

Aviation-Climate Change Research Initiative  
(ACCRI)

Subject specific white paper (SSWP) on  
UT/LS chemistry and transport

SSWP # 1

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## Executive Summary

Aircraft emissions of particles, particle precursors, NO<sub>x</sub>, and water vapor, can have significant impacts on chemistry in the upper troposphere and lower stratosphere (UT/LS). Previous groups have assessed the important terms involving UT/LS chemistry and noted the following issues that limit the ability to reduce uncertainties in assessments of aircraft impacts:

- Incomplete knowledge of exhaust emissions of gases (primarily sulfur oxides) and particles (e.g., soot) and their geographic and altitudinal distributions.
- Important discrepancies between modeled and measured distributions of key HO<sub>x</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> radical species involved in ozone formation and destruction.
- Poor understanding of the sources of NO<sub>x</sub> in the upper troposphere, especially lightning.
- Incomplete knowledge of the evolution of NO<sub>x</sub> and NO<sub>y</sub> in aircraft plumes during the first ~24 hours following emission.
- Incomplete understanding of, and potential non-linearities in, the coupling among CH<sub>4</sub>, CO, OH and O<sub>3</sub> in the troposphere.
- Potential scavenging and removal of NO<sub>x</sub> by aerosols and cirrus.
- Limited understanding of atmospheric transport, especially that between the stratosphere and troposphere.

This SSWP summarizes important results in key areas since the last major aircraft impacts assessment [IPCC 1999]. Significant progress has been made in the areas of:

- Measurements of emissions of chemi-ions, NO<sub>x</sub>, and trace organic species from aircraft engines.
- Observations constraining the lightning and convective fluxes of NO<sub>x</sub> to the upper troposphere.
- Measurements of HO<sub>x</sub>, its precursors, and coupled NO<sub>x</sub>/HO<sub>x</sub> chemistries in the UT.
- Rates rate and extent of conversion of NO<sub>x</sub> to NO<sub>y</sub> in the UT.
- New observations of water vapor and particles that help to constrain important processes that determine stability of cirrus clouds and persistent contrails.
- Model studies of the impact of aircraft emissions of particles on ozone in the UT/LS.
- Model studies of the potential role for destruction of ozone in the UT by heterogeneous reactions involving halogen species.

In addition to studies that can lead to improvements in our understanding of the impacts of aircraft emissions, there are longstanding issues and new observations that raise important new questions about our understanding of UT/LS chemistry that may have significant, including:

- Ongoing discrepancies of upwards of 30% between observations of water vapor in the cold, dry upper troposphere and lower stratosphere that limit our ability to

46 predict formation and persistence of cirrus clouds and, hence, their impact on the  
47 budgets of trace species that control ozone abundances in the UT/LS.

- 48 • Important discrepancies between modeled and observed HO<sub>x</sub> species (primarily  
49 HO<sub>2</sub>) at high NO values in the region where subsonic aircraft emissions represent  
50 the most significant perturbation to chemistry.
- 51 • New observations of heterogeneous activation of chlorine in the tropopause  
52 region.
- 53 • Observations that indicate greater abundances of inorganic bromine than  
54 previously believed, presumably due to more efficient transport of short-lived  
55 bromine sources to the UT.
- 56 • Observations of significant uptake of nitric acid in ice particles and an increased  
57 role for HNO<sub>3</sub> in the stability of ice in the UT/LS.

58  
59 Perhaps the most significant new result related to the impacts of some of these new  
60 findings is that of Sovde et al. [2007] that shows a reversal in the sign of ozone response  
61 to increased aircraft emissions in the UT, primarily as a result of heterogeneous chemistry  
62 on particles. If confirmed, this result could have important implications for the sign and  
63 magnitude of climate impacts due to aircraft.

64  
65 These results, if studied with the best modeling tools available, should help constrain the  
66 role of aircraft emissions on chemistry in the UT/LS. It is expected that the new result  
67 will imply a diminished enhancement of ozone due to NO<sub>x</sub>/hydrocarbon chemistry in the  
68 UT, and possibly ozone losses in some regions where aircraft emissions enhance the  
69 production of particulate surfaces areas or the lifetimes of cirrus clouds. Constraints on  
70 OH abundances throughout the troposphere should reduce the uncertainties in modeled  
71 impacts of aircraft emissions on the lifetime of methane, which is currently believed to  
72 have a negative forcing on climate. Finally, modeling studies of the sensitivity of ozone  
73 and HO<sub>x</sub> to heterogeneous processes, including sedimentation of particles that contain  
74 HNO<sub>3</sub> and halogen activation, should help to define the range of possible impacts these  
75 processes, which are currently poorly understood, could have.

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77 Ideally, to make the best use of the new results in a future aircraft impacts assessment, the  
78 following issues will need to be better understood. Progress in all areas is likely to take  
79 the concerted efforts of a number of research groups involved in atmospheric  
80 measurements (both in situ and from satellites) and modeling programs designed to  
81 explore the new results in great detail. Among the issues identified in this SSWP are:  
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- Resolving discrepancies in water vapor measurements should be the highest priority for addressing remaining uncertainties in UT/LS chemistry. It would also be desirable to develop a standard for water vapor measurements under cold, dry conditions so that more costly large-scale intercomparisons and validations can be infrequent. This top priority cannot be overlooked – anything less, and it is likely that in a few years’ time, a similar group will be making the same recommendation. Validations of temperature should be a nearly equal priority, and should be feasible with a small augmentation to a water vapor program.
  - Addressing gaps in measurement capabilities for species that are important in assessing the impact of heterogeneous reactions and plume dispersion processes. Programs should be started very soon, even with limited funds, so that investigators have confidence that in a few years’ time they will be able to participate in missions of opportunity. Priority should be placed on instrumentation with a heritage, even if from other platforms, so that development of calibrations and standards does not take up a significant fraction of the available resources. Instruments using new techniques would be desirable in a few cases for corroboration of the most critical measurements.
  - Developing a strategy for model simulations to assess the range of possible impacts and that incorporate new results, especially those relating to plume dispersion and non-linear effects. The program should focus on assessing the range of impacts over a wide set of boundary conditions for those processes that are currently unconstrained by observations (e.g., redistribution of nitric acid by sedimentation, chlorine and bromine chemistry, unknown coupled HO<sub>x</sub>/NO<sub>x</sub> chemistry, errors in water vapor and supersaturation).
  - Guided by results from studies of the above issues, new questions should be developed to help guide measurement programs (dedicated or flights of opportunity).
  - Convene annual meetings of investigators participating in aviation impacts-related activities to foster frequent exchange of ideas. Rather than a comprehensive meeting, discussion of presentations and discussions should focus on results of studies that reduce the critical uncertainties in aircraft impacts or studies that highlight new and important processes that could result in a major shift in understanding of those processes. The community should be conditioned to respond quickly and productively to new developments and shifting priorities, much like the atmospheric chemistry community responded to the ozone hole and methyl bromide issues.

124 **1. Introduction and Background**

125 Exhaust emissions from aircraft contribute to degradation of urban air quality near  
126 airports [Carslaw et al., 2006; Farias and Simon, 2006; Peace et al., 2006, and Pison and  
127 Menut, 2004] and can influence background atmospheric chemistry in major flight  
128 corridors [Klemm et al., 1998]. They may also impact global climate directly by  
129 enhancing the greenhouse effect and indirectly by altering the properties of background  
130 atmospheric aerosol and cloud particles in the upper troposphere and lower stratosphere  
131 (UT/LS), thereby affecting absorption, emission, and transmission of both visible and  
132 infrared radiation [IPCC, 1999]. In order to accurately attribute the atmospheric impacts  
133 of current aviation operations, and reliably predict future impacts, it is necessary to have  
134 a good understanding of the gaseous and particulate emissions of different aircraft types,  
135 as well as an understanding of the fundamental chemical and dynamical processes that  
136 occur in the relevant regions of the atmosphere.

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138 The goals of this White Paper are to summarize the ways in which aircraft emissions  
139 impact atmospheric chemistry in the UT/LS, to examine what has been learned since the  
140 last major assessments, and to prioritize future scientific studies that can reduce the most  
141 important uncertainties that remain and that address new problems that have arisen.

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143 **2. Processes that Impact Climate**

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145 **2.a. Current State of the Science**

146 Two previous assessments have thoroughly reviewed the important properties of  
147 emission products that are thought to be the most relevant to atmospheric chemistry  
148 [IPCC, 1999; Brasseur et al., 1998]. Based on these reports, the most important products  
149 of combustion of aircraft fuel (e.g., kerosene) are CO<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>O, NO<sub>x</sub>, soot, and oxides of  
150 sulfur. All of these species interact strongly with infrared or visible light, serving to  
151 directly warm or cool the planet. Some can alter the nature and radiative properties of  
152 particulate matter (e.g., aerosols and clouds) or can promote formation of new particles  
153 by changing the extent of supersaturation through influence on temperature and water  
154 vapor abundances. Some, such as NO<sub>x</sub> and soot, can also have important indirect impacts  
155 on the atmosphere, including subtle shifts in chemical balance that can alter the natural  
156 abundances of radiatively important gases such as O<sub>3</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub>, or cause the redistribution  
157 of naturally occurring species such as H<sub>2</sub>O and HNO<sub>3</sub> via sedimentation of large  
158 particles. Finally, through influences on radiation balance, these emissions can impact  
159 atmospheric transport, especially between the troposphere and stratosphere.

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161 These different, and in some cases offsetting, effects have been studied before in some  
162 detail. IPCC [1999] identified warming due to enhancements of CO<sub>2</sub>, contrails and cirrus,  
163 and O<sub>3</sub> (which is thought to be increased by NO<sub>x</sub> chemistry), and cooling by CH<sub>4</sub> (which  
164 is thought to decrease as a result of enhancements of OH by NO<sub>x</sub> chemistry), as the most  
165 likely to have significant impacts on climate. It was believed that only one of these  
166 processes, warming by CO<sub>2</sub>, was well understood, whereas the relative scientific  
167 understanding of the others was listed as fair to poor. An update of this assessment by  
168 Sausen et al. [2005], recognized that work published since the turn of the century reduced  
169 some of the key uncertainties. Nevertheless, the limited understanding of those processes

170 continues to represent a major hurdle to reducing the overall uncertainties in aviation  
171 impacts [Wuebbles et al., 2006]. Of particular interest are impacts of NO<sub>x</sub> on the  
172 chemistry of ozone and on the budget of methane, which together could represent more  
173 than half of the total impact of aircraft emissions on climate. If aviation transport  
174 continues to grow, it is estimated that the number of flights will double from present rates  
175 by about 2025 [Cox, 2007]. Unless major changes to combustion systems can be  
176 implemented, aircraft emissions can also be expected to nearly double by 2025.  
177 Consequently, the impacts of aviation operations on climate and the oxidative capacity of  
178 the atmosphere are of great interest.

179

180 Both the IPCC [1999] and the Workshop on the Impacts of Aviation on Climate Change  
181 [Wuebbles et al., 2006, hereafter called the “2006 Workshop”] concluded that the  
182 following processes that influence NO<sub>x</sub> chemistry contributed most to uncertainties in  
183 assessments of the impact of the chemistry of aircraft exhaust on Earth’s climate:

- 184 (1) Incomplete knowledge of exhaust emissions of gases (primarily sulfur oxides) and  
185 particles (e.g., soot) and their geographic and altitudinal distributions.
- 186 (2) Important discrepancies between modeled and measured distributions of key HO<sub>x</sub>  
187 and NO<sub>x</sub> radical species involved in ozone formation and destruction.
- 188 (3) Poor understanding of the sources of NO<sub>x</sub> in the upper troposphere, especially  
189 lightning.
- 190 (4) Incomplete knowledge of the evolution of NO<sub>x</sub> and NO<sub>y</sub> in aircraft plumes  
191 during the first ~24 hours following emission.
- 192 (5) Incomplete understanding of, and potential non-linearities in, the coupling among  
193 CH<sub>4</sub>, CO, OH and O<sub>3</sub> in the troposphere.
- 194 (6) Potential scavenging and removal of NO<sub>x</sub> by aerosols and cirrus.
- 195 (7) Limited understanding of atmospheric transport, especially that between the  
196 stratosphere and troposphere.

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198 In addition, we note the critical nature of understanding the processes controlling water  
199 vapor in the UT/LS [see IPCC 1999]. Water vapor is important not only because it is a  
200 greenhouse gas that is directly emitted by aircraft but also because it is a significant  
201 source of odd-hydrogen (HO<sub>x</sub>) in the UT/LS. Species in the HO<sub>x</sub> family produce and  
202 destroy ozone, largely determine the lifetimes of CH<sub>4</sub> and CO, and also influence NO<sub>x</sub>  
203 chemistry under the conditions that prevail in the UT/LS. Finally, H<sub>2</sub>O is the major  
204 condensable species, playing a key role in the formation of ice particles and polar  
205 stratospheric clouds in the UT/LS (see SSWPs III and IV). As discussed in detail in a  
206 separate SSWP, the relative humidity variable, RH<sub>i</sub>, is the critical quantity for  
207 understanding formation, growth, and evaporation of ice-containing particles in the  
208 UT/LS. Therefore, direct emissions of water vapor to the atmosphere, as well as indirect  
209 influences of other trace combustion products on water vapor distributions and  
210 temperatures in the UT/LS, can have major impacts on the chemistry of the atmosphere.

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212 Due to the strong non-linear coupling between NO<sub>y</sub>, particles, and water/ice  
213 precipitation, all of these factors are influenced by processes discussed in other SSWPs,  
214 most importantly, that on clouds and aerosols. Thus, the discussion here will overlap  
215 strongly with other SSWP topics that address uncertainties in water vapor measurements

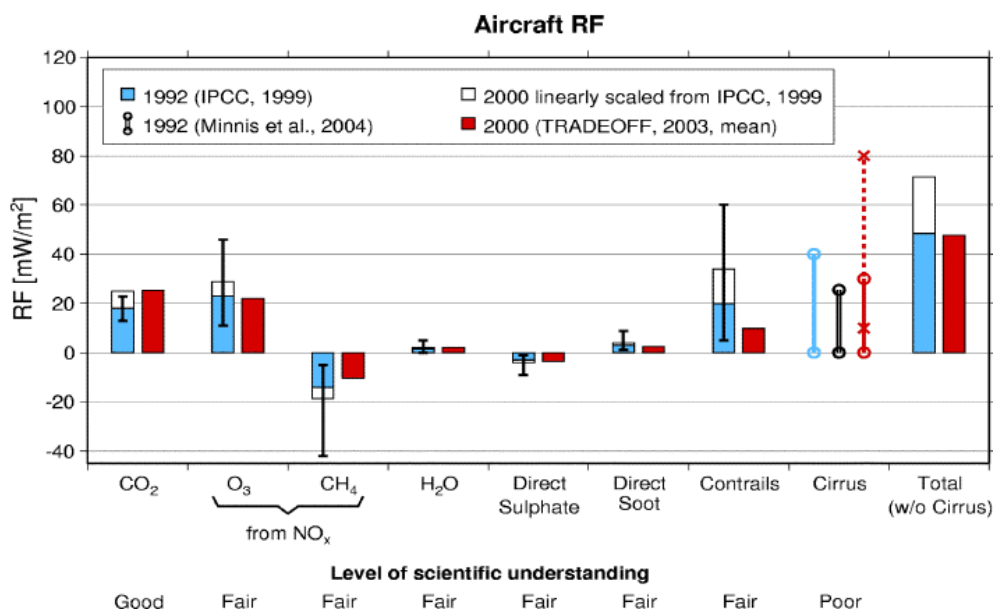
216 and parameterizations of aerosol properties and clouds. Of particular interest to UT/LS  
217 chemistry are factors that limit the ability to predict the presence of ice and the extent of  
218 uptake of nitric acid. The rates of heterogeneous reactions that repartition NO<sub>x</sub> into NO<sub>y</sub>  
219 and that release active forms of chlorine vary by several orders of magnitude, depending  
220 on the abundances of condensed HNO<sub>3</sub>, a quantity that itself is non-linear with respect to  
221 temperature and relative humidity (essentially a threshold with temperature or RH<sub>i</sub>) [e.g.,  
222 see WMO 2006 and references therein]. In addition, a significant confounding factor is  
223 that heterogeneous reactions between halogens and temporary NO<sub>x</sub> reservoirs can release  
224 photolytic sources of HO<sub>x</sub>, which, in turn, destroy methane and accelerate the gas-phase  
225 formation of HNO<sub>3</sub>. Enhancements of reactive chlorine also alter methane abundances. It  
226 is safe to say that highly accurate measurements of water vapor are critical for any  
227 assessment of atmospheric chemistry that is influenced by heterogeneous chemistry.  
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229 These issues are explored in detail in the following two major sections. The remainder of  
230 Section 2 will summarize studies that have led to significant improvements in our  
231 understanding of aircraft impacts on chemistry in the UT/LS. Section 3 will report on  
232 recent observations that raise important new questions about chemical processes in the  
233 UT/LS; new modeling efforts will be necessary to determine their proper roles in future  
234 aviation impacts assessments.  
235

## 236 **2.b. The Role of UT/LS Chemistry in Aviation Impacts on Climate**

237 The 2006 Workshop considered the combined impacts of NO<sub>x</sub> emissions on ozone  
238 abundances and, through perturbations to HO<sub>x</sub> chemistry, on methane abundances, to  
239 comprise the bulk of the total uncertainty in climate forcing due to aviation [Wuebbles et  
240 al., 2006]. This SSWP examines recent results that address the various aspects of UT/LS  
241 chemistry that were identified in the 1999 IPCC and 2006 Workshop reports and listed in  
242 the previous section. Figure 1, reproduced from Sausen et al. [2005], updates a similar  
243 figure from IPCC [1999]. It shows the Global Radiative Forcing (RF) framework that has  
244 largely informed the bulk of recent scientific research into the impacts of aviation on  
245 climate. As is clear from Figure 1, terms relating to chemistries of NO<sub>x</sub> and HO<sub>x</sub> are  
246 among the three largest contributors to the aircraft RF, and, as will be shown in Section 3  
247 below, the third term related to contrails is itself influenced by NO<sub>x</sub> chemistry via the  
248 role of HNO<sub>3</sub> in ice stability and contrail evolution. Consequently, uncertainties in the  
249 chemistry of aircraft emissions in the UT/LS dominate the overall uncertainty in climate  
250 forcing due to aviation.

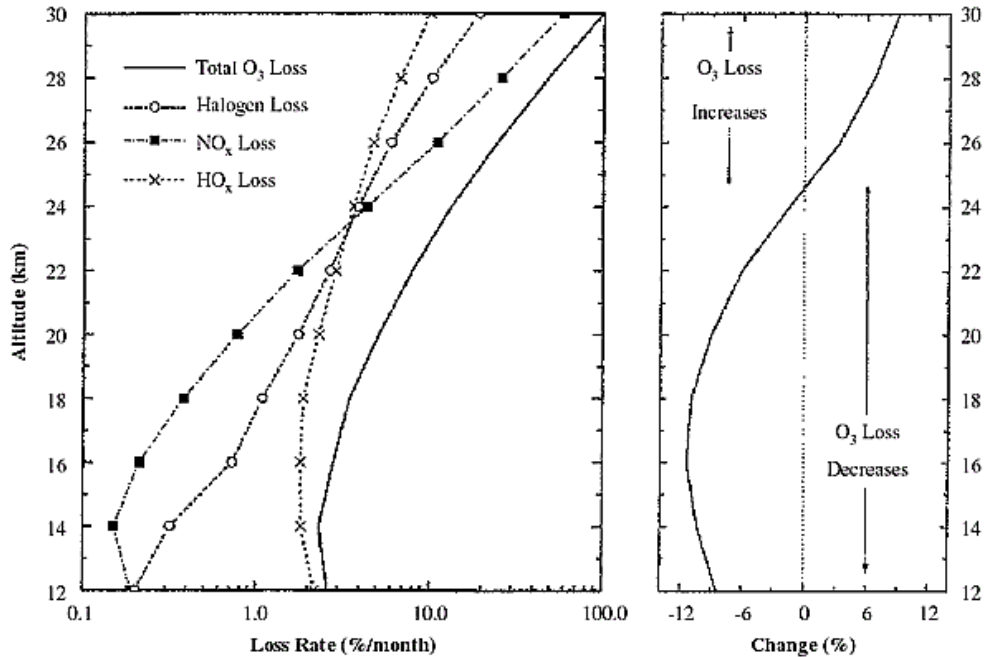




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**Figure 1.** Global radiative forcing (RF) [ $\text{mW m}^{-2}$ ] from aviation for 1992 and 2000, based on IPCC (1999) and TRADEOFF results. The whiskers denote the 2/3 confidence intervals of the IPCC (1999) values. The lines with the circles at the end display different estimates for the possible range of RF from aviation-induced cirrus clouds. In addition the dashed line with the crosses at the end denotes an estimate of the range for RF from Sausen et al., [2005].

260 A key result of research conducted in the 1990s and summarized in Chapter 2 of IPCC  
261 [1999] was that the response of ozone to changes in NO<sub>x</sub> reverses sign in the lower  
262 stratosphere. Formation of ozone by photochemistry initiated by oxidation of volatile  
263 organic compounds dominates in the upper troposphere, whereas catalytic destruction of  
264 ozone by NO<sub>x</sub> dominates in the middle stratosphere. The discovery in the early 1990s of  
265 a shift in the relative roles of halogens and NO<sub>x</sub> in the lower stratosphere due to  
266 heterogeneous conversion of N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> to HNO<sub>3</sub>, lead to reexamination of the impacts of  
267 emissions from supersonic aircraft. Model studies soon found that NO<sub>x</sub> enhancements  
268 near 20 km due to supersonic aircraft (or upward transport of subsonic aircraft emissions)  
269 would lead to increases in ozone, thereby reducing reactive halogens [e.g., Weisenstein et  
270 al., 1993]. Figure 2, taken from the 1999 IPCC Report, reveals this dual nature, and  
271 illustrates why transport and mixing processes are critical in determining the response of  
272 ozone to aircraft NO<sub>x</sub> emissions. Although the simulation shown in Figure 2 was  
273 designed simply to illustrate the sensitivity of ozone to a change in NO<sub>x</sub>, and not to  
274 predict the true response of ozone to a specific perturbation due to aviation, it still serves  
275 to frame the discussion of impacts and uncertainties that follows. For example, it is easy  
276 see that emissions that remain in the upper troposphere will lead to an increase in ozone,  
277 whereas those that reach the stratosphere will increase ozone below 24 km, but decrease  
278 it above. The net impact of NO<sub>x</sub> emissions thus depends strongly upon the vertical  
279 distribution of the resultant perturbation to background levels. Consequently, the impact



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281 **Figure 2.** One-dimensional model results for the month of March at northern  
 282 midlatitudes used to illustrate the relative roles of ozone-destroying radicals (left panel)  
 283 and percentage change in the ozone destruction rate for a uniform 20% increase in NOx  
 284 (right panel) as functions of altitude [IPCC, 1999].

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286 of NOx on ozone will differ for subsonic and supersonic aircraft, which deposit their  
 287 exhaust mainly in the UT and LS, respectively [IPCC, 1999]. Thus, in order to assess the  
 288 impacts of aviation, the proportion of stratospheric (e.g., supersonic) and tropospheric  
 289 (e.g., subsonic) emissions from a future fleet of aircraft (the so-called mixed fleet) must  
 290 be known [Gauss et al., 2006]. What is important to note here is that assessments of the  
 291 impact of emissions of a particular assumed fleet of aircraft on ozone have relied  
 292 explicitly on the ability to accurately model this altitude dependence of the ozone  
 293 response to changes in NOx, the vertical distribution of which depends not only on the  
 294 flight altitude, but also upon knowledge of the vertical transport of NOx and possible  
 295 redistribution by cloud and aerosol processes. These themes will become important later  
 296 in this SSWP, as the implications are explored of new observations in the UT/LS that  
 297 show a more important role for heterogeneous chemistry and possible redistribution of  
 298 HNO<sub>3</sub> than was known at the time of the previous assessment.

299 The strong linkages between these three topics, especially heterogeneous chemistry and  
 300 aerosol and cloud processes, couple various themes that are addressed in this and other  
 301 chapters of this report, and require that we consider the direct impacts of the major  
 302 aircraft combustion products, as well as the indirect effects of non-CO<sub>2</sub> emissions that  
 303 participate in gas-phase and heterogeneous reactions (e.g., SOx, soot, NOx, and H<sub>2</sub>O)  
 304 with the background atmosphere.

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308 **2.c. Advancements since the 1999 IPCC Report**

309 Since the publication of the 1999 IPCC report, there have been more than several  
310 hundred studies that address important issues raised in that report. While it is not possible  
311 to do justice to all of these studies in this SSWP, we summarize here where significant  
312 advances have been made.

313

314 To help define the range of species and concentrations of important engine exhaust  
315 emissions, new measurements have been obtained of soot and particle precursor gases  
316 [Dakhel et al., 2007; Hays and Vander Wal, 2007; Karcher et al., 2007; Sorokin and  
317 Arnold, 2004] such as chemi-ions [Arnold et al., 2000; Eichkorn et al., 2002; Haverkamp  
318 et al., 2004; Miller et al., 2005; Sorokin and Arnold, 2006], sulfur and NO<sub>x</sub> [Herndon et  
319 al., 2004; Schroder et al., 2000; Schumann et al., 2002; Tsague et al., 2006, 2007;  
320 Wormhoudt et al., 2007], and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and particles  
321 [Anderson, et al., 2006; Herndon et al., 2006; Lobo et al., 2007; Knighton et al., 2007;  
322 Nyeki et al., 2004; Sorokin et al., 2001; Wey et al., 2007; Wilson et al., 2004;  
323 Yelvington et al., 2007], in the exhaust of engines or aircraft on the ground and at cruise  
324 altitudes. In addition, new laboratory studies have further defined the reactivity of engine-  
325 emitted soot, most importantly regarding uptake of water and reactivity to NO<sub>x</sub>, NO<sub>y</sub>,  
326 and O<sub>3</sub> [Popovicheva et al., 2000, 2003, 2004, 2007; Shonija et al., 2007; Talukdar et al.,  
327 2006; Wei et al., 2001]. These new studies help to constrain parameters that are critically  
328 important for modeling the perturbations of reactive species (e.g., NO<sub>x</sub> and VOCs) and  
329 particle evolution (e.g., chemi-ions, VOCs, and soot) emitted by aircraft in the UT/LS  
330 [Ma and Zhao 2000; Petzold et al., 2005; Wei and Liu 2007]. Key new results and  
331 implications of these studies are summarized in Section 2.c.I.

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333 Evidence is mounting from more than a decade of in situ measurements and from new  
334 satellite observations that air in the UT/LS is influenced considerably by convective  
335 transport from the surface. In fact, there are more recent studies reporting on this issue  
336 than for any of the other issues of this SSWP. In Section 2.C.II. some new results are  
337 highlighted, in particular those that address some key uncertainties in NO<sub>x</sub> and HO<sub>x</sub>  
338 budgets. Of particular interest to this SSWP are efforts to quantify lightning, biomass  
339 burning, and convective PBL (planetary boundary layer) pollution sources of NO<sub>x</sub> to the  
340 upper troposphere [Brunner et al., 2001; Decaria et al., 2005; Fehr et al., 2004; Hudman et  
341 al., 2007; Koike et al., 2002; Lange et al., 2001; Leue et al., 2001; Levy et al., 1999; Ma  
342 et al., 2002; Martin et al., 2006, 2007; Muhle et al., 2002; Parrish et al., 2004; Pierce et  
343 al., 2003; Ridley et al., 2005; Sauvage et al., 2007; Schumann and Huntrieser, 2007;  
344 Sioris et al., 2007; Smyshlyaev et al., 2003; Stohl et al., 2002; Thakur et al., 1999; van  
345 Noije et al., 2006; Wang et al., 2000; Zhang et al., 2000; Ziereis et al., 1999, 2000],  
346 fluxes that were highlighted in previous assessments as being poorly constrained. Not  
347 only do these sources of NO<sub>x</sub> (and, hence, NO<sub>y</sub>) dominate the odd nitrogen budget in the  
348 UT, thereby setting the background conditions upon which aircraft emissions represent a  
349 small, but potentially significant, perturbation, incomplete knowledge of their magnitudes  
350 and seasonal and geographic distributions make it difficult to directly attribute NO<sub>x</sub>  
351 enhancements to aircraft operations except in highly localized plumes or heavily traveled  
352 flight corridors [Brunner et al., 2005; Colette and Ancellet, 2005; Colette et al., 2005;  
353 Grewe et al., 2002; Koike et al., 2000; Marecal et al., 2006; Mari et al., 2002; Meijer et

354 al., 2000; Park et al., 2004; Schlager et al., 1999; Tsai et al., 2001; Wang and Prinn,  
355 2000]. New in situ observations with a larger suite of measurements of tracers for  
356 biomass burning, human activities, lightning, and stratospheric fluxes [Bertram et al.,  
357 2007; Singh et al., 2007], not only provide for attribution of sources other than aircraft  
358 emissions, but also provide new clues into photochemical processes that transform  
359 reactive NO<sub>x</sub> into species that serve as reservoirs or that can redistribute NO<sub>y</sub> (hence,  
360 NO<sub>x</sub>) by condensation onto particles followed by sedimentation [Neuman et al., 2006].  
361

362 The interactions of NO<sub>y</sub> species with particles [Gao et al., 2004; Popp et al., 2006;  
363 Karcher and Voigt, 2006; Voigt et al., 2006, 2007] raise important new questions that  
364 rely on the ability to model formation, composition, and reactivity of particles [Conside  
365 et al., 2000; Meier and Hendricks, 2002; Meilinger et al., 2001; von Kuhlmann and  
366 Lawrence; 2006]. Several key new modeling studies have shown that heterogeneous  
367 chemistry involving NO<sub>x</sub>, HO<sub>x</sub>, and halogens, is extremely important in particle-rich  
368 exhaust plumes and persistent contrails, and, depending on the subsequent behavior of  
369 these species as these plumes and contrails disperse, can even have important  
370 implications on the sign of ozone response to aircraft exhaust on hemispheric scales  
371 [Meilinger et al., 2005; Sovde et al., 2007]. These results and their implications are  
372 discussed in Section 2.c.III.  
373

374 The importance of convective sources of HO<sub>x</sub> in the upper troposphere has been known  
375 for many years [Collins et al., 1999; Crawford et al., 1999; Muller and Brasseur, 1999;  
376 Reiner et al., 1999; Singh et al., 2000]. New observations of HO<sub>x</sub> and volatile organic  
377 compounds in conjunction with modeling studies, continue to reinforce this view  
378 [Colomb et al., 2006, Mari et al., 2002; Olson et al., 2004; Ravetta et al., 2001; Singh et  
379 al., 2004; Snow et al., 2003, 2004; Stickler et al., 2006; Wang and Chen, 2006], and they  
380 provide some important insights into the nature of previous disagreements between  
381 modeled and measured HO<sub>x</sub> that seem to depend on NO<sub>x</sub> [Ren et al., 2008] (the  
382 previously referenced “coupled HO<sub>x</sub>/NO<sub>x</sub> discrepancy” [e.g., Faloona et al., 2000]). New  
383 measurements of HO<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [Murphy et al., 2004; Kim et al., 2007] could help to identify  
384 important missing chemistry, while issues of resolution have been shown to be important  
385 under some conditions [Olson et al., 2006].  
386

387 Measurements of water vapor in the upper troposphere and the stratosphere, where the  
388 naturally occurring humidities are the lowest found on Earth, have always been a source  
389 of controversy [e.g., Kley et al., 2000]. Not only are emissions of water vapor from  
390 aircraft critical for understanding radiative impacts of exhaust, accurate knowledge of  
391 background water vapor distributions and temperatures, and the microphysics of water-  
392 containing particles, are essential in order to accurately model heterogeneous chemistry,  
393 HO<sub>x</sub> distributions, and possible redistribution of reactive species in the UT/LS by  
394 sedimentation. Ongoing studies by a number of groups [Bencherif et al., 2006; Bortz et  
395 al., 2006; Ferrare et al., 2004; Folkins et al., 2006; Gao et al., 2005; Gulstad and Isaksen,  
396 2007; Helten et al., 1999; Kley et al., 2000; Luo et al., 2007; Marecal et al., 2007;  
397 Miloshevich et al., 2006; Nedoluha et al., 2002; Park et al., 2004; Ramaswamy et al.,  
398 2001; Spichtinger et al., 2002; Troller et al., 2006; Vaughan et al., 2005; Vay et al., 2000  
399 that have improved our understanding of water vapor and supersaturation are summarized

400 in Section 2.c.IV. New studies addressing temperatures in the UT/LS are summarized in  
401 Section 2.c.V.

402

403 In addition to results that have improved our understanding of key uncertainties outlined  
404 in previous assessments, there have been some observations, some controversial, that  
405 raise important new questions about our basic understanding of chemistry in the UT/LS  
406 that could have major implications for the impacts of aviation. These will be presented in  
407 Section 3 of this SSWP, and include new studies related to the bromine budget [Dorf, et  
408 al., 2006a, 2006b; Salawitch, et al., 2005; Schauffler, et al., 1999; Sioris, et al., 2006;  
409 Theys, et al., 2007], the unusual impacts of bromine on NO<sub>x</sub> chemistry [Sinnhuber and  
410 Folkens, 2006; Hendricks, et al., 2000; Yang, et al., 2005], and new observations of  
411 chlorine activation in the UT/LS [Thornton, et al., 2003, 2005, 2007] that call for a fresh  
412 look at the potential impacts of heterogeneous reactions in the UT/LS, especially in  
413 persistent contrails [Borrmann, et al., 1996; Lelieveld, et al., 1999; Bregman, et al.,  
414 2002].

415

#### 416 **2.c.I. Engine Emissions**

417 Although knowledge of the emissions of sulfate was identified as a key uncertainty in  
418 previous assessments, the main issue was not so much the sulfate itself, as the impact of  
419 fuel sulfur on particle nucleation. Since then, a number of studies have characterized  
420 particulate emissions from a variety of aircraft engines. The most significant new result is  
421 that particle production does not closely track fuel sulfur content [Wey et al., 2006;  
422 Yelvington et al., 2007]. While studies have shown that ion nucleation is the probable  
423 mechanism for volatile aerosol production in aircraft exhaust [e.g., Miller et al., 2005],  
424 measurements of positive and negative chemiions have revealed a greater role for LVOCs  
425 (low volatility VOCs) than previously believed [Eichkorn et al., 2002; Sorokin and  
426 Arnold, 2006; Miller et al., 2005].

427

428 In a study of an on-wing commercial gas turbine engine, Lobo et al. [2007] recently  
429 found little dependence of particulate emissions with varying fuel sulfur content,  
430 although they did observe that the soluble mass fraction of particles increased with  
431 distance from the engine exit plane and with increasing aromatic and sulfur content of the  
432 fuel, consistent with increased uptake of water by hygroscopic particles. Recent  
433 measurements of engine-generated soot [Shonija et al., 2007] found significant water  
434 uptake due to the existence of impurities within the engine, with amounts of absorbed  
435 water increasing with decreasing temperatures in the exhaust plume (reaching 18% by  
436 weight at threshold conditions for contrail formation). In light of previous observations  
437 of significant uptake of water by soot, these authors have inferred that to be hygroscopic,  
438 soot does not have to be processed by reactions with sulfuric or nitric acids, as was  
439 previously believed, and that impurities in engine-generated soot will play key roles in  
440 the formation of CCN in aircraft plumes. These results are consistent with a laboratory  
441 study of Talukdar et al. [2006], who found that uptake of nitric acid on aviation kerosene  
442 soot is reversible, and not a significant source of NO<sub>x</sub>, as had been suggested previously.  
443 They are also consistent with another study that found the characteristics of soot emitted

444 by engines are determined largely by combustor processes, and not by subsequent  
445 reactions in the turbine/nozzle.

446  
447 It is important to recognize that measurements of soot from combustors must be  
448 considered carefully, as it may be chemically and physical unstable, as shown in a recent  
449 study by Popovichava et al. [2003]. In addition, it is unclear whether ground level  
450 measurements will apply under cruise conditions, where combustion is more complete  
451 and LVOC emissions are likely to be significantly smaller. But from the majority of new  
452 studies, it does appear that aircraft-generated particles are relatively hygroscopic, and  
453 therefore are likely to be good CCN. A new particulate emission inventory developed  
454 under the European PartEmis program should help reduce uncertainties in modeled  
455 impacts of particulate emissions by aircraft [Petzold et al., 2005].

456  
457 Important new measurements of the emissions of hydrocarbons and NO<sub>x</sub>, including  
458 speciation, have been obtained in the exhaust plumes of a variety of aircraft types during  
459 the APEX campaign [Herndon et al., 2004; Herndon et al. 2007; Knighton et al., 2007;  
460 Wormhoudt et al., 2007]. To first order, the results are in good agreement with previous  
461 studies, increasing confidence in the emissions databases used for modeling aircraft  
462 impacts. Additional insights from these studies include the finding that fuel type and  
463 plume age appear to have only minor effects on the emissions of hydrocarbons, including  
464 speciation, whereas temperature appears to be an important factor. NO<sub>x</sub> emissions were  
465 found to increase with thrust, while the fraction of NO<sub>2</sub>/NO<sub>x</sub> decreased from 80% at  
466 lowest thrust to below 7% at highest thrust. Nitrous acid (HONO) was found to be a  
467 minor species (~7%) that increased with thrust, and also served as a good indicator for  
468 predicting abundances of other trace species, such as oxides of sulfur.

469  
470 In summary, new results indicate an increased role for hydrocarbons in formation of  
471 particles in aircraft exhaust, a decreased tendency for reduction of HNO<sub>3</sub> to NO<sub>x</sub> on soot,  
472 and, as will be discussed in a separate chapter, a general increase ice-forming activity for  
473 aircraft emissions. This raises the importance of heterogeneous chemistry to reduce NO<sub>x</sub>,  
474 and increase the importance of HO<sub>x</sub> and halogens, in persistent contrails.

475  
476 **2.c.II. Sources of NO<sub>x</sub> and HO<sub>x</sub> in the Upper Troposphere**  
477 Motivated by the dominant role placed on NO<sub>x</sub> and HO<sub>x</sub> by previous aircraft  
478 assessments [Brasseur et al., 1998; IPCC 1999], the past decade has been witness to a  
479 multitude of studies to attribute sources of these species in the upper troposphere,  
480 especially those that could potentially be due to aircraft. A brief review of some  
481 important new results is presented below.

482  
483 *Sources of NO<sub>x</sub>*  
484 The main source of NO<sub>x</sub> in the stratosphere is oxidation of N<sub>2</sub>O, and based on tight  
485 correlations that have been observed between NO<sub>y</sub> (the sum of reactive nitrogen species)  
486 and N<sub>2</sub>O, it is relatively straightforward to simulate the impact of an additional source of  
487 NO<sub>x</sub> from direct injection of aircraft exhaust or parameterized transport from the  
488 troposphere [IPCC 1999]. However, there are a number of potentially significant sources  
489 of NO<sub>x</sub> to the upper troposphere, not just those from aircraft emissions, all of which must

490 be reasonably well understood in order to determine the perturbation of NO<sub>x</sub> due to  
491 aircraft [IPCC 1999]. Of these non-aircraft sources, lightning and convective transport  
492 from the boundary layer have stood out as dominant sources of NO<sub>x</sub> in the UT [Grewe et  
493 al., 2002]. The studies are too numerous to describe here, but we summarize a few key  
494 results that have emerged from these studies that significantly improve our understanding  
495 of NO<sub>x</sub> sources.

496

497 Around the time of the 1999 IPCC assessment, lightning was estimated to represent a  
498 source strength of about 3-5 Tg(N) yr<sup>-1</sup>. In a comprehensive review of three decades of  
499 research on this topic, Schumann and Huntrieser [2007] have concluded that the best  
500 estimate for the annual lightning NO<sub>x</sub> source is  $5 \pm 3$  Tg(N) yr<sup>-1</sup>. Consistent with this, in  
501 a recent study using a combination of space-based NO<sub>2</sub> observations from  
502 SCIAMACHY, O<sub>3</sub> observations from OMI and MLS, and HNO<sub>3</sub> observations from  
503 ACE-FTS, Martin et al. [2007] determine a range of  $6 \pm 2$  Tg(N) yr<sup>-1</sup> for the lightning  
504 NO<sub>x</sub> sources. For reference, such a source-strength is about 8-10 times larger than the  
505 estimated NO<sub>x</sub> source from aircraft emissions [Kraabøl et al., 2002] but only about 1/8<sup>th</sup>  
506 of the total NO<sub>x</sub> source strength assumed in state-of-the-art aircraft NO<sub>x</sub> emissions  
507 impacts studies [e.g., Gauss et al., 2006].

508

509 It is important to note that aircraft emissions are more confined in altitude and to heavily  
510 traveled corridors than these other sources, so they can still represent a large local  
511 perturbation. What makes assessing aircraft contributions so difficult, then, is not only  
512 the quantification of these larger global sources, but specifying their geographic  
513 distributions with sufficient precision so that the contributions due to the highly localized  
514 aircraft emissions can be quantified. In other words, the large, distributed sources  
515 determine the broader background abundances of NO<sub>x</sub> into which the aircraft emissions  
516 represent a highly localized perturbation. Thus, studies addressing the contributions of  
517 various sources of NO<sub>x</sub> (or NO<sub>y</sub>) to the UT are critical for evaluating the significance of  
518 that due to aircraft.

519

#### 520 *Source Attribution of NO<sub>x</sub> in the Upper Troposphere*

521 Singh et al. [2007] analyzed observations of reactive nitrogen species in the UT over  
522 North America in the summer of 2004, reporting that ~30% of the NO<sub>y</sub> in the UT is in  
523 the form of NO<sub>x</sub>. PAN and HNO<sub>3</sub> were the dominant reservoirs of reactive nitrogen in  
524 the UT and LS, respectively. Relying on tracers for biomass burning emissions (e.g.,  
525 HCN) and anthropogenic pollution, they concluded that lightning represents a larger  
526 source of NO<sub>x</sub> to that region than was believed previously. Model simulations based on  
527 these observations [Hudson et al., 2005] imply that lightning was responsible for  
528 approximately 75% of the NO<sub>x</sub> observed in this region. These results suggest that the  
529 NO<sub>x</sub> observed in this region is relatively ‘fresh’, that is, it is undergoing photochemical  
530 aging (e.g., oxidizing). Consistent with this, Sioris et al. [2007] reported large local NO<sub>2</sub>  
531 enhancements at ~10 km that they attributed to lightning, estimating that it is responsible  
532 for 60% of the upper tropospheric NO<sub>2</sub> in the tropics.

533

534 Bertram et al. [2007] develop the idea of a ‘photochemical clock’, using the ratio of  
535 observed NO<sub>x</sub> to that determined with a photochemical model with similar total NO<sub>y</sub>

536 (i.e.,  $\text{NOx}_{\text{obs}}/\text{NOx}_{\text{ss}}$ ) to estimate that ~17% of the air in the UT under the conditions  
537 sampled was transported from the planetary boundary layer. Furthermore, they estimate a  
538 turnover rate by convection of  $0.1 \text{ day}^{-1}$  for air in the UT (although it should be noted that  
539 this includes altitudes somewhat below typical aircraft cruise altitudes).

540

541 These results suggest that non-aircraft sources of NOx to the upper troposphere are more  
542 important than previously believed, consistent with the observations of Klemm et al.,  
543 [1998], who found that clear perturbations due to aircraft in the northeast Atlantic corridor  
544 were difficult to identify on scales larger than a few km due to natural variability,  
545 whereas in 'fresh' plumes between 15 and 90 minutes in age, enhancements of up to 10  
546 ppb were observed. Based on NOy/O<sub>3</sub> correlations, Koike et al. [2000] estimated that the  
547 mean NOy enhancement in the North Atlantic corridor is of order 70 ppt at 11 km,  
548 implying NOx enhancements of about 40% above backgrounds. They also found the  
549 NOy enhancements to increase with increasing ozone (e.g., closer to the chemical  
550 tropopause). Given the more recent observations of Singh et al. [2007] of significant  
551 transport from the surface, Koike et al. [2000] may have significantly overestimated the  
552 NOx contributions from aircraft.

553

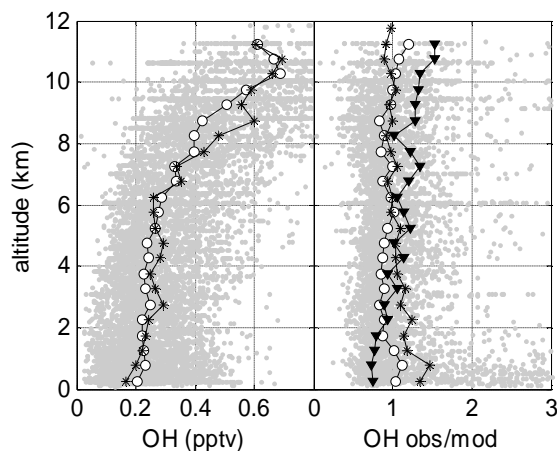
#### 554 *Sources of HOx*

555 Not only does OH largely determine the lifetime of methane, a greenhouse gas that plays  
556 a key role in the Aircraft RF uncertainties framework (Figure 1, [Sausen et al., 2005]),  
557 both OH and HO<sub>2</sub> participate in catalytic cycles that destroy ozone and are necessary for  
558 ozone production. Therefore, models must be able to reproduce both total HOx  
559 abundances and the partitioning within the HOx family (the generally preferred indicator  
560 being the OH/HO<sub>2</sub> ratio) over a wide range of conditions found in the UT/LS.

561

562 Measurements of HOx carried out in the 1990s revealed significantly larger abundances  
563 of this critical oxidizer than could be modeled with assumed sources [e.g., see Faloon et  
564 al., 2000]. By the time of the 1999 IPCC assessment, it was well known that sources of  
565 HOx in addition to H<sub>2</sub>O/O<sub>3</sub> photochemistry were required to resolve this discrepancy,  
566 especially in the upper troposphere [Collins et al., 1999; Crawford et al., 1999; Muller  
567 and Brasseur, 1999; Reiner et al., 1999; Singh et al., 2000]. Since then, a number of  
568 ongoing studies related to sources of HOx have been published, and models for assessing  
569 aircraft impacts have used any available in situ observations to constrain  
570 parameterizations of HOx, including measurements of species such as H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, whose  
571 abundances serve as sensitive indicators of HOx chemistry [Brunner et al., 2005]. The  
572 basic understanding of HOx chemistry seems to be relatively sound, in that it is widely  
573 acknowledged that additional sources, generally gases transported from the PBL by





574

575 **Figure 3.** (left panel) Comparison of the median vertical profiles of measured (circles)  
 576 and modeled (stars) of OH for INTEX-A. (right panel) Measured-to-modeled OH in  
 577 INTEX-A (circles), TRACE-P (stars) and PEM Tropics B (triangles). Individual 1-  
 578 minute measurements from INTEX-A are shown (gray dots) [from Ren et al., 2008].

579

580 convection (in agreement with the conclusions based on NO<sub>x</sub> partitioning described  
 581 above), are required to fully explain HO<sub>x</sub> abundances. The partitioning between OH and  
 582 HO<sub>2</sub> varies with NO<sub>x</sub> in a fashion that can be reproduced reasonably well by models [for  
 583 example, see Brunner et al., 2005, Ren et al., 2008, and references therein]. Figure 3  
 584 shows comparison of OH measurements from recent missions with modeled OH  
 585 abundances, indicating good agreement over a wide altitude range [Ren et al., 2008].

586

587 The results shown in Figure 3 indicate that there should be a firm basis for model  
 588 simulations of OH distributions over a wide range of conditions, as is required to predict  
 589 the lifetime of CH<sub>4</sub> to a reasonable degree of accuracy. However, important model-  
 590 measurement discrepancies remain in modeling the partitioning of OH and HO<sub>2</sub> that are  
 591 not well understood, as will be discussed in Section 3 [Hudman et al., 2006; Ren et al.,  
 592 2008]. One of the challenges in comparing modeled and measured HO<sub>x</sub> is the inherent  
 593 non-linearities in HO<sub>x</sub> chemistry; in essence, unless the photochemical conditions are  
 594 highly uniform during sampling, some differences in modeled and measured total HO<sub>x</sub> or  
 595 OH/HO<sub>2</sub> can be due simply to the coarse temporal resolution of the model. As shown by  
 596 Olson et al. [2006], such errors are most problematic at high solar zenith angles and at  
 597 high and variable NO<sub>x</sub> conditions. In light of the significant role that heterogeneous  
 598 chemistry plays in the effect of NO<sub>x</sub> on ozone in the UT, this type of issue could become  
 599 very important in future assessments of aircraft impacts.

600

601 There are several implications of the results highlighted above that are worth noting here.  
 602 First, the increased role of convection from the PBL to sources of NO<sub>x</sub> and HO<sub>x</sub> to the  
 603 upper troposphere reduces the significance of aircraft perturbations of these species or  
 604 their precursors. Thus, it is likely that model simulations used in prior assessments,  
 605 updated to reflect these new observations, would find the impacts of aircraft emissions to  
 606 ozone and methane in the UT/LS to be diminished. However, increased transport of  
 607 short-lived species from the PBL also implies increased production of aerosols in the UT

608 due to oxidation of these gases into less volatile products. Second, increased ‘aging’ of  
 609 UT air results in a shift in the partitioning from NO<sub>x</sub> to NO<sub>y</sub>. As discussed in the  
 610 following sections, this has important implications for the role of long-lived reservoirs of  
 611 nitrogen oxides in particle stability. Heterogeneous reactions are effective in denoxifying  
 612 cold, particle rich regions of the atmosphere, such as where persistent contrails are  
 613 formed. Thus, increased transport from the PBL implies a greater role for ozone-  
 614 destroying reactions of HO<sub>x</sub> and halogen radical species that are normally kept in lower  
 615 abundances by NO<sub>x</sub>.

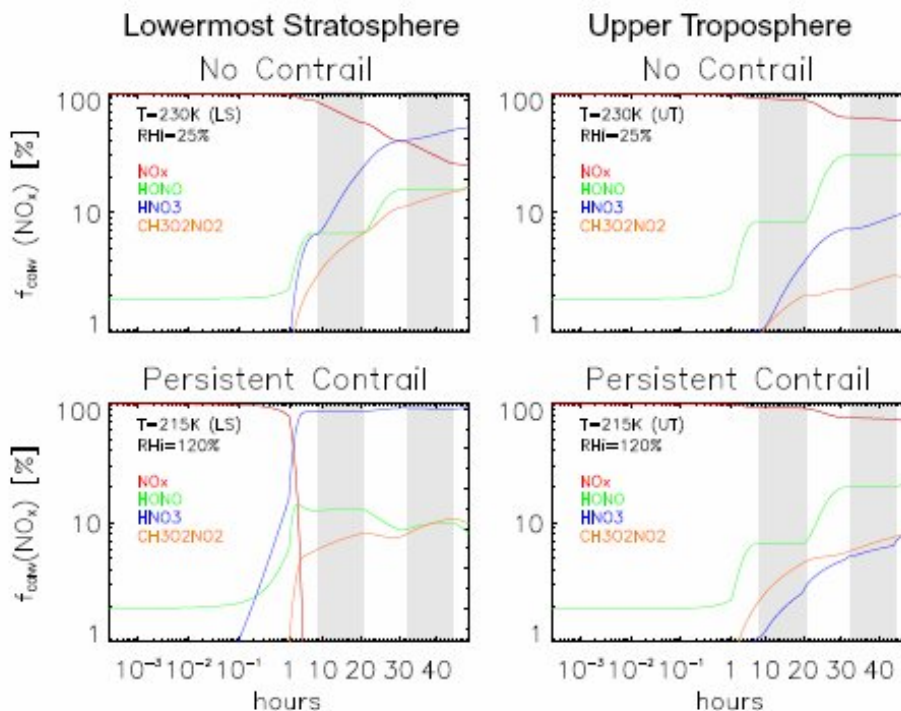
616

### 617 2.c.III. Conversion of NO<sub>x</sub> to NO<sub>y</sub>

618 The laboratory finding that uptake of nitric acid on aircraft kerosene soot is reversible  
 619 [Talukdar et al., 2006] implies that emissions of soot will not shift the partitioning of  
 620 NO<sub>y</sub> to NO<sub>x</sub> in aircraft plumes, as was believed previously. This result, together with  
 621 new measurements of the hygroscopicity of soot and the subsequent formation of CCN  
 622 and emissions of particles from engines (e.g., see Section 2.c.I. and SSWPs III and IV),  
 623 implies, rather, that in plumes, contrails, and potentially even in heavily traveled flight  
 624 corridors, there will be more rapid conversion of NO<sub>x</sub> to NO<sub>y</sub>. Although the impacts of  
 625 these new findings have yet to be fully explored, results from recent modeling efforts  
 626 provide clues as to what might be the tendencies.

627

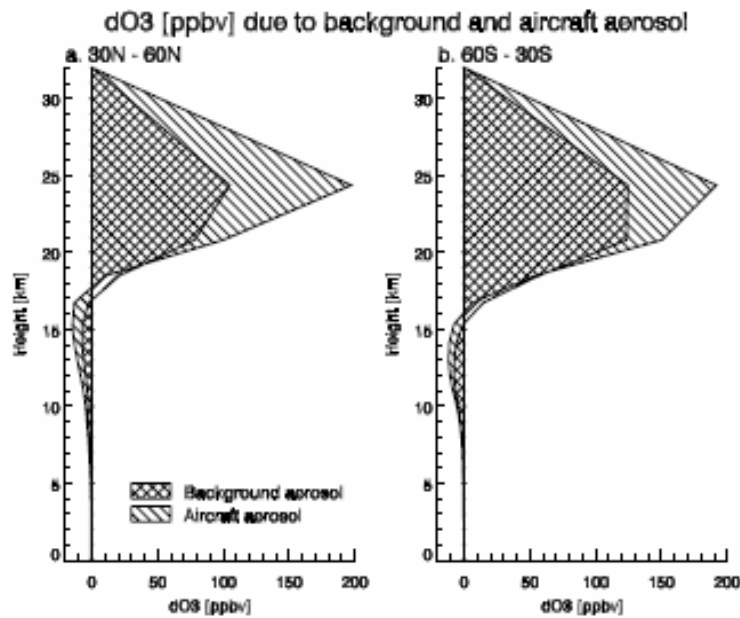
628



629

630 **Figure 4.** Model results from Meilinger et al. [2005] showing the impact of  
 631 heterogeneous processing of NO<sub>x</sub> in a persistent contrail in the lower stratosphere (left  
 632 panels) and in the upper troposphere (right panels). Shaded regions refer to nighttime.  
 633

634 A modeling study by Kraabol et al. [2002] found that reactions that form odd-nitrogen  
 635 reservoirs in aircraft plumes and persistent contrails reduce the magnitude of changes in  
 636 ozone as a result of the conversion of ~25-35% of the aircraft NO<sub>x</sub> to NO<sub>y</sub>. A subsequent  
 637 study by Meilinger et al. [2005] found that NO<sub>y</sub> formation depends very strongly on  
 638 heterogeneous reactions, especially in the lowermost stratosphere. Figure shows the shift  
 639 in NO<sub>y</sub> partitioning due to heterogeneous chemistry in a persistent contrail. In the  
 640 lowermost stratosphere, NO<sub>x</sub> is completely converted to HNO<sub>3</sub> in a matter of hours,  
 641 whereas without a contrail, even after a few days, conversion of NO<sub>x</sub> to NO<sub>y</sub> is only  
 642 50%. According to Meilinger et al., in the lower stratosphere, ozone destruction by  
 643 chlorine and bromine enhances that due to NO+O<sub>3</sub> in the early plume and dominates over  
 644 NO<sub>x</sub>-induced ozone production in the aged plume. This is the result of combined effects  
 645 of halogen activation and denoxification by heterogeneous reactions on contrail ice  
 646 particles. The situation in the upper troposphere is less clear, and the tendency of ozone  
 647 depends strongly on temperatures in the initial plume and persistent contrail. However,  
 648 reductions in net ozone production or shifts from ozone production to loss result from the  
 649 more complete treatment of heterogeneous chemistry. The recent modeling study of  
 650 Sovde et al. [2007] examines the global implications of heterogeneous reactions on the  
 651 ozone changes induced by aircraft exhaust products. Although they focus on the impacts  
 652 of a mixed fleet for the year 2050, there are some important new conclusions that extend  
 653 the results of Meilinger et al. [2005] to hemispheric scales. (It is also important to note  
 654 that even in a mixed fleet, operations of subsonic aircraft dominate the overall emissions  
 655 budget). As shown in Figure 5, the most significant implication of more rapid conversion  
 656



657

658 **Figure 5.** Vertical profile of the zonally averaged response of ozone to aircraft emissions  
 659 of NO<sub>x</sub> assuming background aerosols and aircraft aerosol perturbations for a 2050  
 660 Mixed Fleet, as described in Sovde et al. [2007].  
 661

662 of NO<sub>x</sub> to NO<sub>y</sub> is the complete reversal in the sign of the response of ozone to nitrogen  
663 emissions (e.g., see Figure 2) from net production to net loss below 18 km (i.e., in the  
664 upper troposphere) and from net loss to net production above 24 km. Although the two  
665 ozone change curves shown in the right panel of Figure 2 and Figure 5 have similar  
666 shapes, they are nearly mirror images of one another, as Figure 2 deals with the quantity  
667 ozone loss, whereas Figure 5 shows ozone gain, with altitude. Using reasonable estimates  
668 for an average vertical profile of ozone, the percent change in ozone near 25 km in Figure  
669 5 is about +2 to +4%, whereas near the mid-latitude tropopause (12-16 km) the change is  
670 of comparable magnitude, but opposite in sign. In essence, one could achieve similar  
671 changes to those modeled in Figure 2 by *decreasing* NO<sub>x</sub> by ~10%.

672

673 It is worthwhile to consider how it is possible for the sign of the impacts of NO<sub>x</sub>  
674 emissions to completely reverse since the last major reviews of aviation (and even the  
675 2006 Workshop). Hints can be found in the study by Meilinger et al. [2005] discussed  
676 above and one by Hendricks et al. [2000] who investigate the influence of naturally  
677 occurring bromine on the chemistry of aircraft emissions in the UT/LS. First, the  
678 partitioning of NO<sub>x</sub> emissions is shifted far more toward HNO<sub>3</sub> in the more recent studies  
679 than in the model used to generate Figure 2 (and presumably the state-of-the-art models  
680 used at the time of the 1999 IPCC Assessment). Second, (and largely a consequence of  
681 this shift from NO<sub>x</sub> to HNO<sub>3</sub>) the relative contributions of the NO<sub>x</sub>, HO<sub>x</sub>, and halogen  
682 families to ozone loss in the UT/LS differ in the more recent model simulations from  
683 those used for previous assessments.

684

685 Hendricks et al. [2000] found the somewhat surprising result that bromine radicals, even  
686 at the minor abundances that are thought to be present in the UT/LS, efficiently convert  
687 NO<sub>x</sub> to NO<sub>y</sub> by heterogeneous hydrolysis of BrONO<sub>2</sub> on background and aircraft-  
688 produced aerosols. They showed that this process can even be an important pathway for  
689 denoxification in the lowermost stratosphere. As noted by Meilinger et al. [2005], such  
690 halogen chemistry becomes significantly more important in exhaust-influenced air in the  
691 plumes of aircraft, in cirrus, and in persistent contrails. This issue will be addressed in  
692 more detail in Section 3, since the role of halogens in aviation impacts has received little  
693 attention and remains one of the major uncertainties in UT/LS chemistry.

694

695 Halogen chemistry may not be dominant throughout the UT/LS, but it is important to  
696 note that even a few tens of parts per trillion, background abundances of halogens are  
697 sufficient to compete with (and even dominate in some regions) HO<sub>x</sub>- and NO<sub>x</sub>-  
698 catalyzed destruction of ozone in the UT/LS. The non-linear coupling between HO<sub>x</sub>,  
699 NO<sub>x</sub>, and halogen oxides makes the assessment of the impacts of emissions of any specie  
700 that influences abundances of just one of these families very difficult to assess unless we  
701 have a solid quantitative understanding of each of the major ozone-destroying radical's  
702 response to changes in the abundances of the others. Although such an understanding has  
703 been achieved for the middle-to-upper stratosphere, the situation is less clear for the  
704 lowermost stratosphere and upper troposphere, especially for the reactive halogen  
705 species, abundances of which are so strongly modulated by heterogeneous processes.  
706 Given the additional complication of non-linearities in particle formation, composition,  
707 and heterogeneous reaction rates with respect to relative humidity, temperature, and

708 abundances of H<sub>2</sub>O and HNO<sub>3</sub>, the details of plume formation and dispersion, particle  
709 growth, composition, and sedimentation, and the ability to predict the presence of ice  
710 crystals in the UT/LS all become essential factors in assessing the chemistry of aircraft  
711 exhaust. In light of the clearly dominant role played by water vapor in all of these issues,  
712 the next section will examine progress in understanding water vapor in the UT/LS.

713

#### 714 **2.c.IV. Water Vapor and Supersaturation**

715 H<sub>2</sub>O abundances in the UT/LS are controlled by a combination of transport processes.  
716 Both large- (e.g., Brewer-Dobson circulation) and small-scale (e.g., waves, convection)  
717 processes are important [IPCC 1999; SPARC 2000]. Temperature, chemistry (e.g., CH<sub>4</sub>  
718 oxidation) and microphysics also play roles. Transport phenomena are key elements in  
719 UT water distribution; these include such occurrences as horizontal transport from the  
720 tropics to sub-tropics and midlatitudes and vertical motions associated with mesoscale  
721 convection, midlatitude cyclones and downward transport from the stratosphere.

722

723 SPARC [2000] noted that there has been a 2 ppm increase of H<sub>2</sub>O (~1%/yr) in the  
724 stratosphere since the mid-1950s, about 0.55 ppm of which can be attributed to increases  
725 in CH<sub>4</sub>, while the source of the remaining ~1.5 ppm (75% of the total) remains unknown.  
726 Trends in relative humidity in the upper troposphere have been found in some latitude  
727 bands, but there is no apparent global trend; variability from ENSO, large-scale  
728 circulation modes and temperature all contribute to the complexity of attributing trends.

729

730 Agreement amongst measurements of H<sub>2</sub>O in the lower stratosphere (60-100 mb) has  
731 always been problematic. Although typically clustering within 10% of each other, some  
732 individual instruments have systematically differed from the mode of the measurements  
733 by 25-30%. The source of this disagreement is under investigation.

734

735 Water measurements in the upper troposphere are less numerous than those in the  
736 stratosphere, and they are less reliable overall. Radiosonde data are not sufficiently  
737 accurate for determining trends at the level of importance for understanding perturbations  
738 by aircraft. Measurements from TOVS are reasonable, on average, but very difficult to  
739 validate because of the high temporal and spatial variability of H<sub>2</sub>O vapor in the UT. The  
740 measurement of tropospheric water vapor amounts via radio occultation of Global  
741 Positioning Satellite (GPS) signals has become a fairly mature technique, and methods  
742 for determining vertical profiles of water with high vertical resolution (a few hundred  
743 meters) are under development [e.g., Troller et al., 2006].

744

745 Since the last water vapor assessment [SPARC 2000], a number of uncertainties relevant  
746 to aircraft impacts have been addressed in some detail, as described below:  
747 Intercomparison experiments and laboratory work for stratospheric water vapor  
748 instruments have been ongoing; validation of satellite H<sub>2</sub>O retrievals and numerous  
749 correlative measurements have been conducted; improvements in radiosonde H<sub>2</sub>O  
750 measurements have been made; a number of process studies have been conducted to  
751 investigate the role of convection and cloud microphysical properties in UT/LS H<sub>2</sub>O  
752 distributions and studies of stratosphere-troposphere exchange mechanisms.

753

754 *Intercomparison and Validation*

755 Detailed intercomparisons of lidar, radiosondes, and frost-point sensors (AFWEX)  
756 revealed that the frost-point/chilled mirror measurements are “drier” (i.e., lower water  
757 vapor) than the others by 10-25% in the UTLS [Ferrare et al., 2004]. During the 2003  
758 AWEX-G campaign, (designed to validate the AIRS measurements from the A-train  
759 satellites), six radiosonde-type sensors were flown against the University of Colorado  
760 Cryogenic Frostpoint Hygrometer (CFH). With appropriate corrections for solar heating,  
761 data from the Vaisala RS-90 sensor was found to be suitably accurate for use in  
762 validation studies [Miloshevich et al., 2006].

763

764 Intercomparisons between the satellite-based POAM measurement (solar occultation) and  
765 the in situ MOZAIC data set showed that POAM water vapor values are about 10%  
766 higher than those determined with capacitive humidity sensors flown on several in-  
767 service aircraft [Nedoluha et al., 2002]. Finally, based on comparisons made during the  
768 SONEX and POLINAT campaigns in 1997, Tunable Diode Laser (TDL) and cryogenic  
769 hygrometers were found to agree to within their stated instrumental accuracies of 10%  
770 [Vay et al., 2000], whereas a similar intercomparison conducted between the POLINAT  
771 and MOZAIC datasets found water vapor measurements to agree within 5% [Helten et  
772 al., 1999]. However the agreement between measured values of relative humidity was  
773 worse, potentially pointing to temperature measurement problems.

774

775 Perhaps of most significance for this White Paper will be the upcoming results from the  
776 AquaVIT blind intercomparison that was carried out at the AIDA chamber in Karlsruhe  
777 in Fall 2007 (<http://imk-aida.fzk.de/campaigns/RH01/Water-Intercomparison-www.htm>).  
778 This formal program brought together more than twenty instruments that measure water  
779 vapor and/or condensed water for a two-week measurement campaign. The results of a  
780 formal blind intercomparison among a subset of the instruments are due out Spring 2008,  
781 and should elucidate some of the reasons why water vapor measurements in the cold, dry  
782 UTLS have disagreed to a level that is greater than their reported uncertainties.

783

784 *Observations in UT*

785 Observations of relative humidity over ice (RH<sub>i</sub>) and supersaturation in the upper  
786 troposphere have been analyzed in detail, and both radiosonde measurements and those  
787 derived from the chilled-mirror “SnowWhite” frost point hygrometer show frequent  
788 supersaturation with respect to ice during wintertime (24% of time) [Vaughan et al.,  
789 2005]. Data from MLS show occurrences of high supersaturations in only about 0.5% of  
790 observations overall, with considerably larger frequencies of occurrence found over  
791 Antarctica [Spichtinger et al., 2002]. Only one direct observation of RH<sub>i</sub> relevant for  
792 assessing supersaturation in an aircraft-related contrail has been reported. Gao et al.  
793 [2005] argued that the high supersaturations they observed might be due to co-  
794 condensation of other species (e.g., HNO<sub>3</sub>) in cloud particles.

795

796 *Climatology/Mechanistic Studies*

797 Ten years of MOZAIC data have been compiled to relate UT water to deep convection  
798 and moisture transport [Luo et al., 2007]. Interannual variability is observed to correlate  
799 in some cases with average temperature and/or ENSO, but is not fully explained by

800 either. Regional differences are well-explained by convective frequency. However, no  
801 trend in H<sub>2</sub>O abundances has been found in the MOZAIC data over the period Aug 1994  
802 to Dec 2003 [Bortz et al., 2006].

803

804 Comparison of global or mechanistic model results with observations can also provide  
805 insight into the significance of various transport processes for determining the water  
806 vapor distribution. For example, MOZART model results and HALOE water vapor data  
807 are in good agreement with respect to the seasonal cycle of vertical transport (the so-  
808 called “tape recorder”), but some significant differences exist in distributions around the  
809 tropopause [Park et al., 2004]. Much of this difference is attributed to the model’s  
810 treatment of moisture transport in the monsoon regions, as well as stratosphere-  
811 troposphere exchange in those areas. Similar results were obtained when comparing  
812 simulations from the NCAR Community Atmosphere Model (CAM 3.0) to HALOE  
813 observations and reanalyses by ECMWF. Deficiencies in the calculation of stratospheric  
814 water vapor are attributed to weaknesses in the model’s core stratospheric dynamics, in  
815 particular, the lack of a QBO and crude representation of planetary waves [Gulstad and  
816 Isaksen, 2007]. The authors also note the importance of the model’s temperature fields,  
817 which continue to show a polar cold bias; this particularly affects water vapor  
818 distributions in the southern hemisphere.

819

820 To date, mechanistic model simulations have focused on the representation of water  
821 vapor in the tropics. For example, tropical climatologies of H<sub>2</sub>O, CO, HNO<sub>3</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> are  
822 compared to calculations of vertical profiles of the same species obtained from four  
823 models with differing parameterizations of convection [Folkins et al., 2006]. No single  
824 model/parameterization emerged as “best”, with each having some failings in its ability  
825 to reproduce observations. Comparisons of balloon-borne water vapor observations over  
826 Brazil with profiles calculated by the Brazilian Regional Atmospheric Modeling System  
827 (BRAMS) and ECMWF global analyses illustrate the importance of both model vertical  
828 resolution and the treatment of microphysics in the ability to calculate realistic water  
829 vapor profiles [Marécal et al., 2007].

830

### 831 **2.c.V. UT/LS Temperatures**

832 Atmospheric temperature is a fundamental quantity in all areas that this SSWP considers  
833 – gas-phase and heterogeneous chemistry, the formation and persistence of condensed  
834 matter (e.g., cirrus, contrails, polar stratospheric clouds), and transport processes. Thus  
835 uncertainties in our knowledge of the mean temperature in the UT/LS, as well as its  
836 natural variability, impact a wide range of processes important for understanding the  
837 impacts of aircraft emissions on climate. Furthermore, the inability of models to  
838 adequately simulate the temperatures in the atmospheric regions of interest may have  
839 significant impacts on their treatment of heterogeneous processes and parameterizations  
840 of microphysics (in addition to the role of temperature in model dynamics, such as the  
841 classic GCM “cold pole” problem). A review of the temperature trends associated with  
842 the broader climate change issue is beyond the scope of this document and controversies  
843 surrounding the temperature record for the surface and mid-troposphere will not be  
844 discussed.

845

846 A comprehensive review of temperature trends in the stratosphere was published in 2001  
847 [Ramaswamy et al., 2001]. This work indicated that temperature trends in the lower  
848 stratosphere were negative ( $-0.5 \pm 0.25$  °C/decade) and consistent with known trends in  
849 stratospheric ozone as well as other greenhouse gases. These authors noted, however, that  
850 better knowledge of the vertical profiles of ozone and water vapor, and their changes,  
851 throughout the upper troposphere and lower stratosphere were critical for proper  
852 attribution of the observed temperature changes. Stratospheric temperature trends updated  
853 through 2005 are presented in Chapter 5 of WMO [2006] and are consistent with those  
854 reported earlier.

855

856 Similar exhaustive trend studies for the UT/LS have not been carried out, although data  
857 for this region do exist (from radiosondes, satellites and even in-service aircraft). One  
858 regional study [Bencherif et al., 2006] uses radiosonde data gathered over South Africa to  
859 show that temperatures are decreasing throughout the UT/LS (200 hPa and altitudes  
860 above) between 1980 and 2001. In that region, upper tropospheric temperatures have  
861 decreased at a rate of  $-0.10 \pm 0.18$  °C/decade, a value similar to that reported by Parker et  
862 al. [1997] for an analysis based on globally gridded radiosonde observations.

863

864 Sensitivity of the rates of chemical processes to temperature can be significant. In general  
865 an error of a degree or two makes little difference in the rate of a gas-phase process;  
866 however, the same cannot be said for heterogeneous chemical transformations. The  
867 composition of condensed phases is often a strong function of temperature, as is the  
868 threshold for condensation. For example, at 200 K, a 1-K change in temperature changes  
869 the saturation vapor pressure of water over ice by approximately 15%. When coupled to  
870 uncertainties in water vapor measurements, errors in temperature observations or  
871 calculations can have dramatic impacts on the determination of conditions such as  
872 supersaturation or the presence of polar stratospheric clouds, and hence, chlorine  
873 activation.

874

#### 875 **2.d. Present State of Measurements and Data Analysis**

876 To understand the photochemistry of ozone in the UT/LS, it is important to know the  
877 distributions of the major species that produce ozone (HOx, NOx, and hydrocarbons) and  
878 those that destroy it (HOx, ClOx, BrOx, and NOx). Due to the strong coupling between  
879 species within the radical families and between species from different families, it is not  
880 necessary to measure all of the important species simultaneously. However, it is  
881 important to have a good understanding of interrelationships between the major ozone-  
882 forming/destroying radicals under the wide range of conditions that prevail where aircraft  
883 emissions can be found. This includes temperatures that can range from ~190-240 K,  
884 solar zenith angles from 0 degrees to greater than 90 degrees, and ozone abundances that  
885 range from tens to thousands of ppb.

886

887 Not only is it a primary emission product of combustion, NOx has a controlling influence  
888 on partitioning within the HOx and halogen families. Therefore, measurements of NOx in  
889 the UT/LS are important for defining the range of variation of the other ozone-controlling  
890 radicals. Results from a number of major aircraft campaigns, some designed to validate  
891 new orbiting platforms, as well as routine measurements from commercial airliners



892 equipped with instrumentation, have provided a wealth of information relevant for  
893 understanding oxidation, as well as ozone formation and loss, in the UT/LS. The results  
894 summarized in section 2.c for UT NO<sub>x</sub> and HO<sub>x</sub> chemistries have provided a strong  
895 foundation for new modeling studies to address the impacts of NO<sub>x</sub> emissions on ozone  
896 and methane in the broader upper troposphere and lower stratosphere. However, new  
897 results pointing to a reversal in the impacts on ozone in aircraft contrails and cirrus  
898 clouds raises important questions about the completeness of the measurements.  
899 Unfortunately, observations in regions of low NO<sub>x</sub> have not been a major priority of  
900 recent aircraft campaigns, and key satellite instruments do not have sufficient vertical or  
901 horizontal resolution to examine these kinds of issues in narrow regions where  
902 heterogeneous chemistry could play a dominant role .

903  
904 Our understanding of the distribution of water vapor and the processes that control it  
905 remains problematic. In the regions where heterogeneous chemistry would be most  
906 important (i.e., at or near the tropopause), long-standing discrepancies between  
907 measurements makes it extremely difficult to predict the chemical response to any  
908 perturbation, let alone one that includes potential ice nuclei, water vapor and important  
909 co-condensable species such as nitric acid, plus species that can inhibit ice formation  
910 (such as volatile organic compounds). Although this issue is addressed in detail in  
911 another SSWP in the context of cirrus and persistent contrail formation, the critical role  
912 that these observations play in allowing for the prediction of the reactivities of particles  
913 and, hence, their importance to this SSWP, cannot be understated. Resolution of this  
914 problem is critical for assessing the impacts of aircraft emissions on particle formation,  
915 heterogeneous chemistry, redistribution of condensable species, transport of emissions to  
916 the stratosphere, and production of HO<sub>x</sub>. Currently, the reported differences of up to 30%  
917 between widely respected measurements is unacceptable, especially when they imply  
918 strange behavior for particles that could change our fundamental view of the nature of  
919 aerosols and clouds [e.g., cubic ice, nitric acid antifreeze, and very large  
920 supersaturations].

921  
922 Important results on water vapor measurements are expected in 2008 from the recent  
923 AquaVIT intercomparison discussed in Section 2.c.IV.; however, it is important to note  
924 that laboratory intercomparisons of the same or similar instruments have been carried out  
925 before, and while they have answered some questions, they have largely been  
926 unsuccessful at resolving the major discrepancies in the atmospheric measurements  
927 themselves. Consequently, the state of *agreement* among water vapor measurements  
928 remains inadequate for assessing the key remaining aviation impacts issues, even though  
929 the instruments themselves may be in a mature state.

930  
931 A new approach to water vapor intercomparisons would be welcome. One approach that  
932 could be promising - dedicated flights into the combustion plumes of rockets and aircraft  
933 - is described in more detail below. In 2008, potentially important results will be  
934 forthcoming from a small pilot program called “PUMA” (Plume Ultrafast Measurements  
935 Acquisition) that explore the nature of the discrepancy between water vapor  
936 measurements in the UT/LS and the implications of heterogeneity on interpretations of  
937 non-linear processes (such as threshold behaviors for condensation and evaporation of

938 ice, HOx and halogen photochemistry, and redistribution of major species, such as H<sub>2</sub>O  
939 and NO<sub>x</sub>). Preliminary analyses of H<sub>2</sub>O and particulate water data in evaporating plumes  
940 are quite promising, and indicate that future measurements in these environments could  
941 play a critical role in validating the accuracies of water vapor measurements. An  
942 interesting question raised by these studies is whether the highly perturbed plumes  
943 represent a realistic environment for investigating fundamental photochemical and  
944 dynamical issues important in the UT/LS. From the point of view of the assessment of  
945 aircraft emissions, it would seem that such environments, especially the plumes and  
946 persistent contrails produced by aircraft themselves, would be ideal natural ‘laboratories’  
947 for studying important processes identified in these SSWPs. In addition, there are some  
948 who argue that pushing measurements outside their normal dynamic range is one sure  
949 way to find problems that might help in identifying those issues that are important under  
950 more normal conditions.

951

952 Finally, it is important to note here that satellite observations, with a few noteworthy  
953 exceptions, have not yet been a major driving force in refining our understanding of  
954 aircraft impacts. However, following completion of validation activities, new results from  
955 the AURA platform, as well as those from SCIAMACHY, ACE, etc., will be analyzed in  
956 light of the issues raised here and in previous assessments. It is very likely that significant  
957 new insights into convective sources of NO<sub>x</sub> and NO<sub>y</sub>, HO<sub>x</sub>, and aerosols will be  
958 forthcoming from analyses of observations made from numerous satellite platforms. Such  
959 results will be especially important in defining the basic state of the UT/LS into which  
960 aircraft emissions represent a small, but important, perturbation.

961

## 962 **2.f. Current estimates of climate impacts and uncertainties**

963 Since the IPCC [1999] Assessment and the Sausen [2005] of the Brasseur et al. [1998]  
964 European Report, there are no direct comparative model studies that address current  
965 estimates of climate impacts and uncertainties. However, on the basis of the new results  
966 presented above, some general conclusions can be drawn. First, on the basis of improved  
967 understanding of upper tropospheric sources of NO<sub>x</sub>, in particular, due to lightning and  
968 convection from the PBL, it can be interred that the climate impact of aircraft emissions  
969 on regional and global scales will be reduced. Second, on the basis of studies showing an  
970 increased sensitivity of NO<sub>x</sub> and NO<sub>y</sub> to heterogeneous chemistry, it is likely that for  
971 subsonic emissions there will be regions of the atmosphere where aircraft NO<sub>x</sub> and  
972 particles may, in fact, result in ozone losses, especially in the tropopause and LS regions.  
973 On the basis of this result, one would expect the climate impacts of subsonic aircraft  
974 emissions to be smaller than previously believed, and possibly reversed in sign relative to  
975 previous evaluations (e.g., negative instead of positive), whereas the impacts of  
976 supersonic emissions would be greater than previously believed, and positive instead of  
977 negative. Third, the observation of nitric acid-containing particles in the UT/LS, along  
978 with measurements indicating more vigorous transport of NO<sub>x</sub> from the surface, raises  
979 the possibility that NO<sub>x</sub> and NO<sub>y</sub> are processed more rapidly in the UT/LS than  
980 previously believed. Finally, the presence of reactive halogens in the UT/LS, species that,  
981 at the abundances that have been observed, can only coexist with NO<sub>x</sub> if there is rapid  
982 heterogeneous processing, raises the possibility for highly non-linear photochemistry that

983 can result in a net positive or net negative change in ozone with aircraft emissions of  
984 NO<sub>x</sub> and particles.

985

986 It is likely that future studies of the climate impacts of subsonic aircraft emissions that  
987 have more realistic treatments of lightning and convective sources of NO<sub>x</sub>, more  
988 complete treatments of redistribution of NO<sub>y</sub>, especially in persistent contrails, and  
989 heterogeneous halogen chemistry will find that the climate impacts are reduced, or even  
990 reversed in sign (i.e. ozone losses due to aircraft) in the UT/LS. This possibility, calls into  
991 question the uncertainties ascribed to the chemistry of NO<sub>x</sub> emissions by aircraft. Our  
992 understanding probably remains as “fair”, until new CTM studies can be carried out, but  
993 the magnitudes of the error bar placed on the RF terms in Figure 1 may be too small, and  
994 may need to accommodate a reverse in sign, at least until the implications of these new  
995 results can be properly assessed with new model studies.

996

997 The growing body of HO<sub>x</sub> observations in the UT indicates that OH abundances are at  
998 the high end of most model predictions, resulting in a lower lifetime for methane in the  
999 UT. This implies that, at least in these regions, methane will have a greater sensitivity to  
1000 perturbations on NO<sub>x</sub> and aerosols due to aircraft emissions. In addition, the potential for  
1001 an increased role in halogen chemistry in cirrus and persistent contrails raises the  
1002 possibility that aircraft perturbations to methane may currently be underestimated, as the  
1003 reaction of methane with chlorine atoms is likely to be more important in the UT/LS than  
1004 is currently believed.

1005

## 1006 **2.g Interconnectivity with other SSWP theme areas**

1007 As has been discussed earlier, the chemistry of aircraft emissions is highly non-linear and  
1008 strongly coupled with important processes dealt with in other SSWPs, including  
1009 formation of persistent contrails and cirrus. Furthermore, and potentially more  
1010 problematic for assessing impacts, emissions of NO<sub>x</sub> could alter redistribution of NO<sub>y</sub>  
1011 and water, not only from aircraft exhaust, but from the background atmosphere as well if  
1012 the addition of NO<sub>x</sub> results in enhanced large-particle stability and sedimentation. It is  
1013 also possible for NO<sub>x</sub> influences to impact transport of NO<sub>y</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O (although the latter  
1014 may be too small to matter) from the UT into the LS. As noted in Section 2.d., the  
1015 greatest uncertainty for this SSWP is due to the implications of continuing discrepancies  
1016 in water vapor measurements in the cold and dry regions of the UT/LS. Thus, there is a  
1017 strong interconnection between this SSWP and those on particle microphysics and  
1018 contrail and cirrus cloud formation.

1019

## 1020 **3. Outstanding issues**

1021 Progress made in areas highlighted in Section 2.c., especially that relating to the  
1022 importance of heterogeneous chemistry, raise new questions about the fundamental  
1023 chemistries of NO<sub>x</sub>, HO<sub>x</sub>, and halogens, and the interactions of ice and nitric acid in the  
1024 UT/LS, all which can have important consequences in future assessments of aviation  
1025 impacts. Key new findings in these areas are summarized in Section 3.a. Although their  
1026 impacts have not yet been adequately assessed, their tendency to push the effects of  
1027 aviation emissions in the same general direction that has been found in model studies

1028 summarized in Section 2.c.III. is somewhat troublesome, in that they have the ability to  
1029 offset some of the advances that have occurred over the past decade.

1030

### 1031 **3.a. Science**

1032 The key developments in UT chemistry summarized in Section 2.c. place considerably  
1033 more emphasis on the role of heterogeneous chemistry of non-aircraft species, such as the  
1034 halogens, on understanding the distributions of background H<sub>2</sub>O and nitrogen oxides, and  
1035 on the need for new studies that address chemical heterogeneities of the UT/LS.

1036 One of the interesting consequences of the increased importance of heterogeneous  
1037 processes is the change in sign of ozone response with NO<sub>x</sub> perturbation described  
1038 earlier. This section will highlight important issues listed in the 2006 Workshop  
1039 [Wuebbles et al., 2006] that remain unresolved, and new findings that raise new questions  
1040 about chemistry in the UT that must be understood before uncertainties in the impacts of  
1041 aircraft emissions on chemistry in the UT/LS can be reduced further.

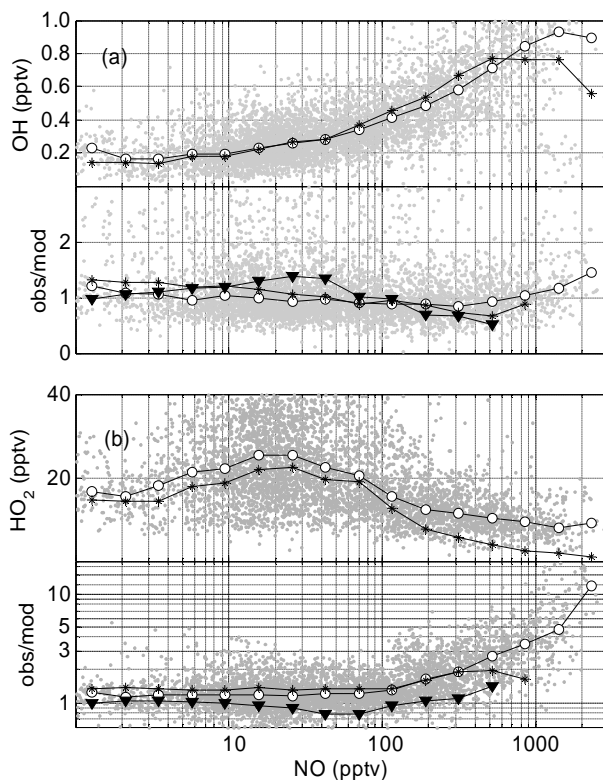
1042

#### 1043 **3.a.I Discrepancies in Coupled HO<sub>x</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> Chemistry**

1044 The ability to realistically simulate ozone production and loss and the coupling between  
1045 CH<sub>4</sub>, CO, OH, and O<sub>3</sub> relies upon an accurate model representation of the response of  
1046 HO<sub>x</sub> (and, to a lesser extent, halogen radicals) to variations in NO<sub>x</sub>. There have been a  
1047 significant number of campaigns where NO, NO<sub>2</sub>, OH, HO<sub>2</sub>, and ozone have been  
1048 measured simultaneously, and the first-order linkages between the NO<sub>x</sub> and HO<sub>x</sub>  
1049 families have been demonstrated. However, model comparisons with HO<sub>x</sub> observations  
1050 have been somewhat problematic [Faloona et al., 2000]. Olson et al. [2006] show that  
1051 most of the previous model-measurements discrepancies at high NO<sub>x</sub> (e.g. during  
1052 SONEX) can be explained by non-linearities of HO<sub>x</sub> chemistry under highly variable  
1053 conditions for NO<sub>x</sub> (i.e., the model timescales are too long, relative to the measurements,  
1054 such that averages of derived quantities do not represent quantities derived from averages  
1055 of the individual measurements – see also Wild and Prather [2006]).

1056

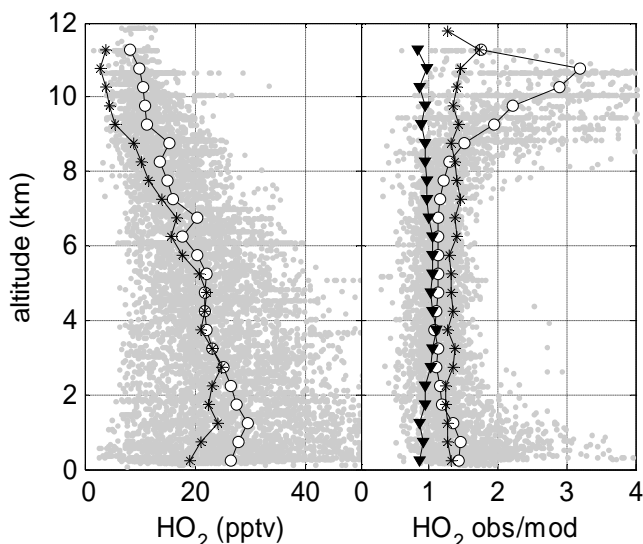
1057 Despite considerable progress that has been made in the area of tropospheric HO<sub>x</sub>  
1058 chemistry, as noted in two very recent papers [Hudman et al., 2007; Ren et al., 2008],  
1059 observations continue to highlight important discrepancies between models and  
1060 measurements. Figure 6 taken from Ren et al. [2008] shows how well models agree with  
1061 measurements of HO<sub>x</sub> during three recent major field campaigns for which there were  
1062 comprehensive suites of measurements of sources of HO<sub>x</sub>. The agreement between  
1063 modeled and measured OH is quite good over most of the range, except, perhaps, at the  
1064 very highest NO where a slight underprediction develops for INTEX-A (where the  
1065 highest NO values were observed). However, at high NO, measured HO<sub>x</sub> exceeds that  
1066 from the model by as much as an order of magnitude at highest NO. Further insight into  
1067 this issue is gained by examining the altitude dependence of the discrepancy, as shown in  
1068 Figure 7. Clearly these results are problematic for assessments of the impacts of aviation,



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**Figure 6.** (a) Comparison of NO dependence for observations of OH (upper panel) and the ratio of measured-to-measured OH (lower panel). (b) Comparison of NO dependence for observations of HO<sub>2</sub> (upper panel) values and the ratio of measured-to-modeled HO<sub>2</sub> from INTEX-A (circles), TRACE-P (stars) and PEM Tropics B (triangles). Individual INTEX-A 1-minute measurements are shown (gray dots). All lines show the median profiles [from Ren et al., 2008].

since high NO<sub>x</sub> abundances can develop in heavily traveled flight corridors [e.g., see IPCC 1999]. The reasons for these discrepancies remain elusive. However, new observations of a critical species, pernitric acid (HO<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>), whose abundance is determined by the coupled photochemistry of HO<sub>x</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub>, may help provide some answers [Murphy et al., 2002; Kim et al., 2007]. In a new report of simultaneous in situ observations of HO<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, and HO<sub>2</sub>, at aircraft cruise altitudes, Kim et al. [2007] found that abundances of HO<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> were about a factor-of-two low than those calculated with assumed photochemistry and observed abundances of HO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub>. This discrepancy can be reconciled if one of the measurements (most likely HO<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> or HO<sub>2</sub>) were in error (too small or too large,



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1091

1092 **Figure 7.** Similar to Figure 3, but for HO<sub>2</sub>. (left panel) Comparison of the median  
1093 vertical profiles of measured (circles) and modeled (stars) of OH for INTEX-A. (right  
1094 panel) Measured-to-modeled OH in INTEX-A (circles), TRACE-P (stars) and PEM  
1095 Tropics B (triangles). Individual 1-minute measurements from INTEX-A are shown (gray  
1096 dots) [from Ren et al., 2008].

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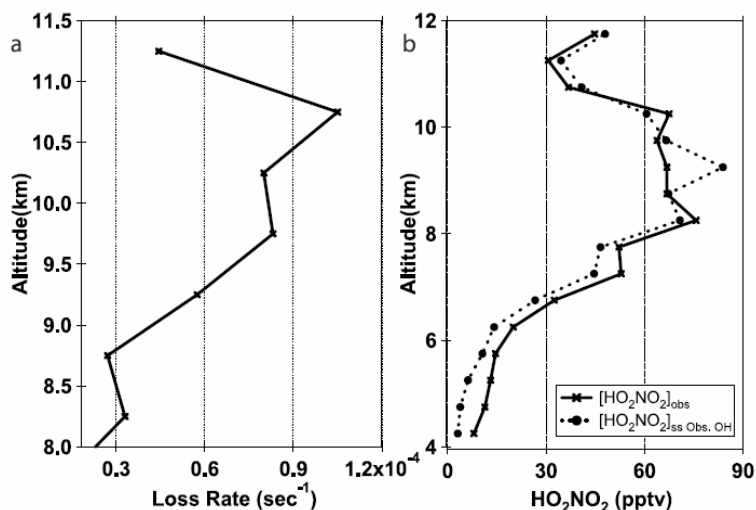
1098 respectively). However, it is interesting to note that the trend in this discrepancy with  
1099 altitude is similar to that of Figure 7, raising the possibility of missing or poorly  
1100 understood chemistry coupling HO<sub>x</sub> to NO<sub>x</sub> in the relatively cold and dry upper  
1101 troposphere. It is particularly problematic for assessments of aircraft emissions that the  
1102 discrepancy is largest at cruising altitudes for most large subsonic aircraft.

1103

### 1104 3.a.II. Halogen Chemistry

1105 In any modeling study of the impacts of a perturbation, it is important to start with a  
1106 correct description of the composition of the background atmosphere. In previous aircraft  
1107 assessments [Brasseur et al., 1998; IPCC 1999] it has been assumed that reactive  
1108 halogens are not present in sufficient abundances to significantly impact ozone chemistry.  
1109 Such a view was not based on observations, as there were few reliable observations of  
1110 ClO and BrO in the UT/LS. Following the first observations of enhanced ClO in the  
1111 lowermost stratosphere in 1991 [e.g., Avallone et al., 1993], ozone loss due to  
1112 heterogeneous chemistry on cirrus clouds was proposed as a way to explain a gap  
1113 between modeled and measured ozone trends in the midlatitude LS [e.g., Borrmann et al.,  
1114 1996; Solomon et al., 1997]. A detailed examination of water vapor and ClO  
1115 measurements in the UT/LS found no evidence for heterogeneous activation of chlorine  
1116 [Smith et al., 2001]. However, subsequent measurements of ClO in the Arctic and  
1117 examination of measurements over the continental US, both near the tropopause, found

1118



1119  
 1120 Figure 8. Implications of new observations reported by Kim et al. [2007] revealed an  
 1121 imbalance of production minus loss representing 50% of the magnitude of the production  
 1122 rate calculated from observed abundances of  $\text{HO}_2$  and  $\text{NO}_2$  (left panel).  $\text{HO}_2\text{NO}_2$   
 1123 abundances were in good agreement with steady-state calculations based on observed  
 1124 abundances of OH (right panel), suggesting a problem with coupled  $\text{HO}_2/\text{NO}_2$  chemistry  
 1125 or one of the observations.

1126  
 1127 evidence for widespread chlorine activation in regions of high particulate loading  
 1128 [Thornton et al., 2003, Thornton et al., 2007]. The diurnal behavior of reactive chlorine  
 1129 was very suggestive of rapid in situ processing by aerosols [Thornton, 2005].

1130  
 1131 As noted in Section 2.c.III., modeling studies that included heterogeneous processing of  
 1132  $\text{NO}_x$  found significant changes in the response of ozone to aircraft emissions. In one case  
 1133 [Meilinger et al., 2005], it was the consideration of heterogeneous reactions on ice in  
 1134 persistent contrails that led to important changes in ozone response. In the case of the  
 1135 study by Hendricks et al. [2000], simply including heterogeneous reactions of bromine  
 1136 nitrate, significant denoxification occurred in some regions with important consequences  
 1137 on ozone. Finally, in the very recent study by Sovde et al. [2007], properly accounting for  
 1138 known heterogeneous reactions on aircraft-perturbed aerosol particles resulted in a  
 1139 complete reversal in sign of the ozone response to increased emissions in the UT. Based  
 1140 on these results alone, a reexamination of the role of heterogeneous reactions on  
 1141 background aerosols and in persistent contrails and cirrus using updated photochemical  
 1142 parameters is warranted.

1143  
 1144 Adding to the complexity of this issue, over the past decade there have been a number of  
 1145 reports (more than will be referred to here – see Salawitch et al. [2005]) of larger-than-  
 1146 expected abundances of BrO in the upper. Salawitch et al. [2005] make a strong case for  
 1147 the need to add upwards of 2-4 ppt of bromine to the stratospheric budget, either by  
 1148 transport of inorganic species (such as BrO,  $\text{BrONO}_3$ , and HOBr) or short-lived organic  
 1149 sources. In light of the increased number of surface sources required to explain recent  
 1150  $\text{NO}_x$  and HOx measurements in the UT, it seems reasonable that both types of species  
 1151 could contribute to this ~10-20% enhancement in the total bromine budget by short-lived

1152 species [e.g., Sinnhuber and Folkins, 2006]. However, there are some important caveats.  
1153 First, it is only the remotely sensed observations of BrO that point to a need to increase  
1154 the bromine budget beyond what measurements of organic source gases seem to suggest  
1155 – in other words, beyond about 4 ppt of bromine from short-lived compounds [e.g., Dorf  
1156 et al. 2006a]. Second, even the remote sensing observations of BrO do not agree; they  
1157 split roughly 50/50 in number between those that agree [Schofield et al., 2004];  
1158 Sinnhuber et al., 2005] with a budget based on measurements of source gases and some  
1159 short-lived compounds near the tropopause [e.g., Schauffler et al., 1999] and those that  
1160 suggest missing nearly double those short-lived sources of bromine [e.g., Sioris et al.,  
1161 2006; Theys et al., 2007].

1162  
1163 This issue is treated in great detail in the recent WMO Ozone Report [2006], so will not  
1164 be discussed further here, other than to note that due to the importance of bromine in  
1165 some regions of the UT/LS (e.g., Hendricks et al., 2000), new observations of BrO with  
1166 high spatial resolution, and in conjunction with observations of NO<sub>x</sub> and HO<sub>x</sub>, may be  
1167 required to resolve this issue.

### 1168 1169 **3.a.III. Potential Surprises**

1170 “Our vision is often more obstructed by what we think we know than by our lack of  
1171 knowledge.” These words of Krister Stehdahl, the Harvard Professor of Divinity, apply  
1172 well to this problem. It is important to remember the lessons of the 1985 WMO Ozone  
1173 Assessment, where the consensus view at the time was that the ClO dimer and  
1174 heterogeneous reactions would not play important roles in stratospheric ozone chemistry.  
1175 This lesson seems relevant to this White Paper, and the authors view several issues that  
1176 fall in this category as the most important in terms of limiting our ability to accurately  
1177 assess the current impacts of aviation on UT/LS chemistry and predict future impacts.

#### 1178 1179 *Scavenging of NO<sub>y</sub>*

1180 Another important series of new observations are those related to the formation of nitric-  
1181 acid containing ice particles in the UT/LS [Voigt et al. 2007, Voigt et al. 2007, and Popp  
1182 et al. 2006]. The fact that such particles are larger, and less abundant than other particles  
1183 suggests that their sedimentation could impact distributions of reactive nitrogen and  
1184 water in the UT/LS. Redistribution and/or removal of NO<sub>y</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O from the UT/LS  
1185 could result in important non-linearities that are presently not treated adequately in  
1186 models. For example, it is possible that addition of aircraft NO<sub>x</sub>, followed by enhanced  
1187 sedimentation of nitric acid-containing particles, could denitrify a narrow layer centered  
1188 about the flight corridor. In the tropics, such a process could even mean that aircraft  
1189 emissions ‘seed’ the removal of NO<sub>y</sub> and water, thereby decreasing transport of these  
1190 species to the stratosphere (i.e. a negative feedback loop). Recent observations of  
1191 significant chlorine activation in broad region near the polar tropopause where NO<sub>y</sub>-  
1192 containing particles were also observed [Thornton et al., 2003] suggest that such a  
1193 feedback is possible. Thus, it is important to understand better uptake of NO<sub>y</sub> species on  
1194 ice particles and the role of temperature and water vapor (i.e. RH<sub>i</sub>) on such processes.  
1195 Key to such an understanding will be the accuracies of measurements of water vapor and  
1196 condensed water in the UT/LS.

1197



1198 *Non-linear Processes – Feedbacks and Plume Dispersion*

1199 The issue of potential surprises due to a lack of understanding of plume dispersion must  
1200 be examined in greater detail. One of the ubiquitous features of in situ measurements of  
1201 many types is their high degree of heterogeneity to very small scales [Richard et al. 2006,  
1202 and Lovejoy et al. 2007]. In fact, for reactive species, this can translate down to sub-  
1203 meter scales [unpublished results from the PUMA campaign]. Therefore, it is insufficient  
1204 to assume simple gaussian plume dispersion when it is known that constituents exhibit a  
1205 high degree of variability, even hours after they are emitted. This is especially the case  
1206 when differences between vertical mixing and horizontal shear forces result in  
1207 filamentary structures [e.g Fairley et al., 2007] that are difficult to describe with a simple  
1208 gaussian parameterization.

1209  
1210 We also lack a basic understanding of non-linear processes that can occur in the  
1211 heterogeneous environment of an aircraft plume and persistent contrail. With the likely  
1212 addition presence of solid or liquid mixtures of HNO<sub>3</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O (e.g. nitric acid  
1213 trihydrate), in which the stability is proportional to the density of the plume raised to a  
1214 power as large as four, and where heterogeneous reaction rates are strong non-linear  
1215 functions of relative humidity and composition, this problem has only become more  
1216 difficult to handle following observations of nitric acid-containing particles in the UT/LS.  
1217 In a sense, this issue, along with the non-linear coupling between HO<sub>x</sub>, ClO<sub>x</sub>, BrO<sub>x</sub>, and  
1218 NO<sub>x</sub>, is reminiscent of the ozone hole. While the effects will not be as severe, their role  
1219 in the aircraft emissions assessment process is only now being addressed in sufficient  
1220 detail.

1221

1222 **3.b. Measurements and analysis**

1223 New and improved measurements and analysis of existing data should help to address  
1224 some of the outstanding issues highlighted above. As noted previously, reanalysis of HO<sub>x</sub>  
1225 measurements may help to resolve some discrepancies between models and  
1226 measurements that have been noted previously. It is also possible, perhaps likely, that  
1227 such analyses will raise new questions. In addition, ongoing observations of HO<sub>x</sub>, along  
1228 with NO<sub>x</sub>, source gases, and tracers of transport from the PBL and stratosphere, as are  
1229 planned for major campaigns such as ARCTAS in 2008 are critical for efforts to map out  
1230 seasonal and regional variations of this critical oxidizer. Such observations will provide  
1231 important constraints for models used to assess the role of HO<sub>x</sub> chemistry, especially that  
1232 related to methane oxidation.

1233

1234 New, fast response, in situ measurements in aircraft plumes, including particles, water  
1235 vapor, several good tracers of combustion and mixing (e.g. CO<sub>2</sub> and CO), ice water  
1236 content, HO<sub>x</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, and at least one halogen radical would go far toward reducing  
1237 uncertainties resulting from non-linear processes. The capability exists for such  
1238 measurements, although to date, they have not been carried out downstream of an aircraft  
1239 or in aircraft flight corridors (the potential to rectify this situation exists during  
1240 ARCTAS).

1241

1242 Continued analyses of satellite data, particularly those with sufficient horizontal  
1243 resolution to identify regions of interesting chemistry (e.g. in persistent contrails, the

1244 North Atlantic Flight Corridor, or in the tropopause region), may shed light on the  
1245 importance of potential non-linearities that may be difficult to examine by in situ  
1246 methods. Of particular value would be studies of correlative measurements of clouds and  
1247 trace constituents (e.g. TES, MLS, SCIAMACHY, OMI, AIRS, MODIS) that might  
1248 reveal linkages between cloud occurrences and constituent abundances.

1249  
1250 Efforts should continue to understand bromine and chlorine chemistry in the UT/LS, in  
1251 particular the variations of abundances of BrO and ClO. Of particular interest would be  
1252 high-resolution correlative measurements of these species with HO<sub>2</sub>, OH, and NO<sub>x</sub>, along  
1253 with their respective source gases. Observations in aircraft plumes and flight corridors  
1254 would be especially helpful for constraining plume dispersion models. Finally, it will  
1255 likely be necessary to carry out frequent water vapor measurements intercomparisons to  
1256 continue to refine our understanding of the factors that influence the discrepancies that  
1257 have been observed between various techniques.

1258  
1259 **4.a. Prioritization of Issues Based on Impact**  
1260 The outstanding issues identified above can be prioritized on the basis of the level of  
1261 scientific understanding and the magnitude of the terms each represents in the most  
1262 recent IPCC “Radiative Forcing”-like representation of aviation effects on climate.  
1263 Referring to Figure 1, this would suggest that improvements in understanding of the  
1264 processes that impact the distribution of ozone (28 mW m<sup>-2</sup> and “fair”) and the lifetime of  
1265 methane (20 mW m<sup>-2</sup> and “fair”) will be most significant. Of lesser importance are the  
1266 impacts on direct radiative forcings due to emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>O, sulfate and soot.  
1267 Finally, of least importance would be investigation of issues that were not considered in  
1268 detail in previous impacts assessments.

1269  
1270 However, it is also worthwhile to consider prioritization of issues on the basis of the  
1271 extent to which they may represent a dramatic shift in our basic understanding of the  
1272 impacts of aviation. In this case, those issues deemed of least importance using the  
1273 present framework of the IPCC Forcings, as outlined above, could be considered of  
1274 highest priority from the point of view of uncertainty or “surprise”. For example, if a  
1275 proper treatment of heterogeneous chemistry on aircraft-produced particles or of aircraft  
1276 emissions of NO<sub>x</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O on background aerosols results in a reversal of the sign of  
1277 ozone change in the UT/LS, this would essentially render as moot the prioritization of  
1278 issues based on the previous IPCC-like forcings. That is, because the sign for the  
1279 radiative impact of aircraft-induced ozone changes could, in fact, be negative, a result  
1280 that is outside the present estimate of uncertainty for that particular term in Figure 1.  
1281 While the possibility of this type of “surprise” is relatively small, given recent  
1282 observations that raise questions about our understanding of heterogeneous chemistry in  
1283 the UT/LS, it is prudent to examine the potential consequences of previously unknown  
1284 processes before expending much effort toward reducing the uncertainties of processes  
1285 that were previously believed to be the most important.

1286  
1287 In the section that follows, we approach the prioritization from these different  
1288 perspectives, beginning first with the conventional approach of prioritizing the issues on

1289 the basis of reducing the current list of uncertainties. We then follow with a prioritization  
1290 of issues based on the potential for a major shift in our understanding of the impacts.

1291

1292 *Priority 1 – Water Vapor Measurements*

1293 Long-standing discrepancies among water vapor measurements (both in situ and remote)  
1294 in the coldest and driest regions in the UT/LS continue to limit efforts to accurately  
1295 quantify the role of heterogeneous chemistry in conversion of NO<sub>x</sub> to NO<sub>y</sub>, to model  
1296 HO<sub>x</sub> production and loss, to predict the frequency and extent of halogen activation, and  
1297 to model the distribution of exhaust emissions (in particular, sedimentation of NO<sub>x</sub> and  
1298 H<sub>2</sub>O) in the UT/LS. Of critical importance is the characterization of the role of  
1299 supersaturation (i.e., RH<sub>i</sub>) in particle formation and growth, both highly non-linear  
1300 processes.

1301

1302 One method for assessing the accuracy of water vapor measurements is to examine  
1303 observations from different pairs of instruments in a series of informal intercomparisons.  
1304 From such opportunities, it is known that particular instruments report data that is  
1305 consistently as much as 40% larger than all other techniques under the driest conditions  
1306 in the UT/LS. These data have led researchers to conclude that large supersaturations  
1307 (well over 150% in some cases) exist. Because all of the in situ instruments have been  
1308 characterized separately in the laboratory, it has been argued that carefully designed and  
1309 executed laboratory intercomparisons will help to resolve outstanding differences. A  
1310 recent formal (double-blind) intercomparison (AquaVIT) has revealed some issues that  
1311 may help to reduce the discrepancy among instruments. However, it will still be  
1312 necessary to demonstrate consistent agreement amongst instruments under a wide range  
1313 of conditions in actual atmospheric observations before this problem can be considered to  
1314 be resolved.

1315

1316 Unfortunately, few, if any, dedicated intercomparison campaigns are being planned that  
1317 will adequately address this critical issue. In part, this is due to the high costs that would  
1318 be associated with a multi-platform, multi-instrument campaign which would be required  
1319 to demonstrate good agreement over the wide range of conditions found in the UT/LS.  
1320 For example, a month-long dedicated WB57F campaign based in Houston, designed to  
1321 sample across a wide range of latitudes in order to encounter a reasonable dynamic range  
1322 of water vapor values would involve over \$1 million in aircraft operating costs and  
1323 adequate funds for participant travel and post-mission analysis. In addition, it is unclear  
1324 how new measurements obtained in this manner would resolve outstanding issues from  
1325 previous campaign involving similar flight tactics. From many perspectives, a new  
1326 approach aimed at clearly identifying instrument performance issues is required to make  
1327 significant progress in this area, and to lend credibility to the results.

1328

1329 A promising new approach that could be taken to identify key areas of disagreement  
1330 between instruments is to deploy them into combustion plumes in the UT/LS, both those  
1331 laid down by aircraft and those laid down by rockets. The validity of this approach has  
1332 been demonstrated recently in a pilot mission called PUMA (Plume Ultrafast  
1333 Measurements Acquisition). In 2004, 2005, and 2006, exhaust emissions from three  
1334 rockets (Atlas IIAS and two Space Shuttles) were sampled for particle size distributions,

1335 ice water content, water vapor, temperature, and carbon dioxide. The advantage to this  
1336 approach is that a significant range of abundances of H<sub>2</sub>O (from ambient levels near 4  
1337 ppm to over 30 ppm) are encountered at each altitude where the plumes are sampled,  
1338 providing for a slope/intercept analysis for each instrument. Such an approach can reveal  
1339 whether measurement differences are due to differences in calibration or to offsets, the  
1340 latter of which can be significant for water vapor in the dry UT/LS. One of the  
1341 interesting results from PUMA is the demonstration that the contrail evaporation point  
1342 (when RHi drops below 100%) serves as an important independent validation of the H<sub>2</sub>O  
1343 vapor pressure measurement – that is, independent of the CO<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>O emission index,  
1344 which constrains the slope of a calibration (the “span” or response function), the instant  
1345 when RHi drops below 100%, which can be identified unambiguously by an enhanced  
1346 total water measurement such as CLH, is a powerful constraint on the accuracy of a total  
1347 water measurement to a level that cannot be achieved in any laboratory calibration based  
1348 on water vapor alone.

1349

#### 1350 *Priority 2 – Temperature measurements*

1351 As shown above, in the context of defining RHi, measurements of temperature on most  
1352 platforms agree to a level that is better than the agreement amongst water vapor  
1353 measurements. However, making accurate temperature measurements is a non-trivial  
1354 process, especially on a fast-moving platform, such as the WB57F, ER-2, or HIAPER.  
1355 For example, near 200 K, a difference of 1 °C translates into an uncertainty of 10% in  
1356 RHi. Thus, any program designed to address water vapor accuracies (especially one that  
1357 relies on the vapor-ice transition such as that described above) must also address the  
1358 accuracy of temperature measurements. It is the correction from observed to static  
1359 temperatures using the “recovery temperature” equation that is most uncertain, as the  
1360 correction involves quadratic terms for air speed that rely on highly accurate  
1361 measurements of static and dynamic pressure. Consequently, accurate knowledge of the  
1362 air flow around the aircraft surface where temperature probes are mounted is critical in  
1363 order to determine recovery temperature to better than 1 °C.

1364

1365 One issue that has been raised when different temperature measurements from the  
1366 WB57F aircraft have been compared is that placement of inlets can have profound effects  
1367 on water vapor measurements in clouds (or at RHi near 100%) due to possible inertial  
1368 enhancement of particulate water. It is recommended here that to avoid ambiguities (such  
1369 as pressure perturbations near blunt surfaces or under wings), it would be quite useful to  
1370 install temperature probes in various locations around the aircraft, especially on wing  
1371 pods or under the wings near where water vapor instruments are deployed in any  
1372 campaign that has a focus on accuracies of water vapor measurements. Good agreement  
1373 between such measurements (say one located on a wing pod and one on the nose) serves  
1374 to provide increased confidence that differences between measurements of water vapor  
1375 are not due to perturbations of the temperature/pressure field around an instrument. This  
1376 approach was used successfully during the PUMA campaign. As shown below, such  
1377 measurements represent a very small cost compared to the time that could be lost in post-  
1378 mission analyses that must account for potential consequences due to placement of  
1379 temperature and pressure measurements.

1380

1381 *Priority 3. HOx Measurements*

1382 Critical to the modeling effort that is required to determine the impact of aircraft  
1383 emissions on the global methane budget (and hence the radiative forcing term that is  
1384 labeled by “CH<sub>4</sub>” in Figure 1) is the ability for the models to accurately simulate global  
1385 OH distributions. Not only does the abundance of OH determine the tropospheric lifetime  
1386 of methane and the rate of conversion of NO<sub>x</sub> to NO<sub>y</sub>, OH and HO<sub>2</sub> are important ozone  
1387 destroying radicals. In addition, the ability to model the sources of HO<sub>x</sub> in the UT/LS  
1388 improves knowledge of the surface convective sources that also contribute the budget of  
1389 NO<sub>x</sub> in the UT/LS. Finally, measurements of OH and the OH/HO<sub>2</sub> ratio provide  
1390 constraints on NO<sub>x</sub> and halogen chemistries.

1391  
1392 A substantial heritage of measurements of OH and HO<sub>2</sub> in the UT/LS has been  
1393 established as a result of numerous campaigns involving the ER-2 and DC-8 aircraft.  
1394 Because HO<sub>x</sub> abundances are fundamental to a number of important processes in models  
1395 used to assess aircraft impacts, continuing to add to the current database of HO<sub>x</sub>  
1396 measurements will serve to reduce important uncertainties in those models. Frequent  
1397 intercomparisons between measurements of OH and HO<sub>2</sub> using different techniques will  
1398 also help investigators reduce their measurement uncertainties, and should be  
1399 encouraged.

1400

1401 *Priority 4 – Coupled HOx/NOx Chemistry*

1402 Possible discrepancies between modeled and measured HO<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>, a compound that  
1403 provides a critical link between the photochemistries of HO<sub>x</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> families, should  
1404 be investigated further. The current discrepancy points out a potential problem with the  
1405 new measurements of HO<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> or one or more of the species that produces it, an error in  
1406 a critical photochemical parameter, or missing chemistry that could be important in  
1407 determining abundances of NO<sub>x</sub> or NO<sub>y</sub> in the UT/LS. Efforts to reduce uncertainties in  
1408 the measurements of HO<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> and modeling investigations of potential errors in sources  
1409 or sinks of HO<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> should be encouraged.

1410

1411 *Prioritization based on potential impacts that are currently unknown*

1412 Although important uncertainties remain in the processes listed in the section above, for  
1413 all of these it is possible to estimate the likely bounds of their impacts with investigations  
1414 that are constrained by known uncertainties in existing measurements. For example,  
1415 impacts could be assessed with a model that assumes ice particle formation in the UT/LS  
1416 at supersaturations consistent with the low end (i.e., driest) of the water vapor  
1417 measurements and with those consistent with the high end of the measurements. Based on  
1418 the resulting range of impacts, the need to resolve the discrepancies in water vapor  
1419 measurements could be quantified (for example, a range of 10%, rather than 30%, is  
1420 required for adequate assessment of this term). However, for several processes, the  
1421 observations may be too limited to provide a reliable estimate of the impacts of aircraft  
1422 emissions. In this section, these processes are given high priority based on the possibility  
1423 that they could be significant, but reasonable bounds cannot yet be placed on their  
1424 potential impacts due to lacking observational constraints (e.g., the situation, although  
1425 probably not as dramatic, can be likened to that of 1985 when it was believed that

1426 heterogeneous reactions were not significant for ozone balance and that CFC-related  
1427 ozone loss would occur in the middle stratosphere at mid-latitudes).

1428

1429 *Priority 1 – Investigations of non-linear effects*

1430 Recent observations of nitric acid-containing particles [Popp, et al., ] and enhancements  
1431 in reactive chlorine [Thornton et al., ] in the UT/LS outside the polar regions have raised  
1432 the possibility that heterogeneous reactions could lead to conversion of NO<sub>x</sub> to NO<sub>y</sub>, and  
1433 activation of chlorine, in persistent contrails or cirrus occurring in flight corridors. It is  
1434 even possible that NO<sub>y</sub> could be redistributed by sedimentation of particles if they grow  
1435 large enough in these regions. Such processes are strongly non-linear in plumes or  
1436 exhaust-influenced regions, due to the threshold nature of particle formation and strong  
1437 water dependence of heterogeneous reactions involving halogens and NO<sub>y</sub>. To  
1438 understand the role of such processes in UT/LS chemistry, details of the dispersion of  
1439 exhaust become extremely important.

1440

1441 At the present time, there are few observations of the variability of constituents in and  
1442 subsequent dispersion to the background atmosphere of exhaust plumes. In addition, the  
1443 chemical composition of particles in exhaust plumes has only recently begun to be  
1444 studied, and measurements of reactive halogens in the UT/LS with instruments sensitive  
1445 enough to observe their small-scale (e.g., plume scale) variability have been ignored.  
1446 Given the recent model results shown in Sections 2.C.II and 2.C.IV above, it is important  
1447 to investigate the potential impacts of dispersion processes on the chemistry of plumes.  
1448 Significant progress toward setting possible limits on the importance of such processes  
1449 would be possible with modeling efforts that consider extreme cases, such as complete  
1450 removal of NO<sub>y</sub> by sedimentation in persistent contrails, slow dispersion of plumes, and  
1451 rapid heterogeneous reactions. Such studies could then serve to guide observations of  
1452 species such as HNO<sub>3</sub>, particles, ClO, and BrO that would constrain the impacts of these  
1453 processes on the chemistry of ozone in the UT/LS.

1454

1455 *Priority 2 – The Role of Halogen Oxides in Background UT/LS Ozone Chemistry*

1456 Although it is believed that the importance of halogen oxides is limited by excess  
1457 abundances of NO<sub>x</sub> in the UT/LS, recent observations of widespread, low levels (~1-2  
1458 ppt) of BrO throughout the UT/LS and narrow regions with significant enhancements of  
1459 ClO raise important questions about our understanding of halogen chemistry in the  
1460 altitude region where aircraft emissions have the greatest impact on ozone abundances.  
1461 Because coupled NO<sub>x</sub>/HC/HO<sub>x</sub> (i.e. “smog”) chemistry tends to produce ozone in the  
1462 upper troposphere, whereas halogens solely (and rapidly) destroy ozone, a better  
1463 understanding of the distributions of halogen radicals is necessary to accurately simulate  
1464 the impact of aircraft NO<sub>x</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O emissions on ozone in the UT/LS. Of particular  
1465 concern is the possibility that NO<sub>x</sub> serves as a catalyst for production of halogen oxides  
1466 via rapid heterogeneous reactions in the presence of sunlight. This situation is somewhat  
1467 the reverse of that in the winter polar stratosphere, where NO<sub>x</sub> serves to deactivate the  
1468 halogen radicals via formation of relatively stable reservoirs. In the UT/LS at lower  
1469 latitudes, however, rapid heterogeneous conversion of inorganic halogen acids (e.g.,  
1470 HOBr, HBr, HOCl, and HCl) is limited by availability of oxidants such as ClNO<sub>3</sub> and  
1471 BrNO<sub>3</sub>, such that addition of NO<sub>x</sub> serves as a catalyst for halogen activation, so long as

1472 particulate surface areas are sufficient. With recent studies showing a reversal in sign of  
1473 the impact of aircraft emissions on ozone abundances due to more rapid heterogeneous  
1474 chemistry and halogen activation, it is important that the issue of distributions of halogen  
1475 oxides be revisited.

1476  
1477 There are several cost-effective ways that this issue could be approached. First, because  
1478 abundances of ClO and BrO are quite small in this region, it would be useful for a team  
1479 of investigators composed of modelers and measurements experts to model the impact on  
1480 ozone of extreme scenarios involving halogen radicals in the UT/LS using the few  
1481 existing observations. The calculated ranges of ozone could then be used to reexamine  
1482 the radiative impacts of aircraft emissions. In addition, new high-resolution in situ  
1483 measurements of halogen oxides in the UT/LS could be obtained in conjunction with  
1484 measurements of NO<sub>x</sub> and HO<sub>x</sub> as part of larger campaigns designed to study the  
1485 oxidative state of the UT/LS. Such measurements in the upper troposphere have had a  
1486 very low priority on previous missions, except for the 1998 WB-57F Aerosol Mission  
1487 (WAM) and the 2000 SOLVE campaign, results of which have shown that active forms  
1488 of chlorine are more prevalent than was believed previously, provided that ample aerosol  
1489 surface area abundances ( $> 3 \mu\text{m cm}^{-3}$ ) are available. There are cost-effective ways to  
1490 pursue this line of investigation, such as redeploying atomic resonance fluorescence (RF)  
1491 instruments that have been used for over two decades for stratospheric measurements and  
1492 that were previously flown on the WB-57F and DC-8 aircraft, in this case reconfigured  
1493 for improved sensitivity under tropospheric conditions, or by adapting instruments that  
1494 use an alternative detection technique (e.g., chemical ionization mass spectrometry -  
1495 CIMS). In either case, there will be modest costs (see below) associated with the  
1496 laboratory efforts required to optimize the existing stratospheric instruments for use in the  
1497 UT/LS or those required to develop new calibrations and to develop a heritage of reliable  
1498 observations, in the case of a new measurement technique, such as CIMS.

1499  
1500 Laboratory measurements of key rate parameters at low temperatures of the UT/LS will  
1501 continue to refine our understanding the sensitivities of NO<sub>x</sub> and heterogeneous  
1502 chemistries to temperature, relative humidity and pressure, variables that can be  
1503 important in the UT/LS.

#### 1504 1505 **4.b. Ability to Reduce Uncertainties**

1506 Given the wealth of new information regarding UT/LS chemistry that has become  
1507 available in recent years, the ability to reduce uncertainties in estimates of the climate  
1508 impacts of aviation is quite good. Significant progress can be made on nearly all of the  
1509 topics presented in this SSWP within 3 to 5 years. The most problematic of the issues,  
1510 those involving accuracies of water vapor measurements, plume dispersion, and  
1511 heterogeneous chemistry, may require a longer timeframe to achieve the level of  
1512 confidence that is associated with attribution of cause-and-effect for ozone destruction in  
1513 the stratosphere, but given the level of knowledge already attained in the atmospheric  
1514 chemistry community, it is not unreasonable to expect that an effort that is more focused  
1515 on resolving the key issues outlined above can see significant progress within the time  
1516 frame of 2 three-year grant cycles.

1517

1518 First, and most critical, will be detailed studies with models that can treat plume  
1519 chemistry and dispersion to scope out the range of possible impacts of non-linear particle  
1520 formation processes and heterogeneous chemistry. Coupled with this knowledge, field  
1521 and laboratory studies can be carried out to reduce the uncertainties in the most critical  
1522 parameters that are revealed in these model studies. Of particular significance will be  
1523 those fields studies that can address plume processes directly with the powerful suite of  
1524 instruments and platforms that are currently in the atmospheric sciences arsenal. With  
1525 few exceptions (such as better instruments for measuring halogens at part-per-trillion  
1526 abundances and new or improved instruments to measure oxygenated source gases for  
1527 HO<sub>x</sub>), the instruments and platforms required to provide critical observations to constrain  
1528 these process models already exist, and the investment in the investigations needed to  
1529 answer the critical questions will be valuable for issues that reach beyond the impacts of  
1530 aircraft (for example, alternative energy production, changing climate, new technologies,  
1531 etc.).

1532

#### 1533 **4.c. Practical Use**

1534 Addressing all of the key issues above will have important practical applications,  
1535 including improvements in measurements that address a broad range of atmospheric  
1536 issues. Additional model development, especially an accurate and validated plume  
1537 dispersion model can be quite useful for studying a number of issues related to climate  
1538 change, including source apportionment of CO<sub>2</sub>, an issue that will be of major importance  
1539 in the future if CO<sub>2</sub> trading schemes become prevalent.

1540

#### 1541 **4.d. Achievability**

1542 As noted in Section 4.b., important results are clearly achievable in all areas outlined in  
1543 this SSWP. In most cases, cost will be the primary limiting issue, as some instruments or  
1544 platforms that may be required for the most definitive studies will require significant  
1545 modifications or deployment costs. Improvements in models that will be necessary to  
1546 assimilate the results from new observations may require the development of new codes  
1547 (for example, a high-resolution plume dispersion model). However, to date technology  
1548 does not seem to be what has limited the development of such a model.

1549

#### 1550 **4.e. Cost**

1551 Addressing the water vapor measurements issue will probably be the most productive use  
1552 of funds at this point in time in terms of reducing uncertainties in aircraft climate impacts.  
1553 However, due to the high level of interest for other programs (e.g., satellite validation and  
1554 climate change studies in general), significant leveraging of funds should be possible, and  
1555 should immediately be pursued. However, a business-as-usual approach is very likely not  
1556 going to foster significant progress in this area, such that a new and creative program will  
1557 be required. It would be helpful to develop clear milestones with broad community  
1558 support, with implications for failure of PIs to meet stated accuracies. New and  
1559 innovative approaches to validating water vapor (and condensed water) measurements in  
1560 the cold and dry UT/LS, such as periodic direct flights in exhaust plumes to calibrate  
1561 individual instruments, to reveal discrepancies between instruments, and to monitor  
1562 instrumental drift, would be particularly useful. Such efforts that could also build on  
1563 recent efforts, such as AquaVIT, to maintain a traceable set of intercomparisons, should



1564 be monitored regularly by a group of scientists who are both knowledgeable in the field,  
1565 and outsiders who have an expertise in measurement intercomparisons and validations. It  
1566 would be particularly helpful to develop a water vapor standard for calibrations and  
1567 traceability, just as was done for ozone measurements, thereby reducing the reliance on  
1568 costly large-scale laboratory intercomparisons.

1569  
1570 It would be very useful to carry out an in-flight intercomparison of water vapor  
1571 measurements in the UT/LS from a common platform, such as the DC-8 or WB-57, one  
1572 that involves frequent sampling in aircraft plumes (both wet and dry). Not all instruments  
1573 would have to participate in such an intercomparison, but it would be essential to have  
1574 sufficient variety of existing instruments that span the range of current measurements  
1575 (e.g., from those that are on the low side of the intercomparisons, such as frost point  
1576 hygrometers, to those that are on the high side, such as the JPL TDL). Results in dry  
1577 plumes can be traced to an absolute value using simultaneous measurements of CO<sub>2</sub>,  
1578 since the stoichiometry of combustion of aviation fuel is well known.

1579  
1580 Overall, a ~\$1-2 million program over five years, with funds provided from a variety of  
1581 sources, would catalyze significant progress on this issue, and get away from the  
1582 business-as-usual approach of providing limited funding for smaller, term efforts that  
1583 piggy-back off larger projects, and end up suffering from too little funding without a  
1584 guarantee of continued funds to thoroughly investigate the causes for discrepancies. A  
1585 Water Vapor Campaign, whose chief focus is on reducing the uncertainties in  
1586 measurements and maintaining a long-term, traceable record, should be a top priority for  
1587 an aircraft impacts program, as well as a general world-wide program to monitor climate  
1588 change.

1589  
1590 With a clear focus on water vapor, other issues can be dealt with on an 'add-value' basis.  
1591 For example, studies of non-linear processes in plumes would be a natural add-on to  
1592 missions that use combustion plumes as a way to investigate instrument differences and,  
1593 potentially, as a way to maintain a long-term calibration standard (assuming that  
1594 combustion of kerosene will remain the method of choice for aircraft propulsion for  
1595 many decades. Issues that require some instrument development (e.g., halogen and  
1596 oxygenated organic compound measurements) should be initiated as soon as possible to  
1597 reduce the long lead times that are associated with integration and demonstration of new  
1598 instruments on research aircraft. Funding for these developments could be leveraged with  
1599 funding agencies like NSF and DOE, insofar as other programs will benefit from the use  
1600 of such instruments in other environments (e.g., halogens in the polar boundary layer,  
1601 oxygenated compounds in urban pollution/source attribution studies, etc.). International  
1602 cooperation would also help to reduce development time and cost, especially where there  
1603 are common interests for measurement capabilities (i.e., it is cheaper per unit to build  
1604 more than one).

1605  
1606 Addition of increments of ~\$300-500 K in a few key areas would likely result in  
1607 important progress for most of the issues highlighted in this SSWP. A total program of \$5  
1608 million, including the water vapor project mentioned above, would probably reduce most  
1609 of the remaining climate uncertainties in aviation operations by half, and change the level

1610 of understanding from poor or fair to good for most, if not all, chemical terms in the  
1611 climate forcing framework.

1612

#### 1613 **4.f. Timeline**

1614 Significant progress could be made on all of the issues discussed above within 3-5 years  
1615 with an adequately resourced project. The expertise exists in the community and there  
1616 would be limited need for development of new techniques. In fact, waiting longer could  
1617 inadvertently result in significant additional expenses to carry out similar work, as  
1618 experts in some areas retire or become involved in other projects. In the worst case, it is  
1619 possible for an opportunity to be lost altogether. Because time is a factor, heritage should  
1620 be a major factor in consideration of projects to fund. The cost of missed opportunities is  
1621 difficult to estimate, but it vastly exceeds the cost of starting from scratch. instrument to  
1622 service. (for example, it would be highly desirable to bring the NOAA-lyman alpha water  
1623 instrument back into service, and waiting much longer may preclude this, and  
1624 resurrecting this capability from scratch would be prohibitively costly, especially given  
1625 the extraordinarily long record of measurements for this instrument) .

1626

#### 1627 *Immediate*

1628 A water vapor program should be developed immediately. This issue will be around for a  
1629 long time, and waiting longer will only serve to up the overall cost. Development and  
1630 integration of new (or modified) instruments designed to address key ‘missing terms’ or  
1631 resolve discrepancies between measurements should also begin as soon as possible. Far  
1632 too often, such measurements are missing from major campaigns due to lack of planning  
1633 and preparation.

1634

#### 1635 **5. Best Way to Assess Uncertainties with Current Knowledge**

1636 In the absence of improvements in our understanding of the outstanding issues presented  
1637 in Section 4.a., there are studies that can be undertaken now to assess the impacts of  
1638 aviation on chemistry of the UT/LS that will represent a significant advance since the  
1639 1999 IPCC Report. Before recommending such studies, it is important to note that such  
1640 an advance does not necessarily imply that all of the specific uncertainties reported in  
1641 previous assessments will be improved. It is possible that new observations reported  
1642 above may reveal gaps in our understanding that were not foreseen a decade ago.

1643

1644 As noted above, resolving the water vapor measurements discrepancy in the cold, dry  
1645 UT/LS is crucial in order to improve our understanding of the climate impacts of aviation  
1646 that are linked to chemistry. Therefore, it would be extremely useful to use the best  
1647 available 3D global chemical transport models to study the sensitivity of climate impacts  
1648 to the two extreme possibilities that are represented in the literature. Based on  
1649 uncertainties described in SSWPs dealing with clouds and aerosols, it is unclear whether  
1650 the models sufficiently capture the complexities of condensation and dehydration, so it  
1651 may not be straightforward to study these extreme cases from ‘first principles.’ That is, a  
1652 realistic treatment of particle formation, composition, reactivity, and sedimentation, as a  
1653 function of supersaturation on the scales of individual plumes and persistent contrails  
1654 may not yet be possible. In this case, it would still be very useful to use some statistical  
1655 representation of occurrences of cirrus, contrails, and persistent contrails as a basis for

1656 estimating the frequency of heterogeneous chemistry events [e.g., Bregman et al., 2002;  
1657 Meilinger et al., 2005] and their contribution to the  $d[O_3]$  and  $d[CH_3]$  terms in the  
1658 radiative forcing framework (e.g., Figure 1).

1659

1660 It is imperative that the recent results of Sovde et al. [2007] be examined in detail over  
1661 the possible ranges of critical parameters such as lightning and convective fluxes of  $NO_x$ ,  
1662 sources of  $HO_x$ , microphysics of mixtures of  $HNO_3$  and  $H_2O$ , and background  
1663 abundances of halogens. Sensitivity tests of regional and global ozone and methane  
1664 responses to aircraft emissions would help to narrow down the list of parameters to those  
1665 that contribute to the bulk of the uncertainty in the aircraft RF terms. (This approach is  
1666 similar to one taken several decades ago to define which rate parameters were most  
1667 critical in determining ozone loss due to chlorine buildup, for example.)

1668

1669 New sensitivity studies should be carried out to address the role of processes that are  
1670 highly scale-dependent, such as denoxification, sedimentation, and mixing. Processes that  
1671 are important in persistent contrails, for example, may have very different impacts if they  
1672 are modeled as being severe, but highly localized, versus moderate and more widespread.  
1673 Effects such as redistribution of  $NO_y$  by sedimentation are likely to be more severe,  
1674 whereas those such as ozone loss due to chlorine activation may be less severe, in the  
1675 former case (i.e., highly localized assumption).

1676

1677 Due to the large and growing body of  $HO_x$  observations, it would be extremely useful to  
1678 reevaluate the " $CH_4$ " radiative forcing term with a CTM that is either constrained by or  
1679 validated with observed OH fields.

1680

1681 Finally, it could be useful to carry out a series of focused observational studies to  
1682 quantify the uncertainties in temperature and pressure measurements from aircraft. Not  
1683 only will such studies improve our understanding of the uncertainties in past  
1684 determinations of supersaturation, they will serve as the basis for much improved  
1685 measurements of temperature in the UT/LS for future studies. Of particular value will be  
1686 the development of ultra-fast ( $\sim 100$  Hz or faster) temperature probe for research aircraft  
1687 such as HIAPER, the ER-2, the WB57F and Global Hawk, all of which can play  
1688 important roles in defining thermodynamic variables in the UT/LS, but also for  
1689 commercial aircraft that could be used to carry out long-term measurements in the  
1690 UT/LS.

1691

## 1692 **6. Summary**

1693 Aircraft emit a variety of species that can alter climate and the chemistry of Earth's  
1694 atmosphere. In this context, the most important are emissions of  $NO_x$ , particles, and  
1695 water vapor, all of which interact to determine ozone distributions in the UT/LS, a region  
1696 where radiatively active gases have a strong influence on temperature and dynamics.  
1697 Previous assessments pointed to increases in ozone columns and reductions in methane  
1698 (from the influence of  $NO$  on the  $OH/HO_2$ ) as the two chemical impacts that were likely  
1699 to have the largest impact on climate (aircraft radiative forcing, RF). It was found that  
1700 these two terms were of roughly equal magnitude, but opposite sign, so that the net  
1701 climate impact of aircraft emissions chemistry was approximately neutral. However, the

1702 understanding of the processes that determine these quantities was considered poor to  
1703 fair. In the view that UT/LS chemistry is controlled by NO<sub>x</sub>, these two terms will always  
1704 cancel, because the processes that result in ozone production will lead to methane  
1705 destruction.

1706  
1707 New observations and modeling efforts undertaken over the past decade have raised  
1708 important questions about the basis for earlier assessments. In particular, NO<sub>x</sub> in the  
1709 UT/LS is found to be partitioned in long-lived reservoirs to a larger extent than  
1710 previously believed, presumably by heterogeneous reactions. Convective and lightning  
1711 sources of NO<sub>x</sub> to the upper troposphere have also been found to be more important than  
1712 previously believed. In addition, reactive bromine and chlorine radicals have been  
1713 observed in the UT or LS, implying a greater role for these species in partitioning of  
1714 HO<sub>x</sub>. Finally, large particles containing nitric acid have been observed in the UT/LS.  
1715 Models that include more vigorous heterogeneous chemistry in the UT/LS indicate that  
1716 emissions of particles from aircraft may actually reduce ozone in the UT and increase  
1717 ozone in the lower stratosphere, the opposite of what was reported in the previous  
1718 assessments.

1719  
1720 Given that the climate impacts from ozone changes are partially offset by those of  
1721 methane changes (assuming that the inverse relationship between NO<sub>x</sub> and OH is  
1722 maintained under these new conditions), the impact to climate overall may not change  
1723 dramatically with this sign reversal in ozone changes. However, if these changes are  
1724 confirmed, strategies for reducing the impacts of aircraft emissions on atmospheric  
1725 chemistry and climate would be very different than those based on work summarized in  
1726 previous assessments. Therefore, it is important that these new findings and their  
1727 implications be explored in more detail before designing mitigation strategies.

1728  
1729 Significant progress toward reducing the uncertainties in UT/LS chemistry identified here  
1730 can be made with modest investments in key areas. The observational and modeling tools  
1731 are largely available, thanks to the high priority that has been placed on understanding  
1732 UT/LS chemistry. Several high priority studies are recommended here. Of greatest  
1733 priority would be supporting efforts to resolve long-standing discrepancies among  
1734 measurements of water vapor, including establishment of a water vapor standard that is  
1735 appropriate for UT/LS conditions, and carrying out high-resolution measurements of  
1736 water vapor, particles, and CO<sub>2</sub> in and around aircraft plumes with a platform such as the  
1737 DC-8, WB-57, or HIAPER. Augmentations of measurements of key species to address  
1738 coupled radical chemistry to the payloads for major campaigns could reduce uncertainties  
1739 in basic ozone loss chemistry.

1740  
1741 With added importance of aerosols and clouds to ozone chemistry in the UT/LS, it will be  
1742 important to assess the importance of heterogeneous chemistry and aerosol formation and  
1743 evolution in aircraft plumes, persistent contrails, and cirrus clouds. Models that treat  
1744 plume dispersion with some realism may be necessary, although our knowledge of the  
1745 potential range of impacts of plume processes can probably be improved by simple  
1746 sensitivity tests that assume extreme bounds for processes such as denoxification and  
1747 redistribution of species such as NO<sub>y</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O. It would be reasonable to expect that

1748 significant new results to improve our understanding of the impacts of aircraft exhaust on  
1749 atmospheric chemistry and climate would be forthcoming within three to five years of  
1750 formulation of a focused program to address the major uncertainties presented in this  
1751 White Paper for a total expenditure of under \$10 million, including funds from all  
1752 sources. There are significant opportunities for synergistic studies that are currently in the  
1753 planning stages or underway, with strategic placement of new funds to target particular  
1754 elements that are critical for specifically assessing the impacts of aircraft.

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