



NASA Atmospheric Composition Ground Networks Supporting Air Quality and Climate Applications

Part 3: Introduction to Pandora Instrument and the Pandonia Global Network

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Part 3 – Trainers



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Part 3 Objectives



By the end of Part 3, participants will be able to:

- Identify the basic characteristics of the Pandora instruments used by NASA for ground-based passive remote sensing of trace gases.
- Recognize how the Pandonia Global Network sustains global long-term observations, supports air quality and climate applications, and complements satellite observations.
- Access relevant Pandora and Pandonia Global Network data for a given location and application purpose.



Review of Prior Knowledge

Network	Туре	Primary Measurands	Number of Sites	Vertical Coverage
AERONET	Passive	Aerosols (Optical, Microphysical, Radiative)	~600 Active	Total Column

- Trace gases such as nitrogen dioxide, formaldehyde, and ozone are present in small amounts, yet have major impacts on air quality and climate.
- Detection of atmospheric trace gases requires remote sensing instruments with a high spectral resolution, called hyperspectral instruments.
- Examples of hyperspectral remote sensing instruments on satellites providing trace gas data are:
 - OMI on the Aura satellite
 - TROPOMI on the European Sentinel-5P satellite
 - The newly launched TEMPO geostationary instrument



How to Ask Questions

- Please put your questions in the Questions box and we will address them at the end of the webinar.
- Feel free to enter your questions as we go. We will try to get to all of the questions during the Q&A session after the webinar.
- The remainder of the questions will be answered in the Q&A document, which will be posted to the training website about a week after the training.





Part 3: Overview of the Pandora Instrument and Pandonia Global Network (PGN)

Motivation



Satellites measure sunlight reflected from the Earth's surface and scattered from the atmosphere. This is complicated and requires assumptions that are not always correct.

Ground-based remote sensing instruments have better signal-to-noise and can probe different parts of the atmosphere by tracking the sun or measuring sky-scattered light.







called the Pandonia Global Network (PGN). The PGN operates a global network of Pandora Instruments.

Our partners are the European Space Agency (ESA) and two firms, SciGlob and LuftBlick.

The NASA Pandora Project works within a framework

The Pandonia Global Network: Reference Measurements of O_{3} , NO_{2} , SO₂, and HCHO



SciGlob



JETBLICK









Instrumentation

- Pandora is a ground-based sun/sky/moon viewing spectrometer system.
- The sensor head (light collector) is mounted on a dual-axis tracker.
- The sun/sky/moon-light is directed to the input of a Charge-Coupled Device (CCD) spectrometer with a fiber optic cable.





Control and Interface

- Control electronics allow for semiautonomous operation in all-weather conditions.
- **Pixels** (wavelength) and **counts** (intensity) are used to derive trace gas abundance.





Pandora: Hyperspectral Measurement Basics



Hyperspectral Measurements = Intensity of Light as a Function of Wavelength.

- Pandora spectrometers operate in the UV-visible range.
- When compared to a reference, measured spectra contain information about light absorption by trace gases.
- What we observe is a function of the spectrometer, fiber, and head sensor optics.



Pandora Measurements



Direct Sun or Moon

- Mostly described by BEER's Law
- Total absorption used to derive column abundance between instrument and top of atmosphere

MAX-DOAS

- Multi-Axis Differential Optical Absorption
 Spectroscopy
- Multiple angle BEER's Law
- Differential measurements used to derive abundance at multiple elevations

Growth of the ESA/NASA Pandonia Global Network



Cumulative PGN Members vs. Date

Date of NASA and ESA Certification

Owner/Funding Source	Number	
University/Other*	50	
NASA	50	
EPA	25	
ESA	21	
КОІСА	20	
*Other includes NIER (S. Korea) JAMSTEC (Japan) and ECCC (Canada)		



ESA/NASA Pandonia Global Network

61 AldineTX

29 Fajardo*

182 Tel-Aviv

209 Izana





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https://www.pandonia-alobal-network.org/



PGN Structure and Calibration

Network Structure



Remote Data Pushing



PGN Central Services



Data Processing + Quality Assurance



Monitoring the health of the network



Operator Roles

Local Operators

- Perform regular inspections of instruments
- Communicate with network operators to diagnose any issues
- Work with the PGN team to coordinate instrument repairs and upgrades

Network Operators

• Perform weekly diagnostic checks of each instrument remotely

- Communicate with local operators to diagnose any issues
- Coordinate repairs and shipments

Administrators + Scientists

- Perform laboratory/field
 calibrations and analysis
- Regularly check data quality
- R&D into hardware & software improvements and development of new products



Laboratory Instrument Calibrations



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Lab Calibration: Goals

- Use laboratory measurements to generate an initial calibration file that converts Level 0 (raw data) to Level 1 (lab-corrected) processed data
- Determine and record additional instrument characteristics needed for the processing of final Level 2 data retrievals
- Begin processing of out-of-the-box Pandora data products using the initial calibration file and either reference spectrum
 - Out-of-the-box data include O₃ total columns, and MAX-DOAS data products tropospheric columns, surface concentration and profiles — for NO₂ and HCHO.
 - Other data products need field calibration in addition to the lab characterization.

Lab Calibration: Raw to Corrected Spectra





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Lab Calibration: Equipment





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Field Calibration of Deployed Instruments



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Field Calibration: Goals



- Generate an absorption-free synthetic reference spectrum for the retrieval of several PGN trace gas products (NO₂, HCHO, and SO₂ total columns)
 - The reference is based on measurements around local noon on a clear day.
 - Typically, one month of field data is needed to fully describe the reference.
- Verify the quality and usability of each trace gas product
- If needed, produce multiple reference spectra for time periods when instrument characteristics shift or drift

Fitted Slant Columns from Calibrated Measurements



Intermediate Production of L2Fit Data



- Trace gas absorption cross-sections are inputs to spectral fitting.
- Each fitted trace gas has its associated wavelength window where its absorption signature is distinctive.

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Network Structure



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Data Products

Final Data for End Users: L2





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What 'r-codes' Do







Near-Surface Concentrations

- Available for HCHO, NO₂: Out-of-the-Box Data
- Near-horizon measurements (typically 1 degree elevation from the ground) extrapolated to horizon
- Units: mol/m³, conversion to typical concentration units (ppb/ppt) requires temperature and pressure
- Not a concentration value at any point in space: horizontally "smudged"



(Lower) Tropospheric Columns

- Available for HCHO, NO₂: Out-of-the-Box Data
- Estimated from 75° and 60° zenith angle observations
- "Sees" the lowermost ~ 3 km of the atmosphere



Zoomed in on a Single Day





Vertical Profiles: Partial Columns

- Available for HCHO, NO₂: Out-of-the-Box Data
- Measurements made at 11-13 zenith angles
- Profile data contain top height of first layer above the surface, followed by partial column in the first
- Same for the second layer and so on...





Total Vertical Column

275

- Fitted for all gases from direct sun measurements
- This retrieval needs a synthetic reference spectrum and field calibration
- High signal-to-noise measurement but sensitive to instrument changes over time



Working with PGN Data Files

Where to Find PGN Data

Scheduled Maintenance and Service Outage Notification: start: 2024-7-22 end: 2024-7-24

We would like to inform you about an upcoming scheduled maintenance and update for our PGN backend services. This essential work will take place on Monday next week, July 22, resulting in a complete outage of all services (including processing, BlickM, BlickV) for one day, followed by two days during which interruptions might be experienced.

https://www.pandonia-global-network.org/home/about/news-and-events/current-issues/

2.10 nvs3

nvs3 is as nvs2, but uses updated quality flag thresholds based on Gebetsberger et al. [4]. It has replaced nvs2 as official PGN total column NO₂ product code on 21 May 2021.

- Pandonia Global Network Data Products
 <u>Readme Document</u>
- What do the data represent?
- Which part of the atmosphere is samples?
- How should the data be used?
- What shortcomings might the data have?

r-code		nvs3		
	Code creator	Alexander Cede & Martin Tiefengraber, 20 Nov 2020		
	DQ limits creator	Manuel Gebetsberger, 21 May 2021		
	Output product	NO2 TotCol [mol/m ²]		
	Processor requirement	1.8 and higher		
	Product status	official		
	Observation mode	Direct sun		
	Filters used	OPEN		
	Effective heights	BL+NO2s		
	Number of fitting windows	2	_	
	Reference	Synthetic reference spectrum		
	Wavelength window	400.0 nm - 470.0 nm		
	Order of polynomials	SMO 4, OFFS 0, WLC 0, RSC 0		
	Fitted gases	O3-2 (O3-clim), NO2-1 (BL-clim), O2O2-1 (O2O2-clim), H2O-1 (BL-clim), OIO-1 (BL- clim), I2-1 (BL-clim); O3-2 (O3-clim), NO2-1 (NO2s-clim), O2O2-1 (O2O2-clim), H2O-1 (BL- clim), OIO-1 (BL-clim), I2-1 (BL-clim)		
	Ring	Not fitted		
	Molecular scattering	Subtracted		
	Uncertainty	INSTR		
	AMF limits	7, 14		
	AtmVar limits	36, 42		
	Wavelength shift limits	0.05, 0.1		
	wrms limits	9.7e-4, 1.52e-3		

Data Archive Contents

<u>Pandonia Global Network Data</u> Navigate to Location \rightarrow Pandora ID \rightarrow L2

Retrieval Code	Fitted Gas	Fitting Wavelengths (UV/Visible)	Measurement Type
fuh 5			Sky Scan
fus 5	НСНО	UV	Direct Sun
nvh 3			Sky Scan
nvs3	NO_2	VISIDIE	Direct Sun
susl	SO ₂	UV	Direct Sun
wvt 1	H ₂ O	Visible	Direct Sun
out2	O ₃	UV	Direct Sun

Lower Tropospheric Column, Near-Surface Concentration, Profiles

Total Column Only

Pandora Data Files Basics

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- File Names: Pandora###s1_location_L2_RetrievalCodep1-8.txt
- Files are space-delimited and contain all measurements for a given instrument-location combination to-date.

<u>https://data.pandonia-global-</u> network.org/WashingtonDC/Pandora140s1/L2/Pandora140s1_WashingtonDC_L2_r<mark>fuh</mark>5p1-8.txt

<u>https://data.pandonia-global-</u> network.org/WashingtonDC/Pandora140s1/L2/Pandora140s1_WashingtonDC_L2_r<mark>fus</mark>5p1-8.txt

Pandora Data Files: Header

Instrument Name and Location, PI, DOI

File name: Pandora61s1 AldineTX L2 rnvh3p1-8.txt File generation date: 20240722T064203.3Z Data description: Level 2 file (columns and more) Data file version: rnvh3p1-8 Data product status: Nitrogen dioxide data are official, Water vapor data are unvalidated Local principal investigator: Tom Hanisco Network principal investigator: Alexander Cede DOI: 10.48596/pgn.rnvh3p1-8.AldineTX.P61s1 Instrument type: Pandora Instrument number: 61 Spectrometer number: 1 Processing software version used: BlickP v1.8.17 Full location name: University Of Houston Trailer Short location name: AldineTX Country of location: United States Location latitude [deg]: 29.9011 Location longitude [deg]: -95.3262 Location altitude [m]: 8 Data start time: 20210527T140322. Data end time: NONE Data caveats: None

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Pandora Data Files: Column Headers

Measurement Settings (Duration, Pointing Zenith and Azimuth Angles, etc.), Fitting, and Diagnostic Information for Advanced Users

Pandora Data Files: Sky Scan Data Headers

- Surface Concentration (mol/m³)
- Tropospheric Vertical Column Amount (mol/m²)
- Profiles (Layer-by-Layer Partial Vertical Column Amounts, mol/m²):
 - Top Height of Layer 1, Partial Layer 1 Column, Layer 2, Layer 3,...

Column 56: Nitrogen dioxide surface concentration [mol/m3], -9e99=retrieval not successful Column 57: Independent uncertainty of nitrogen dioxide surface concentration [mol/m3], -6=no surface concentration was retrieved since the model. missing Column 58: Nitrogen dioxide surface concentration index, 1=Fully mixed case from extrapolation to horizon, 2=Fully mixed case from largest p angle, -6=no surface concentration was retrieved since the maximum viewing zenith angle was below 87deg Column 59: Nitrogen dioxide heterogeneity flag, 0=well mixed conditions, 1=heterogeneous conditions, -6=no surface concentration was retriev Column 60: Climatological nitrogen dioxide stratospheric column amount [moles per square meter] Column 61: Uncertainty of climatological nitrogen dioxide stratospheric column amount [moles per square meter] Column 62: Nitrogen dioxide tropospheric vertical column amount [moles per square meter], -9e99=retrieval not successful Column 63: Independent uncertainty of nitrogen dioxide tropospheric vertical column amount [moles per square meter], -4=tropospheric column measurements using stratospheric climatology, -7=uncertainty could not be retrieved since slant column uncertainties were missing Column 64: Maximum horizontal distance for nitrogen dioxide tropospheric column [km] Column 65: Maximum vertical distance for nitrogen dioxide tropospheric column [km] Column 66: Top height of water vapor layer 1 [km], -6=no profile was retrieved since the maximum viewing zenith angle was below 87deg Column 67: Partial water vapor vertical column amount in layer 1 [moles per square meter], -9e99=retrieval not successful Column 68: Top height of nitrogen dioxide layer 1 [km], -6=no profile was retrieved since the maximum viewing zenith angle was below 87deg Column 69: Partial nitrogen dioxide vertical column amount in layer 1 [moles per square meter], -9e99=retrieval not successful From Column 70: Optional results for higher layers in the same sequence as for layer 1 (4 columns per layer)

Pandora Data Files: Direct Sun Data Headers

Total Vertical Column Amount (mol/m²)

Column 36: L2 data quality flag for nitrogen dioxide, 0=assured high quality, 1=assured medium quality, 2=assured low quality, 10=not-assured high quality, quality, 2=unusable low quality

Column 37: Sum over 2ⁱ using those i, for which the corresponding L2 data quality parameter for nitrogen dioxide exceeds the DQ1 limit, 0=L2Fit data qualit Column 38: Sum over 2ⁱ using those i, for which the corresponding L2 data quality parameter for nitrogen dioxide exceeds the DQ2 limit (same parameters as Column 39: Nitrogen dioxide total vertical column amount [moles per square meter], -9e99=retrieval not successful

Column 40: Independent uncertainty of nitrogen dioxide total vertical column amount [moles per square meter], -1=cross section is zero in this wavelength ra uncertainty input was given, -9=spectral fitting was not successful

Column 41: Structured uncertainty of nitrogen dioxide total vertical column amount [moles per square meter], -1=cross section is zero in this wavelength rar Column 42: Common uncertainty of nitrogen dioxide total vertical column amount [moles per square meter], -1=cross section is zero in this wavelength range, was not successful

Column 43: Total uncertainty of nitrogen dioxide total vertical column amount [moles per square meter], -1=cross section is zero in this wavelength range, uncertainty input was given, -6=no common uncertainty input was given, -7=not given since method "MEAS" was chosen, -8=not given, since not all components a Column 44: rms-based uncertainty of nitrogen dioxide total vertical column amount [moles per square meter], -1=cross section is zero in this wavelength range not successful

Column 45: Nitrogen dioxide effective temperature [K]

Data Quality Flags

Digit 1

From Manual QA/QC

0 = Quality Assured 1 = Not Assured 2 = Unusable 🗱

Routine QA Procedures are Performed 10-12 Flags: No QA Yet 20-22 Flags: Indicated Instrument Problems

Digit 2

Automatically Generated from Fitting

0 = High Quality 1 = Medium Quality 2 = Low Quality

Based on Preset Thresholds of Root-Mean-Square Fitting Residuals and Wavelength Shift Low Quality: Use with Caution, Investigate

- Some "low quality" data are expected (weather, alignment).
- Persistent "low quality" or data flagged unusable = needs investigation

PGN Data Applications

Mixing Layer Heights

Adams et. al, 2023: Surface and column measurements of NO₂ were used to study mixing layer heights.

Adams et al. (2023). New insights into the role of atmospheric transport and mixing on column and surface concentrations of NO₂ at a coastal urban site. *JGR: Atmospheres.*

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Satellite Instrument Validation

Judd et. al, 2019: Pandora NO₂ columns were compared with a new satellite instrument (validation).

Judd et al. (2019). Evaluating the impact of spatial resolution on tropospheric NO2 column comparisons within urban areas using high-resolution airborne data. AMT.

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Part 3: Summary

Summary

Network	Туре	Primary Measurands	Number of Sites	Vertical Coverage
AERONET	Passive	Aerosols (Optical, Microphysical, Radiative)	~600 Active	Total Column
Pandora (PGN)	Passive	Trace Gases (Ozone, NO ₂ , Formaldehyde)	168 Official	Total Column, Near-Surface, Lower Tropospheric Profiles

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Looking Ahead to Part 4

- We will learn about the Tropospheric Ozone LiDAR Network (TOLNet)
- Unlike the networks we have covered so far, TOLNet uses an active remote sensing system

Homework and Certificates

- Homework:
 - One homework assignment
 - Opens on 22/08/2024
 - Access from the <u>training webpage</u>
 - Answers must be submitted via Google Forms
 - Due by 05/09/2024
- Certificate of Completion:
 - Attend all five live webinars (attendance is recorded automatically)
 - Complete the homework assignment by the deadline
 - You will receive a certificate via email approximately two months after completion of the course.

Contact Information

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Visit our Sister Programs:

- <u>DEVELOP</u>
- <u>SERVIR</u>

Resources

- AERONET Website
 - <u>AERONET data synergy tool</u>
 - <u>AERONET map explorer</u>
- Pandora Website
 - Pandonia Global Network
 - Pandonia Network Data

Thank You!

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