

# Retrieval of kinetic temperature and carbon dioxide abundance from non-local thermodynamic equilibrium limb emission measurements made by the SABER experiment on the TIMED satellite

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## ABSTRACT

The Sounding of the Atmosphere using Broadband Emission Radiometry (SABER) experiment was launched onboard the TIMED satellite in December, 2001. SABER is designed to provide measurements of the key radiative and chemical sources and sinks of energy in the mesosphere and lower thermosphere (MLT). SABER measures Earth limb emission in 10 broadband radiometer channels ranging from 1.27  $\mu\text{m}$  to 17  $\mu\text{m}$ . Measurements are made both day and night over the latitude range from 54°S to 87°N with alternating hemisphere coverage every 60 days. In this paper we concentrate on retrieved profiles of kinetic temperature ( $T_k$ ) and CO<sub>2</sub> volume mixing ratio (vmr), inferred from SABER-observed 15  $\mu\text{m}$  and 4.3  $\mu\text{m}$  limb emissions, respectively. SABER-measured limb radiances are in non-local thermodynamic equilibrium (non-LTE) in the MLT region. The complexity of non-LTE radiation transfer combined with the large volume of data measured by SABER requires new retrieval approaches and radiative transfer techniques to accurately and efficiently retrieve the data products. In this paper we present the salient features of the coupled non-LTE  $T_k$ /CO<sub>2</sub> retrieval algorithm, along with preliminary results.

**Keywords:** Remote sensing, non-local thermodynamic equilibrium (non-LTE), thermal structure, carbon dioxide, mesosphere, lower thermosphere, middle atmosphere

## 1. INTRODUCTION

On December 7, 2001, NASA launched the Sounding of the Atmosphere using Broadband Emission Radiometry (SABER) experiment onboard the TIMED satellite. The satellite was placed in a 74.1 degree inclined, 625 km orbit by a Delta II rocket. The SABER instrument is designed to provide measurements of the major radiative and chemical sources and sinks of energy in the MLT region. The primary science goal of SABER is to achieve major advances in our understanding of the structure, energetics, chemistry, and dynamics of the atmospheric region extending from 60 km to 180 km altitude. This will be accomplished using the measurement approach of spectral broadband emission radiometry. SABER scans the horizon and observes limb emission in 10 broadband spectral channels ranging from 1.27  $\mu\text{m}$  to 17  $\mu\text{m}$ . The observed limb emission profiles are analyzed to provide vertical profiles, with approximately 2 km altitude resolution, of the following parameters:  $T_k$ ; CO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>3</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O vmr; atomic oxygen and atomic hydrogen; volume emission rates due to O<sub>2</sub>(<sup>1</sup> $\Delta$ ), OH( $\nu$ =3,4,5), OH( $\nu$ =7,8,9), and NO at 5.3  $\mu\text{m}$ ; key atmospheric cooling rates, solar heating rates, chemical heating rates,

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and geotrophic winds. Measurements are made both day and night over the latitude range from 54°S to 87°N with alternating hemisphere coverage every 60 days.

In the MLT region, SABER measures in each channel – with the exception of the 1.27  $\mu\text{m}$  channel, which mainly measures emission from the  $\text{O}_2(^1\Delta)$  electronic transition – infrared radiation emitted by molecules whose vibration-rotation bands are in non-LTE. Non-LTE kinetic processes and non-LTE radiation transfer complicate the analysis and retrieval of the SABER data products, as well as impose a significant computational burden on data processing. New retrieval approaches and radiation transfer techniques are required to accurately and efficiently retrieve the data products from the large volume of SABER non-LTE emission measurements. In particular, the focus of this paper is on the non-LTE  $T_k/\text{CO}_2$  retrieval approach.

Kinetic temperature is retrieved from SABER’s broadband measurement of  $\text{CO}_2$  15  $\mu\text{m}$  limb emission. This technique was developed more than 30 years ago.<sup>1</sup> In these early experiments, a basic assumption was that  $\text{CO}_2$  was well mixed and its volume mixing ratio well known. Another key assumption was that the observed  $\text{CO}_2$  vibration-rotation bands were in LTE. These assumptions were sufficient for previous sensors whose sensitivity did not permit limb radiance measurements much above 70 km tangent height.

The assumption of LTE in the  $\text{CO}_2$  infrared bands and the assumption of uniformly mixed and well known  $\text{CO}_2$  vmr, described in the last paragraph, are no longer valid in the MLT region. The variability of  $\text{CO}_2$  vmr requires that  $T_k$  and  $\text{CO}_2$  vmr be retrieved simultaneously. SABER measures  $\text{CO}_2$  limb emission in the 15  $\mu\text{m}$  spectral interval to approximately 120 km in altitude for the purpose of determining  $T_k$ . SABER also observes 4.3  $\mu\text{m}$   $\text{CO}_2$  limb emission to over 160 km altitude during the day and to approximately 130 km at night. Measurements of  $\text{CO}_2$  15  $\mu\text{m}$  and  $\text{CO}_2$  4.3  $\mu\text{m}$  limb radiance are combined to retrieve  $T_k$  and  $\text{CO}_2$  vmr in the MLT region. Non-LTE processes are rigorously accounted for in the retrieval scheme.

Derived profiles of  $T_k$  in the MLT are necessary to understand the thermal structure of this region, one of SABER’s primary goals. Accurate knowledge of  $T_k$  and  $\text{CO}_2$  are necessary to quantify the radiative cooling of this region of the atmosphere, largely dominated by infrared emission from the  $\text{CO}_2$  15  $\mu\text{m}$  bands. Moreover,  $T_k$  is a key input into the retrieval of SABER’s other data products. The global distribution of  $\text{CO}_2$  is interesting in its own right, as its latitudinal and seasonal variations are not well known and observed, and the mechanism for its departure from its uniformly mixed value is not well characterized.

In a previous work, Mertens et al.<sup>2</sup> presented a non-LTE  $T_k$  retrieval algorithm based on observations of  $\text{CO}_2$  15  $\mu\text{m}$  broadband limb emission measurements, assuming  $\text{CO}_2$  abundance was known. They demonstrated the algorithm using model atmospheres, and studied the sensitivity of retrieved  $T_k$  to key atmospheric and kinetic parameters used in the non-LTE  $\text{CO}_2$  model. One important conclusion from this work was that  $\text{CO}_2$  vmr needed to be known to 15% or better in order to achieve SABER’s goal of retrieving  $T_k$  to 3 K or better below 100 km. As a result of this study, the non-LTE  $T_k$  retrieval algorithm of Mertens et al. has been expanded and updated to enable a simultaneous non-LTE retrieval of  $T_k$  and  $\text{CO}_2$ . In this paper, we present the salient features of the coupled non-LTE  $T_k/\text{CO}_2$  retrieval algorithm. The algorithm is demonstrated by showing preliminary retrievals from SABER measurements.

## 2. RETRIEVAL APPROACH

Kinetic temperature is retrieved in the stratosphere using SABER measured radiance from two  $\text{CO}_2$  15  $\mu\text{m}$  channels, a narrow bandpass channel (650-695  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) and a wide bandpass channel (580-760  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ). The two  $\text{CO}_2$  channels are used to register pressure with altitude in the stratosphere and infer  $T_k$  assuming LTE conditions and assuming  $\text{CO}_2$  is uniformly mixed and known. This approach is similar to the two-color technique described in Ref.<sup>1</sup> The LTE assumption breaks down in the mesosphere for the infrared  $\text{CO}_2$  bands, and  $\text{CO}_2$  vmr is no longer uniformly mixed. The simultaneous non-LTE  $T_k/\text{CO}_2$  retrieval algorithm is then employed to infer  $T_k$  and  $\text{CO}_2$  vmr in MLT using measured radiance from the  $\text{CO}_2$  15  $\mu\text{m}$  narrow channel and the  $\text{CO}_2$  4.3  $\mu\text{m}$  channel (2320-2400  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ), respectively.

The LTE-retrieved  $T_k$  and pressure described in the preceding paragraph provide the lower boundary conditions for the non-LTE  $T_k/\text{CO}_2$  retrieval. The lower boundary condition in the  $\text{CO}_2$  vibrational temperature model (described in the next section) is that the source function is given by the Planck function, requiring that

the CO<sub>2</sub> bands are optically thick and in LTE. In the retrieval inversion approach, pressure ( $p$ ) is obtained by vertically integrating the barometric equation from the lower boundary altitude, requiring that the LTE-retrieved  $T_k(p)$  are accurate at the lower boundary altitude. Taking these factors into consideration, the lower boundary altitude of the non-LTE  $T_k$ /CO<sub>2</sub> retrieval is nominally taken to be 40 km.

The non-LTE  $T_k$ /CO<sub>2</sub> retrieval model is comprised of two main components: (1) the forward radiance model and (2) the inversion model. These two components are described in more detail below.

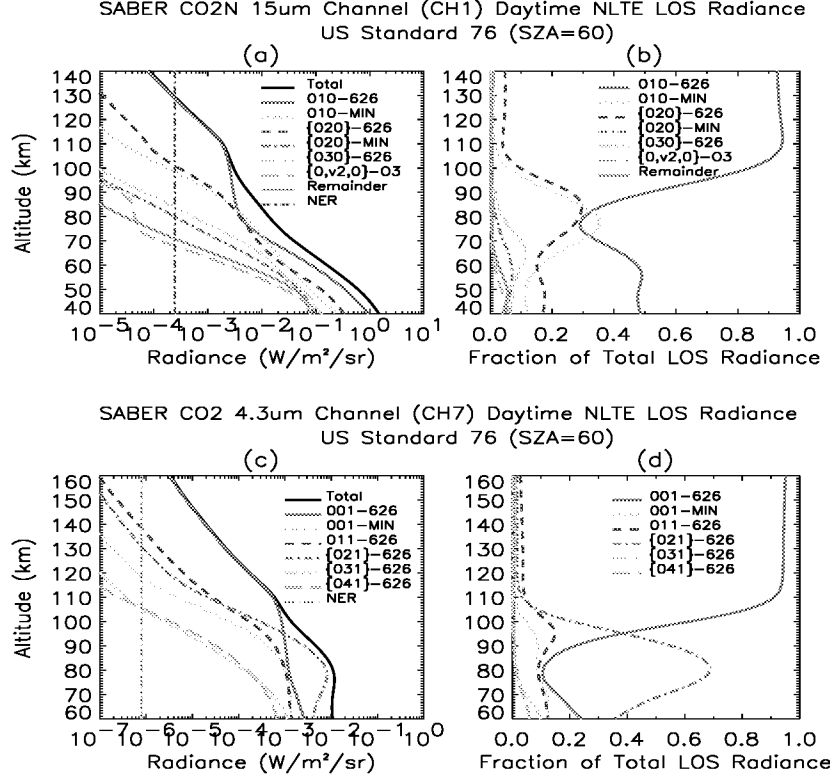
## 2.1. Forward Model

The forward radiance model of the retrieval algorithm is the component that simulates the measured radiance along the limb line-of-sight. The forward model itself is composed of two parts: (1) the vibrational temperature model ( $T_v$ ) and (2) the limb radiance model. Limb radiance is calculated using BANDPAK,<sup>3</sup> now expanded for application to non-LTE calculations.<sup>4</sup> The non-LTE formulation in BANDPAK is a broadband extension of the line-by-line approach described by Edwards et al.<sup>5</sup> and initially demonstrated by Mlynarczyk et al.<sup>6</sup> There are eighteen CO<sub>2</sub> 15  $\mu$ m bands and one O<sub>3</sub> 14.1  $\mu$ m band that contribute to the total limb radiance in the SABER CO<sub>2</sub> 15  $\mu$ m narrow channel spectral bandpass, i.e. above the lower boundary of the non-LTE  $T_k$ /CO<sub>2</sub> retrieval model. The SABER 4.3  $\mu$ m channel has seventeen CO<sub>2</sub> bands that contribute to the total limb radiance at altitudes of approximately 70 km and above. Vibrational temperatures for the nineteen bands that emit in the CO<sub>2</sub> 15  $\mu$ m narrow channel bandpass and the seventeen bands that emit in the CO<sub>2</sub> 4.3  $\mu$ m channel bandpass comprise the non-LTE inputs into the limb radiance model.

The nineteen bands that contribute to the total limb radiance in the SABER CO<sub>2</sub> 15  $\mu$ m narrow channel bandpass can be grouped into seven band-groups: the fundamental  $\nu_2$  band of the major (626) isotope (010-626); the fundamental  $\nu_2$  bands of the minor (636, 628, and 627) isotopes (010-MIN); the first  $\nu_2$  hot bands of the 626 isotope ({020}-626); the first  $\nu_2$  hot bands of the minor isotopes ({020}-MIN); the second  $\nu_2$  hot bands of the 626 isotope ({030}-626); the O<sub>3</sub> major isotopic  $\nu_2$  fundamental band; and the ‘remaining’ CO<sub>2</sub> bands that contribute to the CO<sub>2</sub> 15  $\mu$ m narrow channel limb radiance. Panels (a) and (b) of Figure 1 show SABER CO<sub>2</sub> 15  $\mu$ m narrow channel limb radiance simulations for the US Standard model atmosphere: limb radiance from the seven band-groups listed above, the total limb radiance, the contribution of each band-group to the total limb radiance, and the noise level (NER: noise equivalent radiance) in the SABER CO<sub>2</sub> 15  $\mu$ m narrow channel. The CO<sub>2</sub> ‘remainder’ band contains contributions from all other CO<sub>2</sub> bands found on the HITRAN 1996 database that are not specified in the band-groups above. Although there are no significant non-LTE effects in the limb radiance from these ‘remainder’ bands, their cumulative contribution to the total limb radiance is significant and must be modelled, as Figure 1 indicates. The CO<sub>2</sub> ‘remainder’ band is treated as a pseudo-vibrational band – the non-LTE-to-LTE vibrational state population ratios (see Edwards et al.<sup>5</sup>) are set equal to the non-LTE-to-LTE population ratios of the 626 first  $\nu_2$  hot band. This step eliminates anomalous thermospheric contributions and guarantees that the correct LTE contributions are included at altitude below approximately 70 km, where their ‘true’ contribution becomes important, as Figure 1 indicates.

The bands that contribute most to the SABER CO<sub>2</sub> 15  $\mu$ m narrow channel spectral bandpass are the 010-626, {020}-626, and 010-MIN band-groups. The 010-626 band dominates the limb radiance except near 80 km, where the {020}-626 and 010-MIN bands rival, if not exceed, the contribution due to 010-626. The contribution from the other band-groups are much smaller than those mentioned above; however, they must be rigorously modelled in order to retrieve  $T_k$  accurately.

Analogous to the discussion of the bands that emit in the SABER CO<sub>2</sub> 15  $\mu$ m narrow channel bandpass, the seventeen bands that contribute to the total limb radiance in the CO<sub>2</sub> 4.3  $\mu$ m channel can be grouped into six band-groups: the fundamental  $\nu_3$  band of the 626 isotope (001-626); the fundamental  $\nu_3$  bands of the minor isotopes (001-MIN); the first 4.3  $\mu$ m hot band of the 626 isotope (011-626); and the second, third and fourth 4.3  $\mu$ m hot bands of the 626 isotope ({021}-626, {031}-626, and {041}-626)). Panels (c) and (d) of Figure 1 for the SABER CO<sub>2</sub> 4.3  $\mu$ m channel are analogous to panels (a) and (b) for the CO<sub>2</sub> 15  $\mu$ m narrow channel. The bands that contribute most to the CO<sub>2</sub> 4.3  $\mu$ m channel radiance are the 001-626, 001-MIN, 011-626, and {021}-626 band-groups. Above 110 km, limb emission in the 4.3  $\mu$ m channel is dominated by the 001-626 band. Between 95 km and 110 km, the four major band-groups mentioned above are comparable in their contribution



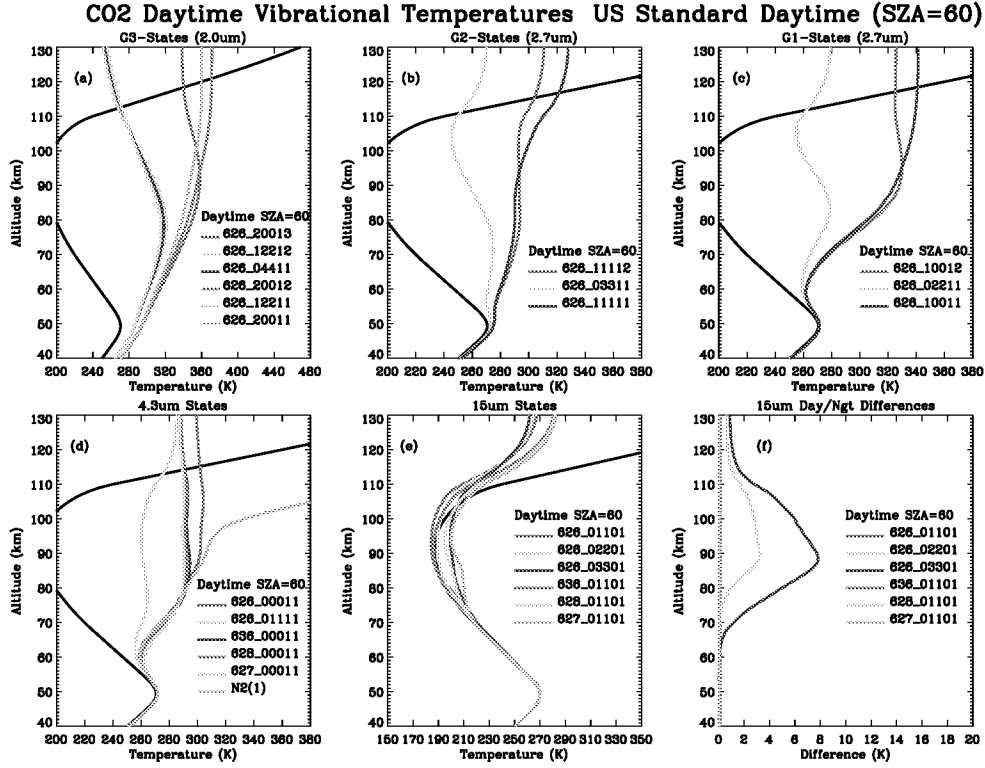
**Figure 1.** Simulations of daytime (solar zenith angle (SZA) 60 degrees) non-LTE line-of-sight (LOS) limb radiance for the SABER CO<sub>2</sub> 15  $\mu$ m narrow channel (panels (a) and (b)) and CO<sub>2</sub> 4.3  $\mu$ m channel (panels (c) and (d)) for the US Standard atmosphere. See text for details.

to the total limb radiance. Below 95 km, limb emission is dominated by the {021}-626 band-group. However, similar to the case for the SABER CO<sub>2</sub> 15  $\mu$ m narrow channel, all band-groups shown in panels (c) and (d) must be rigorously modelled in order to accurately retrieve CO<sub>2</sub> vmr.

Figure 2 shows a model calculation of the CO<sub>2</sub>  $T_v$ 's for the US Standard atmosphere. The solar pumped states are shown in panels (a)-(d). The 15  $\mu$ m  $T_v$ 's are shown in panel (e). The solar pumped states are responsible for the emission in the SABER CO<sub>2</sub> 4.3  $\mu$ m channel. Furthermore, they have an indirect affect on emission in the CO<sub>2</sub> 15  $\mu$ m channel through collisional and radiative coupling to the CO<sub>2</sub>  $\nu_2$  vibrational state manifold, as indicated in panel (f). The vibrational temperatures are calculated from the operational CO<sub>2</sub>  $T_v$  model, which is based on the Modified Curtis Matrix approach advanced by López-Puertas et al.<sup>7</sup> The operational CO<sub>2</sub>  $T_v$  model uses BANDPAK to perform all the radiation transfer calculations and will be described in more detail in Refs.<sup>4</sup> and.<sup>8</sup>

## 2.2. Inversion Method

Kinetic temperature and CO<sub>2</sub> vmr are retrieved by successively iterating between two independent retrieval modules: one for  $T_k(p)$ , assuming CO<sub>2</sub> is known, and the other one for CO<sub>2</sub> vmr, assuming  $T_k(p)$  is known. The iteration stops when successive CO<sub>2</sub> profiles have relaxed sufficiently over the altitude range of the non-LTE retrieval model. The global convergence criteria for the coupling between the  $T_k$  and CO<sub>2</sub> retrievals is that the average difference between two successive CO<sub>2</sub> vmr retrievals, i.e., averaged over all the retrieved tangent levels, does not exceed a user-specified percentage. Retrieval simulations for various model atmospheres (US



**Figure 2.** Simulations of daytime (solar zenith angel (SA) 60 degrees) CO<sub>2</sub> vibrational temperatures for US Standard atmosphere. See text for details.

Standard, Polar Summer, and Polar Winter) have shown that the differences between the last and next-to-the-last retrieved CO<sub>2</sub> profiles are small enough not to significantly affect an additional T<sub>k</sub> retrieval; thus, justifying the termination of the non-LTE T<sub>k</sub>/CO<sub>2</sub> retrieval algorithm based on the convergence of the CO<sub>2</sub> profile. Below we briefly describe the separate T<sub>k</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> retrieval modules. A detailed algorithm description will appear elsewhere.<sup>9</sup>

First we describe the non-LTE T<sub>k</sub> retrieval module. There are two primary relaxation loops. In the inner loop, a T<sub>k</sub> profile is retrieved using the onion-peel approach while pressure, CO<sub>2</sub> vmr, and the T<sub>v</sub>'s are held fixed. Kinetic temperature is retrieved at each tangent altitude by adjusting the local T<sub>k</sub> until the modelled radiance matches the measured radiance within the convergence criterion. The temperature is adjusted using the Levenberg-Marquardt method.<sup>10</sup> The inner loop convergence criterion is a requirement that the difference between successive iterations is much less than the expected errors in the solution.<sup>11</sup> The fraction of the solution error required to satisfy the convergence criterion is user-specified.

The onion-peel approach is critical to retrievals from CO<sub>2</sub> limb emission measurements in the MLT region, since the CO<sub>2</sub> 15 μm limb radiance for mesospheric tangent heights is dominated by emission from higher altitude layers.<sup>12</sup> The same is also true for CO<sub>2</sub> 4.3 μm limb radiance. The onion-peel technique ensures that the modelled emission matches the measured radiance from the upper altitude layers, even though the retrieved temperature-pressure-CO<sub>2</sub> combination may be incorrect at intermediate steps in the relaxation process. For a particular limb path, the effect is greater sensitivity to the local T<sub>k</sub> at the sought-after tangent altitude.

In the outer relaxation loop, the pressure profile is rebuilt from the lower boundary altitude using the onion-peel retrieved T<sub>k</sub> profile and the barometric pressure law. The vibrational temperatures are updated using the CO<sub>2</sub> T<sub>v</sub> model with the previously retrieved T<sub>k</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub> vmr, and pressure profile as input. The onion-peel retrieval (inner loop) is repeated until the entire inferred T<sub>k</sub> profile relaxes within the convergence criterion,

which is a requirement that the retrieved temperature profile differences between two successive onion-peel retrieval iterations be much smaller than the expected solution error at all tangent heights above the lower boundary altitude.

Next we describe the non-LTE CO<sub>2</sub> vmr retrieval module. Because of the severe nonlinearities in the radiation transfer along the limb line-of-sight in the SABER CO<sub>2</sub> 4.3  $\mu\text{m}$  channel bandpass, the CO<sub>2</sub> vmr retrieval module is composed of a juxtaposition of two retrieval approaches. The first approach is the nonlinear relaxation method of Twomey-Chahine,<sup>13</sup> modified here for limb path geometry and broadband radiance measurements. In the current approach, the kernel function, or weighting function, is the contribution of each layer along the limb line-of-sight to the total limb radiance, divided by the layer-averaged CO<sub>2</sub> abundance. Similar to the non-LTE T<sub>k</sub> retrieval, the CO<sub>2</sub> vmr is retrieved at each tangent altitude using the onion-peel method. The convergence criterion was described in the first paragraph of this section. If the criterion is not satisfied, the non-LTE T<sub>k</sub> retrieval is repeated, followed by a subsequent CO<sub>2</sub> vmr retrieval using the modified Twomey-Chahine approach. Once the global convergence criterion is satisfied, one final CO<sub>2</sub> vmr retrieval is performed using the Levenberg-Marquardt approach, analogous to the inner loop relaxation scheme of the non-LTE T<sub>k</sub> retrieval described above.

The nonlinearities in the CO<sub>2</sub> 4.3  $\mu\text{m}$  radiation transfer are too severe to use a retrieval algorithm based on Newtonian iteration, applicable to weakly nonlinear problems,<sup>14</sup> or a Levenberg-Marquardt approach, applicable to moderately nonlinear problems.<sup>14</sup> Consequently, the nonlinear relaxation method of Twomey-Chahine is used to infer CO<sub>2</sub> vmr in the coupled non-LTE T<sub>k</sub>/CO<sub>2</sub> retrieval algorithm. However, optimal estimation approaches, such as the Levenberg-Marquardt approach, provide useful statistical information: the estimated solution error, quality metrics such as the  $\chi^2$ , or penalty, function, and more theoretical-based convergence criterion. Therefore, the final CO<sub>2</sub> vmr retrieval uses the Levenberg-Marquardt algorithm to refine the modified Twomey-Chahine approach and provide the useful statistical information described above.

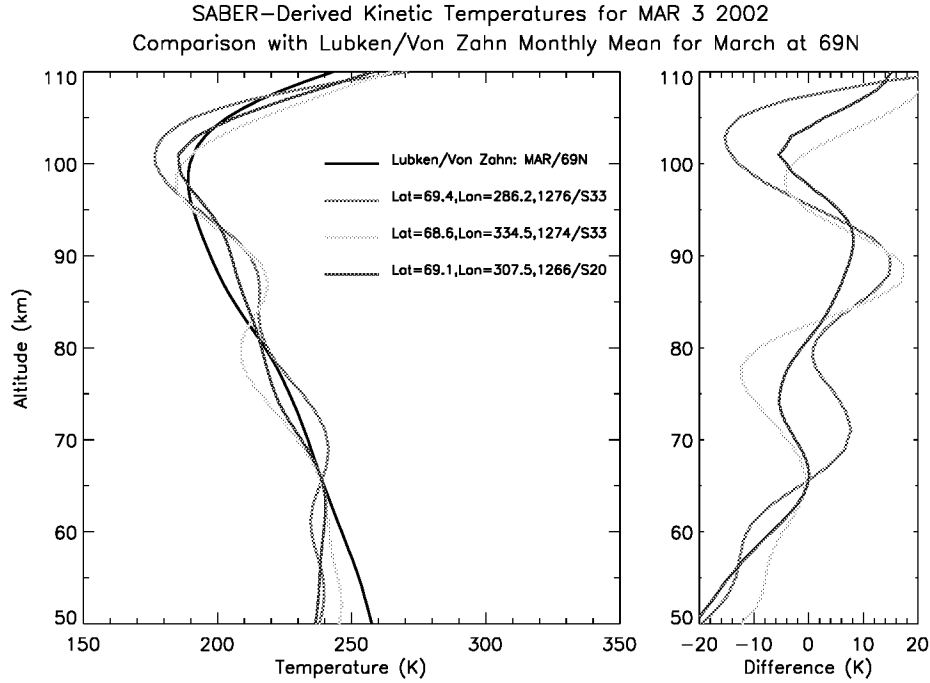
### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this section we present preliminary non-LTE T<sub>k</sub>/CO<sub>2</sub> retrievals from SABER observations. There are a number of additional atmospheric parameters required as input into the CO<sub>2</sub> T<sub>v</sub> model: O<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>, O(<sup>3</sup>P), and O(<sup>1</sup>D), for example. In the preliminary retrieved profiles shown in this section, the atmospheric parameters listed above were obtained from the TIMED-GCM climatology produced for SABER analysis.

Figure 3 shows nighttime non-LTE T<sub>k</sub> retrievals on March 3, 2002, near 69°N. The retrieved T<sub>k</sub> profiles are compared to the Lübken and von Zahn<sup>15</sup> climatological monthly mean T<sub>k</sub> profile for March. The monthly mean profile was generated from T<sub>k</sub> measurements taken from sodium lidar, falling spheres, and rocketborne mass spectrometer and ionization gauge measurements (see Ref.<sup>15</sup> for details). Between 60 km and 105 km, the differences between the individual SABER-derived T<sub>k</sub> profiles and the monthly mean profile are within the natural variability in the monthly mean T<sub>k</sub> profile for March at 69°N.<sup>15</sup> Below 60 km the SABER T<sub>k</sub> profiles are substantially cooler than the climatological mean; above 105 km the SABER T<sub>k</sub> profiles are substantially warmer than the climatological mean. Further analysis is required to understand these differences.

The following figures demonstrate the coupled non-LTE T<sub>k</sub>/CO<sub>2</sub> retrieval algorithm for daytime SABER observations. Figure 4 shows retrieved CO<sub>2</sub> profiles on January 28 and March 3, 2002. For each day, retrieved profiles are shown at latitudes of approximately 44°N and 27°S. The retrieved profiles are shown as solid lines. Climatological mean CO<sub>2</sub> profiles from the TIMED-GCM model are shown as dashed lines<sup>16</sup> – which most closely correspond to the time, season and geo-location of the SABER measurements.

For equinox conditions, model simulations indicate that the latitudinal distribution of CO<sub>2</sub> is symmetrically distributed about the equator (see Ref.<sup>17</sup> and references therein). Consequently, the CO<sub>2</sub> profiles for March 3 at 44°N and 27°S should be very similar, as Figure 4 indicates. However, SABER-derived CO<sub>2</sub> profiles suggest a much larger depletion of CO<sub>2</sub> in the upper mesosphere and lower thermosphere than predicted by the TIMED-GCM model and previous rocket borne mass spectrometer measurements,<sup>17</sup> similar to the findings of other recent CO<sub>2</sub> retrievals from infrared emission measurements (see Refs.,<sup>18</sup>,<sup>19</sup> and<sup>20</sup>). From Figure 4, the TIMED-GCM simulations predict that for equinox conditions, the CO<sub>2</sub> abundance for 27°S is greater than



**Figure 3.** Nighttime non-LTE  $T_k$  retrievals from SABER measurements on March 3, 2002, near 69°N. The latitude, longitude, orbit and scan numbers, respectively, for the SABER measurements are indicated in the legend. The retrieved  $T_k$  profiles are compared to the climatological monthly mean March  $T_k$  profile from Lubken and von Zahn.<sup>15</sup>

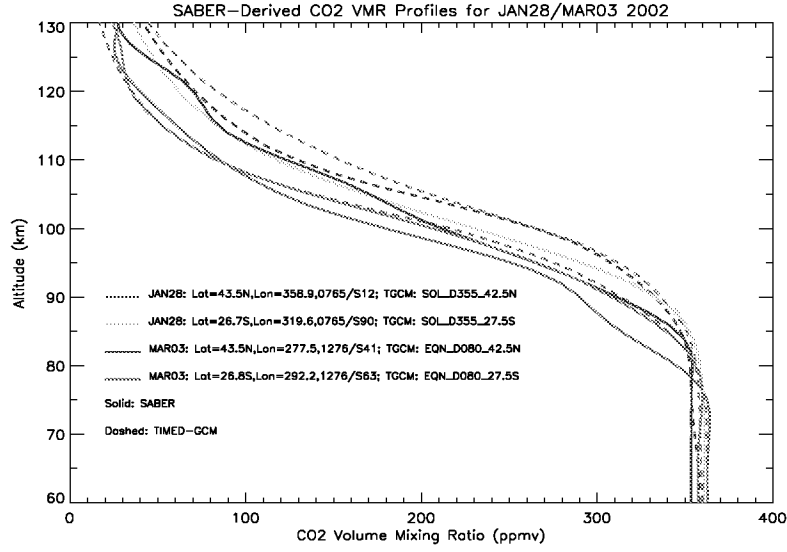
the  $\text{CO}_2$  abundance for 44°N above 100 km. The SABER retrievals show just the opposite effect: the  $\text{CO}_2$  abundance at 27°S is significantly depleted relative to the  $\text{CO}_2$  abundance at 44°N.

Model simulations indicate that for solstice conditions,  $\text{CO}_2$  vmr remains constant up to higher altitudes in the summer hemisphere and departs from its constant value at lower altitudes in the winter hemisphere; an effect governed by upward transport in the summer hemisphere and downward transport in the winter hemisphere.<sup>17</sup> SABER  $\text{CO}_2$  retrievals support this conclusion, as indicated in Figure 4 for the January 28 profiles. However, the retrieved  $\text{CO}_2$  profile at 44°N is significantly depleted with respect to the corresponding TIMED-GCM profile, while the corresponding TIMED-GCM profile for the 27°S measurement seems to fit the measurement scenario quite well.

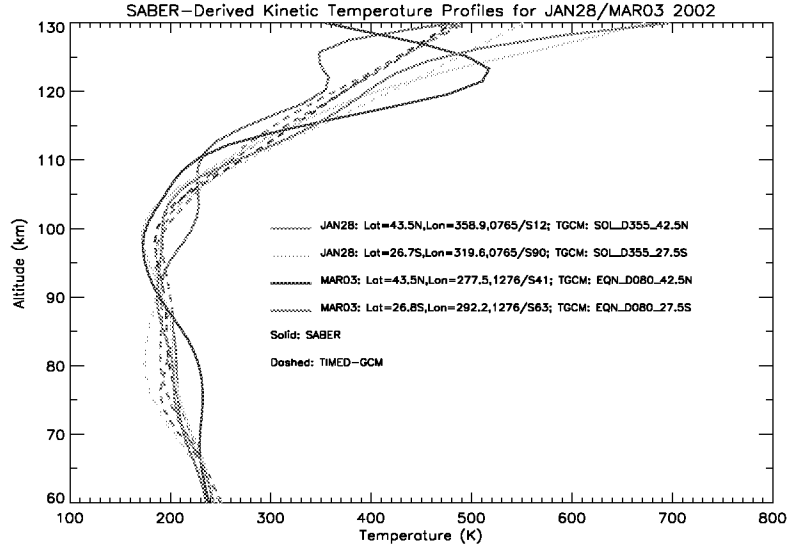
Figure 5 shows the  $T_k$  profiles that were retrieved simultaneously with the  $\text{CO}_2$  profiles shown in the previous figure. Similar to Figure 4, retrieved profiles are shown on January 28 and March 3, 2002, at approximately 44°N and 27°S. Retrieved profiles are shown as solid lines and TIMED-GCM climatological mean  $T_k$  profiles are shown as dashed lines – which correspond most closely to the time, season and geo-location of the SABER measurements.

The most noticeable features in Figure 5 above 110 km are found in the  $T_k$  profiles for January 28 and March 3 at 44°N. There's an inversion layer in the January 28 profile and  $T_k$  decreases with increasing altitude in the March 3 profile. Neither of these features are real; rather, they're due to large noise spikes in the  $\text{CO}_2$  15  $\mu\text{m}$  narrow channel radiance profiles. In general, measurement noise will prohibit reasonable  $T_k$  retrievals much above 110 to 115 km.

The SABER-derived  $T_k$  profiles in Figure 5 show a great deal of vertical wave structure, suggestive of rather strong tidal signatures. The SABER  $T_k$  profiles are generally warmer than the TIMED-GCM profiles between



**Figure 4.** Daytime non-LTE  $T_k$ /CO<sub>2</sub> retrievals from SABER measurements on January 28 and March 3, 2002. In this figure we show the retrieved CO<sub>2</sub> profiles. The month, day, latitude, longitude, orbit and scan numbers, respectively, for the SABER measurements are indicated in the legend. The retrieved CO<sub>2</sub> profiles are compared to the TIMED-GCM climatological mean that most closely corresponds to the SABER measurement time, season and geo-location. The TIMED-GCM profiles shown were computed for two time periods: daytime winter solstice (indicated by SOL\_D355) and daytime spring equinox (indicated by EQN\_D080).



**Figure 5.** Daytime non-LTE  $T_k$ /CO<sub>2</sub> retrievals from SABER measurements on January 28 and March 3, 2002. In this figure we show the retrieved  $T_k$  profiles. The month, day, latitude, longitude, orbit and scan numbers, respectively, for the SABER measurements are indicated in the legend. The retrieved  $T_k$  profiles are compared to the TIMED-GCM climatological mean that most closely corresponds to the SABER measurement time, season and geo-location. The TIMED-GCM profiles shown were computed for two time periods: daytime winter solstice (indicated by SOL\_D355) and daytime spring equinox (indicated by EQN\_D080).



70 km and 90 km. In particular, the January 28 profile at 27°S and the March 3 profile at 44°N are significantly warmer than the model profiles between 70 km and 90 km. On the other hand, the SABER  $T_k$  profile for March 3 at 27°S is reasonably close to the corresponding TIMED-GCM profile below 110 km. The SABER January 28 profile at 44°N has a feature that resembles a double mesopause region at approximately 93 km and 110 km. The corresponding model profile has a double mesopause at approximately 75 km and 100 km. For all the profiles shown in Figure 5, the SABER  $T_k$  profiles are cooler than the TIMED-GCM profiles below approximately 65 km.

## 4. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper we briefly described the coupled non-LTE  $T_k$ /CO<sub>2</sub> retrieval algorithm used to infer  $T_k$  and CO<sub>2</sub> vmr from limb emission measurements observed from SABER's CO<sub>2</sub> 15  $\mu$ m and CO<sub>2</sub> 4.3  $\mu$ m broadband radiometer channels. We have shown preliminary  $T_k$ /CO<sub>2</sub> profiles from SABER observations. The preliminary results look reasonable. Nighttime  $T_k$  retrievals near 69°N generally compare favorably with the Lübken and von Zahn climatology. Daytime  $T_k$  retrievals compare reasonably well with TIMED-GCM profiles, although some of the SABER  $T_k$  profiles seem to be modulated by quite large tidal signatures. Retrieved CO<sub>2</sub> vmr profiles seem to confirm that models (e.g., TIMED-GCM) tend to overpredict CO<sub>2</sub> in the MLT region.

At the time of this writing, a number of instrument corrections are being made to improve the overall quality of the SABER radiance measurements. The non-LTE  $T_k$ /CO<sub>2</sub> retrieval algorithm presented here is currently being interfaced and ingested into the overall SABER software system. In the near future, a number of important atmospheric input parameters (i.e., input into the CO<sub>2</sub>  $T_v$  model) will be derived below 100 km from SABER observations – for example, O(<sup>3</sup>P) and O(<sup>1</sup>D). Thus, the excellent quality of the SABER measurements combined with the non-LTE  $T_k$ /CO<sub>2</sub> retrieval algorithm presented here, and along with the other SABER non-LTE retrievals algorithms, offer the potential to significantly improve our understanding of the MLT thermal structure, chemistry, and energetics.

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