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Observation capability of Superconducting Submillimeter-Wave Limb-Emission Sounder (SMILES)

YASUKO KASAI^{1*}, Philippe Baron¹, Takahiro Tanaka⁴, Satoshi Ochiai¹, Kazuyuki Kita⁵, Takeshi Manabe³, kenichi kikuchi², Toshiyuki Nishibori², Makoto Suzuki², Ryota Sato², Masato Shiotani⁵

¹NICT, ²JAXA, ³Osaka Prefecture University, ⁴Ibaraki University, ⁵Kyoto University

A new generation of super-sensitive submillimeter-wave receivers, employing SIS (Superconductor-Insulator- Superconductor) technology, will provide new opportunities for precise remote sensing observation of minor constituents in the atmosphere. SMILES had been launched at 11/09/2009, and installed on the Japanese Experiment Module (JEM) in the International Space Station (ISS). SMILES is a collaboration project between NICT and JAXA. Mission objectives of SMILES are:

i) Space demonstration of super-sensitive SIS mixer and 4-K mechanical cooler technology ii) Demonstration of super-sensitive global observation of atmospheric minor constituents JEM/SMILES observes the atmospheric species such as O3, H35Cl, H37Cl, ClO, HO2, BrO, HOCl, HOBr, HNO3, CH3CN, Ozone isotope species, H2O, and Ice Cloud with the precisions in a few to several tens percents. The altitude region of observation is from the upper troposphere to the mesopouse. We introduce you SMILES observation capability with the error analysis, early results of global distributions (L3 data). The early comparison/validation of ozone performed with several satellite data, such as MLS, ACE, OSIRIS and Odin.SMR. The statistical analysis showed the differences were less of 5% between SMILES and other satellites data validated.

Keywords: Submillimeter-wave, limb observation, ozone, UT/LS, mesosphere, climate change