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Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics

Reactive nitrogen, ozone and ozone production in the Arctic troposphere and the impact of stratosphere-troposphere exchange

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Abstract. We use aircraft observations obtained during the Arctic Research of the Composition of the Troposphere from Aircraft and Satellites (ARCTAS) mission to examine the distributions and source attributions of O_3 and NO_y in the Arctic and sub-Arctic region. Using a number of marker tracers, we distinguish various air masses from the background troposphere and examine their contributions to NO_x, O_3, and O_3 production in the Arctic troposphere. The background Arctic troposphere has a mean O_3 of ∼60 ppbv and NO_x of ∼25 pptv throughout spring and summer with CO decreasing from ∼145 ppbv in spring to ∼100 ppbv in summer. These observed mixing ratios are not notably different from the values measured during the 1988 ABLE-3A and the 2002 TOPSE field campaigns despite the significant changes in emissions and stratospheric ozone layer in the past two decades that influence Arctic tropospheric composition. Air masses associated with stratosphere-troposphere exchange are present throughout the mid and upper troposphere during spring and summer. These air masses, with mean O_3 concentrations of 140–160 ppbv, are significant direct sources of O_3 in the Arctic troposphere. In addition, air of stratospheric origin displays net O_3 formation in the Arctic due to its sustainable, high NO_x (75 pptv in spring and 110 pptv in summer) and NO_y (∼800 pptv in spring and ∼1100 pptv in summer). The air masses influenced by the stratosphere sampled during ARCTAS-B also show conversion of HNO_3 to PAN. This active production of PAN is the result of increased degradation of ethane in the stratosphere-troposphere mixed air mass to form CH_3CHO, followed by subsequent formation of PAN under high NO_x conditions. These findings imply that an adequate representation of stratospheric NO_y input, in addition to stratospheric O_3 influx, is essential to accurately simulate tropospheric Arctic O_3, NO_x and PAN in chemistry transport models. Plumes influenced by recent anthropogenic and biomass burning emissions observed during ARCTAS show highly elevated levels of hydrocarbons and NO_y (mostly in the form of NO_x and PAN), but do not contain O_3 higher than that in the Arctic tropospheric background except some aged biomass burning plumes sampled during spring. Convection and/or lightning influences are negligible sources of O_3 in the Arctic troposphere but can have significant impacts in the upper troposphere in the continental sub-Arctic during summer.

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1 Introduction

Tropospheric ozone (O_3) is important as it affects air quality and is a greenhouse gas. The Arctic has been warming at twice the global average rate over the past century (IPCC, 2007). While increases in long-lived greenhouse gases dominate Arctic warming, O_3 and other short-lived pollutants (e.g., aerosols) could also play an important role (Law and Stohl, 2007; Shindell, 2007; Quinn et al., 2008). Changes in local tropospheric O_3 affect the Arctic climate by altering local radiation fluxes with maximum impact near the tropopause (Hansen et al., 1997). A recent modeling study suggests that an increase in tropospheric O_3, caused by increases in anthropogenic emissions, could have contributed about 0.3 °C annually to the 20th-century Arctic surface warming and about 0.4 °C–0.5 °C during winter and spring (Shindell et al., 2006). The impact of possible increases in boreal forest fire emissions and changes in stratospheric O_3 flux to the troposphere on Arctic surface warming are not yet well quantified.

Ozone is produced locally in the Arctic troposphere from its precursors (i.e., carbon monoxide (CO), hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides (NO_x)) emitted from anthropogenic and biomass burning sources in adjacent continents (e.g., Penkett and Brice, 1986; Wofsy et al., 1992; Beine et al., 1997). Additional potential sources of O_3 in the Arctic troposphere include transport of O_3 from lower latitudes (Shindell et al., 2008) as well as transport from the stratosphere (Dibb et al., 2003; Allen et al., 2003). Stratospheric air contains high NO_x and nitric acid (HNO_3) and is also an important source of NO_x when injected into the Arctic troposphere (Wofsy et al., 1992; Levy et al., 1999; Law and Stohl, 2007; Liang et al., 2009). NO_x of stratospheric origin is the driving mechanism that leads to enhanced O_3 production in the Arctic upper troposphere (Liang et al., 2009). A better quantification of the contribution of various anthropogenic and natural sources to O_3 in the Arctic is important for understanding the temporal variation and radiative impact of O_3, and how Arctic O_3 may change as climate warms and the stratospheric O_3 layer recovers. The NASA Arctic Research of the Composition of the Troposphere from Aircraft and Satellites (ARCTAS) mission was conducted in April and June–July 2008 (Jacob et al., 2010). Its goal was to better understand the factors driving changes in Arctic atmospheric composition and climate. The extensive and detailed measurements of O_3 and reactive nitrogen (NO_y) species provide a great opportunity to examine the photochemistry of O_3 and NO_x, and their sources in the Arctic. In this paper, we will use observations obtained onboard the NASA DC-8 aircraft during ARCTAS to examine O_3 and NO_y in the Arctic and sub-Arctic region and their source attributions. Section 2 describes the observations used in this study. We use a set of marker tracers to identify various air masses sampled during ARCTAS and examine their chemical composition, as described in Sect. 3. NO_x plays a determinative role in O_3 production in the troposphere. Therefore to better understand which sources contribute to O_3 in the Arctic troposphere, it is important to understand sources of NO_x and the long-lived reservoir species of NO_x, i.e., HNO_3 and peroxyacetyl nitrate (PAN). We examine NO_y and its partitioning in various air masses in Sect. 4, followed by an analysis of O_3, O_3 production and its dependence on NO_x and HO_x ($OH+HO_2$) levels within individual air masses sampled during ARCTAS (Sect. 5). Conclusions are presented in Sect. 6.

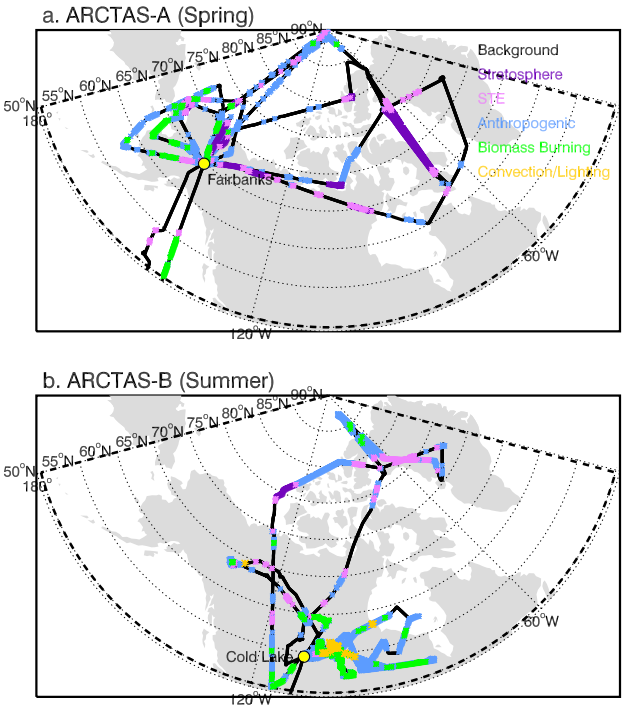

Fig. 1. Flight tracks (black solid lines) of the NASA DC-8 aircraft for **(a)** ARCTAS-A and **(b)** ARCTAS-B. For this study, we only use measurements obtained north of 50° N. The color symbols indicate the location of various air masses sampled during ARCTAS. Tracks not marked with color symbols indicate background atmosphere.

2 Observations and model

The NASA ARCTAS mission had two phases. The spring deployment (ARCTAS-A), based in Fairbanks Alaska, involved nine flights by the NASA DC-8 aircraft between 1 April and 21 April 2008. The summer deployment (ARCTAS-B) took place between 26 June and 14 July 2008 (nine flights) and was operated from a base in Cold Lake, Canada. Figure 1 shows the geographical distribution of flight tracks of the DC-8 aircraft during ARCTAS. Here we use measurements obtained north of 50° N. During the spring phase, the majority of the measurements were collected between 60° N–90° N. Measurements made during the summer phase were mainly in the sub-Arctic between 50° N–70° N.

Table 1. Summary of ARCTAS observations used in this study.

Species	Instrument & Methods	Reference
CO	Tunable Diode Laser Absorption Spectroscopy (TDLAS)	Diskin et al. (2002)
O_3, NO, NO_2, NO_y^*	Chemiluminescence	Weinheimer et al. (1994)
HNO_3	Chemical Ionization Mass Spectrometry (CIMS)	Crounse et al (2006)
PAN	Chemical Ionization Mass Spectrometry (CIMS)	Slusher et al. (2004)
Alkyl nitrates	Thermal-Dissociation Laser Induced Fluorescence (TD-LIF)	Cleary et al. (2002)
OH, HO_2^*	Laser Induced Fluorescence (LIF)	Brune et al. (1999)
CH_3CN^{**}	Proton Transfer Reaction – Mass Spectrometry (PTR-MS)	Wisthaler et al (2002)
	Gas Chromatography – Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS)	Apel et al. (2003)
CFC-113, C_2H_6	Whole Air Sampler – Gas Chromatography (WAS-GC)	Blake et al. (2003)

* Multiple sets of measurements were available for several species used in this study, i.e., NO_2, OH, HO_2, HNO_3. The different measurements broadly agree with each other and the choice of measurements does not affect the conclusion of this study. ** Two sets of measurements were available for CH_3CN: (i) the PTR-MS measurement of CH_3CN is available every 8-s and 60-s, respectively, and (ii) the GC-MS measurements available every 120-s. In general, we use CH_3CN measured by PTR-MS. During time periods when there are no available PTR-MS measurements, we use the GC-MS measurements whenever possible.

Observations obtained onboard the DC-8 aircraft include O_3, HO_x, NO_x, as well as NO_x reservoir species, hydrocarbons, halocarbons, aerosols (Jacob et al., 2010). Segregation between various air masses relies on the availability of simultaneous measurements of the marker tracers, e.g., CO for combustion plumes, acetonitrile (CH_3CN) for biomass burning and chloroflurocarbons (CFCs) for stratospheric air. A detailed list of the species used in this study and the associated instrument specifications is presented in Table 1. Multiple merge files (1-s, 10-s, 60-s) were created for the ARCTAS measurements. Here, we rely on the 60-s merge. Although many species are available at higher frequency, measurements crucial to this analysis, i.e., halocarbons, from the Whole Air Sampler – Gas Chromatography, were only obtained every 160-s.

We also use results calculated by the NASA Langley box model (Olson et al., 2004) constrained by chemical and physical parameters measured by the DC-8 aircraft. Observed O_3, CO, NO, temperature, $J(NO_2)$ and $J(O_3)$ from the 60-s merge were used as model input. In addition, model calculations have been constrained by observed values of many trace gases, including H_2O_2, CH_3OOH, HNO_3, PAN, acetone, MEK, methanol, and ethanol when possible.

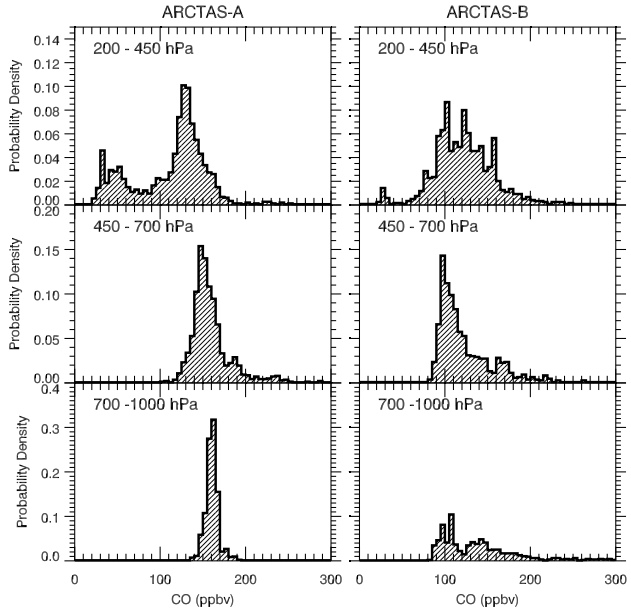

Fig. 2. The probability distribution function (PDF) of observed CO along DC-8 flight tracks for ARCTAS-A (left column) and ARCTAS-B (right column).

3 Air masses observed during ARCTAS

3.1 Air sampled during ARCTAS

While airborne field missions provide an extensive set of trace gas measurements over vast spatial regions, the flight plans are usually designed to target pollution plumes and thus biased towards these plumes. Using CO, a commonly used tracer for combustion and atmospheric transport, we analyze the representativeness of the ARCTAS sampling to the general characteristics of the Arctic troposphere.

We analyze the probability density function (PDF) of CO observed during ARCTAS-A (Fig. 2). The PDF of CO displays a unimodal distribution in the lower and mid troposphere during spring with peaks at 160 ppbv and 145 ppbv, respectively, implying a relatively well-mixed Arctic atmosphere. In the upper troposphere/lower stratosphere (UT/LS), the distribution is bimodal, with one peak at 125 ppbv and a secondary peak at ∼50 ppbv representing tropospheric and stratospheric air masses, respectively. The PDF during ARCTAS-B (Fig. 2) displays multiple peaks in the troposphere. The primary peak around 100 ppbv

Table 2. Air mass characterization criteria.

Air mass type	Criteria	
	ARCTAS-A	ARCTAS-B
Stratospheric air	$O_3 > 100$ ppbv; CFC-113 $< 78^a$ pptv; CO $< 80^b$ ppbv	$O_3 > 100$ ppbv; CFC-113 $< 78^a$ pptv; CO $<50^b$ ppbv
Stratosphere-troposphere exchange	$O_3 > 100$ ppbv; CFC-113 $< 78^a$ pptv; 80^b ppbv $\leq$ CO < 160 ppbv	$O_3 > 100$ ppbv; CFC-113 $< 78^a$ pptv; 50^b ppbv $\leq$ CO < 120 ppbv
Biomass burning	CO $> 160^c$ ppbv; $CH_3CN > 145^d$ pptv	CO $> 120^c$ ppbv; $CH_3CN > 320^d$ pptv
Anthropogenic	CO $> 160^c$ ppbv; $CH_3CN \leq 145^d$ pptv	CO $> 120^c$ ppbv; $CH_3CN \leq 320^d$ pptv
Convection/Lightning	$NO_x > 100$ pptv; $NO_x/HNO_3 > 1.2$ pptv pptv^{-1}	$NO_x > 200$ pptv; $NO_x/HNO_3 > 1.2$ pptv pptv^{-1}

[a] The 78 pptv threshold is the 25 percentile value for CFC-113. [b] The CO ∼ 80 ppbv threshold level between stratospheric air and air associated with stratosphere-troposphere exchange are determined based on scattering plots of CFC-113, CH_3CN, SO_2 vs. CO during ARCTAS-A. The CO ∼ 50 ppbv threshold for ARCTAS-B is determined based on the scatter plots of CH_4, CO_2, NO_y vs. CO. [c] The CO ∼ 160 ppbv threshold level during ARCTAS-A for biomass burning and anthropogenic pollution is determined by the highest quartile of CO. The CO ∼ 120 ppbv threshold during ARCTAS-B is chosen based on the PDF of CO (Sect. 3). [d] The CH_3CN ∼ 145 pptv for ARCTAS-A and ∼320 pptv for ARCTAS-B thresholds are chosen for the optimal segregation between the biomass burning and anthropogenic pollutions based on the CO_2/CO, CH_4/CO, and C_2H_6/CO ratio (see Supplement Figs. S1 and S2).

(90–120 ppbv) represents the background atmosphere and the two peaks between 120–160 ppbv (present in the upper and lower troposphere) and >160 ppbv (present in the mid- and upper troposphere) are associated with either anthropogenic and/or biomass burning pollution. Acetonitrile is typically used as a tracer for biomass burning plumes (Lobert et al., 1990; Holzinger et al., 2001). The peak with CO > 160 ppbv has mean CH_3CN of 520 pptv, indicating these are mostly biomass burning plumes. The other pollution peak with CO between 120–160 ppbv has relatively low level of CH_3CN (200 pptv), suggesting these measurements are mostly anthropogenic pollution plumes. The fact that the combustion peaks are well separated from the background suggests these are fresh pollution plumes that have not yet mixed into the background. The extended tails of combustion plumes during summer implies that, unlike spring, the summertime sampling is highly biased towards pollution plumes.

3.2 Air mass identification

We use a comprehensive set of tracers to characterize air masses sampled by the DC-8 aircraft during ARCTAS. The detailed criteria applied to define each type of air mass are listed in Table 2. Note that the thresholds of the marker gases chosen to segregate air masses of different origin are highly subjective and can vary significantly depending on season, location, and the question of interest. While we choose some criteria based on previous literature ($O_3 > 100$ ppbv for air of stratospheric origin) and the PDF distribution of CO (Sect. 3.1) for combustion plumes, we heavily rely on tracer-tracer correlations for optimal segregation between different air masses (see Supplement, Figs. S1 and S2). We found that the CO-NO_y, CO-CO_2 and CO-CH_4 correlations are particularly useful in determining the threshold levels of markers for distinguishing air in the stratosphere, air associated with recent stratosphere-troposphere-exchange (STE), biomass burning and anthropogenic plumes.

We use CO and CH_3CN to distinguish anthropogenic and biomass burning pollution plumes. Since pollution plumes are not well separated from the background during spring (Sect. 3.1), we use the highest quartile of CO (>160 ppbv) to define pollution plumes. Within the pollution plumes, air masses with $CH_3CN > 145$ pptv are identified as biomass burning plumes and the remaining as anthropogenic pollution plumes. During summer, air masses with CO > 120 ppbv are defined as combustion plumes (Table 2). We further use CO > 160 ppbv and $CH_3CN > 320$ pptv to separate biomass burning air masses from anthropogenic plumes. The thresholds of CH_3CN ∼145 pptv for ARCTAS-A and ∼320 pptv for ARCTAS-B are chosen for optimal segregation between the biomass burning and anthropogenic pollutions based on the CO_2/CO, CH_4/CO, and C_2H_6/CO ratios (Table 2), which differ in these two types of air masses (see Supplement, Figs. S1 and S2).

Air in the stratosphere is enriched in O_3 and depleted in surface emitted pollutants such as long-lived CFCs (lifetime ∼45–100 yr) as well as short-lived CO (lifetime ∼ two months). Stratospheric air can enter the troposphere through

Table 3a. Mean observed chemical composition of air masses sampled during ARCTAS-A[a].

	Background 2370 min (59 %)[b]				Anthropogenic Pollution 688 min (17 %)	Biomass Burning 179 min (4 %)	Stratosphere 358 min (9 %)	STE 125 min (3 %)
	0–12km	0–3 km	3–6 km	6–12 km	0–10 km [c]	3–9 km[c]	6–12 km[c]	5–12 km[c]
CO (ppbv)	144 ± 14	156 ± 5	148 ± 9	135 ± 14	**172 ± 14**	**220 ± 42**	48 ± 14	100 ± 14
O_3 (ppbv)	63 ± 16	48 ± 7	62 ± 9	72 ± 17	57 ± 13	**78 ± 12**	**363 ± 122**	**150 ± 31**
OH (pptv)	0.04 ± 0.04	0.02 ± 0.03	0.04 ± 0.03	0.05 ± 0.04	0.02 ± 0.02	0.07 ± 0.06	0.07 ± 0.04	0.07 ± 0.04
HO_2 (pptv)	3.5 ± 1.9	3.4 ± 1.9	3.5 ± 2.1	3.5 ± 1.8	3.2 ± 1.5	**6.4 ± 4.1**	1.0 ± 0.4	1.0 ± 0.9
HO_x (pptv)	3.5 ± 1.9	3.4 ± 2.0	3.6 ± 2.1	3.6 ± 1.8	3.2 ± 1.5	**6.7 ± 4.2**	1.1 ± 0.4	2.0 ± 0.9
NO (pptv)	11 ± 28	13 ± 30	9 ± 8	12 ± 11	32 ± 372	18 ± 17	**50 ± 24**	**35 ± 24**
NO_2 (pptv)	6 ± 38	3 ± 53	3 ± 12	10 ± 16	24 ± 211	33 ± 22	**75 ± 29**	**42 ± 17**
NO_x (pptv)	25 ± 65	30 ± 85	20 ± 15	30 ± 20	65 ± 630	50 ± 40	**150 ± 55**	**80 ± 40**
PAN (pptv)	205 ± 80	220 ± 60	225 ± 85	180 ± 80	**345 ± 145**	**910 ± 475**	70 ± 30	160 ± 50
HNO_3(pptv)	30 ± 35	30 ± 35	25 ± 25	30 ± 40	25 ± 30	40 ± 40	**1470 ± 575**	**320 ± 195**
ANs (pptv)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	**NA**	NA	NA
NO_y (pptv)	410 ± 170	420 ± 135	430 ± 160	395 ± 170	**650 ± 660**	**1725 ± 955**	**2035 ± 660**	**845 ± 275**

[a] For each type of air mass we include the observed mean ± one standard deviation. Chemical species that are significantly enhanced (>mean + one standard deviation) with respect to background at the corresponding altitude are highlighted in bold. [b] The percentage sum of all identified air masses equals to 93 % and the remaining 7 % are ozone depleting events. [c] The altitude span of individual air masses.

rapid synoptic eddy exchange activities, e.g., tropopause folds, or slow global-scale diabatic descent (Holton et al., 1995). The stratosphere-to-troposphere transport time ranges between a few days during rapid tropopause folding events that intrude deeply into the troposphere to the order of a month for shallow STE intrusions followed by subsequent slow diabatic descent. The difference in transport time can lead to significantly different levels of trace gases, in particular the short-lived species, such as O_3, HNO_3, and Be-7 (Liang et al., 2009). We use the combination of a short-lived tracer, O_3 (>100 ppbv), and a long-lived tracer, CFC-113 (lowest quartile, <78 pptv) to identify air of stratospheric origin. We choose CFC-113 over the other two more common CFCs, CFC-11 and CFC-12. This is because emissions of CFC-113 have significantly decreased since 2000 (Liang et al., 2008), due to the phase-out required by the Montreal protocol. The variation in CFC-113 is less tempered by variability due to tropospheric transport of fresh surface emissions, which can be significant, and reflects mainly the extent of mixing with stratospheric air. Therefore low CFC-113, together with high O_3, is a better marker to distinguish air transported from the stratosphere. We apply an additional criterion, CO < 160 ppbv in spring (<120 ppbv in summer), to exclude any samples that have mixed to some extent with fresh combustion plumes. We also use CO levels to distinguish air that is of stratospheric origin, but has already penetrated into the troposphere through STE events (CO > 80 ppbv and >50 ppbv in spring and summer, respectively), from the air that still resides in the lowermost stratosphere (Table 2). This is because air of stratospheric origin can have very different NO_y partitioning and photochemical properties, e.g., O_3 production rates, when it enters the troposphere and mixes with the tropospheric background, as compared to air that remains in the stratosphere. Note that the use of O_3 > 100 ppbv for stratosphere-troposphere mixed air masses is a stringent criterion that distinguishes only the relatively fresh STE events from the background atmosphere.

The DC-8 aircraft also encountered a few deep convective events during ARCTAS-B. Air masses that have recently experienced deep convection contain enhanced levels of NO_x associated with freshly-ventilated air from the boundary layer and/or lightning and are depleted in HNO_3 due to scavenging (e.g., Thompson et al., 1999; Liang et al., 2007). Thus we define air as being influenced by convection/lightning when NO_x exceeds 200 pptv and the NO_x/HNO_3 ratio exceeds >1.2 pptv pptv^{-1}. During ARCTAS-A, six minutes (<0.1 % of a total ∼4200 min) of the data contain elevated NO_x (>100 pptv), which were of neither anthropogenic/biomass burning nor stratospheric origin. Since deep convection is not common during the high latitude spring, these measurements are most likely tied to fresh aircraft exhaust. We therefore exclude these air samples.

The remaining air masses are defined as background. Note that the DC-8 measurements in the Arctic marine boundary layer also include a few O_3 depletion events (O_3 < 30 ppbv) during spring (Neuman et al., 2010) as well as local plumes with high NO_x from coastal ship emissions in spring and Canadian power plants near Edmonton and Ft. McMurray in summer. We exclude these data in this analysis.

Table 3b. Same as Table 3a but for ARCTAS-B[a].

	Background 1417 min (44 %)				Anthropogenic Pollution 1232 min (38 %)	Biomass Burning 342 min (11 %)	Stratosphere 32 min (1 %)	STE 131 min (4 %)	Convection Lightning 59 min (2 %)
	0–12km	0–3 km	3–6 km	6–12 km	0–12 km[b]	0–10 km[b]	10–12 km[b]	6–12 km[b]	6–12 km[b]
CO (ppbv)	103 ± 11	103 ± 10	104 ± 10	102 ± 12	**153 ± 39**	**415 ± 280**	30 ± 6	91 ± 17	**143 ± 28**
O_3 (ppbv)	57 ± 21	34 ± 6	60 ± 15	70 ± 22	58 ± 18	49 ± 17	**448 ± 48**	**164 ± 51**	79 ± 11
OH (pptv)	0.13 ± 0.08	0.07 ± 0.06	0.16 ± 0.08	0.14 ± 0.06	0.11 ± 0.08	0.09 ± 0.07	0.09 ± 0.03	0.18 ± 0.07	**0.23 ± 0.18**
HO_2 (pptv)	8.9 ± 5.0	9.7 ± 6.4	10.2 ± 5.0	6.9 ± 2.9	11.7 ± 7.8	**16.1 ± 9.8**	1.1 ± 0.2	4.3 ± 1.9	4.9 ± 2.8
HO_x (pptv)	9.0 ± 5.0	9.8 ± 6.5	10.3 ± 5.0	7.0 ± 2.9	11.8 ± 7.8	**16.3 ± 9.9**	1.2 ± 0.3	4.5 ± 2.0	5.1 ± 2.9
NO (pptv)	9 ± 12	10 ± 17	7 ± 11	10 ± 18	**27 ± 183**	**102 ± 324**	**143 ± 12**	**49 ± 34**	**315 ± 225**
NO_2 (pptv)	18 ± 24	30 ± 36	13 ± 14	16 ± 18	**69 ± 262**	**506 ± 1134**	**170 ± 15**	**66 ± 35**	**190 ± 263**
NO_x (pptv)	25 ± 30	35 ± 45	20 ± 20	30 ± 25	**95 ± 355**	**635 ± 1490**	**385 ± 50**	**110 ± 60**	**505 ± 350**
PAN (pptv)	210 ± 100	105 ± 55	230 ± 80	245 ± 95	**350 ± 150**	**950 ± 660**	70 ± 50	320 ± 45	**415 ± 60**
HNO_3(pptv)	70 ± 85	90 ± 105	80 ± 85	45 ± 60	85 ± 90	70 ± 70	**1740 ± 330**	**515 ± 355**	25 ± 20
ANs (pptv)	20 ± 50	40 ± 70	15 ± 30	10 ± 40	55 ± 90	**195 ± 255**	NA	50 ± 65	**105 ± 80**
NO_y (pptv)	320 ± 165	245 ± 200	310 ± 140	370 ± 150	**585 ± 445**	**2020 ± 2175**	**2210 ± 260**	**955 ± 355**	**1095 ± 355**

[a] For each type of air mass we include the observed mean ± one standard deviation. Chemical species that are significantly enhanced (>mean + one standard deviation) with respect to background at the corresponding altitude are highlighted in bold. [b] The altitude span of individual air masses.

3.3 Air mass composition

A summary of the air mass composition sampled by the DC-8 aircraft is shown in Table 3a (for ARCTAS-A) and Table 3b (for ARCTAS-B). About 59 % of the spring measurements are from the background troposphere. Pollution plumes account for 21 % of the observations, 17 % for anthropogenic pollution and 4 % for biomass burning plumes. About 9 % and 3 % of the spring measurements, respectively, are of lowermost stratospheric air and air influenced by recent STE events. During ARCTAS-B, about 38 % of the data are identified as fresh anthropogenic pollution and about 11 % are attributed to fresh biomass burning plumes. However, as we discussed in Sect. 3.1, the ARCTAS-B measurements are biased towards combustion plumes and thus the above fractionations are not representative of the general Arctic troposphere. Stratosphere air and STE together account for ∼5 % of the measurements. About 2 % of the air sampled during ARCTAS-B was recently influenced by convection and/or lightning. Geographically, the majority of the convective and biomass burning plumes are located in the sub-Arctic between 50–70° N while anthropogenic and stratosphere-troposphere mixed air masses are found throughout the Arctic and sub-Arctic (Fig. 1).

The background Arctic troposphere during spring has mean CO concentrations of ∼145 ppbv, O_3 of ∼60 ppbv, and NO_x of ∼25 pptv (Table 3a). Background CO decreases with altitude (Fig. 3a, Table 3a), suggesting that pollution is mainly mixed into the background and trapped at low altitudes. Background O_3 and NO_x remain relatively the same from spring to summer, but CO levels decrease to ∼100 ppbv due to increased destruction by OH (Table 3b). Unlike in spring, CO in summer shows little dependence on altitude (Fig. 3b), indicating efficient vertical mixing.

Extensive aircraft measurements of the Arctic troposphere were available from the earlier Tropospheric O_3 Production about the Spring Equinox (TOPSE) campaign in spring 2002 (Atlas et al., 2003) and the Arctic Boundary Layer Expedition (ABLE 3A) during summer 1988 (Harriss et al., 1992). Measurements from these previous missions show springtime mean CO ∼ 154 ppbv, O_3 ∼ 67 ppbv, and NO_x ∼ 17 pptv (TOPSE) (Stroud et al., 2003) and summertime mean CO ∼100 ppbv, O_3 ∼ 70 ppbv, and NO_x ∼ 10–50 pptv (ABLE 3A) (Jacob et al., 1992) at 3–6 km in the Arctic mid-troposphere. Considering the likely variations associated with differences in air mass sampling and interannual variability, the ARCTAS measurements indicate that these important tropospheric trace gases, CO, NO_x and O_3, have remained relatively unchanged in the Arctic mid-troposphere in the past two decades, despite the significant changes in processes that could have had a notable impact on the Arctic atmospheric composition, e.g., emissions regulation in Europe and N. America, rapid industrialization in East Asia, and destruction of the stratospheric O_3 layer.

The lowermost stratosphere, with low CO, can reach as low as 6 km during spring, likely during low tropopause events (Fig. 3a). Significantly fewer samples of the lowermost stratospheric air (1 %) were sampled during summer at >10 km (Fig. 3b). This is consistent with the seasonal growth of tropopause height from spring to summer. Frequent STE events have been observed throughout spring and summer. Air masses associated with fresh STE events are present at altitudes >5 km (Fig. 3). Stratosphere-troposphere mixed air masses have higher CO, compared to air in the lowermost

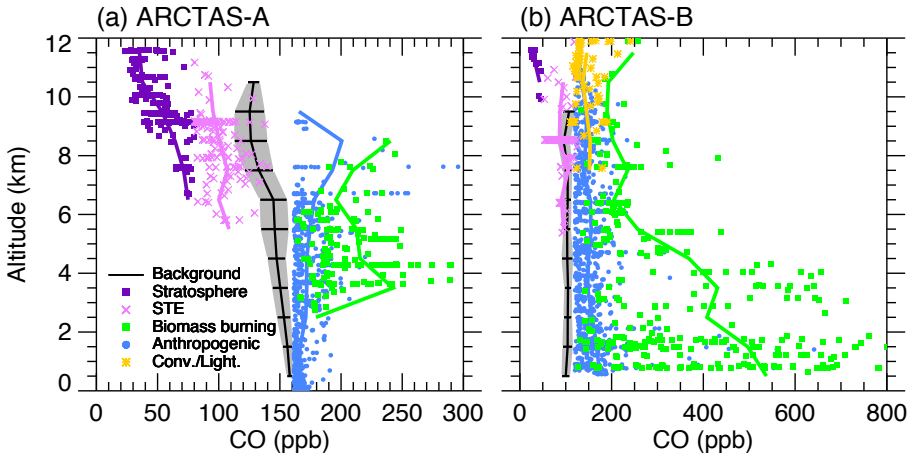

Fig. 3. Vertical profiles of CO during ARCTAS-A and ARCTAS-B. Black lines show the mean background CO at 1-km altitude bins, with gray shading indicating one standard deviation. We use colored symbols to show the individual air masses: stratosphere (purple), stratosphere-troposphere mixed (lilac), anthropogenic pollution (blue), biomass burning (green), and convection/lightning (yellow). The solid color lines indicate the vertical mean profiles of individual air masses.

stratosphere, reflecting mixing with tropospheric background air during stratosphere-to-troposphere transport.

The convective air masses observed during summer contain elevated CO (50 % enhancement as compared to background) (Table 3b), indicating freshly ventilated surface pollution. Anthropogenic pollution plumes are present from the surface to the upper troposphere throughout spring and summer and contain elevated CO (∼170 ppbv in spring and ∼150 ppbv in summer) (Fig. 3). Biomass burning plumes are confined in the mid troposphere during spring with a moderate increase in CO (∼220 ppbv) (Fig. 3a, Table 3a). The majority of the biomass burning air masses sampled during summer are fresh fire plumes in the lower troposphere with marked high CO (∼415 ppbv) (Fig. 3a, Table 3b). More detailed analysis on how anthropogenic pollution and Siberian (spring phase) and Canadian (summer phase) fire emissions impact atmospheric gas and aerosol composition and O_3 production can be found in Singh et al. (2010) and Alvarado et al. (2010).

4 Reactive nitrogen in the Arctic troposphere

The abundance of NO_x plays a determinative role in O_3 production in the background troposphere (Lin et al., 1988; Sillman et al., 1990; Jaeglé et al., 1998; Wennberg et al., 1998). While NO_x is present in the background atmosphere at low levels, it can be recycled between the radical forms and its long-lived reservoir species, which adds complexity to an accurate understanding of the NO_x budget in the atmosphere. We analyze NO_y (NO_x+PAN+ HNO_3+nitrates) and its partitioning during ARCTAS to investigate the budget and source attribution of NO_x in the Arctic and sub-Arctic troposphere. It is difficult to quantify the actual contribution of a certain source to reactive nitrogen species (same for O_3 in Sect. 5) just based on observations. Therefore we examine the concentration of nitrogen species in individual air masses with respect to the background since the level of elevated concentration (shown in below as Δ values relative to the background concentrations) in an individual air mass reflects its potential as a source of nitrogen species.

4.1 Reactive nitrogen in various air masses

Reactive nitrogen in the background troposphere remains relatively constant from spring to summer (∼300–400 pptv) (Table 3 and Figs. 4 and 5). Nitrogen oxides (∼25 pptv) on average account for 5–10 % of NO_y. PAN is the largest reservoir species (∼200 pptv), accounting for 50 % of NO_y in spring and ∼70 % in summer. The level of HNO_3 is significantly lower than that of PAN, ∼30 pptv in spring and ∼70 pptv in summer. A small fraction of NO_y (∼6 %) is present as alkyl nitrates during summer.

The main sources of NO_y in the troposphere at high latitudes are STE, and anthropogenic and biomass burning emissions (Fig. 4 and Table 3a). Combustion plumes are the major contributors of NO_y in the middle troposphere mainly in the form of PAN and NO_x, but little HNO_3. Air influenced by the stratosphere on average contains the highest level of NO_y above 6 km. Air masses associated with STE contain elevated levels of NO_x and HNO_3. Compared to air in the lowermost stratosphere, they contain much less NO_y (40 % of that in the lowermost stratosphere) and different NO_y partitioning (less HNO_3 and more PAN).

All sources, including anthropogenic and biomass burning emissions, convection, and STE contribute to NO_y in the Arctic/sub-Arctic troposphere during summer (Fig. 5 and Table 3b). The NO_y vs. CO relationship is more dispersed

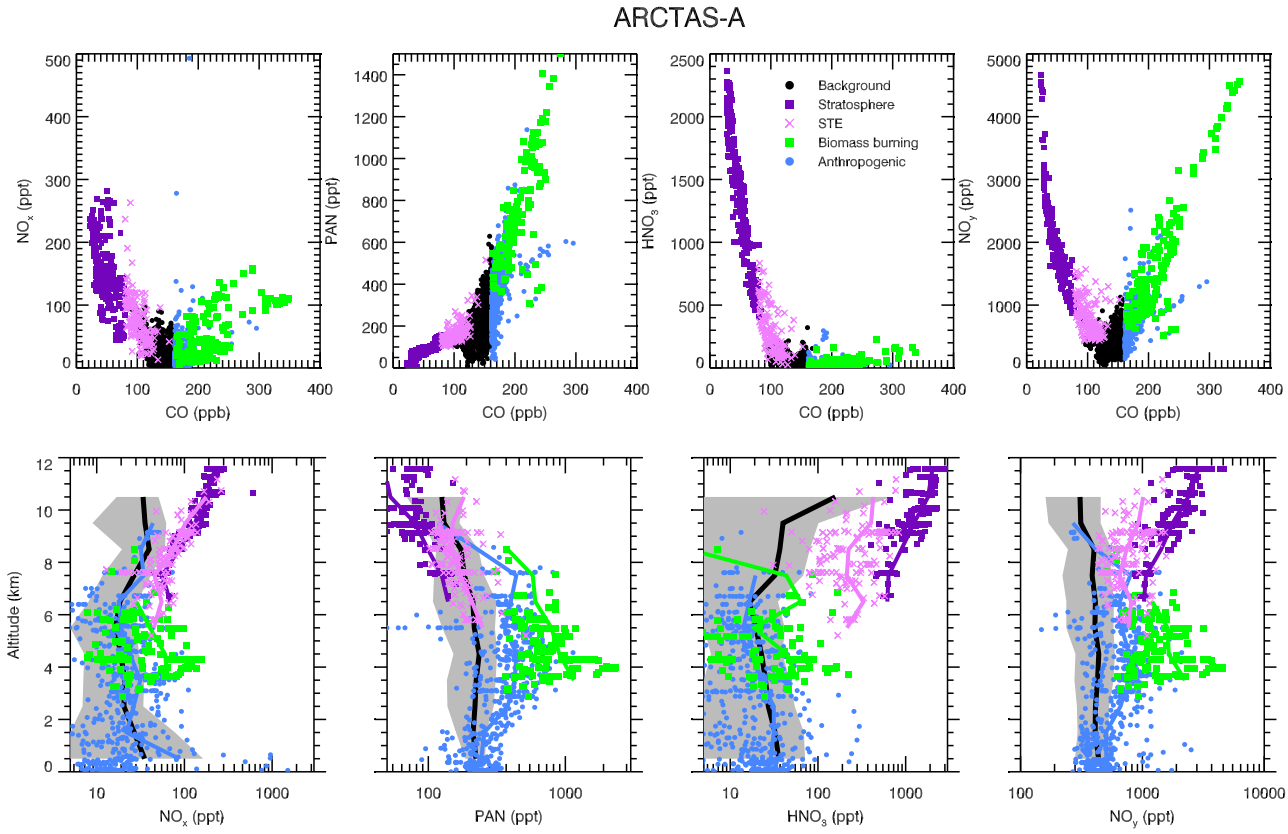

Fig. 4. Top panels: Scatter plots of NO_x, PAN, HNO_3, and NO_y vs. CO during ARCTAS-A. Bottom panels: Similar to Fig. 3, but for 1-km binned verticle profiles of NO_x, PAN, HNO_3, and NO_y during ARCTAS-A. Background air is shown in black with the other air masses highlighted in color: stratosphere (purple), stratosphere-troposphere mixed (lilac), anthropogenic pollution (blue) and biomass burning (green).

during summer, compared to a clear and compact correlation in individual air masses in spring, implying more mixing among air masses of different origin. Biomass burning air masses contain high concentrations of NO_x, PAN, and alkyl nitrates (AN) ($\Delta NO_x \sim 600$ pptv, $\Delta PAN \sim 750$ pptv, $\Delta ANs \sim 200$ pptv) and is the dominant contributor to NO_y ($\Delta NO_y \sim 1700$ pptv) in the mid and lower troposphere. Anthropogenic emissions also contribute, but their impacts are much less pronounced ($\Delta NO_y \sim 250$ pptv, $\Delta NO_x \sim 70$ pptv, $\Delta PAN \sim 150$ pptv, and no elevated ANs and HNO_3). In the upper troposphere (>6 km), convection, STE, and biomass burning all contribute significantly to NO_y. Convection is the dominant source of NO_x ($\Delta NO_x = 600$ pptv) while biomass burning pollution is the dominant contributor to PAN. Air masses influenced by STE contain high NO_y, comparable to that in convective air masses. They display high NO_x ($\Delta NO_x \sim 100$ pptv) and HNO_3($\Delta HNO_3 \sim 400$ pptv) as stratospheric air is commonly enriched with NO_x and HNO_3. They also have significantly elevated in PAN (50 % more than the background), with a mean concentration (320 pptv) almost comparable to that in anthropogenic plumes (350 pptv).

4.2 PAN in air masses influenced by STE

Using CO as a proxy for transport and air mass inter-mixing, we examine how mixing ratios of reactive nitrogen species change as air of stratospheric origin mixes with tropospheric background air during STE events (Parrish et al., 1998). As it mixes with tropospheric air, an air parcel of stratospheric origin moves along the mixing line (thick green dashed lines) in a scatter plot (Fig. 6). (We refer to tropospheric air masses influenced by stratospheric air as "stratosphere-troposphere mixed air masses" hereafter.) When active chemical production and/loss of NO_y species occurs, the air parcel deviates from the mixing line. Wet scavenging adds some complexity as it is a significant loss of HNO_3 (therefore NO_y) in the troposphere in summer and thus lowering the mean concentrations of HNO_3 and NO_y in the tropospheric background air. The majority of the observed mixing ratios of NO_x, HNO_3, NO_y, and the springtime PAN in the stratosphere-troposphere mixed air masses is within the envelope of variations that can be explained by mixing alone (thin gray dashed lines). The observed mean PAN in the summertime stratosphere-troposphere mixed air is 320 pptv.

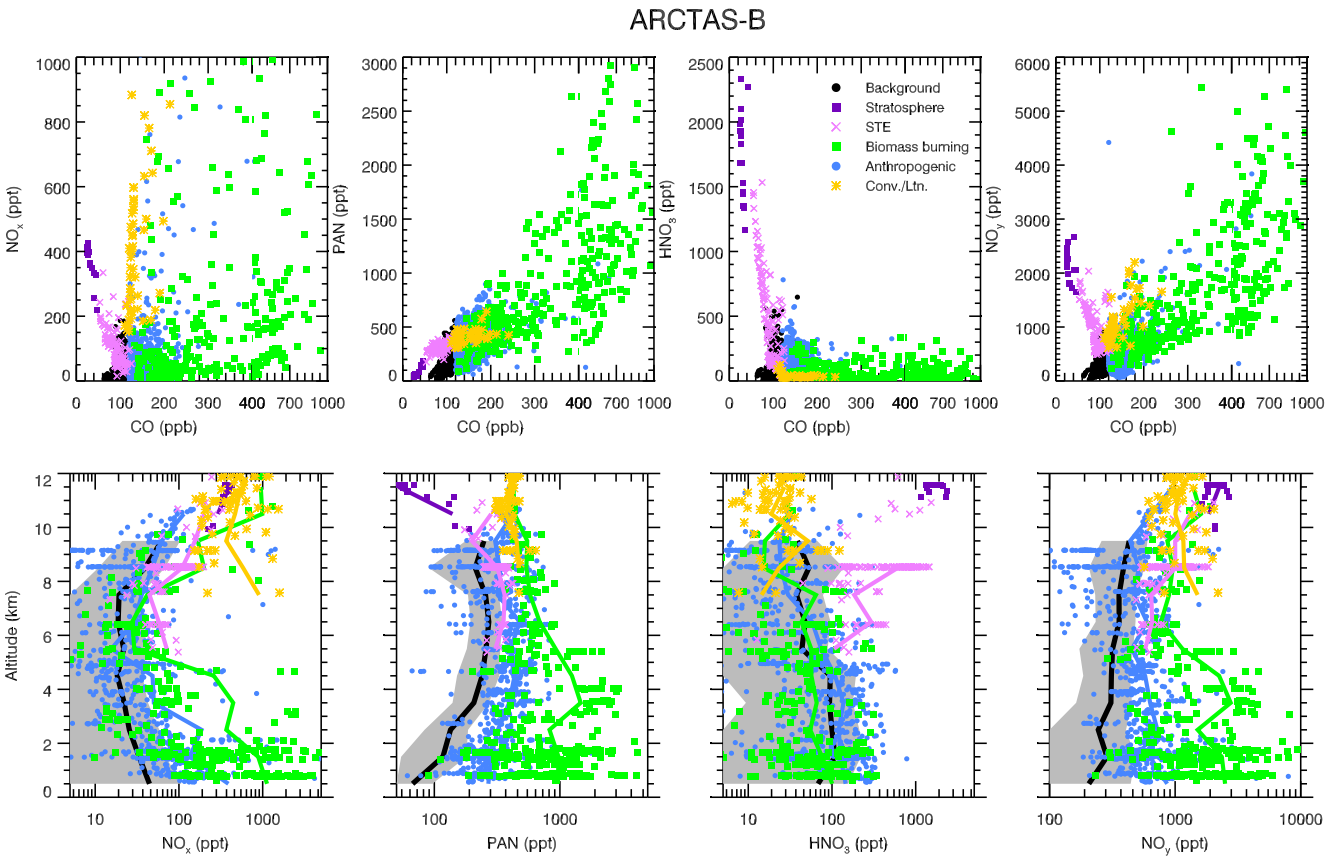

Fig. 5. Same as Fig. 4 but for ARCTAS-B. Note part of the x-axis in the top panels for CO between 400–1000 ppbv is condensed in length for better visualization of the air mass characteristics.

Assuming that the mean CO of ∼90 ppbv in the stratosphere-troposphere mixed air masses results from mixing stratospheric air with tropospheric background, PAN can increase to ∼220 pptv assuming PAN and CO increase proportionally. Although the air masses that we identified as being influenced by STE display low levels of CO (<160 ppbv for spring and <120 ppbv for summer), it is possible that these air masses might experience some mixing with combustion plumes, which are considered the main sources of PAN in the atmosphere (e.g., Singh et al., 1992; Alvarado et al., 2010). Air masses influenced by convection sampled during ARCTAS-B also display elevated levels of PAN (Table 3b). Mixing with these tropospheric plumes can potentially increase the level of PAN. However, the mixing lines between stratospheric air and anthropogenic, biomass burning, and convective air masses between 6-12 km fall closely to that of the background air and do not help much in explaning the observed high level of PAN in at least half of the stratosphere-troposphere mixed air masses.

What could have contributed to the high PAN observed in air influenced by STE during ARCTAS in summer? One possible explanation is active photochemical production and conversion of nitrogen from HNO_3 to PAN. In our earlier modeling study, Liang et al. (2009), we conducted a detailed budget analysis of NO_y in the Arctic using the GMI CTM which contains a fully-coupled tropospheric and stratospheric chemistry scheme. The model results suggest that significant conversion occurs of nitrogen from HNO_3 to NO_x and then to PAN as air of stratospheric origin mixes into air in the upper troposphere in the Arctic during summer.

We now analyze the ARCTAS-B measurements together with box model results to examine if indeed there exists active conversion of nitrogen from HNO_3 to PAN in the stratosphere-troposphere mixed air masses. Fig. 7 shows the concentrations of several trace gases in a stratosphere-troposphere mixed plume (low CO and high O_3) sampled by the DC-8 aircraft on 9 July 2008. This is a relatively fresh stratosphere-troposphere mixed plume with high NO_x, HNO_3, and medium PAN (∼300 pptv). The DC-8 aircraft sampled another stratosphere-troposphere mixed plume on 8 July 2008 (Fig. 8). This plume contains two subplumes: A and B. Subplume A is a fresh stratosphere-troposphere mixed plume with chemical composition similar to that of the 9 July plume (high NO_x, HNO_3, and medium PAN). Subplume B is an aged stratosphere-troposphere mixed plume with relatively low NO_x, HNO_3, and high PAN (maximum

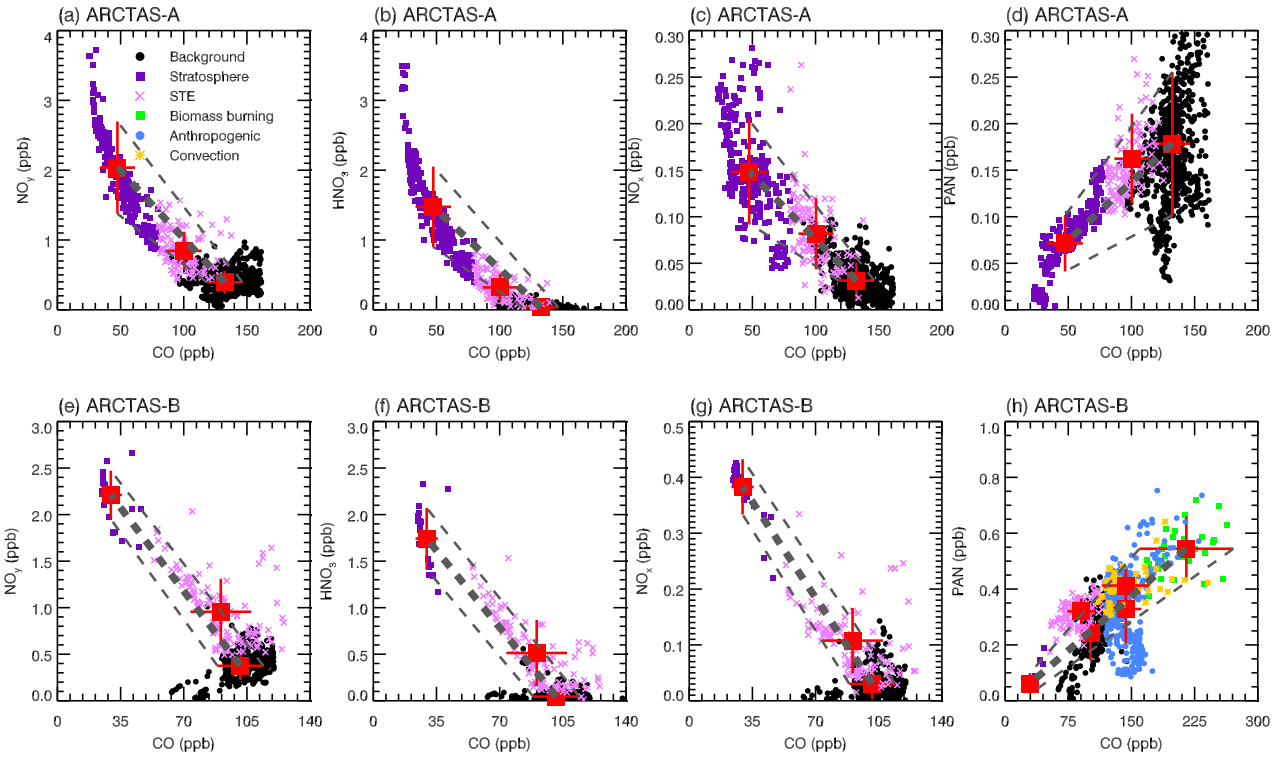

Fig. 6. Scatter plots of NO_x, PAN, HNO_3, and NO_y vs. CO in the background air between 6-12 km (black dots), stratospheric air (purple squares), and stratosphere-troposphere mixed air (lilac crosses) for ARCTAS-A (top panels) and ARCTAS-B (bottom row). The mean mixing ratios within each air mass is plotted (red squares) with horizontal bars indicating one standard deviation of CO and vertical bars for one standard deviation of the corresponding reactive nitrogen species. This figure demonstrates how trace gas mixing ratios change as air of stratospheric-origin mixes with background air during STE. Note in panel **(h)** we have added the biomass burning, anthropogenic and convective air masses between 6–12 km as well to demonstrate the impact on PAN in the stratosphere-troposphere mixed air if mixing with these tropospheric air masses occurs. For air that do not experience active chemical production and loss of reactive nitrogen species, as well as wet scavenging (important for HNO_3, and therefore NO_y), an air parcel should in general follow the mixing line (thick gray dashed lines) as it descends into the troposphere. The thin gray dashed lines outline the envelope of mixing lines when allowing one sigma deviation from the mean concentration in both the stratospheric air and tropospheric backgroud.

~400 pptv). The differences in NO_y partitioning between the fresh and aged stratosphere-troposphere mixed plumes are likely linked to photochemical process which occur when air of stratospheric origin is mixed with tropospheric background: stratospheric NO_x and HNO_3 are converted to PAN in the presence of tropospheric VOCs.

We examine the photochemical equilibium state within three types of air masses using the NASA Langley box model (Olson et al., 2004): the mean tropospheric background between 6–12 km, the lowermost stratosphere, and the stratosphere-troposphere mixed air (Fig. 9). We conduct two base simulations initiated with mean observed chemical composition (Table 3b) in the upper tropospheric background (BCG) (Fig. 9a) and the lower stratosphere (STR) (Fig. 9b), respectively, and ran the box model for 20 days. The BCG case shows that in general the NO_y partitioning in the background air masses sampled during ARCTAS-B is not at equilibium and PAN is steadily converted to HNO_3 at a rate of ~2 pptv day^{-1}. The NO_y paritioning in the sampled lower stratospheric air is approximately at equilibrium (Fig. 9b).

We now illustrate what happens when lower stratospheric air mixes with tropospheric background air. We initialize the box model with trace gas concentrations assuming a typical BCG point sampled by the 8 July flight mixes with a typical STR point sampled by the same flight (Fig. 9c). A mixing ratio of 70 % BCG and 30 % STR air sampled near the STR point by the 8 July flight is used which yields CO and CH_4 levels approximately close to those sampled in the stratosphere-troposphere mixed subplume A on 8 July (Fig. 8). Within the simulated stratosphere-troposphere mixture, there is active conversion from HNO_3 to PAN at ~3.7 pptv day^{-1} (net ~ 75 pptv production of PAN in 20 days) and the mixture is not yet reaching equilibium after the 20 days' simulation period. A more generalized case initialized with a mixture of mean BCG concentration (70 %) and mean STR air (30 %) shows similar net conversion

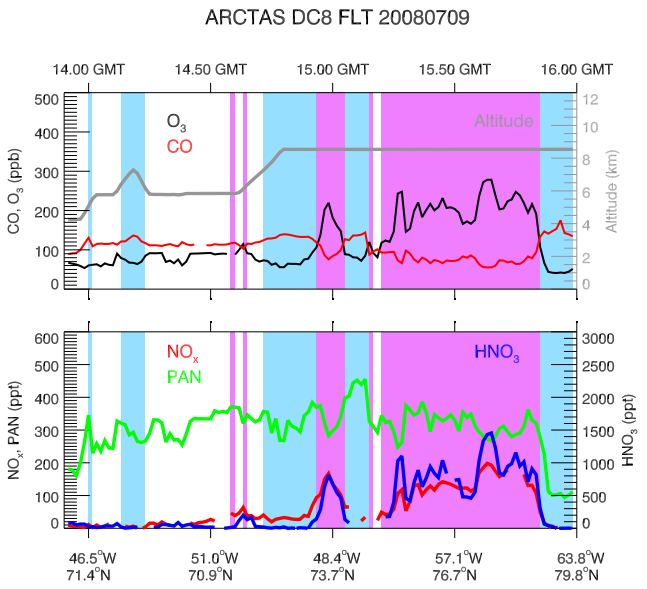

Fig. 7. Time series of aircraft altitude (top panel, gray line), observed CO, O_3 (top panel, red and black lines), NO_x, PAN, HNO_3 (red, green and blue lines in middle panel) between 14:00–16:00 GMT for DC-8 flight on 9 July 2008. We highlight the identified air masses in color shading: anthropogenic plumes (light blue) and stratosphere-troposphere mixed air (lilac).

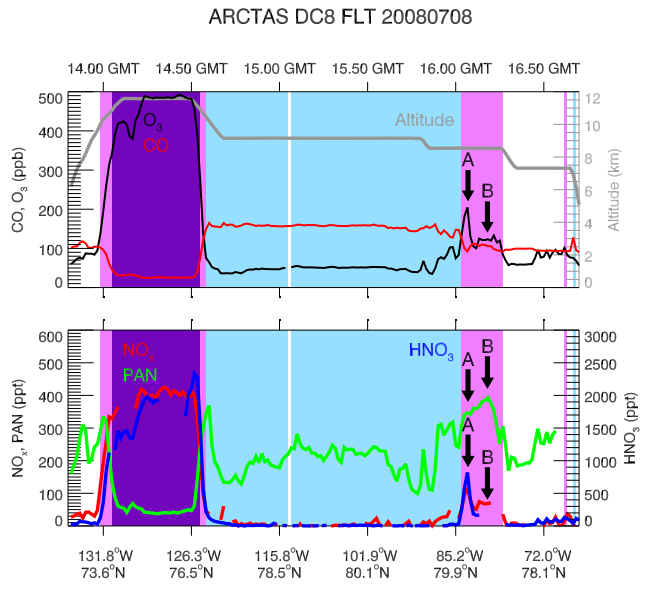

Fig. 8. Same as Fig. 7 but for DC-8 flight on 8 July 2008. Similarly, we highlight the identified air masses in color shading: anthropogenic plumes (light blue), stratospheric air (purple), stratosphere-troposphere mixed air (lilac). The thick black arrows near 16:00 GMT indicate the two sub-plumes (**A** and **B**) within the same stratosphere-troposphere mixed air mass (Sect. 4.2).

from HNO_3 to PAN but at a slower rate, $\sim$2 pptv day^{-1} (net $\sim$ 40 pptv formation of PAN in 20 days) (Fig. 9d).

While the lower stratospheric or upper tropospheric background alone displays zero production or net destruction of PAN, the mixture of the two during STE events provides a unique environment, where tropospheric air which has high VOC and H_2O meets stratospheric air which contains high NO_y and O_3, resulting in the active photochemical production of PAN. This occurs for two reasons: (i) increased degradation of ethane due to increases in OH (Table 3b) (the increase in OH in stratosphere-troposphere mixed air is due to the mix of O_3-rich stratospheric air with moist tropospheric air), (ii) increased PAN formation mainly through the following reactions:

$$C_2H_6 + OH \rightarrow C_2H_5O_2 + H_2O$$

$$C_2H_5O_2 + NO \rightarrow CH_3CHO + NO_2 + HO_2$$

$$CH_3CHO + OH \rightarrow CH_3C(O)O_2$$

$$CH_3C(O)O_2 + NO_2 \leftrightarrow PAN$$

A simplified version of the box model, which only includes C_2H_6, CH_3CHO and their intermediate products, $CH_3C(O)O_2$, NO_x, PAN, HNO_3, and constrained with the observed OH, HO_2, and photolysis rates, indicates the above chemistry alone is able to explain the $\sim$2 pptv day^{-1} PAN production calculated by the Langley box model (see Supplement, Fig. S3). Additional sensitivity runs suggest that the PAN production rate is most sensitive to the OH as well as NO_x concentrations. Although we successfully demonstrated that the mixing during STE events leads to the photochemical production of PAN, the calculated box model results were only able to explain approximately 40 % of the observed 100 pptv increase in PAN that could not be explained by mixing. It is important to note that our box model calculation is an idealized simplification of the real atmospheric chemical processes. The calculated OH and NO, NO_2 levels also differ slightly from the observed values, which can impact the calculated PAN production rate. It is desirable to conduct a comprehensive analysis using 3-dimensional chemical transport model for a better quantification of the impact of STE on tropospheric PAN production.

5 Ozone and ozone production in the Arctic troposphere

The photochemical balance between O_3 production and loss is an intricate play between NO_x, HO_x, and O_3 (Jaeglé et al., 1998; Wennberg et al., 1998). In this section, we examine O_3, the O_3 production rate, and ozone's dependence on NO_x and HO_x to understand the sources of O_3 in the Arctic and sub-Arctic troposphere.

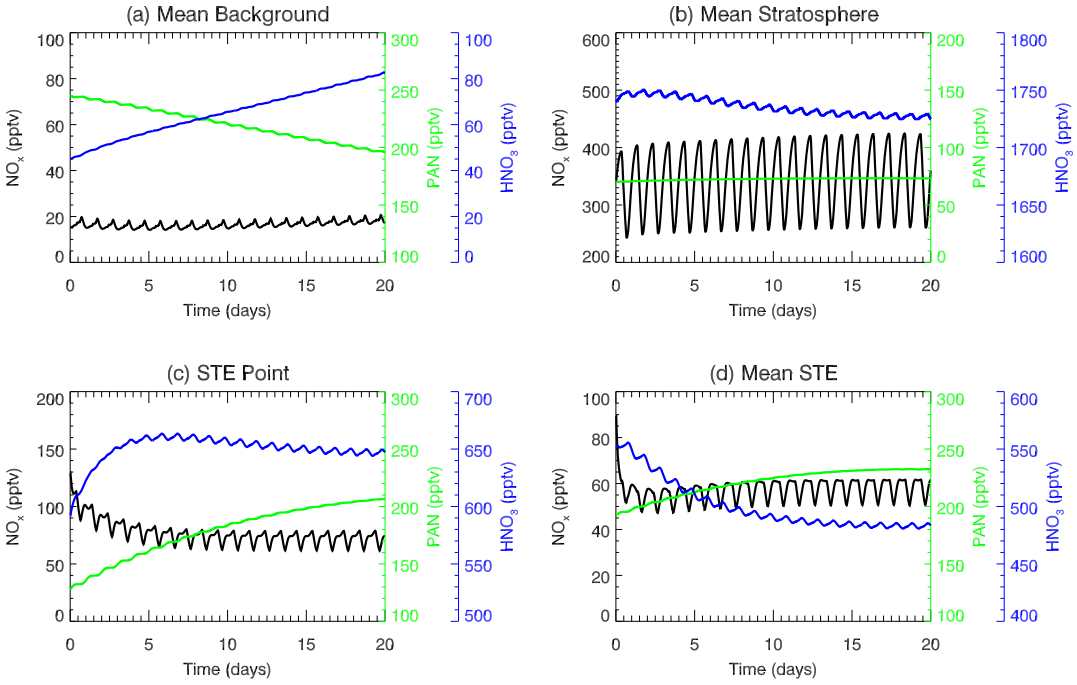

Fig. 9. Time-dependent box-model calculation of NO_x, PAN, and HNO_3 partitioning in **(a)** mean upper tropospheric background and (b) mean lower stratospheric air. We also show results from a third box-model calculation aiming to simulate the stratosphere-troposphere mixed subplume A sampled by the July 8 flight **(c)**. We assume injection of the lower stratospheric air into the background air mass with a mixture ratio of 30 % stratospheric air vs. 70 % background air which yields approximately the measured CO and CH_4 in the stratosphere-troposphere mixed plume. **(d)** shows what happens in a more generalized stratosphere-troposphere mixed case assuming 30 % stratospheric air mixes with 70 % tropospheric air using the measured mean concentrations in the two air masses during ARCTAS-B.

5.1 Dependence of ozone production on NO_x and HO_x

Ozone is produced in the troposphere mainly through the following chemical reactions,

$$OH + CO \xrightarrow{O_2} HO_2 + CO_2 \quad (R1)$$

$$HO_2 + NO \rightarrow OH + NO_2 \quad (R2)$$

$$NO_2 + h\nu \rightarrow NO + O \quad (R3)$$

$$O + O_2 \rightarrow O_3 \quad (R4)$$

Net: $CO + 2O_2 \rightarrow CO_2 + O_3$ with Reaction (2) being the rate-limiting step. Ozone can also be produced from reaction of peroxy radicals (RO_2) with NO:

$$RO_2 + NO \rightarrow CH_2O + HO_2 + NO_2 \quad (R5)$$

Ozone is destroyed in the troposphere through photolysis and reaction with HO_x ($OH + HO_2$):

$$O_3 + h\nu \rightarrow O(^1D) + O_2 \quad (R6)$$

$$O(^1D) + H_2O \rightarrow 2OH \quad (R7)$$

$$HO_2 + O_3 \rightarrow OH + 2O_2 \quad (R8)$$

$$OH + O_3 \rightarrow HO_2 + O_2 \quad (R9)$$

We use the O_3 production and loss rates calculated by the NASA Langley box model (Olson et al., 2004) constrained by chemical and physical parameters measured by the DC-8 aircraft. For this study, we use mostly the instantaneous production and loss rates from the box model calculation. Note that the catalytic destruction of O_3 by bromine radicals is also included in the Langley box model to account for the O_3 depletion events sampled during ARCTAS. For simplicity and clarity, we exclude data that contain elevated bromine (BrO >1.5 pptv). The calculated net O_3 production (formation-destruction) rates, $NP(O_3)$, can be approximated as:

$$\begin{aligned} NP(O_3) &= P(O_3) - L(O_3) \\ &= K_2[HO_2][NO] + K_5[RO_2][NO] \\ &\quad - K_6[H_2O][O(^1D)] - K_7[HO_2][O_3] - K_8[OH][O_3] \end{aligned}$$

Figure 10 shows the dependence of the calculated instantaneous $NP(O_3)$ on levels of NO_x during ARCTAS for high and low HO_x conditions and vice versa. While NO_x remains relatively unchanged from spring to summer, the O_3 production rate during summer is ~10 times higher than that calculated for spring, due to active photochemistry with increasing insolation and humidity. The level of NO_x plays a determinative role in the photochemical production of O_3. The $NP(O_3)$ increases rapidly with increasing levels of NO_x,

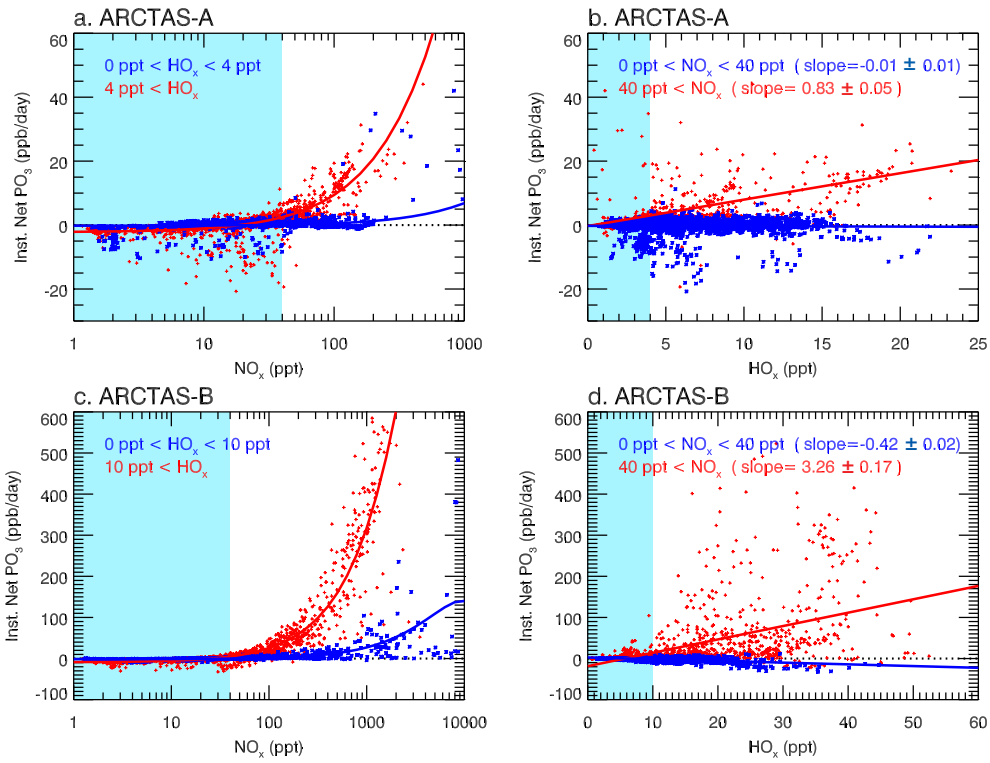

Fig. 10. **(a, c)**: the dependence of the instantaneous NP(O_3) on NO_x for low (blue symbols) and high (red symbols) HO_x levels during ARCTAS. **(b, d)**: the dependence of the instantaneous NP(O_3) on HO_x for low (blue symbols) and high (red symbols) NO_x levels. The instantaneous NP(O_3) are calculated by the NASA Langley box model (Olson et al., 2004) constrained by chemical and physical parameters measured by the DC-8 aircraft. We separate data into low NO_x(HO_x) and high NO_x(HO_x) population using the mean conditions of the corresponding season, $NO_x \sim 40$ pptv and $HO_x \sim 4$ pptv in spring and $NO_x \sim 40$ pptv and $HO_x \sim 10$ pptv in summer. The low NO_x(HO_x) regime is highlighted in aqua shading on each panel.

suggesting that the Arctic troposphere is in the NO_x-limited regime. The rate NP(O_3) increases with increasing NO_x is dependent on the abundance of HO_x radicals. When HO_x is high (>4 pptv in spring and >10 pptv in summer which occur mostly in combustion plumes), the NP(O_3) increases drastically as NO_x increases. At low HO_x concentrations (background and air of stratospheric origin), the NP(O_3) displays a weak increase with increasing NO_x as both production (Reaction 2) and loss (Reactions 7 and 8) are slow. The dependence of NP(O_3) on HO_x is rather complex, impacted by levels of NO_x. On the one hand, HO_x can enhance O_3 production through Reaction (2). On the other hand, it provides a reaction partner for O_3 destruction in Reactions (7) and (8). At high NO_x levels (e.g., fresh combustion plumes, STE events, and convection), the NP(O_3) shows a positive dependence on HO_x. When NO_x is low (<40 pptv, i.e., background and aged pollution plumes), the NP(O_3) is either insensitive to HO_x (spring) or decreases with increasing HO_x and becomes negative when HO_x exceeds 20 pptv (summer).

5.2 O_3 and O_3 production in various air masses

The mean background O_3 in the Arctic and sub-Arctic troposphere remains relatively constant from spring to summer, increasing with altitude from 30–40 ppbv at the surface to 60–70 ppbv in the middle and upper troposphere (Fig. 11b and e and Table 3). The middle troposphere (3–8 km) shows net O_3 destruction while the lower (<3 km) and upper troposphere (>8 km) has NP(O_3) greater than zero (net O_3 formation), regulated by the mean NO_x concentration. $NO_x \sim 20$ pptv is a critical level (Klonecki and Levy, 1997) in the Arctic troposphere that separates the middle troposphere ($NO_x < 20$ pptv, net O_3 destruction regime, Fig. 11c and f) from the lower and upper troposphere where NO_x exceeds 20 pptv, hence, net O_3 formation (Fig. 11c and f).

Air masses associated with recent STE intrusions have a mean O_3 mixing ratio of ~150 ppbv (vs. ~70 ppbv in background air between 6–12 km), implying that the direct transport of high O_3 from the stratosphere to the troposphere during STE events are a significant source of O_3 in the Arctic during spring and summer, particularly in the upper troposphere (Fig. 11). In addition, air masses influenced

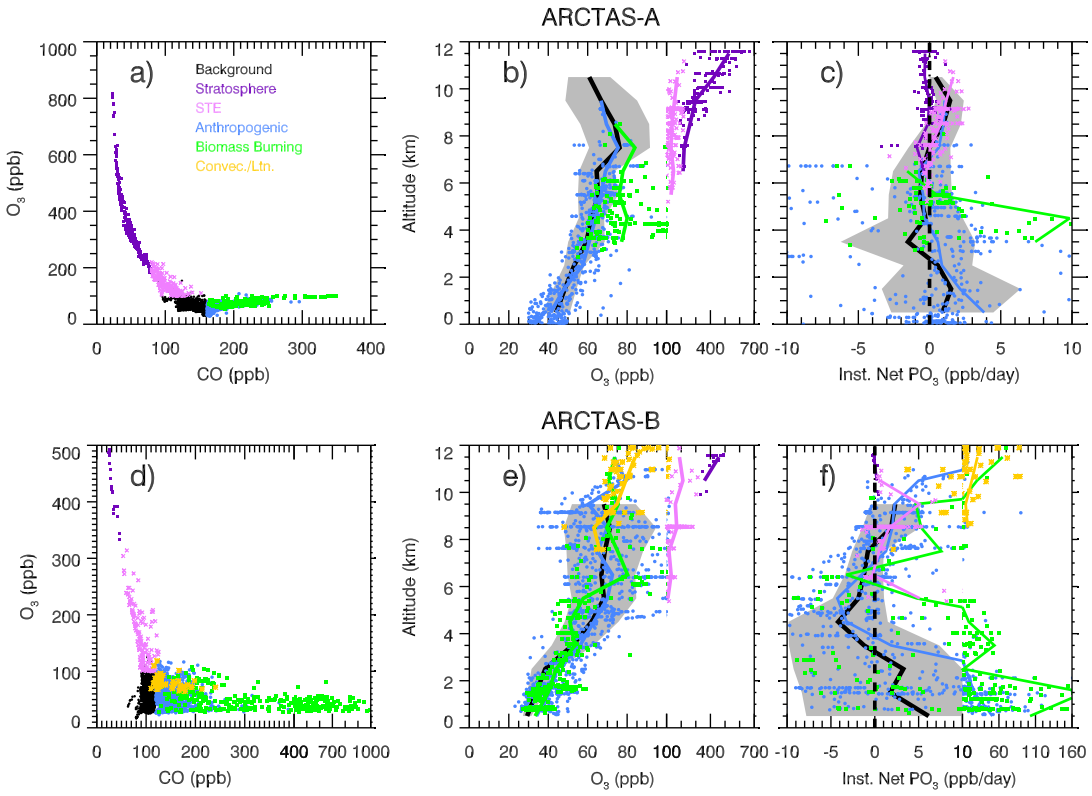

Fig. 11. **(a)**: scatter plot of O_3 vs. CO during ARCTAS-A. **(b)**: vertical profiles of O_3 during ARCTAS-A. **(b)**: vertical profiles of instantaneous NP(O_3) during ARCTAS-A. Similar to Fig. 3, the background air is shown in black and the individual air masses are highlighted in color: stratosphere (purple), stratosphere-troposphere mixed (lilac), anthropogenic pollution (blue), biomass burning (green), and convection/lightning (yellow) **(d–f)** are the same as **(a–c)** but for ARCTAS-B.

by stratospheric air show net O_3 formation with instantaneous NP(O_3) as high as $\sim$2 ppbv day^{-1} in spring and $\sim$5 ppbv day^{-1} in summer. The active photochemical production to some extent offsets the dilution by tropospheric background air which has relatively low O_3 and helps in maintaining the high O_3 level during STE transport. We are able to calculate the reaction rates offline for Reactions (2), (6), (7), and (8) using observed O_3, temperature, and the instantaneous OH, HO_2, NO, O(^{1}D) calculated by the NASA Langley box model. Figure 12 shows the calculated mean instantaneous rates for these reactions in the stratospheric air and stratosphere-troposphere mixed air, in contrast to the background between 6–12 km. As stratospheric air is entrained into the troposphere during STE, it mixes with the surrounding moist background air, therefore increasing HO_x through increasing $K_6[O(^1D)][H_2O]$ (e.g., Esler et al., 2001). This increases ozone production by increasing $K_2[HO_2][NO]$, but at the same time increases ozone loss through increasing $K_7[HO_2][O_3] + K_8[OH][O_3]$. Note that although ozone loss through Reaction (6) ($K_6[O(^1D)][H_2O]$) also increases significantly, particularly in summer, its rate is much smaller than those of Reactions (2), (7), and (8). The increase in the O_3 production term outweighs the loss terms and results in an increase in NP(O_3) from near zero to net O_3 formation.

Convection/lightning is an important source of O_3 during ARCTAS-B. The summertime convective/lightning air mass is elevated in O_3 ($\Delta O_3 \sim 10$ ppbv, Table 3b) and displays high net O_3 production. This O_3 enhancement value is similar to that measured in the convective/lightning air masses ($\Delta O_3 \sim 5$ ppbv) during the Intercontinental Chemical Transport Experiment-Phase A (INTEX-A) mission in North America during summer 2004 (Liang et al., 2007). The anthropogenic air mass in general contains relatively low NO_x (Figs. 4 and 5) and therefore weaker O_3 production (Fig. 11). Despite the positive NP(O_3) rates, the anthropogenic air mass sampled during both ARCTAS-A and ARCTAS-B show no elevated O_3, compared to the background, throughout most of the troposphere. The springtime biomass burning air mass shows active O_3 production (mean instantaneous NP(O_3) $\sim$ 2 ppbv day^{-1} and $\Delta O_3/\Delta CO = 0.22$) and an average ΔO_3 of 16 ppbv. The majority of these plumes are aged agricultural biomass burning plumes from Siberia (Fisher et al., 2010). These values are comparable to those reported in the biomass burning plumes in East Asia during the Transport and Chemical Evolution over the Pacific (TRACE-P)

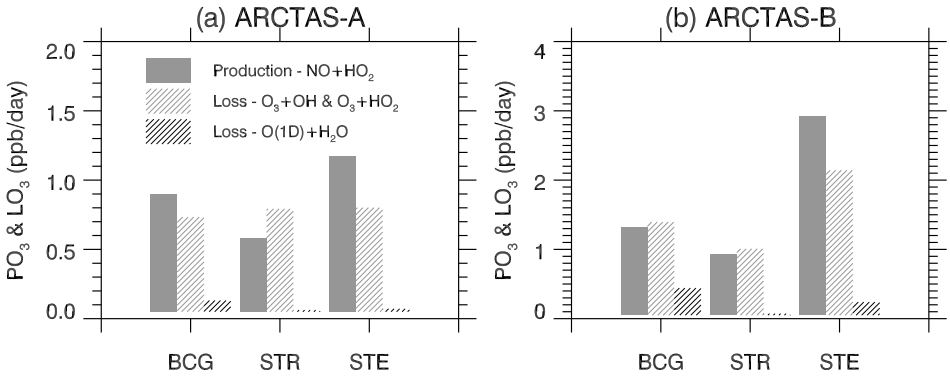

Fig. 12. The mean instantaneous rates of $K_2[HO_2][NO]$, $K_6[H_2O][O(^1D)]$ and $K_7[HO_2][O_3]$ + $K_8[OH][O_3]$ within the three types of air masses sampled between 6–12 km during ARCTAS: background (BCG), stratospheric air (STR), stratosphere-troposphere mixed air (STE). These instantaneous rates are calculated offline based on the observed O_3, temperature, and the instantaneous OH, HO_2, NO, $O(^1D)$ calculated by the NASA Langley box model.

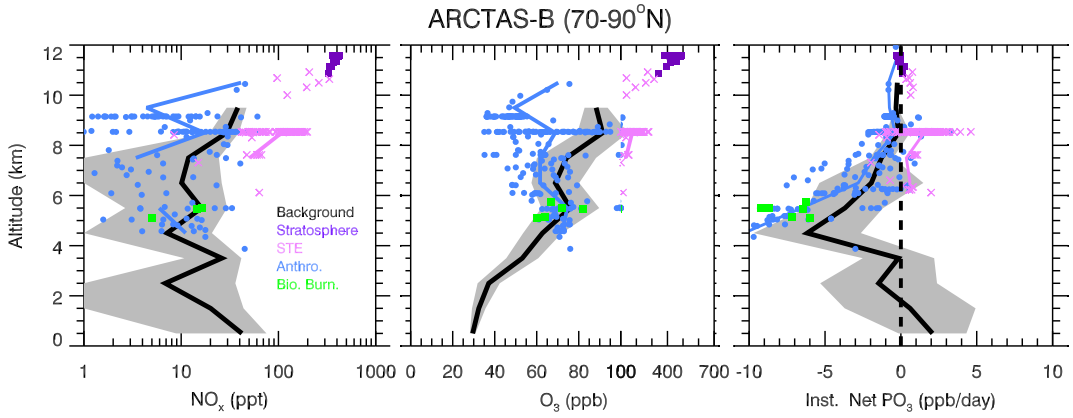

Fig. 13. Vertical profiles of **(a)** NO_x, **(b)** O_3, and **(c)** instantaneous $NP(O_3)$ between 70° N–90° N during ARCTAS-B. Similar to Fig. 10, the background air is shown in black with individual air masses highlighted in color: stratosphere (purple), stratosphere-troposphere mixed (lilac), anthropogenic pollution (blue), biomass burning (green).

mission ($\Delta O_3 \sim 2$–15 ppb) (Tang et al., 2003), the contribution of Indonesia biomass burning calculated by Duncan et al. (2003) ($\Delta O_3 \sim 10$–20 ppb) as well as the $\Delta O_3/\Delta CO$ ratio in the North American boreal fire plumes during INTEX-A ($\Delta O_3/\Delta CO = 0.25$) (Pfister et al., 2006). The $\Delta O_3/\Delta CO$ in the aged biomass burning plumes sampled in the equatorial Atlantic during fall 1992 were significantly higher, with mean $\Delta O_3/\Delta CO = 0.7$ (Mauzerall et al., 1998). In contrast, biomass burning air masses sampled in summer, although showing very high positive $NP(O_3)$ values, display no elevated O_3. Alvarado et al. (2010) conducted a detailed analysis of NO_x and PAN photochemistry in fresh boreal fire plumes during ARCTAS-B and their impact on O_3 and found little evidence of O_3 formation in the smoke plumes in the aircraft, satellite, or model results, in accordance with our findings. Paris et al. (2009) also found negative O_3/CO ratio (-0.04 ppbv ppbv^{-1}), indicating photochemical destruction of O_3 in the summertime Siberian fire plumes observed during the YAK-AEROSIB/POLARCAT experiment. While the $NP(O_3)$ in the summer fire plumes are high, this high production is not sustainable as O_3 production efficiency is low and NO_x are rapidly converted to PAN in ~2 h (Alvarado et al., 2010). However, a study by Real et al. (2007) demonstrated that thermal decomposition of PAN in a biomass burning plume can lead to a 17 ppbv increase of O_3 in 5 days during its long-range transport from Alaska to Europe.

As we have discussed in Sect. 3.1, measurements obtained during ARCTAS-B are concentrated in the sub-Arctic between 50° N–70° N. Our conclusions may not represent the true Arctic troposphere as more convection occurs in the continental sub-Arctic and is closer to pollution sources. We narrow our investigation to focus only on the measurements obtained north of 70° N during ARCTAS-B (Fig. 13). While there is a significant fraction of convection/lightning air masses identified during ARCTAS-B, none is sampled in the deep Arctic. Air masses associated with STE events are the only notable contributors to NO_x and O_3 north of 70° N. In addition, the stratosphere-troposphere mixed air mass is

the only air mass that displays net O_3 formation above 2 km. The mean 24-h averaged NP(O_3) (calculated by the Langley box model) in the fresh stratosphere-troposphere mixed air mass sampled during ARCTAS-B is ~0.9 ppbv day^{-1}. These findings confirm our previous proposition that STE, in addition to its direct contribution to O_3, is the driving mechanism of net O_3 formation in the Arctic upper troposphere as calculated in the GMI Combo CTM (0–10 ppbv month^{-1} in July) (Liang et al., 2009).

6 Conclusions

The NASA ARCTAS mission presents a unique opportunity with its extensive suite of measurements to examine O_3 photochemistry in the Arctic troposphere. The PDF distribution of the observed CO suggests that the DC-8 aircraft measurements obtained during spring (ARCTAS-A) are representative of the mean Arctic troposphere. Measurements obtained during the summer deployment (ARCTAS-B) are highly biased towards pollution plumes, a fact to consider in understanding the mean chemical composition of the summertime Arctic troposphere and the impact of pollution plumes.

We conducted a detailed analysis to examine O_3 and NO_y in the Arctic and sub-Arctic region and their source attribution. Using a number of marker tracers, we were able to identify various air masses from the background, including anthropogenic pollution, biomass burning emissions, air masses associated with fresh stratosphere-troposphere exchange, and convection and/or lightning influences.

The background Arctic troposphere has mean O_3 of ~60 ppbv and NO_x of ~25 pptv throughout spring and summer. The mean CO mixing ratio decreases from ~145 ppbv during spring to ~100 ppbv in summer. The Arctic troposphere is in the NO_x-limited regime with much of the free troposphere showing net O_3 destruction due to its low NO_x concentration. These observed CO, NO_x and O_3 mixing ratios are not notably different from the values measured during the 1988 ABLE-3A and the 2002 TOPSE field campaigns.

Air masses associated with recent stratosphere-troposphere exchange are present at >5 km during spring and summer. These air masses with mean O_3 concentrations of 140–160 ppbv are significant direct sources of O_3 in the Arctic (>70° N) troposphere. Air of stratospheric origin is also significantly elevated in NO_x (mean ~75 pptv in spring and 110 pptv in summer) and HNO_3 (mean ~ 290 pptv in spring and 500 pptv in summer), which will further release NO_x through photochemical destruction. Driven by high NO_x, these air masses display active net O_3 formation with instantaneous production rates as high as ~2 ppbv day^{-1} in spring and ~5 ppbv day^{-1} in summer. During ARCTAS-B, several plumes that were influence by stratospheric air also show conversion of HNO_3 to PAN. This active production of PAN is the result of increased degradation of ethane in the stratosphere-troposphere mixed air to form CH_3CHO, followed by subsequent formation of PAN under high NO_x conditions. This implies that the impact of NO_y-enriched stratospheric air on tropospheric NO_x, and therefore O_3 production, can be extended much further as the resulting PAN is transported to the lower altitudes and releases NO_x downwind through thermal decomposition (e.g., Moxim et al., 1996; Honrath et al., 1996). Although a quantitative estimate of the impact of the influx of NO_y from the stratosphere on tropospheric NO_x, PAN, and, subsequently, O_3 production is yet to be determined through more comprehensive 3-dimensional global chemistry modeling studies, the findings from the ARCTAS measurements suggest that an accurate representation of this influx, in addition to stratospheric influx of O_3, is essential in tropospheric chemistry transport models of the Arctic to accurately simulate O_3, NO_x, and PAN in the Arctic troposphere.

Although anthropogenic and biomass burning pollution plumes show highly elevated hydrocarbons and NO_y (mostly in the form of NO_x and PAN). Except some aged Siberia biomass burning plumes during spring, the majority of the pollution plumes has O_3 levels comparable to that in the Arctic troposphere, and thus unlikely to further increase the background O_3. However, it is important to point out that anthropogenic and biomass burning emissions can still exert an impact on O_3 in the Arctic through increasing the background O_3 in the mid-latitudes which then enters the polar troposphere through long-range transport, as demonstrated by Shindell et al. (2008). Convection and/or lightning influences are of negligible importance as a source of O_3 in the Arctic but can have significant impacts in the upper troposphere in the continental sub-Arctic during summer.

Supplementary material related to this article is available online at: http://www.atmos-chem-phys.net/11/13181/2011/ acp-11-13181-2011-supplement.pdf.

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