Analysis of the atmospheric distribution, sources, and sinks of oxygenated volatile organic chemicals based on measurements over the Pacific during TRACE-P


Received 18 June 2003; revised 14 October 2003; accepted 7 November 2003; published 3 June 2004.

Airborne measurements of a large number of oxygenated volatile organic chemicals (OVOC) were carried out in the Pacific troposphere (0.1–12 km) in winter/spring of 2001 (24 February to 10 April). Specifically, these measurements included acetone (CH₃COCH₃), methylethyl ketone (CH₃COC₂H₅, MEK), methanol (CH₃OH), ethanol (C₂H₅OH), acetaldehyde (CH₃CHO), propionaldehyde (C₂H₅CHO), peroxyacylnitrates (PANs) (CₙH₂ₙ₋₁CO₂NO₂), and organic nitrates (CₙH₂ₙ₋₁ONO₂). Complementary measurements of formaldehyde (HCHO), methyl hydroperoxide (CH₃OOH), and selected tracers were also available. OVOC were abundant in the clean troposphere and were greatly enhanced in the outflow regions from Asia. Background mixing ratios were typically highest in the lower troposphere and declined toward the upper troposphere and the lowermost stratosphere. Their total abundance (ΣOVOC) was nearly twice that of nonmethane hydrocarbons (ΣC₂-C₈ NMHC). Throughout the troposphere, the OH reactivity of OVOC is comparable to that of methane and far exceeds that of NMHC. A comparison of these data with western Pacific observations collected some 7 years earlier (February–March 1994) did not reveal significant differences. Mixing ratios of OVOC were strongly correlated with each other as well as with tracers of fossil and biomass/biofuel combustion. Analysis of the relative enhancement of selected OVOC with respect to CH₃Cl and CO in 12 plumes originating from fires and sampled in the free troposphere (3–11 km) is used to assess their primary and secondary emissions from biomass combustion. The composition of these plumes also indicates a large shift of reactive nitrogen into the PAN reservoir thereby limiting ozone formation. A three-dimensional global model that uses state of the art chemistry and source information is used to compare measured and simulated mixing ratios of selected OVOC. While there is reasonable agreement in many cases, measured aldehyde concentrations are significantly larger than predicted. At their observed levels, acetaldehyde mixing ratios are shown to be an important source of HCHO (and HOₓ) and PAN in the troposphere. On the basis of presently known chemistry, measured mixing ratios of aldehydes and PANs are mutually incompatible. We provide rough estimates of the global sources of several OVOC and conclude that collectively these are extremely large (150–500 Tg C yr⁻¹) but remain poorly quantified.

INDEX TERMS: 0315 Atmospheric Composition and Structure: Biosphere/atmosphere interactions; 0322 Atmospheric Composition and Structure: Constituent sources and sinks; 0317 Atmospheric Composition and Structure: Chemical kinetic and photochemical properties; 0365 Atmospheric Composition and Structure: Photochemical processes; 0375 Atmospheric Composition and Structure: General upper tropospheric and lower stratospheric processes.
1. Introduction

[2] In recent years it has become evident that significant concentrations of a large number of oxygenated organic chemicals (OVOC) are present in the global troposphere [Singh et al., 2001; Wisthaler et al., 2002]. While the role of formaldehyde (HCHO) as a product of methane oxidation has been studied for over two decades, interest in other OVOC is relatively new. These chemicals are expected to play an important role in the chemistry of the atmosphere. For example, acetone can influence ozone chemistry by sequestering nitrogen oxides (NOx) in the form of peroxy-acetyl-nitrates (PAN) and by providing HOx free radicals in critical regions of the atmosphere [Singh et al., 1994, 1995; McKeeen et al., 1997; Wennberg et al., 1998; Jaegle et al., 2001]. OVOC may also contribute to organic carbon in aerosol via cloud interactions and processes of polymerization [Li et al., 2001; Jang et al., 2002; Tabazadeh et al., 2004]. OVOC are believed to have large terrestrial sources, but our quantitative knowledge about these is rudimentary [Singh et al., 1994; Guenther et al., 1995, 2000; Fall, 1999, also manuscript in preparation, 2003; Jacob et al., 2002; Galbally and Kirstine, 2002; Heikes et al., 2002]. Attempts to reconcile atmospheric observations with known sources have led to suggestions that oceanic sources may be quite significant, although no direct evidence is presently available [de Laat et al., 2001; Singh et al., 2001, 2003b; Jacob et al., 2002].

[3] The spring 2001 TRACE-P study utilized the NASA DC-8 flying laboratory to measure a large number of OVOC and chemical tracers in the polluted and unpolluted Pacific troposphere. An overview of the mission payload, flight profiles, and prevalent meteorological conditions has been provided by Jacob et al. [2003] and Fuelberg et al. [2003]. Here we investigate and analyze the distribution of oxygenated chemicals in the troposphere and the lowermost stratosphere, and use their relationships with select tracers along with models to assess their sources and fate.

2. Experimental Methods

[4] Results presented here are principally based on measurements carried out by the NASA Ames group aboard the NASA DC-8 aircraft using the PANAK (PAN-Aldehydes-Alcohols-Ketones) instrument package. PANAK, a three-channel gas chromatographic instrument equipped with capillary columns and multiple detectors, was used to measure oxygenated species and selected tracers. Specifically, these measurements included acetone (CH3-C02H3), propanone, methylethyl ketone (CH3-C02-H2), butanone, MEK, methanol (CH3-OH), ethanol (C2-H5-OH), acetaldehyde (CH3-C0=O), propionaldehyde (C3-H6=CHO, propanal), PANs, (C8H2n+1CO2NO2, peroxyacetyl nitrates), and alkyl nitrates (C8H2n+1ONO2). The instrument was also adapted to measure HCN and CH3CN, both tracers of biomass combustion, and these results are discussed elsewhere [Singh et al., 2003a]. The basic instrument has been previously described and details are not repeated here [Singh et al., 2000, 2001]. Briefly, PAN, peroxypropionyl nitrate (PPN), alkyl nitrates, and C2-C4Clx, were separated on two gas chromatograph (GC) columns equipped with electron capture detectors; while carbonyls, alcohols, and nitriles were measured on the third column in which a photoionization detector (PID) and a reduction gas detector (RGG) were placed in series. Ambient air was sampled via a back facing probe and drawn through a Teflon manifold at a flow rate of 5 standard liters min−1. Typically, a 200 mL aliquot of air was cryogenically trapped at −140°C prior to analysis. For carbonyl/alcohol/nitrile analysis, moisture was greatly reduced by passing air through a water trap held at −40°C during sampling and 50°C between samples. Laboratory tests were performed to ensure the integrity of oxygenates during this drying process. The calibration standards were added to the ambient air stream in the main manifold and were analyzed in a manner that was identical to normal ambient sampling. This procedure was designed to compensate for any line losses. It was possible to obtain near zero backgrounds when sampling ultra purified air. PAN standard mixtures in air were obtained from a PAN/n-tridecane mixture in a diffusion tube held at 0°C. Both permeation tubes and pressurized cylinders were used to obtain standards for carbonyls, alcohols, and alkyl nitrates. A dilution system on board allowed varied concentrations to be prepared. The sensitivity of detection of reactive nitrogen species was ~1 ppt, while that of other oxygenates was 5–20 ppt. Overall measurement precision and accuracy are estimated to be +10% and ±20%, respectively, except perhaps for >C1 aldehydes. There was indication of artifact OVOC formation under high O3 concentrations in the stratosphere. Subsequent laboratory tests showed that for the typical O3 levels encountered in the troposphere during TRACE-P (10–100 ppb), enhancements due to this artifact were probably small (0–20%), and no corrections to the data have been applied. A chromatogram showing the separation and detection of alcohols and carbonyls from ambient air is shown in Figure 1. Other chemicals considered in this study include HCHO and CH3OOH whose measurement methods have also been previously described [Fried et al., 2003; O’Sullivan et al., 2004]. In addition, a large number of nonmethane hydrocarbons (NMHCs), as well as tracers of urban pollution (e.g., CO, C2-C4Clx), biomass combustion (e.g., C3-C4Cl), and marine emissions (e.g., CH3Br), were analyzed from pressurized canister samples [Blake et al., 1999].

3. Results and Discussion

[5] In this study we analyze and interpret measurements of carbonyls, alcohols, and organic peroxides performed...
aboard the NASA DC-8 during TRACE-P. Some of these measurements were duplicated using independent techniques and have been discussed further by Eisele et al. [2003]. In the analysis that follows, we use measurements of >C1 carbonyls and alcohol from the NASA Ames group, HCHO from the NCAR group [Fried et al., 2003], and CH3OOH from the University of Rhode Island group [Lee et al., 1995; O'Sullivan et al., 2004]. This somewhat subjective selection took into account factors such as known shortcomings in techniques and anomalous data behavior against known tracers. To relate measurements acquired at differing frequencies, merged data files were created. In much of the analysis that follows, the 5-min merged data set has been used. When appropriate, the Pacific region has been divided into areas representing the western Pacific (longitude 100–180°E) and central eastern Pacific (longitude 160–240°E). Unless noted otherwise, only data from the troposphere are considered. A convenient filter (O3 > 100 ppb for z > 10 km; also CO < 50 ppb) was used to remove stratospheric influences. We used methyl chloride (CH3Cl), potassium, and HCN as tracers of biomass combustion and CO as a more generic tracer of pollution. Although CH3Cl is known to have a diffuse oceanic and possibly biogenic source [Butler, 2000], it was possible to use it as a tracer of biomass combustion in discrete plumes downwind of terrestrial sources. Tetrachloroethylene (C2Cl4), a synthetic organic chemical, was mainly used as a tracer of urban pollution. When appropriate, an arbitrary “pollution filter” based on the lower two quartiles of the CO and C2Cl4 mixing ratios was employed to mitigate the effect of pollution. Figure 2 shows the CO mixing ratios as a function of latitude and their frequency distribution with and without this pollution filter. This filter eliminated all major pollution influences and resulted in mean tropospheric mixing ratios of 102±20 ppb/CO and 3±1 ppt/C2Cl4 and is assumed to represent near-background conditions.

The analysis of OVOC measurements is further facilitated by the use of the GEOS-CHEM three-dimensional (3-D) global model. Here the troposphere is divided into 20 vertical layers, and the model has a horizontal resolution of 2° latitude × 2.5° longitude. The model uses assimilated meteorology from the NASA Global Modeling and Assimilation Office and includes an extensive representation of ozone-NOx-VOC chemistry (80 species, 300 reactions). The model simulations were conducted for the TRACE-P period, and model results were sampled along the aircraft flight tracks. More details about the GEOS-CHEM model and its applications can be found elsewhere [Bey et al., 2001; Jacob et al., 2002; Staude et al., 2003; Heald et al., 2003]. The 3-D model simulations were available along the flight tracks for the entire TRACE-P period. An updated version of an earlier 1-D model [Chatfield et al., 1996] with
detailed C₁-C₄ hydrocarbon chemistry was also employed as an exploratory tool to study the potential role of CH₃CHO in atmospheric chemistry.

3.1. Atmospheric Distributions

3.1.1. TRACE-P Measurements and 3-D Model Simulations

Tropospheric mixing ratios (mean, median, and σ) of important OVOC and select tracers measured in this study are presented in Table 1. Mixing ratios are shown with a 2-km vertical resolution with and without the pollution filter described above. A dramatic effect of the pollution filter can be seen in PAN whose median marine boundary layer (MBL, 0–2 km) mixing ratios declined from 165 to 2 ppt (Table 1). Except in the case of CH₃OOH, mixing ratios of OVOC were elevated under polluted conditions. CH₃OOH is an exception whose mixing ratios are lower under polluted conditions (Table 1). This is not surprising as its synthesis is most efficient under low NOₓ conditions, typically associated with unpolluted air [Lee et al., 2000]. Mean mixing ratios of all of the measured OVOC with the pollution filter are presented in Figure 3a in 1 km altitude bins. Methanol and CH₃COCH₃ are clearly the most abundant with median concentrations of 649 and 537 ppt, respectively. However, sizable concentrations of a host of other oxygenates are present. CH₃OOH mixing ratios are large in the marine boundary layer (MBL, 0–2 km) and decline rapidly in the free troposphere. In the free troposphere, total alkyl nitrates (TAN, ΣRONO₂) and PPN mixing ratios are quite small, and nearly 90% of the organic reactive nitrogen is contained in the form of PAN. Although MEK has been previously measured in urban and rural environments [Grosjean, 1982; Snider and Dawson, 1985; Fehsenfeld et al., 1992; Golden et al., 1995; Solberg et al., 1996; Riemer et al., 1998], these are its first measurements in the remote troposphere. Its median abundance of 20 ppt in the clean troposphere is a small fraction of CH₃COCH₃ (537 ppt).

An unusual finding from Figure 3a is that large mixing ratios of CH₃CHO, exceeding those of HCHO, are found to be present. We also report the first tropospheric profile of C₂H₅CHO. Measurements of CH₃CHO and C₂H₅CHO in the free troposphere from other regions vary from sparse to nonexistent. However, CH₃CHO data from the MBL have been published from a number of locations utilizing a variety of measurement techniques. Mean CH₃CHO mixing ratios of 100–400 ppt in the MBL have been reported from the northern and southern Pacific [Singh et al., 1995, 2001], the Atlantic [Zhou and Mopper, 1993; Arlander et al., 1995; Tanner et al., 1996], and the Indian Ocean [Wisthaler et al., 2002]. Not all the methods used are equally reliable, and the wet chemical derivative methods are often prone to interferences. Wisthaler et al. [2002], using a new mass spectrometric technique, report MBL mixing ratios of 212 ± 29 ppt and 178 ± 30 ppt from the northern (0–20°N) and southern (0–15°S) Indian Ocean, respectively, under the cleanest conditions. This can be compared with the pollution-filtered MBL (0–2 km) mixing ratios of 204 ± 40 ppt measured in this study over the Northern Hemisphere Pacific (Table 1). The ensemble of observations supports the view that substantial CH₃CHO concentrations are present throughout the global troposphere. No comparable measurements of C₂H₅CHO are available. As we shall see later, C₂H₅CHO and CH₃CHO behave very similarly, and it is likely that C₂H₅CHO is also globally ubiquitous albeit at lower mixing ratios (MBL 68 ± 24 ppt).

Collectively, these OVOC are nearly twice as abundant as all C₂-C₈ hydrocarbons combined (Figure 3b). On the basis of these measurements and the kinetic data available from R. Atkinson et al. (IUPAC evaluated kinetic data, 2002, available at http://www.iupac-kinetic.cam.ac.uk/) and S. P. Sander et al. (Chemical kinetics and photochemical data for use in stratospheric modeling, Evaluation 14, JPL 02-25, available at http://jpldataeval.jpl.nasa.gov/, 2002), we calculate that the OH oxidation rate of OVOC (ΣCνOCI × OH × kOH) in the troposphere is comparable to that of methane (CCH₄ × OH × kOH) and some 5 times larger than that of NMHC (ΣCNMHC × OH × kOH). Compared to NMHC, mixing...
Table 1. Mean Concentrations of Selected Oxygenated Organic Species and Tracers in the Troposphere

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Altitude, km</th>
<th>Acetone, ppt</th>
<th>MEK, ppt</th>
<th>CH$_3$OH, ppt</th>
<th>C$_2$H$_5$OH, ppt</th>
<th>CH$_3$CHO, ppt</th>
<th>C$_2$H$_5$CHO, ppt</th>
<th>HCHO, ppt</th>
<th>CH$_3$OOH, ppt</th>
<th>PAN, ppt</th>
<th>PPN, ppt</th>
<th>CO, ppt</th>
<th>C$_2$Cl$_4$, ppt</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0–2</td>
<td>816 ± 500</td>
<td>125 ± 145</td>
<td>1096 ± 1246</td>
<td>165 ± 246</td>
<td>371 ± 416</td>
<td>140 ± 186</td>
<td>469 ± 681</td>
<td>417 ± 387</td>
<td>382 ± 566</td>
<td>30 ± 29</td>
<td>194 ± 89</td>
<td>10 ± 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(722, 251)</td>
<td>(81, 251)</td>
<td>(765, 249)</td>
<td>(75, 197)</td>
<td>(286, 240)</td>
<td>(104, 251)</td>
<td>(326, 382)</td>
<td>(263, 311)</td>
<td>(165, 301)</td>
<td>(23, 224)</td>
<td>(173, 428)</td>
<td>(9, 393)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2–4</td>
<td>822 ± 295</td>
<td>75 ± 52</td>
<td>1250 ± 691</td>
<td>77 ± 69</td>
<td>226 ± 89</td>
<td>77 ± 34</td>
<td>188 ± 133</td>
<td>364 ± 246</td>
<td>196 ± 213</td>
<td>11 ± 13</td>
<td>151 ± 54</td>
<td>7 ± 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(769, 177)</td>
<td>(64, 177)</td>
<td>(1014, 177)</td>
<td>(47, 139)</td>
<td>(203, 169)</td>
<td>(69, 177)</td>
<td>(165, 264)</td>
<td>(306, 200)</td>
<td>(128, 237)</td>
<td>(7, 174)</td>
<td>(131, 281)</td>
<td>(6, 264)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4–6</td>
<td>725 ± 267</td>
<td>65 ± 55</td>
<td>1044 ± 551</td>
<td>73 ± 70</td>
<td>173 ± 74</td>
<td>58 ± 24</td>
<td>101 ± 69</td>
<td>265 ± 134</td>
<td>206 ± 217</td>
<td>12 ± 14</td>
<td>131 ± 46</td>
<td>5 ± 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6–8</td>
<td>685 ± 278</td>
<td>56 ± 44</td>
<td>925 ± 533</td>
<td>56 ± 49</td>
<td>127 ± 53</td>
<td>45 ± 18</td>
<td>83 ± 58</td>
<td>190 ± 100</td>
<td>185 ± 146</td>
<td>9 ± 9</td>
<td>119 ± 40</td>
<td>4 ± 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(656, 146)</td>
<td>(45, 129)</td>
<td>(852, 146)</td>
<td>(39, 85)</td>
<td>(121, 142)</td>
<td>(43, 144)</td>
<td>(73, 186)</td>
<td>(172, 118)</td>
<td>(156, 195)</td>
<td>(6, 124)</td>
<td>(110, 229)</td>
<td>(4, 220)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8–10</td>
<td>660 ± 280</td>
<td>36 ± 27</td>
<td>973 ± 681</td>
<td>61 ± 49</td>
<td>104 ± 47</td>
<td>41 ± 17</td>
<td>69 ± 41</td>
<td>194 ± 148</td>
<td>175 ± 158</td>
<td>7 ± 7</td>
<td>120 ± 44</td>
<td>3 ± 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10–12</td>
<td>559 ± 286</td>
<td>38 ± 25</td>
<td>777 ± 703</td>
<td>69 ± 54</td>
<td>79 ± 45</td>
<td>33 ± 14</td>
<td>51 ± 37</td>
<td>154 ± 89</td>
<td>111 ± 134</td>
<td>6 ± 9</td>
<td>102 ± 36</td>
<td>2 ± 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(437, 132)</td>
<td>(31, 81)</td>
<td>(464, 132)</td>
<td>(45, 49)</td>
<td>(64, 123)</td>
<td>(30, 88)</td>
<td>(41, 143)</td>
<td>(130, 76)</td>
<td>(70, 168)</td>
<td>(4, 49)</td>
<td>(86, 206)</td>
<td>(2, 199)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0–12</td>
<td>724 ± 358</td>
<td>74 ± 90</td>
<td>1027 ± 839</td>
<td>97 ± 151</td>
<td>199 ± 239</td>
<td>75 ± 105</td>
<td>206 ± 401</td>
<td>306 ± 278</td>
<td>222 ± 323</td>
<td>15 ± 20</td>
<td>143 ± 68</td>
<td>6 ± 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Indicates mean ±1 standard deviation (median, number of data points).

**Data are filtered to minimize the effects of pollution (see text).**
ratios of OVOC declined rather slowly toward the upper troposphere (UT). In addition, strong latitudinal gradients were present. Figure 4 shows the latitudinal distributions of selected OVOC in the UT (8–12 km) for the data set with the pollution filter. A north to south gradient in virtually all cases, except HCHO, can be seen. CH$_3$OOH distribution was somewhat more complex and showed a minimum at around 25°N that coincided with the NO$_x$ maxima in a manner consistent with expectations [Lee et al., 2000]. Lack of any latitudinal trend in HCHO is in part due to measurements close to the limit of detection (~30 ppt at 2σ for 5-min averages) and in part due to the homogeneity of the sources and sinks in the UT. This north–south latitudinal behavior for these gases is mainly dictated by the presence of more efficient removal (higher OH and h$_v$) at the lower latitudes and is broadly captured by the GEOS-CHEM model (B. D. Field et al., manuscript in preparation, 2003).

Figure 3. Oxygenated organic chemicals in the Pacific troposphere. (a) Mean altitude profiles of individual oxygenated species. (b) Comparison of total oxygenated volatile organic chemical (ΣOVOC) abundance with that of total nonmethane hydrocarbons (ΣNMHC). TAN is the sum of all alkyl nitrates (ΣRONO$_2$). A variable filter is used to minimize pollution influences (Figure 2). The altitude showing ΣOVOC is shifted by −0.25 km for clarity. Horizontal lines show first quartile, mean, median, and third quartile. See text for more details.

Figure 4. Latitudinal distribution of selected OVOC in the upper troposphere (8–12 km). A filter is used to minimize pollution influences as in Figure 2. The lines represent a best fit to the data.
[10] During TRACE-P, air masses representing the lowermost stratosphere ($O_3 < 700$ ppb) were occasionally sampled. Figure 5 presents these data for a select set of chemicals. A rapid decline in the concentrations of CO, PAN, CH$_3$COCH$_3$, and CH$_3$OH as a function of $O_3$ is evident. Ethanol was below its detection limit here, and extremely high $O_3$ concentrations precluded reliable measurements of CH$_3$CHO and CH$_3$OOH. A relatively low level of OVOC is present in the lower stratosphere. We further note that our measurement methods have not been tested for stratospheric conditions. These results are in general agreement with previous findings [Arnold et al., 1997; Singh et al., 2000].

[11] Figure 6 shows the vertical structure of a selected group of OVOC that were also simulated by the GEOS-CHEM model. The model simulations are along the flight tracks and are segregated into subsets with pollution filter (Figure 6, bottom) and without it (Figure 6, top). This model is successful in simulating mean structures of chemicals with large primary (e.g., CH$_3$COCH$_3$) as well as secondary sources arising from NMHC/NO$_x$ (e.g., PAN) and CH$_4$/NO$_x$ (e.g., CH$_3$OOH) chemistry. It is not our intention to imply that the GEOS-CHEM simulations are accurate under all conditions, but rather that it is possible to capture the mean structures. More detailed analysis by B. D. Field et al. (manuscript in preparation, 2003) shows that the model can only partially explain the observed latitudinal structures. In many cases, poor knowledge of sources, as well as sinks, does not allow accurate simulations. For example, the model significantly over predicts CH$_3$COCH$_3$ in the MBL. In large part this is due to the inclusion of a rather large oceanic source (14 Tg yr$^{-1}$) inferred by Jacob et al. [2002] via inverse modeling. TRACE-P observations imply that the oceanic CH$_3$COCH$_3$ emissions may be much smaller than assumed. Singh et al. [2003b] argue that the TRACE-P data are consistent with an oceanic sink of acetone.

[12] In Figure 7 we plot the observed and modeled altitude profile for CH$_3$OH and the CH$_3$OH/CH$_3$COCH$_3$ ratio for the filtered data set. A significant divergence in the measured and modeled mixing ratios can be seen. One could infer the presence of unknown CH$_3$OH sinks in the free troposphere not presently simulated and/or the presence of incorrect CH$_3$OH sources in the model. Except for HCHO, all of the OVOC considered in this study are quite insoluble (R. Sander, Compilation of Henry’s law constants for inorganic and organic species of potential importance in environmental chemistry, available at http://www.mpch-mainz.mpg.de/~sander/res/henry.html, version 3, 1999) and rainout/washout processes are expected to be unimportant. Yokelson et al. [2003] studied one cloud system over fires in South Africa and found complete depletion of CH$_3$OH within a 10-min period. Tabazadeh et al. [2004] have further investigated these observations and find that the only possible explanation for this rapid loss would be due to extremely fast but unknown heterogeneous reactions on cloud droplets. Gas phase and liquid phase reactions with OH, Cl, HCl, and NO$_2$ cannot explain the observed rapid disappearance of methanol. To test the hypothesis of methanol losses in clouds, TRACE-P data were segregated into
in-cloud and clear air categories [Crawford et al., 2003]. A comparison of the mixing ratios in and out of clouds is shown in Figure 8 directly and when normalized to CO. There is clear evidence of higher pollutant levels within clouds due to convective uplifting. The median in-cloud CH$_3$OH/CO ratio of 6.7 is somewhat lower than the 7.2 found in clear air. This does not rule out the possibility of in-cloud losses, but this difference is statistically not significant. No conclusive evidence for CH$_3$OH loss due to cloud processes could be ascertained from TRACE-P mea-

Figure 6. Comparison of the measured (solid line) and GEOS-CHEM modeled (dashed line) distribution of selected OVOC. (top) All data in the troposphere. (bottom) Data filtered to minimize pollution influences as in Figure 2. Symbols are as in Figure 3. The model assumes a net oceanic acetone source of 14 Tg yr$^{-1}$.

Figure 7. Comparison of observed and modeled methanol and methanol to acetone ratio. Filtered data are as in Figure 2. Symbols are as in Figures 3 and 6. The model assumes a net oceanic methanol sink 15 Tg yr$^{-1}$.
measurements. Tabazadeh et al. [2004] point out that insufficient residence time within clouds may have been an important factor. Other potential heterogeneous loss involving reaction with acidic aerosol can also be discounted [Iraci et al., 2002]. The potential role of CH$_3$OH in heterogeneous chemistry is presently poorly understood and needs further investigation.

Figure 9 shows a comparison of observed and GEOS-CHEM model simulated mixing ratio of several aldehydes measured during TRACE-P. As has been noted before [Singh et al., 2001], the simulated concentrations of CH$_3$CHO and C$_2$H$_5$CHO are much smaller than observed. At the same time, the model provides a reasonable description of HCHO which is principally a

![Figure 8](image8.png)

Figure 8. Methanol and methanol/CO in cloudy and clear air during TRACE-P. Clear air data are shifted by −0.25 km for clarity. Symbols are as in Figures 3 and 6.

![Figure 9](image9.png)

Figure 9. Comparison of the measured (solid line) and modeled (dashed line) distribution of aldehydes. Shaded area in the bottom left shows range of other measurements.
We investigated the role of CH$_3$CHO on HCHO (and HO$_x$) formation in the troposphere using the present observations and a 1-D model with updated chemistry [Chatfield et al., 1996]. Results from a number of simulations are summarized in Figure 10. The solid red line shows the steady state concentration of HCHO consistent with a simulation that maintains the CH$_3$CHO and CH$_3$COCH$_3$ at observed levels. The dashed red line shows HCHO calculated for a situation in which only acetone is maintained at observed values, but acetaldehyde is produced only from secondary hydrocarbon reactions. In both cases, the hydroperoxides are calculated to be in a self-consistent steady state. As is evident from the difference between solid and dashed red lines in Figure 10, observed CH$_3$CHO can contribute an extra 25 ppt or more of HCHO throughout most of the troposphere. This HCHO is a direct source of additional HO$_x$ in the troposphere. Consistent with the results of Staudt et al. [2003], the observed CH$_3$CHO mixing ratios produced far greater PAN than was measured (Figure 10). Propionaldehyde is expected to behave in a similar manner, producing a small amount CH$_3$CHO, HCHO, HO$_x$, and PAN. These large mixing ratios of CH$_3$CHO, if proven correct, provide a major perturbation to our present understanding of tropospheric chemistry.

3.1.3. Comparison of TRACE-P and PEM-West B Observations

[15] PEM-West B was an exploratory mission performed over the western Pacific in winter/spring of 1994 (February–March). It used the NASA DC-8 aircraft and measured many of the same constituents. It is instructive to compare these two data sets collected 7 years apart. During PEM-West B oxygenated species could only be measured in the free troposphere because of difficulties associated with water interference. Although these difficulties were overcome in TRACE-P, comparisons here are restricted to altitudes >3 km. The sampling density in these two experiments was quite different, and certain regions were not sampled in PEM-West B (e.g., Yellow Sea). Therefore the purpose of the comparison that follows is primarily to assess gross differences in composition and emission patterns.

[16] A comparison of the mean mixing ratios of CO, O$_3$, and NO$_x$ under “clean” and “polluted” conditions is presented in Figure 11 for midlatitudes (25°–45°N) and tropical/subtropical latitudes (10°–25°N). We note that such
comparisons may be least meaningful for short-lived species with inhomogeneous sources such as NOx (τ = 1–4 days). It is evident that CO concentrations were essentially unchanged in the background as well as the polluted troposphere over this 7-year period at both mid and tropical/subtropical latitudes. Atmospheric mixing ratios of several select species measured in TRACE-P and PEM-West B are also plotted as a function of CO in Figure 12. There are no obvious large differences in these two data sets. The similarity was as true of tracers of biomass (CH3Cl) and fossil fuel (C6H6) combustion, as of complex photochemical species such as PAN. Although concentrations of CH3OCOCH3 and CH3OH are slightly higher in TRACE-P, these differences are small and within the uncertainties of measurements.

As can be seen from Figures 11b and 11d, mean O3 mixing ratios during these two experiments were nearly equal at subtropical latitudes under all conditions. At midlatitudes the background atmosphere also showed little discernable change (Figure 11c). However, in the polluted air masses, O3 during TRACE-P was larger than PEM-West B by about 20 ppb (Figure 11a). This excess is also evident in the outflow regions in Figure 12. An analysis based on NMHC ratios, ruled out large differences in air mass ages. A logical answer could be that NOx concentrations in the outflow regions were higher during TRACE-P compared to PEM-West B. Economic indicators show that there has been a greater use of fossil fuels in Asia during this period. However, such an answer is not conclusive as higher NOx levels did not appear to result in high O3 at subtropical latitudes. Davis et al. [2003] have investigated these ozone changes in detail and concluded that the 14-day time difference between these two missions altered the ozone chemistry sufficiently to be an important factor in the net O3 formation at midlatitudes. These tendencies were not affected at subtropical latitudes. On the whole, comparison of data from TRACE-P and PEM-West B, separated by 7 years, failed to reveal any dramatic changes in the composition of the Pacific troposphere.

3.2. Tracer Relationships and Source Characteristics

3.2.1. Atmospheric Relationships

Despite a high degree of variability, mixing ratios of OVOC were correlated, suggesting a commonality of sources. Figure 13 shows this linear relationship with CO and CH3Cl in the free troposphere (3–11 km) and the MBL over the entire Pacific for a selected aldehyde, ketone, and alcohol. These relationships were maintained even in the UT (8–12 km) region of the atmosphere. We note that that the slopes of these lines are lower in the UT (8–12 km) region of the atmosphere. A logical answer could be that NOx concentrations in the outflow regions were higher during TRACE-P compared to PEM-West B. Economic indicators show that there has been a greater use of fossil fuels in Asia during this period. However, such an answer is not conclusive as higher NOx levels did not appear to result in high O3 at subtropical latitudes. Davis et al. [2003] have investigated these ozone changes in detail and concluded that the 14-day time difference between these two missions altered the ozone chemistry sufficiently to be an important factor in the net O3 formation at midlatitudes. These tendencies were not affected at subtropical latitudes. On the whole, comparison of data from TRACE-P and PEM-West B, separated by 7 years, failed to reveal any dramatic changes in the composition of the Pacific troposphere.

3.2.2. Plume Composition and Biomass Burning Source Estimates

During TRACE-P several plumes originating from biomass combustion were sampled in the free troposphere (3–11 km). Five-day back trajectory analysis [Fuegberg et al., 2003], indicated that the free tropospheric plumes generally originated over regions of southern China, southeast Asia, and northern Africa. Satellite observations showed that fires were prevalent in these regions. It is common knowledge that air masses from biomass burning (BB) regions are easily advected into the free troposphere. All of the relevant tracers of biomass combustion (e.g., HCN, CH3CN, CO, CH3Cl, and K) were significantly elevated in these plumes. On the basis of these considerations, 12 plumes were studied whose origin was indicated to be from biomass combustion. Various NMHC ratios and trajectory analysis suggested that these plumes were moderately aged with an estimated residence time of 2–5 days from source. As a first step, we looked at the molar enhancement ratios (ERs) of selected chemicals relative to CH3Cl and CO in these 12 plumes. These data are summarized in Table 2. Because of its BB source specificity and lack of fossil fuel source, we first use ERs with respect to CH3Cl to assess BB sources of selected OVOC. While somewhat less robust, because of the possibility of fossil sources, we also investigate these with respect to CO. As we shall see, there is evidence that the contribution of non-BB CO in these free tropospheric (FT) plumes was quite small. We also note that most of the ERs reported in the literature from previous studies are given with respect to CO. For purposes of scaling, we adopt a global BB CH3Cl source of 0.9 Tg yr⁻¹ and a corresponding CO source of 600 Tg yr⁻¹ based on recent evaluations [Lobert et al., 1999; Andreae and Merlet, 2001; Duncan et al., 2003; Yevich and Logan, 2003].

For extremely short-lived species (e.g., aldehydes), ERs may have no unique value and cannot be interpreted without a detailed chemical model. Acetone and CH3OH, however, are sufficiently long-lived in the FT (τ ≈ 15 days) and the sampled plumes are sufficiently fresh that the changes in ERs due to chemical losses during transport should be small (<25%). The corresponding loss for MEK and C2H5OH is nearly twice as large. Photochemical synthesis however, can provide a secondary source during transport and is thought to be a main reason for the large spread in acetone-ERs summarized by Reiner et al. [2001] and Jost et al. [2003]. Secondary formation in BB plumes is probably far less important for alcohols.

In Table 2 we determine mean ERCO (ppt/ppb) of 7.5 ± 1.1 and 16.3 ± 2.0 for CH3COCH3 and CH3OH, respectively. These are two chemicals for which previous measurements of 8 ± 2 from African fires for moderately aged plumes [Mauzerall et al., 1998] but somewhat higher than the 5.4 ± 2.7 value reported by Holzinger et al. [1999] from simulated laboratory fires. Similarly, mean methanol-ERCO is in good agreement with values of 17.1 ± 7.6 [Yokelson et al., 1999], 13.6 ± 3.9 [Yokelson et al., 2003], and 12 ± 1 [Wisthaler et al., 2002] reported in several independent
Figure 11. Comparison of mean TRACE-P (black) and PEM-West B (white) mixing ratios of CO, O₃ and NOₓ at mid and subtropical latitudes under pristine and polluted conditions.

Figure 12. Comparison of data collected in the free troposphere (3–12 km) during PEM-West B (red) and TRACE-P (black) normalized against CO.
campaigns from widely separated regions. No published data for MEK or ethanol ERs could be uncovered. Although we believe that short-lived species such as CH$_3$CHO have no unique ER, the CH$_3$CHO ERCO (ppt/ppb) of 1.4 ± 0.8 can be compared with 3.5 ± 1.9 measured by Hurst et al. [1994] in Australian fires. ERs with respect to CH$_3$Cl have not been previously reported.

[22] Rough BB source estimates can be obtained by scaling Table 2 ERs to the BB sources of CO (600 Tg yr$^{-1}$) and CH$_3$Cl (0.9 Tg yr$^{-1}$). This assumes that the 12 plumes sampled during TRACE-P provide a representative sample. Given the great paucity of available data, this assumption is at least a good first starting point. Table 2 summarizes these source estimates calculated for selected oxygenated species. We note that values derived from ERCO and ER$_{CH_3Cl}$ are very nearly the same. This supports the assumption that CO contamination from fossil sources was minimal in these plumes. A global BB source of 9 Tg yr$^{-1}$

Figure 13. Relationships between selected OVOC and tracers in (top) the free troposphere and (bottom) the boundary layer. $S$ and $R$ are slopes and correlation coefficients for the linear fit. Slopes are in units of ppt/ppb for CO and ppt/ppb for CH$_3$Cl.

Figure 14. Relationships among carbonyls and alcohols in the Pacific troposphere.
for CH$_3$COCH$_3$ and 11 Tg yr$^{-1}$ for CH$_3$OH is calculated. The CH$_3$OH estimate of 11 Tg yr$^{-1}$ is in good agreement with many of the recent estimates summarized in Table 3. The estimated source of CH$_3$COCH$_3$ is substantially larger than the Andreae and Merlet [2001] recommendation of 3.3 Tg yr$^{-1}$. As stated above, some synthesis of CH$_3$COCH$_3$ can occur from BB precursors during transport. In a recent study, Jost et al. [2003] use a detailed model to conclude that they are unable to simulate the enhancement of CH$_3$COCH$_3$ within a BB plume possibly because of the presence of unknown precursors or reaction mechanisms. Therefore we recommend that for global model simulations the use of the larger source term (9 Tg yr$^{-1}$), which includes primary and a significant fraction of the secondary source, is more appropriate. After correcting ERs for the ~50% reduction during transit, a smaller BB source of about 2 Tg yr$^{-1}$ each for MEK and CH$_3$OH can be estimated (Tables 2 and 3). There are no published values available for comparison.

[23] The mean ozone-ER$^CO$ of 0.3(±0.2) ppb/ppb measured during TRACE-P (Table 2) is similar to that obtained for “recent plumes” originating from African fires [Mauzerall et al., 1998]. We note that in some of the aged plumes there was no measurable ozone enhancement. This somewhat low ozone ER$^CO$ can be attributed to the fact that much of the reactive nitrogen appears to shift into the PAN reservoir and is not readily available for further $O_3$ synthesis. On average, some 65% of the reactive nitrogen was in the form of PAN, 22% as HNO$_3$ and 13% as NO$_x$ (Table 2). When aged plumes were selected, some 85% of reactive nitrogen was found to be in the PAN reservoir (HNO$_3$ 8%; NO$_x$ 6%). As has been suggested previously [Jacob et al., 1996; Mauzerall et al., 1998], $O_3$ production in fire plumes is controlled by the availability of NO$_x$ from the PAN reservoir and is thus considerably impeded.

[24] Several episodes of pollution outflow from eastern Asia were also sampled in the marine boundary layer (MBL). These ERs are also summarized in Table 2 based on the sampling of nine such episodes (0–1 km). The quantitative interpretation of these ERs is difficult because of the extreme complexity of urban sources in Asia. However, since CH$_3$Cl is not a product of fossil fuel combustion, one can make some qualitative observations. It appears that biofuels and coal, common fuels in eastern Asia, yield somewhat less CH$_3$COCH$_3$ and CH$_3$OH compared to active fires. In the case of CH$_3$COCH$_3$, a shorter residence time providing insufficient time for synthesis is a factor. It can also be inferred that substantial additional urban sources of MEK are present. This is not a surprise as significant quantities of MEK are commercially used in solvent applications, and it can also be relatively rapidly (hours) synthesized from the oxidation of fossil fuel generated hydrocarbons such as $n$-butane.

### 3.2.3. Global Sources

[25] Because of the complexity of sources and lack of observational data, our quantitative knowledge of OVOC

#### Table 2. Mean Enhancement Ratios and Total Biomass Burning Source Estimates of Selected Oxidized Species

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chemicals (X)</th>
<th>ER/FT Plumes$^a$</th>
<th>ER/MBL Episodes$^a$</th>
<th>Total BB Source,$^b$ Tg yr$^{-1}$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$\Delta $X/$\Delta $CO, ppt/ppb</td>
<td>$\Delta $X/$\Delta $CH$_3$Cl, ppt/ppb</td>
<td>From FT $\Delta $X/$\Delta $CO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH$_3$COCH$_3$</td>
<td>7.5 ± 1.1</td>
<td>9.0 ± 2.5</td>
<td>4.7 ± 1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH$_3$COC$_2$H$_5$</td>
<td>0.7 ± 0.4</td>
<td>0.9 ± 0.7</td>
<td>1.3 ± 0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH$_3$OH</td>
<td>16.3 ± 2.0</td>
<td>19.8 ± 6.5</td>
<td>10.6 ± 5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C$_2$H$_5$OH</td>
<td>9.0 ± 0.6</td>
<td>1.2 ± 1.1</td>
<td>2.2 ± 1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH$_3$CHO</td>
<td>1.4 ± 0.8</td>
<td>1.8 ± 1.3</td>
<td>2.7 ± 2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C$_2$H$_5$CHO</td>
<td>0.4 ± 0.3</td>
<td>0.5 ± 0.5</td>
<td>1.4 ± 0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAN</td>
<td>3.8 ± 2.1</td>
<td>4.8 ± 3.4</td>
<td>4.1 ± 1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO$_x$</td>
<td>0.8 ± 0.7</td>
<td>1.0 ± 0.9</td>
<td>2.1 ± 1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HNO$_3$</td>
<td>1.3 ± 1.7</td>
<td>1.9 ± 3.2</td>
<td>5.3 ± 1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$O_3$</td>
<td>260 ± 170</td>
<td>280 ± 170</td>
<td>80 ± 60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$^a$Mean enhancement ratios (ERs) with respect to CO and CH$_3$Cl are based on the sampling of 12 plumes in the free troposphere (FT; 3–10 km) and 9 episodes of marine boundary layer (MBL; 0–1 km) pollution.

$^b$The estimated biomass burning (BB) source is derived by scaling the FT ERs to a global BB source of 600 Tg yr$^{-1}$ and 9 Tg yr$^{-1}$/CH$_3$Cl and is inclusive of primary as well as secondary photochemical sources. MEK and ethanol source estimates are corrected for loss in transit (see text).

#### Table 3. Global Biomass Burning Source Estimates for Selected Oxygenated Chemicals$^a$

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Data</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BB plume at high latitudes</td>
<td>Singh et al. [1994]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>laboratory fires</td>
<td>Holzinger et al. [1999]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>controlled fires</td>
<td>Yokelson et al. [1999]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>assessment</td>
<td>Singh et al. [2000]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BB plumes over Indian Ocean</td>
<td>Andreae and Merlet [2001]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BB plumes over Pacific</td>
<td>Jacob et al. [2002]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BB plumes over Pacific</td>
<td>Wisthaler et al. [2002]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$^a$Most estimates are obtained by scaling measured enhancement ratios (ERs) in plumes from biomass combustion to the global CO source.

$^b$These are inclusive of primary as well as secondary sources attributable to BB emission.
Table 4. Global Source Estimates for Selected Oxygenated Chemicals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source Category</th>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Biomass burning</th>
<th>Dead/decaying plant matter</th>
<th>Dead/decaying biomass</th>
<th>Oceanic</th>
<th>Estimated mean source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CH₃CHO</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH₂CH₂CHO</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH₃COCH₃</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*References are as follows: 1. Singh et al. [2000]; 2. Jacob et al. [2002]; 3. Galbally and Kirstine [2002]; 4. Heikes et al. [2002]; 5. B. D. Field et al. (manuscript in preparation, 2003).*

*aThese are estimated by difference.
*bMain hydrocarbons involved are CH₄ for methanol; C₃H₈, i_alkanes, and terpenes for acetone; -C₄H₁₀ for MEK, alkanes/alkenes for aldehydes.
*cThese are estimated by normalizing to a 95 Tg yr⁻¹ source for acetone (see text).
*dEstimated mean source of 33 Tg yr⁻¹ is consistent with these data and is recommended (Table 4). On the basis of this study, we also find that a BB source that is nearly twice as large (9 Tg yr⁻¹) is more appropriate (Table 3). This larger source includes both primary and secondary sources from BB emissions whose mechanisms are not well known [Jost et al., 2003]. Both the magnitude and the sign of the oceanic flux of CH₃COCH₃ are uncertain. Using a variety of inverse modeling methods, a net oceanic source of 10–15 Tg yr⁻¹ has been suggested [de Laat et al., 2001; Jacob et al., 2002]. On the other hand, Singh et al. [2003b] use the gradient at the top of the MBL (Table 1) and an air-sea exchange models to conclude that TRACE-P observations are more compatible with a net oceanic sink of 14 Tg yr⁻¹. No seawater measurements are presently available to directly support the role of oceans as a source or a sink of acetone. We use these data to provide a revised source inventory of CH₃COCH₃ in Table 4 while retaining the 95 Tg yr⁻¹ global source recommended by Jacob et al. [2002] (see note added in proof).
[28] In subsequent sections we will estimate the global source of OVOC by normalizing to this CH3COCH3 source:

$$[S]_{OVOC}(\text{Tg yr}^{-1}) = \left(95 \times (C_{OVOC} \times M_{OVOC} \times \tau_{acetone}) / (C_{acetone} \times M_{acetone} \times \tau_{OVOC}) \right)$$

where $S$, $C$, $M$, and $\tau$ represent emissions, mixing ratios, molecular weights, and mean lifetimes, respectively. A mean CH3COCH3 lifetime of 15 days and median mixing ratios for the filtered data set (Table 1) have been used in subsequent calculations. Equation (1) is approximate, and its use is warranted only when no previous information is available or to assess large-scale inconsistencies in source estimates from different studies.

3.2.3.2. Methanol

[29] A first global budget of the CH3OH was presented by Singh et al. [2000]. More recently, methanol budget has been reviewed and further investigated by Galbally and Kirstine [2002] and Heikes et al. [2002]. It is evident from Table 4 that large uncertainties in its sources (and implied sinks) are currently present and the estimated source can range from 75 to 490 Tg yr$^{-1}$. The largest disagreement is due to the widely differing estimates of its biogenic emissions (35–280 Tg yr$^{-1}$). The Galbally and Kirstine [2002] global source estimate of 149 Tg yr$^{-1}$ is based on a mechanistic model of plant emissions. This estimate is comparable to the 122 Tg yr$^{-1}$ deduced by Singh et al. [2000] using inventory methods. Using a mean atmospheric lifetime of 9 days [Heikes et al., 2002] and present measurements (Table 1), we calculate a global CH3OH source of 110 Tg yr$^{-1}$ from equation (1). Table 4 also shows the inventory used in the current version of the GEOS-CHEM model (B. D. Field et al., manuscript in preparation, 2003). It is noted that the present model calculated CH3OH source from hydrocarbon (mostly methane) oxidation, via disproportionation of methyl peroxy radicals, of 37 Tg yr$^{-1}$ is nearly twice as large as previously suggested. The reasons for these model uncertainties are not clear but are most likely due to differences associated with the parameterization of methanol yields. We note that the 11 Tg yr$^{-1}$ BB source determined in this study (Table 3) is in good agreement with previous estimates (Tables 3 and 4). As is evident from Table 1, the observed median mixing ratios of CH3OH in the MBL (0–2 km) are lower than in the free troposphere (2–4 km) by ~200 ppt (Table 1). Singh et al. [2003b] use this fact and an air-sea exchange model to conclude that oceans are near equilibrium and provide a small net sink of CH3OH. Emissions of CH3OH are both large and uncertain and much further work is needed to accurately quantify these.

3.2.3.3. Methylethyl Ketone (MEK)

[30] Little is known about its sources and no quantitative emissions inventory has been previously presented. Using its measured OH rate constants ($1.3 \times 10^{-12} \text{cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$) and its photolysis rates [Martinez et al., 1992; R. Atkinson et al., IUPAC evaluated kinetic data, 2002, available at http://www.iupac-kinetic.ch.cam.ac.uk/], we determine a mean atmospheric lifetime of ~7 days. As a first estimate, a global source of ~11 Tg yr$^{-1}$ can be calculated from equation 1. MEK is a commonly used industrial solvent and its emissions are well documented in the Toxics Release Inventory compiled by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency http://www.epa.gov/tri). On the basis of these data, we conclude that the direct anthropogenic emissions are insignificant as a global source (~0.1 Tg yr$^{-1}$). MEK was also observed as an emission from decaying plant matter [Warneke et al., 1999] and has been identified as a significant biogenic emission from a variety of plants and grasses [Isidorov et al., 1985; Kirstine et al., 1998; de Gooy et al., 1999]. Kirstine et al. [1998] report that MEK formed nearly 50% of the organic emissions from clover. The available data presently do not allow a quantitative estimation of MEK biogenic sources. In Table 4 we arbitrarily assign (by difference) a source of 6 Tg yr$^{-1}$ to this category. On the basis of presently available information, an MEK source of this magnitude is feasible.

[31] MEK is a principal product of the oxidation of n-butane whose global emissions are 1–2 Tg yr$^{-1}$ [Singh and Zimmerman, 1992]. Nearly 80% of n-butane is oxidized in a manner that can produce MEK:

$$n - C_2H_2C_2H_5 + OH + (O_2) \rightarrow CH_3C(OH)C_2H_5 + H_2O,$$

$$CH_3CH(OH)C_2H_5 + NO \rightarrow CH_3CH(O)C_2H_5 + NO_2,$$

$$CH_3CH(O)C_2H_5 + O_3 \rightarrow HO_2 + CH_3C(O)C_2H_5(\text{MEK}).$$

In addition, alkenes containing a methyl and an ethyl group on the same side of the olefin bond (cis-2-butene/pentene, 2-methyl-1-butene, etc.) will degrade to produce MEK upon reaction with O3 and OH. Unlike the case of CH3COCH3, no mechanistic pathways presently appear feasible for MEK formation from the oxidation of known biogenic hydrocarbons such as isoprene, α/β pinene, and methyl butenol. We calculate that an MEK source of 2–3 Tg yr$^{-1}$ could result from C4-C6 hydrocarbon oxidation with n-butane as the dominant contributor. A first estimate of the BB source of MEK (2 Tg yr$^{-1}$) is calculated in Table 3. We expect MEK to behave like acetone with insignificant oceanic sources. These estimates are summarized in Table 4 to provide a first estimate of the global inventory of MEK.

3.2.3.4. Ethanol

[32] Ethanol finds many applications in the commercial/industrial world. It is a commonly used solvent and is an intermediate in the manufacture of many chemicals. It is also an increasingly popular fuel and fuel additive [Nguyen et al., 2001]. Ethanol has an atmospheric lifetime of ~3.5 days, and its global mixing ratios are quite small (Table 1) [Singh et al., 1995]. We use equation (1) to calculate a global source of about 12 Tg yr$^{-1}$. Its commercial/industrial/social/fuel releases and as a by-product in wood product and organic chemical industry are estimated to be 1–2 Tg yr$^{-1}$. Ethanol can also be generated as a secondary product from the oxidation of any hydrocarbon that can generate a C3-H2O2 radical [2C2H2O2 → C2H4OH + CH3CHO + O2] with ethane as the leading candidate. We use a simple photochemical model to estimate an ~1 Tg yr$^{-1}$ source from ethane oxidation. Ethanol has been observed as a direct emission from many plant species, and high concentrations and large emission rates have been measured in many forested ecosystems and grass land areas [Kimmerer and MacDonald, 1987; Kelsey, 1996; Lamanna and Goldstein, 1999; Schade and Goldstein, 2001, 2002; Kirstine et al., 1998; Fukui and Doskey, 1998; Karl et al.,
2003]. An emission rate of some 2.9 µg g$^{-1}$ dry weight (dw) h$^{-1}$ (30°C) was measured by Schade and Goldstein [2001] from a Ponderosa pine canopy in Blodgett Forest in California. Ethanol can also be produced in plant roots by anaerobic fermentation and may metabolize to CH$_3$CHO and acetic acid in plant leaves prior to emission [Kreuzwieser et al., 2001]. Its metabolic pathways are well understood, and in aerobic environments it can also be formed by the decomposition of CH$_3$CHO in plant tissues (R. Fall, manuscript in preparation, 2003). Its BB source is estimated to be about 2 Tg yr$^{-1}$ (Table 3). In Table 4 we provide a rough first analysis of its sources with the largest fraction (6 Tg yr$^{-1}$) attributed to biogenic emissions.

3.2.3.5. Acetaldehyde

[35] On a global scale, very little is known about the sources of CH$_3$CHO, and no global inventory is presently available. In Table 4 we provide a first, albeit highly uncertain, source inventory of CH$_3$CHO. From available measurements around the globe in the MBL and limited free tropospheric measurements from the Pacific, it is reasonable to assume that CH$_3$CHO is globally ubiquitous and its mixing ratios are substantial [Zhou and Mopper, 1993; Singh et al., 1995, 2002; Arlander et al., 1995; Tanner et al., 1996; Wisthaler et al., 2002]. As a starting point we use equation (1) to estimate its global sources. Given its very short lifetime of ~1 day and its measured atmospheric abundance (Table 1), we deduce that a total source of ~220 Tg yr$^{-1}$ is required and some of this must be in the free troposphere.

[36] In a number of tail pipe emission tests [e.g., Sigsbey et al., 1987], ~0.5% of the carbon is found to be emitted as CH$_3$CHO. The use of oxygenated fuels, particularly C$_2$H$_5$OH, results in increased tail pipe emissions of CH$_3$CHO. Direct emissions of CH$_3$CHO by industry are negligible small (<0.1 Tg yr$^{-1}$). We estimate that in total these anthropogenic emissions are <1 Tg yr$^{-1}$. Large biogenic emissions are known to occur, and indeed high concentrations of CH$_3$CHO have been measured in many rural/forested environments [Isidorov et al., 1985; Shepson et al., 1991; Feisenfeld et al., 1992; Golden et al., 1995; Solberg et al., 1996; Riemer et al., 1998; Kirste et al., 1998; Schade and Goldstein, 2001]. Direct measurements from pine and oak species show that some 0.027–0.049% of net carbon assimilated is released in the form of CH$_3$CHO [Kesselmeier et al., 1997]. Scaling it by the global net primary productivity of 5 × 10$^8$ Tg C yr$^{-1}$ a biogenic source of 25–45 Tg yr$^{-1}$ is feasible. These investigators also measure a direct daytime average CH$_3$CHO release rate of 0.83 µg g$^{-1}$ dw h$^{-1}$ at 30°C. Schade and Goldstein [2001] determine mean CH$_3$CHO fluxes in a Ponderosa pine forest in California of 0.20 µg C m$^{-2}$ dw h$^{-1}$ or 0.86 µg g$^{-1}$ dw h$^{-1}$ at 30°C. Since fluxes are often reported in area units, a constant foliar density of 425 g dw m$^{-2}$, a typical value for Blodgett Forest, has been used to obtain the corresponding mass units. They also find that that nighttime emissions are extremely small (~10% of daytime). Other studies summarized by Villanueva-Fierro et al. [2004] report mean rates of 0.3–1.2 µg g$^{-1}$ dw h$^{-1}$ from a variety of plant species. The major exception is the study of Karl et al. [2002], who use a new technique to measure unusually high emission rates of 0.94 µg g$^{-1}$ dw h$^{-1}$ at only 15°C from a site (Niwot Ridge) in Colorado. Assuming a median value of 0.7 (0.2–1.2) µg g$^{-1}$ dw h$^{-1}$ at 30°C only during daylight hours, and a recent version of the Guenther et al. [1995] model, a CH$_3$CHO source estimate of 45 (13–77) Tg yr$^{-1}$ can be calculated. While highly uncertain, we use a reasonable central value of ~35 (20–50) Tg yr$^{-1}$.

[37] Nearly all >C$_1$ alkanes (ethane, propane, n-butane) and >C$_2$ alkenes (propene, 2-butene) form CH$_3$CHO as an intermediate oxidation product [Finlayson-Pitts and Pitts, 1999; Warneck, 1999]. In many cases (e.g., ethane, propene) the yield of CH$_3$CHO is >50%. In the global atmosphere the largest source must come from ethane (C$_2$H$_6$ + OH → C$_2$H$_5$O$_2$ (+NO) → C$_2$H$_6$O → CH$_3$CHO) and propene oxidation which are emitted at a rate of 15–20 Tg yr$^{-1}$ and 7–12 Tg yr$^{-1}$, respectively [Singh and Zimmerman, 1992]. Using a simple chemical scheme of alkane/alkene chemistry, we estimate CH$_3$CHO source from NMHC oxidation to be ~35 (20–50) Tg yr$^{-1}$. BB emissions of CH$_3$CHO have been measured with Holzinger et al. [1999] reporting a source of 11 Tg yr$^{-1}$ and Andreae and Merlet [2001] recommending only 4 Tg yr$^{-1}$. On the basis of a number of assumptions, Singh et al. [2003b] estimate a global CH$_3$CHO oceanic source of 125 Tg yr$^{-1}$. We note that the source inventory prescribed in Table 4, in and of itself, may not be enough to explain its atmospheric budget and distribution of CH$_3$CHO. These estimates are also strongly dependent on the reliability of atmospheric measurements.

3.2.3.6. Propionaldehyde

[56] Mixing ratios of C$_3$H$_7$CHO are about one third of CH$_3$CHO, and the two are highly correlated (Figure 14). There are no independent atmospheric measurements available to confirm that C$_3$H$_7$CHO is indeed ubiquitous in the global troposphere. However, we use its tight correlation with CH$_3$CHO to suggest that it is distributed much like CH$_3$CHO. The lifetime of C$_3$H$_7$CHO, based on reaction with OH [R. Atkinson et al., IUPAC evaluated kinetic data, 2002, available at http://www.iupac-kinetic.ch.cam.ac.uk/] and photolysis [Martinez et al., 1992], is also comparable to that of CH$_3$CHO (~1 day). From these one could infer a global C$_3$H$_7$CHO source of ~105 Tg yr$^{-1}$. Propionaldehyde is formed via photochemical oxidation of many >C$_3$ NMHCs and has been observed as a significant emission from plant matter [Villanueva-Fierro et al., 2004]. It has also been detected in seawater with substantial concentrations in the surface microlayers [Zhou and Mopper, 1997]. Singh et al. [2003b] assume that the differential in the MBL between the measured and modeled mixing ratios in Figure 9 is due to the oceanic source. On the basis of this assumption, they infer an oceanic source of some 45 Tg yr$^{-1}$. Much more comprehensive atmospheric, oceanic, and emission data are required prior to any reliable source inferences.

4. Conclusions

[37] In recent years it has become clear that large concentrations of OVOC are present in the global troposphere and they play an important role in atmospheric chemistry. Their oxidation rate is comparable to that of methane and much larger than nonmethane hydrocarbons. A large (150–500 Tg C yr$^{-1}$) carbon flux moves through the atmosphere in the form of oxygenated species. Their sources and sinks are presently highly uncertain. Biogenic emissions are nearly always significant but remain poorly quantified.
The role of oceans as sources and sinks for these chemicals is largely unexplored. In many cases, measured concentrations are incompatible with our present knowledge of atmospheric chemistry. There is preliminary suggestion for OVOC involvement in heterogeneous processes. Better understanding of chemical degradation pathways of many OVOC is necessary. The possibility that atmospheric measurement may suffer from unknown difficulties can also not be ruled out. Much future work is necessary before the budgets and chemistry of this group of chemicals can be placed on a reliable quantitative footing.

[38] Note added in proof. After this paper was accepted, we learned about the new temperature dependent acetone quantum yield measurements by researchers from the University of Leeds, UK (D. Heard, private communication, 2003). According to these results, globally averaged atmospheric lifetime of acetone may be somewhat longer (~18 days) than previously believed (~15 days). This would imply that a global acetone source of 80 Tg yr⁻¹ would be more in line with observations than the presently estimated 95 Tg yr⁻¹ used in this study.

[39] Acknowledgments. This research was funded by the NASA Global Tropospheric Experiment and Interdisciplinary Science Program. Harvard investigators acknowledge support from the NSF Atmospheric Chemistry Program. We thank all TRACE-P participants for their support. Discussions with C. Potter of NASA Ames, R. Atkinson of UC Riverside, and P. Harley and A. Guenther of NCAR are much appreciated.

References


M. A. Avery, J. H. Crawford, and G. Sachse, NASA Langley Research Center, Atmospheric Sciences Division, Mail Stop 483, Hampton, VA 23681-2199, USA. (m.aavery@larc.nasa.gov; james.h.crawford@nasa.gov; g.w.sachse@larc.nasa.gov)

D. Blake, Department of Chemistry, University of California, 516 Rowland Hall, Irvine, CA 92697-2025, USA. (deblake@uci.edu)

R. B. Chatfield, E. Czech, L. J. Salas, and H. B. Singh, NASA Ames Research Center, Mail Stop 245-5, Moffett Field, CA 94035, USA. (chatfield@clio.arc.nasa.gov; eczech@mail.arc.nasa.gov; lsalas@mail.arc.nasa.gov; hanwant.b.singh@nasa.gov)

M. J. Evans, B. D. Field, and D. J. Jacob, Division of Applied Sciences, Pierce Hall, 29 Oxford Street, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA. (mje@io.harvard.edu; bdf@sol.harvard.edu; djj@io.harvard.edu)

A. Fried and J. Walega, Atmospheric Chemistry Division, National Center for Atmospheric Research, P.O. Box 3000, Boulder, CO 80307, USA. (fried@acd.ucar.edu; walega@ucar.edu)

H. Fuelberg, Meteorology Department, Florida State University, 404 Love Building, Tallahassee, FL 32306, USA. (fuelberg@met.fsu.edu)

B. Heikes, GSO/CACS, University of Rhode Island, South Ferry Road, Narragansett, RI 02882-1197, USA. (zagar@gso.uri.edu)

S. Sandholm, School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Georgia Institute of Technology, Baker Bldg., Room 107, Atlanta, GA 30332, USA. (sts@minitower.gtri.gatech.edu)

R. Talbot, Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans, and Space, University of New Hampshire, Morse Hall, 39 College Road, Durham, NH 03824, USA. (robert.talbot@unh.edu)