Evaluation of GOSAT/TANSO-FTS TIR CH4 data using NICAM-TM and aircraft CH4 data

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Greenhouse gases Observing SATellite (GOSAT) is the first satellite that was dedicated to the global observations of CO_2 and CH_4 , and was launched on January 23, 2009. CH_4 profiles can be retrieved from the thermal infrared (TIR) band of Thermal and Near-infrared Sensor for Carbon Observation Fourier Transform Spectrometer (TANSO-FTS) on board the GOSAT. In this study, we compared CH₄ data from the TIR band of TANSO-FTS with CH₄ data from Nonhydrostatic ICosahedral Atmospheric Model-based Transport Model (NICAM-TM) [Niwa et al., 2011] and aircraft measurements to evaluate the quality of the TIR CH, data. First, we compared TIR, NICAM-TM, and CONTRAIL/GRENE CH, data [Sawa et al., 2015] on the isentropic surfaces in the upper troposphere and lower stratosphere. Second, we compared TIR CH_4 data with JMA aircraft CH_4 measurement data over Minamitorishima [Niwa et al., 2014] in the upper and middle troposphere. Here, we adopted a distance between TANSO-FTS and the aircraft measurement locations within ±3 degree and a time difference between the two observations within ±3 days as criteria for the comparisons. From the isentropic analysis, we found that the CONTRAIL/GRENE CH, concentrations showed a large seasonal variation in the lower stratosphere, while the TIR CH4 data had higher concentrations there than the CONTRAIL/GRENE data and showed a relatively small seasonal variation; the seasonal variation of the NICAM-TM CH, data were smaller than that of the TIR data. From the profile comparisons over Minamitorishima, we found that the TIR and aircraft CH₄ data agreed to each other within 30 ppb at around 6 km in winter and spring, while their differences increased to 30 -50 ppb in summer. We also investigated the impact of the coincident criteria on the comparisons results. Besides, we analyzed latitudinal distribution of TIR and aircraft CH, data in the upper troposphere between Atsugi and Minamitorishima.

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