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Sensitivities in global scale modeling of isoprene

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Abstract. A sensitivity study of the treatment of isoprene and related parameters in 3D atmospheric models was conducted using the global model of tropospheric chemistry MATCH-MPIC. A total of twelve sensitivity scenarios which can be grouped into four thematic categories were performed. These four categories consist of simulations with different chemical mechanisms, different assumptions concerning the deposition characteristics of intermediate products, assumptions concerning the nitrates from the oxidation of isoprene and variations of the source strengths. The largest differences in ozone compared to the reference simulation occured when a different isoprene oxidation scheme was used (up to 30–60% or about 10 nmol/mol). The largest differences in the abundance of peroxyacetylnitrate (PAN) were found when the isoprene emission strength was reduced by 50% and in tests with increased or decreased efficiency of the deposition of intermediates. The deposition assumptions were also found to have a significant effect on the upper tropospheric HO_x production. Different implicit assumptions about the loss of intermediate products were identified as a major reason for the deviations among the tested isoprene oxidation schemes. The total tropospheric burden of O_3 calculated in the sensitivity runs is increased compared to the background methane chemistry by 26 ± 9 $Tg(O_3)$ from 273 to an average from the sensitivity runs of 299 $Tg(O_3)$. Thus, there is a spread of $\pm35\%$ of the overall effect of isoprene in the model among the tested scenarios. This range of uncertainty and the much larger local deviations found in the test runs suggest that the treatment of isoprene in global models can only be seen as a first order estimate at present, and points towards specific processes in need of focused future work.

1 Introduction

The chemistry of non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOC) is known to significantly affect the formation of ozone in large parts of the atmosphere and can strongly influence the abundance of hydroxyl radical (OH) concentrations (Houweling et al., 1998; Wang et al., 1998; Poisson et al., 2000). However, little work has been made to assess the uncertainties associated with current model predictions of these effects.

Isoprene is among the most important NMVOC species in the atmosphere with estimated emissions of about 500 Tg(C)/yr amounting almost one half of the global total biogenic emission strength of 1150 Tg(C)/yr (Guenther et al., 1995). Even in some industrialized regions its emissions can be comparable to anthropogenic hydrocarbon emissions (Lamb et al., 1993). An increasing importance of isoprene in the future has been hypothesised by Shallcross and Monks (2000) due to increasing net primary productivity in a warmer climate. Recently, Sanderson et al. (2003) have calculated increasing emissions from 549 Tg(C)/yr (1990s) to 697 Tg(C)/yr in the 2090s including natural vegetation changes. Changes in land use due to anthropogenic activity can be another influential factor.

On the other hand Rosenstiel et al. (2003) recently found that isoprene emissions from an agriforest plantation decreased under increased CO_2 exposure.

The oxidation of NMVOCs in the atmosphere can involve hundreds of species and thousands of reactions (Madronich and Calvert, 1989; Poisson, 1997; Saunders et al., 1997). In addition to the incomplete knowledge about some details of these degradation sequences an uncertainty is therefore introduced through their representation by simplified reaction schemes suitable for three-dimensional chemistry-meteorology applications.

Traditionally, these uncertainties are assessed in box-model studies by comparing a complex reaction scheme with

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Table 1. Isoprene related species in the MIM.

No.	Name	Description
1	C_5H_8	isoprene
2	ISO_2	peroxy radicals from C_5H_8 + OH
3	ISOOH	β-hydroxyhydroperoxides from ISO_2 + HO_2
4	ISON	β-hydroxyalkylnitrates from ISO_2 + NO and alylnitrates from C_5H_8 + NO_3
5	MACR	methacrolein, methylvinylketone and other C_4 carbonyls
6	$MACRO_2$	peroxy radicals from MACR + OH
7	MACROOH	hydroperoxides from $MACRO_2$ + HO_2
8	MPAN	peroxymethacryloylnitrate and other higher peroxyacylnitrates
9	HACET	hydroxyacetone and other C_3 ketones
10	MGLY	methylglyoxal and other C_3 aldehydes
11	CH_3O_3	peroxyacetyl radical
12	PAN	peroxyacetylnitrate
13	CH_3O_3H	peroxyacetic acid
14	CH_2OOH	acetic acid
15	NALD	nitrooxyacetaldehyde
16	HCOOH	formic acid

a simplified mechanism under different typical atmospheric conditions (e.g. Pöschl et al., 2000; Liang and Jacobson, 2000; Geiger et al., 2003). Comparison to smog chamber results are also performed, but currently they do not cover low-NO_x conditions encountered in remote clean environments. However, box-model studies cannot fully account for the complex non-linear interaction between chemical and physical processes such as mixing, transport or deposition occurring in the atmosphere. Thus, an overarching view of the uncertainties connected to the chemical and physical properties of the NMVOC species is only possible with a 3D chemistry-transport model (CTM). On the other hand, the number of uncertain parameters becomes even larger in the 3D framework which make a subjective selection of test cases necessary.

In a box model study Pöschl et al. (2000) compared one detailed and five condensed isoprene oxidation mechanisms with each other under various scenarios relevant to the atmosphere. The Mainz Isoprene Mechanism (MIM) developed in that study was designed to be in relatively close agreement to a detailed mechanism, the Master Chemical Mechanism (MCM, Jenkin et al., 1997; Saunders et al., 1997). However, large deviations were found between the other mechanisms, both relative to each other and to the MCM.

In this study we perform a sensitivity analysis of factors connected to modeling the effects of isoprene emissions using a 3D CTM. This can be seen as an expansion upon the work of Pöschl et al. (2000) in two ways. Firstly, selected condensed isoprene mechanisms also compared in that study have been implemented in the 3D model allowing to investi-

gate whether the effects found in the box model study are also relevant in the 3D context. Secondly, the global 3D model also allows the influence of non-chemical loss processes on the calculated results to be examined.

It is, however, not possible in the 3D model to directly assess the uncertainties in the explicit formulation of isoprene oxidation and thus our selection of three condensed isoprene oxidation schemes can be seen as a pragmatic way to get indications on the overall spread in global 3D simulations of isoprene chemistry. Also, sensitivity to the meteorological representations in the model will not be investigated in this study. Especially vertical mixing processes (boundary layer turbulence and convection) could significantly affect the long-range effects of isoprene and would be a valuable research task which, however, goes beyond the scope of this study.

In the next section a short overview of the 3D global model MATCH-MPIC used for this study is given and the setup of the sensitivity simulations is outlined. In Sect. 4 the selected sensitivity scenarios are described and motivated. The scenarios fall in four groups covering assumption about the chemical scheme, emission strengths, the fate of isoprene nitrates and deposition of intermediates. In Sects. 5 to 8 the results from each of these groups is presented and discussed. A summary of the discussions and results is then given in Sect. 9.

2 Model setup

We use the global tropospheric chemistry model MATCH-MPIC (Model of Atmospheric Transport and Chemistry – Max-Planck-Institute for Chemistry version) in this sensitivity study. The model has been under development over several years (Rasch et al., 1997; Mahowald et al., 1997b,a; Lawrence et al., 1999). The most recent version which includes the chemistry of non-methane hydrocarbons using a flexible set-up is presented in von Kuhlmann et al. (2003a) and it is also used to make chemical forcasts to aid in campaign flight planning (Lawrence et al., 2003).

The model is driven by 6-hourly basic meteorological parameters (u,v-wind, latent and sensible heat flux, specific humidity, surface pressure, surface stress components) from NCEP (Kalnay et al., 1996). The sensitivity simulations are done at a resolution of about $5.6° \times 5.6°$ (T21 Gaussian grid) based on additional parameter fields which have been archived from a higher resolution (T63 or $1.9° \times 1.9°$) run ("archived mode") (see Rasch et al., 1997).

The model applies industrial emissions from the EDGAR database Version 2.0 (Olivier et al., 1996), biomass burning from Galanter et al. (2000), soil-NO_x emission from Yienger and Levy (1995). Lightning-NO_x is parameterized based on Price and Rind (1994) with a global emission strength of 5 Tg-N/yr. Biogenic isoprene emissions are based on monthly mean values from Guenther et al. (1995), but have been

Table 2. Comparison of observed isoprene mixing ratios (in nmol/mol) with model calculations for the high resolution run (T63) and at the reduced resolution (T21). 24-hour means are marked with "24h", otherwise daytime values are reported. Model values are monthly (24 hour) averages. In brackets maximum and minimum of single measurements.

Location	Time	Lat.	Lon.	Observations	T63	T21	Reference
Canada, Egbert	July	44	-79	0.5	0.3	0.4	Bottenheim and Shepherd (1995)
, Kejimkujik	July	45	-65	2.0	0.2	0.3	Bottenheim and Shepherd (1995)
, Fraserdale	Jul.-Aug.	50	-82	0.5-5	0.5	0.4	Jobson et al. (1994)
Niwot Ridge	Aug.-Sept.	40	-105	0.6 (0.2-1.8)	0.2	0.1	Greenberg and Zimmerman (1984)
	Nov.	40	-105	0.1(0.03-0.2)	0.04	0.04	Greenberg and Zimmerman (1984)
Georgian Rep.	Summer	42	43	1.4 (max. 6)	0.2	0.2	Shaw et al. (1983)
Japan	July, 24h	38	140	0.3	0.2	0.1	Yokouchi (1994)
	Nov, 24h	38	140	0.2	0.02	0.01	Yokouchi (1994)
Alabama	Jun.-Jul., 24h	32	-88	3.8 (1-7)	2.9	2.4	Montzka et al. (1993)
Amazonia	Jul.	2	-60	2.2 (1.2-3.2)	6.7	11.0	Rasmussen and Khalil (1988)
Amazonia	year-round	2	-60	2.4 (1.0-5.2)	6.1	9.0	Greenberg and Zimmerman (1984)
Amazonia	Jul.-Aug.	-2	-60	2 (1.1-2.7)	6.4	14.5	Zimmerman et al. (1988)
Peru	July	-5	-77	3.3	10.3	15.6	Helmig et al. (1998)
Venezuela, Buja	Sept.	9	-62	3.3	3.8	3.0	Donoso et al. (1996)
, Auyantepuy	Apr., 24h	6	-62	1.6	1.9	3.1	Donoso et al. (1996)
, Calabozo	Sep.-Oct.,24h	9	-67	0.8 (0.2-3.1)	5.9	7.8	Holzinger et al. (2002)
, Calabozo	Mar.-Apr.,24h	9	-67	0.5 (0.1-1)	0.5	0.5	Holzinger et al. (2002)
, Parupa	Jan.-Feb.	6	-62	0.5 (0.1-1.2)	1.2	2.3	Holzinger et al. (2002)
Surinam (PBL)	Mar.	2-7	-54-58	3.5 (0.5-7)	2.8	2.5	Warneke et al. (2001)

reduced to a global emission strength of 350 Tg-C/yr. A diurnal cycle is imposed by scaling to the cosine of the solar zenith angle with zero emissions during night. Dry deposition is based on a resistance model (Ganzeveld and Lelieveld, 1995) using parameterizations of surface resistances from Wesely (1989) based on the Henry's Law constants of each species. Wet deposition is also parameterized based on the solubilities and assuming equilibrium between gas and aqueous phase (see Crutzen and Lawrence, 2000).

A short discussion stressing the most relevant points of the evaluation of the model using the full NMVOC scheme is given in the next section.

In all simulations only the "background" CH_4-CO-NO_x-HO_x chemistry system and isoprene chemistry is included. A list of isoprene related species in our standard isoprene oxidation mechanism MIM (Pöschl et al., 2000) is given in Table 1. Other non-methane hydrocarbons have been omitted in these runs in order to focus the tests explicitly on isoprene. It has been shown by Wang et al. (1998) that isoprene alone is responsible for a large fraction of the overall effects of all NMVOCs, especially in the tropics on which we focus here. Thus, the sensitivity runs are usefull to identify the most uncertain points in treating isoprene in global models. However, it must be realized that anthropogenic VOC neglected would affect the sensitivities in the polluted northern extra-tropics. Moreover the highly uncertain emissions of other biogenic NMVOC emission (e.g. terpenes, sesquiterpenes) neglected in this study could affect the calculated sensitivities. For reference the changes found in the different test cases will also be compared with the overall effect of adding isoprene chemistry to the background chemistry.

All simulations start on 2 March 1998, from a well spun-up model state. Only the monthly mean results for May are analyzed here. Thus, an additional spin-up period of 2 months is allowed for each simulation. The month May has been chosen because it is characterized by frequent rainfall over large parts of the tropical continents south of the ITCZ (wet season). During this season very little burning activity is occurring and thus the NO_x concentrations are relatively low (Jacob and Wofsy, 1990). Under these conditions isoprene chemistry is expected to be most uncertain, since the mechanisms are only tested with smog chamber data with NO_x concentrations in the hundred nmol/mol to mmol/mol range (e.g. Zaveri and Peters, 1999).

The discussion will focus on the effects in the tropics and especially over the Amazon rain forest, although global budget information is also presented from each run to show the global mean effect. It is noted, however, that the effects of isoprene and its uncertainties are probably not very large in May in the northern extra-tropics, since isoprene emissions maximize 2–3 months later.

3 Model performance

The model results of the full version (including other NMVOCs) have been extensively evaluated with ozone observations in von Kuhlmann et al. (2003a), and the comparison with a large suite of observations of ozone precursors (CO, NO_x, NMVOCs, oxygenates etc.) is resented in von Kuhlmann et al. (2003b). Since not all comparisons (which are also posted at http://www.mpch-mainz.mpg.de/

Table 3. Short descriptions and acronyms of the sensitivity simulations discussed in this section.

Case name	Description
CH4	Only backgound CH_4-CO-NO_x-HO_x chemistry.
BASE	Base run with background and isoprene chemistry (no other NMVOCs).
MOZART	Isoprene chemistry from the MOZART model (Brasseur et al., 1998).
CBM	Isoprene chemistry of the modified CBM-IV mechanism by Houweling et al. (1998).
LOWISOP	Isoprene emissions reduced by 50% in the tropics (20° S–20° N).
LOWSOIL	Soil-NO_x emissions reduced by 50% over forested areas in the tropics (20° S–20° N).
LOWLTNG	Production of NO from lightning reduced by 60% over the continental tropical South America.
HIGHISON	Doubled yield of isoprene nitrates from the ISO_2+NO reaction.
INHNO3	Production of isoprene nitrates is channeled into HNO_3.
NONACA	Reaction products of the oxidation of the isoprene nitrates with OH are assumed to be lost from the atmosphere (thus product NACA is omitted).
LOWDEP	Deposition properties (dry+wet) of hydroxy-hydroperoxides from isoprene assumed to be the same as for CH_3OOH.
VLOWDEP	Deposition of all intermediates of isoprene oxidation switched off.
HIGHDEP	Assumed loss of 70% of hydroxy-hydroperoxides from isoprene (as in Brasseur et al., 1998).

~kuhlmann/matcheval) could be discussed in those studies, we provide some additional discussions in this section, focusing on species (isoprene, NO_y-species) and regions (tropics, rainforest) that would have the strongest influence on our sensitivity simulations with different chemical schemes and can serve as motivation for the sensitivity runs with different emissions described in the next section. These can also help to judge if the changes introduced in those runs would improve or deteriorate the comparison.

For reference the surface distribution of isoprene from the BASE simulation in May is shown in Fig. 1 together with the calculated distribution of NO_x in the boundary layer. Comparison of measurements of isoprene at single locations must be seen with caution due to the coarse model grid and small scale horizontal variations in its concentration. Nevertheless, the ensemble of model/measurement comparisons can give indications about general tendencies of the model to over or under-predict concentrations in certain ecosystems. A compilation of available surface measurements along with model predictions is listed in Table 2.

The model appears to be in agreement with measurements made in North America. Measurements in Japan are expected to be underestimated, since also low emission over oceans from the original $1° \times 1°$ emission data are averaged into the coarse model grid-cell, resulting in lower average fluxes at this location.

The model significantly overestimates mixing ratios found in the central Amazon region, sometimes by a factor of 3. The sites are probably quite representative of the region, since no major inhomogeneities in the vegetation are expected. This may not be the case for the Peru site which is located in a region where a strong horizontal gradient in isoprene is calculated within a few grid cells of the model. The value of the nearest grid cell to the east representative of the rainforest ecosystem is used for this station; using an interpolation to the exact measurement location would also overestimate the observations.

This overestimate is consistent with findings in other 3D global model studies (Houweling et al., 1998; Granier et al., 2000). Besides too high emissions of the rainforest ecosystem as also suggested by Rinne et al. (2002) other factors such as too weak vertical mixing or unknown deposition processes (Holzinger et al., 2002) could contribute to the overestimate. In fact, over Surinam the model predicts a too strong decrease of isoprene with altitude compared to the measurements by Warneke et al. (2001) which indicate efficient mixing by shallow convection up to 4 km.

Measurements of NO_y species over the tropical rainforest are very scarce. The model somewhat overestimates the tower measurements from the ABLE-2A campaign over the central Amazon in May (Bakwin et al., 1990) (mean 450 pmol/mol observed, 700 pmol/mol calculated), but the model is within the central 67% of the data. The model also appears to be on the high side of aircraft measurements of NO from the same campaign (Torres and Buchan, 1988), but here the diurnal cycle of NO complicates the comparison. A model daytime average value is calculated from the 24h-mean output data assuming zero NO during nighttime. When excluding data from early morning measurements to get a more representative daytime value of NO (see Müller and Brasseur, 1995) the model is consistent with observations.
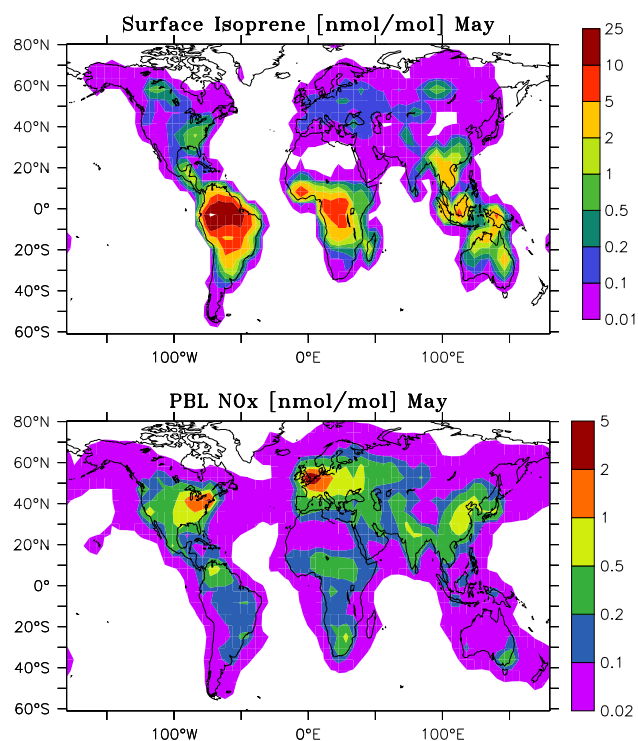
Fig. 1. Distribution of surface isoprene and boundary layer NO_x ($p/p_{surf} < 0.8$) in the BASE run.
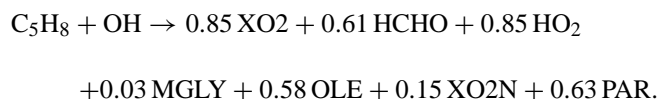
4.1 Chemical schemes

The first group consists of three simulations (including the base run) with different condensed isoprene mechanisms. The Mainz Isoprene Mechanism (MIM) (Pöschl et al., 2000) is compared to two other mechanisms used in global modeling studies (CBM, Houweling et al. (1998) and MOZART, Brasseur et al. (1998)). These two mechanisms have been implemented in MATCH-MPIC using the flexible integration technique as described in von Kuhlmann et al. (2003a). In order to focus on mechanistic differences in the isoprene oxidation scheme, the rate parameters for the initial reactions of isoprene with OH, O_3 and NO_3, and also for the PAN chemistry have been harmonized for all three mechanisms. The same photolysis rates are also used for reactions common to the three mechanisms. Other rates within each isoprene oxidation scheme are used as in the original publications, though it should be noted that the full implemention will be slightly different from the originals due to our harmonization of the PAN chemistry. The isoprene chemistry of the MIM used in the BASE simulation contains about 45 isoprene related reactions and 16 species in addition to the background methane chemistry (see Table 1). Each stage of the degradation is represented by a few species so that the reaction pathways prevailing under low and high NO_x conditions can be adequately represented by the surrogate species. Hydroxy-hydroperoxides from isoprene (ISOOH and MACROOH), which are assumed to form in NO_x-bereft environments are explicitly treated in the scheme. These compounds have been tentatively identified over the rainforest in Surinam (Crutzen et al., 2000; Warneke et al., 2001) and over the savanna in Venezuela (Holzinger et al., 2002).

The mechanism (mainly based on Müller and Brasseur, 1995) used in the global chemistry-transport model MOZART (Brasseur et al., 1998) is similar in complexity to the MIM (about 19 species and 50 reactions). The main differences are the neglected treatment of hydroxy-hydroperoxides. Instead, 70% of these compounds are assumed to be lost through heterogeneous processes and the remainder is immediately oxidized to smaller products. The main C_4-products of the oxidation of isoprene, methylvinylketone (MVK) and methacrolein (MACR) are treated separately, as opposed to the method of lumping them into a single compound in the MIM. The hypothetical reactions of MVK, MACR and methylglyoxal with sulfate aerosols assumed in Brasseur et al. (1996) are not included in the implementation in MATCH-MPIC.

Another difference is the relatively low reactivity assumed for the isoprene nitrates in the MOZART scheme, which may be used because isoprene nitrates are lumped together with other less reactive alkyl nitrates. The reaction rate with OH used in MOZART is $6.8 \cdot 10^{-13}$ molec/cm^3/s compared to $1.3 \cdot 10^{-11}$ in the MIM. The latter value has been estimated using the structure-reactivity relationship (SAR) method of Kwok and Atkinson (1995). However, it is noted that this method

A tendency of the model to overestimate PAN mixing ratios in the remote upper troposphere was identified in von Kuhlmann et al. (2003b). This is also the case for the airborne PAN measurements during ABLE-2A (Singh et al., 1990) which are about a factor of 2 lower than calculated in the model. The exact reason for this is unknown, but it was found that a change in the thermal equilibrium constants of PAN did not mitigate the problem. Another possible reason is checked in a sensitivity run which employs a reduced NO_x production from lightning in the Amazon region.

4 Description of the sensitivity runs

A total of 13 sensitivity simulations have been performed, including a BASE simulation and a simulation only including the background chemistry (denoted CH4). An acronym for each run and a short description is given in Table 3. Most of the modified assumption in these runs can be considered to be within the range of uncertainties of our current knowledge or have been used in the recent literature. Not all tests are equally relevant and some simulations are therefore only discussed briefly. The sensitivity simulations in Table 3 can be subdivided into four groups, which are discussed separately in the following four subsections.

not very reliable for organic nitrates (Neeb, 2000) and the re-activity of these nitrates must be seen as another uncertainty in the oxidation of isoprene.

A very simple oxidation scheme of isoprene (about 12 species or operators and 30 reactions) has been constructed by Houweling et al. (1998), based on the CBM-IV mechanism of Gery et al. (1989). The lumping approach used in the CBM-IV to reduce the complexity of the degradation schemes of higher hydrocarbons is different than used in the MIM or the MOZART scheme. A structural lumping, which groups species according to their bond type is used, as opposed to molecular lumping in MIM and MOZART, where groups of reactions of entire molecules are combined. The initial reaction of isoprene with OH in the CBM mechanism of Houweling et al. (1998) is:

$$C_5H_8 + OH \rightarrow 0.85\,XO2 + 0.61\,HCHO + 0.85\,HO_2$$

$$+0.03\,MGLY + 0.58\,OLE + 0.15\,XO2N + 0.63\,PAR.$$

Here, XO2 and XO2N are peroxy-radical operators and OLE and PAR denote olefinic and paraffinic carbon bonds. It is noted that upon this first reaction about 50% of the carbon is lost and replaced by carbon-free operators.

It has to be kept in mind that "PAN" in this scheme denotes all PAN-type species which makes this quantity not strictly comparable to the PAN in the other schemes. However, other PANs from isoprene chemistry are more reactive than PAN and will thus hardly contribute to long-range transport of NO_x to remote regions. From the contribution of MPAN to total PAN one can estimate that this difference is negligible in remote regions and that other PAN species could contribute about 10% to 30% in the upper troposphere and near the surface, respectively.

4.2 Emission strengths

In this group of simulations some relevant emission strengths are varied. The decision for an increase or decrease of the emissions strengths has been based on the findings from the model evaluation in von Kuhlmann et al. (2003b) so as to give better agreement with observations.

Due to the finding in Sect. 3 of an overestimate of isoprene over the Amazon with the standard global isoprene emission strength of 350 Tg(C)/yr a test simulation (LOWISOP) with isoprene emissions reduced by 50% in the tropics was made, resulting in a global emission strength of about 215 Tg(C)/yr. The figure is comparable to the value of 220 Tg(C)/yr used by Brasseur et al. (1998).

Soil emissions and lightning are the most important NO_x emissions in tropical ecosystems in the wet season when biomass burning activity is low. A critical issue in determining the actual flux of nitrogen into the atmosphere is recapture of nitrogen containing compounds within the canopy (e.g. Ganzeveld et al., 2002).

In the soil emission data set of Yienger and Levy (1995) applied in MATCH-MPIC this is taken into account by simple mechanistic assumptions. For tropical rain forest the canopy reduction factor, which expresses the fraction of nitrogen that is actually exported from the canopy, is given in Yienger and Levy (1995) as 0.25. In the LOWSOIL test simulation it was assumed that the soil emission over forested regions of the tropics is 50% smaller. This would correspond to a canopy reduction factor of about 0.13, or a 50% reduced primary soil emission strength with an unchanged reduction factor. The reduced emissions would bring NO_y surface concentrations in better agreement with observations. The change in the global source strength of NO, however, was found to be only about 5% (or 0.3 Tg(N)/yr), because tropical forest soils during the wet season are not very productive and most soil NO is released to the atmosphere over less forested regions (e.g. savanna).

The production by lightning is calculated to be an even larger source of NO to the Amazon region in MATCH-MPIC (vertically integrated). In a comparison to the GOME column NO_2 data of Richter and Burrows (2002) it is found that this source is probably overestimated in MATCH-MPIC over this region during the wet season (see von Kuhlmann, 2001), in line with the overstimate of PAN over the region in Sect. 3. In another sensitivity run (LOWLTNG) therefore the NO production from lightning has been reduced by 60% over this region (continental South America, north of about 15°S). This reduction applied globally would result in a total source strength of 2 Tg(N)/yr in MATCH, which is near the low end of current estimates (e.g. Lawrence et al., 1995). Due to the regional restriction of the reduction the global source strength is only reduced by 0.6 Tg(N)/yr or 13% in May (from 4.8 to 4.2 Tg(N)/yr).

4.3 Isoprene nitrates

Since Pöschl et al. (2000) pointed out that the different treatment of organic nitrates formed in the course of isoprene oxidation were responsible for a large part of the differences seen in box model simulations with various isoprene oxidation schemes, some tests were also performed to explore their role in the 3D model. In the HIGHISON simulation a doubled yield of isoprene nitrates (denoted ISON in the MIM) is used. The value of 8.8% corresponds to the best estimate of Carter and Atkinson (1996), which is, however, in disagreement with the value of 4.4% obtained by Chen et al. (1998) and used in all other runs here. Recently, a higher yield of 8-12% supporting the previous results of Carter and Atkinson (1996) was inferred by Sprengnether et al. (2002).

Uncertainties also exists in the fate of these nitrates. In most reduced mechanisms, including the three tested here, two different groups of nitrates are represented by a single compound: The products of the reaction of isoprene with NO_3 and the group of β-hydroxy-nitrates from the peroxy radicals which are formed from the C_5H_8+OH reaction
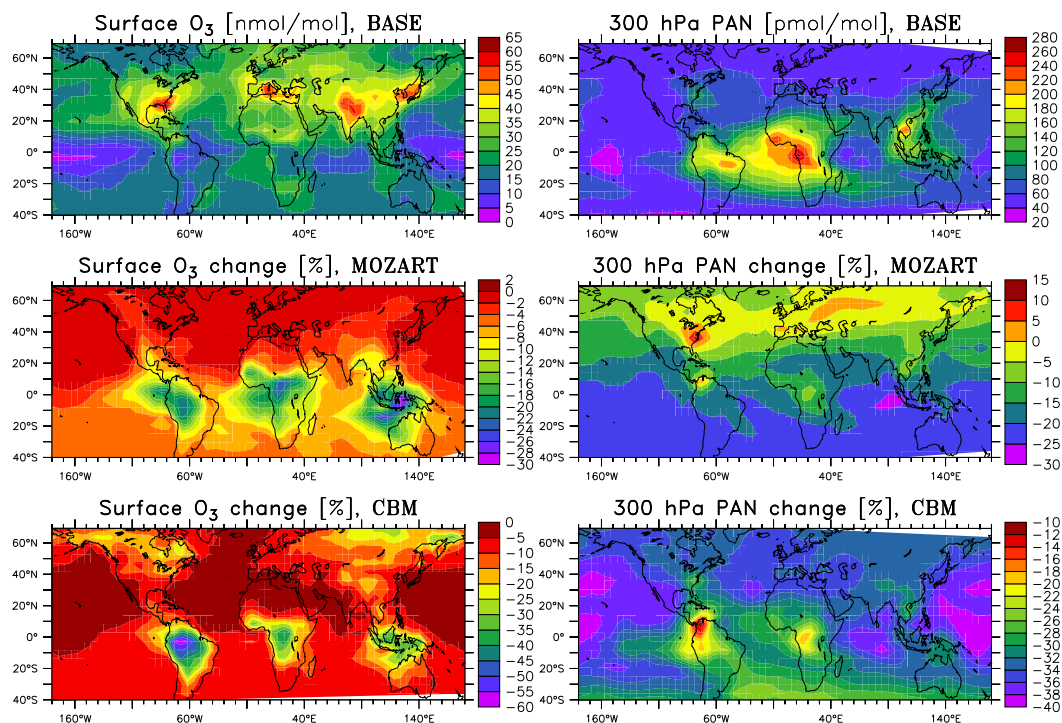
Fig. 2. Distribution of surface ozone and PAN at 300 hPa in the BASE run (upper two panels) and relative difference (in %) of the results from the MOZART (middle panels) and CBM (lower panels) from the BASE run (e.g. $(X_{MOZART}\text{-}X_{BASE})/X_{BASE}\cdot100\%$).

(ISON, Table 1). Since both groups still include a double bond they can react readily with OH, but the reaction products and their properties are not well known (Atkinson, 1994; Carter and Atkinson, 1996). Chen et al. (1998) argued that permanent removal of NO_x will generally occur. In the MIM an intermediate product, denoted NACA (for nitrooxy-acetaldehyde) is formed which can also deposit. In the sensitivity run NONACA it was assumed that all products of the ISON+OH reaction are lost through deposition (dry or wet). Another assumption (Roelofs and Lelieveld, 2000) is that ISON quickly reacts to form HNO_3, which is tested in the INHNO3 run (Table 3). It is noted, however, that experimental support for this assumption is lacking.

4.4 Deposition of intermediates

A last group of sensitivity runs is performed to assess the role of deposition processes of soluble intermediates in the oxidation of isoprene. Due to the additional polar hydroxy group in ISOOH and MACROOH and considering the fact that another functional group could be formed through OH attack at the remaining double bond these hydroxy-hydroperoxides are probably very soluble and could therefore be efficiently taken up by cloud droplets and possibly to other surfaces. The special role and properties of these hydroxy-hydroperoxides compared to other peroxy-radicals (ROOH) is often neglected (e.g. Berntsen and Isaksen, 1997; Collins et al., 1999; Zaveri and Peters, 1999).

This is imitated in the LOWDEP run, where the solubility of CH_3OOH is assumed to also be valid for these compounds, with effect of a lower wet and dry deposition efficiency. In the standard simulation the solubility of hydroxymethyl hydroperoxide ($HOCH_2OOH$)has been used for these species (i.e. $1.7\cdot10^6$ M/atm at 298 K, O'Sullivan et al., 1996).

An even more extreme case is tested in VLOWDEP, where deposition (dry and wet) of several intermediates (ISOOH, MACROOH, HACET, MPAN, MACR, ISON) in the MIM are neglected completely. On the other extreme, in the "HIGHDEP" simulation a 70% loss of ISOOH and MACROOH is assumed as in Müller and Brasseur (1995); Brasseur et al. (1998) and Granier et al. (2000).

5 Sensitivity to the chemical scheme

The horizontal distribution of ozone and PAN along with the changes resulting from the different isoprene oxidation mechanisms is shown in Fig. 2. A summary of selected budgets and minimal and maximal relative and absolute effects found in all sensitivity runs is given in Tables 4 and 5 to provide more information and will be discussed later.

As expected, the changes are largest over the tropical rainforest regions, where isoprene emissions are highest (Fig. 2). An exception is the large increase in PAN in the northern latitudes for MOZART. This mechanism appears to produce significantly more PAN under medium to high-NO_x condi-

Table 4. Selected budgets numbers from the sensitivity simulations for May. Units are Tg/yr unless stated differently.

Test case[a]	CH4	BASE	MOZ-ART	CBM	LOW-ISOP	LOW-SOIL	LOW-LTNG	HIGH-ISON	IN-HNO$_3$	NO-NACA	VLOW-DEP	LOW-DEP	HIGH-DEP
O$_3$ Troposphere													
Burden [Tg]	273	304	290	291	296	304	298	303	297	298	322	308	300
Dry deposition	−604	−724	−684	−707	−713	−719	−718	−705	−702	−705	−765	−730	−715
P(O$_3$)–L(O$_3$)[b]	−80	90	37	54	56	85	86	71	58	63	190	115	66
P(O$_3$)	3087	3956	3645	3669	3758	3938	3881	3908	3785	3808	4345	4041	3860
–L(O$_3$)	−3167	−3865	−3609	−3615	−3702	−3853	−3795	−3837	−3727	−3745	−4155	−3927	−3793
O$_3$ Continental PBL[c]													
Transport[d]	4	−50	−6	13	−52	−45	−52	−32	−29	−31	−58	−41	−53
P(O$_3$)–L(O$_3$)	410	564	487	495	559	554	561	527	525	530	603	559	561
CO Troposphere													
Burden [Tg]	271	302	298	300	288	302	305	302	304	305	315	313	294
Chem. Prod.	787	1081	958	1023	989	1078	1066	1071	1037	1045	1234	1138	1031
Chem. Loss.	−2068	−2244	−2136	−2159	−2184	−2240	−2223	−2232	−2194	−2201	−2360	−2270	−2212
CH$_4$–Lifetime [yr]	8.70	8.91	9.25	9.23	8.75	8.94	9.08	8.98	9.21	9.20	8.75	9.07	8.82
NO$_y$													
Troposph. Burden [Gg-N]	198	314	310	278	273	313	305	317	294	299	419	349	285
Transp. Continental PBL	−2.86	−4.42	−4.13	−3.98	−4.04	−4.36	−4.39	−4.42	−3.85	−3.97	−5.93	−4.64	−4.26
Transp. UT Tropics[e]	0.270	0.111	−0.094	0.075	0.24	0.098	0.143	0.094	0.07	0.103	0.136	0.045	0.202
PAN													
Troposph. Burden [Gg-N]	—	84	72	57	53	84	81	85	78	82	147	111	60
Transp. Continental PBL	—	−0.766	−0.832	−0.595	−0.639	−0.756	−0.754	−0.705	−0.701	−0.72	−1.174	−0.887	−0.689
Transport, UT Tropics	—	−0.227	−0.173	−0.14	−0.08	−0.23	−0.206	−0.243	−0.218	−0.227	−0.386	−0.298	−0.135

[a]For a list of acronyms of the runs see Table 3.
[b]Net photochemical production, based on the extended O$_3$ family. P(O$_3$) is gross chemical production and L(O$_3$) chemical loss of ozone.
[c]Continental boundary layer (below about 800 hPa, $\sigma > 0.778$, $\sigma = p/p_{surface}$). Continents are defined by the model's land–sea mask.
[d]Sum of advection, convection and vertical diffusion tendencies. Negative numbers indicate net export from the region.
[e]Tropical upper troposphere (20° S–20° N, $\sigma < 0.34$).

tions as found in this region. The effect in the extra-tropics is not fully developed in early summer. However, in the south-eastern U.S. there is a region where ozone production from industrial NO$_x$ and isoprene has already increased ozone mixing ratios significantly above the background values. The three mechanisms agree to within a few percent in their calculation of ozone levels in this region, reflecting that they have been originally tuned and tested for these conditions.

In the tropical continental regions, where NO$_x$ concentration are lower, however, differences of up to 50% are seen. The MOZART scheme results in about 15-30% lower ozone concentrations in the source region and the CBM mechanisms yields even lower values, especially in the clean Amazon basin. This is a result of the lower NO$_x$ mixing ratios calculated by the two mechanisms as a result of stronger alkyl-nitrate formation (in line with the box model results, Pöschl et al. (2000)).

In case of the CBM scheme, in the Amazon region a decrease in surface mixing ratios (not shown) of NO$_x$ (10–20%), PAN (20–50%) and OH (25–45%), but an increase in HO$_2$ is found compared to the BASE run. For the MOZART

scheme, on the other hand, NO$_x$, HO$_2$ and OH have decreased only slightly ($\approx$5%, not shown), but PAN is also decreased over the Amazon region by 20–40%. A likely cause for the lower PAN levels are the implicit assumptions of large losses of intermediates in both schemes. In the CBM mechanism this is expressed in the 50% loss of carbon upon the initial reaction with OH. Strong carbon loss in MOZART occurs through the assumption of a 70% loss of the hydroxy-hydroperoxides.

The global average CO yield from isoprene in the two schemes can be estimated using information from the methane-only run: Assuming that the CO-yield from methane does not vary significantly when adding isoprene chemistry we calculate the overall CO-yield from isoprene of each scheme on a per carbon basis. Consistent with the consideration above for CBM (0.33) and MOZART (0.25) a lower CO yield is calculated for May than for the MIM with a CO-yield of 0.37.

Comparing the calculated average loss fraction of the hydroxy-hydroperoxides in MIM to the assumed fixed 70% in MOZART can further explain the low yield in the MOZART run. For the BASE run (using the MIM scheme)

Table 5. Maximal relative and absolute deviations of the test runs from the BASE run. The relative deviations have been restricted to regions where the mixing ratios are more than 5% of the corresponding lower tropospheric (<500 hPa) average.

Test run[a]	CH4	MOZ-ART	CBM	LOW-ISOP	LOW-SOIL	LOW-LTNG	HIGH-ISON	IN-HNO$_3$	NO-NACA	VLOW-DEP	LOW-DEP	HIGH-DEP
O$_3$												
max. relative change [%][b]	4.7	0.5	0.4	15.8	0.2	0.3	3.6	0.2	0.2	41.8	16.0	2.0
min. relative change [%][c]	–48.2	–34.5	–63.4	–14.6	–15.7	–25.1	–28.4	–19.1	–17.1	–0.5	–11.6	–3.8
max. absolute change [nmol/mol][d]	11.0	6.6	4.6	4.2	0.15	4.1	0.7	1.8	1.5	8.1	2.1	1.0
min. absolute change [nmol/mol]	–23.9	–11.2	–12.5	–5.7	–2.5	–8.6	–5.1	–6.5	–5.8	–6.2	–3.2	–1.1
CO												
max. relative change [%]	1.4	1.4	12.8	0.1	0.6	5.2	1.1	2.0	2.3	25.0	15.7	0.0
min. relative change [%]	–42.9	–10.2	–10.3	–18.9	–1.4	–0.5	–3.6	–2.0	–1.4	0.0	0.0	–5.1
max. absolute change [nmol/mol]	1.8	1.9	16.0	0.01	0.6	3.5	1.3	1.4	1.9	35.8	20.6	0
min. absolute change [nmol/mol]	–77.9	–11.7	–22.4	–33.7	–1.6	–0.6	–4.0	–2.3	–1.7	–0	–0	–5.9
NO$_x$												
max. relative change [%]	83.2	14.3	24.7	52.2	8.3	11.9	20.4	5.8	5.5	179.7	105.8	20.7
min. relative change [%]	–79.2	–70.0	–73.4	–49.6	–38.1	–54.8	–32.3	–41.4	–38.0	–23.1	–48.1	–17.1
max. absolute change [pmol/mol]	2486	31.8	1537	89.6	3.5	15.6	98.7	25.4	25.5	89.5	23.9	42.2
min. absolute change [pmol/mol]	–260	–127	–173	–46.7	–223	–79.1	–74.0	–64.1	–57.3	–267	–39.1	–13.6
PAN												
max. relative change [%]	—	79.5	114.0	13.8	19.9	31.6	69.4	44.0	51.0	1924	1072	0.8
min. relative change [%]	—	–81.1	–85.6	–88.8	–24.2	–33.4	–38.0	–45.1	–39.6	–14.0	–19.5	–48.3
max. absolute change [pmol/mol]	—	497	37	2.2	4.0	2.1	13.5	0.6	1.2	617	195	1.0
min. absolute change [pmol/mol]	—	–118	–189	–352	–29.0	–54.8	–80.1	–64.9	–52.6	–1.2	–1.6	–78.4
OH												
max. relative change [%]	6854	11.6	51.0	229	1.2	7.2	3.4	3.2	1.7	35.5	11.9	25.8
min. relative change [%]	-49.8	-59.8	-67.9	-14.7	-25.4	-59.1	-45.7	-27.4	-26.0	-60.3	-60.4	-7.2
HO$_2$												
max. relative change [%]	45.7	21.9	142	23.7	3.0	36.4	6.9	7.8	8.7	38.5	22.4	6.1
min. relative change [%]	-93.7	-20.1	-39.2	-39.7	-8.1	-13.4	-12.5	-12.6	-10.9	-12.3	-19.1	-14.2

[a] For a list of acronyms of the runs see Table 3.
[b] Percentage by which the mixing ratio in the test run is maximally higher than the BASE run.
[c] Percentage by which the mixing ratio in the test run is maximally lower than the BASE run.
[d] Like relative changes, but for maximum difference in mixing ratios.

a global loss fraction of 35% of the hydroxy-hydroperoxides is calculated. Over the Amazon rain forest during May this loss fraction is 68% in the BASE run which is in qualitative agreement with the 1D model study of Jacob and Wofsy (1990) upon which Brasseur et al. (1998) based their general loss rate of 70%. However, the fraction is found to depend strongly on the OH concentrations since they limit the chemical lifetimes of these compounds. Consequently, in the free troposphere (above 800 hPa) the fraction of hydroxy-hydroperoxides lost via deposition is calculated to be much smaller (about 10%), because the photochemical loss via reaction with OH and photolysis is faster (the 24h-average lifetime is about 12 h for those conditions). This also means that the loss of carbon via this pathway will actually depend on the assumed emission strength of isoprene, because this largely controls the abundance of OH in the boundary layer where most of the loss occurs. The reactivity of the group of intermediates will also be important, adding to the overall uncertainty. Although large uncertainties exist these consid-erations argue against the use of fixed loss fractions and for an explicit treatment of these soluble intermediates and their spatially and temporally varying deposition rates.

The deviations in the PAN concentration at 300 hPa in the UT are also plotted in Fig. 2. The upper tropospheric values are plotted here because they determine the large scale transport of NO$_x$ and give a better indication of the impact of the chemical scheme on the background level of this compound. Interestingly, for MOZART higher PAN concentrations are calculated near the surface in the northern hemispheric extra-tropics (+40–60%), but the difference in the upper troposphere is much smaller (±5%). In these regions the treatment of the hydroxy-hydroperoxides is probably not important due to higher NO$_x$ and OH concentrations.

In CBM the calculated concentration of upper tropospheric PAN is lower by about 20-40% compared to the MIM-chemistry (BASE run) over large regions including the NH-extra-tropics. Near the surface the CBM scheme tends to calculate lower mixing ratios over the continents and most
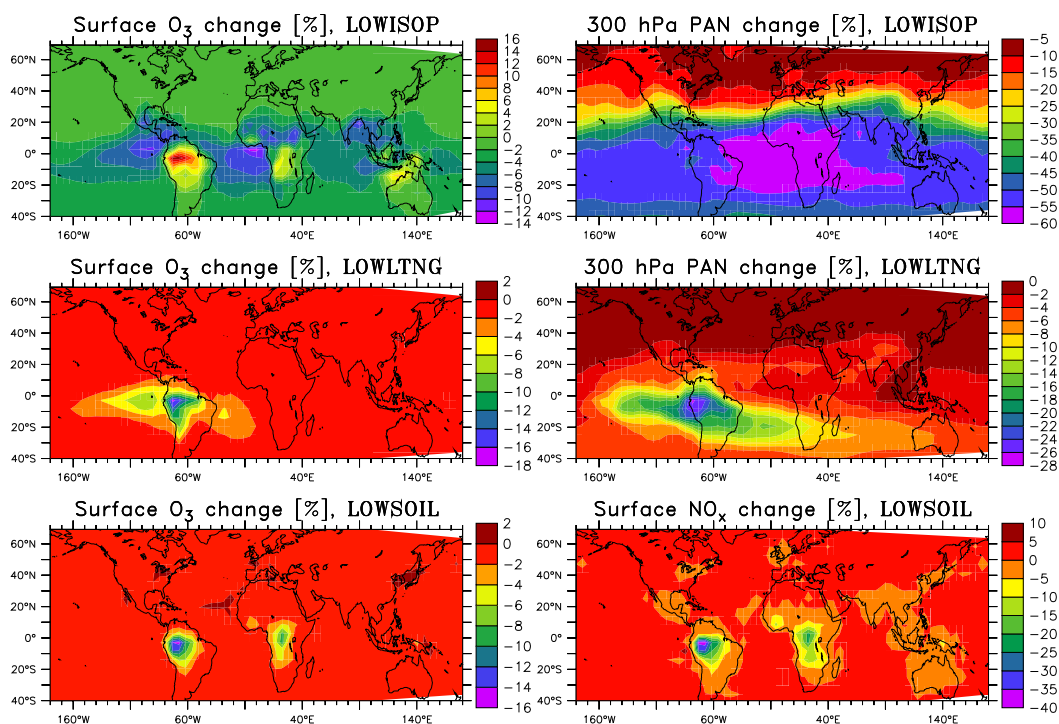
Fig. 3. Relative change (in %) in surface ozone and PAN at 300 hPa in the sensitivity runs with changed emissions. For the LOWSOIL simulation the change in surface NO$_x$ is plotted.

parts of the ocean (not shown). Taking into account that PAN in the CBM scheme actually encompasses all PAN-type species would increase the difference between the BASE and the CBM run.

These results are consistent with the findings from the box model simulations of Pöschl et al. (2000) for high and low NO$_x$ scenarios. For high NO$_x$ the MIM was found to was bracketed by the two schemes in the, with MOZART being higher and CBM being lower. Under low NO$_x$ was found to yield more PAN than the two other schemes.

The tropospheric burden of PAN (Table 4) is lower in MOZART (-14%) and in the CBM run (-32%) compared the BASE run. However, the export from the continental troposphere is largest in MOZART and significantly smaller in CBM. This means that higher efficiency of the MIM at medium to low NO$_x$ levels outweighed its lower efficiency compared to the MOZART scheme on the global average. The net export of PAN from the tropical upper troposphere shows that in this region chemistry is a source of PAN underlining its important role in the long-range transport of NO$_x$. Significant deviations are also found for total reactive nitrogen (NO$_y$), with the lowest values generally found for the CBM simulation (Table 4).

The global tropospheric burden of ozone is lower by about 5% in the two other chemistry schemes. The results from a "methane-only" (CH$_4$-CO-NO$_x$-HO$_x$) simulation are also listed in order to assess the error in the overall effect of iso-

prene. While in the BASE run an increase of 31 Tg(O$_3$) compared to the CH4 run is calculated, it is only 17 or 18 Tg in the other two runs. The gross production of ozone (P(O$_3$)) varies by as much as 300 Tg(O$_3$)/yr in the different isoprene runs, with an average increase compared to the CH4 simulation of about 700-800 Tg/yr. However, the change (decrease or increase) in the loss rate is always in line with the production change, so that the change in net production is not as large.

For the globally averaged export (or import) of ozone from the continental boundary layer even different signs are predicted. The BASE run has the highest photochemical production of ozone and despite a compensating higher dry deposition rate it results in the largest export of ozone from this region.

The CO burden is only marginally different in the runs, but it could be that the spin-up time of 2 months is not sufficient to fully develop the effect for this longer lived species. The production rate is significantly lower in MOZART (–123 Tg(CO)/yr or 11%) and CBM (–58 Tg/yr, 5%) due to the implicit loss assumptions in the two schemes. Despite the lower production rates and burdens of CO in these two runs, the oxidation efficiency of the atmosphere with respect to methane is somewhat lower (corresponding to a 0.3 years longer methane lifetime). Thus, for CO probably two effects are competing: reduced production in the MOZART and CBM simulation due to higher losses of intermediates act
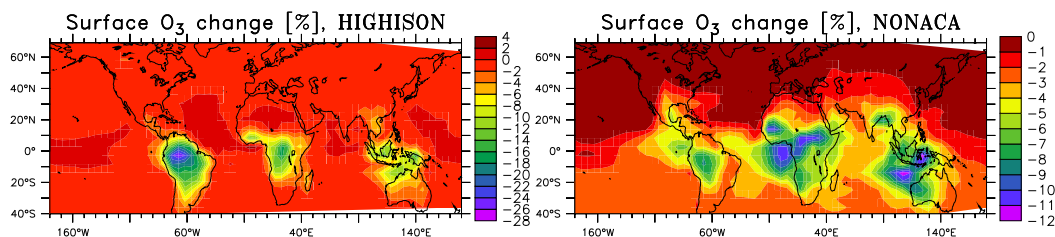
Fig. 4. Relative change (in %) in surface ozone in the HIGHISON and NONACA sensitivity runs compared to the BASE run.

against lower loss of CO due to lower OH levels in these runs. The latter is probably caused by the lower PAN amounts and thus less long-range transport of NO_x.

Locally, the effects on CO mixing ratios can also be significant (Table 5). It can be seen that the MOZART and CBM simulation can be as much as 11 and 22 nmol/mol lower in CO. For the CBM scheme regions with higher CO mixing ratios (up to 12 nmol/mol) are also found, which is probably due the faster oxidation of isoprene to CO resulting from the omission of several intermediate stages in the mechanism. The maximum perturbation in O_3 is as large as about 10 nmol/mol for two chemistry schemes. Local deviations are also found for the two HO_x species (OH and HO_2), especially for the CBM simulation.

6 Sensitivity to the emissions strengths

The effects on surface ozone and PAN at 300 hPa due to perturbations of the emission strengths are shown in Fig. 3. The perturbation of upper tropospheric PAN in the LOWSOIL simulation was small ($\pm 2\%$) so that the change in surface NO_x concentrations is shown instead.

The reduction of the isoprene emissions in the tropics (LOWISOP) results in an increase of O_3 in the source regions, which is due to the reduced ozonolysis of isoprene. On the other hand, a decrease in remote regions and also in the free troposphere above the source regions is calculated (not shown), which is likely connected to less PAN formation and thus less NO_x in remote regions. The absolute difference (Table 5) in O_3 of about ± 5 nmol/mol is not as large as those found using different chemical schemes.

The predicted increase in the total ozone column in the BASE run compared to a "methane-only" simulation (CH4) of 31 Tg(O_3) is reduced by 8 Tg (i.e. 26% of the effect). Interestingly, the tropospheric burden and the net production term of O_3 in the LOWISOP simulation are still higher than for the MOZART and the CBM runs, whereas other budget numbers like the global CO burden and chemical production and the global PAN burden are significantly lower in the LOWISOP run. This shows that the impact of the isoprene oxidation scheme on O_3 is roughly comparable to the 50% reduction in isoprene source strength, whereas most other

species show smaller deviations in the LOWISOP compared to using different chemical schemes.

A larger impact is predicted for PAN, which is reduced by about 40–60% at 300 hPa in the LOWISOP run, suggesting an approximately linear response to the 50% reduction in isoprene emissions. If the overestimate of isoprene concentrations is due to overestimated isoprene emissions or a missing non-chemical sink this could together with the fact that a large ($>50\%$) fraction of PAN in the tropics is from isoprene (von Kuhlmann, 2001) explain a large part of the overestimate in PAN found by von Kuhlmann et al. (2003b).

The reduction of the soil emissions (or the canopy reduction factor) results in a maximum reduction of NO_x of 38% (Table 5 and Fig. 3) over the central Amazon and a reduction in O_3 of about 15%, only 2.5 nmol/mol. In the free troposphere the effect on ozone and as mentioned above also on PAN is negligible (O_3: $< \pm 1\%$). Recall, however, that the absolute change in the emission strength was only small in this test run.

A much larger effect is found when reducing lightning NO_x emissions over the Amazon region (LOWLTNG run). The 60% reduction in the lightning NO source reduces PAN concentrations by up to 30% in that region in the LOWLTNG run. If we could assume a linear response from this, we could estimate that about half of the PAN formed from isoprene in that region is from the interaction of isoprene oxidation products and lightning NO_x. However, linearity is probably not fulfilled so that this estimate will give only an indication of the magnitudes. The remaining PAN is formed from NO_x from biomass burning (in Venezuela), some surrounding industrial emissions (e.g. from cities at the west coast of South America) and from NO_x emissions from soils. The overestimate of the simulated NO_2-column over the central Amazon in May compared to GOME retrievals found in von Kuhlmann (2001) was as large as a factor of 10. Thus, even when considering the uncertainties in that comparison, it is possible that the 60% reduction was too mild. Besides a still overestimated lightning-NO_x source also an overestimated NO_x lifetime and other NO_x sources could play a role.

However, a better quantification of the source strength of lightning in this region, especially in the wet season, when other NO_x sources are weak (and deposition loss is strongest), in connection with a realistic representation of

Table 6. Tropospheric budgets of C_5-isoprene nitrates in the BASE simulation (MIM chemistry) in May. Numbers are in Tg(N)/yr.

Sources	$C_5H_8+NO_3$	+2.9
	ISO_2+NO	+1.8
Sinks	$ISON+OH$	−2.2
	$ISON+h\nu$	−0.1
	dry deposition	−1.0
	wet deposition	−1.5

vertical transport (PBL turbulence, convection) appears to be a key to a better simulation of the chemistry over the Amazon, and significantly influences the export of PAN from that region.

7 Sensitivity to the fate of isoprene-nitrates

The nitrates formed in the oxidation of isoprene are usually represented by only a few surrogate species in the condensed mechanisms, due to a lack of more detailed knowledge of their individual chemistry and computational restrictions. Apart from the uncertainty in their formation rate, it is also largely unknown what products are formed upon their reaction with OH or photolysis.

The changes of surface ozone in the HIGHISON and NONACA simulations are shown in Fig. 4 and further results are listed in Tables 4 and 5. Ozone concentrations decrease by about 10–20% in the central Amazon region in these two runs. The peak effect of an increased nitrate formation rate (8.8% of the ISO_2+NO reaction) is higher, whereas the changes in the simulation in which all products of the reaction of isoprene nitrates with OH (ISON+OH) are assumed to deposit (NONACA) are more widespread. As mentioned before a higher yield of isoprene nitrates is actually supported by a recent laboratory study (Sprengnether et al., 2002).

The results from the third run in which all ISON is quickly converted to HNO_3 (INHNO3) is not shown, since it yielded very similar results than the NONACA simulation. This is understandable, because forming HNO_3 from ISON will also result in a high likelihood of permanent nitrogen removal from the atmosphere, but in this case via deposition of nitric acid instead of an explicit assumption in the scheme.

The global average sources and sinks of the surrogate species ISON in the MIM are listed in Table 6. It is calculated that more than 60% of the ISON surrogate in MIM is formed from the nighttime reaction of isoprene with NO_3. The isoprene-NO_3-adduct could in principle react with NO, NO_3, HO_2, OH or decompose (Jenkin et al., 1997), but no mechanistic information is available at present and as mentioned before the SAR estimation method for nitrates is not very reliable. Studies investigating this product group should mainly focus on the question of how much of the nitrates are eventually lost from the atmosphere without releasing NO_2. In the BASE case (MIM) about 53% is lost via dry and wet deposition in May on the global average. This is only slightly higher that the annual average of 48% calculated in von Kuhlmann (2001). This high fraction is the result of a large Henry's Law constant of $1.7 \cdot 10^4$ M/atm at 298 K used for this species. The value obtained by Treves et al. (2000) for 5-nitroxy-2-butanol has been assumed for ISON.

More extreme assumption have been made by Müller and Brasseur (1995), who assume 100% loss of isoprene nitrates, and by Houweling et al. (1998), who apply deposition properties of PAN also to the nitrates, thus neglecting wet deposition and yielding slower dry deposition than in the other test cases. The first assumption should be similar to the NONACA case tested here, since only a small fraction of ISON photolyzes to give back NO_2 (Table 6). The latter assumption is unrealistic and probably a compromise needed because the nitrates from isoprene are not differentiated from the alkyl nitrate pool in their scheme. The tests performed here should thus give a good indication of the actual range of uncertainty from the treatment of isoprene nitrates.

Although the global effects on ozone and PAN are smaller than seen in the test with different chemistry schemes, the local differences in O_3 are not negligible (up to 5 nmol/mol). The net production in the INHNO3 simulation (58 Tg/yr compared to 90 in the BASE run) is almost as low as in the CBM simulation (54 Tg/yr).

8 Sensitivity to deposition of intermediates

Two assumptions about deposition properties of soluble intermediate species are tested here (LOWDEP and HIGH-DEP, see Table 3). Additionally, for comparison the extreme assumption of a total neglect of deposition of intermediate species is tested in the VLOWDEP scenario. In the BASE case where the hydroxyhydroperoxides (ISOOH and MACROOH) are assumed to be relatively soluble a loss fraction of 33% of these species is calculated on the annual mean. The remaining two thirds photolyse or react with OH. Thus, a loss of 70% (as HIGHDEP) appears to be only possible when heterogeneous loss on aerosols occurs which is speculative at present.

The effect of these assumptions on ozone is quite small (< 3 nmol/mol) for the two more realistic cases (LOWDEP and HIGHDEP), but are predicted to be in the range $\pm 6 - 8$ nmol/mol for the VLOWDEP case (Table 4). For that case also the highest tropospheric burden of O_3 of all test simulations is calculated, which corresponds to an increase of 49 Tg(O_3) compared to the CH4 run. This is an over 50% larger effect than in the BASE case (+31 Tg(O_3)).

The global CO burdens have changed only slightly as in all the other test runs: -4% in LOWDEP and +2% in HIGHDEP. But local differences can be especially large in the LOWDEP
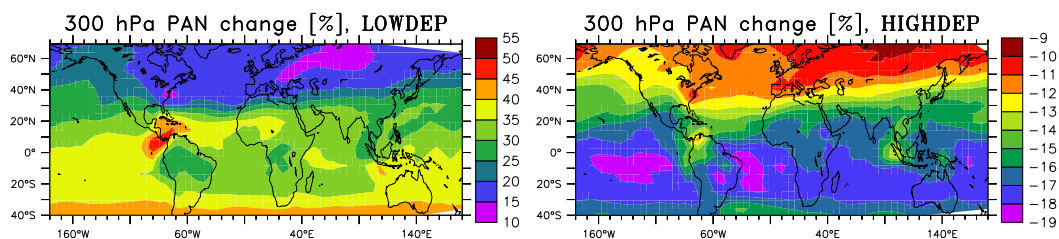
Fig. 5. Change in the PAN mixing ratios (in %) at 300 hPa for the LOWDEP and HIGHDEP simulations.

run (+15% or 20 nmol/mol), though the resulting decrease in CO in the remote SH at the surface is also small ($\approx 5\%$, not shown). This is comparable in magnitude to the effect found by reducing the source strength of isoprene. The photochemical source of CO is changed by ± 50 Tg(CO)/yr ($<$ 5%) in the two more realistic scenarios and +150 Tg/yr in the VLOWDEP case. Note that the magnitude of these effects are also coupled to the total source strength which was reduced by 30% for all simulations compared to the estimate of Guenther et al. (1995) of 500 Tg(C)/yr.

An interesting point can be seen in the change in the methane lifetime. While in the two more realistic simulations the methane lifetime changes consistently with the increase or decrease of CO production, in the VLOWDEP the methane lifetime is shorter than in the BASE simulation despite the higher production of CO. This behavior is probably the result of also neglecting the deposition of two nitrates from isoprene oxidation (ISON and MPAN) and the strongly increased PAN abundance (Tables 4 and 5), which lead to enhancement of global OH via more transport of NO_x into remote regions.

Since the assumptions in the HIGHDEP simulation are very similar to those implicit in the MOZART mechanism, one can examine the impact of these assumptions on the total difference between MOZART and the BASE run. The difference between the MOZART and HIGHDEP runs are much smaller than those between MOZART and our BASE case. This means that the assumption of 70% loss of hydroxy-hydroperoxides from isoprene in MOZART probably causes a large part of the difference to the MIM scheme used in MATCH-MPIC. Some differences, however, must have other reasons. For instance, the global PAN and NO_y burdens are even smaller in the HIGHDEP than in the MOZART run which confirms the tendency of the MOZART scheme to predict high PAN levels. Note that PAN-related rate parameters have been harmonized for this study. Thus, other mechanistic assumptions or rate parameters of precursors of the peroxyacetyl radical are responsible for the higher PAN yield in the MOZART mechanism which was also found in the box model study of Pöschl et al. (2000).

The largest effects in this group of test cases is in fact found for PAN, which is depicted in Fig. 5. Especially in the LOWDEP case the deviations are large: A 30-45% increase in PAN levels can be seen in the upper troposphere

Table 7. Turnover of primary HO_x source reactions related to isoprene chemistry in 10^{26} molec/cm^3/s in the tropical upper troposphere (20° S–20° N, σ < 0.34) in May.

Reaction \ Case	CH$_4$	BASE	LOWDEP	HIGHDEP
HCHO+hν [a]	167.7	233.3	251.2	215.6
CH$_3$OOH+hν	30.3	34.0	36.4	32.2
MGLO+hν	—	23.7	32.0	14.9
HACET+hν	—	7.2	10.6	4.6
MACROOH+hν	—	3.7	7.4	—
MACR+hν	—	3.7	4.9	2.5
CH$_3$CO$_3$H+hν	—	0.7	1.2	0.3
ISOOH+hν	—	0.6	0.9	—
Sum	198.0	306.9	344.6	270.1
Change	–35%	—	+12.3%	–12.0%

[a]Turnover of HCHO+h$\nu \rightarrow$ HCO + H channel times two.

of the Southern Hemisphere (SH) and the northern tropics when the deposition properties of CH$_3$OOH are used for all peroxides (as in the LOWDEP run). The decrease in PAN due to even higher deposition rate is not as large: about 15-20% over large parts of the SH. The changes in the lower atmosphere are even higher with peak changes of a factor of 10 (see Table 5), but these occur in regions with PAN mixing ratios of only a few pmol/mol (e.g. in the south east Pacific).

Since photolysis of peroxides is believed to contribute to upper tropospheric HO_x(=OH+HO$_2$) production (e.g. Chatfield and Crutzen, 1990; Prather and Jacob, 1997; Jaeglé et al., 1997) it is instructive to see the effect of the different treatment of hydroxy-hydroperoxides on the HO_x mixing ratios in the this region. In the LOWDEP simulation a 10% higher zonal mean HO_x abundance in the uppermost tropical troposphere (100-200 hPa) is found (not shown). The effect on OH is only slightly smaller (+7%), although locally the increase is as large as 35%. The HIGHDEP runs results in about 5% lower zonal mean HO_x values than in the BASE case. A list of some key reactions contributing to tropical UT HO_x is listed in Table 7. We find that the photolysis of some isoprene oxidation products is at least as important as the photolysis of methyl-hydroperoxide (CH$_3$OOH) identified by Prather and Jacob (1997) as a major contributor. These results qualitatively confirm the findings of Collins

et al. (1999) that isoprene products can significantly influence UT HO_x. Note that acetone chemistry is not taken into account here which would constitute additional sources of HO_x in the upper troposphere (e.g. McKeen et al., 1997). The role of the photolysis of isoprene intermediates in the UT also shows that chemical mechanism reductions which are exclusively based on box-model calculations for the lower troposphere (e.g. Geiger et al., 2003) can lead to errors in large scale 3D models. We find a significant influenced of the assumption about the deposition of intermediates on these result (Table 7) underlining that more accurate knowledge on these properties are needed. Note that the assumption made in Collins et al. (1999) are tested in our case LOWDEP. Furthermore, we find that a large fraction of the additional HO_x source is through photolysis of formaldehyde formed in the oxidation of isoprene ($+65.6 \cdot 10^{26}$ molec/cm^3/s in the BASE run compared to the CH4 simulation, Table 7).

9 Conclusions

A number of different sensitivities in the treatment of isoprene in a global model have been examined. Different chemical schemes, changed emission rates, and different assumptions about the fate of isoprene nitrates and about the deposition efficiency of certain intermediates have been tested and analyzed for one month of the year (May).

The overall picture obtained in these tests is that global average budget numbers of O_3 and CO vary in the different sensitivity runs by about 5% or less, whereas the changes in total NO_y burden and PAN burden are larger (10% and 30–40%, respectively). Local deviations of the key species, however, can be substantial.

The 3D model studies reported in this paper confirm the relevance and significance of the differences between the chemical mechanisms investigated in the box model study of Pöschl et al. (2000). On the other hand the results show that transport processes play an important role and that the overall effects of isoprene on global atmospheric chemistry can hardly be quantified by extrapolation of simple box model calculations.

The deviations in the ozone mixing ratios induced when exchanging the chemical scheme were found to be largest among all test simulations. The simulation with the highly condensed CBM-scheme of Houweling et al. (1998) produces the largest local deviations in O_3 from the base simulation (up to 60% or 12 nmol/mol). The total tropospheric burden of O_3 calculated for the three runs with different chemistry is increased compared to the background methane chemistry by 24 ± 7 Tg(O_3) (thus with a range of $\pm30\%$). The range of effects among all test runs (without the VLOWDEP run, which was intended as an idealized but unrealistic test case) can be expressed as an increase in tropospheric ozone by 26 ± 9 (or $\pm35\%$). This range of uncertainty and the much larger local deviations found in the test runs show that the

treatment of isoprene chemistry in global models can only be seen as a first order estimate at present.

The reason for the deviations of the results obtained with different isoprene oxidation mechanisms cannot be easily be explained. However, a comparison to a run in which a major assumption of the MOZART scheme – the constant loss fraction of intermediates – was adopted (HIGHDEP case) suggests that this is a major reason for the differences.

In the case of the CBM scheme (Houweling et al., 1998) it is suspected that in addition to the large loss of carbon and thus also of some functional groups, the direct channeling into smaller products produces the different behavior in that scheme. For this scheme even a different sign for the net transport of ozone out of the global continental boundary layer (thus net import) was calculated in our test set-up.

The MOZART mechanism tends to produce more PAN than the MIM-scheme used in the reference run, but this is in part prevented by the implicit assumption of a high (and constant) loss rate of soluble intermediate species (the hydroxy-hydroperoxides from isoprene). It is argued that the actual loss fraction of these compounds in a certain environment will also depend on the abundance of OH. Although no mechanism can be judged superior over the other schemes, it appears advantageous that these compounds are explicitly included in the MIM. As new data on their reactivities and deposition properties become available, they can be readily implemented in the scheme or the surrounding model.

While deposition of soluble intermediates appeared to have a relatively small impact on ozone, it was found to be much more important for the formation of PAN and thus the resulting total burden of NO_y. The effect of an increased deposition rate resulted in a reduction in the tropospheric PAN burden (–24 Gg-N, or –29%) which was comparable to the effect to a 50% reduction in the isoprene source strength (–31 Gg-N, –37%). Overall, it appears that the overestimation of modeled PAN compared to observations in the tropics found in another study with MATCH-MPIC (von Kuhlmann et al., 2003b) could be largely explained by a combination of the three factors found in this study to have the largest impact on PAN: total source strength of isoprene, source strength of lightning NO_x over regions with large isoprene emissions and loss of intermediates through deposition or possibly heterogeneous processes. All of these parameters need to be quantified better in order to improve the simulation of the long-range transport of NO_x in the tropics.

A strong impact of isoprene reaction products lifted into the upper troposphere was found, with an uncertainty of about 10% solely due to the deposition assumptions of the soluble intermediates. A large part of the additional HO_x is from the photolysis of formaldehyde produced from isoprene.

For some species (e.g. CO, PAN) the effects of a 50% reduction in tropical isoprene emissions are of the same magnitude as those from exchanging the chemical scheme. While the variation of the release of NO out of the forest canopy

had only small effects, reducing the source strength of lightning over the Amazon region by 60% resulted in larger deviations (up to 20% in O_3). The interaction of lightning NO_x and biogenic hydrocarbons, also other than isoprene, should therefore be further studied.

The effect of the fate of nitrates from the oxidation of isoprene was rather small, but this could be in part due to the chosen season in this study. Larger effects would be for instance expected during the biomass burning season in the southern tropics and sub-tropics.

Overall it can be said that isoprene chemistry is still a relatively uncertain point in current tropospheric chemistry models. In addition to the uncertainties in the the gas-phase mechanisms, deposition and potential heterogeneous processes on aerosols are also issues which require further research.

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