SCIAMACHY: Level 0-1 Processor V9 and Phase F Re-processing

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Introduction

SCIAMACHY (SCanning Imaging Absorption spectroMeter for Atmospheric ChAracterization) was a scanning nadir and limb spectrometer. After the platform failure in April 2012, SCIAMACHY is now in phase F. It had unique capabilities:

- It could measure in Nadir, Limb and Occultation modes
- It observed Sun, Moon and Earth regularly for 10 years
- It covered the wavelength range from 212 nm to 2386 nm in 8 channels.
- It could detect a large variety of atmospheric gases (e.g. O3, H2CO, CHOCHO, SO2, BrO, OCIO, NOy, H2O, CO, CH4, among others) and did provide information about aerosols and clouds.
- It measured column densities and vertical profiles of trace gas species in the mesosphere, in the stratosphere and in the troposphere.

Processor Architecture

The DLR developed Generic Calibration & Processing System GCAPS is used as framework for the Level 0 decominator and the Level 1 processor. The framework provides a generic kernel, I/O layers and database interfaces. Processors for specific purposes and/or instruments are realised by adding plug-ins to the framework using the framework API. The user can define different calibration chains and can enable or disable plug-ins via a simple XML configuration file without the need of recompilation. The framework is also used in the operational Level 1 processing for MERLIN.

Processor History

In the first phases of the mission, the operational processor was implemented by industry, based on specifications and an IOD prototype from DLR-IMF. Major changes:

- Processor Major Changes
  - Processor V.1.2 (1999) First specification of processor (main elements)
  - Processor V.3 (2000) Adaptation of the industry processor to ESA specification
  - Processor V.4 (2003) Updates for polarisation algorithm
  - Processor V.5 (2003) Improvements for initialisation parameters (PMD, state set-up times etc.)
  - Processor V.6 (2005) Installation of SunCal for calibration data
  - Processor V.7 (2008) Software patch for on-board error in the writing of scanner encoder values

For version 8 onwards the re-implementation by industry was abandoned and the DLR processor (now C++ GCAPS framework) was used. Major changes:

- Processor Major Changes
  - Processor V.8 (2012) Re-implementation of scan mirror model for the degradation correction of radiance data
  - Processor V.9 (2018) New corrections for SWIR channels

New in V.9: Operations Information

In order to preserve important instrument information after the end of the mission, the following information was added to the Level 1b products:

- Operational change request valid for the product
  - Platform housekeeping data
  - Instruments housekeeping data
  - Orbit and state information

Contact Information

If you like to have further information, you can reach me at guenter.lichtenberg@dlr.de

Updated Degradation Correction

The degradation correction of SCIAMACHY was updated to better take into account the scan angle dependency and sun diffuser degradation. The top figure shows uncorrected values (ED0), the bottom a corrected spectrum of channel 2 over time; here only the sun distance related variations are visible. Vertical bars mark decontaminations.

Better Polarisation Correction

- Polarisation determination in Limb UV was updated to better reflect the spectral structure
- Polarisation determination for the Nadir UV theoretical point was updated (CHEOPS algorithm from GOME-1)
- Polarisation determination for Limb/Nadir from PMDs was completely reformulated

Updated Pointing

- Limb and occultation retrievals need very accurate pointing information for proper tangent heights.
- For the first time, lunar measurements have been utilized for this purpose.

Figure: Elevation and azimuth angle offsets. OLD: Mispointing with the current processor. NEW: Remaining mispointing with the improved pointing parameters (ILUP).

SWIR Improvements

The SWIR channel calibrations saw several improvements:

- Updated spectral calibration
- Updated bad & dead pixel mask dynamic correction for channel 8
- Updated dark correction for channel 8 improving the orbital dependency correction

Products now in netCDF4

- Future proof and accessible with standard tools
- Useful information for users added to more easily filter results
- Geolocation for individual measurements instead of only for the minimum observation time
- Right: Example for the new geolocation. Coloured rectangles represent individual Nadir observations. Black rectangles represent PMD observations and their centre (dots).

References & Further Information