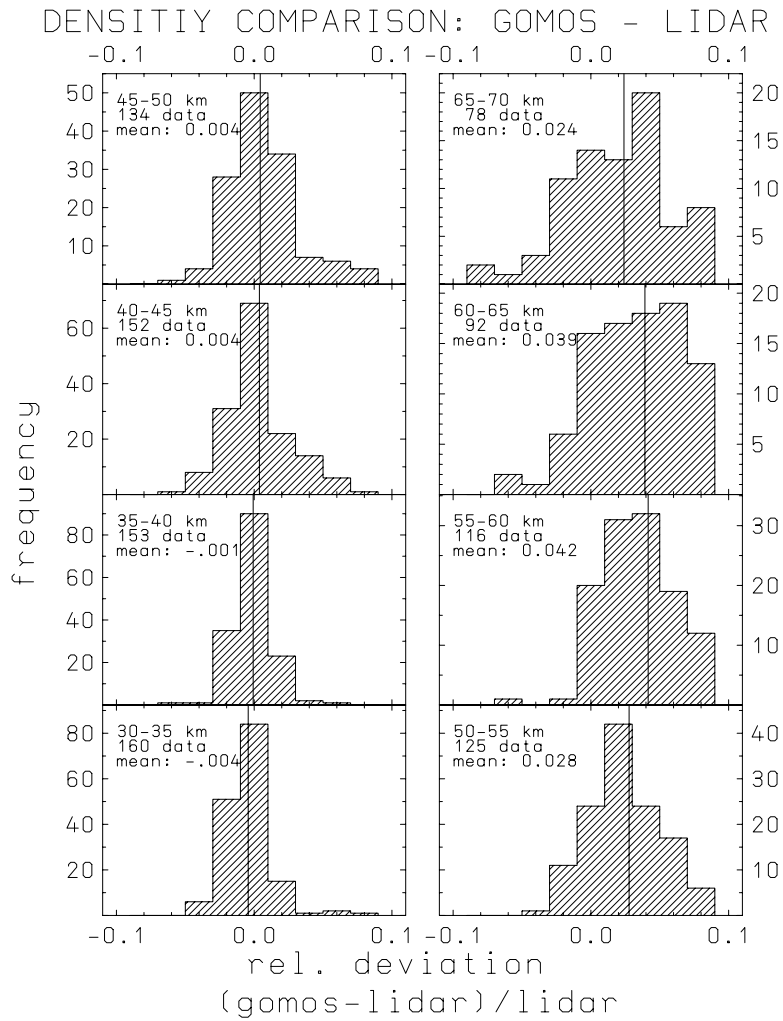


Figure 4: Histograms of density deviations for AOID 222 (38 occultations, 18 Lidar measurements).

3 TEMPERATURE

The five teams have been able to perform preliminary temperature validation : AOID 153 led by Dr. Pal, AOID 222 led by DR. Fricke, AOID 300 led by Dr. De Muer and AOID 360 led by Dr. Keckhut and AOID 9083 with DR. Cuomo.

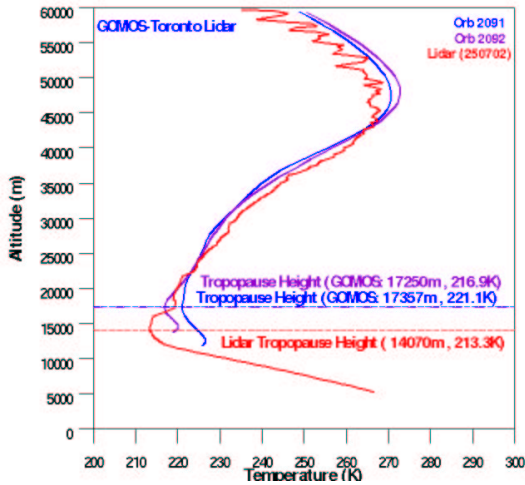


Figure 5: Temperature comparison for AOID 153 (star ID 18, $M_v=1.17$, $T=9700$ K for orbits no. 2091 and no. 2092).

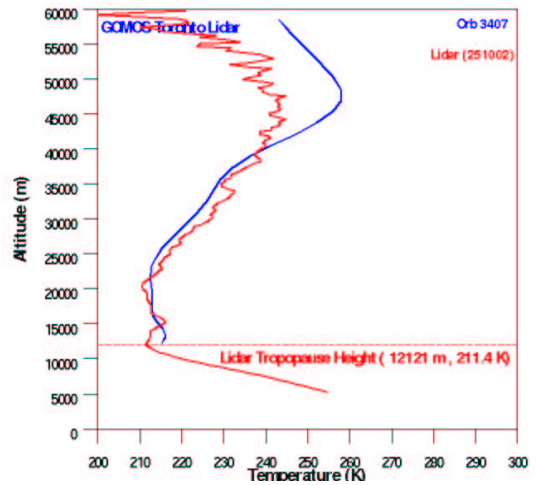


Figure 6: Temperature comparison for AOID 153 (star ID 84, $M_v=2.40$, $T=4500$ K for orbit no. 3407).

For the first two occultations at Toronto in July (see Figure 5), we can note a good general agreement between the low resolution temperature and the Lidar measurement. However, there is a problem concerning the calculation of the tropopause altitude. It seems to be not an altitude shift problem because the shapes of the profiles at the top altitude are in agreement. These two occultations are in dark limb conditions. For the third occultation (see Figure 6) at Toronto in October, we can see a large difference between the profiles and again a deviation for the tropopause altitude. But this occultation is in bright limb condition so the data are certainly noisy and the model is probably the most important contribution in the retrievals data. In this period, the planetary waves activity start to increase and hence induce a large daily and inter-annual variability. The differences here are the same than the differences between Lidar and model observed during this period. So it can suggest that the Lidar measurement is valid and the GOMOS product is mainly composed by model inputs.

Over Esrange in August for low-resolution temperatures (see Figure 7), we can split the altitude range in four domains :

- Under 35 km :
The 10 % bias may be caused by stratospheric background aerosol at higher altitude than usual. So the bias here will be incriminated to the Lidar measurement.
- Between 35 and 40 km :
There's no bias.
- Between 40 and 60 km :
There's no significant bias and mean bias are smaller than 5 % in this domain.
- Beyond 60 km :
The 10 % bias cannot be solely due to initialisation of the Lidar as lidar data smaller than 5 % are considered. While some other instrumental causes can be suggested such as the extraction of the noise due to background emission, the GOMOS statistical errors are approximately twice as large.

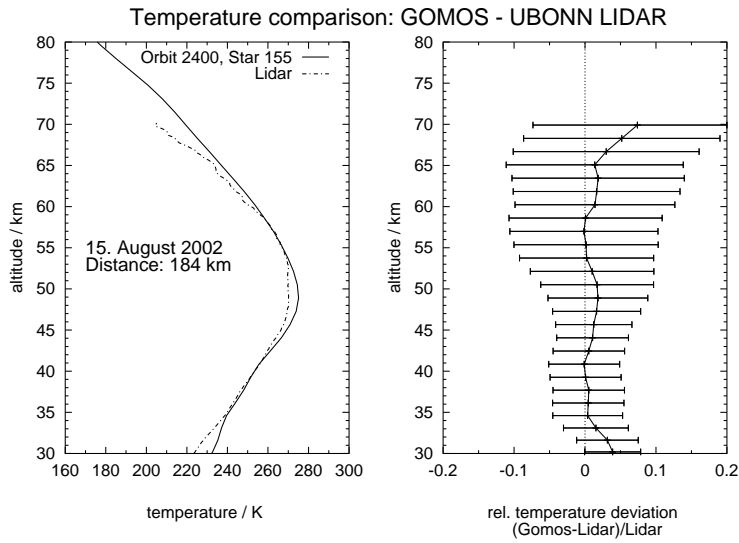


Figure 7: Temperature comparison for AOID 222 (star ID 155, $M_V=2.90$, $T=6600$ K for orbit no. 2400).

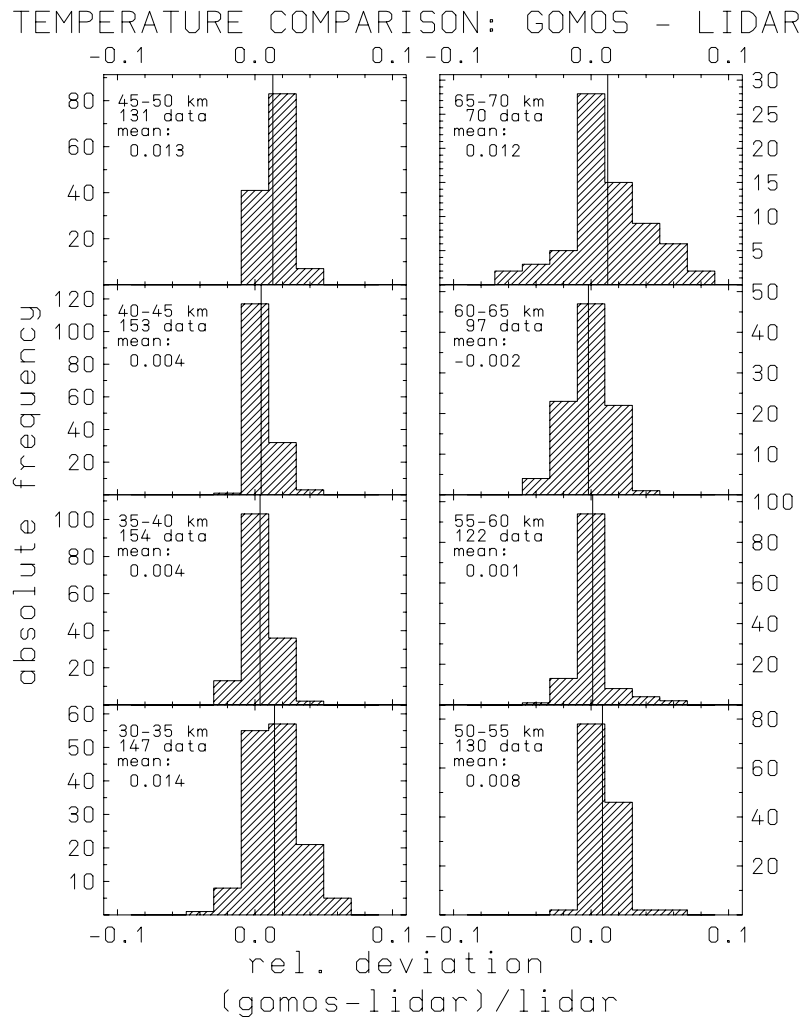


Figure 8: Histograms of temperature deviations for AOID 222.

On Figure 8 are represented the relative deviations for 18 Lidar measurements and 38 GOMOS occultations in histograms covering the altitudes from 30 to 70 km in altitude bands of 5 km width. We can notice here, on a statistical basis, a similar vertical behaviour than observed on the case shown in Figure 7 with the largest deviations below 35 km and above 60 km and a good agreement with no bias larger than 5 % between these two altitudes.

At the Uccle site (Belgium) we can notice on Figure 10 a good agreement for a few cases but we can also notice some anomalous fluctuations for others. Time delay and then dark or bright limb conditions don't seem to be influent in these cases. On Figure 11 is represented the mean relative differences (ptu-GOMOS) between 15 and 35 km altitude range for 10 occultations and 9 radio-soundings for the period 10/10/2002 to 25/11/2002. The bias for this altitude domain is about 0.7 %. The deviation can be as large as 1.7 % but the mean deviation from the bias is about 0.3 %. This agreement is again verified at the Tito Scalco station from 20 up to 35 km of height range as we can see an example on Figure 9.

All these results seem to be very good but we should point out the fact that in this low altitude range, the GOMOS data are probably model data. These excellent bias and deviation could be probably due to a comparison between the radio-sounding and the model which is probably not fully independent to the radio-soundings.

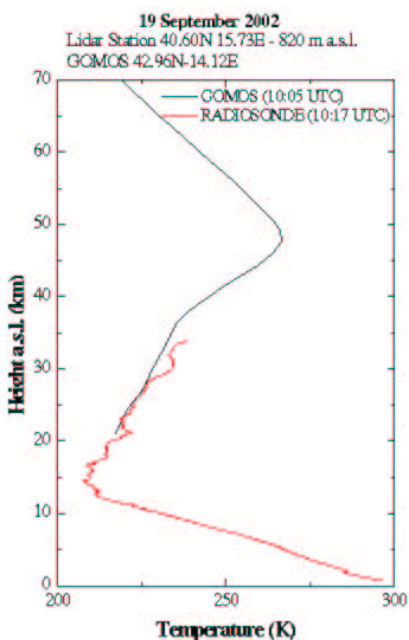


Figure 9: Temperature comparison for AOID 9083.

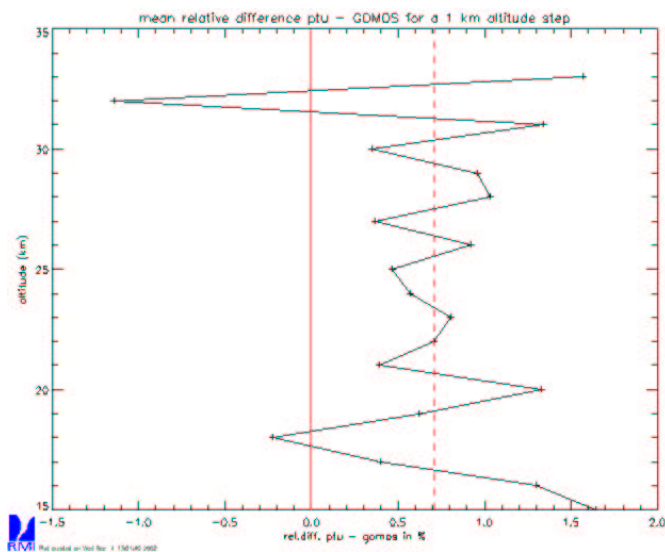


Figure 10: Temperature relative differences for AOID 300.

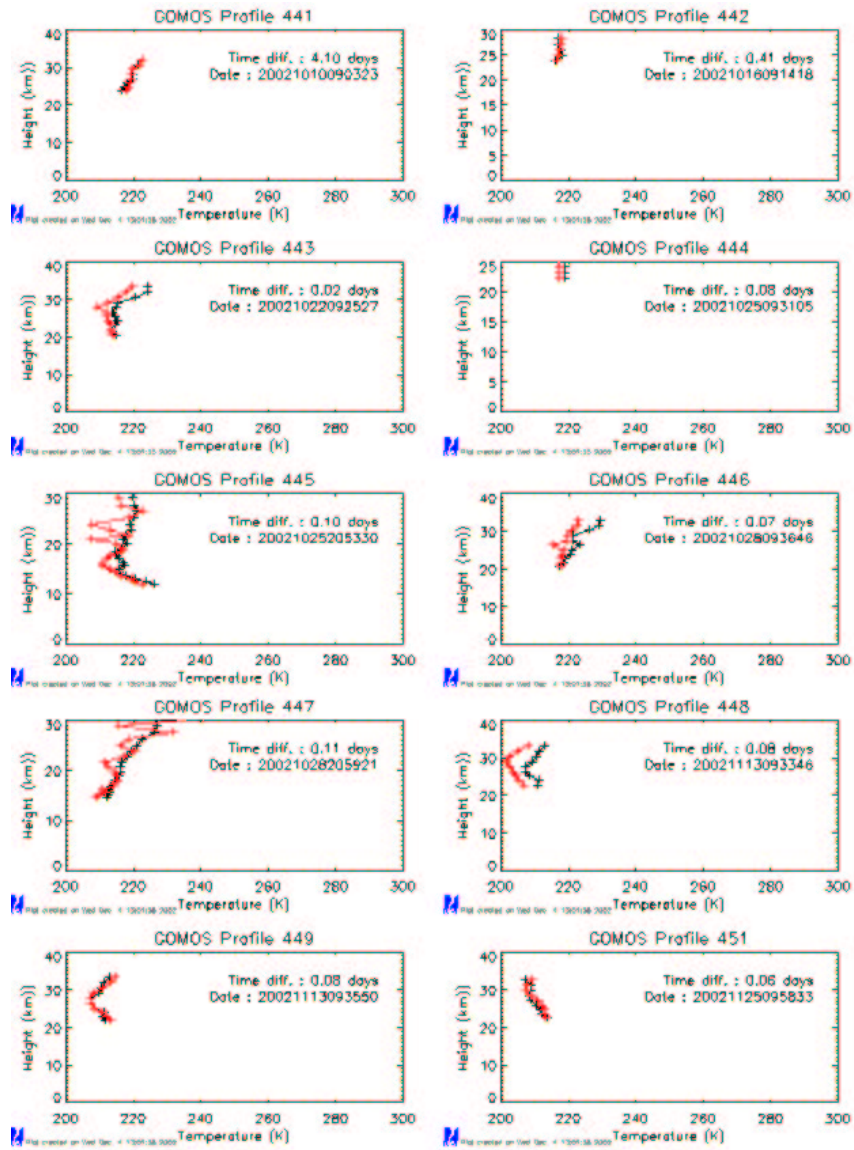


Figure 11: Temperature comparison for AOID 300.

On Figure 12 are represented four profiles for two stars occultations for High-Resolution Temperature Profile (HRTP) at Esrange performed some successive orbits. It is clear from the range of temperature values that the GOMOS HRTP are incompatible with the range of temperatures encountered in the stratosphere. In this case the occultations were in bright limb conditions and may explained why the retrieval algorithm has failed. We suggest that an internal consistency check should be implemented as part of the GOMOS data processing.

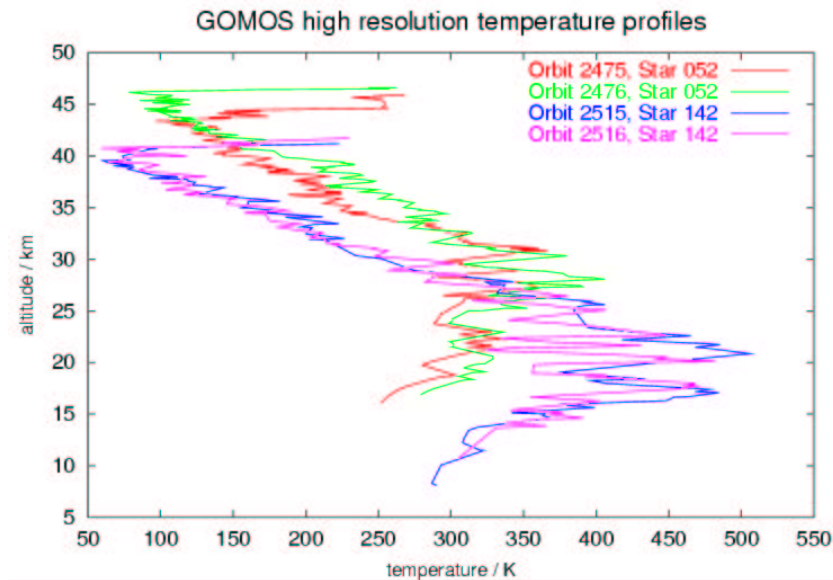


Figure 12: HRTP for AOID 222 (star ID 52, $M_v=2.04$, $T=4500$ K for orbits no. 2475 and 2476) and (star ID 142, $M_v=2.85$, $T=8900$ K for orbits no. 2515 and 2516).

For another site at lower latitude (OHP) and for the 25th of August, we can see on Figure 13 that the small-scale altitude structures are well represented. In this case the measurement is done in dark limb conditions and the process produce very good results. All the Lidar, the ECMWF and HRTP profile are in good agreement. Here the time delay between the occultation and the mean time of the LIDAR measurement is about three hours and the distance between mean tangent position and OHP is about 300 km. This single example shows that HRTP has a great potential to retrieve temperature profile as to detect the small-scale structures. We will have to smooth these retrievals to have information concerning the bias (if any) between HRTP and Lidar measurements however we will experienced some difficulties to validate the finest structures of the GOMOS profile, which will only be possible with very close collocations in time and in space registration.

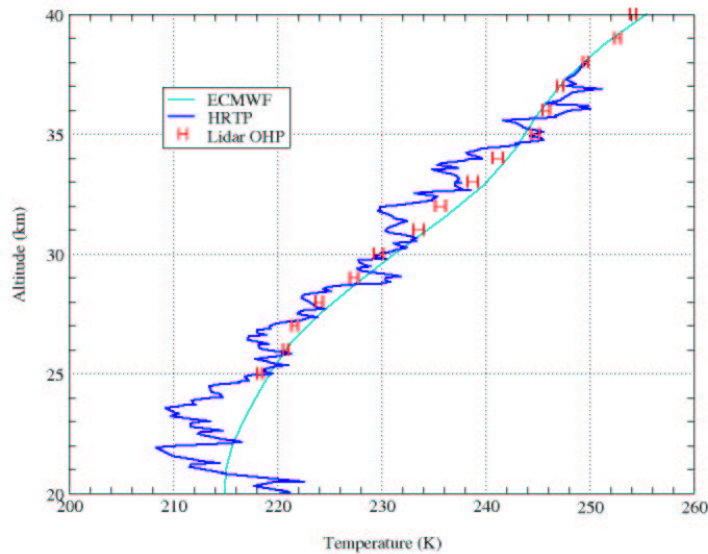


Figure 13: HRTP for AOID 360 (star ID 81, $M_v=2.36$, $T=28000$ K).

4 CONCLUSIONS

At this time, the first conclusions of the air density and temperature are :

- The difference of retrieval performance between dark and bright limb conditions are clearly observed ;
- No bias larger than 10 % are reported for the low-resolution temperature and bias under 1 % in the altitude range 15–30 km have been calculated. The first bias estimated with lidar above 30 km seems to be very small but a large dispersion is observed. The climatologic values includes in the GOMOS retrieval probably contributes to these results for a large part. The knowledge of the model contribution in the low-resolution temperature is missing. We suggest to the ESL GOMOS team to add this information in the level 2 products and to discriminate the share of each contribution to the retrievals ;
- H RTP appears to have a great potential. An example shows a very good agreement with the other data sources with this GOMOS products but it clearly appears that very short time and distance collocations will be required to have a real possibility to make some good validation for the finest altitude scale structures ;
- Validation must continue and we must collect more collocations to produce more statistical comparisons for a better understanding of these products.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The OHP and Toronto lidar profiles used in this publication were obtained as part of the Network for the Detection of Stratospheric Change (NDSC) and are publicly available after their final validation (see <http://www.ndsc.ncep.noaa.gov>).