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**An overview of the  
SPURT observations**

A. Engel et al.

# Highly resolved observations of trace gases in the lowermost stratosphere and upper troposphere from the Spurt project: an overview

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Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

EGU

## Abstract

During SPURT (Spurenstofftransport in der Tropopausenregion, trace gas transport in the tropopause region) we performed measurements of a wide range of trace gases with different lifetimes and sink/source characteristics in the northern hemispheric upper troposphere (UT) and lowermost stratosphere (LMS). A large number of in-situ instruments were deployed on board a Learjet 35A, flying at altitudes up to 13.7 km, at times reaching to nearly 380 K potential temperature. Eight measurement campaigns (consisting of a total of 36 flights), distributed over all seasons and typically covering latitudes between 35° N and 75° N in the European longitude sector (10° W–20° E), were performed. Here we present an overview of the project, describing the instrumentation, the encountered meteorological situations during the campaigns and the data set available from SPURT. Measurements were obtained for N<sub>2</sub>O, CH<sub>4</sub>, CO, CO<sub>2</sub>, CFC12, H<sub>2</sub>, SF<sub>6</sub>, NO, NO<sub>y</sub>, O<sub>3</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O. We illustrate the strength of this new data set by showing mean distributions of the mixing ratios of selected trace gases, using a potential temperature – equivalent latitude coordinate system. The observations reveal that the LMS is most stratospheric in character during spring, with the highest mixing ratios of O<sub>3</sub> and NO<sub>y</sub> and the lowest mixing ratios of N<sub>2</sub>O and SF<sub>6</sub>. The lowest mixing ratios of NO<sub>y</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> are observed during autumn, together with the highest mixing ratios of N<sub>2</sub>O and SF<sub>6</sub> indicating a strong tropospheric influence. For H<sub>2</sub>O, however, the maximum concentrations in the LMS are found during summer, suggesting unique (temperature- and convection-controlled) conditions for this molecule during transport across the tropopause. The SPURT data set is presently the most accurate and complete data set for many trace species in the LMS, and its main value is the simultaneous measurement of a suite of trace gases having different lifetimes and physical-chemical histories. It is thus very well suited for studies of atmospheric transport, for model validation, and for investigations of seasonal changes in the UT/LMS, as demonstrated in accompanying and elsewhere published studies.

## An overview of the SPURT observations

A. Engel et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

## 1. Introduction

SPURT (Spurenstofftransport in der Tropopausenregion, trace gas transport in the tropopause region) was a project under the German AFO 2000 programme. The main aim of SPURT was to measure trace species in the UT/LMS (Upper Troposphere/Lowermost Stratosphere) region and to use these observations to improve our understanding of the transport processes governing this region, with a focus on the transport pathways into the LMS. Hoskins et al. (1985) defined the LMS as the part of the lower stratosphere which is accessible from the troposphere along isentropic surfaces. The conceptual framework for trace gas transport into the LMS was laid by Holton et al. (1995), who identified two main transport pathways: (1) diabatic descent from above, i.e. air entering the LMS from the overworld (i.e., above the 380 K potential temperature level), and (2) isentropic transport across the extratropical tropopause. Since the extratropical tropopause is marked by a sharp increase in potential vorticity (PV), it is, however, clear that air can not move freely across the tropopause, not even along isentropes. During the last decade numerous studies have tried to quantify the contribution of different source regions to the budget of the lowermost stratosphere, based on observations (e.g. Hintsa et al., 1998; Ray et al., 1999; Pan et al., 2000; Hoor et al., 2005; Hegglin et al., 2004), Lagrangian transport studies (e.g. Dethof et al., 2000; Seo and Bowman, 2001; Wernli and Bourqui, 2002; Sprenger and Wernli, 2003; Stohl et al., 2003) and model based budget investigations (e.g. Appenzeller et al., 1996; Schoeberl, 2004). It has become clear from these studies, that the trace gas composition of the UT/LMS shows a pronounced seasonal variability, sometimes being dominated by stratospheric air, sometimes showing more tropospheric character. Fischer et al. (2000) and Hoor et al. (2002) showed that the lowermost stratosphere is not entirely well mixed. Above the tropopause, a layer is found where trace gases show intermediate values between typical tropospheric values and typical stratospheric values. In agreement with this, the seasonality of ozone concentrations has been observed to change rapidly from a typical upper tropospheric cycle at the lower boundary of this

### An overview of the SPURT observations

A. Engel et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

---

**An overview of the  
SPURT observations**A. Engel et al.

---

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

EGU

layer (on the 2 PVU potential vorticity surface) to a typical stratospheric one at 3.5 PVU (Brunner et al., 2001). With respect to trace gas transport, the tropopause is thus not a sharp barrier, but rather a transition zone with characteristics changing between those of the well mixed troposphere and those of the stably layered stratosphere

5 Hints et al. (1994) and Rosenlof et al. (1997) showed that the seasonal cycle of water vapour in the tropical lower stratosphere, which is due to the seasonal cycle of tropical tropopause temperatures (e.g. Mote et al., 1996), can also be observed at mid latitudes at levels with N<sub>2</sub>O mixing ratios as low as about 250 ppb, which is well inside the stratospheric overworld. Boering et al. (1996) found a similar behaviour for CO<sub>2</sub>.  
10 Rosenlof et al. (1997) used a combination of satellite and aircraft observations to investigate the transport of water vapour into and within the lower stratosphere. They concluded, that a “tropically controlled transition layer” exists in the mid latitude lower stratosphere which extends from the 380 K surface to about 450 K potential temperature, and which is influenced on rather short time scales (on the order of months) by  
15 transport from the tropics. Similar results were found by Boering et al. (1994) based on CO<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O observations, Rosenlof et al. (1997) observed the H<sub>2</sub>O minimum in the Northern Hemisphere lower stratosphere between 30 and 40° N around March, whereas the minimum in the tropics is found in January, i.e. about two months earlier. Downward transport of air from this tropically controlled transition layer might  
20 serve as an additional pathway to enter the lowermost stratosphere for air masses which still have tropospheric characteristics. In contrast to tropospheric air masses transported across the extratropical tropopause, these air masses originate in the tropical tropopause region. The observations of a seasonal cycle in trace species or of relatively high mixing ratios of age tracers such as SF<sub>6</sub> (which indicates young air)  
25 in the lowermost stratosphere, is therefore not necessarily an indication of transport across the extratropical tropopause. An overly simplistic view of the lowermost stratosphere being a mixture of aged stratospheric air and air entering via the extratropical tropopause (isentropically or in association with diabatic processes) will thus not be able to explain trace gas compositions in the lowermost stratosphere.

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**An overview of the  
SPURT observations**A. Engel et al.

---

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

EGU

The tropopause region is important with respect to the atmospheric chemical and radiative budgets. Due to the fact that the LMS is more closely coupled to the troposphere (as opposed to the overworld stratosphere), short-lived pollutants of tropospheric origin are more likely to propagate into the LMS. Ozone in this region of the atmosphere is, therefore, more vulnerable to anthropogenic pollution than O<sub>3</sub> in the overworld. A significant temporal decrease in O<sub>3</sub> has been observed in the midlatitude lower stratosphere (Logan et al., 1999; Fioletov et al., 2002), but trends in the LMS are not well known due to large dynamical variability and appear to vary strongly with season and location (Logan et al., 1999) and with the considered time period (WMO, 2003). Changes in the chemical composition of the UT/LMS region strongly affect the atmospheric radiative budget and in particular the efficiency of ozone as a greenhouse gas peaks around the tropopause (e.g. Lacis et al., 1990; Van Dorland and Fortuin, 1994; Forster and Shine, 1997). Especially the variability of the chemical composition and the processes controlling this variability need to be understood.

In the following we present the SPURT objectives, the measurement capabilities and the campaign concept. We then describe the measurements performed during SPURT and the meteorological situations encountered during the individual campaigns. Finally, we give an overview of the N<sub>2</sub>O, CO, O<sub>3</sub>, SF<sub>6</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>y</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O data using potential temperature and equivalent latitude as reference coordinates and grouping the data by season (with two campaigns for each season). Detailed scientific results are subject of specific papers, which are listed at the end of this overview.

## 2. The scientific aim of SPURT

The aim of SPURT was to provide a high quality data set for a number of trace gases with different lifetimes and different source-sink characteristics in the UT/LMS for each of the four seasons. Data of sufficient quality and coverage in this region are still sparse. Programmes using commercial aircraft (e.g. Marenco et al., 1998; Brenninkmeijer et al., 1999; Brunner et al., 2001) only reach the lower part of the extratropical lowermost

---

**An overview of the  
SPURT observations**

---

A. Engel et al.

---

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

EGU

stratosphere, and satellite data do not have sufficient vertical and horizontal resolution in order to catch the fine scale structures present in the lowermost stratosphere. Dedicated aircraft campaigns investigating the lowermost stratosphere mostly focussed on observing special situations where TST (troposphere-to-stratosphere transport) or STT (stratosphere-to-troposphere transport) are expected to occur. In contrast, SPURT was designed to establish a comprehensive data set, leading towards a climatology of the air mass composition in the UT/LMS rather than to focus on special events which could introduce a bias in the results obtained. A total of eight measurement campaigns were performed in a cost- and time-efficient way using a Learjet 35A aircraft, which is able to reach a altitudes of up to 13.7 km. The aircraft was equipped with in-situ instrumentation for the measurement of a large variety of tracers with different lifetimes and sink-source distributions, which included CO, O<sub>3</sub>, NO, NO<sub>y</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O, CFC-12, H<sub>2</sub>, SF<sub>6</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O. During each campaign the UT/LMS over Europe was probed between about 35° N and 75° N.

The primary scientific goal was to investigate how the trace gas distribution in the UT/LMS varies with latitude and season. The data allow gaining insight into the dynamical and chemical processes that govern the variability of trace gas mixing ratios in this region. Although for climatological studies of variability a much larger data set is necessary, systematic variations between seasons can be derived from the data provided adequate reference coordinates are chosen. Hoor et al. (2004a, 2004b), Hegglin et al. (2005a)<sup>1</sup> and Krebsbach et al. (2005a<sup>2</sup>, b<sup>3</sup>) showed that a substantial

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<sup>1</sup>Hegglin, M. I., Brunner, D., Peter, Th., Hoor, P., Fischer, H., Staehelin, J., Krebsbach, M., Schiller, C., Parchatka, U., and Weers, U.: Measurements of NO, NO<sub>y</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O, and O<sub>3</sub> during SPURT: Seasonal distributions and correlations in the lowermost stratosphere, Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., to be submitted, 2005a.

<sup>2</sup>Krebsbach, M., Brunner, D., Günther, G., Hegglin, M., Maser, R., Mottaghy, D., Riese, M., Spelten, N., Wernli, H., and Schiller, C.: Seasonal cycles and variability of H<sub>2</sub>O and O<sub>3</sub> in the UT/LMS during SPURT, Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., to be submitted, 2005a.

<sup>3</sup>Krebsbach, M., Brunner, D., Günther, G., Hegglin, M., Spelten, N., and Schiller, C.: Char-

---

**An overview of the  
SPURT observations**A. Engel et al.

---

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[I◀](#)[▶I](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

EGU

amount of scatter in the observations can be removed by representing the data in a potential temperature versus equivalent latitude coordinate system, because this accounts for the influence of transient (and largely reversible) north-south excursions of air parcels associated with Rossby and other waves, which largely contribute to the variability in geographical space. Using this coordinate system they were able to construct characteristic trace gas distributions for each season. These distributions are largely determined by seasonal differences in transport processes, i.e. the downward transport from the overworld, the meridional transport of air in the lower stratosphere from the tropics to mid and high latitudes above the 380 K isentropic surface, and the coupling between the extratropical UT and LMS below 380 K. In addition, the water vapour data allow investigating the effect of freeze-drying at the tropical and extratropical tropopause. The age tracers CO<sub>2</sub> and SF<sub>6</sub> serve to derive typical transport times for air to reach the LMS. Using correlation analyses and trace gas distributions in combination with models, the SPURT data are useful to investigate under which conditions mixing occurs. Furthermore, the data are also useful for case studies (e.g. Hegglin et al., 2004) of atmospheric transport processes.

### 3. Instrumentation and data treatment

#### 3.1. The SPURT payload

The aircraft used as a platform for the SPURT observations is a Learjet 35A operated by the company GFD (Gesellschaft für Flugzieldarstellung) in Hohn, Northern Germany (52° N/6° E) in cooperation with the company enviscope. The aircraft reaches a maximum altitude of about 13.7 km and has a range of about 4000 km, while carrying a scientific payload of about 1000 kg. The payload for SPURT consisted of an in-situ gas chromatograph (GhOST II), a tuneable diode laser absorption spectrometer

acteristics of the extratropical transition layer as derived from H<sub>2</sub>O and O<sub>3</sub> measurements in the UT/LS, Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., to be submitted, 2005b.

---

**An overview of the  
SPURT observations**A. Engel et al.

---

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

EGU

(TRISTAR), a Lyman- $\alpha$  fluorescence hygrometer (FISH), a chemiluminescence instrument (ECO), an ozone photometer (JOE) and a non-dispersive infrared spectrometer (FABLE). The measurement capabilities, including typical precisions and accuracies, as well as time resolutions are summarised in Table 1.

5 Beside this scientific instrumentation, which is explained in detail in the following sections, standard avionic and meteorological data were provided by GFD/enviscope. A set of sensors for temperature, differential and static pressure, a data acquisition, and interfaces to the permanently installed aircraft sensors (e.g. GPS antennas, air data computer) was installed in the beginning of each SPURT campaign. This basic instru-  
10 mentation set allows to retrieve position data, static temperature, static and dynamic pressure, true airspeed and mean horizontal wind speed and direction.

### 3.1.1. GhOST II

The gas chromatograph GhOST II (Wetter, 2002) is a three channel gas chromatograph, which was developed based on the GhOST instrument described by Bujok et  
15 al. (2001). GhOST II compresses outside air by means of a diaphragm pump, then injects samples of this compressed air onto three gas chromatographic columns. Two columns are equipped with ECD detectors for the measurement of CFC 12, SF<sub>6</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O. These compounds are calibrated relative to the NOAA/CMDL scale (e.g. Elkins et al., 1993; Montzka et al., 1996). The third column is equipped with a Reduction Gas  
20 Detector (RGD) to measure H<sub>2</sub> and CO. The measurements are corrected for detector non-linearities and for effects of the cross interference of CO<sub>2</sub> on the N<sub>2</sub>O measurements.

### 3.1.2. TRISTAR

The three channel Tunable Diode Laser Absorption Spectrometer (TDLAS) TRISTAR  
25 (Tracer in situ TDLAS for atmospheric research, Wienhold et al., 1998; Kormann et al., 2002) was used to measure in situ CO, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O. The ultimate time resolu-

---

**An overview of the  
SPURT observations**A. Engel et al.

---

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

EGU

tion of 5 seconds is determined by the subsequent measurement of each individual channel with an integration time of 1.3 s. The instrument is calibrated in-flight every 10 min against secondary standards of dried compressed air which are cross calibrated against long term laboratory primary standards of NOAA and NIWA. The overall uncertainty is determined from the reproducibility of the in-flight calibrations. After post flight data processing we typically achieved a reproducibility of the in-flight calibrations of 1.0%, 1.5% and 2.5%, for N<sub>2</sub>O, CO, and CH<sub>4</sub>, respectively. The errors are slightly larger during ascent and descent.

### 3.1.3. FABLE

To measure CO<sub>2</sub> we used the modified Li-COR 6262 NDIR-instrument FABLE (Fast AirBorne Licor Experiment). The instrument was pressure- and temperature-stabilized to minimize sensitivity changes. Time resolution was 1 Hz and ultimately limited by the flow rate through the system. The instrument was in flight calibrated against secondary standards of dried compressed ambient air. To account for the nonlinearity of the instrument and to guarantee long term stability the setup was cross calibrated against primary standards of NOAA-CMDL with different CO<sub>2</sub>-content. With this setup the total uncertainty is estimated to be better than 0.3 ppmv (Gurk, 2003).

### 3.1.4. FISH

The Fast In-situ Stratospheric Hygrometer (FISH) is an instrument to measure H<sub>2</sub>O using the Lyman- $\alpha$  photofragment fluorescence technique. Details of the instrument are described in Zöger et al. (1999). The instrument is calibrated in the laboratory before and after each mission and during the SPURT campaigns at each stopover at the home base in Hohn using a calibration bench with a frost point hygrometer as a reference instrument. FISH is sensitive to make H<sub>2</sub>O measurements in the range from about 500–0.2 ppmv in the UTLS. For stratospheric mixing ratios, the overall accuracy is 6% and the precision 0.15 ppmv at 1 s time resolution. During SPURT, FISH was

equipped with a forward-facing inlet of 10 mm inner diameter. Thus the total water, i.e. the sum of gas-phase and condensed cloud or ice water was measured. Data in clouds are corrected for oversampling in the unisokinetic inlet.

### 3.1.5. ECO

5  $\text{NO}_y$ , NO, and  $\text{O}_3$  were measured using a fast and highly sensitive chemiluminescence analyzer (ECO Physics CLD 790 SR) with three independent channels. Total reactive nitrogen ( $\text{NO}_y$ ) was reduced to NO prior to the measurement by using an externally mounted catalytic gold converter with CO as reduction agent (Fahey et al., 1985; Lange et al., 2002). NO then was measured by chemiluminescence, by letting NO react with  
10 an excess of  $\text{O}_3$ .  $\text{O}_3$  was measured based on the same principle but with an excess of NO. The instrument was calibrated in-flight, before and after each campaign with known amounts of NO,  $\text{NO}_2$ , and  $\text{O}_3$  to account for changing operating conditions such as temperature and pressure that influence the performance of the instrument. The precision of the  $\text{NO}_y$ , NO, and  $\text{O}_3$  data with a resolution of 1 Hz were 11 pptv, 9 pptv,  
15 149 pptv, respectively. The accuracy of the measurements was 16% for  $\text{NO}_y$ , 4.5% for NO and 5% for  $\text{O}_3$ . All these values are based on a  $2\sigma$  confidence level. A more detailed description of the ECO-instrumentation is given in Hegglin et al. (2005a)<sup>1</sup>.

### 3.1.6. JOE

Ozone was also measured by UV absorption using the Jülich Ozone Experiment  
20 (JOE). JOE is based on a commercial Thermo Electron Corporation two-stream monitor (model TE 49C) which was modified for operation at reduced pressure of the probed air and in the aircraft environment (Mottaghy, 2001). The instrument was regularly calibrated against a laboratory instrument (TE 49C Primary Standard). The accuracy of the ozone monitor is 5% and can be operated to a precision of 2.5 ppbv at an integration  
25 time of 10 s. For the use in the SPURT merged data files, JOE data are interpolated to 4 or 5 s intervals.

---

## An overview of the SPURT observations

A. Engel et al.

---

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

## 3.2. Instrument intercomparisons

Several trace gases were measured with different instruments. In particular O<sub>3</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O and CO were measured by two instruments which should deliver data of comparable quality. The CO data set obtained from GhOST II is rather small and the instrument was not very well characterized for this species. While in general the tropospheric data of CO showed reasonable agreement between GhOST II and TRISTAR, the GC yielded higher values at low mixing ratios. This could either be due to an in-situ CO production in the instrument or to a poor detector characterisation. However, the CO data of GhOST II were not used widely, so no thorough data intercomparison has been performed. After the SPURT 7 campaign (see below) an NO<sub>y</sub> intercomparison flight was performed with the MOZAIC NO<sub>y</sub> instrument (Volz-Thomas et al., 2005), yielding satisfactory agreement with ECO. Results from this intercomparison will be presented in a separate paper (Paetz et al., 2005<sup>4</sup>). The intercomparisons detailed in the following, are, therefore, restricted to the N<sub>2</sub>O and O<sub>3</sub> data.

### 3.2.1. Intercomparison JOE-O<sub>3</sub> and ECO-O<sub>3</sub>

O<sub>3</sub> was measured by the Juelich Ozone Experiment (JOE) using photometry and simultaneously by ECO using chemiluminescence. Beside the two different measurement techniques the two instruments differ by their time resolution of <1 s for the ECO- and 10 s for the JOE-instrument.

For the following evaluation of the two instruments, the collected data of campaign SPURT 7 (see Sect. 4.2) was chosen due to the large dynamical range between 50 and 1000 ppbv O<sub>3</sub>. Figure 1 shows the scatter plot of the two instruments with a linear least-square approximation of the data, taking into account errors in both coordinates. In addition, the expected one-to-one correlation line is given. The correlation was

<sup>4</sup>Paetz, H. W., Volz-Thomas, A., Hegglin, M. I., Brunner, D., Fischer, H., and Schmidt, U.: In-situ comparison of the NO<sub>y</sub> instruments flown in MOZAIC and SPURT, in preparation, 2005.

## An overview of the SPURT observations

A. Engel et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

---

**An overview of the  
SPURT observations**

---

A. Engel et al.

---

calculated for all data points collected during the five flights of SPURT-7 resulting in a total of 9823 data points. The primary data was merged to 5 s values in averaging the ECO O<sub>3</sub> with a sample rate of 1 s over a 5 s interval and interpolating the JOE O<sub>3</sub> with sample rate of 4 s to the center of each interval. The resulting data is clustered around a straight line with a correlation coefficient of 0.995, indicating that the two data sets are in close agreement. The best linear fit parameters for the slope and the intercept indicate that there is still a significant systematic difference between the two instruments: the slope of 1.064 ( $\pm 0.002$ ) indicates a 6.4% difference in the two separately collected data sets. This difference is, however, well within the combined overall uncertainties of the two instruments.

### 3.2.2. Intercomparison GhOST II N<sub>2</sub>O and TRISTAR-N<sub>2</sub>O

As in the case of O<sub>3</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O was measured with two completely independent techniques on board the Learjet. The TDL spectrometer TRISTAR provides high resolution data at a time resolution of 5 s whereas the GC GhOST II measures N<sub>2</sub>O with a time resolution of 60 to 90 s (depending on the chromatographic set-up). Both instruments (or their predecessors) have been intercompared previously (Bujok et al., 2000; Hoor et al., 1999) and were shown to agree within their specified errors. The N<sub>2</sub>O observations during the SPURT campaign only span mixing ratios between about 270 and 320 ppbv, giving a low dynamical range, which implies that high precision and accuracy of the data are required. The reproducibility of GHOST II increased due to analytical improvements between SPURT-2 and SPURT-3 from about 1.5% to better than 0.8%. During SPURT-4 and SPURT-5 the precision was better than 0.5%, and about 0.3% during all later measurements. Averaged over all campaigns the mean reproducibility was 0.56%. The precision of the TRISTAR TDL is typically 1% for N<sub>2</sub>O, being slightly reduced during the initial ascents and final descents and during SPURT-1 and SPURT-2. Figure 2 shows the direct comparison between TRISTAR and GhOST II observations during the flights of the SPURT-6 campaign. Even small scale structures are reproduced very well by both instruments. Figure 3 shows the scatter plot between GHOST

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[|◀](#)[▶|](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

EGU

11 observations and TRISTAR measurements at the same time (due to the higher time resolution of TRISTAR only a small fraction of the TRISTAR data are included in the plot). The scatter around the regression line is 0.91% (1 sigma), which is well below the combined stated precisions of both instruments, showing that the error estimates are conservative.

### 3.3. Data post-processing

Measurements from the different instruments were obtained at different sampling intervals and at different time lags due to the varying sampling properties and instrumental response times. A cross-correlation analysis was therefore performed on pairs of observations from a single flight in order to assess a time lag correction for each instrument. These corrections were in the range of 1 to 8 s depending on the instrument and were found to vary by no more than 1 to 2 s between the different flights and campaigns.

Data recorded by the individual instruments and the Learjet flight data system were finally combined into a single “merge file” with a time resolution of 5 s, which is available for each flight in addition to the instrument-specific data files. Meteorological data from ECMWF analysis fields interpolated from the model grid onto the flight tracks were also included in the merge files. These fields comprise temperature, winds, humidity, potential vorticity, and equivalent latitude. Equivalent latitude ( $\phi_e$ ) versus PV relations were first calculated from the PV distributions on 14 isentropic surfaces between 270 and 400 K to obtain a two-dimensional field  $\phi_e$  (PV,  $\theta$ ), which was then linearly interpolated onto the ECMWF model PV and potential temperature values along the flight track.

10-day backward trajectories based on 3-hourly ECMWF fields of horizontal and vertical winds were started every 10 s along the flight track using the LAGRANTO trajectory tool (Wernli and Davies, 1997). Minimum and maximum values of PV, temperature, latitude and relative humidity along the trajectories as well as the number of hours since the last tropopause crossing (defined as change from above/below to below/above 2 PVU) were also stored in the merge files. All this ancillary data proved

---

## An overview of the SPURT observations

A. Engel et al.

---

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

useful for the analysis and interpretation of the observations.

### 3.4. Data availability

The data can be freely downloaded from <http://www.iac.ethz.ch/spurt/> provided a simple user data protocol is agreed on, stating that the instrument PIs should be informed about the use of their data at an early stage of the investigation and that co-authorship should be offered for publications making use of these data.

## 4. The measurement strategy and the SPURT campaigns

### 4.1. The measurement strategy

As the aim of SPURT was to provide observations under typical conditions of the UT/LMS region during all seasons, we performed a total of eight measurement campaigns within an observational period of 2 years from November 2001 until July 2003, probing each season twice. The flight routes of each campaign were covering the UT/LMS in the European longitude sector from high Northern latitudes to the subtropics as far equatorward as possible. In order to achieve this goal under reasonable costs, the campaigns had to be organised in a very efficient way. All instruments were designed to allow fast mounting on the aircraft and were able to measure within one single day. Because of capacity constrictions, only 2 operators were allowed to participate in the flights and thus the instruments had to be automated, so that they could be operated with minimal interference from the board crew. This strategy proved to be very successful, since we were able to perform a SPURT campaign within five days. A typical campaign started with two and a half days for integration and instrument checks on board (including an aircraft seal property test and mass distribution assessment), followed by a first flight day going northward or southward and the second flight day heading in the opposite direction on the following day, provided that no instrument failures occurred. Table 2 shows a summary of the dates, the amount of flight hours and

---

## An overview of the SPURT observations

A. Engel et al.

---

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

the amount of aircraft booking days for each campaign. The SPURT strategy allowed us to keep aircraft dry leasing costs low, by flying under the given meteorological conditions on fixed days and spending only a minimum time for integrating and testing the instruments.

5 The two flight days were fixed from the beginning of the campaign and it was our strategy not to wait for any specific meteorological situation with the advantage, that the SPURT data set is not biased by specific conditions. To optimise the flight route, we used the meteorological forecasts prepared by the ETH Zürich based upon operational forecast data from ECMWF for flight planning. The flight in each direction then  
10 consisted of an outbound flight, a refuelling stop after about 4 flight hours and then a second flight back to the aircraft base at Hohn. Optionally, the second flight would go further outbound and the base at Hohn would only be reached after a second refuelling stop. In order to achieve an optimal sampling of the UT/LMS the first part of a flight usually consisted of a first level just above the tropopause in the vicinity of the strongest  
15 PV-gradients and a second level well above the tropopause. This pattern was mirrored on the return flight on the same day such that each geographical location was sampled twice at two different altitudes. Before each landing the aircraft climbed to maximum altitude followed by a slow descent to the airport in order to obtain highly resolved vertical profiles. Since the airports chosen for intermediate stops mostly were rather small  
20 remote airports, we were able to measure clean air vertical profiles during the descent into the airports. The flight path of the Learjet for all campaigns is shown in Fig. 4.

## 4.2. The campaigns

In the following section we give a brief overview of the individual SPURT campaigns, including the dates, flight directions, the meteorological setting, and general information  
25 on instrument performance or failures. A more detailed overview of the meteorological

---

## An overview of the SPURT observations

A. Engel et al.

---

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

---

**An overview of the  
SPURT observations**A. Engel et al.

---

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[I◀](#)[▶I](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

EGU

situation during each campaign will be given by Wernli and Brunner (2005)<sup>5</sup>. No details on the individual flights are given, since this would be beyond the scope of this paper. The SPURT campaigns are named chronologically, starting with SPURT-1. If reference

5 E.g. flight S3.2 denotes the second flight of the third SPURT campaign. The data availability for the individual flights is summarised in Table 3. Table 4 summarises some meteorological parameters, the locations, the maximum O<sub>3</sub> and the minimum N<sub>2</sub>O mixing ratios for all the individual flights, as an indication on how deep the individual flights reached into the LMS:

#### 10 4.2.1. SPURT-1: 10/11 November 2001

During the first autumn campaign the aircraft flew south to Faro (Portugal), reaching 35° N on 10 November 2001. The aircraft was crossing a deep upper level trough during the southbound flight and was flying mostly within the troposphere on the return flight conducted to the west of the trough. The meteorological situation and the mea-

15 surements during the first flight were described in detail in the case study of Hegglin et al. (2004). On 11 November the northbound leg with a refuelling stop over Kiruna (Sweden) reached 73° N before returning to Hohn. All instruments except GHOST II worked well during this campaign. CO<sub>2</sub> data are not available for flight S1.2.

#### 4.2.2. SPURT-2: 17–19 January 2002

20 During the first winter campaign the aircraft first headed south to Casablanca, flying mostly within a narrow stratospheric streamer stretching from Great Britain to northern Africa, and then proceeded further south. Due to an overheated fan in the aircraft ventilation system an emergency landing on the Canary Island was necessary. The aircraft reached 27° N during this campaign, where the southernmost data available from

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<sup>5</sup>Wernli, H. and Brunner, D.: A meteorological characterization of the SPURT campaigns and the issue of representativity, Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., to be submitted, 2005.

---

**An overview of the  
SPURT observations**A. Engel et al.

---

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

EGU

SPURT were taken. After repair the aircraft returned to Hohn and continued northwards on 19 January, with a refuelling stop in Tromsø (Norway). A tropospheric streamer associated with an elevated tropopause extending from central Europe to Scandinavia was probed twice on these flights to and from Tromsø. Again, the northernmost data from this campaign are from about 73° N. Data are available from all instruments for this campaign, although some GC data (Flight S2.4) are lacking.

#### 4.2.3. SPURT-3: 16/17 May 2002

The synoptic situation during this campaign was dominated by high pressure conditions over central Europe. Again the aircraft first headed south, refuelling in Jerez (Spain). Most of this flight took place in close vicinity of the tropopause. The southern edge of the data available from this campaign is at 36° N. The northbound flights on 17 May reached deep into the stratosphere over Scandinavia and extended as far north as 75° N. The stopover was in Tromsø (Norway). Data are available from all instruments for this campaign, the GC data are only complete for SF<sub>6</sub>.

#### 4.2.4. SPURT-4: 22/23 August 2002

Entire Europe was characterized by a flat pressure distribution and a relatively high tropopause. A moderate cyclone was located near Iceland. In order to cross the tropopause on a high flight level we flew south to Monastir (Tunisia), reaching 33° N on 22 August where we expected to measure subtropical tropospheric air at high altitudes. On 23 August the northbound measurements were carried out. This is one of the two occasions when we chose to fly northwest instead of north, in order to reach deep into the stratosphere over Iceland where a low tropopause was predicted. The refuelling stop was in Keflavik (Iceland), and data are available up to a latitude of 64° N. No GC data are available for the southbound flights and on the northbound flights water vapour data are missing. All other instruments worked nominally.

#### 4.2.5. SPURT-5: 17/18 October 2002

The second autumn campaign took place after the passage of a low pressure system over northern Germany mostly in a region with a low tropopause. Again we flew southward on the first measurement day, refuelling in Sevilla (Spain) and reaching the southernmost latitude of 35° N on the flight back. The northbound leg went to Keflavik towards an isolated tropospheric air mass, and the northernmost datapoints are from 64° N. This campaign has the most complete data set of all, as all instruments worked nominally during all flights.

#### 4.2.6. SPURT-6: 15/16 February 2003

During this campaign a very prominent high-pressure system was situated over middle and northern Europe and therefore the tropopause was generally quite high. The southbound flight to Faro (Portugal) took place on 15 February and reached 36° N. The northbound leg on 16 February went to Longyearbyen (Spitsbergen) after a stop over in Tromsø (Norway). Data are available from as far north as 82° N and are the most poleward data available from SPURT. Only ECO (chemiluminescence) provided ozone data during the flight S6.4 and 6.5. All other data are complete.

#### 4.2.7. SPURT-7: 27–29 April 2003

Europe was divided meteorologically into two broad regions during this campaign, a low pressure area towards the northwest (with a centre between Scotland and Iceland) and a high pressure area over the southern and eastern parts. The northbound flight took place on 27 April and reached 73° N. The stopover airport was Kiruna (Sweden). The southbound flights took place on 28 April, with a stopover at Lisbon (Portugal) and southernmost datapoints around 38° N. After this campaign, an extra flight for intercomparison of NO<sub>y</sub> instruments was added. This flight headed north on 29 April. As the NO<sub>y</sub> instrument used for the MOZAIC programme (Volz-Thomas et al., 2005)

---

## An overview of the SPURT observations

A. Engel et al.

---

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

was added to the payload, the TDL and the CO<sub>2</sub> instrument had to be removed for this extra flight.

#### 4.2.8. SPURT-8: 9–10 July 2003

The final campaign took place in a region between a mature Icelandic Low and an anticyclone over Russia. Over south-western Europe the tropopause was richly structured with slowly evolving filaments of tropospheric and stratospheric air. The southern flights were performed on 9 July and the stopover airport was again Faro (Portugal) and data are available down to 36° N. The northbound flights on 10 July reached 73° N with refuelling at Tromsø (Norway). Data from this campaign are complete, with the exception of CO<sub>2</sub>, which is not available.

## 5. Data overview

In order to give an overview of the data collected during SPURT, the measurements of N<sub>2</sub>O, CO, O<sub>3</sub>, SF<sub>6</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>O and NO<sub>y</sub> will be presented in the equivalent latitude – potential temperature coordinate system, and grouped by season. Since the distributions of CFC-12 and CH<sub>4</sub> are very similar to those derived from N<sub>2</sub>O, they will not be presented separately. For all distributions shown below, the data from the two campaigns in each season have been combined and binned on a 5° equivalent latitude/5 K potential temperature grid. A mean from all measurements inside each grid box was then calculated. In the case of N<sub>2</sub>O two instruments (TRISTAR and GhOST II) provided data, with different temporal resolutions and precisions, the GC GhOST II having a higher precision than the TDL TRISTAR. The mean values given for each box represents an average of TDL and GC data, each measurement point being weighted according to its precision (e.g. a single GHOST II observation with 0.5% precision would be weighted twice as heavily as a TRISTAR measurement point with 1% precision). In the case of O<sub>3</sub> the data from the UV photometer JOE were used as these

## An overview of the SPURT observations

A. Engel et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

are available over the entire time frame of the project, with the exception of two flights during February 2003. For these flights the chemiluminescence measurements by the ECO instrument were used.

### 5.1. Nitrous oxide – N<sub>2</sub>O

5 Nitrous oxide shows very uniform values in the troposphere (Fig. 5). For example during the campaigns in 2003 the GhOST II measured mean tropospheric N<sub>2</sub>O values between 318.4±1.5 (1 sigma standard deviation) in February 2003 and 319.7±1.5 ppb in July 2003. The standard deviations include the instrumental precisions, which is on the order of 1 ppb. With the exception of the spring season, values very close to the  
10 tropospheric mean are observed up to PV values of 4 to 6 PVU depending on season. The lowest N<sub>2</sub>O values are observed during spring. The minimum N<sub>2</sub>O value observed during SPURT was 263 ppb during flight S7.1. during other spring time flights the lowest values were on the order of 280 ppb. The highest, i.e. most tropospheric values are found during autumn. During the autumn campaign SPURT-1 in November 2001, the  
15 lowest N<sub>2</sub>O observations were around 294 ppb, and during the second autumn campaign (SPURT-5 in October 2002) no N<sub>2</sub>O values below 300 ppb were observed. Note the similarity between the distributions observed during winter and summer and the tilt of the isopleths relative to isentropes.

### 5.2. Carbon monoxide – CO

20 The distribution of CO derived from SPURT (Fig. 6) has been discussed previously by Hoor et al. (2004a, b). CO shows higher variability than N<sub>2</sub>O in the troposphere and a latitudinal gradient, with lower mean values in the upper troposphere at low latitudes. CO has a much shorter lifetime than e.g. N<sub>2</sub>O, on the order of 3 months, but also has a stratospheric source from methane oxidation. In the background stratosphere typical  
25 values below 15 ppb are expected. Such low mixing ratios are only observed far away from the tropopause in the overworld at altitudes exceeding the SPURT flight ceiling.

---

## An overview of the SPURT observations

A. Engel et al.

---

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

Average values below 40 ppb are only observed for  $PV > 6$  PVU, which is only the case at a distance of at least  $\Delta\theta = 20$  to 30 K above the local tropopause.

### 5.3. Ozone – $O_3$

Ozone has its main sources in the stratosphere. The seasonal changes of upper tropospheric ozone are not resolved in the figures shown below. Note, however, that the SPURT data show  $O_3$  values in the tropopause region (2–3 PVU) in spring and summer being about 60% higher than corresponding values in autumn and winter (see also Hegglin et al., 2005a<sup>1</sup>; Krebsbach et al., 2005a<sup>2</sup>). This seasonal variation is generally smaller at 5–6 km, which is considered to be representative of the free troposphere, since it is neither influenced by small scale anomalies of the tropopause height nor by local emissions of  $O_3$  precursors that generally take place in the boundary layer (Fischer et al., 2005<sup>6</sup>). As in the case of  $N_2O$  the most stratospheric values are observed in the upper part of the LMS during spring, where maximum values close to 1000 ppbv were observed. Much lower values were measured during the other seasons. The ozone isopleths very closely follow the PV isolines. During summer and even more pronounced during autumn, a region of rather low ozone is observed in the lowermost stratosphere up to PV values of 4 to 6 PVU between about 20 and 40 degrees of equivalent latitude.

### 5.4. Sulfur hexafluoride – $SF_6$

Sulfurhexafluoride is an extremely long lived atmospheric trace gas, which has its only sink in the mesosphere. In contrast to most of the other tracers measured during SPURT, the vertical gradient observed in  $SF_6$  is not caused by chemistry but is rather

<sup>6</sup>Fischer, H., Lawrence, M. G., Gurk, C., Hoor, P., Lelieveld, J., Hegglin, M. I., Brunner, D., and Schiller, C.: Model simulations and aircraft measurements of vertical, seasonal and latitudinal  $O_3$  and CO distributions over Europe, Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., submitted, 2005.

## An overview of the SPURT observations

A. Engel et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

---

**An overview of the  
SPURT observations**A. Engel et al.

---

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

EGU

due to the time lag with which the tropospheric increase propagates into the LMS. It is therefore not possible to combine SF<sub>6</sub> data from different years without accounting for the long-term trend. Therefore, we present the SF<sub>6</sub> data from the second annual cycle, based on the SPURT campaigns 5 to 8 (Fig. 8), which provide a complete SF<sub>6</sub> data set. Again, the air with the strongest stratospheric influence is observed during spring, where the lowest mixing ratios of SF<sub>6</sub> were found. As with many other tracers, the distribution of SF<sub>6</sub> closely follows the PV isolines. Note that SF<sub>6</sub> increases in the troposphere at a rate of about 4 to 5% per year (i.e. about 0.1 ppt per year). This is reflected by the higher values of SF<sub>6</sub> in the summer (the SPURT-8 campaign took place in July 2003) than in autumn (SPURT-5 was carried out in October 2002).

### 5.5. Carbon dioxide – CO<sub>2</sub>

Similar to SF<sub>6</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub> also has a sufficiently long atmospheric lifetime to reveal its long-term trend in the stratosphere. In addition, CO<sub>2</sub> has a pronounced seasonal cycle in the troposphere, due to the uptake and release by vegetation. The distribution of CO<sub>2</sub> (Fig. 9) therefore shows a unique pattern. As is the case of SF<sub>6</sub>, only one seasonal cycle is shown, as the long term increase could otherwise mask the seasonal variability. Since the data set for the first seasonal cycle is more complete, we present the results from SPURT-1 to 4. During SPURT-1 in Autumn 2001 very little variability of CO<sub>2</sub> was observed throughout the LMS. During winter and spring, the CO<sub>2</sub> values in the LMS are mostly below the tropospheric values. On the contrary, during summer, CO<sub>2</sub> was higher in the stratosphere than in the troposphere. This particular behavior of CO<sub>2</sub> was described by Hoor et al. (2004b), who suggested that a large part of the air in the lowermost stratosphere with elevated CO<sub>2</sub> (as well as CO >15 ppb) was caused by relatively fast transport from the upper tropical troposphere, where tropospheric summertime CO<sub>2</sub> values are higher than in the mid latitude during the same period.

## 5.6. Reactive nitrogen – NO<sub>y</sub>

Reactive nitrogen (NO<sub>y</sub>) is the sum of all reactive nitrogen species with an oxidation state higher than one. The production of reactive nitrogen is initiated in the stratosphere due to reaction of N<sub>2</sub>O with O(1D). In addition, sources due to lightning, deep convective injection of planetary boundary layer air, and air traffic emissions may influence the budget of NO<sub>y</sub> in the UT/LMS. Figure 10 shows the observed distributions of NO<sub>y</sub>. As the scale is reversed (i.e. the blue colours show the highest values) with respect to Fig. 5 (N<sub>2</sub>O distribution), the distributions look very similar. The highest values of NO<sub>y</sub> are observed during spring in the highest part of the LMS, again indicating the strongest stratospheric influence during this time of the year. Conversely, the summer and autumn distributions reveal significant influence of transport from the troposphere. A detailed discussion of the observed NO<sub>y</sub> tracer distributions and implications for the origin of air masses in the lowermost stratosphere as obtained from tracer-tracer correlations is given by Hegglin et al. (2005a)<sup>1</sup>.

## 5.7. Total water – H<sub>2</sub>O

Water is a tracer which is strongly influenced by freeze-drying during the transport into the LMS. The highest mixing ratios of H<sub>2</sub>O are observed during summer and the lowest values during autumn (Fig. 11). This seasonality is in accordance with other observations of H<sub>2</sub>O in the LMS (Krebsbach et al., 2005b<sup>3</sup> and references therein) but differs clearly from other tracers observed during SPURT, which show the most pronounced tropospheric influence a few months later. The difference must be explained by the different mechanisms controlling water vapour in the LMS and its large gradients at the tropopause which make H<sub>2</sub>O a very sensitive indicator for cross-tropopause transport. During the transit from summer to autumn very dry air appears to be transported into the lowermost stratosphere. Water vapour is also the tracer which shows most significantly the tropospheric influence even at rather large distances from the local tropopause. One reason is again that H<sub>2</sub>O concentrations have by far the largest con-

### An overview of the SPURT observations

A. Engel et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

**An overview of the  
SPURT observations**

A. Engel et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

EGU

trast between tropospheric and stratospheric values. Further, there are practically no sinks of water vapour in the LMS except freeze-drying at the coldest point which is located near the tropopause. Thus, once humid air masses have entered the LMS, they can only be diluted with drier stratospheric background air and be removed from the LMS by transport. Finally, the efficiency of freeze-drying at the tropopause shows a strong seasonal cycle and latitudinal dependence, overlaid by episodic short-term variability. Detailed investigations of H<sub>2</sub>O transport across the extratropical tropopause and its seasonality are given in specific studies (Krebsbach et al., 2005a<sup>2</sup>, b<sup>3</sup>).

**6. Conclusions and outlook**

SPURT has provided a comprehensive data set of trace gases for the lowermost stratosphere (LMS) in the Northern Hemisphere. This data set is of high quality and contains a number of important trace gases with different lifetimes and different source/sink characteristics. The SPURT data set also provides an ideal basis for studies of meso- and small-scale troposphere-to-stratosphere transport processes (e.g. isentropic or associated with deep convection) and their impact on lowermost stratospheric trace gas distributions. The high quality of the data set is evident from the intercomparison between the simultaneously measured N<sub>2</sub>O (by GC and TDL) and O<sub>3</sub> (by UV absorption and chemiluminescence). Both intercomparisons show an agreement which is better than the stated combined uncertainties of the instruments over the entire range of values. In several studies we show, that by using an adequate coordinate system (potential temperature and equivalent latitude) much of the natural variability, which is due to reversible synoptic-scale processes, can be removed from the data (e.g. Hoor et al., 2004a, b; Hegglin et al., 2005a<sup>1</sup>; Krebsbach et al., 2005a<sup>2</sup>, b<sup>3</sup>). Presenting the data in this coordinate system, clear seasonalities in the lowermost stratosphere are observed. Over the course of the winter and into spring, the LMS is filled up with air of marked stratospheric character, which has comparatively low mixing ratios of N<sub>2</sub>O, SF<sub>6</sub>, CO, and H<sub>2</sub>O but relatively high mixing ratios of ozone and NO<sub>y</sub>. This air is re-

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**An overview of the  
SPURT observations**A. Engel et al.

---

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

EGU

placed over the summer and into autumn by air of more tropospheric character, having higher mixing ratios of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{SF}_6$  and lower mixing ratios of  $\text{NO}_y$  and ozone. Within the SPURT project the driest air in the lowermost stratosphere was observed during autumn and winter, whereas the moistest air was present in summer. The SPURT observations reveal a tropopause following transition layer (Hoor et al., 2004b, 2005; Hegglin et al., 2005b; Krebsbach et al., 2005b<sup>3</sup>), showing trace gas mixing ratios intermediate between typical tropospheric and stratospheric values. This layer shows seasonal variability and slightly varying thickness, depending on the trace gases used for its determination and the elapsed time since the mixing occurs (e.g. Hoor et al., 2004a, 2005; Krebsbach et al., 2005b<sup>3</sup>). The SPURT data reveal that the LMS is a mixture of air from the overworld and from the extratropical upper troposphere (e.g. Hoor et al., 2004b; Hegglin et al., 2005b), as is also assumed in some budget studies (e.g. Ray et al., 1999). However, another important pathway influencing the lowermost stratosphere is fast transport of upper tropospheric air from the tropics, as evidenced in the seasonal cycle of  $\text{CO}_2$  or of tracer-tracer correlations (e.g. Hoor et al., 2004b, 2005; Bönisch et al., 2005<sup>7</sup>; Hegglin et al., 2005a<sup>1</sup>). This transport can occur either isentropically (e.g. through exchange near the sub-tropical tropopause break) or via the tropically controlled transition layer (Rosenlof et al., 1997) in the extratropical lower stratosphere. Budget studies allow investigating the seasonality of the influence of different source regions on the LMS (e.g. Bönisch et al., 2005<sup>7</sup>), indicating that depending on season 30–50% of the air in the LMS originate at the tropical tropopause (Hoor et al., 2005).

Accompanying modelling work focuses on transport of air into the lowermost stratosphere, using the SPURT observations to compare the model results with atmospheric reality. The SPURT data set is ideally suited for the initialisation and systematic evaluations of models, in particular for transport studies and budget investigations in the

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<sup>7</sup>Bönisch, H., Engel, A., Schmidt, U., et al.: A budget study of air mass origin in the lowermost stratosphere based on in-situ observations of  $\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{SF}_6$  during SPURT, in preparation, 2005.

---

**An overview of the  
SPURT observations**A. Engel et al.

---

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

EGU

UT/LMS on regional up to hemispherical scales, and for investigations of seasonal variability. Several studies using a simple 2-D model (Hegglin et al., 2005a<sup>1</sup>) up to full 3-D Lagrangian CTM (CLaMS) have been carried out or are under preparation (Günther et al., 2005<sup>8</sup>; Pan et al., 2005<sup>9</sup>). SPURT data have also been applied to assimilation techniques (Elbern and Strunk, 2005). Case studies of atmospheric transport in the UT/LMS for specific SPURT missions are carried-out using e.g. Reverse Domain Filling (RDF) techniques or a parameterised convective influence analyses (e.g. Hegglin et al., 2004; Krebsbach, 2005). Detailed investigation of backward trajectories together with the trace gas observations reveal important aspects for instance of TST events. Finally, the SPURT campaign spurred more theoretical work on fundamental properties of tracer advection in the extratropical tropopause region (Wirth et al., 2005) and on the sharpness of the extratropical tropopause during baroclinic development (Szabo and Wirth, 2005<sup>10</sup>).

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The Institute for Atmospheric and Climate Science (ETH) thanks the Swiss National Fund for its support of the NO<sub>y</sub>-, NO<sub>x</sub>-, and O<sub>3</sub>-instrumentation and MeteoSwiss for granting access to the ECMWF data.

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---

### An overview of the SPURT observations

A. Engel et al.

---

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

---

**An overview of the  
SPURT observations**

---

A. Engel et al.

---

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

EGU

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---

**An overview of the  
SPURT observations**A. Engel et al.

---

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

EGU

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---

**An overview of the  
SPURT observations**

---

A. Engel et al.

---

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

EGU

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**An overview of the  
SPURT observations**

---

A. Engel et al.

---

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

EGU

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## An overview of the SPURT observations

A. Engel et al.

**Table 1.** SPURT measurement equipment. As some of the instruments have been improved during the project, this table reflects the latest state of the measurement possibilities.

Instrument	Institution	Technique	Species	Resolution [s]	Precision	Accuracy
GhOST II	JWGU-IMG	In-situ GC	SF <sub>6</sub> , CFC-12, N <sub>2</sub> O, CO, H <sub>2</sub>	70	<1% for all, <0.5% for N <sub>2</sub> O and CFC-12	<2% for all, <1.5% for N <sub>2</sub> O and CFC-12
TRISTAR	MPICH-LC	TDL	CH <sub>4</sub> , N <sub>2</sub> O, CO	5	1% for all species	2% for all species
FABLE	MPICH-LC	IR-spectroscopy	CO <sub>2</sub>	1		0.3 ppm
FISH	FZJ-ICG-I	Lyman- $\alpha$ Fluorescence	H <sub>2</sub> O	1	<3%	6%
JOE	FZJ-ICG-I	O <sub>3</sub> Photometer	O <sub>3</sub>	10/4	<3%	5%
ECO	ETH-Z	chemiluminescence	NO, O <sub>3</sub>	1	9 pptv, 149 pptv for O <sub>3</sub>	4.5% for NO, 5% for O <sub>3</sub>
	ETH-Z, MPICH-LC	AU-converter with chemiluminescence	NO <sub>y</sub>	1	11 pptv	16%

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

EGU

## An overview of the SPURT observations

A. Engel et al.

**Table 2.** SPURT campaigns, with dates, number of flight hours, number of flights and number of days the aircraft was booked.

Campaign	Flight dates	Flight hours	No. of flights	No. of aircraft days
SPURT-01	10/11 Nov. 2001	15:33	4	5
SPURT-02	17–19 Jan. 2002	21:28	6	5
SPURT-03	16/17 May 2002	18:48	4	4
SPURT-04	22/23 Aug. 2002	14:59	4	4
SPURT-05	17/18 Oct. 2002	17:22	4	4
SPURT-06	15/16 Feb. 2003	19:36	5	4
SPURT-07	27–29 Apr. 2003	18:00	5	5
SPURT-08	9/10 Jul. 2003	17:01	4	4
Sum		142:47	36	35

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

EGU

**Table 3.** SPURT data availability, sorted by instrument for each flight. A = data available, P = data partly available, – = no data. As O<sub>3</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O were measured by two instruments, data for these species are available for all flight. Water vapour is missing for 2 flights, CO<sub>2</sub> for 5 flights and SF<sub>6</sub> for 7 flights. NO<sub>y</sub> data are available for all flights.

Flight	date	aircraft	TRISTAR	GhOST II	JOE	FISH	ECO	LICOR	MERGE
S1.1	10 Nov. 2001	A	A	–	A	A	A	A	A
S1.2	10 Nov. 2001	A	A	–	A	A	A	–	A
S1.3	11 Nov. 2001	A	A	–	A	A	A	A	A
S1.4	11 Nov. 2001	A	A	–	A	A	A	A	A
S2.1	17 Jan. 2002	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
S2.2	17 Jan. 2002	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
S2.3	18 Jan. 2002	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
S2.4	18 Jan. 2002	A	A	–	A	A	A	A	A
S2.5	19 Jan. 2002	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
S2.6	19 Jan. 2002	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
S3.1	16 May 2002	A	A	P	A	A	A	A	A
S3.2	16 May 2002	A	A	P	A	A	A	A	A
S3.3	17 May 2002	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
S3.4	17 May 2002	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
S4.1	22 Aug. 2002	A	A	–	A	A	A	A	A
S4.2	22 Aug. 2002	A	A	–	A	A	A	A	A
S4.3	23 Aug. 2002	A	A	A	A	–	A	A	A
S4.4	23 Aug. 2002	A	A	A	A	–	A	A	A
S5.1	17 Oct. 2002	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
S5.2	17 Oct. 2002	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
S5.3	18 Oct. 2002	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
S5.4	18 Oct. 2002	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
S6.1	15 Feb. 2003	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
S6.2	15 Feb. 2003	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
S6.3	16 Feb. 2003	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
S6.4	16 Feb. 2003	A	A	A	–	A	A	A	A
S6.5	16 Feb. 2003	A	A	A	–	A	A	A	A
S7.1	27 April 2003	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
S7.2	27 April 2003	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
S7.3	28 April 2003	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
S7.4	28 April 2003	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
S7.5	29 April 2003	A	–	A	A	A	A	–	A
S8.1	09 July 2003	A	A	A	A	A	A	–	A
S8.2	09 July 2003	A	A	A	A	A	A	–	A
S8.3	10 July 2003	A	A	A	A	A	A	–	A
S8.4	10 July 2003	A	A	A	A	A	A	–	A

## An overview of the SPURT observations

A. Engel et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

EGU

**Table 4.** SPURT flight coverage: Length of flight, maximum western longitude ( $^{\circ}$  W are negative), maximum eastern longitude, minimum and maximum latitude reached by the Learjet. The maximum  $\Theta$  and  $\Delta\Theta$  levels, as well as the minimum  $N_2O$  levels and the maximum  $O_3$  levels observed during the flights are also shown.

Flight	date	Flight Hours hh:mm	Lon west	Lon east	Lat min	Lat max	$\Theta$ max	$\Delta\Theta$ max	PV max	$O_3$ max	$N_2O$ min
			[ $^{\circ}$ ]	[ $^{\circ}$ ]	[ $^{\circ}$ ]	[ $^{\circ}$ ]	[K]	[K]	[PVU]	[ppbv]	[ppb]
S1.1	10 Nov. 2001	04:10	-9.83	9.56	35.78	54.32	370.1	66.3	10.4	659.3	293.4
S1.2	10 Nov. 2001	04:11	-8.42	9.52	37.01	54.29	362.1	2.0	2.7	115.0	309.8
S1.3	11 Nov. 2001	02:44	9.37	21.39	54.29	68.66	370.0	71.7	8.7	538.5	296.8
S1.4	11 Nov. 2001	04:01	9.68	25.24	54.19	73.12	367.6	69.6	9.0	580.6	294.7
S2.1	17 Jan. 2002	04:24	-8.22	9.56	33.49	54.34	365.4	52.0	8.6	397.4	300.2
S2.2	17 Jan. 2002	01:21	-14.44	-7.77	27.50	33.33	342.0	18.7	6.1	212.5	311.0
S2.3	18 Jan. 2002	02:27	-15.39	-7.69	27.92	38.60	363.1	25.7	8.1	280.2	303.0
S2.4	18 Jan. 2002	03:25	-9.14	9.56	38.77	54.14	360.9	28.2	9.0	398.1	302.6
S2.5	19 Jan. 2002	04:27	0.11	19.20	54.31	73.20	361.7	58.3	8.6	693.9	285.7
S2.6	19 Jan. 2002	04:16	0.10	19.07	54.39	73.13	372.2	65.8	9.0	693.3	286.3
S3.1	16 May 2002	04:40	-8.68	9.63	36.13	54.32	355.5	16.3	7.4	376.9	296.5
S3.2	16 May 2002	04:21	-13.92	8.85	36.72	54.22	369.4	40.1	9.9	670.7	281.0
S3.3	17 May 2002	04:24	9.25	24.00	54.28	75.10	372.6	67.5	8.5	790.9	279.7
S3.4	17 May 2002	04:34	5.02	18.97	47.85	69.75	371.6	31.9	8.4	686.5	280.8
S4.1	22 Aug. 2002	03:47	9.52	13.60	33.80	54.32	363.1	22.8	9.3	364.6	300.6
S4.2	22 Aug. 2002	03:26	8.33	11.86	35.72	54.52	370.9	40.2	9.4	448.7	298.6
S4.3	23 Aug. 2002	03:36	-27.21	9.76	54.31	65.05	370.4	56.9	10.2	435.2	301.6
S4.4	23 Aug. 2002	03:44	-22.63	9.75	53.34	63.99	364.6	36.5	9.2	371.9	303.6
S5.1	17 Oct. 2002	04:26	-7.03	9.56	36.50	54.32	359.0	43.8	8.2	266.7	306.3
S5.2	17 Oct. 2002	04:25	-8.00	9.89	35.42	54.27	373.2	64.0	9.3	356.4	306.7
S5.3	18 Oct. 2002	04:11	-26.27	9.56	53.71	63.71	365.4	42.8	9.3	300.3	309.4
S5.4	18 Oct. 2002	03:35	-26.63	9.40	54.27	64.11	371.1	65.4	8.9	509.3	303.4
S6.1	15 Feb. 2003	04:30	-12.00	9.68	36.84	54.32	362.6	60.7	8.0	711.1	291.9
S6.2	15 Feb. 2003	04:21	-7.97	10.02	37.00	54.25	373.2	69.9	9.1	708.3	291.9
S6.3	16 Feb. 2003	02:50	9.55	18.54	54.31	69.85	354.5	37.0	7.5	364.6	307.4
S6.4	16 Feb. 2003	03:32	10.02	30.08	69.54	82.07	356.8	57.9	8.9	751.7	288.9
S6.5	16 Feb. 2003	03:35	9.34	19.08	54.36	78.26	358.5	40.3	9.1	503.6	300.2
S7.1	27 April 2003	04:10	9.37	21.00	54.29	72.99	378.2	77.1	9.0	1049.9	263.2
S7.2	27 April 2003	04:38	8.43	20.35	49.99	70.53	373.6	60.7	8.2	736.4	285.2
S7.3	28 April 2003	04:29	-10.39	9.54	38.50	54.31	355.6	27.9	7.1	645.1	289.1
S7.4	28 April 2003	04:16	-10.19	13.44	37.95	54.51	366.7	43.3	9.3	657.9	288.4
S7.5	29 April 2003	04:12	9.42	15.60	53.27	66.09	367.1	47.9	8.3	746.1	284.9
S8.1	09 July 2003	03:56	-8.70	9.56	35.88	54.32	363.8	34.0	9.3	430.4	300.1
S8.2	09 July 2003	04:20	-8.05	9.55	35.87	54.47	365.3	32.4	8.0	469.4	299.3
S8.3	10 July 2003	03:57	9.30	21.82	54.29	73.25	372.2	66.2	10.9	559.0	292.8
S8.4	10 July 2003	04:05	6.54	21.75	49.90	69.69	367.2	34.7	10.1	567.6	291.1

## An overview of the SPURT observations

A. Engel et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

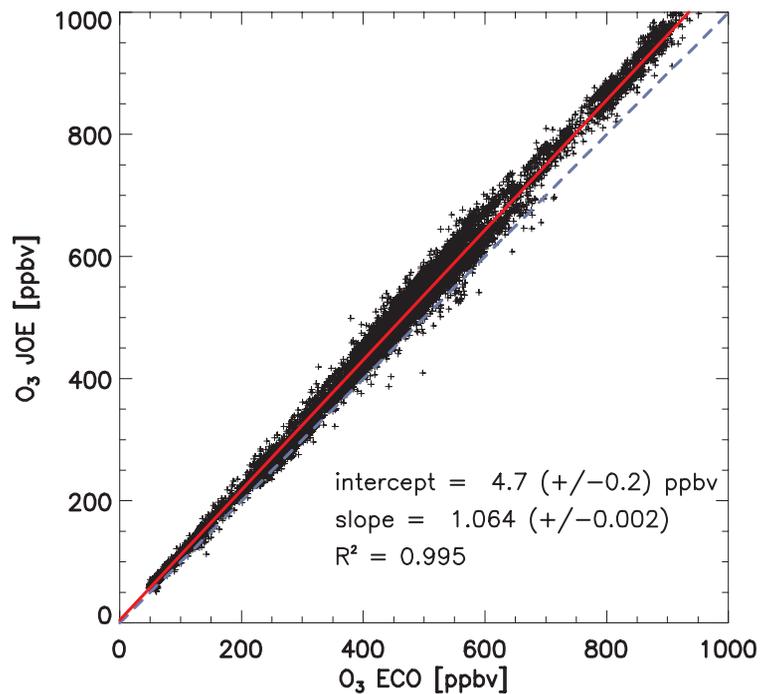
Print Version

Interactive Discussion

EGU

**An overview of the  
SPURT observations**

A. Engel et al.



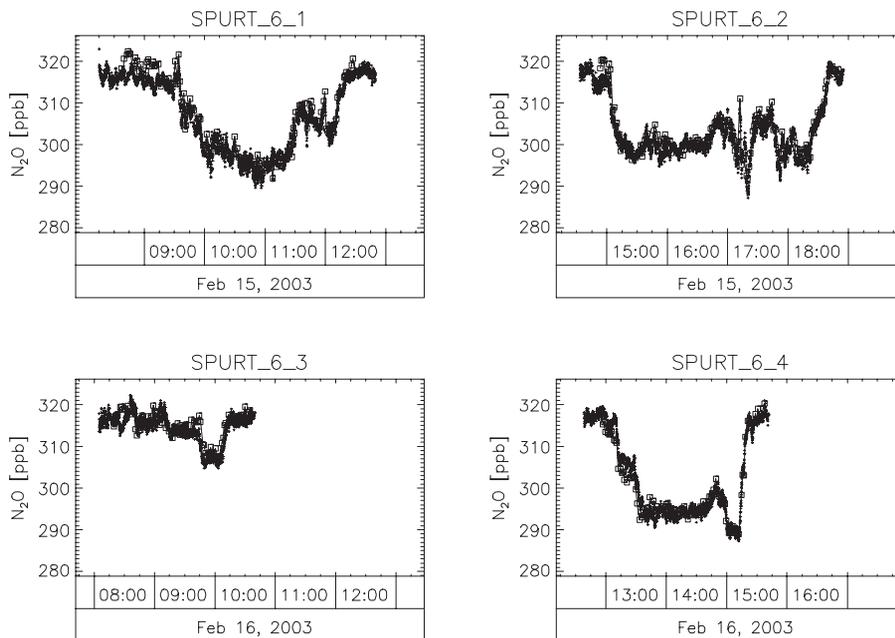
**Fig. 1.** Least-square approximation of a linear fit between the O<sub>3</sub> data from JOE and ECO (red solid line). The dashed blue line indicates the one-to-one correlation.

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

EGU

**An overview of the  
SPURT observations**

A. Engel et al.



**Fig. 2.** Direct intercomparison of  $N_2O$  time series measured by GhOST II (open squares) and by TRISTAR (points). Due to the much higher sampling frequency, the TDL data set is much larger than the GC data. However, also small scale features are well captured by both instruments, e.g. the spike in the data observed during flight SPURT6.2 around 17:10 UTC.

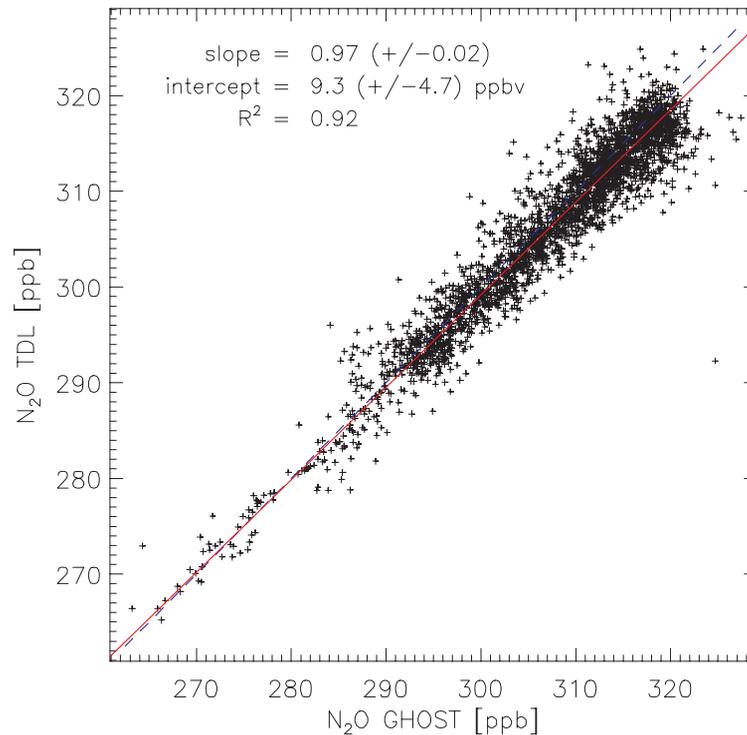
[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

EGU

---

**An overview of the  
SPURT observations**A. Engel et al.

---



**Fig. 3.** Least-square approximation of a linear fit between the  $N_2O$  data of TRISTAR and GhOST II. The dynamical range for the correlation (red line) is much lower than for ozone (cf. Fig. 1), which results in a lower regression coefficient. The dashed blue line represents the expected 1:1 correlation line.

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

EGU

An overview of the SPURT observations

A. Engel et al.

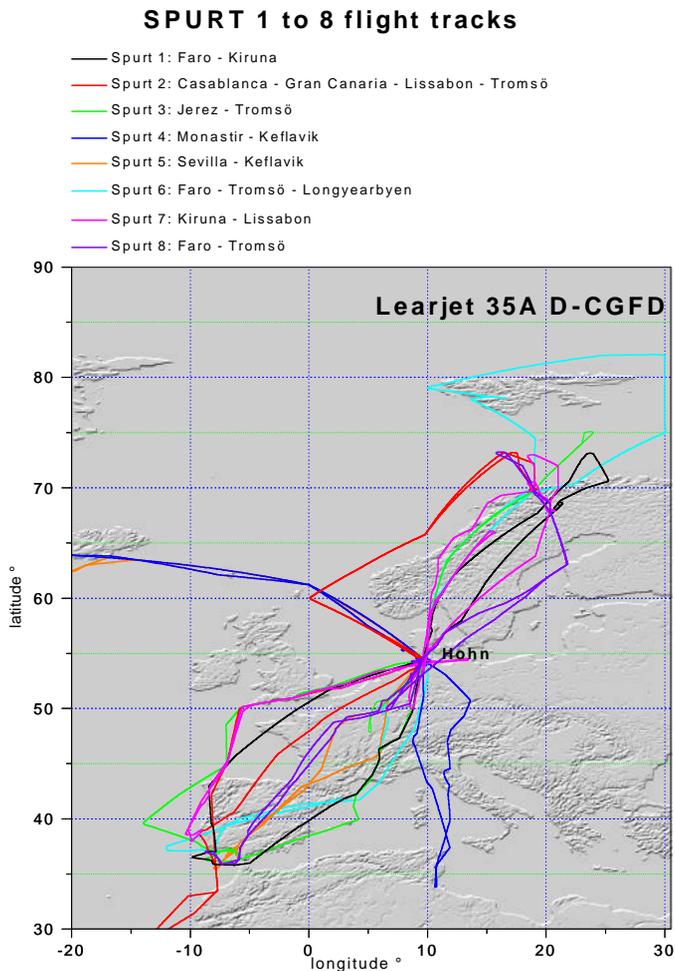


Fig. 4. Flight path of the Learjet for all 8 SPURT measurement campaigns.

Title Page

Abstract Introduction

Conclusions References

Tables Figures

◀ ▶

◀ ▶

Back Close

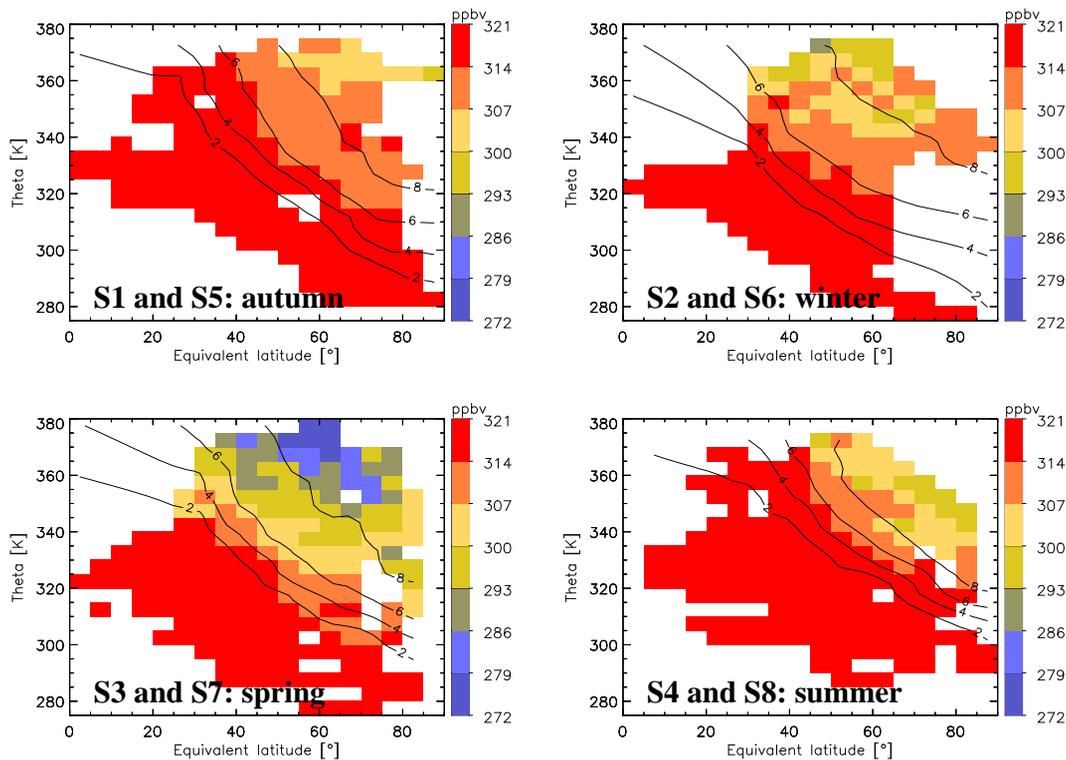
Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

An overview of the  
SPURT observations

A. Engel et al.



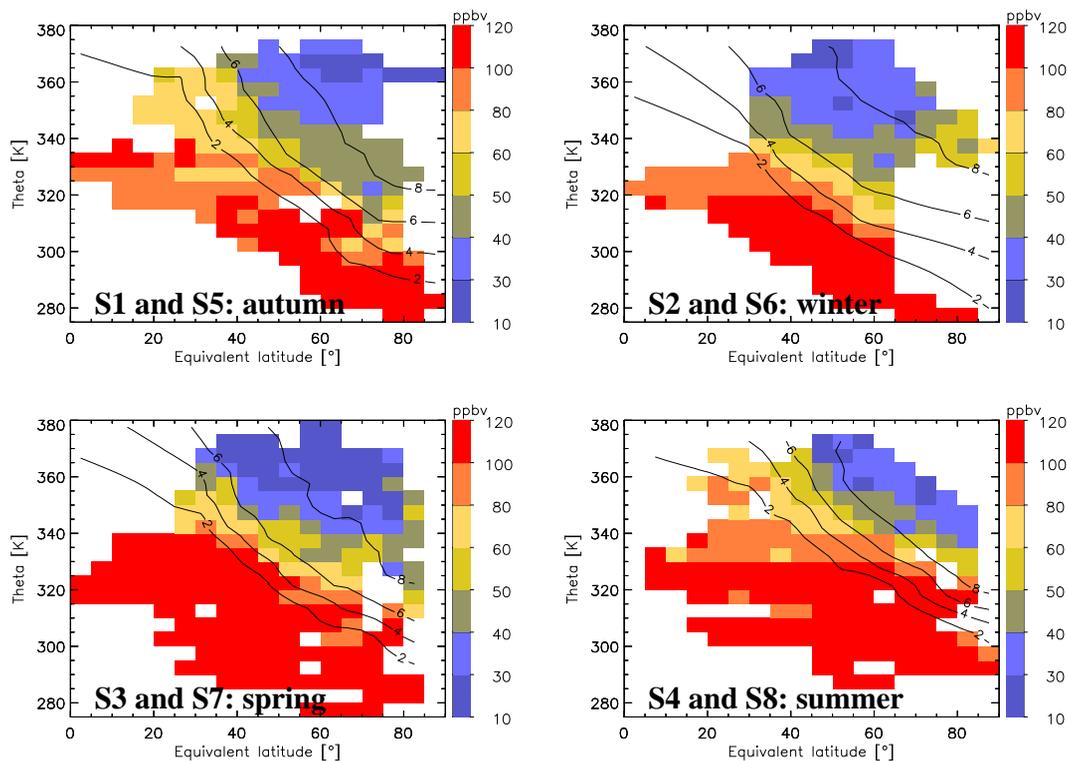
**Fig. 5.** Observed distribution of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  sorted by season as function of equivalent latitude and potential temperature. Data are from the TDL TRISTAR and the GC GhOST II. The black lines represent different PV isopleths (2, 4, 6 and 8 PVU). The 2 PVU isopleth is often used as the dynamical tropopause.

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

EGU

An overview of the  
SPURT observations

A. Engel et al.



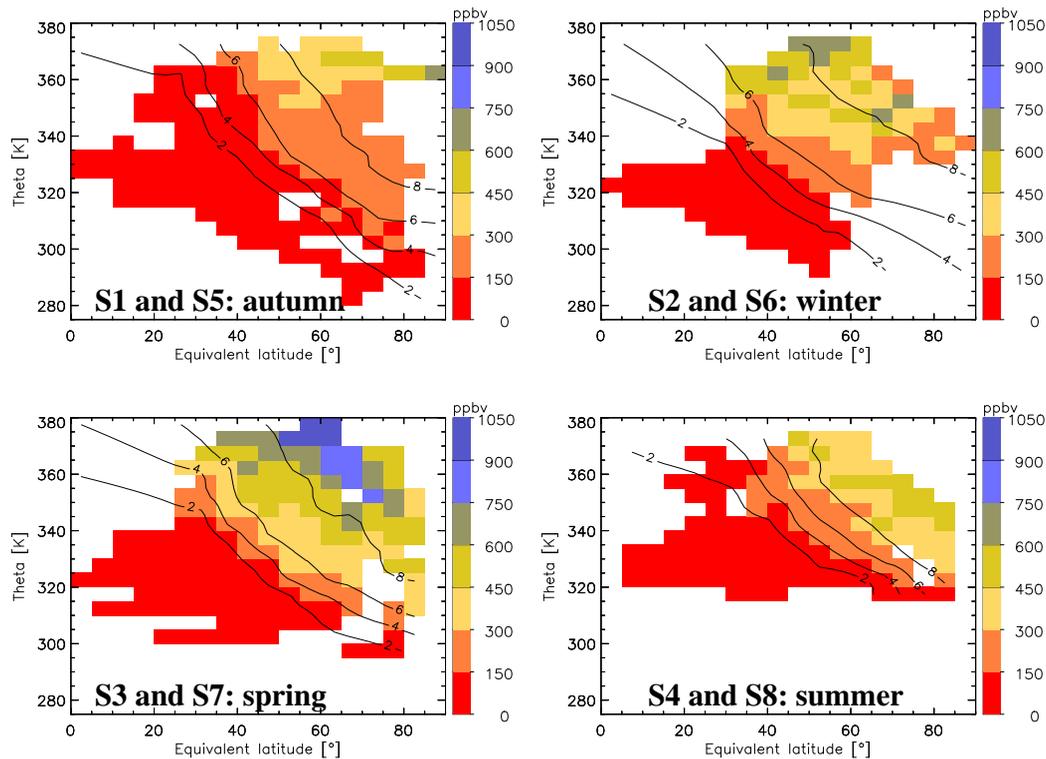
**Fig. 6.** As Fig. 5, but for CO. Data are from the TDL TRISTAR.

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

EGU

An overview of the  
SPURT observations

A. Engel et al.



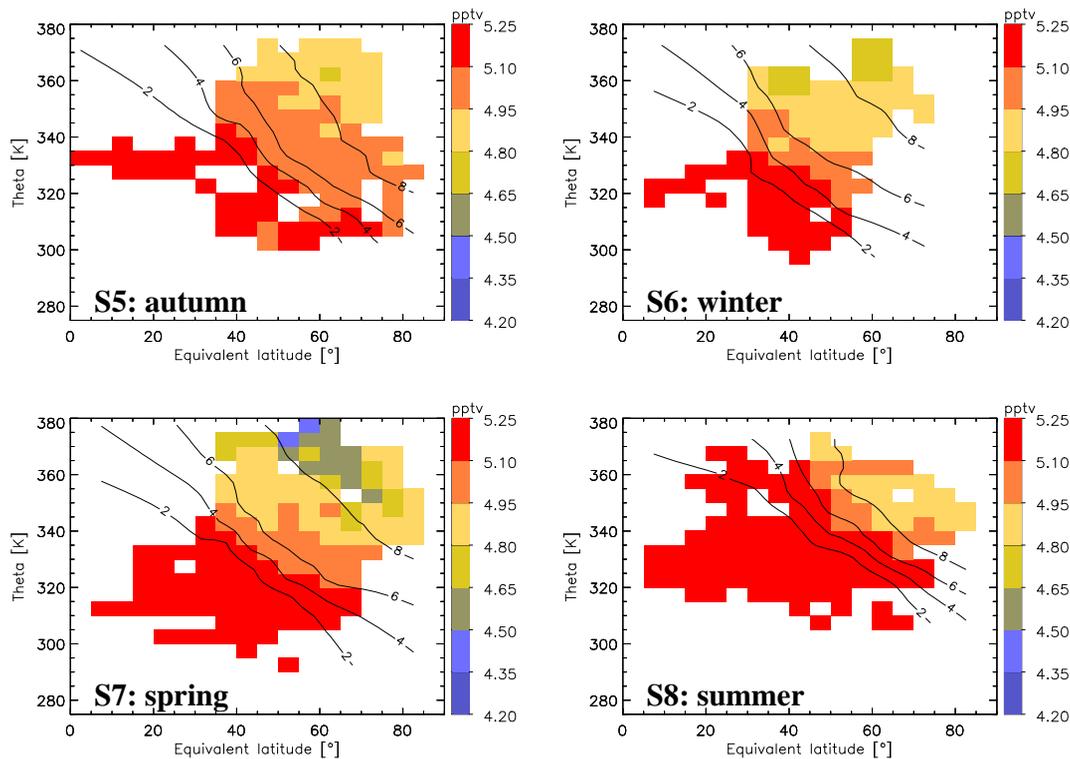
**Fig. 7.** As Fig. 5, but for  $O_3$ . Data are from the UV photometer JOE and partly from the chemiluminescence instrument ECO.

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

EGU

An overview of the  
SPURT observations

A. Engel et al.



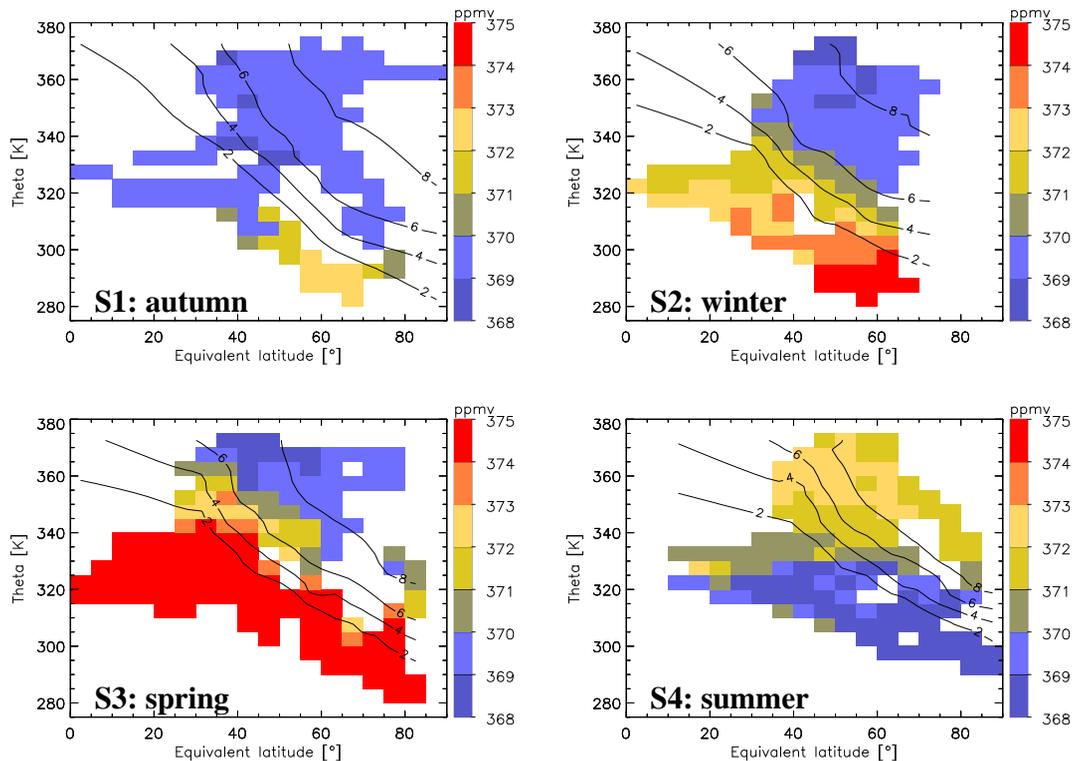
**Fig. 8.** As Fig. 5, but for SF<sub>6</sub>. Only one seasonal cycle is included. Data are from the GC GhOST II.

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

EGU

## An overview of the SPURT observations

A. Engel et al.



**Fig. 9.** As Fig. 5, but for CO<sub>2</sub>. Only one seasonal cycle is included. Data are from the non-dispersive IR CO<sub>2</sub> analyzer FABLE.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

EGU

An overview of the  
SPURT observations

A. Engel et al.

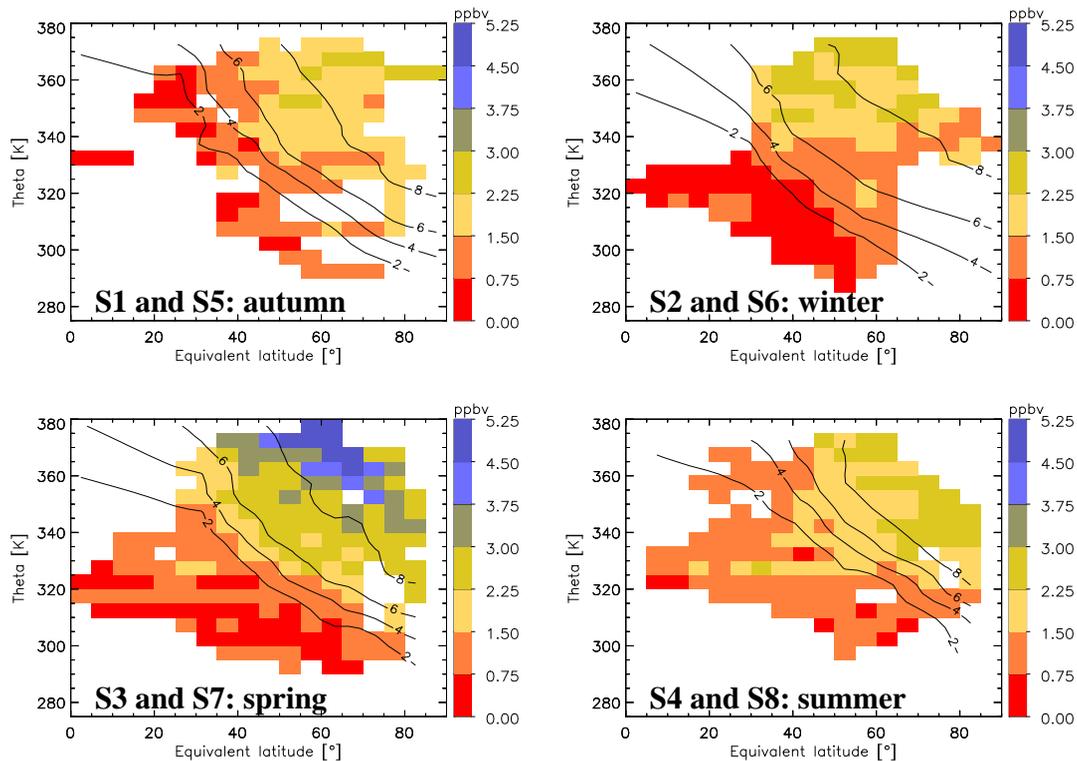


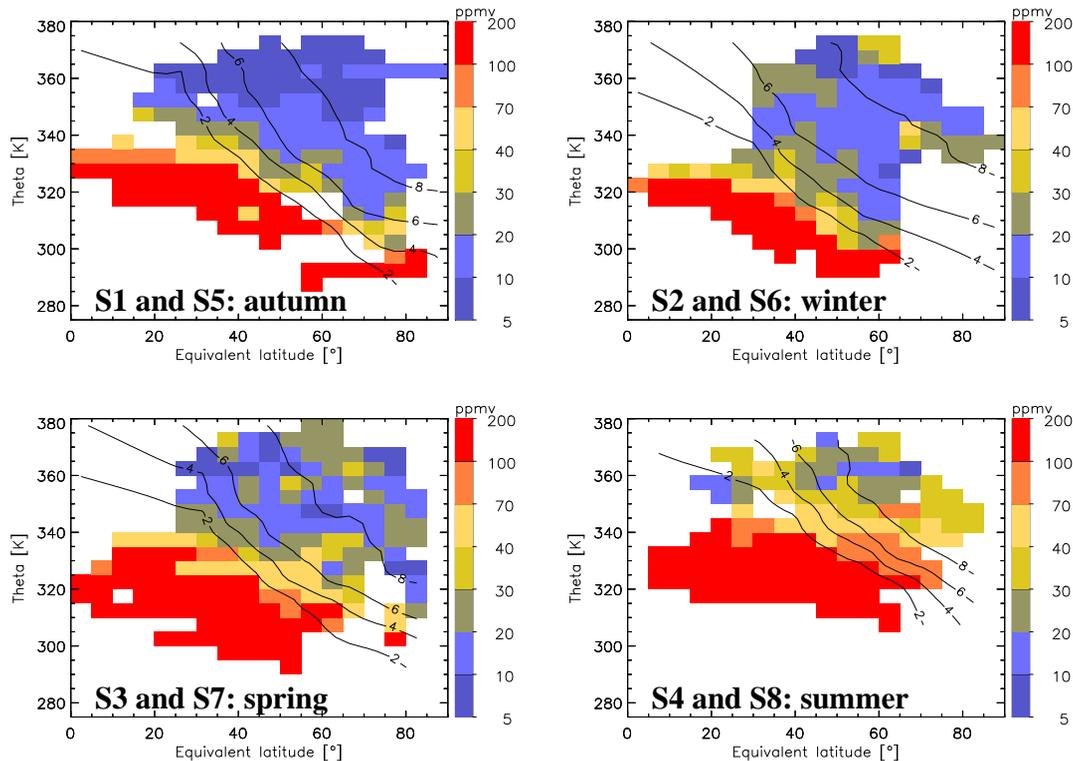
Fig. 10. As Fig. 5, but for  $\text{NO}_y$ . Data are from the chemiluminescence instrument ECO.

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

EGU

## An overview of the SPURT observations

A. Engel et al.



**Fig. 11.** As Fig. 5, but for H<sub>2</sub>O. Data are obtained using the Lyman- $\alpha$  hygrometer FISH.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

EGU