



Portable Ozone Calibration Source Independent of Changes in Temperature, Pressure and Humidity for Research and Regulatory Applications

John W. Birks, Craig J. Williford, Peter C. Andersen, Andrew A. Turnipseed, Stanley Strunk, and Christine
5 A. Ennis

2B Technologies, Inc., 2100 Central Ave., Boulder, CO 80301
Correspondence to: John Birks (johnb@twobtech.com)

10 **Abstract:**

A highly portable ozone (O_3) calibration source that can serve as a U.S. EPA Level 4 transfer standard for the calibration of ozone analyzers is described and evaluated with respect to analytical figures of merit and effects of ambient pressure and humidity. Reproducible mixing ratios of ozone are produced by the
15 photolysis of oxygen in O_3 -scrubbed ambient air by UV light at 184.9 nm light from a low pressure mercury lamp. By maintaining a constant volumetric flow rate (thus constant residence time within the photolysis chamber), the mixing ratio produced is independent of both pressure and temperature and can be varied by varying the lamp intensity. Pulse width modulation of the lamp with feedback from a photodiode monitoring the 253.7-nm emission line is used to maintain target ozone mixing ratios in the
20 range 30-1,000 ppb. In order to provide a constant ratio of intensities at 253.7 and 184.9 nm, the photolysis chamber containing the lamp is regulated at a temperature of 40 °C. The resulting O_3 calibrator has a response time for step changes in output ozone mixing ratio of < 20 s and precision (σ_p) of 0.4% of the output mixing ratio for 10-s measurements (e.g., $\sigma_p = \pm 0.4$ ppb for 100 ppb of O_3). Ambient humidity was found to affect the output mixing ratio of ozone primarily by dilution of the
25 oxygen precursor. This potential humidity interference could be up to a few percent in extreme cases but is effectively removed by varying the lamp intensity to compensate for the reduced oxygen concentration based on feedback from a humidity sensor.



1 Introduction

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Ozone (O₃) is a key constituent throughout the atmosphere. In the lower atmosphere, it is a secondary air pollutant formed by the interaction of sunlight with primary pollutants consisting of oxides of nitrogen, carbon monoxide and volatile organic compounds (e.g., Haagen-Smit, 1952; Birks, 1998; Sillman, 1999). Because of its adverse health effects, ozone is one of six Criteria Pollutants designated
35 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S.-EPA, 2018). Although ground-level ambient ozone levels have improved over the past few decades, many regions in the U.S. are still out of compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ozone, and monitoring of ozone at hundreds of State and Local Air Monitoring Sites (SLAMS) is mandated by the EPA.

In the stratosphere ozone is continuously formed in the photolysis of oxygen by UV light having
40 wavelengths less than 242 nm. The ozone produced absorbs UV light, protecting the Earth from harmful UV-B radiation in the wavelength range 280-320 nm. Monitoring of the protective ozone layer is done by use of ground-based spectroscopic methods (Gotz, et al., 1934; Stone et al., 2015) along with balloon-launched ozonesondes (Komhyr, 1969), occasional aircraft measurements, and satellites.

Ozone has also long been used industrially for treatment of drinking water (Guinvarch, 1959;
45 Lebout, 1959; Peleg, 1976; Rice, 1996), and there is a rapidly growing number of other applications involving food processing, deodorization, sanitization and sterilization (e.g., Jordan and Carlson, 1913; Kim, 1999; Karaca and Velioglu, 2007). As a result, ozone measurements are required for monitoring industrial processes and insuring the health and safety of workers.

All of these areas of study require monitoring of ozone levels in either air or water. Although
50 there are numerous methods for measuring ozone, the UV absorbance technique at the 253.7-nm emission line of a low pressure mercury lamp is now almost universally used. Absorbance has the advantage of being an “absolute” method (in theory relying only on the optical pathlength and absorption cross section of the analyte); however, UV photometers used to measure ozone do still require periodic calibration. Since environmental ozone-monitoring applications often require relatively
55 long-term, continuous measurements, systematic errors can arise due to drift of electrical components (e.g., A/D converters, temperature and pressure sensors) or degradation of instrument components such as the sampling pump or O₃ scrubber. Errors due to incomplete flushing of the detection cell between analyte and reference measurements of light intensity can result from reduced pumping efficiency. Incomplete scrubbing of ozone during the reference light intensity measurement, as well as
60 adsorption/desorption of UV-absorbing species such as aromatic VOCs and elemental mercury from the ozone scrubber (Spicer et al., 2010; Turnipseed et al, 2017), and the effects of changing humidity levels



on light transmission through the detection cell (Wilson and Birks, 2006) can all affect the photometer's linearity and offset. Ozone instruments based on other techniques such as electrochemical ozonesondes (Komhyr, 1969) or solid-phase or gas-phase chemiluminescence (Regener, 1964; Güsten et al., 1992) also are known to be sensitive to many variables that can induce systematic errors and often require even more frequent calibration checks. As a result, periodic calibrations of ozone monitors of all types are required, and a portable calibrator is highly desirable, especially for instruments deployed in remote locations.

Because ozone is an unstable gas, easily decomposing to molecular oxygen, calibrations require generating ozone at known concentrations at the site of the ozone monitor to be calibrated. This is done almost universally by use of an ozone calibration source in which ozone is generated by photolysis of O₂ at 184.9 nm using a low pressure mercury lamp. Most commonly, the calibrator dries the ambient air or uses dry air from a compressed gas cylinder to eliminate biases due to water vapor and incorporates an ozone photometer that continuously measures the ozone produced. The target output mixing ratio of ozone is then controlled in a feedback loop that regulates the lamp intensity. Such calibrators are relatively large, heavy and have high power requirements. A more portable instrument such as the one described here can regulate ozone output mixing ratios solely based on feedback from measurements of the lamp intensity and does not require dry air or a built-in photometer.

For regulatory purposes, ozone measurements must be traceable to a fundamental reference standard. In the U.S., the EPA originally prescribed a wet chemical technique for ozone calibrations based on the spectrophotometric analysis of iodine generated by O₃ in a neutral potassium iodide solution (NBKI method) that itself was referenced to an arsenious oxide primary standard (Beard et al., 1977). That method was replaced in 1979 with direct absorbance in the gas phase, now using an accepted value for the absorption cross section for O₃ at 253.7 nm of $1.15 \times 10^{-17} \text{ cm}^2 \text{ molec}^{-1}$ (Burkholder et al., 2015). The U.S. and many other nations are members of the Convention of Meter, which makes use of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM) Standard Reference Photometer #27 as the world's ozone reference standard (Paur et al., 2003). Each member state of the Convention of the Meter has one laboratory designated to provide traceability to that country. For the U.S. that laboratory is the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST). Standard Reference Photometers (SRPs) are maintained by both NIST and the EPA. The calibrations of regulatory ozone monitors in the U.S. are traceable to these Level 1 SRPs via transfer standards, as detailed in Fig. 1. This figure also shows how EPA-maintained SRPs trace back through the NIST Standard Reference Photometer #0 (SRP#0) to the world standard, SRP #27. Once every two years, the NIST SRP #2 is



calibrated against the NIST SRP #0. The EPA Office of Research and Development Metrology maintains
95 EPA SRP #1 and #7, and these are verified against the NIST SRP #2 once each year. Verification requires
that a linear regression of the photometer ozone output plotted against the NIST SRP have a slope of
1.00±0.01 and intercept of ±1 ppb; i.e., 1% agreement. Upon verification, EPA SRP #7 is sent to the
different EPA regions for verification of their respective SRPs. As further verification, EPA SRP #7 is
occasionally compared to EPA SRP #1.

100 Transfer standards are defined as “a transportable device or apparatus which, together with
associated operation procedures, is capable of accurately reproducing pollutant concentration
standards or produce accurate assays of pollutant concentrations which are quantitatively related to a
higher level and more authoritative standard” (U.S.-EPA, 2013). Thus, a transfer standard for ozone can
be either an ozone source or an ozone analyzer. The EPA accepts up to four levels of ozone transfer
105 standards for calibration of an ozone monitoring site or field ozone analyzer, as shown in Fig. 1. Also, as
illustrated in this figure, the uncertainty increases with each level of transfer standard. Typically, a Level
2 “uncompromised standard” is maintained in the laboratory where conditions of use may be carefully
controlled. This transfer standard is used to calibrate Level 3 transfer standards that encounter frequent
use and potentially rough treatment in the field. The Level 3 transfer standards may be returned on a
110 frequent basis for verification by the Level 2 standard. Level 4 standards, calibrated against Level 3
standards, also are allowed. Often, level 3 and 4 standards are more portable and designed to be more
rugged and/or less sensitive to environmental conditions than higher level transfer standards. They may
be used for calibrating instruments deployed in remote locations, for example.

An EPA Level 2 transfer standard must include both an ozone generation device and an analyzer.
115 A Level 3 transfer standard can be a combination of an ozone generator and analyzer or only an
analyzer. A Level 4 transfer standard can be an ozone analyzer or only an ozone generation device.
Thus, the ozone calibration source described here qualifies as a Level 4 transfer standard. Levels 2-4
Transfer Standards must undergo a “6x6” verification in which six calibration curves, each consisting of
six approximately equally spaced ozone concentrations in a range including 0 and 90% (±5%) of the
120 upper range of the reference standard, is obtained on six different days (U.S.-EPA, 2013). The relative
standard deviations of the six slopes of the calibration plots must not exceed 3.7%, and the standard
deviation of the 6 intercepts cannot exceed 1.5 ppb.

Here we describe a portable, low-cost ozone calibrator that meets the specifications as an EPA
Level 4 transfer standard. The calibrator is low power, requiring only 18 watts of power, and does not
125 require the inlet air to be dried. It is independent of both temperature and pressure and corrections



due to humidity are easily incorporated. Therefore, it can provide accurate and precise ozone mixing ratios for calibration of field analyzers or can be used as a reliable ozone source in laboratory experiments.

130 2 Experimental

The 2B Technologies Model 306 Ozone Calibration Source™ described here makes use of a low pressure mercury (Hg) lamp to photolyze oxygen in ambient air to produce known mixing ratios of ozone. The vacuum UV lines at 184.9 nm are absorbed by O₂ to produce oxygen atoms. The oxygen atoms rapidly attach to O₂ to form ozone molecules according to the same mechanism that is

135 responsible for the presence of Earth's protective ozone layer:



140 where $h\nu$ symbolizes a photon of light and M is any molecule (e.g., N₂, O₂, Ar). Absorption of one photon of 184.9-nm light by O₂ results in the formation of two ozone molecules. The concentration of ozone produced in a flowing stream of air depends on the intensity of the photolysis lamp, the concentration of oxygen (determined by pressure, temperature and its mixing ratio in air), and the residence time in the photolysis cell (determined by volumetric flow rate and cell volume). As will be
145 discussed below, pressure and temperature affect the concentration of the ozone produced (e.g., molec cm⁻³), but do not affect the output mixing ratio (e.g., ppb). Thus, by holding the volumetric flow rate constant, it is possible to produce a flow of air containing a constant mixing ratio of ozone that can be varied most conveniently by changing and controlling the lamp intensity.

Figure 2 is a schematic diagram of the 2B Technologies Model 306 Ozone Calibration Source.
150 Ambient air is forced by an air pump through a particulate filter, a mass flow meter, and a chemical scrubber to remove ozone and NO_x (= NO + NO₂), before entering the photolysis chamber containing a low-pressure mercury lamp where absorption of 184.9-nm photons by oxygen produces ozone. The lamp intensity at 253.7 nm is monitored by a photodiode having a built-in interference filter centered at 254 nm and is controlled by the microprocessor in a feedback loop to maintain a target output ozone
155 mixing ratio. Note that the lamp emission at 253.7 nm, which is not absorbed by oxygen to make ozone, is monitored instead of the 184.9 nm line. This is because the window that separates the photodiode from the photolysis chamber is much more susceptible to changes in transmission due to deposition of



UV-absorbing materials at 184.9 nm than at 253.7 nm. In order to maintain a constant ratio of emission intensities of the Hg lamp at 184.9 and 253.7 nm, the photolysis chamber temperature is regulated at 40
160 °C by means of a temperature sensor and heating cartridge. Pressure within the gas stream is measured but not controlled. The residence time is held constant by ensuring a constant volumetric flow rate using a mass flow meter (TSI Instruments, Model 4040) converted to volumetric flow using the measured temperature and pressure of the photolysis cell. A microprocessor reads the output of the mass flowmeter, temperature and pressure of the photolysis chamber, and regulates the volumetric
165 flow rate to 3.0 L min⁻¹ by means of pulse-width modulation of the power supplied to the pump. In addition to controlling the volumetric flow rate the target photodiode voltage is scaled to the instantaneously measured volumetric flow rate in order to compensate for flow rate fluctuations, (e.g., higher flow rates require higher target photodiode voltages).

Air containing ozone exits the photolysis cell through an overflow tee, where excess air that is
170 not drawn by the ozone monitor being calibrated is exhausted through an internal ozone scrubber. The output of the ozone calibration source may be attached directly to any ozone monitor (providing that its sampling rate is less than 3.0 L min⁻¹); excess ozone flow is diverted through the ozone scrubber internal to the calibrator, and any perturbation in total flow rate is automatically adjusted by the microprocessor using feedback from the mass flow meter. A three-way solenoid valve is installed just before the exit of
175 the calibrator that allows the ozone calibration source to be plumbed in-line with the sampling inlet to an ozone monitor, so that the monitor can sample either ambient air or the output of the calibrator. The output of the ozone source is calibrated using a reference ozone monitor with traceability to NIST, and slope and offset calibration parameters are determined from linear regression and applied to the target photodiode voltages to achieve target ozone mixing ratios.

180

3 Results and Discussion

3.1 Linearity, Reproducibility and Precision of Output Concentration

An example of stepwise outputs of a Model 306 Ozone Calibration Source is provided in Fig. 3. The target output ozone mixing ratio was varied in the range of 0 to 1,000 in steps of 0, 50, 100, 200,
185 400, 600, 800 and 1,000 ppb. This was followed by a series of decreasing steps back to 0 ppb. A second set of stepwise increases and decreases in target ozone concentrations followed. Each step concentration was maintained for ~5 minutes (30 measurements). Output ozone concentrations were measured and logged every 10 s by a 2B Technologies Model 202 Ozone Monitor, a U.S. EPA Federal Equivalent Method (FEM). Note that the response time to achieve a new target concentration is 3 or



190 fewer data points (< 30 s). The response of the calibration source is actually faster considering that it is
convolved with the Model 202 Ozone Monitor which outputs the average of the most recent two 10-s
measurements. Figure 4 is a plot of average measured ozone concentration vs target concentration for
the data of Fig. 3. Linear regression lines are drawn for the two stepwise increases and two stepwise
decreases in target ozone concentration. The data points and four regression lines overlap so well that
195 they cannot be distinguished on the graph. The equations for the linear regression lines have slopes
that agree to better than $\pm 1\%$, and the standard deviation of the four intercepts is 1.3 ppb. The
coefficients of determination (R^2) are all 0.9999 or 1.0000.

The precisions ($1\sigma_p$) of the measured output ozone mixing ratios vary from 2.1 ppb at 0 ppb
ozone (i.e., the measurement precision of the Model 202 ozone monitor) to 6.2 ppb at 1,000 ppb ozone.
200 A plot of precision vs ozone concentration (data not shown) gives a straight line with intercept of 1.8
ppb, slope of 0.0042 ppb/ppb O_3 and R^2 of 0.9586. Thus, the precision of the ozone output is about
0.4% of the target concentration (e.g., ± 0.4 ppb at 100 ppb O_3 and ± 4 ppb at 1,000 ppb O_3).

In order to verify the ability of the Model 306 Ozone Calibration Source to qualify as a US EPA
Level 4 Transfer Standard (US EPA, 2013), we carried out a “6x6” calibration in which we measured the
205 output of the ozone calibration source at six different target ozone concentrations (50, 100, 150, 200,
250, and 300 ppb) in addition to a zero ozone measurement on six consecutive days. The ozone output
mixing ratios were measured using a 2B Technologies Model 205 FEM ozone monitor. As can be seen in
Table 1, the instrument easily met the requirements (given in Table 3-1 of US EPA, 2010) of a Level 4
standard with a measured relative standard deviation (RSD) of 0.26% for the slopes of the regression
210 plots vs. the requirement of $\leq 3.7\%$ and a measured standard deviation of 0.33 ppb of the intercepts vs.
the requirement of ≤ 1.5 ppb. Values for the coefficient of determination (R^2) were in the range of
0.9998 to 1.0000 with an average of 0.9999 for the six calibration plots.

Other specifications of that are of interest for portability (such as the size, weight and power
requirements) are given in Table 2.

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3.2 Effect of Pressure on the Ozone Output Mixing Ratio

As described earlier, the target mixing ratio output of the ozone calibration source is achieved
by varying the photolysis lamp intensity and maintaining a constant volumetric flow rate. Pressure
within the gas stream is measured to correct the mass flow measurements, but not controlled, since the
220 goal is to produce a constant mixing ratio (mole fraction) of ozone rather than a constant concentration.
The absorption cross section (σ_{O_2}) for O_2 at the 184.9 nm Hg line is still poorly known due to significant



fine structure in the spectrum but is approximately $1 \times 10^{-20} \text{ cm}^2 \text{ molec}^{-1}$ (Yoshino et al., 1997), and the oxygen concentration (c_{O_2}) in air at a temperature of 298 K and pressure of 1 atm is $5.2 \times 10^{18} \text{ molec cm}^{-3}$. The average path length (l) of the ozone calibration source was designed to be $\sim 0.25 \text{ cm}$, making
225 the absorbance ($\sigma_{O_2}l$) optically thin with a single path absorbance of $\sim 1.3 \times 10^{-3}$; i.e., only 0.13% of the 184.9-nm light emitted by the lamp is absorbed by oxygen. Under optically thin conditions, the ozone production rate (P_{O_3}) within the photolysis chamber is given by

$$P_{O_3} = 2I\sigma_{O_2}c_{O_2} = 2I\sigma_{O_2}(0.2095c_{air}) \quad (4)$$

230

where I is the lamp intensity ($\text{photons cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$) at 184.9 nm, and c_{O_2} is the concentration of oxygen molecules (molec cm^{-3}), which make up 20.95% of dry air. The factor of 2 accounts for the production of two ozone molecules for every oxygen molecule photolyzed. The output mixing ratio of ozone (fraction of air molecules that are ozone), X_{O_3} , in ppb is then given by

235

$$X_{O_3}(\text{ppb}) = \frac{(P_{O_3}, \frac{\text{molec}}{\text{cm}^3 \text{ s}})(\tau_{\text{cell}}, \text{s})}{(c_{air}, \frac{\text{molec}}{\text{cm}^3})} \times 10^9 = \frac{2I\sigma_{O_2}(0.2095)V}{F} \times 10^9 \quad (5)$$

240

where τ_{cell} is the residence time of the photolysis cell, which is equal to the cell volume (V) divided by the volumetric flow rate, F , and P_{O_3} is given by equation 4. Note that the total molecular concentration of air in the denominator of equation 5 cancels with the air concentration in the numerator, so the ozone mixing ratio output is independent of molecular concentration and therefore independent of chamber pressure and temperature (although chamber temperature is controlled for a separate reason described in Section 2). The only parameters that affect the ozone output mixing ratio are the lamp intensity and volumetric flow rate. As mentioned before, the volumetric flow rate is computed from the measured
245 mass flow rate, temperature, and pressure, and is maintained at 3 L min^{-1} .

250

In order to test for the predicted independence of ambient pressure, the output of a calibrated Model 306 Ozone Calibration Source was measured at six programmed ozone concentrations (0, 100, 200, 300, 400, and 500 ppb) in Boulder, Colorado (5,430 ft, 1,655 m altitude; $P \cong 0.82 \text{ atm}$) and at Fritz Peak (9,020 ft, 2,749 m altitude; $P \cong 0.71 \text{ atm}$) in the mountains west of Boulder. The results are shown in Fig. 5. The output ozone mixing ratios are at these two altitudes are indistinguishable, as predicted by theory.



3.3 Effect of Water Vapor on the Ozone Output Mixing Ratio

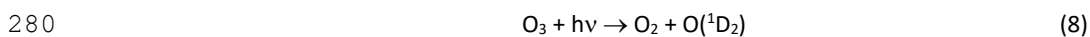
Water vapor could potentially affect the output ozone concentration in several ways. The first is
255 simply by dilution. As the relative humidity increases, the partial pressure and therefore molecular
concentration of O₂ decreases, resulting in a reduced production rate of ozone. The water vapor mixing
ratio in the atmosphere is typically ~2% by volume but could be as high as 7.3% (100% RH at 40 °C),
resulting in a 7.3% reduction in ozone output in highly humid air if the ozone calibration source were
originally calibrated in dry air.

260 Another way that water vapor can reduce the output ozone mixing ratio is by attenuating the
lamp intensity through absorbance. The absorption cross section for H₂O at 184.9 nm is 7.14 x 10⁻²⁰ cm²
molec⁻¹ (Cantrell et al., 1997). In the extreme case mentioned above of a water vapor mixing ratio of
7.3% ([H₂O] = 1.8 x 10¹⁸ molec cm⁻³), the average fraction of 184.9-nm light absorbed by water vapor at
atmospheric pressure and 40° C integrated over the 0.25 cm path length is 1.6%. An offsetting factor is
265 that the mass flow controller is 15.4% more sensitive to water vapor (C_p = 33.59 J K⁻¹ mol⁻¹) than to air
(C_p = 29.10 J K⁻¹ mol⁻¹) due to its higher heat capacity (NIST, 2018). Increasing the water vapor mixing
ratio results in a positive error in the measured flow rate, with the result that the air pump is slowed
down in the feedback loop to maintain a constant apparent flow rate and the residence time in the
photolysis cell is increased. For a 7.3% increase in water vapor, this effect results in a 1.1% increase in
270 ozone output. Thus, these two factors – the attenuation of 184.9-nm light by water vapor and the
reduced flow rate due to change in heat capacity of the sample air – offset one another to within ~0.5%
in expected ozone output.

Yet another way that humidity could affect ozone production is through secondary
photochemical reactions. The photochemistry of water vapor is rather complicated, especially in the
275 presence of ozone. HO_x radicals (OH and HO₂) are produced directly by photolysis of water vapor,



and indirectly in the reaction of O(¹D₂) with water vapor. O(¹D₂) is produced in the photolysis of ozone
at the principal mercury line of 253.7 nm where ozone has a strong absorption,



Although most of the O(¹D₂) is quenched by oxygen and nitrogen in the air stream, a small fraction can
react with water, producing OH,





Hydroxyl radicals participate in a well-known, yet relatively slow, catalytic cycle for ozone destruction

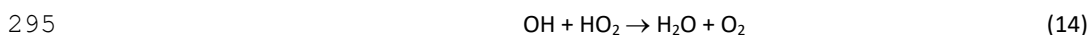
285 (Bates and Nicolet, 1950):



290 But the concentration of hydroxyl radicals that build up inside the photolysis chamber is limited by its self-reaction, which actually produces ozone,



and by the very fast chain termination reaction of OH and HO₂:



Reaction (14) limits the importance of the self-reaction of HO₂,



which also serves to remove HO₂. Subsequent photolysis of the H₂O₂ product could regenerate OH, but this was found to have no significant effect on the output mixing ratio of ozone in the model calculations
 300 discussed below, likely due to the low amounts of H₂O₂ produced.

The photochemistry within the photolysis chamber was modeled using current recommendations for the absorption cross sections and reaction rate constants of relevant reactions summarized in Table 3. Light intensity at 184.9 nm was adjusted in the model to produce desired output mixing ratios of ozone in the range 0-1,000 ppb in the absence of water vapor. Model results for a
 305 target output concentration of 100 ppb ozone are summarized in Fig. 6. In the extreme case of a temperature of 40 °C and 100% RH (water mixing ratio of 7.3%), the ozone output mixing ratio increases by 0.9% (0.9 ppb) due to production of O atoms in the OH self-reaction, reaction 13. For more typical conditions of 25 °C and 50% RH, the increase in ozone production is only 0.2% for a target mixing ratio of 100 ppb. For a target of 1,000 ppb, the percentage increase in ozone production is slightly smaller,
 310 being only 0.06% (0.6 ppb) at 40 °C and 100% RH. Under these conditions the catalytic ozone destruction cycle of reactions 9 and 10 begin to offset ozone production in the OH self-reaction. Under more typical conditions of 25 °C and 50% RH, the increase in ozone concentration is modeled to be less than 0.01% (less than 0.1 ppb) for a target of 1,000 ppb ozone.

315 Based on the analysis given above, the only significant effect of water vapor (> 1%) on the output of the ozone calibration source is the dilution of oxygen in the inlet air. In order to correct for



the dilution effect, a humidity sensor (Honeywell, HIH8000) was installed in the flow path immediately upstream of the photolysis cell, and feedback from that sensor was used to adjust the lamp intensity to compensate for dilution of oxygen by water vapor. The sensor provides simultaneous measurements relative humidity (RH) and temperature so that mixing ratios of water vapor may be calculated. Several
320 empirical equations have been developed to fit the vapor pressure of water as a function of RH and temperature. The Magnus-Tetens equation (Tetens, 1930; Montjeu and Unsworth, 2008) is sufficiently accurate while being simple:

$$P_{H_2O}(\text{mbar}) = 6.1078 \exp\left(\frac{17.27 \cdot T(^{\circ}\text{C})}{T(^{\circ}\text{C}) + 237.3}\right) \quad (16)$$

325

The mixing ratio of water is then given by:

$$X_{H_2O} = \frac{P_{H_2O}(\text{mbar})}{P(\text{total})} \times \%RH/100 \quad (17)$$

330 Water dilutes the oxygen in the photolysis chamber and therefore reduces the output of the ozone source by the same factor. In order to compensate, we may increase the lamp target intensity by a factor of $1/(1 - X_{H_2O})$, and the overall factor we need to multiply the target lamp intensity by is:

$$\frac{1}{\left[1 - \frac{6.1078}{P_{\text{Total}}} \exp\left(\frac{17.27 \cdot T(^{\circ}\text{C})}{T(^{\circ}\text{C}) + 237.3}\right) \frac{\%RH}{100}\right]} \quad (18)$$

335

In order to test this algorithm, we measured the output of a 2B Technologies Model 306 Ozone Calibration Source with and without water vapor added. A three-way valve directed a volumetric flow rate of 3 L min^{-1} of dry zero air (US Welding) from a compressed gas cylinder to either bypass or pass through a Nafion® tube immersed in a temperature-controlled water bath to provide either dry air or
340 humidified air to the inlet of the Model 306. The output of the ozone calibration source was sampled by a 2B Technologies Model 211 Ozone Monitor, which because of its gas-phase-scrubber technology and internal DewLine™ (Nafion® tube) to equilibrate humidity levels of ozone scrubbed and unscrubbed air, has no significant sensitivity to water vapor. Experiments were performed with and without lamp intensity adjustment controlled by the instrument firmware to correct the presence of water vapor.

345 Figure 7a shows the calibration curves obtained for ozone in the range 0-200 ppb at 0% RH (bypass) and



an average of 82% RH (water vapor added via Nafion® tube) under ambient conditions of 875 mbar pressure and temperature of 23.6 °C and with no lamp intensity adjustment for humidity. The slope of the regression line in the presence of humidity is 2.8% lower than that for dry air, which agrees extremely well with the mixing ratio of water calculated to be 2.7%. Figure 7b shows the calibration curves obtained for zero air and for humid air (90% RH at 23.8 °C, 3.2% water vapor) where the calibrator lamp intensity is corrected for the dilution due to humidity. As seen in the figure, the slopes are now within 0.1% of each other (0.9929 for dry air and 0.9917 for humid air, i.e., no statistical difference).

355 4 Conclusions

The 2B Technologies Model 306 Ozone Calibration Source is capable of producing ozone in ozone-scrubbed ambient air with accuracy and precision better than 1 ppb in the range 30-100 ppb ozone or 1% in the range 100-1,000 ppb. The volumetric flow rate of 3 L min⁻¹ allows calibration of virtually any ozone monitor via sampling from a built-in overflow tee. The instrument is made independent of ambient pressure and temperature by feedback control of the air pump to produce a constant volumetric flow rate through the photolysis chamber. Regulation of the photolysis chamber temperature, typically at 40 °C, assures a constant ratio of lamp intensities at 184.9 nm (used to photolyze O₂) and 253.7 nm (monitored for feedback control of the lamp intensity). The effect of ambient humidity on ozone production is primarily that of dilution of the O₂ photochemical precursor. This dilution effect is completely eliminated by means of feedback control of the photolysis source intensity based on real time measurements of humidity. Photochemical reactions involving HO_x species due to the presence of water vapor only contribute to ozone production by a small amount (< 1% at 40 °C and 100% RH). The ozone calibration source described here is low power (~ 18 W) and highly portable, weighing only 2.6 kg and requiring no compressed or dry gas sources. Yet it still meets the requirements of an EPA Level 4 transfer standard that can be used in the calibration of compliance-monitoring ozone monitors.

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Table 1. Results of a US EPA “6x6” calibration of the Model 306 Ozone Calibration Source.

465

Day	Slope	Offset, ppb	R ²
1	1.0031	0.37	0.9998
2	1.0032	-0.22	0.9998
3	1.0054	-0.05	0.9999
4	1.0088	-0.47	0.9999
5	1.0072	0.29	0.9999
6	1.0021	0.21	1.0000
Average	1.0050	0.02	0.9999
Std. Dev.	0.0026	0.33	0.0001



Table 2. Analytical and Physical Specifications for Ozone Calibration Source

470

Method of Ozone Production	UV Photolysis of O ₂ at 184.9 nm
Output Concentration Range	0 ppb and 30 to 1,000 ppb
Precision and Accuracy of Output	Greater of 2 ppb or 2% of ozone concentration ¹
Response Time for Change in Ozone Output Concentration	30 s to reach 95% of concentration change
Output Flow Rate	3.0 Liter min ⁻¹ volumetric
Power Requirements	12 V dc or 120/240 V ac, 18 watt
Size	3.5 x 8.5 x 11 in (9 x 21 x 29 cm)
Weight	5.6 lb (2.6 kg)

¹The 2B Technologies specification for precision and accuracy of the Model 306 Ozone Calibration Source given here is larger than found in this work and accounts for potential variability among individual instruments.

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Table 3. Thermal and photochemical reactions used in modeling the effects of water vapor on the output of the ozone calibration source at 40 °C and 1 atm. Units are $\text{cm}^2 \text{molec}^{-1}$ for absorption cross sections, $\text{cm}^3 \text{molec}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$ for second order reactions and $\text{cm}^6 \text{molec}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ for third order reactions.

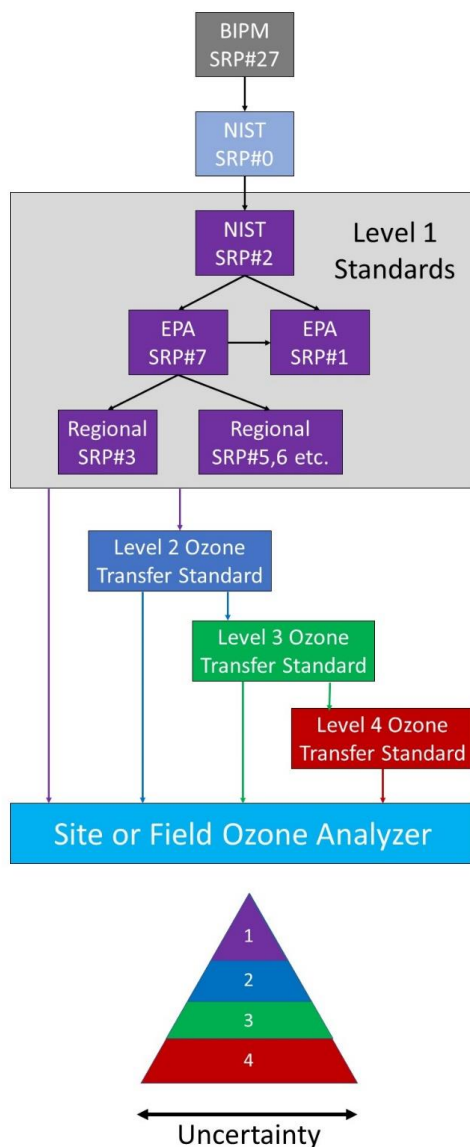
Reaction	Rate Coefficient or Absorption Cross Section	Reference
$\text{O}_2 + h\nu (184.9 \text{ nm}) \rightarrow 2 \text{ O} \rightarrow 2 \text{ O}_3$	1.0×10^{-20}	Yoshino et al, 1992
$\text{H}_2\text{O} + h\nu (184.9 \text{ nm}) \rightarrow \text{OH} + \text{H} \rightarrow \text{OH} + \text{HO}_2$	7.14×10^{-20}	Cantrell et al., 1997
$\text{O}_3 + h\nu (253.7 \text{ nm}) \rightarrow \text{O}_2 + \text{O}({}^1\text{D}_2)$	1.15×10^{-17}	Burkholder et al., 2015
$\text{OH} + \text{HO}_2 \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{O}_2$	1.01×10^{-10}	Burkholder et al., 2015
$\text{OH} + \text{O}_3 \rightarrow \text{HO}_2 + \text{O}_2$	8.45×10^{-14}	Burkholder et al., 2015
$\text{HO}_2 + \text{O}_3 \rightarrow \text{OH} + 2 \text{ O}_2$	2.09×10^{-15}	Burkholder et al., 2015
$\text{OH} + \text{OH} \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{O} \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{O}_3$	1.8×10^{-12}	Burkholder et al., 2015
$\text{OH} + \text{OH} (+\text{M}) \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{O}_2 (+\text{M})$	1.59×10^{-11}	Burkholder et al., 2015
$\text{HO}_2 + \text{HO}_2 \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{O}_2 + \text{O}_2$	1.30×10^{-12}	Burkholder et al., 2015
$\text{HO}_2 + \text{HO}_2 + \text{M} \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{O}_2 + \text{O}_2$	3.96×10^{-32}	Burkholder et al., 2015
$\text{O}({}^1\text{D}_2) + \text{O}_2 \rightarrow \text{O} + \text{O}_2 \rightarrow \text{O}_3 + \text{O}_2$	3.93×10^{-11}	Burkholder et al., 2015
$\text{O}({}^1\text{D}_2) + \text{N}_2 \rightarrow \text{O} + \text{N}_2 \rightarrow \text{O}_3 + \text{N}_2$	3.05×10^{-11}	Burkholder et al., 2015
$\text{O}({}^1\text{D}_2) + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow 2 \text{ OH}$	1.97×10^{-10}	Burkholder et al., 2015

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Note: Ground state hydrogen and oxygen atoms are assumed to instantaneously attach to O_2 under the photolysis conditions. Photolysis of the H_2O_2 product at both 184.9 nm and 253.7 nm is an insignificant source of OH compared to the photolysis of water and reaction of $\text{O}({}^1\text{D}_2)$ with water. Photolysis of O_3 at 184.9 nm is only ~5% of that at 253.7 nm, and the quantum yield for $\text{O}({}^1\text{D}_2)$ production is only about

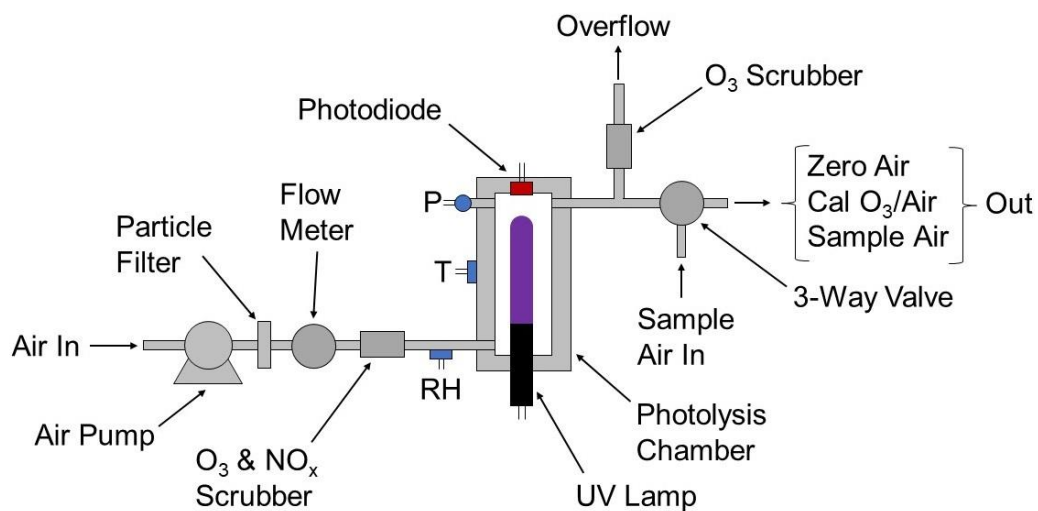
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50% of that at 253.7 nm and is ignored in the model.



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Figure 1. U.S. EPA ozone transfer standard traceability.



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Figure 2. Schematic diagram of the 2B Technologies Model 306 Ozone Calibration Source.

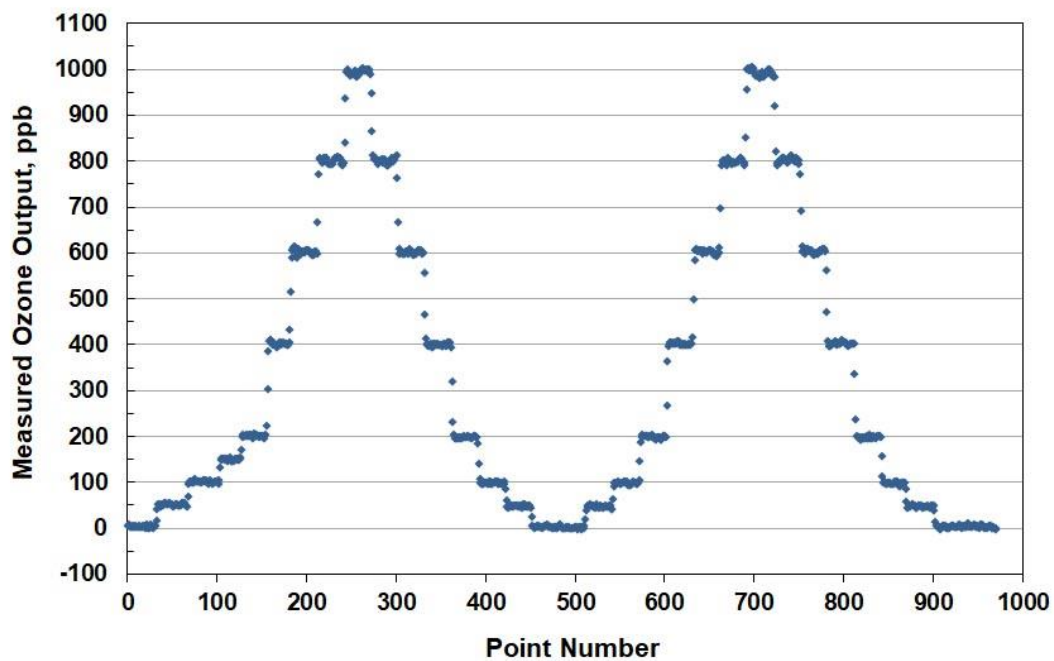


Figure 3. Measured Output of a Model 306 Ozone Calibration Source where the ozone mixing ratio was systematically varied in steps of 50 and 200 ppb (30 points = 5 minutes), as described in the text.

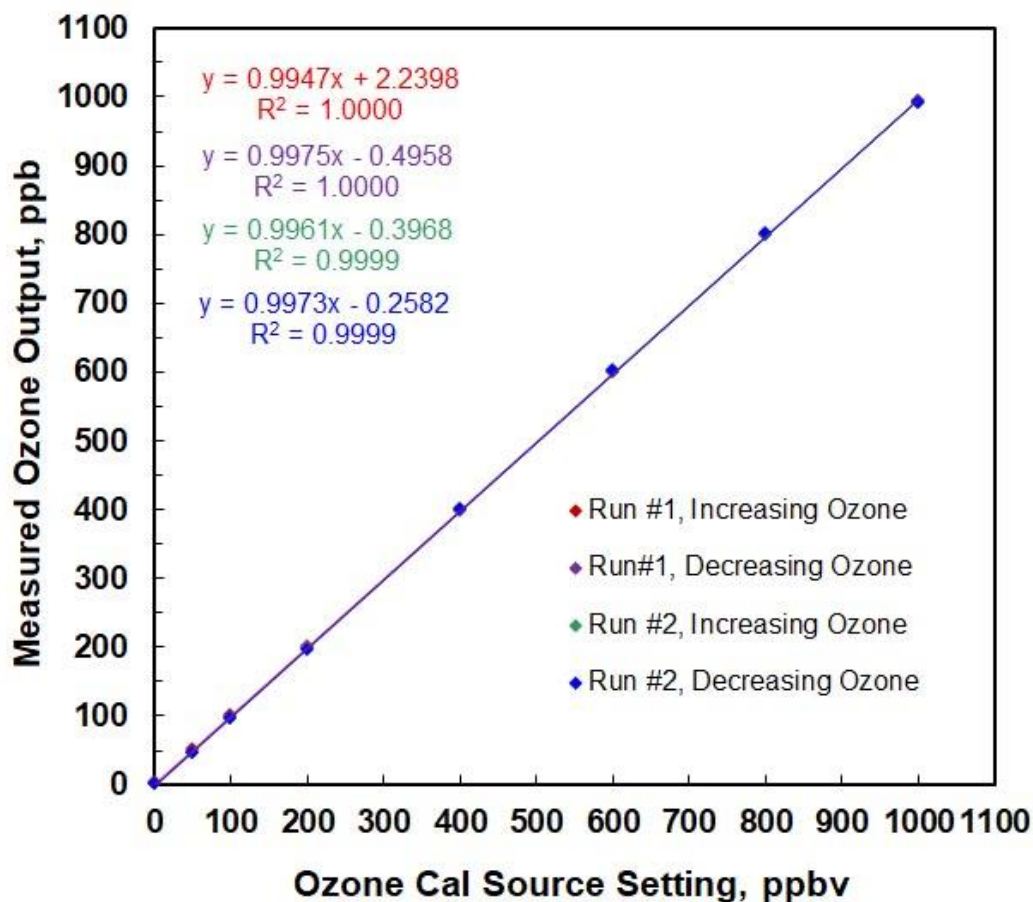
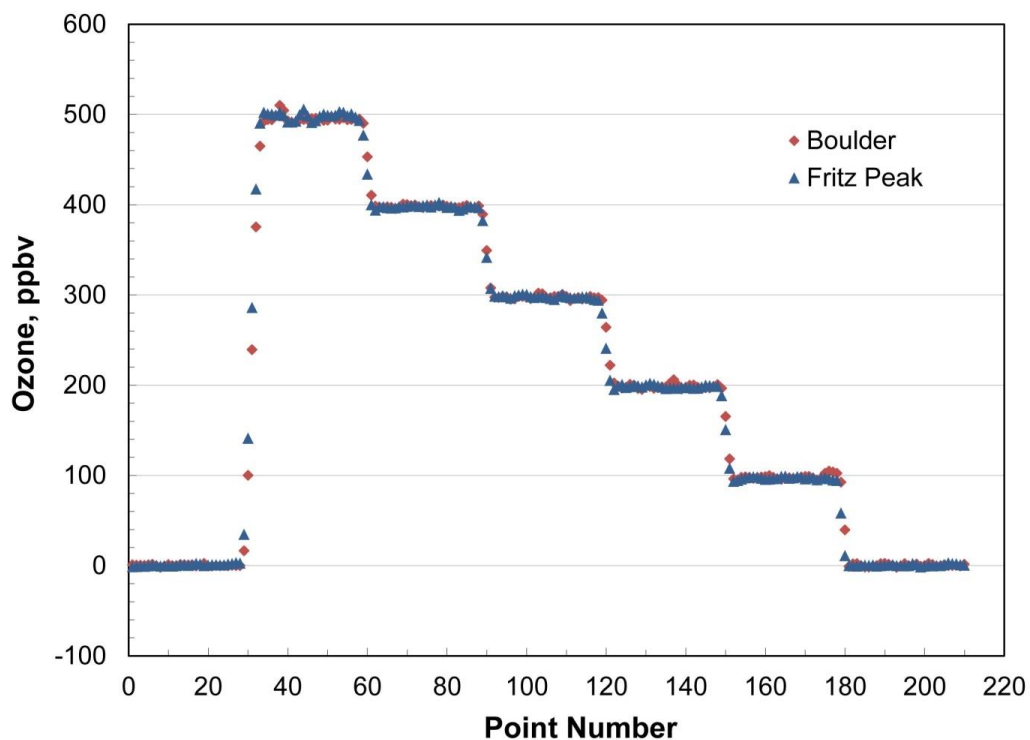


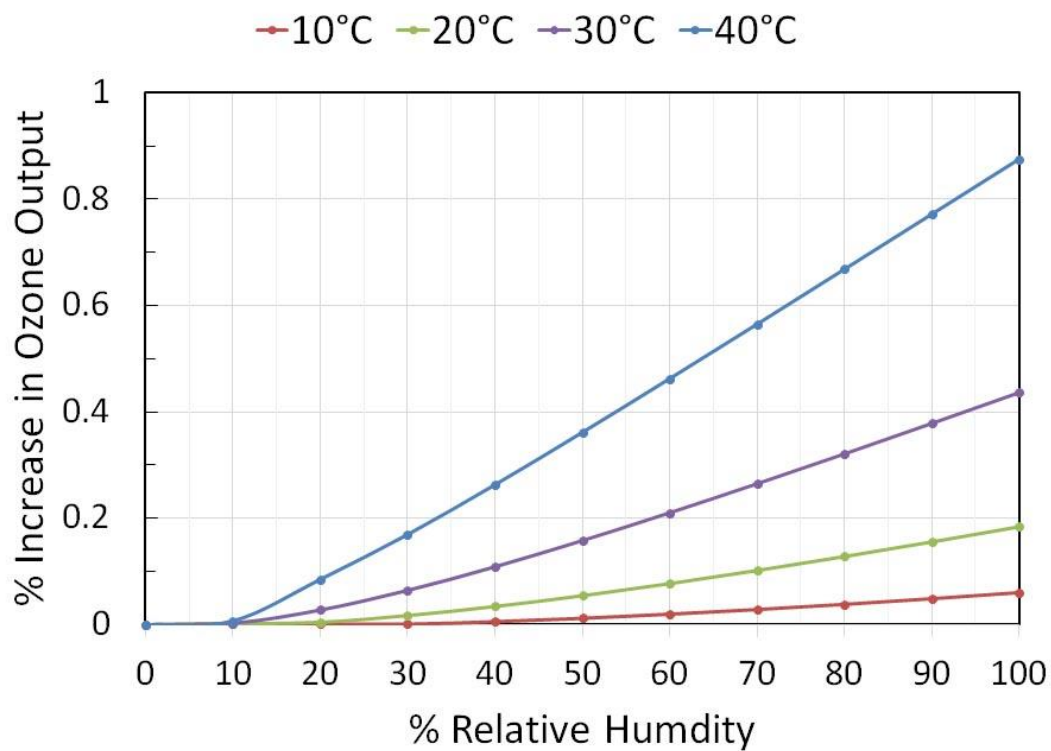
Figure 4. Linear regression for the measured outputs of a Model 306 Ozone Calibration Source of Fig. 3.

Note the excellent agreement among the four data sets of increasing and decreasing ozone output concentration. Note that the four regression lines are indistinguishable.

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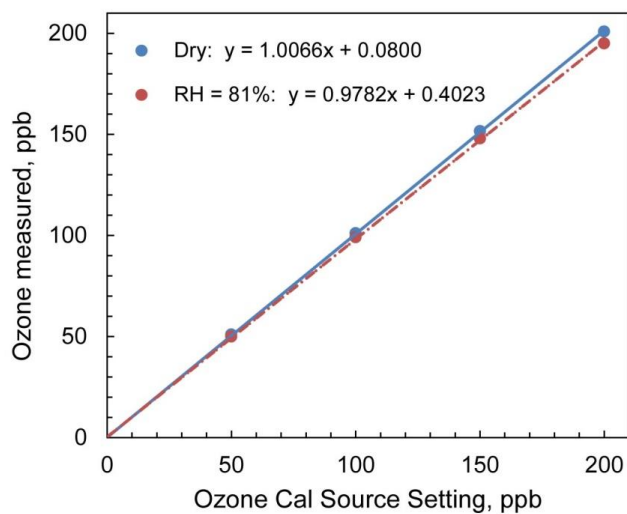
510 Figure 5. Comparison of ozone output mixing ratios in Boulder, Colorado (5430 ft, 1,655 m altitude) and
Fritz Peak (9020 ft, 2749 m altitude) as measured by a 2B Model 202 Ozone Monitor (30 points = 5
minutes).



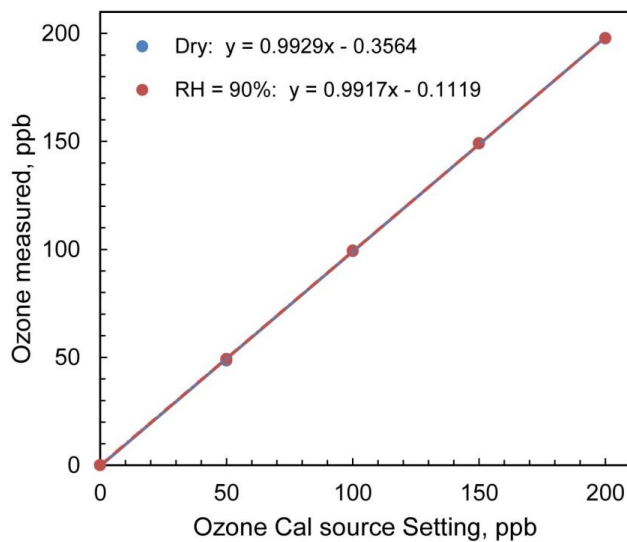
515 Figure 6. Calculated percent increases in the ozone mixing ratio output (for a target of 100 ppb of O₃)
from the ozone calibration source due to photochemical reactions as a function of temperature
and relative humidity.



(a) No Correction for Humidity



(b) Humidity Correction Applied



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Figure 7. Comparison of the output of the Model 306 ozone calibrator for dry and humid air for (a) no firmware corrections for humidity and (b) firmware corrections applied based on in-line humidity measurements.