

Evaluation of HO_x sources and cycling in a MBO/MT ecosystem

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Evaluation of HO_x sources and cycling using measurement-constrained model calculations in a 2-methyl-3-butene-2-ol (MBO) and monoterpene (MT) dominated ecosystem

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Abstract

We present a detailed analysis of OH and HO₂ observations from the BEACHON (Bio-hydro-atmosphere interactions of Energy, Aerosols, Carbon, H₂O, Organics and Nitrogen)-ROCS (Rocky Mountain Organic Carbon Study) 2010 field campaign at the Manitou Forest Observatory (MFO), which is a 2-methyl-3-butene-2-ol (MBO) and monoterpene (MT) dominated forest environment. A comprehensive suite of measurements was used to constrain primary production of OH via ozone photolysis, OH recycling from HO₂, and OH chemical loss rates, in order to estimate the steady-state concentration of OH. In addition, the University of Washington Chemical Model (UWCM) was used to evaluate the performance of a near-explicit chemical mechanism. The diurnal cycle in OH from the steady-state calculations is in good agreement with measurement. A comparison between the photolytic production rates and the recycling rates from the HO₂ + NO reaction shows that recycling rates are ~20 times faster than the photolytic OH production rates from ozone. Thus, we find that direct measurement of the recycling rates and the OH loss rates can provide accurate predictions of OH concentrations. More importantly, we also conclude that a conventional OH recycling pathway (HO₂ + NO) can explain the observed OH levels in this non-isoprene environment. This is in contrast to observations in isoprene-dominated regions, where investigators have observed significant underestimation of OH and have speculated that unknown sources of OH are responsible. The highly-constrained UWCM calculation under-predicts observed HO₂ by as much as a factor of 8. As HO₂ maintains oxidation capacity by recycling to OH, UWCM underestimates observed OH by as much as a factor of 5. When the UWCM calculation is constrained by measured HO₂, model calculated OH is in reasonable agreement with the observed OH levels. Conversely, constraining the model to observed OH only slightly reduces the model-measurement HO₂ discrepancy, implying unknown HO₂ sources. These findings demonstrate the importance of constraining both the inputs to, and recycling within, the RO_x radical pool (OH + HO₂ + RO₂).

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1 Introduction

Since Levy (1971) first postulated tropospheric OH production, recycling, and loss mechanisms, one of the main research topics in tropospheric photochemistry has been assessing OH concentrations in the troposphere due to its significance in determining lifetimes of most trace gases including methane, an important greenhouse gas. Concentrations of very reactive (short-lived) species like OH are usually reasonably well predicted by pseudo-steady state calculations. However, early model results (Levy, 1972; Wofsy et al., 1972; Crutzen, 1974) indicated significant discrepancies for global mean OH concentrations derived from atmospheric CH_3CCl_3 concentrations (Singh, 1977; Lovelock, 1977). Therefore, early modeling studies highlighted the need for development of a comprehensive understanding of ozone-CO- CH_4 - NO_x chemistry to resolve these discrepancies (Logan et al., 1981). Although Logan et al. (1981) acknowledged that reactive biogenic volatile organic compounds (BVOCs) such as isoprene and monoterpenes could significantly depress local concentrations of OH, Chameides and Cicerone (1978) argued that non-methane hydrocarbons (NMHC) could not be a main player for controlling background photochemistry in the troposphere and the stratosphere.

The very reactive nature of OH has hindered the development of reliable analytical techniques to quantify atmospheric OH concentrations. In the late 80s and early 90s, three different analytical techniques for measuring OH – long path-differential optical absorption spectrometry (LP-DOAS), laser induced fluorescence (LIF), and chemical ionization mass spectrometry (CIMS) – were developed and deployed on multiple platforms to test our understanding of tropospheric photochemistry (Heard and Pilling, 2003). OH measurements by the LIF technique in high isoprene regions have consistently showed significant discrepancies from model predicted OH (Tan et al., 2001; Lelieveld et al., 2008; Hofzumahaus et al., 2009; Whalley et al., 2011). Tan et al. (2001) reported OH and HO_2 measurements in a mixed northern hardwood forest (the PROPHET tower laboratory, Pellston, MI, USA). This site has a moderate level of

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NO (100–200 pptv) and high isoprene concentrations (a few ppbv) during the daytime. A highly constrained photochemical box model of OH significantly underestimated the observed OH level (~ 2.7 times). On the other hand, the model HO₂ results agreed well with the observed HO₂. This analysis led the authors to conclude that the recycling process from HO₂ to OH is poorly understood. These findings are consistent with recent results in two very different photochemical regimes. Lelieveld et al. (2008) presented airborne OH, HO₂ and other trace gas measurements over the pristine rain forest region of Surinam (NO < 50 pptv). Based on measured precursors, they simulated OH and HO₂ concentrations using a state of the art tropospheric chemistry model. Model results indicated significant underestimation of OH and reasonable prediction of HO₂. The authors hypothesized that unknown peroxy radical recycling processes from reactions of HO₂ with isoprene peroxy radicals may be the sources for the excess OH. During the Oxidant and Particle Photochemical Processes (OP-3) field campaign in a Borneo rain forest (another high isoprene-low NO region), investigators reported higher than expected OH levels that cannot be explained by conventional OH production and recycling rates (Whalley et al., 2011). Similar findings were also reported in a region with high isoprene concentrations that however is moderately polluted, the Pearl River Delta area (Hofzumahaus et al., 2009; Lu et al., 2012). Generally, it is proposed that unknown recycling processes from HO₂ to OH cause unexplained high levels of OH. Due to much higher concentrations of HO₂ in the atmosphere, relatively small recycling rate changes can significantly impact ambient OH levels. Additional primary radical sources (e.g. from photolysis of oxidized VOC) have also been invoked to explain the “missing OH” in some studies (Stavrakou et al., 2010).

Measured chemical loss rates of OH have also been employed as a metric to test our understanding of radical-driven photochemistry. Measurements of the chemical OH loss rate, otherwise known as OH reactivity (the reciprocal of lifetime of OH, s⁻¹), have been conducted in many different photochemical environments during the past decade. Lou et al. (2010) summarized published OH reactivity measurement datasets in major photochemical environments (urban, oceanic, and forest environments). The ratios

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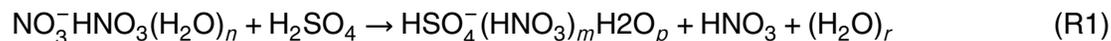
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in isoprene-OH reaction mechanisms are considered relatively unimportant at this site (Archibald et al., 2010). The open pine woodland at the site has a Leaf Area Index (LAI) of about $3 \text{ m}^2 \text{ m}^{-2}$ for tree covered surfaces and a tree cover of about 60 % resulting in a landscape average LAI of about $1.9 \text{ m}^2 \text{ m}^{-2}$. The average tree canopy height is $\sim 18 \text{ m}$. Major metropolitan areas near the MFO include Denver ($\sim 85 \text{ km}$) and Colorado Springs ($\sim 35 \text{ km}$), which are the origins of occasional pollution events at the research site. Most atmospheric chemistry measurements at the site were conducted near the flux tower ($\sim 30 \text{ m}$ height). An overview of the BEACHON-ROCS field campaign measurements is summarized in Table 1. In this paper, we only present the observational data under the canopy (1.6 m from the ground). The most of instrumentation listed in Table 1 shared a common inlet except, CO, OH, HO₂, RO₂, CO and OH reactivity that were measured about the same height within 20 m radius from the common inlet. The J_{NO₂} sensor was located on top of the OH inlet. More detailed experimental configurations will be presented in the BEACHON-ROCS overview paper (Karl et al., 2012).

2.2 OH measurements by chemical ionization mass spectrometry

OH was measured by chemical ionization mass spectrometry (CIMS) during the BEACHON-ROCS field campaign. The technique was developed by Eisele and Tanner (1991) and they have comprehensively discussed potential interferences and limitations of their initial design. In response to these limitations, Tanner et al. (1997) presented a modified instrument configuration to measure OH and H₂SO₄ as well as a calibration method, which is identical to the instrumentation for this study. This CIMS method uses NO₃⁻ for the reagent ion to selectively ionize sulfuric acid in an atmospheric pressure reaction chamber;



where $m = 0$ or 1 and n , p , and r are dependent upon water vapor concentrations.

Before the ions are introduced into a detection chamber that consists of an octopole ion beam focus, quadrupole mass filter, and channeltron units, the ion clusters are

dissociated in the collisional dissociation chamber (CDC) so that NO_3^- and HSO_4^- are the only ions to be quantified for monitoring ambient concentrations of H_2SO_4 .

For OH measurement, ambient OH is chemically converted into $\text{H}_2^{34}\text{SO}_4$ before sample air is introduced into the ionization flow tube;



By applying isotopically-labeled sulfur dioxide, we can separate ambient sulfuric acid from sulfuric acid produced by reaction with OH. Injections of ${}^{34}\text{SO}_2$ and propane, an OH scrubber for the background signal check, are controlled by two sets of front and rear injectors controlled by a VALCO (Houston, TX, USA) valve unit. The valve cycling period is typically set to 30 s.

Ambient OH and H_2SO_4 sensitivity to the CIMS system was calibrated using the scheme presented in Petaja et al. (2009). OH was generated by illuminating the sample air stream with a Hg-pen ray lamp immediately before the CIMS sampling tube (1/2" stainless steel tubing). The photons from the lamp were filtered so that only 184.9 nm photons hit the water vapor in the sample air stream. The amount of photons from the UV lamp was measured using a photomultiplier (R 5764, Hamamatsu Photonics K.K.). With the measured number of photons, the water vapor number density and the absorption cross-section of the given wavelength, OH concentrations from the photolysis were estimated. More detailed descriptions on the calibration procedure can be found in Petaja et al. (2009) and Sjostedt (2006). The estimated uncertainty for the OH measurement is 35 % and the lower limit of detection $\sim 4 \times 10^5$ molecules cm^{-3} for a 5-min average.

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2.3 Model calculations

2.3.1 Steady-state model

Highly constrained steady-state OH concentrations ($[\text{OH}]_{\text{SS}}$) were estimated based on the radical reaction scheme shown in Fig. 1. We conducted comprehensive measurements to constrain (1) OH production from ozone photolysis (ozone, H_2O concentrations and ozone photolysis rate (J_{O_3}) from NO_2 photolysis rate (J_{NO_2}) measurements) (2) OH chemical loss (OH reactivity measurement), and (3) OH recycling from HO_2 (HO_2 and NO measurements) as summarized in Table 1. The steady-state equation can be defined as follows;

$$\frac{d[\text{OH}]}{dt} = P(\text{OH}) + R(\text{OH}) - L(\text{OH})[\text{OH}]_{\text{SS}} = 0 \quad (1)$$

where, $P(\text{OH}) = 2J_{\text{O}_3}k_7[\text{H}_2\text{O}][\text{O}_3]/(k_6[\text{M}])$ (molecules $\text{cm}^{-3} \text{s}^{-1}$).

From reactions



$L(\text{OH}) = \text{OH reactivity} (\text{s}^{-1})$, $R(\text{OH}) = \text{OH recycling rates} (\text{molecules cm}^{-3} \text{s}^{-1})$.

J_{O_3} from J_{NO_2} measurements were deduced by applying scaling factors from comparisons with theoretically calculated values using the scheme described by Saunders et al. (2003). As previously discussed, the underestimated recycling rates of OH from HO_2 and RO_2 have been proposed to be the major reason for unexpected high OH levels in isoprene rich regions. In this study, we consider only the conventional OH recycling pathway, which is the reaction of HO_2 with NO. Therefore, by comparing $[\text{OH}]_{\text{SS}}$ with measured OH concentrations ($[\text{OH}]_{\text{MEA}}$), we can assess whether additional recycling processes are needed to explain the measured levels of OH in a MBO and MT

rich region. The uncertainty of $[\text{OH}]_{\text{SS}}$ assessed from the uncertainties of the input parameters is estimated $\sim 45\%$.

2.3.2 0-D box model

Observationally-constrained chemical box model calculations were conducted using the University of Washington Chemical Model (UWCM). UWCM incorporates the Leeds Master Chemical Mechanism (MCM v3.2; <http://mcm.leeds.ac.uk/MCM/>) into a MATLAB-based source code (Wolfe and Thornton, 2011). The model was constrained with 30-min averaged chemical and meteorological observations, including CO , O_3 , NO , NO_2 , MBO, monoterpenes (α -pinene, β -pinene, limonene and 3-carene), oxygenated VOC (HCHO, glyoxal, acetone, methanol and 2-hydroxy-2-methylpropanal), temperature, pressure and water vapor. CH_4 and H_2 concentrations were held constant at 1770 and 550 ppbv, respectively. NO_2 photolysis frequencies measured adjacent to the OH inlet were used to correct MCM-calculated photolysis frequencies for cloud and canopy cover. Given the comprehensive suite of constraints, emission and deposition were not considered. Several of the reactions in the MCM v3.2 chemistry were updated as described in Wolfe and Thornton (2011). For monoterpenes, the explicit MCM mechanisms were used for α -pinene, β -pinene and limonene and the reaction scheme of Wolfe and Thornton (2011) was used for 3-carene. Isoprene mixing ratios were held constant at 0.3 ppbv, which is the highest level observed at the site. Sensitivity tests indicate that newly-proposed isoprene peroxy radical isomerization chemistry (Crouse et al., 2011; Peeters and Müller, 2010; Peeters et al., 2009; Wolfe et al., 2012) influences modeled HO_x concentrations by less than 10% under these conditions. For each half hour measurement period (time of day 08:00 to 18:30), the model was initialized with measured values and 0 concentrations for other species, and run for 3 h. Sensitivity tests with different run-times from 30 min to 4 h show that calculated HO_x levels varied by less than 10%, indicating a rapid approach to steady-state for HO_x and a minimal influence from longer-lived oxidation products. The runtime of 2 h was chosen via comparisons of modeled and measured BVOC oxidation

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products (HCHO, glyoxal and 2-hydroxy-2-methylpropanal) for a series of runs with HO_x constrained to measurements and the oxidation products unconstrained.

3 Results and discussion

3.1 Observed parameters

5 The diurnal cycles of OH, HO_2 , NO, J_{NO_2} and OH reactivity during the BEACHON-ROCS field campaign are shown in Fig. 2. The OH and HO_2 CIMS inlets (about 3 m a.g.l.) were located under the tree canopy. J_{O_3} was calculated from J_{NO_2} , for which the sensor was located right above the HO_x inlets, and Fig. 2 shows that sporadic shade resulted in intermittent low, local primary production rates of OH. These low primary
10 OH production rates are not reflected in the observed OH and HO_2 diurnal cycles, which show a regular diurnal cycle with daytime highs around 12:00 to 14:00. The observations remind us that radical concentrations are not solely governed by solar radiation at the exact location of the measurement instrumentation.

15 However, the importance of solar radiation for initiating radical chemistry is demonstrated by observations that OH was below the detection limit ($5 \times 10^5 \text{ molecules cm}^{-3}$) in the nighttime. The very low nighttime OH concentrations are contrary to previous reports of high nighttime OH levels at a mixed northern hardwood forest (University of Michigan Biological Station, Pellston, MI, USA) by Tan et al. (2001). The study reported that nighttime OH levels were $\sim 50\%$ of daytime maximum OH levels and speculated that Criegee radicals from the ozonolysis of MT could generate nighttime OH.
20 Considering fairly high concentrations of MT ($\sim 1.2 \text{ ppbv}$) at MFO during the night, the nighttime observations during BEACHON-ROCS appear to contradict these previous findings, though it is possible that the mechanism for nocturnal OH generation is highly dependent on the VOC mixture at a particular location. However, in a South East-
25 ern Asian rain forest, the observed nighttime OH levels were also substantially lower

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(~10% or less than daytime peak OH levels; Whalley et al., 2011) than in the study of Tan et al. (2001).

The observed daytime OH concentrations during BEACHON-ROCS are similar to previously reported levels in rural forest environments ($\sim 4 \times 10^6$ molecules cm^{-3} , Tan et al., 2001; Carslaw et al., 2001). On the other hand, the observed daytime HO_2 level during this study is significantly higher (\sim twice) than the HO_2 level observed during these studies. The variability of HO_2 concentrations in various environments has not been discussed as much as the variability of OH. This may be because in most cases, measured HO_2 showed much better agreement with model estimates than does OH (e.g., Tan et al., 2001). Any variability of HO_2 needs to be examined to assess the recycling source of OH from HO_2 . NO, an important reducing agent for HO_2 , was detected at slightly less than 100 pptv during the daytime, which is higher than the nominal detection limit of ~ 60 pptv. Even at such moderate NO levels, models have been shown to under-predict observed OH concentrations by factors of 2–4 in high-isoprene conditions (Pearl River Delta, China; Lu et al., 2012)

The average measured OH reactivity is $\sim 5 \text{ s}^{-1}$ during the day and $\sim 10 \text{ s}^{-1}$ at night. Reactive gas measurements indicate that BVOCs, mostly MT (~ 0.5 ppbv during daytime and ~ 1.2 ppbv during nighttime) and MBO (~ 1.6 ppbv during daytime and ~ 0.6 ppbv an average for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 9 p.m. to midnight, respectively), are the dominant OH sinks inside the forest canopy as shown in Fig. 2. Contributions of isoprene to OH reactivity were minor. Isoprene concentrations at the site were relatively low during the BEACHON-ROCS campaign as previously reported (e.g. 0.3 ppbv maximum, 0.1 ppbv on average; Kim et al., 2010). The observed OH reactivity is comparable to previous measurements in the rural US but significantly lower than values observed in megacities and tropical rain forests (Lou et al., 2010). A more detailed analysis of OH reactivity and comparison with observed BVOCs at this site will be described in a separate publication (Nakashima et al., 2012).

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3.2 Steady-state model calculations

A four-day period during the study provided a comprehensive dataset including all required measurements for the steady-state calculation (16 to 19 August). Similar diurnal cycles in all input parameters were observed over the four-day period. The averaged daily variations of $[\text{OH}]_{\text{MEA}}$ and $[\text{OH}]_{\text{SS}}$ for those four days are shown in Fig. 3. The error bars indicate one standard deviation for the averaged values. The $[\text{OH}]_{\text{SS}}$ shown in Fig. 3 captures both the magnitude and daily variation of $[\text{OH}]_{\text{MEA}}$ very well. The disagreement for the early morning is likely due to photolysis of HONO, which was not constrained in the steady-state calculation. High NO concentrations in the early morning have been observed for previous field studies in forested environments and may be explained by soil NO_x emissions and the boundary layer evolution, although local pollution sources are also a possibility (e.g., Alaghmand et al., 2011). The 1:1 plot between $[\text{OH}]_{\text{MEA}}$ and $[\text{OH}]_{\text{SS}}$ for the four comparison days (10 min average data) is presented in Fig. 4. Although the linear regression analysis has a slope that agrees with the 1:1 line within the uncertainties of measurement and calculations, a high degree of scatter is noticeable which may be explained by significant uncertainties from measurements used for $[\text{OH}]_{\text{SS}}$ (~50 %) as indicated by error bars obtained from the regression.

The excellent agreement of $[\text{OH}]_{\text{MEA}}$ and $[\text{OH}]_{\text{SS}}$ during this study is contrary to the previous studies in isoprene rich environments. These studies have consistently reported high unexplained levels of OH. To explore this issue further, the averaged daily variations of OH production rates from ozone photolysis and OH recycling from the HO_2 reaction with NO are presented in Fig. 5. In addition, the diurnal cycle in the ratio of OH production rate from HO_2 recycling to the OH production rate from ozone photolysis is also shown. The photolysis production rates observed during the BEACHON-ROCS campaign are about 30 % of the production rates observed during the PROPHET-1998 campaign (Tan et al., 2001), where the OH sensor was located above the forest canopy without shading from branches. Considering the attenuated J_{O_3} due to shade and cloud events during this study (Fig. 2), this difference is not

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surprising. As previously discussed, higher HO₂ levels (~4 times) in this study resulted in significantly higher OH production rates from recycling (~4 times) than those observed at PROPHET-1999 under similar NO_x conditions (~ 5 × 10⁶ molecules cm⁻³ s⁻¹ vs. ~ 2 × 10⁷ molecules cm⁻³ s⁻¹). Therefore, we can neglect the photolytic production term in the steady state equation which gives:

$$R(\text{OH})=L(\text{OH})[\text{OH}] \quad (2)$$

$$[\text{OH}]=R(\text{OH})/L(\text{OH}) \quad (3)$$

where, $L(\text{OH})=\text{OH}$ reactivity (s⁻¹) and $R(\text{OH})=\text{OH}$ recycling rate = $k_{\text{HO}_2+\text{NO}}[\text{HO}_2][\text{NO}]$ (molecules cm⁻³ s⁻¹).

This simplified equation provides the important insight that uncertainties in OH reactivity and OH recycling rates directly affect the accuracy of estimates of OH concentration. Measured OH reactivities in forest environments are significantly higher than expected from measured trace gases. The ratios of measured to calculated OH reactivities have been reported to range from 1 to 3 (Lou et al., 2010). Therefore, if the steady-state equation was constrained by trace gas measurements, instead of directly by OH reactivity measurements, then [OH]_{SS} would have been overestimated by a factor of 1 to 3. In addition, any uncertainty in the OH recycling rates linearly propagates to estimated [OH]_{SS}. These two independent sources of potential uncertainty can either cause an over- or underestimation of [OH]_{SS} or result in reasonable predictions of ambient OH levels for the wrong reason. Only a comprehensive measurement suite can enable precise and accurate estimation of ambient OH concentrations. For example, a preliminary data analysis indicates that ~50% of measured OH reactivity cannot be explained by the suite of VOC measurements (Nakashima et al., 2011). Therefore, the steady-state calculations without OH reactivity measurements would cause overestimation of OH by a factor of two.

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3.3 UWCM model calculations

The predicted diurnal cycle in OH and HO₂ using the UWCM model scheme ([OH]_{UWCM}) is presented in Figs. 3 and 6. In the base scenario (both OH and HO₂ unconstrained). The UWCM significantly underestimates both OH and HO₂ (by as much as a factor of 8) during the BEACHON-ROCS field campaign. Since the steady state analysis indicates that HO₂ recycling is the main source for OH radicals, it is reasonable to hypothesize that the under-prediction in OH is primarily due to the under-predicted HO₂. Indeed, constraining the model with measured HO₂ greatly improves model-measurement agreement in OH ([OH]_{UWCM.HO₂.Constrained} in Fig. 3). Conversely, if the model is constrained to measured OH, modeled HO₂ concentrations only increase by a factor of ~2 ([HO₂]_{UWCM.OH.Constrained} in Fig. 6).

Together, these results imply a source of HO₂ that is not currently represented in the model. Our model results suggest a missing HO₂ production rate of 1–4 ppbv h⁻¹, which is 5 to 20 times larger than total HO₂ production in the base model. Potential explanations for this missing source include (1) transport of HO₂ from more highly irradiated regions within or above the canopy, (2) photolysis of oxidized VOC or other species that are not included in the model, or (3) additional reactions of RO₂ with unidentified reducing agents (e.g., Hofzumahaus et al., 2009). First, it is possible that the photolysis rates, scaled by the measured J_{NO₂} (Fig. 2), are not an accurate representation of the “average” canopy environment. This is a reasonable hypothesis, since the chemical lifetime of HO₂ (~100 s) is on the order of the timescale for canopy mixing/venting, so HO₂ can be transported from sunny to shady areas under the forest canopy. Running the model under a full sun scenario (i.e. no photolysis attenuation) increases modeled HO₂ concentrations by a factor of 2 – not enough to explain observed HO₂ concentrations. If the entirety of the missing HO₂ source is due to photolysis of unknown BVOCs, the HO₂ production rate would need to be ~100 times that from HCHO photolysis. Given that the modeled OH reactivity is within 30 % of observations (not shown), this seems unlikely. Still, it is possible that yet-unidentified VOC degradation chemistry produces

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oxidized VOC that, by virtue of a short lifetime with respect to photolysis, do not build up to appreciable concentrations and thus do not contribute significantly to OH reactivity. Such compounds could also be directly emitted from the biosphere. This hypothesis would also be consistent with observations of anomalously high HCHO fluxes during the same campaign (DiGangi et al., 2011). Finally, modeled HO₂ production stems primarily from reaction of NO with RO₂ under the conditions of the current study, thus it might be possible to generate additional HO₂ by augmenting this chemistry. Indeed, modeled total peroxy radical concentrations (HO₂ + RO₂) agree moderately well with observations in the model run with OH constrained (results not shown), suggesting issues in the partitioning of peroxy radicals. Implementing a scheme to convert RO₂ to HO₂ and HO₂ to OH with an artificial reducing agent, as suggested by Hofzumahaus et al. (2009), effectively increases OH concentrations without affecting HO₂. At present, we cannot account for the missing source of HO₂. It should be also noted that potential interferences in HO₂ quantifications from RO₂ radical were reported for the LIF technique (Fuchs et al., 2012). However, a series of laboratory experiments did not indicate the interferences for the CIMS technique (e.g., Hornbrook et al., 2011).

These results suggest a need to rethink the oxidation capacity in the troposphere, especially in BVOC-dominated regions. As soon as an extremely short-lived species such as OH reacts with reactive BVOCs, it produces one or multiple HO_x (OH, HO₂, or RO₂). Therefore, the capacity of the oxidant pool (HO_x) is maintained or even magnified through BVOC oxidation reactions. The oxidant pool, including OH, HO₂ and RO₂, has a long enough lifetime (~100 s) to be transported at the canopy scale (potentially even larger scales). The ratios of OH to HO₂ are determined by the surrounding photochemical environment such as concentrations of NO or other potential reducing agents as hypothesized in recent publications (e.g., Hofzumahaus et al., 2009). This perspective is summarized in Fig. 7. The inability of an up-to-date near explicit chemical scheme to correctly reproduce the observed size of the oxidant pool propagates directly into estimates of oxidizing capacity inside of the canopy, which is mostly determined by OH concentrations. On the other hand, the present measurement dataset from MFO

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shows that constraining both the main component of the oxidant pool (mostly HO₂) and oxidant-trace gas interaction (OH reactivity) is sufficient to predict OH concentrations in this environment. Moreover, at MFO NO radical is sufficient to explain observed recycling rates. This finding strongly suggests that BVOCs other than isoprene, such as MBO and monoterpenes, do not cause an amplification of the oxidation capacity that have been reported in environments with high isoprene and comparable NO levels (Hofzumahaus et al., 2009; Lu et al., 2012)

4 Summary

During the BEACHON-ROCS field campaign, a comprehensive measurement suite was deployed to constrain photolytic production, chemical loss and recycling of OH. The results were used to evaluate our current understanding of HO_x radical-BVOC (mostly, MBO and MT) interactions by comparing measured OH and model calculated OH using highly constrained steady-state ([OH]_{SS}) and explicit box model ([OH]_{UWCM}) calculations. [OH]_{SS} shows an excellent agreement with [OH]_{MEA}. Further analysis of photolysis production rates from ozone photolysis and recycling rates (HO₂ + NO) of OH indicate that the recycling production of OH is ~20 times higher than the photolysis production. Thus, in the canopy environment, [OH]_{SS} is primarily controlled by the HO_x recycling rate and total OH reactivity. Observational constraints on both OH sources and sinks provides a means to assess the magnitude of additional unknown OH production channels, which have been reported for isoprene-dominated environments with similar NO levels (Lu et al., 2012). Our results indicate that the conventional recycling pathway (HO₂ + NO) is dominant in a non-isoprene forest environment. In contrast, [OH]_{UWCM} shows very poor agreement with [OH]_{MEA}. Once HO₂ in the UWCM model calculations is constrained by [HO₂]_{MEA}, [OH]_{UWCM-HO₂-Constrained} is in good agreement with [OH]_{MEA}. Further model analysis suggests an unidentified source of HO₂ that may be due to photolysis of oxidized VOC or reactions of RO₂. Therefore, a simple box-model scheme may not accurately describe HO₂ distributions inside of forest canopies

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and this uncertainty propagates directly into OH estimations. This discussion highlights the importance of accurate measured constraints on the relatively long-lived oxidant pool (HO_2 and RO_2) and recycling processes such as reaction of HO_2 with reducing agents (e.g. NO) and HO_2 – RO_2 reaction mechanisms.

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10 Austrian Science Fund (FWF): [L518]. Lisa Kaser is a recipient of a DOC-fORTE-fellowship of the Austrian Academy of Sciences at the Institute of Ion Physics and Applied Physics. GMW acknowledges support from the NOAA Climate and Global Change Postdoctoral Fellowship Program. Finally, we thank the US Forest Service, specifically Richard Oakes, for logical support.

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Table 1. A summary of the instrument suite for BEACHON-ROCS 2010.

Measurement Items	Measurement Techniques	Measurement Uncertainty	References/Manufacturers
J_{NO_2}	Filter Radiometer	6 %	Metcon INC. Junkermann et al. (1989) and Volz-Thomas et al. (1996)
VOCs and OVOCs	Proton Transfer Reaction-Time of Flight-Mass Spectrometry and Proton Transfer Reaction-Quadrupole-Mass Spectrometry	15 %	Ionic Analytik de Gouw and Warneke (2007) and Graus et al. (2010)
PAN and PPN	Chemical Ionization Mass Spectrometry	20 %	Slusher et al. (2004)
VOCs and OVOCs	Total Organic Gas Analyzer (in situ GC)	15 %	Apel et al. (2002)
Glyoxal and Formaldehyde	Laser Induced Fluorescence/ Laser Induced Phosphorescence	20 %	di Gangi et al. (2011), Hottle et al. (2009) and Huisman et al. (2008)
OH Reactivity	Laser Induced Fluorescence	5 %	Sadanaga et al. (2004)
OH and H ₂ SO ₄	Chemical Ionization Mass Spectrometry	35 %	Tanner et al. (1997) and Mauldin et al. (2010)
HO ₂ and RO ₂	Chemical Ionization Mass Spectrometry	35 %	Edwards et al. (2003) and Hornbrook et al. (2011)
CO ¹	Spectroscopic (IR)	15 %	Thermo Scientific Model 48i
NO/NO ₂	Spectroscopic (Fluorescence)	15 %	Eco Physics CLD 88 p
O ₃	Spectroscopic (UV)	2 %	2B Technology

¹ The background drift was checked with CO-scrubbed air in every 10 min.

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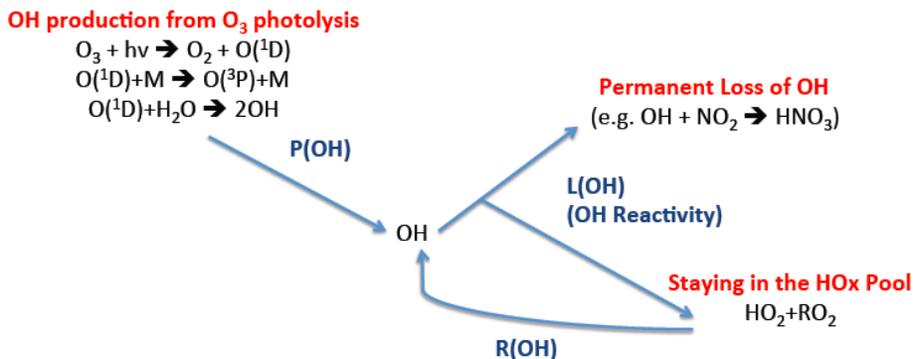


Fig. 1. Steady-state calculation scheme used in this study.

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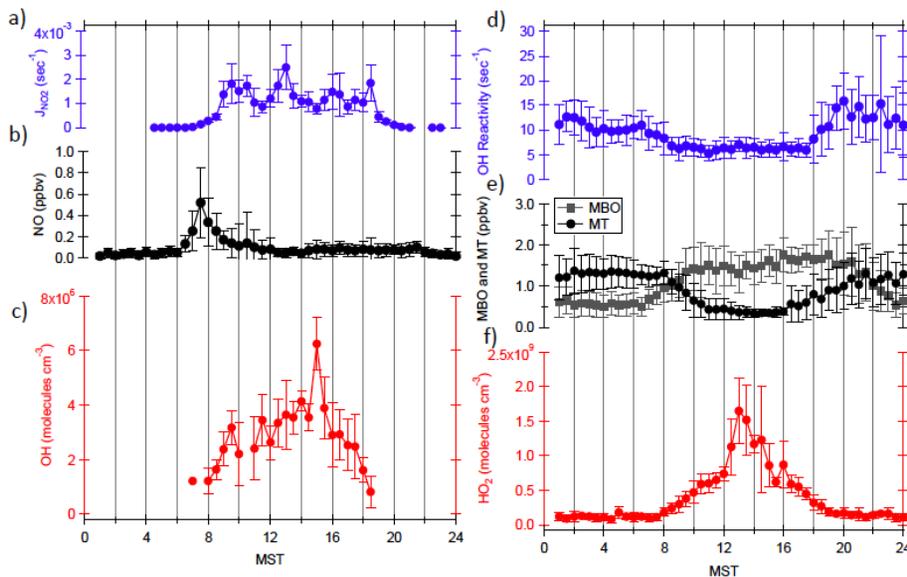


Fig. 2. Averaged diurnal cycles of (a) J_{NO_2} , (b) NO, (c) OH, (d) OH reactivity and (e) MBO and MT (f) HO₂ during the BEACHON-ROCS field campaign in August 2010.

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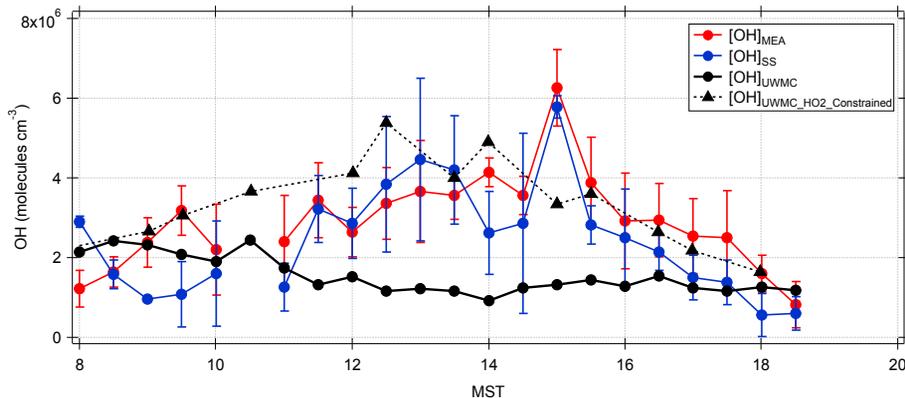


Fig. 3. Averaged diurnal cycles of observed OH ($[\text{OH}]_{\text{MEA}}$), steady-state model calculated ($[\text{OH}]_{\text{SS}}$), UWCM model calculated OH ($[\text{OH}]_{\text{UWCM}}$), and HO₂ constrained UWCM model calculated OH ($[\text{OH}]_{\text{UWCM_HO}_2\text{-Constrained}}$) for 16 to 19 August 2010.

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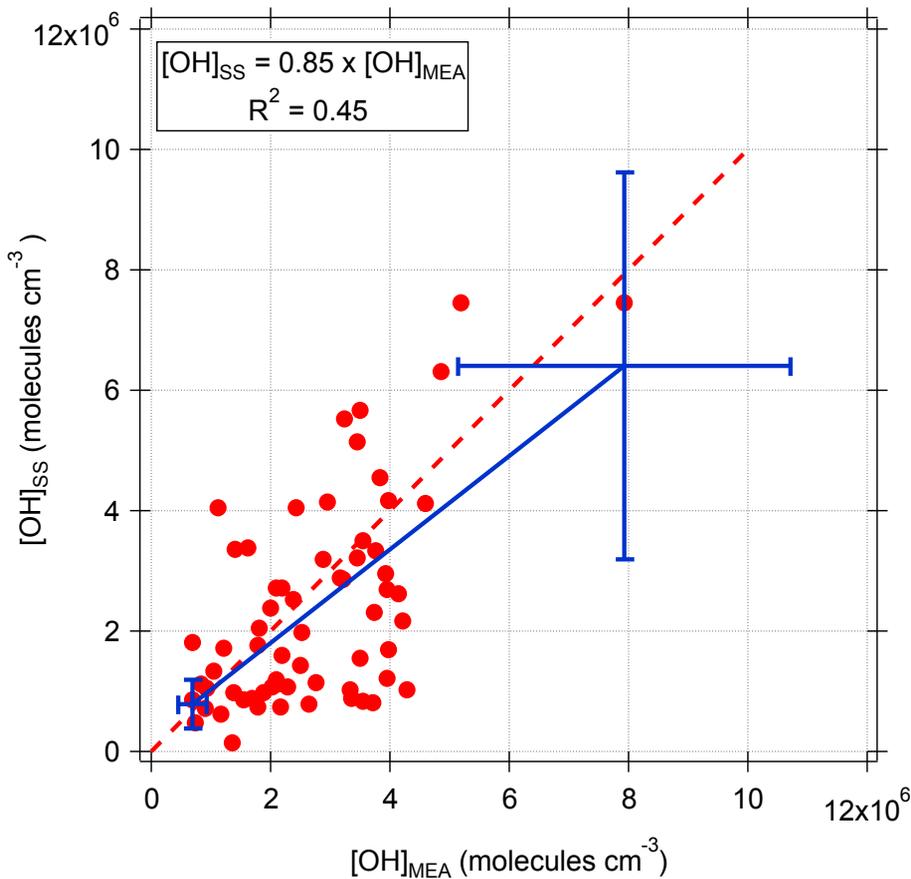


Fig. 4. A correlation plot with $[OH]_{MEA}$ and $[OH]_{SS}$ (red circles) and a 1:1 line (dashed line). The error bars on the regression line (blue) represent uncertainties of $[OH]_{MEA}$ and $[OH]_{SS}$.

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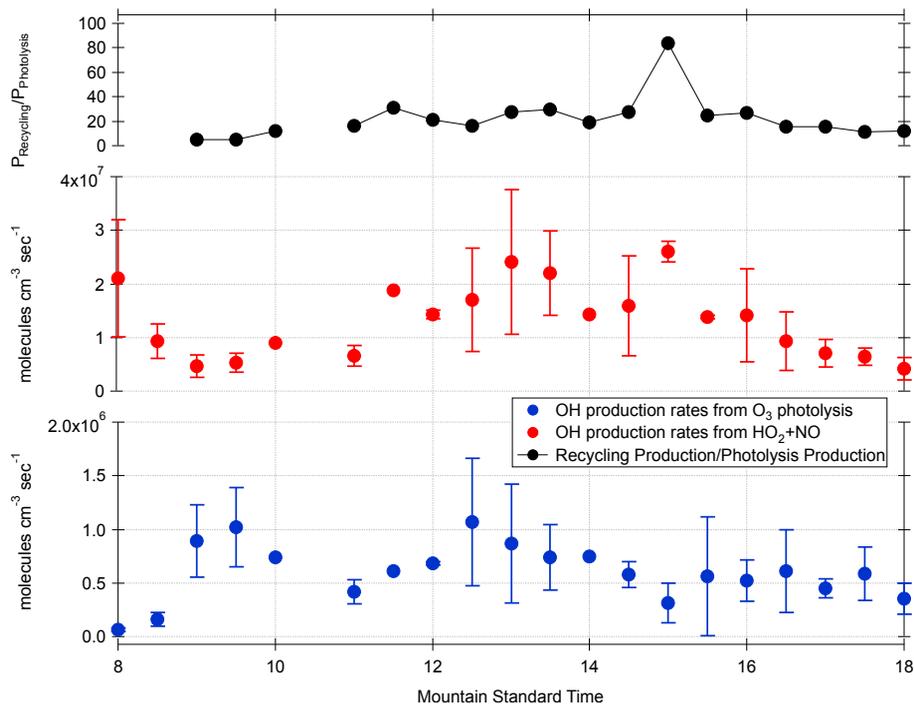


Fig. 5. Averaged diurnal cycles of OH photolysis production rates (blue), OH recycling rates (HO₂ + NO, red) and their ratios (black) during the BEACHON-ROCS field campaign.

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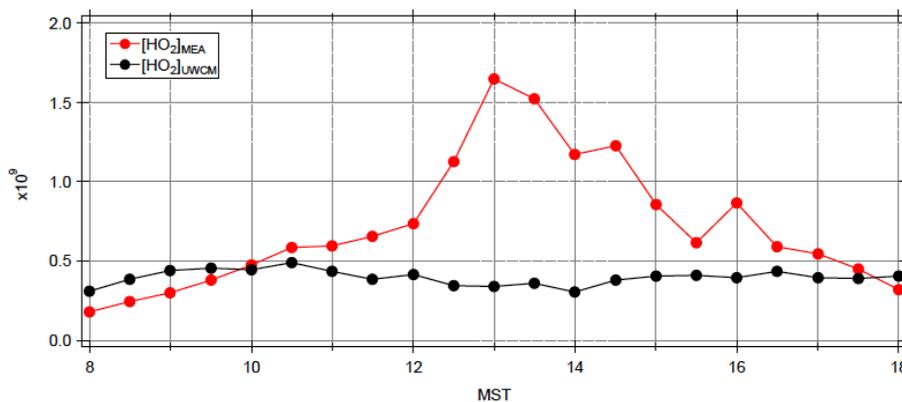


Fig. 6. The averaged diurnal cycles of [HO₂]_{MEA} and [HO₂]_{UWCM} during the BEACHON-ROCS field campaign.

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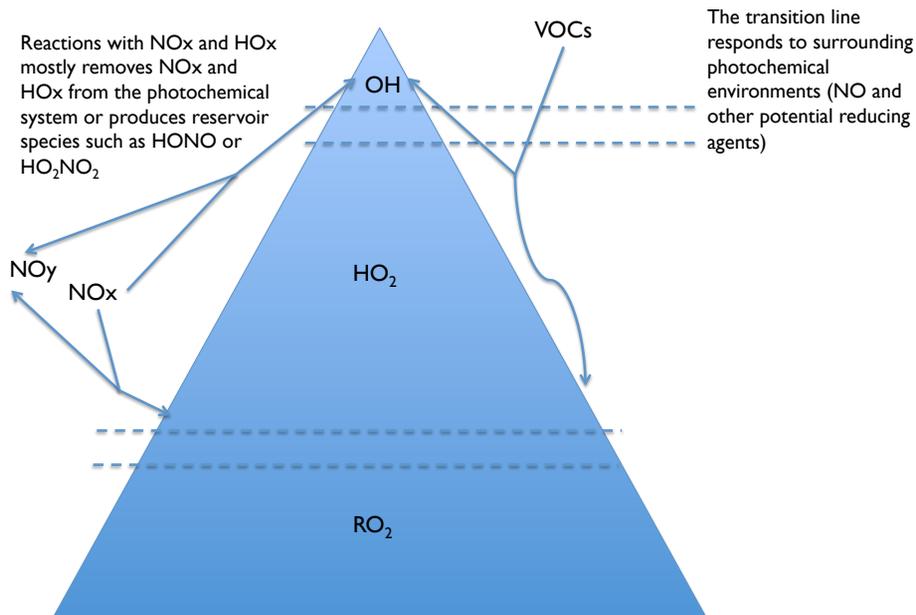


Fig. 7. Tropospheric interactions of oxidant pool (HO_x)-NO_y-VOCs. VOC oxidation by OH redistributes within the oxidant pool but does not change the size of the pool.

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