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Lagrangian analysis of microphysical and chemical processes in the Antarctic stratosphere: a case study

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Abstract

We investigated chemical and microphysical processes in the late winter in the Antarctic lower stratosphere, after the first chlorine activation and initial ozone depletion. We focused on a time interval when both further chlorine activation and ozone loss, but also chlorine deactivation, occur.

We performed a comprehensive Lagrangian analysis to simulate the evolution of an airmass along a ten-day trajectory, coupling a detailed microphysical box model with a chemistry model. Model results have been compared with in-situ and remote sensing measurements of particles and ozone at the start and end points of the trajectory, and satellite measurements of key chemical species and clouds along it.

Different model runs have been performed to understand the relative role of solid and liquid Polar Stratospheric Cloud (PSC) particles for the heterogeneous chemistry, and for the denitrification caused by particle sedimentation. According to model results, under the conditions investigated, ozone depletion is not affected significantly by the presence of Nitric Acid Trihydrate (NAT) particles, as the observed depletion rate can equally well be reproduced by heterogeneous chemistry on cold liquid aerosol, with a surface area density close to background values.

Under the conditions investigated, the impact of denitrification is important for the abundances of chlorine reservoirs after PSC evaporation, thus stressing the need of using appropriate microphysical models in the simulation of chlorine deactivation. Conversely, we found that the effect of particle sedimentation and denitrification on the amount of ozone depletion is rather small in the case investigated. In the first part of the analysed period, when a PSC was present in the airmass, sedimentation led to smaller available particle surface area and less chlorine activation, and thus less ozone depletion. After the PSC evaporation, in the last three days of the simulation, denitrification increases ozone loss by hampering chlorine deactivation.

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1 Introduction

The depletion of ozone occurring in the polar stratosphere during winter and spring is linked to processes involving clouds in the polar stratosphere (Solomon et al., 1986). During winter the polar stratosphere cools to temperatures below 195 K, establishing a vortex circulation over the poles that separates the air inside from mid latitudes, and allows for the formation of Polar Stratospheric Clouds (PSC). Such clouds can be classified into three main particle types (Browell et al., 1990; Toon et al., 1990), Ia as solid trihydrates of nitric acid (NAT), Ib as supercooled ternary solutions of $\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{HNO}_3/\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ (STS) growing by HNO_3 uptake by pre-existing stratospheric sulphate aerosol (SSA), type II as ice clouds, similar to tropospheric cirrus (Lowe et al., 2008). A new classification by Pitts et al. (2007, 2009, 2011) emphasizes that PSCs are often composed of mixtures of such particle types. PSC classifications have been critically reviewed in Achtert et al. (2014).

Extensive observations from ground-based as well as satellite instruments have provided climatologies of PSC occurrence in Antarctica (Adriani et al., 2004; Pitts et al., 2007; Di Liberto et al., 2014) and in the Arctic (Maturilli et al., 2005). Antarctic PSCs, prevalently of type NAT, appear in early June to achieve maximum occurrence in July at 20–24 km. The altitude of maximum occurrence has a downward trend from 24 to 14 km between July and September. PSCs become increasingly rare to non-existent after the middle of October. Their presence is widespread over Antarctica, although regions of enhanced occurrence are present above and eastward of the Antarctic Peninsula.

Heterogeneous chemical reactions taking place on or within PSC particles convert relatively non-reactive chlorine reservoir species such as ClONO_2 and HCl into active chlorine compounds as HOCl , ClNO_2 and Cl_2 . Once the polar stratosphere has been primed by the action of heterogeneous chemistry on PSC particles, at the onset of spring the sunlight photolyses such compounds, releasing Cl which leads to catalytic ozone destruction.

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Sedimentation of large PSC particles containing water and nitric acid causes dehydration and denitrification, depleting the stratosphere of water and nitric oxides that otherwise could reform chlorine reservoir species and reduce the lifetime of reactive chlorine. As the moderating effect of NO_x is missing, the considerable buildup of ClO drives the successive decrease in stratospheric ozone (Solomon, 1999).

The various kinds of PSCs influence such processes differently: the conversion of chlorine from less to more reactive species takes place with different efficiency, related to different PSC types (Biele et al., 2001; Carslaw et al., 1997; Tsias et al., 1999; Wegner et al., 2012); moreover, the sedimentation rate strongly depends on the average PSC particle size, which depends on its composition, phase and formation process.

In this paper, a case study of PSC evolution and its impact on ozone depletion and related processes in the late winter Antarctic stratosphere is presented. The study is based on in-situ and remote sensing observations of trace gases and particles, and Lagrangian microphysical and chemical models. After a first observation of PSC optical characteristics, particle size distributions and ozone taken over McMurdo Station ($77^\circ 51' \text{ S}$, $166^\circ 40' \text{ E}$) by a set of balloon-borne in-situ instruments and a ground based lidar, the airmass has been tracked with a trajectory model until, after ten days, air in a certain altitude range returned to McMurdo within a distance of less than 300 km. Then a second in-situ balloon sampling and lidar measurement was accomplished. Satellite measurements of key chemical species and particles along the airmass trajectories documented its microphysical and chemical evolution. This dataset has been compared with simulations from chemical and microphysical box models reproducing the evolution of the cloud and evaluating its impact on the chemistry in the air mass. This well documented case took place in early September, soon after the onset of ozone depletion from chlorine activation but before complete destruction of ozone, in a region close to the vortex edge. By modeling the microphysical and chemical processes along the trajectory and comparing simulations with observations, an assessment of the modeled denitrification, ozone chemistry, and the impact of PSC occurrence on ozone depletion can be made. Finally, an evaluation of the relative impor-

tance of the heterogeneous chemistry and denitrification will be made. The scope of this study is to provide a contribution to the most recent discussion of the relative role of PSC and liquid (background) aerosol in the ozone depletion (Drdla and Müller, 2012; Wegner et al., 2012; Wohltmann et al., 2013).

2 Instruments and Models

2.1 In-situ instruments

Balloon-borne instruments have been routinely launched from McMurdo Station since the 1980s (Mercer et al., 2007). Balloons are routinely equipped with instruments to measure ozone (Deshler et al., 2008), temperature, pressure and humidity, and occasionally with Optical Particle Counters (OPC) (Hofmann and Deshler, 1991; Adriani et al., 1995; Deshler et al., 2003b).

Ozone measurements are performed with commercial electrochemical cell (ECC) ozonesondes, developed and described by Komhyr (1969). A Vaisala radio sonde RS92 performs pressure, temperature and humidity measurements using sensors designed to cover all atmospheric and weather conditions in every climate zone. The model RS92 provides temperature and pressure with an accuracy respectively of 0.25 K and 0.2 hPa near 50 hPa (Steinbrecht et al., 2008).

The OPC counts and sizes particles drawn into a sampling chamber. The single particle instrument uses white light scattering at 40° in the forward direction to measure size using Mie theory. Deshler et al. (2003a) have described the measurement principles and their inherent uncertainties in significant detail, concluding that the uncertainties in size are in the range of 10 % for most sizes, while concentration errors range from 8 to 80 % for low concentrations. The impact of these uncertainties on integrals of the size distribution, such as surface area, are on the order of ±40 %.

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2.2 Ground based lidar

McMurdo Station has been hosting a polarization diversity Rayleigh lidar since 1991 (Adriani et al., 2004), which was upgraded in 2004 (Di Liberto et al., 2014). The backscatter ratio, defined as the ratio of the total backscattered light to the one expected from an atmosphere free of aerosol, is retrieved by using the Klett algorithm, with an extinction-to backscatter ratio (lidar ratio) calculated using the empirical model proposed by Gobbi et al. (1995). The ratio of the parallel to the cross polarization signals, the volume depolarization ratio δ , is used to detect the presence of non spherical (i.e. solid) aerosol. This quantity is calibrated with the method described by Snels et al. (2009). The aerosol depolarization ratio δ_a , retrieved from δ by eliminating the molecular contribution from the backscattering (Cairo et al., 1999), is a more direct characterization of the particle morphology, and is here presented. The uncertainty affecting these optical parameters has been estimated following the method reported in Russell et al. (1979) and is 0.1 (in absolute value) or 10 % of the measured value (the larger of the two) for the aerosol backscatter ratio (BR-1) and 3 % (in absolute value) or 10 % of the measured value (the larger of the two) for the aerosol depolarization.

2.3 Satellite instruments

The Aura Microwave Limb Sounder (MLS) measures thermal emission continuously (24 h per day) using a limb viewing geometry which maximizes signal intensity and vertical resolution. Vertical profiles of mixing ratios of many different chemical species, temperature and pressure are derived (Waters et al., 2006). The MLS results for stratospheric ozone have been extensively validated and are in good agreement with other datasets from many different origins (Froidevaux et al., 2006). Ozone vertical profiles have vertical resolution of approximately 3 km from 215 to 0.2 hPa and about 4–6 km between 0.2 and 0.1 hPa. The ozone precision is 0.04 ppmv in the range 215–68 hPa, 0.1–0.4 ppmv in the range 46–0.1 hPa and 1–0.06 ppmv between 0.05 and 0.02 hPa. The vertical resolution for the standard HCl product is 3 km in the stratosphere. The

temperature, and the selected MIPAS2D profiles interpolated at the potential temperature level of the models.

The Cloud-Aerosol Lidar with Orthogonal Polarization (CALIOP) is a two-wavelengths (532 and 1064 nm) lidar, with two polarizations at 532 nm, on board the CALIPSO (Cloud-Aerosol Lidar and Infrared Pathfinder Satellite Observation) satellite which provides vertical profiles of aerosols and clouds, and has been extensively used for studies on PSC (Pitts et al., 2007, 2009, 2011). It has a vertical resolution between 30 and 60 m and a horizontal resolution of 333 m and 1 km for altitudes between 0.5 and 8.2 km and between 8.2 and 20.2 km, respectively. The CALIPSO satellite is part of the A-Train track (Stephens et al., 2002) and performs measurements on the same MLS geo locations, only some few minutes later. In this work we considered CALIOP profiles collected during night time and matching the $\pm 1.0^\circ$ latitude, $\pm 2.5^\circ$ longitude, ± 6 h time difference criteria, with respect to the traced airmass location. More information on CALIOP can be found at <http://www-calipso.larc.nasa.gov/>.

2.4 Trajectory model

During the field campaign, the air parcel trajectories were tracked by using the Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) isentropic trajectory model (http://acdb-ext.gsfc.nasa.gov/Data_services/automailer/index.html). In the course of the data analysis, and for the purposes of this study, additional trajectory tools have been used for checking the results of the field campaign. For the purpose of microphysical modelling, the air parcel trajectories have been recalculated by the trajectory module of CLaMS (Chemical Lagrangian Model of the Stratosphere) using 6 hourly ERA-Interim (Dee et al., 2011) wind and temperature fields with a horizontal resolution of $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$. CLaMS is a modular chemistry transport model (CTM) system developed at Forschungszentrum Jülich, Germany (McKenna et al., 2002a, b; Konopka et al., 2004). Integration of trajectories has been accomplished with an integration time step of 15 min. Vertical displacements of isentropic trajectories are derived from ERA-Interim total diabatic heating rates (Plöger et al., 2010). CLaMS produced forward trajectories from the time and location of the

first PSC observation, starting on 10 September 2008 at 12:00 UTC. The vertical spacing between the trajectories is about 100 m in a vertical range between 350 and 450 K. The GSFC and CLaMS trajectories document similar paths travelled by the airmass, although wind speed was slightly lower during the first days of the simulation in the ERA Interim dataset.

2.5 Microphysical and optical model for PSC

The Zurich Optical and Microphysical box Model (ZOMM) has been developed for PSC simulations to study the formation, growth and evaporation of PSC particles determined by changes in temperature and pressure. ZOMM includes the following PSC formation pathways: Liquid background particles grow into STS droplets by uptake of HNO_3 (Dye et al., 1992; Carslaw et al., 1995). Ice nucleation takes place either homogeneously at sufficiently low temperatures (Koop et al., 2000) or heterogeneously on the surfaces of foreign nuclei (Engel et al., 2013). NAT nucleation is implemented as heterogeneous nucleation on foreign nuclei (Hoyle et al., 2013) as well as on uncoated ice surfaces (Luo et al., 2003).

Small-scale temperature fluctuations, that are required to accurately reproduce ice number densities, are superimposed onto the synoptic-scale trajectories. The sedimentation of PSC particles is accounted for by using the column version of ZOMM as described in Engel et al. (2014). So far, ZOMM has always been initialized at typical background conditions for the winter polar stratosphere. This study required to prescribe existing particle size distributions. We extracted those data from the OPC measurements taken at the trajectory starting points and complemented the condensed amount of H_2O and HNO_3 with gas phase values measured by MLS. The optical output, calculated using Mie and T Matrix scattering codes (Mishchenko et al., 2012) can directly be compared to CALIOP measurements. The calculated surface area of PSCs along the trajectories serves as input for the chemistry model.

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2.6 Chemistry model

The temporal evolution of the mixing ratios of chemical species along trajectories was simulated by the Alfred Wegener Institute chemical box model. It contains 48 chemical species and 171 reactions, describing the stratospheric chemistry. It is based on a module for gas-phase chemistry described in Brasseur et al. (1997) and a module for heterogeneous chemistry reported in Carslaw et al. (1995). Reaction rate constants have been updated to the values given by Sander (2011). For these simulations, the initial mixing ratios of ClO, HCl, HNO₃, CO, N₂O, H₂O, and O₃ were taken from the nearest MLS and ozonesonde measurements. The mixing ratios of NO_x (NO, NO₂) and ClONO₂ were assumed to be close to zero in agreement with the MIPAS ClONO₂ observations. To start with balanced initial values, pre-runs of the chemical box model on a one day back-trajectory ending at the start point of the corresponding main trajectory were performed. The initial mixing ratios for these pre-runs were iteratively modified, until the MLS measurements were reproduced by the model at the end of the pre-run trajectory. Then the mixing ratios of all species at the end of the pre-run were used as initial values for the run of the chemical box model on the main trajectory. As part of this procedure, a ClO_x (= ClO + 2 · Cl₂O₂) mixing ratio consistent with the MLS ClO measurement was determined, which is essential for a correct simulation of the chemical ozone depletion.

3 Observations and simulations

3.1 McMurdo observations

A balloon carrying an OPC and an ozone sonde was launched from the Antarctic station of McMurdo on 10 September 2008, 10:55 UTC. Lidar measurements were simultaneously made during the 4 h duration of the balloon flight. The left panel of Fig. 1 depicts the lidar backscatter (solid line) and aerosol depolarization (dotted line) ratios

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and 500 K (above 17 km up to 20 km). The gray area in Fig. 2 marks the altitude region where the air mass reencounter was expected. There, the two profiles show a similar depression with minima at 405 K. In that region, the ozone decrease between the two soundings is about 300 ppbv below 405 K, a little more above.

5 These ozone losses are comparable with what was observed in the past (Mercer et al., 2007; Kröger et al., 2003; Nardi et al., 1999) in the same period of the year. The double overpass of the air mass over McMurdo in the layer between 380 and 420 K suggested a detailed Lagrangian study of the microphysics and chemistry that occurred in the air mass, between the two balloon observations.

10 In the left panel of Fig. 3, isentropic air mass trajectories, starting from McMurdo on 10 September 2008 12:00 UTC are shown (color coded according to potential temperature). Solid/dotted portions of the lines designate the sunlit/dark sectors of the trajectories. The right panel reports temperature histories along those trajectories (again color coded in term of their potential temperature). The trajectories in the 375–425 K layer remained confined within the vortex and show a limited variability in PV (not shown). Airmasses close to 400 K level returned over McMurdo after approximately 9.5 days. In those airmasses, the PSC was observed on 10 September and temperatures remained below 195 K for the initial five days of the trajectory. Then the airmasses experienced a warming in the second part of the trajectory.

20 To compare the results of our model simulations with observational data along the path of the air mass, coincidences between the air mass trajectory and CALIOP and MLS observations were determined. In the leftmost panel of Fig. 3, purple dots indicate availability of MLS data, and purple lines crossing the trajectories specify intersections with CALIOP footprint.

25 Figure 4 shows longitude vs. altitude curtains of backscatter ratio from CALIOP nighttime footprints crossing the air mass trajectory at various stages of its evolution. Red circles indicate the intersection of the curtain with the 400 K isentropic trajectory. CALIOP data document the presence of a large PSC observed between 15 and 17.5 km on 14 September (daytime footprint, not shown), with values of the optical pa-

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rameters which are the same order of magnitude of those observed above McMurdo four days earlier. On the next day, the top of a weak PSC is present in the region intersected by the air trajectory. Its shape resembles the previous day's observations. On the night of 16 September the PSC is almost completely dissipated and vanishes in the following days. The CALIOP depolarization (not shown) indicates that observations are consistent with a dominantly NAT PSC. The CALIOP observations document a large PSC in the area crossed by the trajectory of the air mass which was sampled five days earlier by the in-situ aerosol measurements from McMurdo.

3.2 Microphysical simulations

The microphysical model was initialized with MLS H₂O and HNO₃ profiles closest in time and space to the first McMurdo balloon sounding. Since those values are gas phase values only, the amount of HNO₃ taken up by existing STS droplets and NAT particles at the time of the PSC observation had to be computed. For those calculations we made use of the size distribution measured by the balloon-borne OPC. The smallest size bins up to 0.75 μm were considered to consist of STS droplets with a density of 1.44 g cm⁻³. Larger particles of the OPC size distribution were taken as NAT particles and the condensed HNO₃ phase was computed by assuming spherical NAT particles with a density of 1.62 g cm⁻³. Bimodal lognormal distributions fit to the PSC observations between 14.5 and 16 km indicated an average of 22 ppb HNO₃ in the second (large particle) mode of the lognormal distribution. A possible overestimation of HNO₃ content in the condensed phase from particle size measurements was reported in some recent airborne measurements from the RECONCILE campaign (von Hobe et al., 2013) and possible reasons for that are extensively discussed in Molleker et al. (2014).

The microphysical run was initialized with an estimate of condensed HNO₃ of 20 ppb, considered realistic. Results from this run will be presented here. The OPC size distribution was also used to prescribe existing NAT particles at the starting point of the tra-

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the consequences of particle sedimentation and HNO_3 redistribution were likely to be more pronounced, as the microphysical simulation shows in Fig. 5, reporting profiles of backscatter ratio and aerosol depolarization. At 400 K, the NAT particle surface area decreased steadily from an initial value of $4.5 \mu\text{m}^2 \text{cm}^{-3}$ to 0 in 100 h, while STS/SSA particle surface area hovered around $1.5 \mu\text{m}^2 \text{cm}^{-3}$ throughout the simulation, a value not far from what expected for the background aerosol surface area density (Hitchman et al., 1994; Chayka et al., 2008).

Figure 6 reports the results of the chemistry simulations, with (red line) and without (blue line) heterogeneous chemistry taken into account. Yellow regions represent sunlit parts of the trajectory. Figure 6a reports O_3 evolution. Removing heterogeneous reactions leads to less chlorine (re-)activation and, consequently, less ozone loss. However, the effect is not very strong, because most of the chlorine is already activated at the beginning of the trajectory, according to MLS data. Squares represent ozone measured by MLS along the trajectory. There, and in the following panels, the radius of the circles surrounding the data points represents the match radius, defined as the distance between the observation and the location of the air mass on its trajectory, at the time of the observation. The simulations capture the integrated ozone loss well, although intermediate comparisons are not good, as the large depletion is delayed in the observations until after 15 September. Such behaviour should not be expected in the present case, where both ClO_x and sunlight are available for ozone depletion throughout the whole period. In the comparison with the measurements, however it has to be taken into account that positions of the satellite measurements and corresponding trajectory points do usually not coincide. Moreover, limb soundings represent averages over large horizontal distances, and therefore might not have been able to fully account for processes going on in a relatively small portion of air.

HNO_3 concentrations both total and gas phase were not calculated by the chemistry model, but prescribed by the microphysical model. Figure 6b reports the evolution of the modelled HNO_3 in the gas phase, driven initially by PSC particle condensation and successive evaporation after a vertical redistribution and removal due to particle

sedimentation. Squares and stars represent respectively MLS and MIPAS data. In this case the agreement between simulation and observation seems reasonable although the measured uncertainties are large and the MIPAS and MLS scarcely agree with each other, with the MLS more consistent with the model. The microphysical model seems to well reproduce both the HNO_3 sequestering in condensed phase until 14 September, and then some denitrification. Note again that sedimentation processes are very localized and their effects are observed by satellites only if the effects cover a large area.

Heterogeneous chemistry affects the evolution of HCl (Fig. 6c) and ClONO_2 (Fig. 6d) respectively. As long as the PSC is present, both species are reduced by heterogeneous reactions. MLS HCl values are reported as squares and MIPAS ClONO_2 are reported as stars.

The comparison with the observed values seems to suggest that the simulation with heterogeneous chemistry active is more effective in reproducing the HCl evolution over the studied period. However, as the speed of Cl deactivation is sensitively dependent on ozone mixing ratios (Douglass et al., 1995; Grooß et al., 1997, 2011), but the ozone comparison is not fully satisfactory, it is difficult to interpret this HCl and ClONO_2 comparison. In order to estimate how sensitively HCl depends on the accuracy of ozone mixing ratio evolution in the present case, an additional sensitivity model run was then performed under the rather extreme assumption that there is no ozone depletion at all (i.e. by holding constant the ozone mixing ratio to its initial value throughout the simulation). Results of this sensitivity run are reported as a green solid line. The induced change in the HCl evolution is not too large, and HCl mixing ratios of the sensitivity run are still compatible with the MLS measurements between 12 and 17 September.

A closer look at the reactions affecting ozone and HCl is presented in Fig. 7, reporting the O_3 depletion rates due to the ClO-BrO and ClO-ClO catalytic cycles (left panel) and the HCl production and destruction rates (right panel) due to a set of competing reactions listed at the bottom of the figure. Ozone is mainly destroyed by the ClO dimer and the ClO-BrO catalytic cycles. No noticeable ozone production is taking place. Most

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of the chlorine activation is accomplished by the reaction of HCl with HOCl (both on NAT and STS/SSA), which is a result consistent with Grooß et al. (2011). There is a short time window (between 14 and 15 September) when also the reaction of HCl with ClONO₂ on STS/SSA is contributing. Before that period the ClONO₂ concentration is rather low, as reported in Fig. 6d, because most of the nitrogen is in NAT particles. After that period the temperature is higher and thus the rate of the temperature-dependent reaction of ClONO₂ with HCl on liquid aerosol is smaller. In the model run, during the first days both NAT and liquid aerosol particles contribute to chlorine activation. After the sedimentation prevents further NAT particle existence, the reactions on liquid particles obviously prevail.

To further explore the relative role of NAT and STS/SSA, the model was run by separately switching on the heterogeneous reactions on NAT or on STS/SSA alone.

Figure 8 shows the O₃ evolution with full heterogeneous chemistry (red), or with only heterogeneous chemistry on NAT (green) or on STS/SSA (blue). Although the heterogeneous reactions on NAT particles contributed to the chlorine activation during the first days (as shown in Fig. 6a), in our study STS/SSA particles might have been effective on their own to produce the observed depletion occurred in 10 days after 10 September. Although a single case study does not allow to express any general statement for ozone depletion in the whole winter, our conclusion is in line with the results by Drdla and Müller (2012) (Arctic and Antarctic) and Wegner et al. (2012) and Wohltmann et al. (2013) (Arctic), who argue that cold liquid aerosols alone could provide most of the chlorine activation. A major role of STS particles in driving the extreme ozone reduction in the Arctic 2011 was found by Arnone et al. (2012).

3.3.2 Effects of particle sedimentation

As the influence of PSCs on chemistry is twofold, providing the surface for heterogeneous reactions and removing nitrogen compounds by sedimentation (denitrification), an additional chemistry model run was performed to obtain an estimation of the effect of the denitrification on the chemistry. This was done by providing new microphysics

constraints, obtained by performing a new run of the microphysical model that did not account for particle sedimentation. In such configuration, a PSC was produced between 365 and 410 K, remaining in this vertical range for 5 days, before subsequent warming caused its evaporation.

Results of this model run are depicted in Fig. 9 which report the time evolution of ClONO_2 (Fig. 9a), HCl (Fig. 9b) and O_3 (Fig. 9c). Red curves report simulations with sedimentation and blue curves report simulations with no sedimentation. The effect of sedimentation (denitrification) is not very large, but still detectable. In the first phase, until 16 September when temperatures were low enough for the existence of the PSC, the lack of particle sedimentation in the microphysical model allowed NAT surfaces at 400 K to remain high, leading to enhanced chlorine activation, and enhanced ozone loss. After 15 September, the temperature became too high for NAT existence, significantly decreasing the rates of the heterogeneous reactions on aerosols, and chlorine activation stopped. In absence of denitrification after PSC evaporation more chlorine is deactivated, the growth of HCl decreases by a factor 2, and similarly the buildup of ClONO_2 increases by a factor 4, as more NO_2 is available so that, from the moment of PSC evaporation on, the absence of denitrification causes slightly less ozone depletion rates. The final amount of HCl is reduced with respect to the denitrified scenario, and that is the result of different and counteracting effects. During the PSC existence, more HCl is destroyed in heterogeneous reactions with HOCl and ClONO_2 , as more NAT surface is available. After the PSC evaporation, the ClO and OH mixing ratios are smaller in the not-denitrified scenario, because more NO_2 and HNO_3 are available to convert ClO_x and HO_x species to the reservoirs ClONO_2 and H_2O via the reaction of ClO and NO_2 to produce ClONO_2 , and OH with HNO_3 to produce H_2O and NO_3 . That is why the HCl production by the reaction of ClO with OH is reduced. A counteracting effect results from a shift in the ClO_x partitioning: Cl is enhanced by the reaction of ClO and NO, that produces NO_2 as well, resulting in an increased HCl production by the reaction of Cl with CH_4 .

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An in-situ observation of an air mass when a PSC was present, by an optical particle counter and ozonometer on a balloon launched from the Antarctic station of McMurdo, where a polarization diversity lidar was also operating, provided information on PSC characteristics and ozone abundance. A trajectory analysis revealed that the air mass at around the 400K level was close to McMurdo Station ten days later, when lidar and ozone sounding were accomplished, showing a marked ozone depletion and no sign of PSCs. The McMurdo in-situ measurements were complemented by O₃, HCl, ClONO₂ and HNO₃ observations from the satellite-borne MLS and MIPAS instruments and by particle observation from the satellite-borne CALIOP lidar, taken along the air mass trajectory connecting the two McMurdo overpass measurements. The observations have been compared to microphysical and chemical box models, run along the air mass trajectory, to investigate the evolution of the PSC and the sensitivity of the modelled chemistry to its presence. The detailed microphysical box model reproduces the evolution and type of PSC, as documented by the CALIOP observations along the air mass trajectory. The magnitude of ozone depletion was well captured by the chemical model, as were the evolution of the reservoir species HCl and ClONO₂. In our case study, ozone destruction processes were investigated at a time when there was already a significant amount of activated chlorine at the beginning of the simulations, and there was ozone depletion already before the time window analysed. This probably explains why, in this case, along the trajectory investigated the effect of heterogeneous chemistry on ozone depletion was not very large, accounting for a difference of less than 8 ppb day⁻¹ in the overall modeled ozone depletion rate of 35 ppb day⁻¹. As long as a NAT PSC existed (i.e. in the first half of the time interval investigated), it contributed to the chlorine activation. However, according to our findings, under the conditions investigated, the liquid aerosols with assumed surface area densities not far from stratospheric aerosol background values, could produce the observed chlorine activation alone. Although no general conclusion can be drawn from a single case study, our

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findings supports the view that additional surface area provided by solid PSC particles does not increase appreciably the chlorine activation, since in cold conditions the activation could originate from heterogeneous chemistry on surfaces basically provided by a background aerosol distribution. As expected, differences arising from the presence of particles (whether background aerosol or PSC) and from heterogeneous chemistry that they allow, are more remarkable when gas phase chlorine reservoirs are examined. In fact, the buildup of HCl and, particularly, of ClONO₂ is significantly reduced by heterogeneous reactions. Turning our attention to the effect of denitrification on ozone depletion at 400 K, at the top of the observed PSC, we came to the conclusion that, in our study, this effect is small. In this case this may be due to two opposite effects of denitrification (and the length of the time sub-intervals in which either of these effects is dominant): (1) a reduction of the NAT surface area density and thus of their contribution to chlorine activation, and consequently of the ozone loss during the first 5 days of the simulation; (2) a counteracting reduction of chlorine deactivation and thus an increase of the ozone loss during the last 3 days of the simulation. Moreover, as will be discussed later, the effects of denitrification on HCl and ClONO₂ are opposite, so they cancel to some extent. Furthermore, the time interval that we investigate is such that in the “with denitrification” case the ozone depletion is still going on at the end of it, suggesting that the difference between the cases “with denitrification” and “without denitrification” might increase after the time interval we studied. In absence of denitrification the HCl concentration decreases by a factor 2 after PSC evaporation, while the buildup of ClONO₂ even quadrupled, showing how crucially the time taken for chlorine deactivation depends on HNO₃ redistribution due to the gravitational settling of NAT particles.

Summarizing, state-of-the-art microphysical and chemical models are able to simulate the evolution of particles and chemicals in an air mass along a trajectory bordered by two in-situ observations of particles and ozone, and remotely sensed by satellites providing additional informations on key chemical species. The models are effective in explaining the observations, and investigating the relative merit of heterogeneous

chemistry on NAT and STS/SSA aerosol and of denitrification on the observed ozone depletion and chlorine partitioning. Under the investigated conditions, NAT PSC presence is of little effectiveness in promoting additional ozone depletion, in comparison with what might be already occurring on background aerosols alone at low temperatures. In our case study, although the influence of denitrification was significant, but of opposite signs, on ClONO₂ and HCl abundances, its impact on ozone depletion was small.

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Lagrangian analysis
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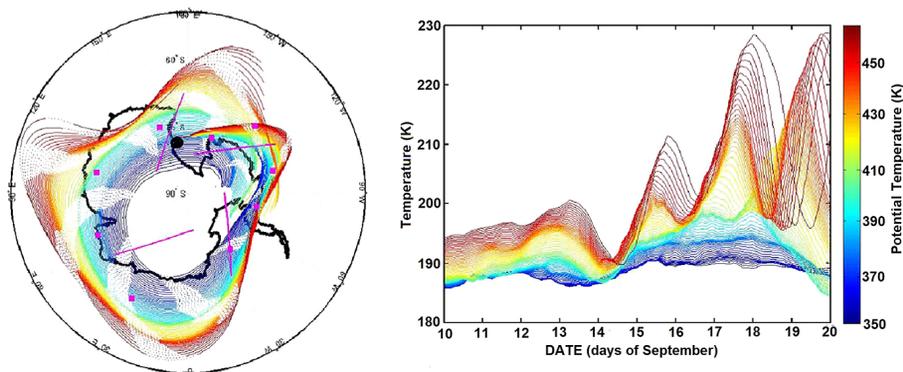


Figure 3. Left panel, air mass trajectories originating from McMurdo (black dot) and run 10 days forward, colour coded according to potential temperature. Solid coloured lines indicate sunlit legs, dotted lines indicate legs in darkness. Purple lines specify intersections with CALIOP footprint. Purple dots indicate where MLS data (O_3 , HNO_3 or HCl) were available. Right panel, temperature values along the trajectories, again colour coded in term of potential temperature.

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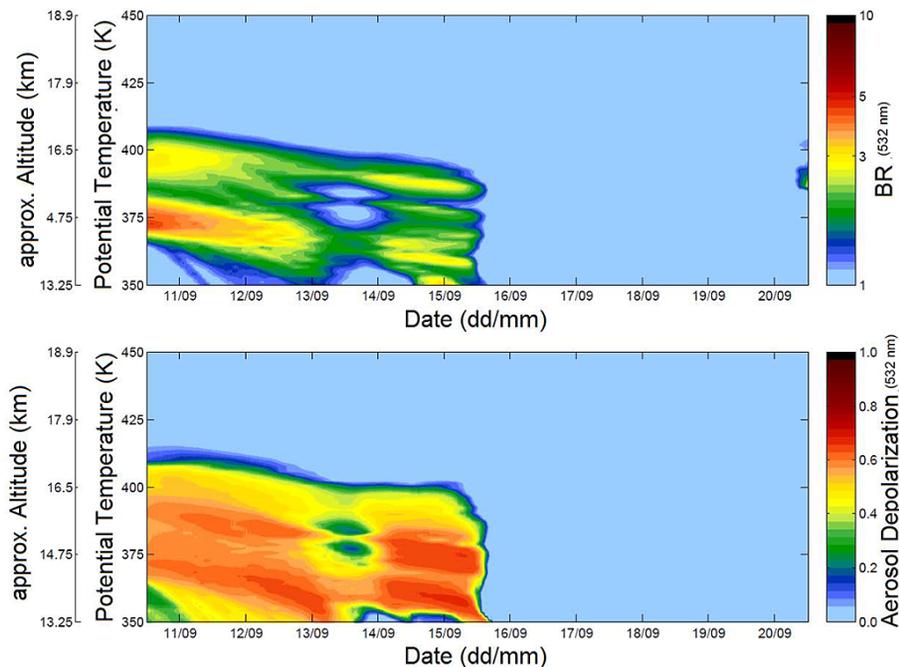


Figure 5. Profiles of backscatter (upper panel) and aerosol depolarization (lower panel) ratio starting from the observations taken on 10 September 2008, and evolving according to the microphysical model.

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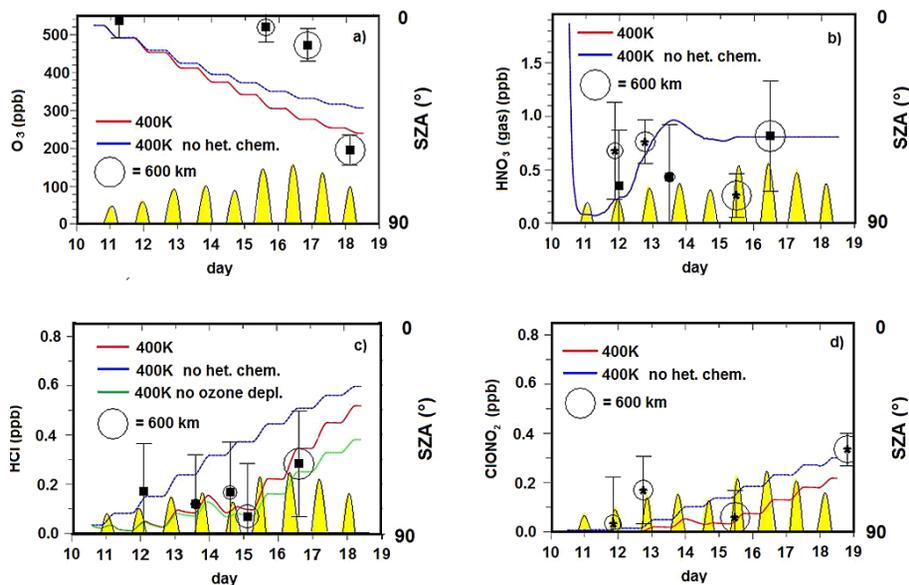


Figure 6. MLS (squares) and MIPAS (stars) observations and model results with (red line) and without (blue line) heterogeneous chemistry. **(a)** (upper left panel) O_3 ; **(b)** (upper right) HNO_3 ; **(c)** (lower left) HCl ; **(d)** (lower right) $ClONO_2$. The radius of the circles surrounding the data points represents the match radius. Yellow areas indicate sunlit parts of the trajectory, the corresponding solar zenith angle (SZA) is reported on the right vertical axis.

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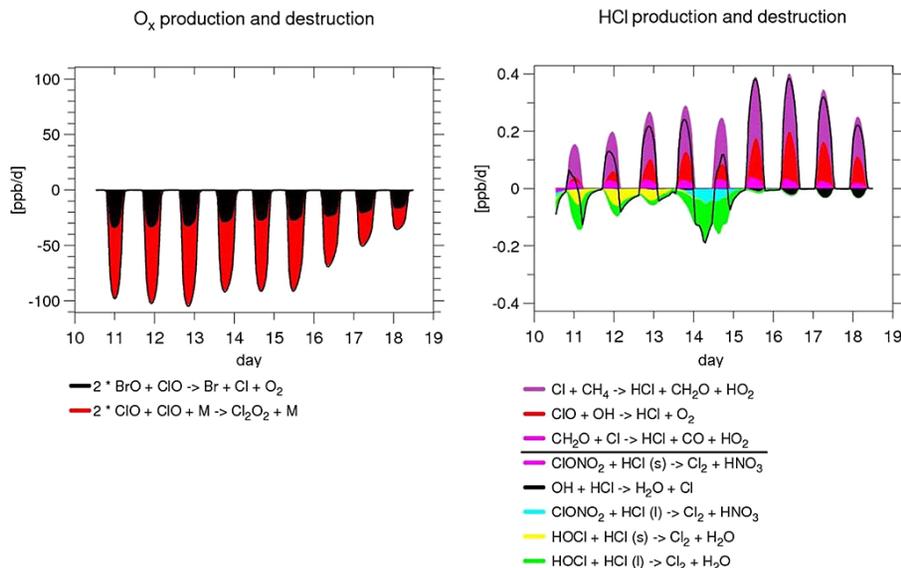


Figure 7. Left panel: O₃ depletion rates due to ClO-BrO (black) and ClO-ClO (red) catalytic cycles. Right panel: HCl production and depletion rates due to the set of reactions listed at the bottom of the panel. Simulation have been carried out on the 400 K isentropic level.

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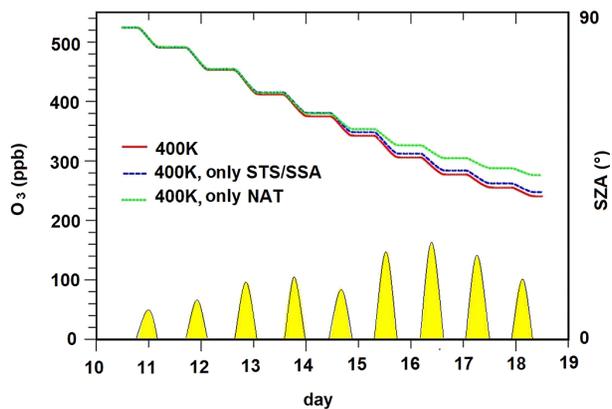


Figure 8. O₃ evolution taking into account the full heterogeneous chemistry (red), or going on only on NAT (green) or on STS/SSA (blue).

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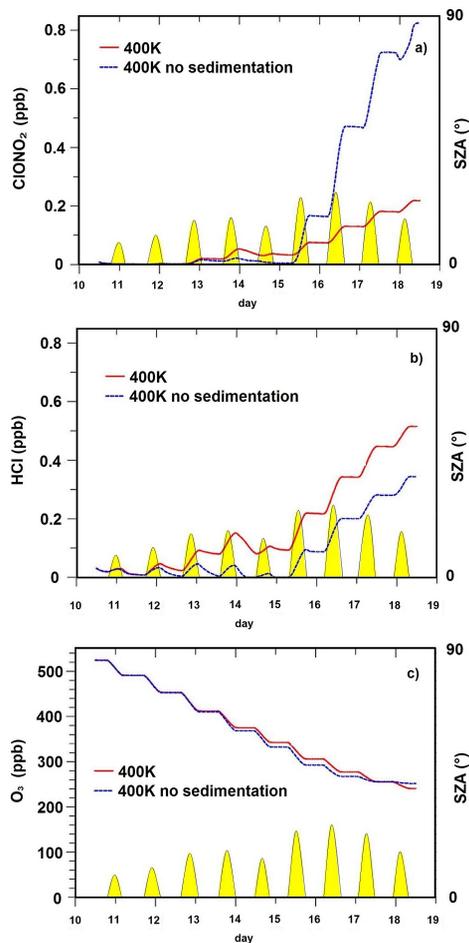


Figure 9. ClONO_2 (upper panel), HCl (middle) and O_3 (lower) evolution with (red line) and without (blue line) denitrification due to particle sedimentation.