Characterization of soluble bromide measurements and a case study of BrO observations during ARCTAS

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Abstract

A focus of the Arctic Research of the Composition of the Troposphere from Aircraft and Satellites (ARCTAS) mission was examination of bromine photochemistry in the spring time, high latitude troposphere based on aircraft and satellite measurements of BrO and related species. The NASA DC-8 aircraft utilized a chemical ionization mass spectrometry (CIMS) instrument to measure BrO and a mist chamber (MC) to measure soluble bromide. We have determined that the MC detection efficiency to molecular bromine (Br₂), hypobromous acid (HOBr), bromine oxide (BrO), and hydrogen bromide (HBr) as soluble bromide (Br⁻) was 0.9 ± 0.1, 1.06 ± 0.30, 0.4 ± 0.1, and 0.95 ± 0.1, respectively. These efficiency factors were used to estimate soluble bromide levels along the DC-8 flight track of 17 April 2008 from photochemical calculations constrained to in situ BrO measured by CIMS. During this flight, the highest levels of soluble bromide and BrO were observed and atmospheric conditions were ideal for the space-borne observation of BrO. The good agreement ($R^2 = 0.76$; slope = 0.98; intercept = −3.5 pptv) between modeled and observed soluble bromide, when BrO was above detection limit (>2 pptv) under unpolluted conditions (NO < 100 pptv), indicates that the CIMS BrO measurements were consistent with the MC soluble bromide. Tropospheric BrO vertical column densities (BRO$_{VCD}^{TROP}$) derived from CIMS BrO observations compare well with BRO$_{VCD}^{TROP}$ from OMI on 17 April 2008.

1 Introduction

Tropospheric ozone depletion events (ODEs) have frequently been observed in or near the marine boundary layer in the Arctic (e.g. Oltmans, 1981; Bottenheim et al., 2009) and the Antarctic (e.g. Jones et al., 2009) during spring time. The ODEs can extend over horizontal scales of hundreds of kilometers (Ridley et al., 2003) and vertically from the surface to altitudes as high as several hundred meters to ~1 km (Bottenheim et al., 2002; Ridley et al., 2003). In ODEs ozone mixing ratios drop from typical 30–40 ppbv
to as low as 1 ppbv (e.g. Bottenheim et al., 2002, 2009; Anlauf et al., 1994). During ODEs, bromine compounds can oxidize gaseous elemental mercury (GEM) to more active and soluble mercury compounds (e.g. Lindberg et al., 2002), which can deposit to the surface and become involved in biogeochemical cycles. The oxidation of certain volatile organic compounds (VOCs) can also be enhanced during ODEs (e.g. Jobson et al., 1994).

Field measurements (e.g. Barrie et al., 1988; Hausmann and Platt, 1994) and modeling results (e.g. Fan and Jacob, 1992; McConnell et al., 1992) have demonstrated that bromine chemistry plays a large role in ODEs. The mechanisms of bromine catalyzed ozone destruction are reviewed by Simpson et al. (2007) and the key reactions are listed below.

\[
\begin{align*}
&\text{Br}_2 + h\nu \rightarrow 2\text{Br} \quad (R1) \\
&\text{Br} + \text{O}_3 \rightarrow \text{BrO} + \text{O}_2 \quad (R2) \\
&\text{BrO} + \text{BrO} \rightarrow 2\text{Br} + \text{O}_2 \quad (R3) \\
&\text{BrO} + \text{HO}_2 \rightarrow \text{HOBr} + \text{O}_2 \quad (R4) \\
&\text{BrO} + \text{NO} \rightarrow \text{Br} + \text{NO}_2 \quad (R5) \\
&\text{BrO} + h\nu \rightarrow \text{Br} + \text{O} \quad (R6) \\
&\text{HOBr} + h\nu \rightarrow \text{Br} + \text{OH} \quad (R7) \\
&\text{Br} + \text{CH}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{HBr} + \text{HCO} \quad (R8) \\
&\text{Br} + \text{HO}_2 \rightarrow \text{HBr} + \text{O}_2 \quad (R9) \\
&\text{HOBr(aq)} + \text{Br}^- + \text{H}^+ \rightarrow \text{Br}_2(\text{aq}) + \text{H}_2\text{O} \quad (R10) \\
&\text{BrO} + \text{NO}_2 + \text{M} \rightarrow \text{BrONO}_2 + \text{M} \quad (R11)
\end{align*}
\]
Molecular bromine \((\text{Br}_2)\) photolyzes and produces Br atoms at sunrise (Reaction R1). Ozone is destroyed by a catalytic cycle initiated by the reaction of Br with \(\text{O}_3\), followed by the self-reaction of bromine oxide (BrO) that regenerates Br atoms and destroys odd oxygen (Reactions R2 and R3). The efficiency of the cycle is suppressed by the conversion of bromine radicals to Hydrogen bromide (HBr), which is soluble and therefore can deposit to aerosols or the surface (Evans et al., 2003). Hypobromous acid (HOBr), which is produced by the reaction of BrO and \(\text{HO}_2\) (Reaction R4) as well as Bromine nitrate (BrONO\(_2\)) hydrolysis (Reaction R12), can photolyze to produce Br atoms (Reaction R7) or react with \(\text{Br}^-\) on surfaces to regenerate \(\text{Br}_2\) (Reaction R10) and sustain active bromine chemistry (Fan and Jacob, 1992). The most abundant daytime gas-phase bromine species in the above mechanism, when ozone is above 1 ppbv in a typical Arctic environment (\(\text{NO}_2 < 5 \text{ pptv}\)), are BrO, HOBr and HBr (e.g. Evans et al., 2003; Liao et al., 2011b). The most abundant night time species for these conditions is likely to be \(\text{Br}_2\) (Liao et al., 2011b).

Models incorporating bromine chemistry have been developed to simulate global ozone and mercury concentrations (e.g. Zeng et al., 2003; Holmes et al., 2010). However, the sources of active bromine in the atmosphere are not well quantified (e.g. Simpson et al., 2007 and references therein). Consequently, the bromine source is often parameterized in models or obtained from satellite observations of BrO (e.g. Fan and Jacob, 1992; Zeng et al., 2003). However, there are challenges deriving the tropospheric column BrO from satellite observations, which are obtained by subtracting the stratospheric contribution from a retrieval of total column BrO. Basic efforts at inferring tropospheric column BrO have assumed the stratospheric contribution is zonally symmetric. However, Theys et al. (2009) showed that the stratospheric burden of total bromine exhibits strong zonal asymmetries at high latitudes, particularly during boreal spring. In addition, Salawitch et al. (2010) demonstrated the sensitivity of tropospheric column BrO inferred from satellites to zonal asymmetries in the satellite burden. Another issue is the impact of clouds on the calculation of air mass factors (AMFs) and
the retrieval processes for the altitudes below the clouds (Kühl et al., 2008; Theys et al., 2011; Choi et al., 2011). The validation of tropospheric column BrO inferred from satellite retrievals using in situ measurements of BrO is an important research task, which we also address below.

The Arctic Research of the Composition of the Troposphere from Aircraft and Satellites (ARCTAS) (Jacob et al., 2010) mission and the Aerosol, Radiation, and Cloud Processes affecting Arctic Climate (ARCPAC) study (Brock et al., 2011) in spring 2008 provided an excellent opportunity to validate satellite BrO observations with in situ measurements of bromine species. ARCTAS and ARCPAC both featured research flights in the Arctic using aircraft with large suites of instruments (Jacob et al., 2010; Brock et al., 2011). Both the NASA DC-8 and NOAA WP-3D were equipped with chemical ionization mass spectrometers (CIMS) capable of measuring BrO and Br₂ + HOBr (Neuman et al., 2010). The NASA DC-8 was also equipped with a mist chamber (MC) measuring soluble bromide. The MC soluble bromide measurement is the sum of all gas phase species that dissolve in aqueous solution to form Br⁻ (Ridley et al., 2003; Dibb et al., 2010). This measurement has been used in several polar locations and has proved to be an excellent tracer for active bromine chemistry (Ridley et al., 2003). Results from ARCTAS and ARCPAC indicated that tropospheric BrO levels were often much smaller than those derived from satellite data, particularly for an assumption of a zonally symmetric stratospheric burden. Salawitch et al. (2010) showed that low in situ BrO concentrations and background, non depleted levels of O₃ were often observed in the footprint of satellite BrO “hotspots”, especially over Hudson Bay. They suggested this apparent discrepancy could be resolved if very short lived bromocarbons contribute large amounts of inorganic bromine to the lowermost stratosphere, leading to substantial BrO mixing ratios that could give elevated column BrO in regions of a low altitude (high pressure) tropopause. Neuman et al. (2010) analyzed a series of flights from ARCPAC and ARCTAS and showed that active bromine (Br₂ + HOBr) (up to \( \sim 16 \text{ pptv} \)) was often detected in the marine boundary layer but found relatively low levels of BrO (up to \( \sim 4 \text{ pptv} \)). The focus of this work is to investigate the ARCTAS
DC-8 flight on 17 April 2008 when the highest BrO and soluble bromide levels were observed by CIMS and MC, respectively. The response of the MC to the most abundant bromine (Br$_2$, BrO, HOBr, and HBr) species is quantified to allow a thorough comparison of CIMS and MC data. Column abundances are derived from the in situ data and compared to satellite observations.

2 Methods

2.1 Mist chamber (MC) characterization

The response of the MC to the abundant bromine species (Br$_2$, BrO, HOBr, and HBr) was determined in a series of laboratory tests. A known amount of each species was quantitatively delivered to the MC inlet and the resulting concentration of bromide was measured. In this manner the MC response factor to per atom of bromine was measured. A CIMS was used to quantify the Br$_2$, HOBr and BrO distribution delivered to the MC. This was critical as HOBr and BrO could not be delivered to the MC in a pure form.

2.1.1 Chemical ionization mass spectrometer (CIMS)

The CIMS is very similar to that used to measure BrO, peroxy acyl nitrate (PANs), pernitric acid (HO$_2$NO$_2$), and sulfur dioxide (SO$_2$) (Liao et al., 2011a; Slusher et al., 2004; Kim et al., 2007; Huey, 2007). The methods used to measure and calibrate the CIMS to BrO and Br$_2$ are described in Liao et al. (2011a). Hydrated I$^-$ was utilized as a reagent ion to detect the bromine species and the corresponding reactions of the core ions are listed below;

\[ \text{Br}_2 + \text{I}^- \rightarrow \text{IBr}^- \]  \hspace{1cm} (R13)

\[ \text{BrO} + \text{I}^- \rightarrow \text{IBrO}^- \]  \hspace{1cm} (R14)
I\(^-\) was chosen as a reagent ion because it can selectively and accurately detect HOBr, BrO, and Br\(_2\) (Liao et al., 2011a, b; Neuman et al., 2010). SF\(_6\)\(^-\) was not used as a reagent ion in this study as it is not capable of selectively detecting HOBr (Huey et al., 1995). The accuracy of the Br\(_2\), BrO and HOBr measurements in the laboratory were estimated to be 7\%, 32\%, and 32\%, respectively.

### 2.1.2 Mist chamber (MC)

The mist chamber, similar to that used to measure nitric acid (HNO\(_3\)) and other soluble species (e.g. Dibb et al., 1998), can detect soluble bromide (Br\(^-\)) in gas phase and fine particles in the sampling flow. The gaseous species were concentrated into a small volume of ultrapure water and the stripping solutions were analyzed by ion chromatography as Br\(^-\) in the solution (Dibb et al., 1994). The Br\(^-\) concentration in the sampling gases was determined from the concentration of Br\(^-\) in the solution, the solution volume and the gas flow rate to the MC. The measurement uncertainty for soluble bromide was \(\sim 15\%\). The uncertainty represents a combination of accuracy and precision at the one sigma level.

### 2.1.3 Experiment setup

The CIMS and MC were operated simultaneously in the same laboratory. Bromine compounds were delivered to both instruments through perfluoroalkoxy (PFA) Teflon tubing. In the initial experiments, setup A, a flow of nitrogen (N\(_2\)) at 3 standard liters per minute (slpm) containing bromine compounds was delivered to the inlets of the CIMS and the MC alternately with the same Teflon tubing. In later experiments, setup B, a 3 slpm flow containing bromine compounds was symmetrically divided with a PFA tee between the CIMS and MC. The length of the Teflon tubing from the HOBr source to the MC was \(\sim 1.2\) m longer than to the CIMS in setup B. As a consequence, any possible interactions of gas with the sampling line were the same in setup A for both
instruments and were larger for the MC in setup B. Upon exiting the sample line, the gas flowed directly into the CIMS ion-molecule reaction tube (flow tube), where very little wall interaction and conversion of bromine species (e.g. HOBr to Br₂) occur (Neuman et al., 2010). The potential interactions with other surfaces in the MC (e.g. the wetted glass walls of the mist chamber) may cause interconversion of bromine species. As setup B better represented the conversion of bromine compounds (e.g. HOBr) on the sampling inlet of the MC on the DC-8, the detection efficiencies of HOBr and Br₂ from setup B are used to predict soluble bromide concentrations.

### 2.1.4 Br₂, BrO, HOBr and HBr preparation

Pure gas phase Br₂ was obtained from a permeation tube (Kin-tek Trace Source™ disposable permeation tube for bromine). 20 standard cubic centimeters per minute (sccm) of N₂ continuously flowed over the Br₂ permeation tube, which was held at a constant temperature (40 °C). The Br₂ permeation tube output was measured, by converting I⁻ to I₃⁻ in aqueous solution (Liao et al., 2011a), to be 86 ± 6 ng min⁻¹ and ~4 ppbv in 3 slpm N₂ flow.

BrO was generated by the reaction of Br₂ with O (³P) in excess O₃ (Liao et al., 2011a). O₃ was produced by flowing 30 sccm of O₂ through a quartz tube illuminated by a UV lamp. The O₃ and Br₂ was diluted in ~1.5 slpm N₂ and flowed through an oven. When the oven was heated to ~350 °C, BrO was produced by the following series of reactions.

\[
\text{O}_3 + \text{M} \rightarrow \text{O}_2 + \text{O}(³\text{P}) + \text{M} \quad \text{(R16)}
\]

\[
\text{Br}_2 + \text{O}(³\text{P}) \rightarrow \text{BrO} + \text{Br} \quad \text{(R17)}
\]

\[
\text{Br} + \text{O}_3 \rightarrow \text{BrO} + \text{O}_2 \quad \text{(R18)}
\]

The CIMS sensitivity ratio of BrO to Br₂ was estimated to be 0.47 ± 25 %, based on the amount of BrO synthesized and the amount of Br₂ decomposed (Liao et al., 2011a).
Gas phase HOBr was prepared by adding 5–7 drops of liquid Br\textsubscript{2} to silver nitrate (AgNO\textsubscript{3}) aqueous solution (2.2 g AgNO\textsubscript{3} in 100 ml de-ionized H\textsubscript{2}O) in a glass trap that was kept at 0°C in the dark (Jin et al., 2007). The AgNO\textsubscript{3} is used to precipitate out Br\textsuperscript{−} as silver bromide (AgBr). This drives the equilibrium towards HOBr and reduces the degassing of HBr from the solution.

\[ \text{Br}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightleftharpoons \text{HOBr} + \text{H}^+ + \text{Br}^- \]  
\[ \text{Ag}^+ + \text{Br}^- \rightarrow \text{AgBr} \downarrow \]  

(Gas phase HOBr and Br\textsubscript{2} were removed from the trap in a flow of N\textsubscript{2} (5–50 sccm). The resulting gas phase mixture of HOBr and Br\textsubscript{2} was diluted into a N\textsubscript{2} flow of ~3 slpm and used as a source of HOBr. In general, the ratio of HOBr to Br\textsubscript{2} in the source flow was 3–4 depending on N\textsubscript{2} flow rates. The amount of HOBr in the flow was determined by conversion of the HOBr to Br\textsubscript{2} via reactions on humidified NaBr crystals.

\[ \text{HOBr} + \text{NaBr} \rightarrow \text{Br}_2 + \text{Na}^+ + \text{OH}^- \]  

Assuming a 1:1 yield for this reaction, the relative CIMS sensitivity of HOBr to Br\textsubscript{2} was determined to be 0.5 ± 25%.

HBr was obtained from a commercial source tube (Kin-tek Trace Source™ 57 Series Hydrogen bromide), which is a small stainless steel cylinder (15 cm l × 4.5 cm OD) with a Teflon membrane that allows permeation of the HBr. The source was kept at a constant temperature of 30°C and 20 sccm of N\textsubscript{2} was continuously passed over the source. The output of the HBr from the source was determined to be 23 ng min\textsuperscript{−1} by passing the flow through aqueous solution followed by ion chromatographic measurements.

### 2.2 BrO and soluble bromide measurements from the DC-8

The CIMS instrument aboard the NASA DC-8 aircraft that measured halogens was mechanically nearly identical to the one in the laboratory experiments here but used different ion chemistry. The CIMS utilized SF\textsubscript{6} as a reagent to detect halogen and other...
species (e.g. BrO, SO\textsubscript{2}) as negative product ions (e.g. BrO\textsuperscript{-}, F\textsubscript{2}SO\textsubscript{2}\textsuperscript{-}). The configuration and performance of the CIMS instrument are described in Neuman et al. (2010). The CIMS and the MC sampling inlets on the DC-8 were \~1 m and heated to 40 \degree C. The detection limits of BrO from the DC-8 ranged from 2–5 pptv for a 30 s sampling period and the measurement uncertainty was \pm 40 \%. The DC-8 MC measurements were performed using an instrument described in detail by Scheuer et al. (2003, 2010). The soluble bromide detection limit was 1 pptv for a 1.5 min sampling period in the boundary layer and increased with flight altitude to \~6 pptv at 12 km. The soluble bromide measurement uncertainty was \pm (15 \% + 0.5 pptv).

### 2.3 HBr, HOBr and soluble bromide prediction during ARCTAS

A simple photochemical model was used to predict HBr and HOBr levels from CIMS measurements of BrO. The mechanism used in the model includes Reactions (R2)–(R9) as well as the heterogeneous loss of HBr and HOBr. HBr and HOBr were assumed to be in steady state due to their relatively short lifetimes of \~1 h and \~8 min, respectively. The lifetime of HBr is mainly determined by heterogeneous loss on aerosol surfaces (Fan and Jacob et al., 1992; Liao et al., 2011b). Because nitrogen dioxide (NO\textsubscript{2}) concentrations (<5 pptv) were near or below detection limits when significant BrO was detected (BrO > 3 pptv), BrONO\textsubscript{2} formation was neglected. The photochemical model was constrained by observations of BrO, formaldehyde (\textsubscript{2}CH\textsubscript{2}O), nitrogen oxide (NO), O\textsubscript{3}, peroxy radicals (HO\textsubscript{2}), J values, temperature, pressure, aerosol surface area and aerosol number density on DC-8. CH\textsubscript{2}O was measured by a difference frequency generation absorption spectrometer (Weibring et al., 2006). NO and O\textsubscript{3} were measured from a 4-channel chemiluminescence instrument (Weinheimer et al., 1998). J values were obtained from NCAR actinic flux spectroradiometers (Shetter and Muller, 1999). Aerosol surface area and number density were measured by an ultrahigh sensitivity aerosol spectrometer (UHSAS) (Cai et al., 2008). Constrained HBr and HOBr calculations combined with the measured response factors of the MC to these species allowed soluble bromide to be predicted from CIMS observations of BrO.
2.4 Satellite-derived tropospheric BrO vertical column density

The tropospheric BrO vertical column density (VCD) is derived using the residual method (Theys et al., 2011; Choi et al., 2011). The analysis uses: the slant column density (SCD) of BrO as provided in the publicly released Ozone Monitoring Instrument (OMI) BrO v3.0 data product (Kurosu and Chance, 2011); air mass factors (ratio of slant to vertical columns) found using a radiative transfer model (Choi et al., 2011); as well as stratospheric column BrO obtained from a model simulation for boreal spring 2008 (Salawitch et al., 2010). A detailed explanation and discussion of the sensitivity of satellite-derived tropospheric column BrO is given in Choi et al. (2011). Here we provide a brief overview.

OMI is a nadir-viewing ultraviolet and visible (UV/Vis) sensor on the NASA Aura satellite, which is in a sun-synchronous polar orbit with a local overpass time near 13:30 LT. BrO SCD is retrieved by direct fitting of backscattered UV radiances to absorption cross-sections of BrO (the target gas), NO$_2$, HCHO, SO$_2$ and inelastic rotational-Raman scattering (also known as the Ring effect) using a non-linear least-squares approach (Chance, 1998) with a spectral fitting window between 319 and 347.5 nm.

An estimate of stratospheric BrO VCD is calculated from a model simulation (Salawitch et al., 2010). Distributions of all species other than bromine bearing compounds originate from a run of the Whole Atmosphere Community Climate Model (WACCM) (Garcia et al., 2007) conducted using analyzed winds for April 2008. Vertical distributions of Br$_y$ (the sum of inorganic bromine species) are specified, using the relation between Br$_y$ and chlorofluorocarbon-12 (CFC-12), as well as profiles of CFC-12 from the NASA Global Modeling and Assimilation Office (GMAO) Goddard Earth Observing System Data Assimilation System Version 5 (GEOS-5) (Rienecker et al., 2007). The contribution of very short lived (VSL) bromocarbons is represented by adding 7 pptv to the baseline Br$_y$ versus CFC-12 relation, which represents gas injection of bromine from very short lived sources. The baseline Br$_y$ relation represents source of gas injection of the organic bromocarbons that cross the tropopause: bromomethane.
(CH$_3$Br), halons, and dibromomethane (CH$_2$Br$_2$). Mixing ratios of BrO at the time of satellite overpass are determined using a photochemical steady state model constrained by radical precursors (e.g. O$_3$, water vapor (H$_2$O), methane (CH$_4$), total chlorine species (Cl$_y$), total reactive nitrogen (NO$_y$), Br$_y$, etc.) from WACCM (Choi et al., 2011). The stratospheric BrO VCD is obtained by integrating the BrO mixing ratio from the tropopause (WMO definition of thermal tropopause) to 0.01 hPa.

AMFs, a ratio of SCD to VCD by definition, are used to convert SCD to VCD (VCD = SCD/AMF). The stratospheric AMF is provided as an OMI total column product. The tropospheric AMF is calculated using the Linearized Discrete Ordinate Radiative Transfer (LIDORT) model (Spurr et al., 2001), which considers the effects of the tropospheric BrO profile, surface albedo, and viewing geometry (Choi et al., 2011).

The tropospheric BrO VCD is calculated from a tropospheric residual column obtained by subtracting the stratospheric SCD (product of stratospheric VCD and stratospheric AMF) from the total SCD. The tropospheric BrO VCD is then obtained by dividing the residual tropospheric slant column by the tropospheric AMF. Further details are given in Choi et al. (2011). Our approach is similar to that of Theys et al. (2011), except our stratospheric VCD is larger than that used by Theys et al. (2011) and we use an independent radiative transfer model.

3 Results and discussion

3.1 Response of the MC to Br$_2$, HOBr, BrO and HBr

BrO, HOBr, HBr are likely the most abundant daytime bromine species when O$_3$ is not completely depleted in the typical Arctic environment (NO < 5 pptv) (Evans et al., 2003). Br$_2$ is the likely dominant nighttime bromine species under this condition. As a result, the detection efficiencies of BrO, HOBr, HBr and Br$_2$ by the MC were characterized and reported in this study.
3.1.1 Br₂

The MC responded to the presence of Br₂ in the gas phase as Br⁻ (Table 1). The ratio of detected Br⁻ to Br₂ was found to be 0.40 ± 0.10 per Br atom for setup A and 0.45 ± 0.10 per Br atom for setup B (Table 2). The error bars are estimated from a combination of the estimated potential systematic error in Br₂ and Br⁻ measurements and variance of the individual Br⁻ to Br₂ ratio measurements. To confirm the nearly complete dissolution of Br₂, the Br₂ permeation tube output was passed through a trap containing deionized water. The output of the trap was monitored by the CIMS and effectively all Br₂ was found to be scrubbed by the solution, consistent with efficient detection of Br₂ by the MC. Br₂ is hydrolyzed to form Br⁻ and HOBr in aqueous solution, with a hydrolysis rate constant, $k_{19}$, of 110 s⁻¹ (at 20°C) (Eigen and Kustin, 1962). This suggests that each Br₂ molecule produces one bromide ion which is detected with near 100% efficiency by the MC. The HOBr produced in aqueous solution in the MC does not appear to convert to bromide on the time scale of the measurement (5 min). Thus an efficiency of ~0.5 (on a per molecule basis) for detecting the bromine atoms in Br₂ as bromide is consistent with its known solution chemistry.

3.1.2 HOBr

The MC was found to consistently respond to the presence of HOBr as bromide (Table 1). This is likely due to conversion of HOBr on the sampling surfaces to Br₂, which is detected by the MC as Br⁻. The ratio of HOBr to Br⁻ detected is 0.41 ± 0.15 for setup A and is 1.06 ± 0.30 for setup B (Table 2). The error bars are calculated from a combination of the estimated potential systematic error in HOBr and Br⁻ measurements and the variance of the individual Br⁻ to HOBr ratio measurements. The results for Br₂ indicate that HOBr in aqueous solution in the MC is not detected as bromide. However, Neuman et al. (2010) have demonstrated that gas phase HOBr is readily converted to Br₂ on even nominally clean surfaces. The greater detection efficiency for HOBr in the MC for the longer inlet setup B is also consistent with conversion of
HOBr to Br$_2$, with some of the bromine coming from the inlet surface. The resulting Br$_2$ will hydrolyze and be detected in the MC as described above. Consequently, HOBr will be detected efficiently as bromide by the MC via conversion on the inlet and other surfaces to Br$_2$.

\[
\text{HOBr} \rightarrow \text{Br}_2 \xrightarrow{k_{19}} \text{Br}^-
\]

#### 3.1.3 BrO

BrO was also detected as soluble bromide by the MC. The ratio of BrO to Br$^-$ was found to be 0.4 ± 0.1 (Table 2). As this result was somewhat surprising, it was confirmed by repeatedly turning on and off the BrO from the Br$_2$/O$_3$ source by modulating the ozone levels. In addition, tests with the CIMS confirmed that BrO in a gas stream is removed by deionized water. At this time the mechanism for the conversion of ∼40% of BrO to Br$^-$ (aq) is not determined.

#### 3.1.4 HBr

The sensitivity ratio of HBr to Br$_2$ measured by CIMS using reagent ion I$^-$ was less than 1:100, which implies that the CIMS instrument using reagent ion I$^-$ has a very low sensitivity for detecting HBr. The CIMS then was not used to quantify HBr and the HBr permeation tube output was determined to be 23 ng min$^{-1}$ by ion chromatography. The MC detected HBr with 0.95 ± 0.1 efficiency. This is consistent with detection of effectively 100% of HBr as soluble bromide by the MC.

#### 3.1.5 Implications for soluble bromide measurements

The results above indicate that the MC measurements of soluble bromide during ARC-TAS (and other missions such as Tropospheric Ozone Production around the Spring Equinox (TOPSE)) (Ridley et al., 2003) are due to a multitude of compounds. As
conversion of HOBr to Br$_2$ on the walls of the MC or sampling line was very likely, soluble bromide ([Br$^-$]) can be estimated by the following equation.

$$[\text{Br}^-] = 0.9 \ [\text{Br}_2] + 1.06 \ [\text{HOBr}] + 0.4 \ [\text{BrO}] + 0.95 \ [\text{HBr}] .$$

(1)

This indicates that a MC can be used to examine the areas of active bromine chemistry where BrO and HOBr are enhanced.

### 3.2 Case study of BrO and soluble bromide measurements

On research flight 17 April 2008 of ARCTAS the highest bromine levels for the mission were observed. During this flight the NASA DC-8 frequently sampled ozone depleted air masses, with significant levels of bromine in the Arctic boundary layer. The aircraft track for this flight from Fairbanks, AK to the North Pole is displayed in the top panel of Fig. 2. The flight track is color coded by altitude. The aircraft sampled the boundary layer air five times during this flight. O$_3$ depletions were clearly observed when the boundary layer was sampled (middle panel of Fig. 2). Further description of this flight is given by Choi et al. (2011).

The observations of BrO, Br$_2$ + HOBr, soluble bromide, O$_3$, and altitude on one flight leg in the boundary layer, where maximum bromine was detected, are shown in the bottom panel of Fig. 2. The corresponding region on the map is denoted with the red circle in the top panel of Fig. 2. Ozone depletion and elevated bromine (soluble bromide, Br$_2$ + HOBr and BrO) were clearly measured when the aircraft flew down to the boundary layer (altitude <200 m). The maximum soluble bromide detected during this flight was $\sim$31 pptv, when ozone was depleted to $\sim$10 ppbv, and up to $\sim$7 pptv BrO and HOBr + Br$_2$ were detected. Due to the conversion of HOBr on the Teflon inlet (Neuman et al., 2010), the CIMS Br$_2$ signal represents the lower limit to the sum Br$_2$ + HOBr. As the mixing ratio of rapidly photolyzed Br$_2$ in the daytime is likely to be very low ($\leq$~1 pptv) (Fan and Jacob, 1992; Liao et al., 2011b), the Br$_2$ signal is highly likely to correspond to HOBr.
To assess whether the concentrations of BrO reported by the CIMS instrument are consistent with the soluble bromide observations from the MC, we first calculated the abundances of HBr and HOBr using a photochemical model (described in Sect. 2.3) constrained by the measurements of BrO and other species. Soluble bromide was then calculated based on the measured detection efficiency for BrO, HOBr, and HBr. An example of observed BrO and soluble bromide and modeled HOBr, HBr and soluble bromide on two flight legs, both with BrO above detection limit (>2 pptv), is shown in Fig. 3. The correlation plot of modeled and observed soluble bromide during 17 April 2008 flight when BrO was above detection limit (>2 pptv) under unpolluted conditions (NO < 100 pptv) is shown in the left panel of Fig. 4. Considering the measurement uncertainties in BrO (~40%), soluble bromide, J values, reaction rates, mass accommodation coefficients, and aerosol surface areas, the agreement ($R^2 = 0.76$; slope = 0.98; intercept = −3.5 pptv) between measured and modeled soluble bromide indicates that reported soluble bromide concentrations by the MC are consistent with the BrO measurements from the CIMS instrument as well as our current understanding of inorganic bromine photochemistry. It is also interesting to note that the modeled HOBr was well correlated with the measured HOBr + Br₂ ($R^2 = 0.86$, slope = 1.42, intercept = 1.71 pptv) (Fig. 4 right panel), consistent with the assumption of efficient conversion of HOBr on the inlet walls.

3.3 Comparison of BrO Satellite observations with in situ BrO measurements

The region of the Artic sampled by the DC-8 17 April 2008 provides ideal conditions for comparison of satellite and aircraft determinations of tropospheric BrO. The sky was clear, the surface was bright, and the viewing geometry was amenable for high sensitivity to tropospheric BrO by satellite sensors (Choi et al., 2011). Here, the comparisons are made in terms of tropospheric BrO vertical column density (BrO$_{\text{TROP}}^{\text{VCD}}$). The OMI retrieval team reports total vertical column density of BrO. These data are post-processed using a radiative transfer model and an estimate of the stratospheric burden to yield BrO$_{\text{TROP}}^{\text{VCD}}$ (Theys et al., 2011; Choi et al., 2011).
Estimated BrO$_\text{TROP}^{\text{VCD}}$ from DC-8 in situ measurements of BrO on the 17 April 2008 flight are compared to BrO$_\text{TROP}^{\text{VCD}}$ retrieved from OMI pixels closest in space and time to the DC-8 flight track (Choi et al., 2011) in Fig. 5. BrO$_\text{TROP}^{\text{VCD}}$ from airborne in situ BrO was calculated by integrating the profile of BrO from the surface to 7.5 km altitude. The lowest altitude sampled by the aircraft during individual profiles ranged from 100 to 500 m. When finding BrO$_\text{TROP}^{\text{VCD}}$, we assumed the BrO mixing ratio between the surface and the lowest sampled altitude was the median of values between 500 m and the lowest sampled altitude. The median DC-8 profile of BrO, for all of ARCTAS, was used for altitudes between the highest sampled by the DC-8 for a particular profile and 7.5 km. Since BrO was below the detection limit of CIMS above 7.5 km altitude, we assumed BrO was zero between 7.5 km and the tropopause. The error bars in Fig. 5 represent the uncertainties in satellite BrO$_\text{TROP}^{\text{VCD}}$ (horizontal) and in situ BrO$_\text{TROP}^{\text{VCD}}$ (vertical), respectively. These uncertainties are described in detail by Choi et al. (2011).

An orthogonal least square regression was used to analyze the agreement between satellite and in situ BrO$_\text{TROP}^{\text{VCD}}$. Reduced chi-square is calculated by the minimum of the sum of the squared orthogonal distance between the measurements and the 1:1 Line.

\[
\chi^2 = \frac{1}{n-2} \sum_i \left( \frac{(X_i - x_i)^2}{\sigma_{xi}^2} + \frac{(Y_i - y_i)^2}{\sigma_{yi}^2} \right)
\]

(2)

A value for reduced chi-square of 0.88 means the determinations of BrO$_\text{TROP}^{\text{VCD}}$ from in situ sampling and satellite retrieval agree, to within the measurement uncertainty. The satellite retrievals of tropospheric BrO using updated methods (Choi et al., 2011) captures the levels of BrO found by our CIMS instrument. This result, combined with the consistency between CIMS BrO and MC soluble bromide, represents an important advance in our quantitative understanding of tropospheric bromine chemistry.
4 Summary

Characterization of the MC response to gas phase bromine species enables better use of soluble bromide data from previous and future field missions focusing on polar halogen chemistry. In this study, the response of the MC to Br$_2$, HOBr, BrO and HBr as soluble bromide ($\text{Br}^-$) was measured. The MC was found to detect bromine in the following compounds Br$_2$, HOBr, BrO, and HBr as soluble bromide with an efficiency per molecule of 0.9 ± 0.1, 1.06 ± 0.30, 0.4 ± 0.1, and 0.95 ± 0.1, respectively. These measured response factors (except that of Br$_2$) were used to model soluble bromide from CIMS measurements of BrO obtained on the 17 April 2008 flight of ARCTAS. The agreement ($R^2 = 0.76$; slope = 0.98; intercept = −3.5 pptv) between measured and observed soluble bromide, when BrO was above the detection limit (>2 pptv) under unpolluted conditions (NO < 100 pptv), indicates in situ BrO measurements by CIMS were consistent with the observed soluble bromide. BrO column densities calculated from CIMS measurements were also consistent with the tropospheric BrO columns derived from OMI satellite data, using a stratospheric burden that includes a significant contribution from VSL bromocarbons.

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References


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Interactive Discussion

Table 1. The response of MC to different levels of Br$_2$ and HOBr sources from setup A and B.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Setup A</th>
<th>Soluble bromide Br$^-$ (ppbv)</th>
<th>Br$_2$ source (ppbv)</th>
<th>HOBr source (ppbv)</th>
<th>Ratio=Br$^-$/(Br$_2$×2+HOBr)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HOBr + Br$_2$ mixture</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>0.42</td>
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<tr>
<td>(N$_2$ flow = 25 sccm)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Br$_2$ permeation tube</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.38</td>
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<tr>
<td>HOBr + Br$_2$ mixture</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>0.42</td>
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<tr>
<td>(N$_2$ flow = 10 sccm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Br$_2$ permeation tube</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.41</td>
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<tr>
<td>HOBr + Br$_2$ mixture</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>0.36</td>
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<tr>
<td>(N$_2$ flow = 10sccm)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Setup B</td>
<td>Soluble bromide Br$^-$ (ppbv)</td>
<td>Br$_2$ source (ppbv)</td>
<td>HOBr source (ppbv)</td>
<td>Ratio=Br$^-$/(Br$_2$×2+HOBr×2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Br$_2$ permeation tube</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.45</td>
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<tr>
<td>HOBr + Br$_2$ mixture</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>0.47</td>
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<td>(N$_2$ flow = 30 sccm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HOBr + Br$_2$ mixture</td>
<td>12.4</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>0.53</td>
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<tr>
<td>(N$_2$ flow = 30 sccm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HOBr + Br$_2$ mixture</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>0.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(N$_2$ flow = 20 sccm)</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
Table 2. The ratio of detected Br$^-$ to Br$_2$, HOBr and BrO. The errors are estimated from the uncertainties in Br$_2$, HOBr, BrO and Br$^-$ measurements and the variance (one standard deviation) of the individual ratio measurements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Br$^-$/(Br$_2 \times 2$)</th>
<th>Br$^-$/HOBr</th>
<th>Br$^-$/BrO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Setup A</td>
<td>0.40 ± 0.10</td>
<td>0.41 ± 0.15</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Setup B</td>
<td>0.45 ± 0.10</td>
<td>1.06 ± 0.30</td>
<td>0.4 ± 0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fig. 1. Inlet configurations and Br$_2$, HOBr and BrO sources for soluble bromide characterization. In setup (A), the solid inlet line presents the sampling inlet connecting to the CIMS and the dashed inlet line denotes the same inlet line connecting to the MC.
Fig. 2a. Top panel: the flight track of ARCTAS on 17 April 2008 color-coded with aircraft altitudes. The black star denotes the beginning of the flight and the dashed arrows represents the direction of the flight. The red circle shows the location on the flight track that corresponds to the bottom panel. Middle panel: time series of observations of ozone and altitude. Bottom panel: observations of soluble bromide, BrO, lower limit of \( \text{Br}_2 + \text{HOBr} \), \( \text{O}_3 \) and altitude for the flight leg with the highest levels of bromine.
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Fig. 2b.
Fig. 3. Example of observed BrO and soluble bromide, and predicted HOBr, HBr and soluble bromide for two marine boundary layer flight legs when the highest levels of BrO and soluble bromide were observed.
Fig. 4. Left panel: correlation plot of predicted and observed soluble bromide in the boundary layer when BrO was above the detection limit (>2 pptv) under unpolluted conditions (NO < 100 pptv). The correlation coefficient for this plot is 0.76. An equally weighted bivariate regression yields a slope of 0.98 and an intercept of −3.5 pptv. Right panel: correlation plot of predicted HOBr and observed lower limit of HOBr + Br₂ when BrO was above detection limit (>2 pptv) under unpolluted condition (NO < 100 pptv). The correlation coefficient ($R^2$) for this plot is 0.86. An equally weighted bivariate regression yields a slope of 1.42 and an intercept of 1.71 pptv.
Fig. 5. Scatter plot of calculated $\text{BrO}^{\text{VCD}}_{\text{TROP}}$ from in situ measurements along the flight track of flight on 17 April versus $\text{BrO}^{\text{VCD}}_{\text{TROP}}$ from OMI satellite observations. The satellite columns are for pixels closest in space and time to the aircraft profiles that resulted in the tropospheric columns (see text). Slope and intercept from weighted bivariate regression and the reduced chi-square are given.