Earth Science with the Stratospheric Aerosol and Gas Experiment III (SAGE III) on the International Space Station

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Sept 17, 2015
SAGE III Science Objectives

NEED – enhance our understanding of ozone recovery and climate change processes in the upper atmosphere

HOW – monitor the vertical distribution of aerosol, ozone, and other trace gases in the Earth’s stratosphere and troposphere

SAGE III/ISS provides data to:

- Assess the recovery in the distribution of ozone
- Extend aerosol measurement records needed for climate and ozone models
- Gain further insight into key processes contributing to ozone and aerosol variability
Ozone is Central to the Stratosphere

- Stratospheric ozone screens-out biologically harmful UV-C & UV-B sunlight.
- Ozone absorption of sunlight produces thermal structure of the atmosphere.
Stratospheric Science Needs

- This simplified schematic illustrates the parameters and process that control ozone
- Ozone Depleting Substances and Green House Gases can be measured from the ground as long as the dynamics can be modeled
- Ozone and Aerosol Profiles need to be measured
- Trends in Temperature and Water Vapor are inadequately measured

WMO: Ozone Assessment 2010
Stratospheric Science Results

• The multi-decadal SAGE data are the international standard for ozone and aerosol.

• SAGE III predecessors have documented the effectiveness of the Montreal Protocol ban on Ozone Depleting Substances.

• Stratospheric aerosol time series is a vital component to understanding ozone changes.

Yang et al., 2006
• Ozone loss varies greatly with altitude and latitude
• Model estimates of the loss and eventual recovery differ
• Aggregate uncertainty due to modeling processes, and future ODS & GHG changes
• 2015-2020 measurements of ozone will improve understanding
Stratospheric Aerosol Layer

- Increased Planetary Albedo
- Insolation
- Main Stratospheric Aerosol Layer
- Aerosol Nucleation and Growth
- Slow Ascent
- Deep Convection
- Surface cooling

- Ash
- SO₂
- Rainout of Ash

- Human Activity
- Biomass Burning
- Ocean and Wetlands
- Biomass
Isolated colossal volcanic eruptions have significant cooling for a limited time.

Increased background loading during 2000-2010 likely cause of global warming slow-down (Solomon, 2011).

Measurement Strategy

Solar Occultation Geometry

Tangent Point
Line of Sight

Orbit

TRANSMISSION PROFILE

ALITUDE

Aerosol profile
SAGE III Instrument Features

- A UV-Vis-NIR spectrometer
- Multiple modes of operation
  - Solar, lunar, limb scatter
- Surface/cloud top to 50 km, <1 km vertical resolution
- 87 channels (~1-3-nm resolution) between 280 and 1040 nm in solar occultation mode
- 64 kg, 102 watts, 0.12 Mbps
Instrument Payload: NASA SMD, HEOMD & ESA contributions

- Sensor Assembly (SMD)
- Hexapod Mechanical Assembly (ESA)
- Contamination Monitoring Package (SMD)
- Disturbance Monitoring Package (SMD)
- Instrument Controller Electronics and Bracket (SMD)
- Hexapod Electronics Unit (ESA)
- Contamination Monitoring Package (SMD)
- Interface Adapter Module (SMD)
- ExPRESS Payload Adapter (HEOMD)

NOTE: New hardware in blue
ISS Orbit is Ideal!

Solar

Lunar
SAGE III Climate Continuity Mission is empowered by NASA SMD & HEOMD, and ESA
Launch Configuration

Manifest: February, 2016

Dragon Trunk
(Unpressurized Cargo Area)
SAGE III on ISS, an Earth Science Mission on the International Space Station
Summary

• The SAGE series has a long heritage and history of delivering outstanding and unique science products.

• SAGE III/ISS is a climate continuity mission addressing critical science needs.

• The ISS is an exceptional national asset in an ideal orbit for SAGE III to contribute internationally.

• SAGE III/ISS is designed to meet the core science objectives, while capturing data for additional science discoveries.