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Tropospheric ozone climatology at two Southern Hemisphere tropical/subtropical sites, (Reunion Island and Irene, South Africa) from ozonesondes, LIDAR, and in situ aircraft measurements

G. Clain¹, J. L. Baray^{1,2}, R. Delmas¹, R. Diab³, J. Leclair de Bellevue⁴, P. Keckhut^{4,5}, F. Posny¹, J. M. Metzger¹, and J. P. Cammas⁶

Laboratoire de L'Atmosphère et des Cyclones (LACy), UMR-CNRS 8105, 15, av. René Cassin, BP 7151, 97715 St-Denis Cedex 9, La Réunion, France

²Institut Pierre-Simon Laplace (IPSL), Univ. Versailles Saint Quentin, 5 Boulevard d'Alembert, 78280 Guyancourt, France

 3 School of environmental science, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa

⁴Service d'Aéronomie (SA), UMR-CNRS 7620 Univ. Pierre et Marie Curie, 4 place Jussieu, 75252 Paris Cedex 05, France

⁵Service d'Aéronomie (SA), UMR-CNRS 7620 Verrières le Buisson, 91371, France ⁶Laboratoire d'Aérologie (LA), UMR-CNRS 5560 14, av. Edouard Belin, 31400 Toulouse, France

Abstract. This paper presents a climatology and trends of tropospheric ozone in the Southwestern Indian Ocean (Reunion Island) and South Africa (Irene and Johannesburg). This study is based on a multi-instrumental dataset: PTU-O₃ ozonesondes, DIAL LIDAR and MOZAIC airborne instrumentation.

The seasonal profiles of tropospheric ozone at Reunion Island have been calculated from two different data sets: ozonesondes and LIDAR. The two climatological profiles are similar, except in austral summer when the LIDAR profiles show greater values in the free troposphere, and in the upper troposphere when the LIDAR profiles show lower values during all seasons. These results show that the climatological value of LIDAR profiles must be discussed with care since LIDAR measurements can be performed only under clear sky conditions, and the upper limit of the profile depends on the signal strength.

In addition, linear trends have been calculated from ozonesonde data at Reunion and Irene. Considering the whole tropospheric column, the trend is slightly positive for Reunion, and more clearly positive for Irene. Trend calculations have also been made separating the troposphere into three layers, and separating the dataset into seasons. Results show that the positive trend for Irene is governed by the lower layer that is affected by industrial pollution and biomass burning. On the contrary, for Reunion Island, the strongest trends are observed in the upper troposphere, and in winter when stratosphere-troposphere exchange is more frequently expected.

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