



AN EARLY EVALUATION OF SAGE III SOLAR OCCULTATION MEASUREMENTS

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The Stratospheric Aerosol and Gas Experiment III (SAGE III), which was launched on Dec 10, 2001 on the Russian spacecraft Meteor 3M, is an important part of NASA's Earth Observing System (EOS) mission to develop an understanding of the total Earth system and the effects of natural and human-induced changes on the global environment. The instrument make use of Solar occultation observations to provide high resolution vertical profiles of multi-wavelength aerosol extinction, the molecular density of ozone, nitrogen dioxide, and water vapor, as well as profiles of temperature, pressure, and cloud presence. The instrument is also capable of performing lunar occultation and limb scattering measurements. In this work, the latest SAGE III solar and lunar occultation measurements will be presented. In an early evaluation of the measurements, comparisons will be made between SAGE III level 2 solar products (version 2.0) and SAGE II, HALOE, POAM III, and GOMOS satellites. Comparisons also include balloon and ground-based measurements.