

Middle-Atmosphere Temperature Monitoring Addressed with a Constellation of CubeSats dedicated to Climate issues

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ABSTRACT

While meteorological numerical models extend upward to the mesopause, mesospheric observa-11 tions are required for leading simulations and numerical weather forecasts and climate projections. 12 This work reviews some of the challenges about temperature observation requirements and the 13 limiting factors of the actual measurements associated with atmospheric tides. A new strategy is 14 described here using the limb scattering technique based on previous experiments in space. Such 15 observations can be placed on board cube-satellites. Technical issues are the large dynamic range 16 (4 magnitudes) required for the measurements, the accuracy of the limb pointing and the level of 17 stray light. The technique described here will expect accuracy of 1-2 K with a vertical resolution of 18 1-2 km. A constellation of 100 platforms could provide temperature observations with space (100 19 km) and time resolution (3 hours) recommended by the World Organization Meteorology, while 20 tidal issues could be resolved with a minimum of 3-5 platforms with specific orbit maintained to 21 avoid drifts. 22

1. Introduction

The middle atmosphere (MA) is under the conjugated influence of climate changes, due to 24 anthropogenic activities and natural variability. This region exhibits variability on time and space 25 with scales ranging from thousands of kilometers to tens of meters and extending in the different 26 atmospheric layers from troposphere up to the lower thermosphere. The MA extends from the 27 tropopause (10-15 km) to the turbopause (100-105 km) comprising the stratosphere and mesosphere 28 (Blanc et al. 2017). The stratosphere (12-50 km) was extensively studied because of the ozone 29 hole discovery (Farman et al. 1985) and the associated cooling due to the strong temperature-ozone 30 dependence in the upper stratosphere. The increase of GHGs (Green House Gases) induces a 31 global warming at the surface and in the troposphere but also a global cooling in the MA due to the 32 thermal infrared radiation emitted by GHGs escaping directly to the space because of the low optical 33 thickness of the atmosphere above. However, full interactive numerical models including the MA 34 have only appeared since the 1990s (Rind et al. 1990). The Coupled Model Inter-comparison 35 Project reveals that models that do not represent the MA present biases in the representation of 36 stratospheric climate and variability (Charlton-Perez et al. 2013). For this reason, the European 37 Center for Medium range Weather Forecast (ECMWF) extends meteorological analyses up to the 38 mesopause (80 km). However, comparisons between meteorological analyses and ground-based 39 instrument reveal large biases (Le Pichon et al. 2015; Wright and Hindley 2018) that are due 40 to a critical lack of observations above the stratopause and deficiencies in the parametrization 41 of radiation as well as gravity wave effects in assimilating models. Limb missions, providing 42 atmospheric observations with a high vertical resolution, will all stop soon their operations (Fussen 43 et al. 2019). Apart from ISS/SAGE-III launched in 2016, only few limb scattering missions are 44 planned in the future while they are not specifically dedicated to temperature retrieval. Long-term 45

temperature evolutions in the mesosphere (Beig et al. 2003) also suffer from the lack of dedicated
observations (section 2). However limb viewing observations allows temperature retrieval with a
good vertical resolution and can be deployed on small satellites (section 3). An issue is related to
the fact that temperature observations exhibit strong interferences with tides as described in section
4. The concept of constellation of several cubesats as described in section 5 could be an interesting
approach to provide unbiased mesospheric temperature fields for models. Section 6 will provide
conclusions about such perspectives.

2. Middle Atmosphere Temperature Variability

Systematic global temperature observations from space were initiated since October 1978 with the 54 SSU (Stratospheric Sounding Unit) onboard the successive NOAA operational satellites (Gelman 55 and Nagatani 1977) while assimilation of SSU data begins in December 1978 in ERA5. After 56 adjustments with rockets (Gelman et al. 1986) continuous temperature series were derived by the 57 U.S. National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP), and decadal temperature trends were 58 estimated (Hood et al. 1993; Lambeth and Callis 1994) with large uncertainties due to adjustment 59 uncertainties between the successive satellites (Wild et al. 1995). The updated temperature series 60 by two different groups show that derived trends exhibit larger differences between both of them 61 than with temperature series provided by numerical models (Thompson et al. 2012) and finally 62 provide a better agreement on zonal series (Maycock et al. 2018). A new generation of stratospheric 63 temperature sounders were obtained with the Advanced Microwave Sounding Unit (AMSU) on 64 board successive NOAA satellites and have also been flown more recently on NASA/Aqua and 65 EUMETSAT/Metop satellites. The overlap periods reveal bias and drifts (Keckhut et al. 2015) 66 in agreement with tidal models indicating that most of the observed drifts are likely due to the 67 atmospheric tides. Atmospheric tides are caused by a combined effect of ozone and water vapor 68

photodissociation (Haefele et al. 2008) and insolation absorption by these same species, inducing 69 waves with periods of 24 hours and associated harmonics on dynamical parameters (temperature, 70 wind and pressure) that propagate in the whole atmosphere(Chapman and Lindzen 1970). The 71 difficulties about time continuity on both SSU and AMSU series are mainly due to the combined 72 effects of satellite orbit, atmospheric tides, and differences in weighting functions (Figure 1). With 73 temperatures from the AQUA/AMSU instrument having an orbit maintained, more accurate trends 74 can be obtained (Funatsu et al. 2016; Khaykin et al. 2017a). While trend analyses are very sensitive 75 to time and space sampling (Funatsu et al. 2011), observations need to continue over periods longer 76 than one solar cycle. However, tide characteristics may also change in response to climate change 77 inducing additional apparent trends (Morel et al. 2004). AMSU has a finer vertical resolution than 78 SSU but sounds not as high as SSU (Zou and Qian 2016). Mesospheric temperature was first 79 investigated by rocketsondes operated systematically since the 1960s up to the end of the 1980s. 80 Since then, observations have been performed with lidars within the NDSC network (Kurylo 1991) 81 at several sites from tropics to poles. In the upper mesosphere temperature data are also obtained 82 from airglow OH spectrometers (Bittner et al. 2002). In addition, few other research instruments 83 have provided multi-years temperature data, and trends have been derived by several groups (Beig 84 et al. 2003). These observations are consolidated and coordinated through the ARISE project 85 (Blanc et al. 2017). No operational satellites are dedicated to provide systematic mesospheric 86 temperatures. Some research satellites like the HALOE experiment aboard UARS provide multi-87 year observations using the solar occultation technique (Remsberg et al. 2002) with a good vertical 88 resolution. However, no successive similar instruments were planned to be launched soon to 89 ensure the continuity. At that time, only two research satellites provide continuing temperature 90 series in the mesosphere: MLS (Microwave Limb Sounder) on board AURA/NASA and SABER 91 (Sounding of the Atmosphere using Broadband Emission Radiometry) on board TIMED/NASA 92

(Thermosphere Ionosphere Mesosphere Energetics Dynamics). Large bias with ground-based 93 observations are reported (Wing et al. 2018), and no similar follow-up missions are planned. 94 Microwave instruments like MLS do not exhibit a good vertical resolution with typical values of 8 95 km at 30 km growing with altitude up to 14 km at 80 km, and are then not sensitive enough to reveal 96 disturbances like mesospheric inversions. Instruments like SABER provides more information in 97 the mesosphere/thermosphere region with a constant vertical resolution of around 2 km. In the 98 MA, short scale processes like gravity waves are fundamental to understand atmospheric evolution 99 like sudden stratospheric Warmings (Hauchecorne et al. 2019a; Noguchi et al. 2020) and cannot be 100 vertically resolved by operational sensors (Figure 1). Comparison with numerical weather model 101 shows that under 10 days part of the observed variability is not included in meteorological analyses 102 (Le Pichon et al. 2015). The variability in the mesosphere is also due to gravity waves breaking 103 leading to mesospheric inversions of several tens of degrees within a vertical layer of 10-20 km 104 (Hauchecorne et al. 1987). Such structures are already observed from space (Leblanc et al. 1995) 105 and modelled (Hauchecorne and Maillard 1990) and were detected also by GOMOS (Hauchecorne 106 et al. 2019a). The role of the mesospheric and upper stratospheric circulations appear to be critical 107 on the onset and development of SSWs (Charlton-Perez et al. 2013). 108

The observation requirements are compiled by World Meteorological Organization (WMO) through the Observing Systems Capability Analysis and Review Tool (OSCAR: www.wmosat.info/oscar). The target resolutions correspond to 50-100 km and 3-6 hours time-resolution with an accuracy of 1-2 K.

3. Limb viewing measurements from small satellites

The scattering of sunlight is only due to atmospheric molecules above the aerosol stratospheric layer (25-30 km) and when no high-altitude polar clouds are present (Polar Stratospheric or ¹¹⁶ Mesospheric Clouds). Since Lord Rayleigh, the scattering is known to have a better higher ¹¹⁷ efficiency for the shorter wavelengths revealing a blue scattering (Figure 2). This scattering is ¹¹⁸ directly proportional to the atmospheric density.

Thus, similarly to the lidar technique (Hauchecorne and Chanin 1980), temperature can be 119 retrieved by downward integration of the hydrostatic equation assuming the atmosphere follows 120 the perfect gas law. The initialization is performed at the top of the profile assuming that the 121 temperature is close to the climatology. The associated uncertainty is decreasing rapidly with 122 altitude because the density itself increases sharply and the error becomes rapidly negligible 123 providing an unbiased absolute temperature profile in the whole MA. This method has been first 124 applied from space on bright limb using the Solar Mesosphere Explorer (Clancy et al. 1994). 125 The similar retrieval was applied on space experiments that were not initially planned to provide 126 temperatures like WINDII on UARS (Shepherd et al. 2001), OSIRIS on Odin (Sheese et al. 127 2012) and more recently with GOMOS on ENVISAT (Hauchecorne et al. 2019b) but having a 128 limb viewing geometry. The temperature retrievals were validated by ground-based instruments 129 showing very accurate unprecedent observations in the mesosphere with agreement better than 2K 130 with a vertical resolution of 2km. While existing instrument in space shows great capabilities, the 131 development of a dedicated instrument appears to be feasible as it could be integrated on a small 132 platform. Similar strategy have already be proposed for Earth radiative balance (Meftah et al. 133 2020) for other essential climate variable. Such an instrument requires to observe the bright limb, 134 and make the image of the Limb (Figure 3) on a CCD sensor. The main difficulties consist in: 135

• tracking the limb with a good accuracy,

being sensitive to a large dynamic signal while density is decreasing by two magnitudes from
 30-80 km and

7

• fully eliminating parasitic lights from Earth surface and internal glint.

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To achieve an accuracy of 1 K, a pointing reliability better than 250 meters is required as the mean 140 temperature gradient in the mesosphere corresponds to 4K/km. For the pointing, if we consider a 141 satellite cruise altitude of 600 km and a tangent altitude at 65 km above the surface, the distance 142 to the limb is 2678 km. An accuracy of 200 meters corresponds to 70 microradians (or 15 arcsec). 143 With GOMOS such accuracy was ensured with an efficient star tracker (Bertaux et al. 2010), while 144 the occultation method requires to track a star through the different atmospheric layers during the 145 satellite course. Similar device is required for temperature observations but with lower capability 146 requirements as we only need to retrieve 200 m resolution (15 arcsec) in one exposure time. While 147 the room is limited in a Cube-Sat, if the pointing efficiency is not as good as expected, the altitude 148 can be also derived directly from the image of the horizon observed on the full multi-point detector. 149 Such concept avoids to scan the limb in order to retrieve the density profile with a mechanic 150 system and provide an altitude reference in detecting the Earth horizon. The main challenge with 151 such a detector consists in providing enough sensitivity with a small noise level, over a signal 152 range covering more than 4 magnitudes (Figure 4). Simulations of expected limb radiances have 153 been performed for several bands and Figure 4 exhibits the two bands selected. It shows that 154 whatever the wavelength, the signals should cover four orders of magnitude. The blue part of the 155 spectrum is optimum as it is not affected by any absorbing component. Since the temperature 156 retrieval requires a pure molecular scattering, the red part of the spectrum, more sensitive to the 157 particulate scattering, will be used to detect the presence of aerosol and cloud particles. Even 158 though the MA is mostly free of particulates, moderate volcanic eruptions or intense biomass 159 burning events can inject considerable amounts of aerosols into the stratosphere (Khaykin et al. 160 2017b, 2020). Additionally, high-altitude tropical cirrus clouds, polar winter stratospheric clouds 161

as well as mesospheric noctilucent clouds or meteorite showers can also contaminate molecular scattering. The detection of aerosol and clouds using limb scattering technique will be the subject of a different study. Multi-point detectors exhibit different characteristics in term of sensitivity response and noise level as observed on GOMOS detector (Keckhut et al. 2010). Altitude retrieval will require an accurate inter-pixel calibration (0,5) as performed on GOMOS for spectrum retrieval (Kyrola et al. 2010). The calibration issue will be the task of the coming tests with the instrument prototype.

Another important issue is related to the noise induced by the external stray light reaching the 169 detector. It appears that some light outside the nominal field of view of the instrument was observed 170 on the GOMOS instrument (Figure 5) analyses on Envisat (Kyrola et al. 2010). Such noise reduce 171 the altitude range. Part of the light can be scattered by some platform hardware into the baffle and 172 optics. The other part is coming from the sun-illuminated nadir. Noise can be estimated directly 173 from signals coming from altitudes above 100 km, however capability will be increased if the 174 noise effects could be reduced by the design of the instrument. The dynamic and level of noise 175 will allow to select the correct 2D multi-pixel detector. If no active thermal control on board is 176 planned, power consumption will fit with a 3U (6W) or 6U (15W) standard orbit average power 177 available. An accurate characterization of the dark current with temperature and data processing 178 need to be performed at ground. All the components of similar limb measurements have already 179 operated in space through instruments mentioned above. So the technical challenge consists today 180 in performing similar measurements on a small platform with reduced room, electrical power, 181 and weight. To achieve the 3 main technical issues described in section 3, nano-satellite pointing 182 devices qualified for nanosat are not numerous but one has already shown promising capabilities 183 (Mason et al. 2017) that need to be investigated further for our application. The dynamic of the 184 signal can be covered by a CCD sensor while design, simulations and tests will be conducted 185

to reduce strait light issues on a small platform. Observation geometry as well as illumination conditions will not change during temperature observations that should reduce large evolution of the noise from successive observations. At that time a prototype with a flexible setup is under study and coming measurement campaigns in a high altitude observatory will allow for a better assessment of the noise and adjustment of the final design including the potential inclusion of foldable baffle.

192 **4. Tidal issues**

Atmospheric tidal theory has been proposed by Chapman and Lindzen (1970) predicting a 193 zonally-invariant migrating mode (Sun-synchronous) and a zonally-variant non-migrating tide. 194 The atmospheric tides are primarily induced by the daytime heating of stratospheric ozone layer 195 and convective latent heat release in the upper troposphere, whereas the ozone and water vapor are 196 themselves subject to a strong diurnal cycle due to the photodissociation effect (Haefele et al. 2008). 197 Perturbations of dynamical parameters like temperature and wind propagate vertically throughout 198 the different atmospheric layers up to the thermosphere, and their amplitudes grow with decreasing 199 pressure due to energy conservation. 200

Until recently, only few observations of tides in the stratosphere were available. Tidal studies 201 in this layer have thus been restricted almost exclusively to rocket soundings. Rocket-borne 202 temperature measurements had sparse diurnal coverage and were also prone to errors induced by 203 radiation from exposed components of the rocketsonde (Finger and H.M. 1967; Hoxit and Henry 204 1973). Atmospheric tides from temperature satellite measurements have been obtained from 205 different space instruments (Raju et al. 2010): LIMS (Limb Infrared Monitor of the Stratosphere) 206 instrument aboard the Nimbus7 (Hitchman and Leovy 1985), ISAMS (Improved Stratospheric 207 and Mesospheric Sounder) and MLS (Microwave Limb Sounder) instruments aboard the Upper 208

Atmosphere Research Satellite (Dudhia et al. 1993; Keckhut et al. 1996), and more recently from 209 CRISTA mission (Ward et al. 1999; Oberheide and Gusev 2002). However, satellite radiometers 210 need systematic validations and periodic calibrations by ground references and observations are 211 impeded with low horizontal and vertical resolutions and a viewing window that limits the local time 212 of observations. The analyses of daily-scale atmospheric fluctuations associated for example with 213 planetary waves are potentially contaminated by the non-migrating diurnal tides. The distortion 214 in the analysis of planetary waves due to the tidal contamination was found to be of the same 215 magnitude to the impact of noise in the data averaging over space and time (Zhang et al. 2006). 216 The diurnal solar tide is one of the most prominent features in the middle atmosphere. While 217 the tidal effect on large-scale stratospheric dynamics is small, its representation in a model is 218 important for data assimilation in order to avoid introducing biases associated with the local time 219 of the measurements (Swinbank and O'Neill 1994; Swinbank et al. 1999). This issue is much more 220 critic in the mesosphere where the tidal amplitude is nearly a magnitude larger. Data processing 221 from a single satellite requires large assumption about tidal characteristics (Huang et al. 2010). The 222 tide is also modulated by ozone, water vapor density and by the dynamic (McLandress 2002), thus 223 is sensitive to inter-annual changes like the QBO and SAO. Numerical simulations reveal a high 224 sensitivity and expect tides characteristics to vary with climate changes (Morel et al. 2004). Thus 225 simultaneous tidal estimates are required for assimilation or comparisons of any measurements 226 performed at different time of the day. One shortcoming of the satellite mesospheric temperature 227 data is that they are biased by the presence of migrating tides depending on the local times at which 228 the daily zonal mean temperatures are obtained. No single satellite is able to provide a full diurnal 229 coverage above a given location. At best if we consider a long period, the orbit changes allow to 230 sample different parts of the diurnal cycle permitting the derivation of mean tidal information in 231 comparing with temperatures at fix given times given by operational NOAA satellites. This is the 232

case for UARS/MLS (Keckhut et al. 1996) and SABER that obtained a full 24-hour coverage in 233 respectively 36 and 60 days. However tidal retrievals are biased by the daily variability (Forbes and 234 Wu. 2006). For WINDII only daytime observations are obtained and the diurnal tide parameters 235 (amplitudes and phases) cannot be determined without some assumptions about phase information. 236 This issue is a strong limitation for waves with period greater than 2 days, because of aliasing effects 237 with this tidal periods. In the mesosphere, ERA interim model, which provides data every 6 hours, 238 allow us to derive a diurnal cycle in assuming no semi-diurnal component and only a diurnal 239 one (Figure 6). This calculation average over one month reveals at 60 km a large difference with 240 latitudes but also unexpected large differences along the longitudes because of the strong presence 241 of non-migrating tides. Complementary analyses with superDARN radar reveal a large variability 242 of tides in wind with time and even over a single latitude (Hibbins et al. 2019). 243

5. Small-satellite strategy, stable orbit and constellations

The orbit needs to be selected to see an illuminated limb. In the summer hemisphere, above 30 245 km, a large portion of the diurnal cycle is concerned (more than 15 hours at 45° in latitude) while in 246 the winter hemisphere a reduced portion is available (less than 10 hours at 45° in latitude). If most 247 of the variability induced by migrating atmospheric tides can be modelled by a diurnal and a semi-248 diurnal components, 5 unknown variables need to be considered (amplitude and phase for both 249 waves and the mean). Temperature time evolution induced by tides are provided by the Global Wave 250 Scale Model (Hagan 1999). If we consider a noise of 2K at 65 km at mid-latitudes with 5 different 251 solar times and 30 observations (corresponding to 1 month daily measurements), the retrieval of the 252 tidal evolution is perfectly reproduced (deviations smaller than 5% over the full cycle) as shown in 253 figure 7. If the satellite has two solar time observations for respectively ascending and descending 254 orbits, then only 3 satellites are necessary to retrieve atmospheric tides. During winter, the night is

too long to provide a sufficient coverage to retrieve the full characteristics of tidal waves (Figure 7). 256 Figure 7 clearly shows how crucial are the observations at around 19:00 to retrieve the amplitude 257 of tides as this portion of the cycle exhibits the largest differences between December and August 258 tidal behaviors. So, the 3 solar-time observations are enough to retrieve the daylight portion of 259 the temperature daytime evolution. However, orbits of the different satellites need to be decided 260 accurately to remove tide effects if only 3 platforms are in space. One of the important issues to 261 time continuity, consists in maintaining the orbit stable in time while a drift would induce change 262 of the time of measurements. Due to the atmospheric tides inducing several-degrees temperature 263 oscillations in the middle atmosphere, the drift about the revisiting time over a given location, will 264 induce a temperature drift that could be interpreted either as anthropogenic trend or instrumental 265 drift. As discussed in section 2, tides have been already observed with operational instruments 266 like SSU (Wild et al. 1995) and AMSU (Keckhut et al. 2015) and were a severe limitation for 267 trend estimates, unless the instruments have been installed on platforms with stable orbits (Funatsu 268 et al. 2016). Small thrusters have been developed for Cube-Sats and can be used to maintain the 269 time of measurements. If many satellites are in space simultaneously the maintenance of the orbit 270 is not required in theory. However, while it is miniaturized and recommended for de-orbitation 271 and collision avoidance such a device will present a plus-value for trend retrieval using a reduced 272 number of platforms. 273

However, such temporal sampling should be considered as a minimum requirement to address tidal issues as only migrating time were considered. Very few is known about non-migrating tides and it is difficult to plan specific operations. WMO requirements will certainly allow a better representation of the induced regional effects. In order to achieve the required resolution provided by OSCAR/WMO during daytime with Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites, 4 orbital planes with a 3-hours offset between them are needed, for example at 7:30, 10:30, 13:30 and 16:30 local time (Thompson et al. 2012). To achieve the horizontal resolution of 100 km for each orbit plane, 400
 longitudes are needed at the equator. With up to 16 orbits per day for a LEO satellite, 25 platforms
 are needed on each orbit plane, corresponding to a total of 100 platforms.

²⁸³ Due to the agility of CubeSats, an international collaborative heterogeneous constellation can be ²⁸⁴ envisioned to detect and study global dynamical structures in the MLT region using deep learning ²⁸⁵ approaches as already suggested (Kaufmann et al. 2018; Meftah et al. 2020). Heterogeneity can ²⁸⁶ come from limb scattering platforms like the one introduced here with additional capabilities ²⁸⁷ or other limb-viewing instruments not primarily designed for temperature retrieval like ALTIUS ²⁸⁸ (Fussen et al. 2019) or OMPS-LP on JSPS, or even measurements based on other techniques that ²⁸⁹ provide observations on the dynamics in the MA (Baron et al. 2018; Fussen et al. 2019).

6. Conclusions and recommendations

Previous studies have revealed difficulties to derive temperature trends in the upper strato-291 sphere with successive operational instruments with different orbits and/or having experienced 292 orbit drifting in time due to tidal effects. Tidal issue is also limiting the assimilation processes 293 in meteorological analyses. Moreover in mesosphere, where tidal amplitudes are much larger, 294 temperature is only probed by few research satellites and requires a better observation strategy. 295 To insure a good time temperature coverage of the upper stratosphere and mesosphere to avoid 296 interferences with tides, several orbits are required, ideally more than 5 as shown by simulations 297 described in section 5. Ideally, process studies would require around 100 platforms. This can 298 not insure with traditional space platforms. While climate variables are linked together and is 299 required to quantify and understand the Earth imbalance, different constellations will be merged 300 together with artificial intelligence methods. Temperature observations should be performed with 301 a noise smaller than 1-2 Kelvin, and a systematic bias even smaller by 2 magnitudes. Previous 302

temperature retrievals from limb scattering appear to be one of the best technologies to provide accurate temperatures with a simple concept that can fit a small satellite platform, adequate for a constellation configuration of several cube-satellites. The design will need a viewing angle better than 70 micro-radians to insure a vertical resolution around 1 kilometer as required by WMO. The final goal is a constellation of several satellites that view a region of interest from different perspectives. Such a constellation will be a perfect complement to ground observations deployed within the ARISE European infrastructure (Blanc et al. 2017) in construction.

³¹⁰ *Data availability statement*. Atmospheric tide characteristics (amplitude and phase of the diurnal ³¹¹ and semi-diurnal components) from the GSWM simulations are provided by Maura Hagan and can ³¹² be downloaded freely on http://www.hao.ucar.edu/modeling/gswm/gswm.html. ERA Interim data ³¹³ used for estimating tidal changes can be obtained from https://apps.ecmwf.int/datasets/data/interim-³¹⁴ full-daily/levtype=ml/.

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FIG. 7. Temperature anomalies estimated by the Global Scale Wave Model at 45°N at 65 km altitude for December (a) and August (b) in Blue. Red points correspond to 30 times a temperature composed by the model estimate and a random noise from a normal distribution with a standard width of 2 K for 5 different solar local times. Black dots correspond to the fitted curved including 2 waves of respectively 12 and 24 hours periods and a mean.