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Spatiotemporal variability of ammonia (NH₃) derived from the future IRS geostationary satellite and IASI observations

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Ammonia (NH₃) is an atmospheric pollutant mainly emitted by the agricultural sector, which has an effect on public health since it is a precursor of fine particles (PM_{2.5}). The diurnal variability of NH₃ in the atmosphere and its transformation into particles are poorly constrained and strongly depend on meteorological parameters, in particular temperature. This strongly influences our ability to correctly simulate NH₃ emissions and associated particulate pollution events in atmospheric models.

The InfraRed Sounder (IRS) instrument which will be launched onboard the Meteosat Third Generation (MTG) satellite into geostationary orbit in 2025, will be able to measure NH₃ diurnal variabilities and its dependence to atmospheric temperature with more frequent measurements (every 30-45 minutes over Europe and Africa) and better spatially resolved observations (4 km x 4 km at the Equator and Greenwich meridian).

In this study, we assess the potential of the future IRS-MTG NH₃ observations. By using synthetic spectra generated from the 4A/OP radiative transfer model and the simulated atmospheric states derived from the CHIMERE chemistry-transport model, we compare spatial and temporal variabilities of NH₃ of the future IRS-MTG mission and the available IASI satellite NH₃ observations over the Brittany region (France) for July 2016.

The uncertainty analysis over the Brittany region is calculated using NH₃ Jacobians computed from the 4A/OP radiative code and the noise covariance matrix provided by each satellite. Vertical sensitivity and error budget are computed for IASI and IRS datasets. This study aims to demonstrate the improvements in terms of NH₃ variabilities with the future IRS-MTG satellite.