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R. Sommariva, W. J. Bloss, N. Brough, N. Carslaw, M. Flynn, et al.. OH and HO₂ chemistry during NAMBLEX: roles of oxygenates, halogen oxides and heterogeneous uptake. *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics Discussions*, 2005, 5 (6), pp.10947-10996. hal-00301891

HAL Id: hal-00301891

<https://hal.science/hal-00301891>

Submitted on 18 Jun 2008

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**OH and HO₂
chemistry during
NAMBLEX**

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OH and HO₂ chemistry during NAMBLEX: roles of oxygenates, halogen oxides and heterogeneous uptake

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Received: 26 August 2005 – Accepted: 4 October 2005 – Published: 1 November 2005

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ACPD

5, 10947–10996, 2005

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Abstract

Several zero-dimensional box-models with different levels of chemical complexity, based on the Master Chemical Mechanism (MCM), have been used to study the chemistry of OH and HO₂ in a coastal environment in the Northern Hemisphere. The models were constrained to and compared with measurements made during the NAMBLEX campaign (Mace Head, Ireland) in summer 2002.

The base models, which were constrained to measured CO, CH₄ and NMHCs, were able to reproduce [OH] within 25%, but overestimated [HO₂] by about a factor of 2. Agreement was improved when the models were constrained to oxygenated compounds (acetaldehyde, methanol and acetone), highlighting their importance for the radical budget. When the models were constrained to measured halogen monoxides (IO, BrO) and used a more detailed, measurements-based, treatment to describe the heterogeneous uptake, modelled [OH] increased by up to 15% and [HO₂] decreased by up to 30%. The actual impact of halogen monoxides on the modelled concentrations of HO_x was dependant on the uptake coefficients used for HOI, HOBr and HO₂. The best agreement with the measurements was achieved by constraining the model to measured IO and setting $\gamma_{\text{HO}_2}=1$ and $\gamma_{\text{HOI}}=0.6$.

A rate of production and destruction analysis of the models allowed a detailed study of OH and HO₂ chemistry under the conditions encountered during NAMBLEX, showing the importance of oxygenates and of XO (where X=I, Br) as co-reactants for OH and HO₂ and of HOX photolysis as a source for OH.

1. Introduction

The chemistry of the troposphere during the day is controlled by the concentration of the OH and HO₂ radicals. These two species are the key components of a radical cycle that oxidizes the trace gases in the lower atmosphere. The ability to simulate HO_x is therefore a good test of our understanding of the chemical processes of the

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troposphere.

The main source of OH in the troposphere is the reaction of water vapour with O(¹D), from ozone photolysis (R1–R2)



OH reacts with CO to give HO₂ and with CH₄ and a range of Non Methane Hydrocarbons (NMHCs) to give a large number of organic peroxy radicals (RO₂), the most important of which is CH₃O₂.

In the presence of NO_x the peroxy radicals react with NO forming HO₂ through the reaction of the alkoxy radical with O₂. This is not the only fate of the alkoxy radicals, which can also decompose or isomerize to form other alkyl radicals and/or carbonyl compounds. The formation of alkylnitrates (RCH₂ONO₂) and peroxyalkylnitrates (RCH₂O₂NO₂) can also be important, in particular for long chain alkyperoxy radicals (>C5) and for peroxyacetyl radicals, respectively (Atkinson and Arey, 2003). At low NO_x the peroxy radicals primarily react through self and cross peroxy-peroxy reactions to form peroxides (e.g., H₂O₂ and CH₃OOH).

The formation of HO₂ in these processes leads to the reformation of OH through the reactions with O₃ and, in high NO_x conditions, NO, thus closing the radical cycle. The peroxides act as sources and sinks of OH through their photolysis or reaction with OH.

Carbonyls are important intermediates. They typically form from the decomposition of alkoxy radicals (e.g., HCHO from CH₃O and CH₃CHO from C₂H₅O) and they act both as sources, via photolysis, and as sinks, via reaction with OH, of radicals (R3–R4). In this way they have a large influence on the radical budget.



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Several modelling studies have been performed for the marine boundary layer (MBL) chemistry. Typically OH is overestimated by a factor of 1.1 (Sommariva et al., 2004) up to a factor of 2.4 (Carslaw et al., 2002). During two aircraft campaigns in the Pacific Ocean, OH was underestimated by up to 30% (Olson et al., 2004). HO₂ is generally overestimated by a factor of 1.2 (Kanaya et al., 2001) up to a factor of 3.6 (Carslaw et al., 2002). The model-measurements comparison for HO₂ was much better during the PEM Tropics B aircraft campaign, when the average model/measurement ratio was about 1.03 (Tan et al., 2001). A more complete review of the model/measurement comparisons of OH and HO₂ in the MBL and in other environments can be found in (Heard and Pilling, 2003).

This paper reports a modelling study of OH and HO₂ in the clean marine boundary layer during the NAMBLEX (North-Atlantic Marine Boundary Layer Experiment) campaign using a set of observationally constrained box-models based upon the Master Chemical Mechanism (Jenkin et al., 1997, 2003; Saunders et al., 2003). Sections 2, 3 and 4 of this paper describe the NAMBLEX site, the procedure used to estimate photolysis rates and the models that were used. Section 5 describes the results of the models and the comparison with the measurements, while Sect. 6 discusses possible ways to reduce the discrepancy between the model and the measurements. The results of the improved models are discussed in Sect. 7 and analyzed in Sect. 8. The conclusions are drawn in Sect. 9.

2. The NAMBLEX campaign

The NAMBLEX campaign was conducted at Mace Head, Ireland, between 23 July and 4 September 2002. The aim of the campaign, which involved ten British universities (Aberystwyth, Bristol, Birmingham, Cambridge, East Anglia, Edinburgh, Leeds, Leicester, UMIST, York) and the National University of Ireland, Galway, was to study the chemistry of the marine boundary layer under clean conditions in the Northern Hemisphere. A full overview of the campaign can be found in Heard et al. (2005).

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The Mace Head Atmospheric Research Station (MHARS) is located at 53°20' N, 9°54' W on the western coast of Ireland, about 90 km from Galway. The station is part of the Global Atmospheric Watch program of the World Meteorological Organization (http://www.wmo.ch/web/arep/gaw/gaw_home.html) and of the AGAGE program (<http://agage.eas.gatech.edu/>) and consists of two laboratories and two towers (21 m and 10 m) situated about 100 m from the shore. A third laboratory is situated about 300 m from the shore and 25 m above sea level. Most of the instruments during NAMBLEX were located inside or around the shore laboratories within a radius of about 10–20 m. The measurements and the techniques used during NAMBLEX are listed in [Heard et al. \(2005\)](#). Further information about the station and the facilities can be found in [Jennings et al. \(2003\)](#) and at <http://macehead.physics.nuigalway.ie/>.

Meteorological conditions during NAMBLEX are discussed in detail in [Norton et al. \(2005\)](#). Apart from a short period at the beginning of August when air masses arrived at Mace Head from the north-east, bringing pollution from Scandinavia and northern Britain, most of the time the air sampled was of oceanic origin. The five-day back trajectories (Fig. 1) show that air masses travelled across the Atlantic from North America (west trajectories), Greenland (north-west trajectories) and from the tropics (south-west trajectories).

Table 1 shows the 24-h average concentrations and values of some significant variables measured during the campaign during some selected days. The modelling work was concentrated on four clean days (9, 10, 31 August and 1 September) and on the week 15–21 August, when all the measurements used by the models were available (Sect. 4). The clean days were characterized by westerly and north-westerly trajectories and low NO_x concentrations (<30 ppt of NO and 60–80 ppt of NO₂). Acetylene was around 50 ppt on 9–10 August and around 100 ppt on 31 August and 1 September. The week from 15 to 21 August was characterized by unusual anticyclonic conditions which caused the air masses to stagnate off the Irish coast for several days. During this period, [NO] was on average quite low (10–20 ppt), with the exception of two days (16 and 21 August), when it was on average between 70 and 100 ppt. The concen-

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tration of NO₂ was high on 16, 20 and 21 August (100–240 ppt), but rather low on 15, 17, 18 and 19 August (20–50 ppt). The low [NO]/[NO₂] ratio on 16, 20 and 21 August was indicative of the long chemical processing of the air masses under anticyclonic conditions. Average acetylene concentrations were between 40 and 70 ppt throughout the week. In practice, 15, 17, 18 and 19 August can be considered as clean days, on the basis of the low concentrations of NO_x and acetylene.

3. Estimation of photolysis rates

Photolysis rates, particularly those of O₃ (Reaction R1) and NO₂, are key constraints to the models. During the NAMBLEX campaign, photolysis rates were measured using three filter radiometers and a spectral radiometer (Edwards and Monks, 2003). The spectral radiometer allowed the measurement of other important photolysis rates, such as j(HCHO), j(CH₃CHO), j(CH₃COCH₃) and j(HONO).

However, there were days throughout the campaign (1, 2, 15, 17 August and 1 September), when these data were not available, owing to power failures or computer crashes. j(O¹D) and j(NO₂) data could be replaced by the filter radiometer measurements, but it was necessary to find a way to estimate the missing data. One methodology that has been proposed uses correlations between j(O¹D) or j(NO₂) and the other photolysis rates (Kraus and Hofzumahaus, 1998). This approach is based on the similar wavelength dependencies of the photolysis rates of species with similar absorption spectra.

Acetone and acetaldehyde photolyze in the same range of wavelength (290<λ<330 nm) which is very similar to j(O¹D). j(HONO), j(HOI) and j(HOBr) photolysis rates are approximately in the same wavelength interval as j(NO₂). Using this approach, a procedure in three steps was developed to estimate the photolysis rates for the days with gaps in the spectral radiometer measurements:

1. Spectral radiometer data from the nearest day with complete measurements were

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used to find a correlation between $j(\text{O}^1\text{D})$ or $j(\text{NO}_2)$ and the photolysis rates of interest ($j(\text{HONO})$, $j(\text{HCHO})$, $j(\text{CH}_3\text{CHO})$ and $j(\text{CH}_3\text{COCH}_3)$).

2. The correlations were used with $j(\text{O}^1\text{D})$ and $j(\text{NO}_2)$ data from the filter radiometer to estimate $j(\text{HONO})$, $j(\text{HCHO})$, $j(\text{CH}_3\text{CHO})$ and $j(\text{CH}_3\text{COCH}_3)$ during the gaps.
3. The difference between the estimated values and the spectral radiometer data before and after the gaps was calculated to estimate the error in using the correlation.

To achieve a better correlation between the parameters and to take into account the differences in the absorption cross sections of the molecules, polynomial correlations were used. The correlation was usually very good with $R^2 > 0.9$ for all species except HCHO (Table 2). While HCHO photolyzes roughly in the same region of O^1D production from O_3 in the lower troposphere ($300 < \lambda < 340$ nm), the HCHO spectrum is highly structured, unlike that of O_3 . The correlation parameters were slightly different from day to day, reflecting the differences in the position of the sun and the variability of light intensity (Table 2).

Using these correlations and the filter radiometer data it was possible to estimate the photolysis rates for $j(\text{HONO})$, $j(\text{HCHO})$, $j(\text{CH}_3\text{CHO})$ and $j(\text{CH}_3\text{COCH}_3)$ in the periods when the measurements were not available.

The difference between the estimated and the measured photolysis rates before and after the gaps was typically below 50%. The difference was much higher (up to 200%) at high solar zenith angles (SZA), due to the different responses of the filter and spectral radiometers, which becomes more appreciable at $\text{SZA} > 70^\circ$ (Bohn et al., 2004). Owing to the fixed band width of the filter radiometers, these types of instruments do not perform well at high solar zenith angles, because of the increased path length of radiation through the atmosphere, which increases the relative proportion of the diffuse (scattered) component of light. Therefore caution should be applied when using this type of correlations to estimate the photolysis rates. The time of the day when the gaps

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in the measurements occur could significantly affect the estimate. It may, however, not affect the modelling results if the species which is photolyzed has little overall effect on the radical budget.

The main advantage of using this procedure to estimate photolysis rates, instead of calculating them with a model, is that the short term variability due to clouds can be taken into account. However, clouds can both attenuate (homogeneous field) and enhance (broken field) the actinic flux. This effect has recently been shown to be non-linear with respect to spectral function and hence photolysis rates will also not scale linearly under cloudy conditions (Monks et al., 2004). These cloud effects are also increased at higher SZA, making the estimation even less reliable at those SZA.

4. The models

The construction of the models for NAMBLEX followed the same guidelines explained in Carslaw et al. (1999); Sommariva et al. (2004). Version 3.1 of the Master Chemical Mechanism (MCM, <http://mcm.leeds.ac.uk/>) was used throughout the work.

To explore the impact of hydrocarbons, oxygenates and peroxides on the calculated concentrations of OH and HO₂, four models, with different degrees of chemical complexity, were used. All the models were constrained to 15-min averages of measured concentrations of CO, CH₄, H₂, O₃, NO, NO₂, HCHO, selected NMHCs, H₂O and to measured temperature and photolysis rates ($j(\text{O}^1\text{D})$, $j(\text{NO}_2)$, $j(\text{HONO})$, both channels of $j(\text{HCHO})$, $j(\text{CH}_3\text{COCH}_3)$, $j(\text{CH}_3\text{CHO})$). The NMHCs data were linearly interpolated to 15 min. The constraints of the different base models are shown in Table 3.

The 22 hydrocarbons were: ethane, propane, i-butane, n-butane, i-pentane, n-pentane, n-hexane, n-heptane, ethene, propene, acetylene, trans-2-butene, but-1-ene, i-butene, cis-2-butene, 1,3-butadiene, isoprene, benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, m-xylene+p-xylene, o-xylene. The three oxygenates were acetaldehyde, methanol and acetone and the two peroxides were H₂O₂ and CH₃OOH (Lewis et al., 2005).

Model “fulloxyper” could be used only when enough peroxide data were available.

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The peroxides instrument was shut down on 30 August, so no data were available after that date. Even before 30 August peroxide concentrations, and in particular [CH₃OOH], were often below or close to the detection limit (0.02 ppb; see [Morgan and Jackson, 2002](#)). HCHO measurements were not available after 21 August, therefore the models for the following days could not be constrained to HCHO, which was instead calculated. Also, measurements of chloroform (CHCl₃) were not available before 3 August, so chloroform was included in the “full”, “fulloxy” and “fulloxyper” models only after 3 August. SO₂, which was not measured, was set to a constant value of 55 ppt ([Berresheim et al., 2002](#)).

The wind profiler radar measurements indicated that a distinct diurnal cycle of the boundary layer (BL) was not always recognizable during NAMBLEX and often the synoptic pattern dominated over the local conditions ([Norton et al., 2005](#)). On many days during the campaign the boundary layer was roughly constant throughout the day with heights of 700–1500 m. On a few days, such as 9 August, the BL showed a diurnal variation with a height of 1000–1500 m during the day and 400–500 m during the night. The boundary layer height, however, did not influence significantly the modelled radicals.

Dry deposition terms were also included using the values of [Derwent et al. \(1996\)](#) except for peroxides (1.1 cm s⁻¹ for H₂O₂ and 0.55 cm s⁻¹ for organic peroxides), methyl and ethyl nitrate (1.1 cm s⁻¹) and HCHO (0.33 cm s⁻¹) ([Brasseur et al., 1998](#)). Dry deposition velocity for CH₃CHO and other aldehydes was assumed to be the same as that for HCHO. Heterogeneous uptake was calculated using Eq. (1) (Sect. 6) assuming irreversible loss of gas-phase species on aerosol.

Total OH loss due to CO, CH₄, H₂, hydrocarbons and oxygenates was calculated as $\sum_i k_{\text{HC}_i}[\text{HC}_i]$. Most of the time during NAMBLEX, with the exception of the semi-polluted days at the beginning of August, NMHCs accounted for only about 5–10% (average 7%) of the total OH loss. During the semi-polluted days their percentage increased up to ~15% (Table 4). OH losses were dominated by CO, CH₄ and H₂ which together accounted for 60–80% of the total throughout the campaign.

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Table 4 also shows the importance of oxygenated compounds as OH sinks. Acetaldehyde, formaldehyde, methanol and acetone taken together accounted for about 20% and up to 30% of the total OH losses. Acetaldehyde in particular was one of the major contributors to loss of OH (Table 4). Since oxygenates are also sources of radicals (Reactions R3–R4), it is important to accurately assess their impact on the radical budget. The sources and sinks of the oxygenated compounds during NAMBLEX are discussed in Lewis et al. (2005).

The modelling results were compared to OH and HO₂ measurements made during the day by laser-induced fluorescence (LIF) using the FAGE (Fluorescence Assay by Gas Expansion) approach (Smith et al., 2005). Two companion papers describe peroxy radical (HO₂ and HO₂+RO₂) chemistry during the day (Fleming et al., 2005) and night-time chemistry of HO_x and NO₃ (Sommariva et al., 2005¹). A rigorous assessment of the model's uncertainty is very difficult owing to the large number of reactions and parameters involved. Using a simpler version of the model (similar to the “clean” model used in this work) a 2σ standard deviation of 30–40% for OH and 25–30% for HO₂ was estimated using a Monte Carlo technique coupled with Latin Hypercube Sampling (LHS) (Sommariva et al., 2004). The 2σ standard deviation of the FAGE instrument during the NAMBLEX campaign was estimated as 44% for OH and about 50% for HO₂ (Smith et al., 2005).

5. OH and HO₂ with the base models

The results of the four base models are shown in Fig. 2 for OH and in Fig. 3 for HO₂ for several days during NAMBLEX together with the OH and HO₂ measurements by the FAGE technique.

¹Sommariva, R., Ball, S. M., Bitter, M., Bloss, W. J., Fleming, Z. L., Heard, D. E., Jones, R. L., Lee, J. D., Monks, P. S., Pilling, M. J., Plane, J. M. C., and Saiz-Lopez, A.: Night-time radical chemistry during the NAMBLEX campaign, Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., in preparation, 2005.

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The agreement for OH between the models and the measurements was within 25% on most days. 9 and 10 August were the two days which showed the best agreement with the models and measurements, within 10% (Fig. 2a). 17–20 August corresponded to the period characterized by anti-cyclonic conditions and very slow wind speeds (<5 m/s), which caused air to stagnate over Mace Head. In these conditions the performance of the models was worse. On 17–19 August the OH concentration was overestimated by up to 50%. On 20 August the models underestimated the measurements by up to 30% (Fig. 2b).

The comparison among the differently constrained models showed that the “clean” model always calculated higher [OH] than the models with additional constraints. In fact, for all the modelled days the best agreement was obtained with the “fulloxy” and the “fulloxyper” models which included constraints to the measured concentrations of the oxygenated compounds (methanol, acetaldehyde and acetone). Reactions with these compounds represent important losses for OH (Table 4), but they were also radical sources through their photolysis. When the model was constrained to measured oxygenates, modelled [OH] was lower than when the model was not constrained to the oxygenates, showing that these species acted as net sinks for OH. The difference between the “fulloxy” and the “fulloxyper” models appeared to be negligible, showing that constraining the model to peroxides (H₂O₂ and CH₃OOH) did not have a significant impact on modelled [HO_x].

In contrast to previous campaigns, e.g. SOAPEX-2 (Sommariva et al., 2004), the models reproduced reasonably well the shape of the OH profiles and they followed closely the increase of [OH] at sunrise and the decrease at sunset, possibly owing to measured photolysis rates other than $j(\text{O}^1\text{D})$ and $j(\text{NO}_2)$ during NAMBLEX. The agreement with the measured profile is particularly good on 9 and 10 August (Fig. 2a), which were also the two days with the best agreement with the measurements.

Despite technical difficulties at the beginning of the campaign with the FAGE instrument, there were many days of HO₂ measurements during NAMBLEX. The results of the models are shown together with the measurements in Fig. 3. Data for 10 August

had a larger uncertainty, because this was the first day of the campaign that the HO₂ cell of the instrument was working. HO₂ data for the following days were considered more reliable.

The agreement between modelled and measured [HO₂] was not as good as for OH. The models overestimated the concentration of HO₂ on all the modelled days by at least a factor of 2. This is in agreement with the model results of previous campaigns in the marine boundary layer, e.g. Sommariva et al. (2004) for Cape Grim, despite a considerable improvement of the model performance with respect to OH. This suggests that some important part of the mechanism is either missing or badly implemented, because the discrepancy between the model and the measurements appear to be independent from the chemical and physical conditions, which in Mace Head and in Cape Grim were different even during the clean periods.

A test run was made by changing the rate coefficient of the reaction HO₂+HO₂ to test the sensitivity of the model to the kinetic parameters of the HO₂ self-reaction. In the low NO_x conditions encountered in Mace Head this was one of the dominant loss pathways of HO₂ (Sect. 8). The model showed that increasing $k_{\text{HO}_2+\text{HO}_2}$ by 50% resulted in a decrease of [HO₂] by only 10–15% due to radical cycling which buffered the effect of increased HO₂ loss via this route.

The model was able to reproduce the impact on [HO₂] of the NO events on 16 and 21 August (Figs. 3b and 4). On these two occasions, strong spikes of NO of up to 1 ppb were detected by the NO_{xy} instrument. The source of these spikes is unknown. It probably was a local source, such as a car or a ship, characterized by a strong but short burst of NO_x. During these events, HO₂ suddenly decreased while OH increased because of the reaction with NO which accelerated the HO_x cycle (Fig. 4).

HO₂ was also measured during the night between 31 August and 1 September. The comparison between the models and the measurements is discussed in a companion paper (Sommariva et al., 2005¹).

The agreement between the models constrained to the hydrocarbons (“full”, “fulloxy” and “fulloxyper”) and the CO-CH₄ model (“clean”) was generally quite close on most

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of the modelled days, both for OH and for HO₂ (Figs. 2–3). This is because for most of the time the NMHCs only accounted for about 7–10% of the total OH loss (Table 4) and therefore the great part of the OH chemistry was driven by CO, CH₄ and H₂ (up to 80% of the total OH loss) which were common to all the four models. The only notable exception was on 21 August when, starting from mid-morning, the concentration of OH calculated with the “clean” model was up to a factor of 3 higher than the concentration calculated with the “fulloxy” model (Fig. 4). However, this was not the case for modelled [HO₂], which was within 10% of the measurements for both models.

A likely explanation for this discrepancy is isoprene, which was not included in the “clean” model. A very strong isoprene peak with a maximum of 235 ppt was detected shortly after midday on 21 August. Figure 4 shows that in the first part of the morning the two models agreed to within 5% and they started to diverge as the isoprene concentration grew. Isoprene reacts very quickly with OH and on this day it accounted for about 7% of the total OH losses (24-h average; Table 4). Also, isoprene produces formaldehyde (Carslaw et al., 2000), which is itself an important OH co-reactant and HO₂ source.

In the “fulloxy” model, around midday, isoprene was the most important OH loss (2.2×10^6 molecule cm⁻³ s⁻¹), followed by HCHO and CO (1.9×10^6 and 1.4×10^6 molecule cm⁻³ s⁻¹, respectively). By contrast, in the “clean” model isoprene was absent and OH was lost mainly to reaction with CO and CH₄, while the rate of reaction with HCHO was only about one third of CO. At the same time (12:00) HO₂ production in the “fulloxy” model was dominated by HCHO oxidation (2.5×10^6 molecule cm⁻³ s⁻¹), which was faster than the reaction of OH with CO (1.9×10^6 molecule cm⁻³ s⁻¹); the decomposition of the isoprene derived alkoxy radicals was also significant (1.4×10^6 molecule cm⁻³ s⁻¹). In the “clean” model, the rate of OH+HCHO was only half than the rate of OH+CO. Formaldehyde chemistry was much more significant in the “fulloxy” model than in the “clean” model and it is reasonable to conclude that this was related to isoprene oxidation.

It is therefore likely that the agreement between the “clean” and the “fulloxy” mod-

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els with respect to the modelled [HO₂] was just a consequence of counterbalancing chemistry: isoprene oxidation caused OH to be destroyed and HO₂ to be produced in the “fulloxy” model and this resulted in an increase in HO₂ production which brought it close to the values predicted by the “clean” model. It is important to note that this was possible only because of the extremely low concentration of NO_x (<20 ppt) at the time when isoprene reached its maximum concentration. In these conditions the production of OH from HO₂ (via NO and O₃) steadily decreased through the day, so that the recycling between HO₂ and OH slowed down, allowing the buildup of HO₂.

21 August had two other interesting features: an anomalous depletion of radicals in the early morning and a short burst of radicals in the late afternoon (Fig. 4). During the morning of 21 August, between 09:00 and 12:00, two large peaks of NO of up to 600 ppt were detected. Figure 4 shows that measured and modelled HO₂ increased in the early morning, following the increase in the radical production by photolysis and then was suddenly depleted during the first NO event, rose as NO returned to “normal” levels and was depleted again during the second NO event, before returning to its normal level around midday. The same happened to the peroxy radicals, while, at the same time, both measured and modelled OH showed a large increase. This was clearly due to the reactions of peroxy radicals (HO₂ and RO₂) with NO. It is interesting to note that, even though the model overestimated [HO₂] by a factor of 2 or more, it was able to correctly reproduce the behaviour of the HO_x radicals during these pollution events. This suggests that the mechanism works better at higher NO_x conditions, which may indicate that the problem lies mainly in the treatment of the peroxy-peroxy reactions.

The increase in OH in the late afternoon, around 18:00, was related to a sharp increase in the ozone photolysis rates. A similar sharp increase in the photolysis rates also occurred on 9, 15, 17 and 31 August and 1 September. Fleming et al. (2005) have suggested that the increase was due to the reflection of sunlight from the bottom of the clouds at high SZA. The modelled profile for [OH] on 31 August (Fig. 2c) is quite broad and extends over ca. 2 h. That for HO₂ is much narrower and is centered on the photolysis spike at 16:30 (Fig. 3c). This difference arises because of a sharp increase

in NO at 18:00 that sustained modelled [OH] at the expense of modelled [HO₂]. No similar increases were observed in the measured radical concentrations.

6. Halogens and heterogeneous uptake

The comparisons between the measurements and the base model results were satisfactory, within the combined uncertainties of the model and of the measurements, for OH, but not for HO₂. Several hypothesis have been suggested in previous studies to explain the difference between modelled and measured HO_x, with particular regard to HO₂. In this section, reactions of halogen monoxides and heterogeneous uptake of radicals will be discussed as possible explanations for the observed discrepancies using the extensive dataset of measurements collected during NAMBLEX.

Halogen chemistry has long been known to affect tropospheric chemistry in different ways (Chameides and Davies, 1980; Davis et al., 1996; Carpenter, 2003). Recent observations of the halogen oxides IO, OIO and BrO suggested that their reactions can be very important in the marine boundary layer chemistry (Alicke et al., 1999; Allan et al., 2000). In particular, Kanaya et al. (2002) suggested that comparatively high values of IO (up to 25 ppt) could explain the overestimation of measured HO₂ by up to 70%. However, prior to NAMBLEX, lack of simultaneous measurements of halogen monoxides (XO), HO_x and other related species did not allow a complete evaluation of the impact of these species on [HO_x].

During NAMBLEX, IO and BrO were measured with the DOAS technique (Saiz-Lopez and Plane, 2004; Saiz-Lopez et al., 2004). In particular, during the week from 15 to 21 August, IO was measured every day, with a maximum concentration of 4 ppt (hourly average). BrO was measured on six days (1, 3, 4, 10, 31 August and 1 September) with a maximum concentration of 6.5 ppt and a detection limit of about 0.8 ppt (Saiz-Lopez et al., 2004). Unfortunately, since the two compounds were monitored in different spectral regions (IO: 415–450 nm, BrO: 320–360 nm) they could not be measured simultaneously.

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The halogen monoxides directly affect OH and HO₂ concentrations in the troposphere mainly via the reaction with HO₂, followed by photolysis or heterogeneous uptake of HOX (where X = I, Br), thus providing a sink for HO₂ and a route for HO₂→OH conversion (Reactions [R5–R6–R7](#)).



Uptake of HOX upon aerosol leads to loss of HO_x from the gas-phase system ([Carpenter, 2003](#); [McFiggans et al., 2000](#)). In unpolluted conditions, if levels of IO or BrO are sufficiently high, Reactions [R5–R6–R7](#) will affect HO_x abundance and partitioning. Halogen oxides also impact O₃ loss and NO_x partitioning, thus indirectly affecting HO_x. However, in this work, these were implicitly included in the model, which was constrained to measured O₃ and NO_x.

Previous work showed that higher aerosol surface areas and HO₂ uptake coefficients (γ) could have a large impact on [HO₂], without affecting [OH] too much, due to the slow recycling in unpolluted conditions ([Sommariva et al., 2004](#); [Haggerstone et al., 2005](#)). However, there is substantial uncertainty about the effect of aerosol uptake on OH and HO₂ concentrations, mainly due to a lack of ancillary aerosol data recorded during many of the recent MBL campaigns ([Carslaw et al., 1999](#); [Kanaya et al., 2000, 2001](#)).

The aerosol uptake in the base models was calculated with the free-molecular expression:

$$k_{\text{het}} = \frac{A\bar{v}\gamma}{4} \quad (1)$$

where A is the total aerosol surface area, \bar{v} is the mean molecular speed and γ is the temperature dependent gas/surface reaction probability (uptake coefficient). One of the most important improvements of the NAMBLEX campaign over previous campaigns

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was the availability of detailed measurements on the chemical and physical properties of particles. Using these data more precise rate coefficients for the uptake of the relevant species on aerosol particles could be calculated using the transition regime expression (Eq. 2) (Sander, 1999), which accommodates the transition between gas-phase diffusion control and uptake control:

$$\begin{aligned}
 Lk_{mt}^- &= \int_0^\infty \left(\frac{dV(r)}{dr} \times k_{mt}(r) \right) dr = \\
 &= \left(\frac{4}{3}\pi r^3 \frac{dN(r)}{dr} \times \left(\frac{r^2}{3D_g} + \frac{4r}{3\bar{v}\alpha} \right)^{-1} \right) dr
 \end{aligned}
 \quad (2)$$

where r is the droplet radius, D_g is the gas-phase diffusivity, α is the mass accommodation coefficient, \bar{v} is the mean molecular speed and $N(r)$ and $V(r)$ are the number density and the volume of particles with radius smaller than r (Sander, 1999). Equation 2 is the product of total aerosol volume (L) for the mass transfer coefficient (k_{mt}^-), averaged over the entire particle size range. The mass transfer coefficient has two components: one describing the gas-phase diffusion to a spherical droplet, which depends on the diffusivity of the molecule (D_g) and the other describing the transfer of the molecule to the liquid-phase, which depends on the mass accommodation coefficient of the molecule (α). Depending on the conditions, the species, the aerosol characteristics and the mass accommodation coefficient of the species the uptake rate can be controlled either by the diffusion or by the uptake or by both processes. When the system is diffusion limited, it is less sensitive to α so the large uncertainties in α for many species have a much smaller impact (Sander, 1999).

It must be noted that this treatment of the heterogeneous uptake of gas-phase species is not yet completely adequate. First, it considers only in part the effect of the chemical composition of the particles, which is likely to be important. For example, Bates et al. (1998, 2001) measured strong variations in the chemical composition of the Aitken, accommodation and sea-salt dominated coarse modes that would influence the

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radical uptake rates, particularly the extent of aerosol acidification. Secondly, it does not take into account the reactivity of the species inside the particle and the release of compounds from the particles into the gas-phase. The uptake rates for HO₂, HOX and other relevant species were calculated from the measured data using the procedure explained in Haggerstone et al. (2005). In this work it was assumed that gas-phase species are instantaneously lost after being taken up on aerosol, therefore the uptake coefficient (γ) was used in Eq. (2) instead of the mass accommodation coefficient (α).

The “clean”, “full”, “fulloxy” and “fulloxyper” models were modified by adding the simple mechanism in Reactions R5–R6–R7 and/or constraining them to the heterogeneous uptake rates calculated with Eq. (2). The rate coefficients for the reactions of XO with HO₂ were $k_{\text{IO}+\text{HO}_2}=1.4\times 10^{-11}\exp(554/T)$ (Knight and Crowley, 2001) and $k_{\text{BrO}+\text{HO}_2}=3.8\times 10^{-12}\exp(540/T)$ (Bloss et al., 2002; DeMore et al., 2003). The photolysis rates of HOX were calculated from the spectral radiometer data using cross sections from Bauer et al. (1998) for HOI and Ingham et al. (1998) for HOBr.

The uptake coefficient of HO₂ was set to $1.40\times 10^{-8}e^{(3780/T)}$ (0.006 at 298 K, Gratchpanche et al., 1996) and then changed to 1.0 (maximum theoretical value) as the “upper limit case” (Table 3). In this way the whole range of γ_{HO_2} could be explored to examine the sensitivity of modelled HO₂ to this parameter. In the models containing the halogen monoxide mechanism the uptake coefficients of HOI and HOBr were very important, as they determined the impact that iodine and bromine chemistry had upon OH concentration. Both uptake coefficients were set to 0.6 (Wachsmuth et al., 2002) and then changed to 0.06 as “lower limit case” (Mössinger and Cox, 2001) to check the effect of a smaller heterogeneous loss of these species on the radical balance (Table 3).

The improved models were used on the central week of NAMBLEX, from the 15 to 20 August. During this period OH, HO₂ and total peroxy radicals were measured every day and IO and aerosol data were available. The impact of BrO was tested on another day (31 August), as the two halogen oxides were not measured at the same time. The constraints of the improved models are shown in Table 3.

7. OH and HO₂ with the improved models

The results of the improved models are shown in Figs. 5 and 6, together with the measurements of HO_x radicals. 18 August was the most significant day, because the concentration of IO was the highest measured during the campaign, peaking at 4 ppt.

5 Most of the following discussion will therefore concentrate on this day. The model results shown in these figures are from the “fulloxy” model. However, the effect of implementing a different treatment for the heterogeneous uptake process and of adding a halogen mechanism was comparable for all the models. This is expected, because they affect elements of the mechanism which are common to all the four models.

10 Figure 5a shows that modelled OH was not affected very much by the model improvements. The photolysis of HOI had a limited impact on [OH]. On the day with the highest IO concentration (18 August), [OH] increased by at most 15% with respect to the base model. Given that the uncertainty of the model was estimated to be up to 40%, comparable to the measurements uncertainty (Sommariva et al., 2004), a variation of 15% did not significantly change the agreement with the measurements for OH. Moreover, the fine structure and the profile of OH was unchanged by inclusion of IO chemistry. This was also expected, because IO had a diurnal profile with higher concentration around midday and in the first part of the afternoon, so that its inclusion did not change the radical balance in the early morning and late afternoon and mainly affected HO_x in the central part of the day. The impact of HOI on OH depends on the partitioning of HOI between photolysis and heterogeneous loss. In the first run (Fig. 5a) γ_{HOI} was set to a value of 0.6. Decreasing γ_{HOI} increased the amount of HOI, which was photolyzed resulting in a higher calculated [OH]. Figure 5b shows that the model which used uptake rate coefficients with $\gamma_{\text{HOI}}=0.06$ calculated a concentration of OH 10–15% higher than that calculated with $\gamma_{\text{HOI}}=0.6$.

25 The use of a treatment for the aerosol uptake based upon the measurements barely affected the modelled OH concentration, mainly because most OH sources and sinks are not lost upon the particles. The concentrations of NO and NO₂ were too low for

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HONO and HNO₃ to be significant radical losses so the main impact on [OH] was expected to be from HO₂ uptake on aerosol. In the first run (Fig. 9) γ_{HO_2} was set to a very low value (0.006 at 298 K). In this case HO₂ uptake was limited by the mass accommodation process rather than by the gas-phase diffusion. Figure 9 shows the change in modelled [OH] when the uptake coefficient of HO₂ was set to the maximum theoretical limit of 1.0. Modelled OH decreased, because there was a net loss of radicals via the removal of HO₂ from the system. This effectively balanced the increase due to HOI photolysis, so that the best agreement between modelled and measured OH was achieved with a model containing IO chemistry and a detailed treatment of aerosol uptake using the values of 1.0 and 0.6 for the uptake coefficients of HO₂ and HOI, respectively.

The largest impact of the improvements to the models was on HO₂, which directly reacts with IO and whose rate of loss on the aerosol is much faster than the rate of loss of the other radicals (like OH and CH₃O₂). Figure 6 shows the results of the improved models compared to the “fulloxy” base model and the results of the test runs with different uptake coefficients (γ) for HOI and HO₂.

The reaction with IO accounted for a large fraction of the total HO₂ losses (Sect. 8), resulting in a significant decrease of modelled HO₂ through Reaction (R5). The impact of IO obviously depended on the concentration of IO and was therefore maximum on 18 August when IO was about 4 ppt. On this day modelled HO₂ decreased by up to 30%, which was, however, not enough to bring modelled [HO₂] close to the measurements (Fig. 6a).

When the uptake coefficient of HOI was decreased by a factor of 10 (from 0.6 to 0.06), the concentration of HO₂ slightly increased, because of the resulting increase in [OH] from increased photolysis of HOI.

The use of the transition regime expression instead of the free-molecular expression to describe the heterogeneous uptake did not cause a significant change in the concentration of HO₂, due to the low value of the uptake coefficient. With $\gamma_{\text{HO}_2}=0.006$ (at 298 K) the uptake of HO₂ on the particles is limited by the accommodation process of

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the molecule on the particle. For $\gamma_{\text{HO}_2}=1.0$ (which is the maximum theoretical limit of the uptake coefficient) the modelled concentration of HO₂ dramatically decreased. The results are shown in Fig. 6b. On certain days, such as 15 and 20 August, HO₂ was reduced by up to 40%, reaching good agreement with the measurements. On one day (16 August) the decrease in HO₂ concentration was too large and the model underestimated the measurements by up to 50%. In the central days of the week (17, 18 and 19 August), despite the decrease in modelled [HO₂], the model still overestimated the measurements by up to 30%.

The impact of BrO on OH and HO₂ is shown in Fig. 7 on 31 August, one of the few days of NAMBLEX on which BrO was measured. While IO chemistry had the effect of increasing [OH], BrO decreased it by about 10%, when using the free-molecular expression, and by up to 20%, when using the transition regime expression, ($\gamma_{\text{HOBr}}=0.6$). The different impact of BrO on OH was due to the fact that HOBr photolysis rate is about 5 times slower than the HOI photolysis rate, meaning that the aerosol was a more important sink for HOBr than for HOI. It also means that [OH] was more sensitive to changes in the uptake coefficient of HOBr than of HOI. This is consistent with the fact that when γ_{HOBr} was set to 0.06 the modelled [OH] increased with respect to the model with $\gamma_{\text{HOBr}}=0.6$ (Fig. 7a). With less HOBr lost on the particles, because of the lower uptake coefficient, and more photolyzed to OH, the magnitude of the radical sink was lower.

The effect of BrO on [HO₂] was similar to that of IO, as both radicals consume HO₂, producing HOX. A decrease of up to 25% in modelled [HO₂] could be observed when the model was constrained to measured BrO (the average concentration during the campaign was about 3 ppt, with a maximum of 6.5 ppt; see Saiz-Lopez et al., 2004). The use of the transition regime expression to describe the heterogeneous uptake had a higher effect when the model contained bromine chemistry than when it contained iodine chemistry, because the model was more sensitive to the uptake rate of HOBr. The impact of BrO on modelled HO₂ was lower when γ_{HOBr} was set to a value an order of magnitude lower (0.06 instead of 0.6, Fig. 7b). This is because less HOBr was taken

up on aerosol and more was photolyzed, producing OH which in turn produced HO₂, thus buffering the loss of HO₂ caused by the reaction HO₂+BrO.

These results can be compared with a similar study by Kanaya et al. (2002) from a field campaign at Rishiri Island, in Northern Japan. Their model overestimated HO₂ by up to 70% and underestimated OH, particularly during the low NO_x periods. The model was modified to include an iodine source and a simple halogen mechanism (about 30 reactions). The source of iodine was assumed to be CH₂I₂, which was measured at the same site during another field campaign (0.4 ppt on average) and was considered to represent all the other iodocarbons. The concentration of CH₂I₂ was kept constant during the day and varied in several runs between 0.3 and 1 ppt. Under their assumptions a concentration of 25 ppt of IO was necessary to achieve better agreement between modelled and measured [HO₂], without considering the loss of HOI on the particles. With $\gamma=0.5$, which is a value similar to the one used in this work, up to 12 ppt of IO were necessary. Kanaya et al. (2002) also tested the model using an increased uptake rate of HO₂ (with $\gamma=0.5$), but the decrease in modelled [HO₂] was not enough to reach agreement with the measurements. The reactivity of HO₂ with BrO was considered as well, but since the rate coefficient is about 4 times lower than the rate coefficient of the reaction with IO, Kanaya et al. (2002) concluded that BrO could not play a significant role in HO₂ chemistry as it was improbable that its concentration was 3 times higher than IO.

During NAMBLEX BrO was on average present at higher concentrations than IO, though not by a factor of 3 (maximum concentrations at Mace Head were 4 ppt and 6.5 ppt, respectively). However the results of this study show that both IO and BrO have a significant impact on [HO_x], although this is heavily dependant on the uptake coefficients used for HO_x and HO₂.

A very important issue is the spatial distribution of IO. The concentration measured by the DOAS is the mean value along the instrument light path (4.2 km), so if the emissions of halocarbons and/or molecular iodine are higher near the shore, the concentration of IO at the measurements site might be substantially higher than the DOAS

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measurements and the impact on [HO₂] much higher than estimated above. A modelling study reported in this issue (Saiz-Lopez et al., 2005) investigated the relative concentrations of IO and I₂, observed at Mace Head during NAMBLEX. The model showed that the ratio of IO to I₂ in the DOAS beam (~1:2) could only be explained if I₂ and IO were concentrated in a small fraction of the DOAS path (in the intertidal zones, about 160 m at each end of the light path), due to I₂ release from exposed macroalgae (Saiz-Lopez et al., 2005). From the model calculation, [I₂] should be of the order of 100 ppt (confirmed using in situ measurements by broadband cavity ring-down spectroscopy and by inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry), which implies [IO] of the order of 50 ppt, about an order of magnitude higher than the DOAS measurements assuming a homogeneous distribution (Saiz-Lopez et al., 2005).

To test this hypothesis, the “fulloxy-io” model was run with iodine chemistry, using a concentration of IO ten times higher than assuming homogeneity, as used in the calculations above. The heterogeneous uptake of HOI was calculated with the free-molecular expression (Eq. 1) using $\gamma_{\text{HOI}} = 0.6$ and $\gamma_{\text{HO}_2} = 0.006$. The results for HO₂ are shown in Fig. 8a. Modelled HO₂ decreased by up to 50% resulting in such a high concentration of IO that photolysis of HOI was the dominant process converting HO₂ to OH (more than an order of magnitude faster than via the reaction with NO) and this resulted in an increase in modelled OH by up to 30%. The agreement with OH measurements still remained reasonably good on most of the days and actually improved on 20 August, the only day when the base model underestimated OH (Fig. 5a). If this was the case, and the concentration of IO at the site was an order of magnitude higher than the DOAS measurements, iodine chemistry would dominate the HO_x budget.

Another important issue is the simultaneous presence of IO and BrO in the MBL. The two species could not be measured at the same time, but they are likely to be present at the same time, though with different spatial distribution (Saiz-Lopez and Plane, 2004; Saiz-Lopez et al., 2004). The joint impact of IO and BrO on radicals concentration was simulated using measured BrO on 31 August and setting IO to the levels measured on 18 August. The results for HO₂ are shown in Fig. 8b. The modelled concentration of

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HO₂ decreased by more than a factor of 4, with respect to the base model and more than a factor of 3 with respect to the model constrained only to BrO, leading to a large underestimation of measured HO₂. On the other hand OH was increased by up to 30% with respect to the base model, due to the faster photolysis of HOI. It must be stressed that this is a quite rough estimate, because IO was not measured on this day and the concentration used was the highest measured during the campaign.

8. Analysis of the improved models

The impact of IO and BrO on [HO_x] was more evident on 18 August and 31 August, respectively, when the measured concentrations of the two halogen species was higher. Therefore on these two days a rate of production and destruction analysis of the models was carried on to understand the exact role played by these species in the radical processes. The analysis was done on the models containing halogen chemistry and using the transition regime expression to describe the heterogeneous uptake (“fulloxy-io-het” and “fulloxy-bro-het” models, with $\gamma_{\text{HOI}}=0.6$ and $\gamma_{\text{HO}_2}=0.006$). The results are summarized in Fig. 9 for OH and in Fig. 10 for HO₂.

The main source of OH was the photolysis of ozone, followed by the reaction of HO₂ with NO and by the reaction of HO₂+O₃ (Fig. 9). On 18 August the photolysis of HOI was most of the time a more important source of OH than HO₂+NO (up to 2×10^6 vs. 1.3×10^6 molecule cm⁻³ s⁻¹). This explains why the introduction of iodine chemistry in the model had such a large effect on modelled [OH] (Sect. 6). On most of the other days in NAMBLEX HOI photolysis was probably less important as a source of OH, because the concentration of IO was lower, but it is still expected to be significant. On 31 August, the photolysis of HOBr was a source of OH more or less comparable in magnitude to HO₂+O₃ (Fig. 9b). The comparison between 18 and 31 August showed that the impact of HOX photolysis on [OH] was very different if X is iodine or bromine. This reflects the different fates of these intermediates, and the fact that $j(\text{HOBr}) \ll j(\text{HOI})$.

The losses of OH were very similar on both days and they did not show signifi-

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cant differences with respect to the models without halogens and with a simplified heterogenous loss. OH mainly reacted with CO and CH₄, with CO usually about a factor of two more important. On both these days oxygenated compounds played a large role as OH losses. Acetaldehyde, in particular, was one of the main OH losses on 18 August and it became even more important than CO after 14:00 (Fig. 9a). On 31 August, acetaldehyde was the third most important loss of OH (Fig. 9b). The other significant losses of OH were due to hydrogen, ozone, formaldehyde and HO₂ (1–3×10⁵ molecule cm⁻³ s⁻¹). Methanol also had an important role, especially on 18 August when its reaction with OH was faster than that with H₂.

Both on 18 and 31 August the main source of HO₂ was the reaction of OH with CO, followed by the reaction of the methoxy radical with O₂. The latter was about 50% and 25% of the former on 18 and 31 August, respectively. These were followed by the oxidation of hydrogen and ozone and by the oxidation of formaldehyde and methanol. On 18 August, acetaldehyde photolysis became a source of HO₂ almost as important as H₂ and O₃ in the afternoon (Fig. 10a), due to an increase of about a factor of 4 in [CH₃CHO] in the afternoon. Methanol was an HO₂ source more important than HCHO on 31 August (Fig. 10b).

The reaction with NO was one of the main losses for HO₂ both on 18 August and on 31 August, followed by the self-reaction of HO₂ and the reaction with CH₃O₂, which was comparable to the reaction with O₃ on 18 August, but about 20–30% slower on 31 August. Other peroxy radicals reacting with HO₂ were CH₃CO₃ and the isoprene-derived peroxy radicals. On 18 August HO₂+IO was the primary sink of HO₂ (up to 2.3×10⁶ molecule cm⁻³ s⁻¹) for most of the day (Fig. 10a). It was about 40% higher than the reaction with NO, explaining the decrease in the modelled concentration of HO₂ (Fig. 6a). On 31 August the reaction of HO₂ with BrO (Fig. 10b) was more or less comparable with the self-reaction of HO₂ (about 9×10⁵ molecule cm⁻³ s⁻¹).

The fact that the impact of BrO was lower than the impact of IO is expected because the rate coefficient of BrO+HO₂ is about 4 times lower than the rate coefficient of IO+HO₂. It should also be noted that, on both the days considered here, the uptake

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rate for HO₂ on aerosol was only 4–5×10⁴ molecule cm⁻³ s⁻¹. In fact, this analysis referred to the case with low uptake coefficient for HO₂ (0.006 at 298 K). With γ=1, which is the maximum theoretical value, this process had more influence on [HO₂] and its rate was therefore much higher (~9×10⁵ molecule cm⁻³ s⁻¹), comparable to the rate of HO₂+NO.

Figures 2 and 3 show that constraining the model to measured oxygenates reduced both [OH] and [HO₂]. This effect arose primarily through the reaction of OH with acetaldehyde (Fig. 9a) and the consequently reduced direct flux from OH to HO₂. This effect was partly offset by the formation of CH₃O₂ from CH₃CO₃ via reaction with NO and RO₂ (and subsequent production of HO₂ via CH₃O₂+NO).

The analysis of the rates of production of OH and destruction of HO₂ and the study of the model-measurement comparisons for OH and HO₂ with and without the halogens highlighted the different behaviour and effect of iodine and bromine oxides. Of course, the only sources of HOI and HOBr were the reactions of IO and BrO with HO₂. Due to the different values of the rate coefficients, the rate of production of HOI was 2.5–3 times the rate of production of HOBr. This comparison must be taken with caution because it refers to two different days, although the levels of HO₂ were similar (Figs. 3b–c).

On 18 August, HOI was mainly photolyzed to OH and I and the uptake of this species on the particles, even with γ=0.6, was about one third of the rate of photolysis. Since HOBr photolyzes more slowly (j(HOBr) is ~4.5 times lower than j(HOI)), on 31 August the heterogeneous loss was much more significant for this species. The aerosol uptake of HOBr was just 30% lower than the photolysis. This explains the results of the rate of production analysis for OH on 18 August and 31 August shown previously. HOI was a source of OH at least as important as HO₂+NO, while HOBr was comparable to HO₂+O₃. Even more important, due to the strength of the aerosol uptake with respect to photolysis, HOBr effectively removed HO_x radicals from the system while HOI mainly contributed to their cycling.

It is interesting to compare with the results of the analysis of the impact of IO on HO₂

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and OH by Bloss et al. (2005). The relative importance of HO₂+IO with respect to the other loss processes of HO₂ and of HOI photolysis with respect to the other sources of OH was calculated for 18–20 August of NAMBLEX using measured concentrations of OH, HO₂, NO_x, O₃ and IO. The heterogeneous uptake of HO₂ was described using a transition regime expression with $\gamma_{\text{HO}_2}=0.2$ (Jacob, 2000). Bloss et al. (2005) found that IO accounted for up to 40% of the total loss of HO₂ with 4 ppt of IO (18 August) and that it was usually comparable to or greater than the heterogeneous loss. HOI accounted for about 15% of the total OH production on the same day. In this work, on the same day, the loss of HO₂ due to IO was about 43% of the total loss of HO₂ and the production of OH due to HOI was about 33% at 12:00. These results are very similar to the analysis shown here, but the comparison must be done keeping in mind the differences in the two calculations. First of all, the calculations of Bloss et al. (2005) were performed using only measured data, while in this work the concentrations of OH and HO₂ were calculated by the model. Second, the model used a value for γ_{HO_2} which is more than 30 times lower than that used by Bloss et al. (2005). Also, they took into account only some of the loss processes of HO₂ (i.e. the reactions with IO, NO, O₃, HO₂, CH₃O₂ and aerosol uptake) and in the production of OH (i.e. the reactions of HO₂ with NO and O₃, O(¹D)+H₂O and HOI photolysis). While these were the most important reactions involved, they were not the only ones and, as the rate of production and destruction analysis shown here demonstrated, other reactions significantly affected the radical budget. The simpler mechanism used by Bloss et al. (2005) and the lack of the cycling between HO_x probably compensated for the lower uptake coefficient of HO₂ used here, so that the two estimates turned out to be very close.

9. Conclusions

The chemistry of OH and HO₂ in the marine boundary layer was studied using a set of zero-dimensional box-models based upon the MCM and constrained to the measurements. Data were taken during the NAMBLEX campaign which took place in Mace

Head, Ireland, during the summer of 2002. Calculated OH and HO₂ were compared with the measurements by the FAGE instrument.

The agreement between the model and the measurements was good, in comparison with the combined uncertainties, for OH. On most of the modelled days the model and the measurements were within 25%. The best agreement was on 9–10 August, when the model could also reproduce very well the structure and the daily profile of OH even during sunrise and sunset. In general the agreement with the measurements was better with the “fulloxy” model than with the “clean” and “full” model, highlighting the importance of the oxygenates for the radical budget. The models generally over-estimated [HO₂] by about a factor of 2 or more, although they appeared to be able to reproduce the profile of HO₂, in particular during several NO_x events.

The base models were modified in order to investigate processes that might be included in the mechanisms to obtain a better agreement with the measurements, in particular with regard to HO₂. Rates of uptake on sea-salt particles were calculated for the relevant species using the extended aerosol dataset taken during NAMBLEX and the transition regime expression which takes into account both the gas-phase diffusion of the molecule and the mass accommodation process (instead of the free-molecular expression). A simple mechanism extension, which included the reaction of HO₂ with XO and the photolysis and aerosol uptake of HOX was added to the models, which were constrained to the measurements of XO. The objective was to assess the impact of these processes on the modelled concentrations of OH and HO₂.

Modelled [HO₂] decreased by up to 30% as a result of the reaction with IO, while [OH] increased by up to 15% via the photolysis of HOI. The actual impact of iodine chemistry on HO_x, and particularly on OH, was strictly dependent on γ_{HOI} . Decreasing γ_{HOI} by an order of magnitude had a negligible effect on HO₂ (less than 5%) but could increase modelled [OH] by up to 15% (relative to the base model) due to the increased photolysis and reduced loss of HOI on aerosol. When the uptake coefficient of HO₂ was increased to its theoretical maximum (1.0), modelled [HO₂] decreased by up to 40% and OH decreased by about 30%, thus compensating the increase due to the

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photolysis of HOI.

On the other hand, BrO had the effect of decreasing OH by about 10–20% and HO₂ by about 20–30%, relative to the base model and depending on the approach used for the heterogeneous uptake ($\gamma_{\text{HOBr}}=0.6$). The higher sensitivity of the model to the treatment of aerosol uptake was due to the lower photolysis rate of HOBr, which was mostly taken up on aerosol acting as a net radical sink.

The addition of halogen monoxides chemistry to the model had a large impact on the HO_x budget. The reaction of IO was the most important loss of HO₂, up to 60% higher than the reaction with NO, while the reaction with BrO was the third most important loss process of HO₂, roughly comparable to the self-reaction. The photolysis of HOI was the second most important source of OH after ozone photolysis, comparable to HO₂+NO, while HOBr photolysis was less important than the reaction of HO₂ with O₃.

The model studies of the NAMBLEX campaign discussed here demonstrated that both IO and BrO had a significant impact on modelled HO_x. It must be noted, however, that the exact impact of these species depends on several factors for which large uncertainties exist. In particular, the measured uptake rate coefficients of HOI and HOBr determine the extent of the net radical loss due to the halogen oxide chemistry as well as the magnitude of the impact upon OH. While halogen oxide chemistry is necessary to describe the behaviour of HO₂, it cannot completely account for the discrepancies between the model and the measurements, unless IO concentration is an order of magnitude higher than measured by DOAS, assuming homogeneous distribution along the optical path. In addition, the uptake of HO₂ on sea-salt particles also appears to have a crucial role, and the best agreement is reached when both processes are taken into account. The overall impact of the heterogeneous uptake of HO₂ depends upon the uptake coefficient used, which is very uncertain.

Acknowledgements. We gratefully acknowledge the support and the help of the Mace Head Atmospheric Research Station during the NAMBLEX campaign, particularly G. Spain. Thanks to G. P. Johnson for technical assistance with the operation of the FAGE instrument during the campaign. We also would like to thank M. E. Jenkin for many useful discussions and

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J. Methven for providing the back trajectories. R. Sommariva acknowledges the University of Leeds for a scholarship. D. E. Heard would like to thank the Royal Society for a University Research Fellowship and some equipment funding.

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Table 1. Average (24 h) measurements on some selected days during NAMBLEX.

Measurements	1 Aug.	9 Aug.	15 Aug.	18 Aug.	21 Aug.	31 Aug.
O ₃ /ppb	26	31	31	32	26	32
NO/ppt	52	13	7	14	70	15
NO ₂ /ppt	334	77	28	51	215	54
CH ₄ /ppb	1956	1813	1798	–	1837	1815
CO/ppb	142	79	79	–	80	104
H ₂ /ppb	550	–	495	–	511	493
HCHO (UEA)/ppt	545	376	78	257	314	–
HCHO (Leeds)/ppt	1449	801	664	754	827	–
Isoprene/ppt	15	9	1	20	32	1
DMS/ppt	131	73	183	115	54	87
Acetylene/ppt	195	49	41	65	55	104
Acetaldehyde/ppt	732	436	674	676	389	236
Temperature/°C	16.8	14.4	15.2	15.5	15.8	14.8

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Table 2. Correlation equations between photolysis rates on 30 July and 31 August (HCHO_(r) is the radical channel of HCHO photolysis; HCHO_(nr) is the non-radical channel of HCHO photolysis).

j(CH₃CHO) vs. j(O¹D)		R²
30 July	$1.39 \times 10^8 x^3 - 5.86 \times 10^3 x^2 + 2.27 \times 10^{-1} x - 1.86 \times 10^{-9}$	0.999
31 August	$1.06 \times 10^8 x^3 - 4.41 \times 10^3 x^2 + 2.08 \times 10^{-1} x + 8.78 \times 10^{-9}$	0.9994
j(CH₃COCH₃) vs. j(O¹D)		R²
30 July	$1.17 \times 10^7 x^3 - 4.65 \times 10^2 x^2 + 2.69 \times 10^{-2} x - 5.36 \times 10^{-10}$	0.9995
31 August	$7.23 \times 10^6 x^3 - 2.85 \times 10^2 x^2 + 2.49 \times 10^{-2} x - 5.54 \times 10^{-10}$	0.9996
j(HCHO_(r)) vs. j(O¹D)		R²
30 July	$-6.65 \times 10^{13} x^4 + 5.62 \times 10^9 x^3 - 1.50 \times 10^5 x^2 + 2.40 x + 8.07 \times 10^{-8}$	0.9933
31 August	$1.55 \times 10^5 x^5 - 1.02 \times 10^{15} x^4 + 2.05 \times 10^{10} x^3 - 2.86 \times 10^5 x^2 + 2.47 x + 1.67 \times 10^{-7}$	0.996
j(HCHO_(nr)) vs. j(O¹D)		R²
30 July	$-1.19 \times 10^{14} x^4 + 1.20 \times 10^{10} x^3 - 3.49 \times 10^5 x^2 + 4.89 x + 4.92 \times 10^{-7}$	0.9661
31 August	$5.85 \times 10^{19} x^5 - 3.60 \times 10^{15} x^4 + 8.21 \times 10^{10} x^3 - 8.59 \times 10^5 x^2 + 5.50 x + 4.59 \times 10^{-7}$	0.989
j(HONO) vs. j(NO₂)		R²
30 July	$-3.56 \times 10^{-1} x^2 + 2.00 \times 10^{-1} x - 3.38 \times 10^{-6}$	0.9991
31 August	$8.21 \times 10^{-1} x^2 + 1.99 \times 10^{-1} x - 4.03 \times 10^{-7}$	0.9995

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Table 3. Models used in this work.

Base Models	Constraints	Heterogeneous Uptake Treatment	Y _{HO₂}	Y _{HOI}	Y _{HOBr}
“clean”	H ₂ , O ₃ , NO, NO ₂ , HCHO and H ₂ O, temperature, photolysis rates CO, CH ₄	free-molecular expression	$1.40 \times 10^{-8} e^{(3780/T)}$ (a)	–	–
“full”	as “clean” + 22 hydrocarbons, DMS, chloroform	free-molecular expression	$1.40 \times 10^{-8} e^{(3780/T)}$ (a)	–	–
“fulloxy”	as “full” + 3 oxygenates	free-molecular expression	$1.40 \times 10^{-8} e^{(3780/T)}$ (a)	–	–
“fulloxyper”	as “fulloxy” + 2 peroxides	free-molecular expression	$1.40 \times 10^{-8} e^{(3780/T)}$ (a)	–	–
Improved Models					
“fulloxy-io”	as “fulloxy”+IO, j(HOI)	free-molecular expression	$1.40 \times 10^{-8} e^{(3780/T)}$ (a)	0.6 (b)	–
“fulloxy-bro”	as “fulloxy”+BrO, j(HOBr)	free-molecular expression	$1.40 \times 10^{-8} e^{(3780/T)}$ (a)	–	0.6 (b)
“fulloxy-het”	as “fulloxy”	transition regime expression	$1.40 \times 10^{-8} e^{(3780/T)}$ (a)	–	–
“fulloxy-io-het”	as “fulloxy-io”	transition regime expression	$1.40 \times 10^{-8} e^{(3780/T)}$ (a)	0.6 (b)	–
“fulloxy-io-het_hoi”	as “fulloxy-io-het”	transition regime expression	$1.40 \times 10^{-8} e^{(3780/T)}$ (a)	0.06 (c)	–
“fulloxy-io-het_ho2”	as “fulloxy-io-het”	transition regime expression	1 (d)	0.6 (b)	–
“fulloxy-bro-het”	as “fulloxy-bro”	transition regime expression	$1.40 \times 10^{-8} e^{(3780/T)}$ (a)	–	0.6 (b)
“fulloxy-bro-het_hobr”	as “fulloxy-bro-het”	transition regime expression	$1.40 \times 10^{-8} e^{(3780/T)}$ (a)	–	0.06 (c)
“fulloxy-io_10x”	as “fulloxy-io” with [IO] _x 10	free-molecular expression	$1.40 \times 10^{-8} e^{(3780/T)}$ (a)	0.6 (b)	–
“fulloxy-bro-io”	as “fulloxy-bro”+IO, j(HOI)	free-molecular expression	$1.40 \times 10^{-8} e^{(3780/T)}$ (a)	0.6 (b)	0.6 (b)

(a) 0.006 at 298 K (Gratpanche et al., 1996).

(b) Wachsmuth et al. (2002).

(c) Mössinger and Cox (2001).

(d) maximum theoretical value.

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Table 4. Relative (%) OH loss due to CO, CH₄, H₂, NMHCs and oxygenates on some selected days during NAMBLEX (on 9 August H₂ was not measured and was estimated at 372 ppb; on 18 August CH₄, H₂ and CO were not measured and were estimated at 1835 ppb, 494 ppb and 85 ppb, respectively).

Measurements	1 Aug.	9 Aug.	15 Aug.	18 Aug.	21 Aug.	31 Aug.
CH ₄ +CO+H ₂	61.3	66.3	65.5	60.2	64.1	81.3
∑ oxygenates	25.1	27.0	28.0	28.3	22.6	12.3
∑ alkanes	5.0	1.0	0.7	0.8	1.0	1.3
∑ alkenes	3.1	2.2	2.6	2.6	3.8	2.7
∑ dialkenes	2.3	2.1	0.4	3.8	6.9	0.5
∑ aromatics	1.9	0.2	0.1	2.6	0.8	0.4
acetylene	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
DMS	1.2	1.1	2.7	1.5	0.8	1.3

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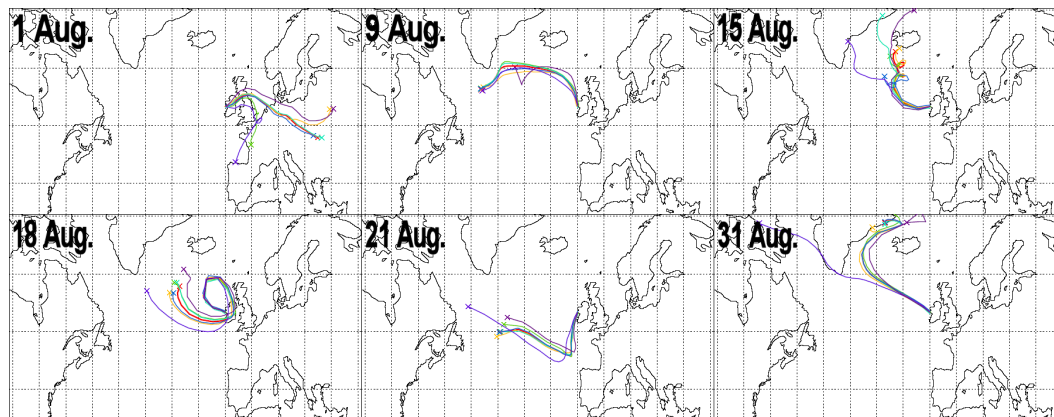


Fig. 1. Clusters of five-day back trajectories for some selected days during NAMBLEX. Different colors indicate single trajectories calculated by different model runs (J. Methven, pers. comm., <http://www.met.rdg.ac.uk/~swrmethn/namblex/>).

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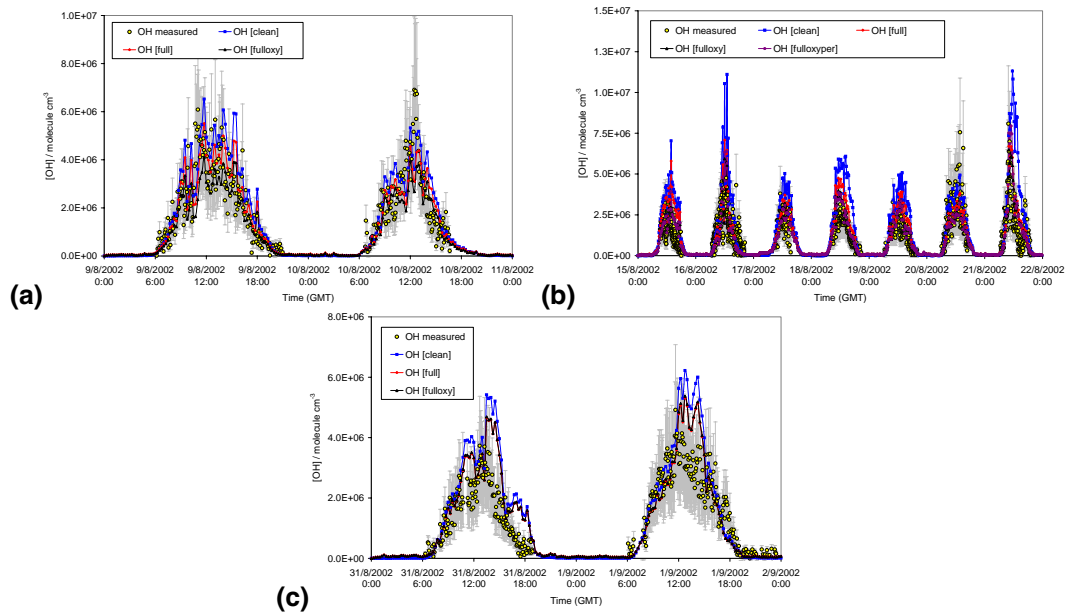


Fig. 2. Model-measurement comparison for OH with the base models. **(a)** 9–10 August, **(b)** 15–21 August, **(c)** 31 August–1 September. The measurements 2σ standard deviation is shown in grey.

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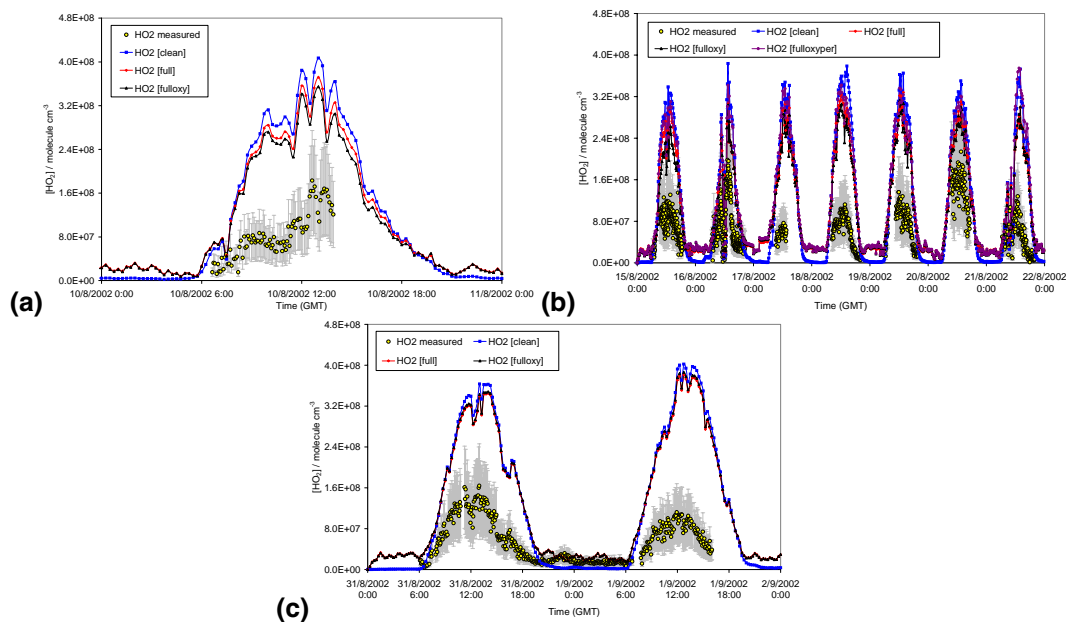


Fig. 3. Model-measurement comparison for HO₂ with the base models. **(a)** 10 August, **(b)** 15–21 August, **(c)** 31 August–1 September. The measurements 2 σ standard deviation is shown in grey.

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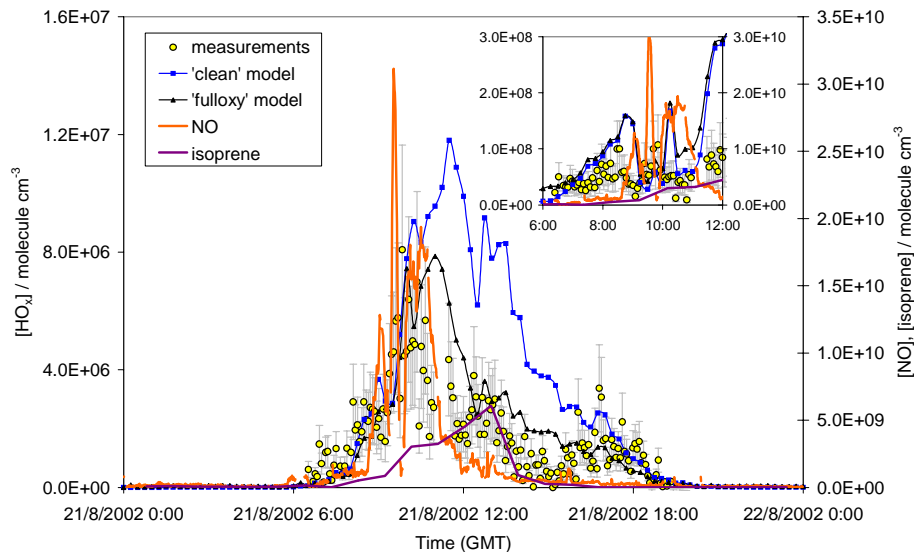


Fig. 4. Model-measurement comparison for OH with the base models and measured concentrations of NO and isoprene (21 August). HO₂ during the morning of 21 August is shown in the inset. The measurements 2 σ standard deviation is shown in grey.

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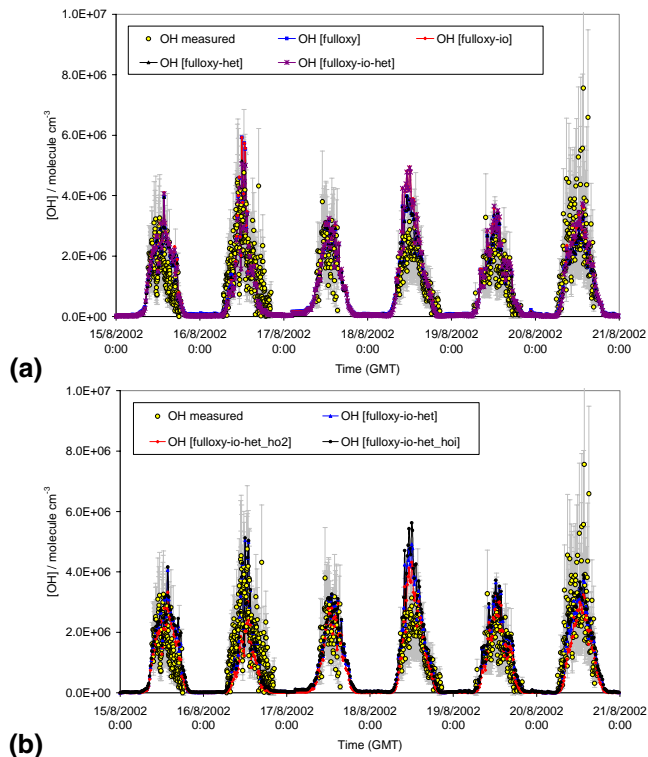


Fig. 5. Model-measurement comparison for OH with the improved models (15–20 August). **(a)** showing the impact of IO and of the transition regime expression, **(b)** showing the effect of changing the uptake coefficients of HOI and HO₂. The measurements 2 σ standard deviation is shown in grey.

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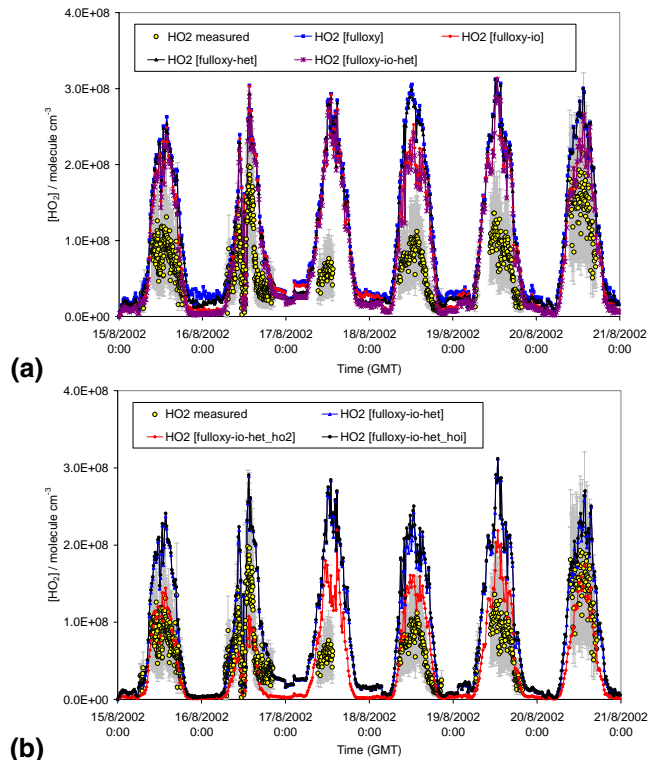


Fig. 6. Model-measurement comparison for HO₂ with the improved models (15–20 August). **(a)** showing the impact of IO and of the transition regime expression, **(b)** showing the effect of changing the uptake coefficients of HOI and HO₂. The measurements 2 σ standard deviation is shown in grey.

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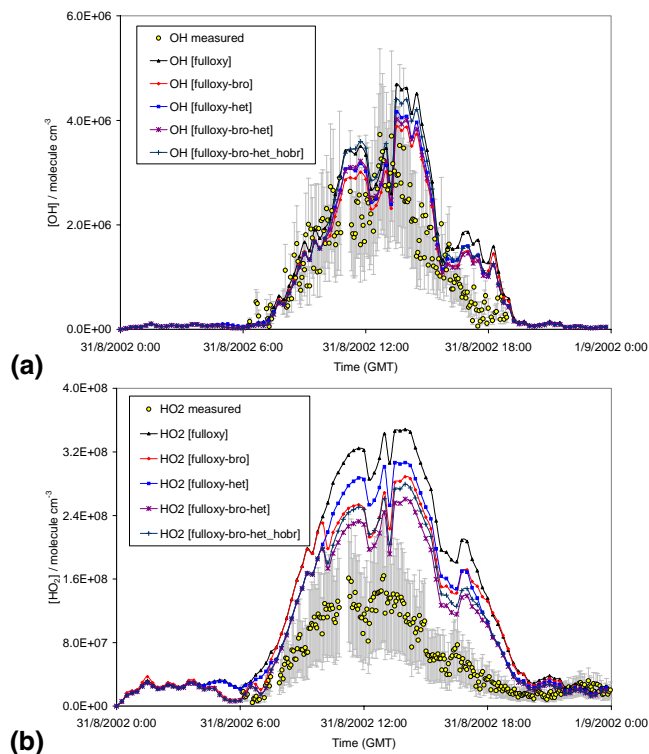


Fig. 7. Model-measurement comparison with the improved models (31 August). **(a)** OH, **(b)** HO₂. The measurements 2σ standard deviation is shown in grey.

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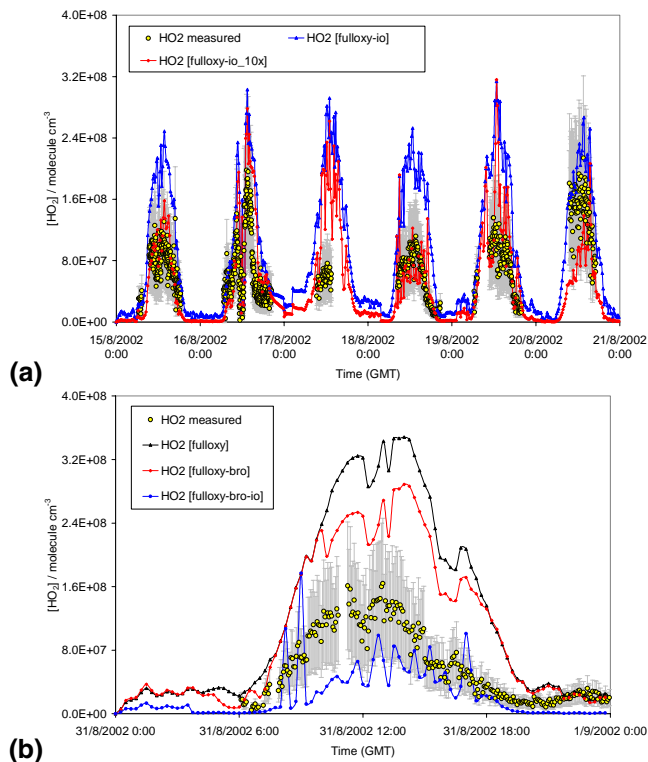


Fig. 8. Model-measurement comparison for HO₂ with the improved models (15–20 August). **(a)** models constrained to different concentrations of IO, **(b)** models constrained to estimated IO and measured BrO. The measurements 2σ standard deviation is shown in grey.

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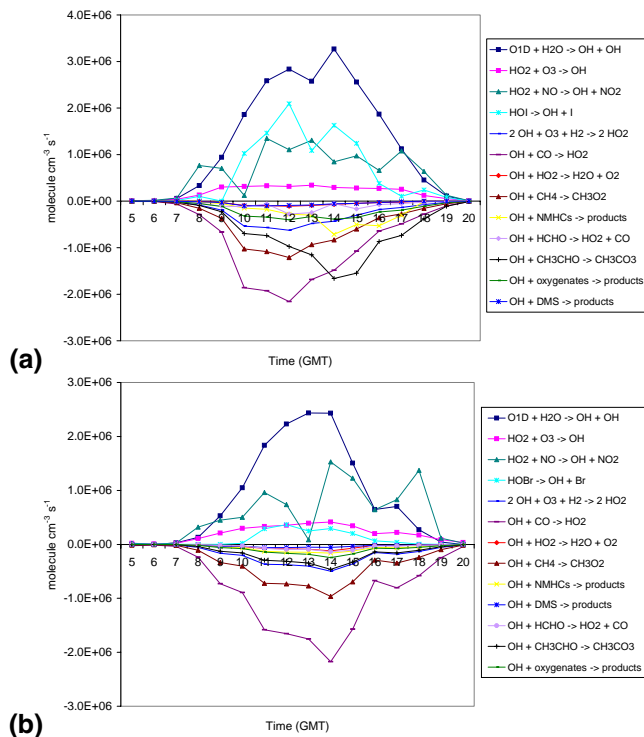


Fig. 9. Rates of production and destruction of OH. **(a)** 18 August ("fulloxy-io-het" model), **(b)** 31 August ("fulloxy-bro-het" model).

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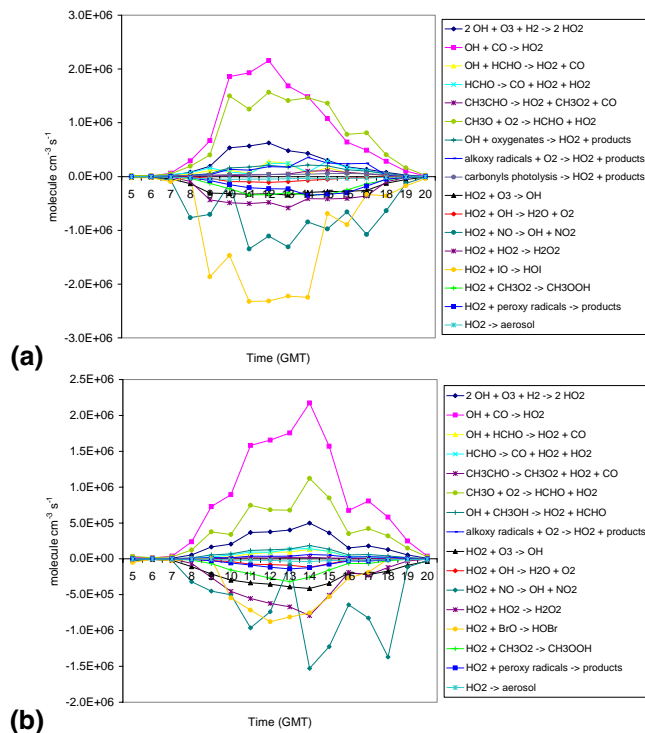


Fig. 10. Rates of production and destruction of HO₂. **(a)** 18 August ("fulloxy-io-het" model), **(b)** 31 August ("fulloxy-bro-het" model).

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