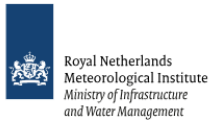





S5P Mission Performance Centre Readme OFFL Total Ozone



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1 Summary

This is the Product Readme File (PRF) for the public release of the Sentinel 5 Precursor Tropospheric Monitoring Instrument (S5p/TROPOMI) Total Ozone Level 2 data product and is applicable for the Offline (OFFL) timeliness product.

Product Identifier: **L2__O3__**

Example filename:

S5P_OFFL_L2__O3__20180809T121633_20180809T135802_04258_01_010102_20180815T141816.nc

This product has the following DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5270/S5P-fgouvyz>

The Readme file describes the current processing baseline, product and quality limitations, and product availability status. More information on this data product is available from the Sentinel product webpage:

<https://sentinels.copernicus.eu/web/sentinel/technical-guides/sentinel-5p/products-algorithms>,

and from the TROPOMI product webpage <http://www.tropomi.eu/data-products>.

The data file contains the `ozone_total_vertical_column` which gives the total atmospheric column between the surface and the top of atmosphere. The respective random uncertainty originating from the spectral fit is given in the `ozone_total_vertical_column_precision` field.

Data product requirement from the S5p Calibration and Validation Plan [RD01]:

Parameter	Data product	Vertical Resolution	Bias	Random
Ozone	Total ozone OFFL	Total column	3.5-5%	1.6-2.5%

Independent validation by Mission Performance Centre (MPC) Cal/Val experts and the Sentinel-5 Precursor Validation Team (S5PVT) conclude that version 01.01.02 of the OFFL ozone data is in good overall agreement with (i) reference measurements collected from global ground-based networks, and (ii) the corresponding satellite data product from Ozone Mapper and Profiling Suite (OMPS). The global bias with respect to the ground-based measurements is found to be below 1%, which is well within the mission requirements of maximum 3-4%. Also the biases at individual stations satisfy this requirement. The scatter of the differences around this bias also complies with mission requirements of $\pm 2.5\%$.

2 Processing baseline description

The following table contains a history of the processor versions.

Processor Version	In operation from	In operation until
01.01.02	OFFL: orbit 4147, 01-08-2018	current version

3 Product Quality

3.1 Recommendations for data usage

The `qa_value` as currently provided in the L2 files is often too conservative and leads to a too stringent filtering if used. It is recommended **not** to use this variable to filter data but rather to use the criteria defined in section 4 below for this.

For further details, data users are encouraged to read the Product User Manual (PUM) and Algorithm Theoretical Basis Document (ATBD) associated with this data product, both available on <https://sentinels.copernicus.eu/web/sentinel/technical-guides/sentinel-5p/products-algorithms>.

3.2 Validation results

3.2.1 Status of product validation

This section presents a summary of the key validation results obtained by the Validation data Analysis Facility (VDAF) of the S5p MPC and by the S5PVT. It contains preliminary results reported during the S5p Second Public Products Release Webex Meeting (September 28, 2018). Individual contributions to the workshop are archived in <https://sentinel.esa.int/web/sentinel/technical-guides/sentinel-5p/calibration-validation-activities/sentinel-5p-second-products-release-workshop>, while up-to-date validation results and consolidated validation reports are available through the MPC VDAF website at <http://mpc-vdaf.tropomi.eu>.

Current conclusions are based on the limited amount of reference measurements available at the time of this first analysis, and on the period covered by the initial S5p dataset. The conclusions summarized hereafter, although very likely representative of the product quality, will need to be confirmed by a larger amount of co-locations, and extended over more than a full year of data, hence, a full cycle of key influence quantities, in order to enable detection and quantification of potential patterns, dependences, seasonal cycles and longer-term features.

3.2.2 Validation approach

3.2.2.1 Ground-based networks

S5p/TROPOMI L2_O3___ total ozone column data are routinely compared to reference measurements acquired by instruments contributing to WMO's Global Atmosphere Watch: (1) Brewer and (2) Dobson UV spectrophotometers, and (3) NDACC zenith-sky DOAS UV-Visible spectrometers of the SAOZ type. Over the period tested, with respect to the reference data available at the time of this analysis, of the order of 20 to 200 co-locations have been identified at about 40 Brewer and Dobson sites and at 8 SAOZ sites, sampling many latitudes from the Arctic to the Antarctic.

3.2.2.2 Satellites

S5p/TROPOMI L2_O3___ OFFL total ozone columns are also compared to S5p/TROPOMI NRTI total ozone columns and to GODFIT and DOAS-type retrievals of total ozone from OMI/Aura, OMPS/Suomi-NPP, and GOME-2/MetOp-A,B, as well as OMPS/Suomi-NPP total ozone from NASA.

3.2.3 Validation results

Overall, the quality of the initial L2_O3___ OFFL v01.01.02 data product appears to comply with the mission requirements: a bias of max. 3.5-5% and a random uncertainty of max. $\pm 2.5\%$.

Ground-based data comparisons carried out by an independent team (AUTH, BIRA-IASB, ECCC and LATMOS-CNRS), and satellite-based comparisons carried out at AUTH, BIRA-IASB, and DLR lead to the following preliminary conclusions:

- **Bias:** the systematic difference between S5p and reference ground-based data at individual stations rarely exceeds 2%, as depicted in Figure 1. The median bias calculated over the entire ground-based networks is of the order of 0-0.5%. Between 50°S and 50°N, the mean agreement with other satellite data is within 1% as well (Figure 2 **Error! Reference source not found.**). This median bias value falls well within the mission requirements (max. bias of 3.5-5%).

- **Random difference:** the $\pm 1\sigma$ spread of the differences (between S5p and reference data) around the median value rarely exceeds 2-3% for the comparisons with direct-sun instruments. Combining random errors in satellite and reference measurements with irreducible co-location mismatch effects, it is likely that the random uncertainty on the S5p measurements falls within mission the requirements of max. $\pm 2.5\%$.
- **Dependence on influence quantities:** The analysis of potential dependence of the S5p bias and comparison spread on the Solar Zenith Angle (SZA), Air Mass Factor (AMF) and cloud fraction (CF) of the S5p measurement does not reveal yet any variation of the bias larger than 2% over the range of those influence quantities. Biases of -3% and +3% could exist at very small (<210K) and large (>240K) effective temperatures respectively, but this needs confirmation with more co-locations in these regimes. No bias larger than 1% is observed at more moderate effective temperatures. Note that differences w.r.t. DOAS-type satellite data products can increase up to a few percent at large SZA due to a more accurate retrieval algorithm in the OFFL processor.
- **Geographical patterns:** Maps of the bias between S5p and other satellite data sets reveal patterns correlating with weather patterns and atmospheric circulation features. These patterns are likely to be associated with differences in the modeling of the cloud properties, and also to differences in overpass times (e.g. 3.5 hours difference between S5p and GOME-2). The retrieval of the surface albedo in the OFFL product leads to reduced regional biases in comparison to satellite products still based on coarse and uncertain surface albedo climatologies (e.g. the S5p/TROPOMI NRTI product).
- **Short-term variability:** Qualitatively, at all of the 50 reference stations, short scale temporal variations in the ozone column as captured by ground-based instruments are reproduced very similarly by S5p. The overall good agreement is corroborated by Pearson correlation coefficients always above 0.95.

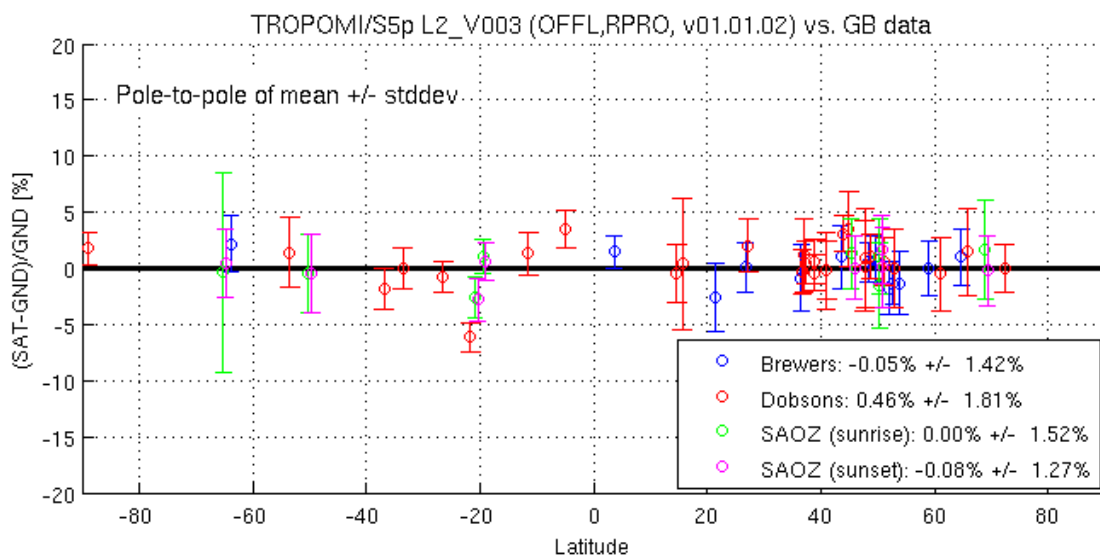


Figure 1 - Meridian dependence of the median and spread (± 1 sigma) of the bias between S5p TROPOMI L2_O3 (PDGS OFFL processor v01.01.02, RPRO+OFFL data set (11/2017 – 09/2018) and ground-based (GB) reference ozone column data, represented at individual stations from the Antarctic to the Arctic and per reference measurement type (Brewer, Dobson and SAOZ). The values in the legend correspond to the median and spread of all median (per station) differences. For clarity, sunrise and sunset SAOZ results have been offset by -0.5° and $+0.5^\circ$ in latitude.

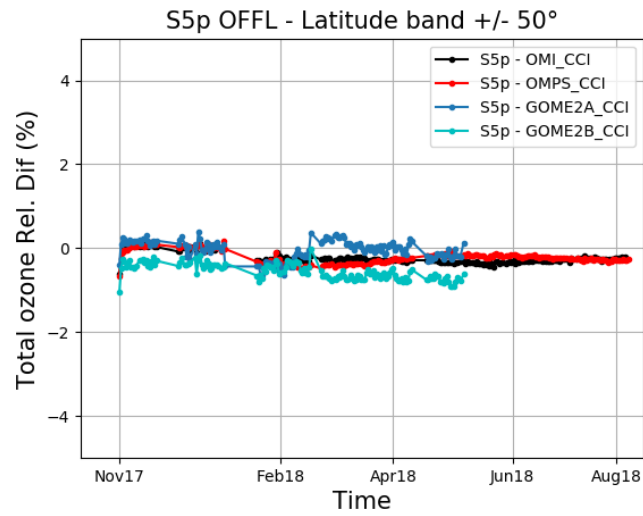


Figure 2 - Zonal mean relative differences between the total ozone S5p OFFL products and other satellite data sets generated with the same algorithm GODFITv4. Those differences averaged in the latitude band +/-50° are plotted as a function of time.

4 Known Data Quality Issues

Currently, the following data quality issues are known, not covered by the quality flags, and should be kept in mind when looking at the total ozone product itself and also at preliminary validation results.

Bands 3-4 and 6 spatial misalignment

The band 3-4 (450 pixels per scanline) footprints are not fully aligned with the band 6 (448 pixels per scanline) footprints. In the worst case, the misalignment can be of the order of half a ground pixel. The OCRA algorithm retrieves the CF at Bands 3 and 4. This is an *a priori* to the ROCINN algorithm which works in band 6. Over heterogeneous scenes this miss-registration might have a large impact on the data quality. In the current products, a shift of two detector pixels between band 3-4 and band 6 is applied based on initial assessment. Due to the resulting lack of the cloud information, the first two pixels of each scanline cannot be analyzed. The miss-registration might cause an over- or underestimation of the real cloud top altitude. A cloud top height error of 1 km may lead to total ozone errors of up to 1.5%.

qa_value

The current approach to compute the `qa_value` results in too low values at large solar zenith angles ($>75^\circ$), leading to a rejection of valid measurements at high latitudes if used to filter the product. Alternative approaches to compute `qa_value` are under investigation and are planned to be implemented in the future. Alternatively, the users can apply their own filters. For example, pixels with retrieved variables out of the following ranges should be used with care or rejected:

- `ozone_total_vertical_column` out of [0 to 0.45]
- `ozone_effective_temperature` out of [180 to 260]
- `ring_scale_factor` out of [0 to 0.15]
- `effective_albedo` out of [-0.5 to 1.5]

Smoothing error

The smoothing error representing the systematic error estimate due to the usage of the a-priori profile is provided in Dobson Unit instead of mol.cm^{-2} . Values consistent with the other variables are obtained by dividing them by 2241.15.

Pressure/AK/Profiles grids

In case of clear cases (cloud fraction=0), there is one layer less in the forward model and the pressure, a-priori profiles and averaging kernels grids are given in an inconsistent way in the output files.

Outliers

It has been identified that the product includes some rare outliers with unphysical retrieved effective temperature and total ozone columns. Those pixels are currently not flagged but would be easily removed, if the user use the filters recommended above.

Impact of cloud product

The OFFL product makes use of the Cloud as Reflecting Boundaries (CRB) parameters from the DLOUD operational product. Some occasional outliers have been identified in the CRB cloud top pressure fields (CTP too high) in Tropical regions. For such events, the OFFL total ozone columns are biased low. A correction in the cloud algorithm has been developed and will be implemented soon.

Saturation

Some TROPOMI pixels in band 6 might be affected by saturation. Those pixels should be flagged and their quality is reflected in the `qa_value`. Nevertheless, in the vicinity of saturated pixels there might be pixels also affected by saturation due to the so-called blooming effect. The blooming effect is planned to be corrected for in the future update of the level 1b processor. These pixels cannot be explicitly determined and flagged. This effect is not visible in the band 3 used for total ozone retrievals, but the product may nevertheless be impacted via the cloud parameters. In such cases, the total ozone column values are usually underestimated.

5 Algorithm Change Record

For a detailed description of the L2__O3____ algorithms, please refer to the ATBD [RD02].

6 Data Format

The product is stored as NetCDF4 file. The NetCDF4 file contains both the data and the metadata for the product.

Details of the data format are provided in the Product User Manual (PUM) [RD03].

6.1 Data format changes

This document describes the first public release of the OFFL total ozone product, therefore there are no changes to report.

7 Product Availability

The S5p OFFL data are available at <https://scihub.copernicus.eu>.

More information on this data product and data handling tools are available from the product web page under heading 'Tools': <http://www.tropomi.eu/data-products>.

For further questions regarding S5p/TROPOMI data products please contact EOSupport@Copernicus.esa.int.

The access and use of Copernicus Sentinel Data and Service Information is regulated under EU law. For more information regarding the legal notice for all S5p/TROPOMI data follow this link: https://sentinels.copernicus.eu/documents/247904/690755/Sentinel_Data_Legal_Notice.

8 References

- [RD01] Sentinel-5 Precursor Calibration and Validation Plan for the Operation Phase;
source: ESA; **ref:** ESA-EOPG-CSCOP-PL-0073;
<https://sentinels.copernicus.eu/documents/247904/2474724/Sentinel-5P-Calibration-and-Validation-Plan.pdf>
- [RD02] Sentinel-5 precursor/TROPOMI Level 2 Algorithm Theoretical Basis Document O3 Total Column;
source: DLR; **ref:** S5P-L2-DLR-ATBD-400A;
<https://sentinels.copernicus.eu/documents/247904/2476257/Sentinel-5P-TROPOMI-ATBD-Total-Ozone>
- [RD03] Sentinel-5 precursor/TROPOMI Level 2 Product User Manual O3 Total Column;
source: DLR; **ref:** S5P-L2-DLR-PUM-400A;
<https://sentinels.copernicus.eu/documents/247904/2474726/Sentinel-5P-Level-2-Product-User-Manual-Ozone-Total-Column>

More information on this data product is available from the Sentinel product webpage:

<https://sentinels.copernicus.eu/web/sentinel/technical-guides/sentinel-5p/products-algorithms>,

and from the corresponding TROPOMI product webpage <http://www.tropomi.eu/data-products>.

Abbreviations and acronyms

AMF	Air Mass Factor
ATBD	Algorithm Theoretical Basis Document
BIRA-IASB	Royal Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy
CF	Cloud Fraction (fractional cloud cover)
COT	Cloud Optical thickness
CRB	Cloud as Reflecting Boundaries
CTH	Cloud Top Height
DLR	German Aerospace Center / Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt
DOAS	Differential Optical Absorption Spectroscopy
ESA	European Space Agency
ESL	Expert Support Laboratory
EU	European Union
GB	Ground Based
GOME(-2)	Global Ozone Monitoring Experiment(-2)
KNMI	Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute / Koninklijk Nederlands Meteorologisch Instituut
MetOp	polar orbiting Meteorological Operational satellite
MPC	Mission Performance Centre
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NDACC	Network for the Detection of Atmospheric Composition Change
OMPS	Ozone Mapper and Profiling Suite
PRF	Product Readme File
PUM	Product User Manual
QWG	Quality Working Group
S5p	Sentinel-5 Precursor
S5PVT	Sentinel-5 Precursor Validation Team
Suomi NPP	Suomi National Polar-orbiting Partnership
SZA	Solar Zenith Angle
TROPOMI	Tropospheric Monitoring Instrument
VDAF	Validation Data Analysis Facility
VIIRS	Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite
WMO	World Meteorological Organization