



Early data from Aura and continuity from UARS and TOMS

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Aura, the last of the large EOS observatories, was launched on July 15, 2004. Aura is designed to make comprehensive stratospheric and tropospheric composition measurements from its four instruments, HIRDLS, MLS, OMI and TES. These four instruments work in synergy to provide data on ozone trends, air quality and climate change. The instruments observe in the nadir and limb and provide the best horizontal and vertical resolution ever achieved from space. After nearly two years in orbit the instruments are nearly operational and are undergoing a comprehensive validation program. Aura data products are now appearing in the Aura validation archive with many data available to the public. We summarize the mission, instruments, and initial results and give examples of how Aura is providing continuity to earlier stratospheric chemistry missions and new data on the connections between climate and air quality