



Overview of Venus mesospheric temperatures as observed by VIRTIS/Venus

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We present a general overview of the Venus mesospheric temperature fields, as retrieved from the data of Virtis-M instrument on board of Venus Express satellite, after two years of operations. The general structure of the atmosphere is being investigated mainly in the southern hemisphere, and closely follows the trends observed by previous missions for the northern hemisphere. Namely, temperatures tend to rise along the longitude toward the pole in a wide range of altitudes. A cold collar centered around 65S is also evident. Short-time variability of the atmosphere (1h time scale) is dominated by fluctuations peaking at 1 mb, that show maximum amplitudes just after the sunset. Temperatures in the lowest part of probed pressure range ($p < 0.1$ bar) is driven, in the polar region, by the occurrence of polar dypole, whose effects are however limited below 35 mbar. Average thermal fields as function of local time are also discussed.