



## Water vapor vertical profiles on Mars: Results from the first full Mars Year of TGO/NOMAD science operations

Shohei Aoki<sup>1,2</sup>, AnnCarine Vandaele<sup>2</sup>, Frank Daerden<sup>2</sup>, Geronimo Villanueva<sup>3</sup>, Ian Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Justin Erwin<sup>2</sup>, Loïc Trompet<sup>2</sup>, Severine Robert<sup>2</sup>, Lori Neary<sup>2</sup>, Sebastien Viscardy<sup>2</sup>, Arianna Piccialli<sup>2</sup>, Giuliano Liuzzi<sup>3</sup>, Matteo Crismani<sup>3</sup>, Todd Clancy<sup>4</sup>, Micheal Smith<sup>3</sup>, Bojan Ristic<sup>2</sup>, Miguel-Angel Lopez-Valverde<sup>5</sup>, Manish Patel<sup>6</sup>, Giancarlo Bellucci<sup>7</sup>, and Jose-Juan Lopez-Moreno<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>LPAP, STAR Institute, Université de Liège, Allée du 6 août, 19C, 4000 Liège, Belgium (shohei.aoki@aeronomie.be)

<sup>2</sup>Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy, Planetary Aeronomy Research Unit, B-1180 Bruxelles, Belgium

<sup>3</sup>NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, 8800 Greenbelt Rd., Greenbelt, 20771 MD, USA

<sup>4</sup>Space Science Institute, 4765 Walnut St, Suite B, Boulder, CO 80301, USA

<sup>5</sup>Instituto de Astrofísica de Andalucía, Glorieta de la Astronomía, 18008 Granada, Spain

<sup>6</sup>Department of Physical Sciences, The Open University, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA, UK

<sup>7</sup>Istituto di Astrofisica e Planetologia Spaziali, Via del Fosso del Cavaliere 100, Roma, Italy

Nadir and Occultation for Mars Discovery (NOMAD) onboard ExoMars Trace Gas Orbiter (TGO) started the science measurements on 21 April, 2018. We present results on the retrievals of water vapor vertical profiles in the Martian atmosphere from the first Mars year measurements of the TGO/NOMAD.

NOMAD is a spectrometer operating in the spectral ranges between 0.2 and 4.3  $\mu\text{m}$  onboard ExoMars TGO. NOMAD has 3 spectral channels: a solar occultation channel (SO – Solar Occultation; 2.3–4.3  $\mu\text{m}$ ), a second infrared channel capable of nadir, solar occultation, and limb sounding (LNO – Limb Nadir and solar Occultation; 2.3–3.8  $\mu\text{m}$ ), and an ultraviolet/visible channel (UVIS – Ultraviolet and Visible Spectrometer, 200–650 nm). The infrared channels (SO and LNO) have high spectral resolution ( $\lambda/d\lambda \sim 10,000\text{--}20,000$ ) provided by an echelle grating used in combination with an Acousto Optic Tunable Filter (AOTF) which selects diffraction orders. The concept of the infrared channels are derived from the Solar Occultation in the IR (SOIR) instrument onboard Venus Express (VEx). The sampling rate for the solar occultation measurement is 1 second, which provides better vertical sampling step ( $\sim 1$  km) with higher resolution ( $\sim 2$  km) from the surface to 200 km. Thanks to the instantaneous change of the observing diffraction orders achieved by the AOTF, the SO channel is able to measure five or six different diffraction orders per second in solar occultation mode. In this study, we analyze the solar occultation measurements at diffraction order 134 (3011–3035  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ), order 136 (3056–3080  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) and 168 (3775–3805  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) acquired by the SO channel in order to investigate  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  vertical profiles.

Knowledge of the water vapor vertical distribution is important to understand the water cycle and escape processes. Solar occultation measurements by the two spectrometers onboard TGO - NOMAD and Atmospheric Chemistry Suite (ACS) - allow us to monitor daily the water vapor vertical profiles through one whole Martian Year and obtain a latitudinal map for every  $\sim 20^\circ$  of Ls. In 2018, for the first time after 2007, a global dust storm occurred on Mars. It lasted for more than two months

(from June to August). Moreover, following the global dust storm, a regional dust storm occurred in January 2019. TGO began its science operations on 21 April 2018. NOMAD observations therefore fully cover the period before/during/after the global and regional dust storms and offer a unique opportunity to study the trace gases distributions during such events. We have analyzed those datasets and found a significant increase of water vapor abundance in the middle atmosphere (40-100 km) during the global dust storm from June to mid-September 2018 and the regional dust storm in January 2019. In particular, water vapor reaches very high altitudes, at least 100 km, during the global dust storm (Aoki et al., 2019, *Journal of Geophysical Research*, Volume124, Issue12, Pages 3482-3497, doi:10.1029/2019JE006109). A GCM simulation explained that dust storm related increases of atmospheric temperatures suppress the hygropause, hence reducing ice cloud formation and so allowing water vapor to extend into the middle atmosphere (Neary et al., 2020, *Geophysical Research Letters*, 47, e2019GL084354., doi: 10.1029/2019GL084354). The current study presents the results obtained when considering the extended dataset, which covers a full Martian year. The extended dataset includes the recent aphelion season that involves interesting phenomena such as sublimation of water vapor from the northern polar cap and formation of the equatorial cloud belt, and is known as a key period to understand the large north-south hemispheric asymmetries of Mars water vapor. Yet, until now, only few papers reported the water vapor vertical distribution during the aphelion season. The extended dataset also includes the period when the global dust storm occurred the year before; this will allow us to compare the water vapor distributions under global dust storm conditions with those found during non-global dust storm years. In the presentation, we will discuss the H<sub>2</sub>O vertical profiles as well as the aerosols vertical distribution retrieved from the first full Martian year measurements of the TGO/NOMAD.