

## Response to reviewers for the paper “Nitrate radical generation via continuous generation of dinitrogen pentoxide in a laminar flow reactor coupled to an oxidation flow reactor.”

We thank the referees for their comments on our paper. To guide the review process, we have copied the referee’s comments in black text. Our responses are in blue text. Please note that three referees provided quick reports on the discussion manuscript, but Referee #2 did not provide a full review of the discussion manuscript. We respond to Referee #1 and #3 comments, with alterations to the paper indicated in **bold text** below and in annotations to the revised manuscript.

### Anonymous Referee #1

#### General comments

1. Regarding the  $\text{NO}_3$  estimation equation for the OFR-i $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$ , I wonder how would multiple generation oxidations influence the estimation of  $\text{NO}_3$  exposure. For example,  $\text{NO}_3$  radical oxidation of typical BVOCs (isoprene, monoterpenes, sesquiterpenes) produces carbonyls and even products with carbon double bonds. These products are highly reactive toward  $\text{NO}_3$  radicals which may affect the  $\text{NO}_3$  exposure estimation. However, these are not considered in the KimSim simulations. Secondly,  $\text{NO}_3$  oxidation of BVOCs has high SOA yields. I wonder how the uptake of  $\text{NO}_3$  and  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  by the produced particles affect the simulations.

We added the following text to the end of Section 3.5:

P10, L24: “ $(\text{NO}_3\text{R})_{\text{ext}}$  of a system will change over the course of multiple generations of  $\text{NO}_3$  oxidation due to changes in kinetic rate coefficients between different species and  $\text{NO}_3$  ( $k_{\text{NO}_3}$ ). The sensitivity of Eq. 5 to changes in  $(\text{NO}_3\text{R})_{\text{ext}}$  depends in part on the relative magnitudes of  $(\text{NO}_3\text{R})_{\text{ext}}$  and the internal  $\text{NO}_3$  reactivity,  $(\text{NO}_3\text{R})_{\text{int}}$ , which is approximately equal to  $k_{\text{NO}_2+\text{NO}_3}[\text{NO}_2]$ . If  $(\text{NO}_3\text{R})_{\text{int}} \gg (\text{NO}_3\text{R})_{\text{ext}}$ , changes in  $(\text{NO}_3\text{R})_{\text{ext}}$  would have minimal influence on Eq. 5.

In one case study, we examined changes in  $(\text{NO}_3\text{R})_{\text{ext}}$  following conversion of biogenic VOCs (BVOCs) to gas-phase carbonyl oxidation products with known  $k_{\text{NO}_3}$  values. Table S5 compares  $k_{\text{NO}_3}$  of isoprene to methyl vinyl ketone and methacrolein,  $\alpha$ -pinene to pinonaldehyde, sabinene to sabinaketone, and 3-carene to caronaldehyde. In the limit where 100% of each BVOC is converted to its carbonyl oxidation product(s),  $(\text{NO}_3\text{R})_{\text{ext}}$  decreases by a factor of 200 or greater. Unsaturated organic nitrates that are generated from  $\text{BVOC} + \text{NO}_3$  may also be reactive towards  $\text{NO}_3$ , but  $k_{\text{NO}_3}$  for these species are not available.

In another case study, we examined changes in  $(\text{NO}_3\text{R})_{\text{ext}}$  following conversion of BVOCs to SOA. An effective  $k_{\text{NO}_3}$  for SOA was calculated using the following equation adapted from Lambe et al. (2009):

$$k_{\text{NO}_3} = \frac{3}{2} \frac{\gamma \times \bar{c} \times M_{\text{SOA}} \times F_{\text{diff}}}{D_p \times \rho_p \times N_A}$$

where  $F_{\text{diff}}$  is a correction factor accounting for diffusion limitations to the particle surface in the transition regime (Fuchs and Sutugin, 1970):

$$F_{\text{diff}} = \frac{1 + 6 \times \frac{D_{\text{NO}_3}}{\bar{c} \times D_p}}{1 + 10.26 \times \frac{D_{\text{NO}_3}}{\bar{c} \times D_p} + 47.88 \times \left( \frac{D_{\text{NO}_3}}{\bar{c} \times D_p} \right)^2}$$

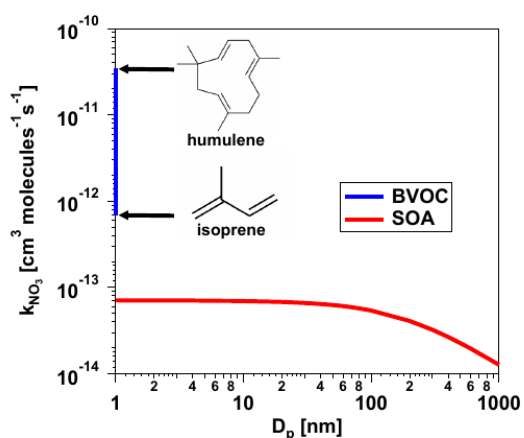
and  $\gamma$  is the fraction of collisions between  $\text{NO}_3$  and SOA leading to reaction,  $D_p$  is the surface area-weighted mean particle diameter,  $\rho_p$  is the particle density,  $N_A$  is Avogadro's number,  $c$  is the mean molecular speed of  $\text{NO}_3$  ( $3.2 \times 10^4 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$  at  $T = 298 \text{ K}$ ),  $M$  is the mean molecular weight of the SOA, and  $D_{\text{NO}_3} = 0.08 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$  is the  $\text{NO}_3$  diffusion coefficient in air (Rudich et al., 1996). Figure S4 shows  $k_{\text{SOA}+\text{NO}_3}$  as a function of  $D_p$  ranging from 1 to 1000 nm assuming  $\rho_p = 1.4 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ ,  $M_{\text{SOA}} = 250 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$  (Nah et al., 2016) and an upper limit  $\gamma = 0.1$  for BVOC-derived SOA (Ng et al., 2017). For reference, the range of slowest (isoprene) and fastest (humulene)  $k_{\text{BVOC}+\text{NO}_3}$  are indicated by the vertical blue line on the y-axis. In the limit where 100% of a BVOC is converted to SOA,  $(\text{NO}_3\text{R})_{\text{ext}}$  decreases by a factor of 10 or greater depending on  $k_{\text{BVOC}+\text{NO}_3}$  and  $D_p$ .

Taken together, these results suggest that  $(\text{NO}_3\text{R})_{\text{ext}}$  decreases following  $\text{NO}_3$  oxidation of BVOCs to carbonyl oxidation products and/or SOA. In this case, inputting  $(\text{NO}_3\text{R})_{\text{ext}}$  of the BVOC precursor to Eq. 5 generates a lower limit to  $(\text{NO}_3)_{\text{exp}}$  over multiple generations of  $\text{NO}_3$  oxidation. Results for other systems will depend on  $k_{\text{NO}_3}$  values of associated gas- and condensed-phase precursors and their oxidation products."

Table S5 and Figure S4 were added to the supplement:

**Table S5.** Bimolecular rate coefficients between selected biogenic volatile organic compounds (BVOCs) and  $\text{NO}_3$ , and BVOC +  $\text{NO}_3$  carbonyl oxidation products and  $\text{NO}_3$ . Rate coefficients were obtained from Ng et al. (2017) and references therein, and are given in units of  $\text{cm}^3 \text{ molecules}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ .

BVOC	$k_{\text{NO}_3}$	Oxidation Product	$k_{\text{NO}_3}$
isoprene	$6.5 \times 10^{-13}$	methyl vinyl ketone	$< 6 \times 10^{-16}$
		methacrolein	$3.4 \times 10^{-15}$
$\alpha$ -pinene	$6.2 \times 10^{-12}$	pinonaldehyde	$2.0 \times 10^{-14}$
3-carene	$9.1 \times 10^{-12}$	caronaldehyde	$2.5 \times 10^{-14}$
sabinene	$1.0 \times 10^{-11}$	sabinaketone	$3.6 \times 10^{-16}$



**Figure S4.** Effective rate constant between  $\text{NO}_3$  and SOA particles ( $k_{\text{NO}_3}$ ) calculated using Eq. 6 assuming  $\rho_p = 1.4 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ ,  $M_{\text{SOA}} = 250 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$  and  $\gamma = 0.1$ .

The following citations were added to references:

N. A. Fuchs and A. G. Sutugin: Highly Dispersed Aerosols, Ann Arbor Science Publishers, Newton, MA, 1970.

A. T. Lambe, M. A. Miracolo, C. J. Hennigan, A. L. Robinson, and N. M. Donahue, Effective Rate Constants and Uptake Coefficients for the Reactions of Organic Molecular Markers (*n*-Alkanes, Hopanes, and Steranes) in Motor Oil and Diesel Primary Organic Aerosols with Hydroxyl Radicals, *Environ. Sci. Technol.* 43(23) 8794-8800, <https://doi.org/10.1021/es901745h>, 2009.

Y. Rudich, R. K. Talukdar, T. Imamura, R.W. Fox, and A.R. Ravishankara, Uptake of NO<sub>3</sub> on KI solutions: rate coefficient for the NO<sub>3</sub> + I<sup>-</sup> reaction and gas-phase diffusion coefficients for NO<sub>3</sub>, *Chem. Phys. Lett.*, 261(4-5), 467-473, [https://doi.org/10.1016/0009-2614\(96\)00980-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/0009-2614(96)00980-3), 1996.

Specific comments:

- 2) BBCES measuring the NO<sub>3</sub>:
- The author stated that “ $I(\lambda)$  and  $I_0(\lambda)$  were the measured transmitted intensities in the presence and absence of NO<sub>3</sub>”. How was the “absence of NO<sub>3</sub>” achieved?

This is now specified in the text (p4, L16) (see below).

- The equation grading the calculation of  $\alpha(\lambda)$  is not correct. The  $\alpha(\lambda)$  in the cavity also contributed by the bath gas beyond the NO<sub>3</sub> radicals.

The equation is correct. Additional of information is now provided in the text to avoid any misunderstanding in the equation.

We modified the text as follows (changes bolded):

P4, L4: direct measurements of NO<sub>3</sub> generated via OR-iN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> were performed using a newly developed Incoherent Broad Band Cavity Enhanced Absorption Spectroscopy (IBBCEAS) technique (Cirtog et al., manuscript in preparation, **Fouqueau et al., 2020**).

P4, L11: Briefly, measurements were conducted by exciting a high-finesse optical cavity formed by two high reflectivity mirrors with an incoherent broad-band-source centered on the  $\lambda = 662$  nm absorption cross section of NO<sub>3</sub> ( **$2 \times 10^{-17}$  cm<sup>2</sup>, Orphal et al., 2003**).

P4, L16: **“Where  $\alpha(\lambda)$  is the absorption coefficient of the OFR sample in the instrument,  $I(\lambda)$  and  $I_0(\lambda)$  were the measured transmitted intensities in the presence and absence of the sample,  $d = 61$  was the distance between the cavity mirrors, and  $R(\lambda)$  was the mirror reflectivity ( $\sim 99.98\%$ ).  $I_0(\lambda)$  was obtained by stopping the OFR sample through the instrument and flowing nitrogen from a cylinder (Air Liquide). A period of at least 30 s was allowed between the measurement of  $I_0(\lambda)$  and  $I(\lambda)$  to ensure the complete purge of the instrument.  $R(\lambda)$  was measured before each experiment using a certified calibration cylinder containing 600 ppb NO<sub>2</sub> in zero air (Air Liquide).”**

- The NO<sub>3</sub> radicals are highly reactive and can easily lose to the walls. What is the transmission efficiency of NO<sub>3</sub> from the OFR to the cavity?
- Due to different loss rates of NO<sub>3</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> to the wall, the equilibrium of NO<sub>3</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> may change. How good is the measured NO<sub>3</sub> concentration in the CRD represent the NO<sub>3</sub> radical concentration in the reactor?

We modified the text as follows (changes bolded):

P4, L20-27: “ **Concentrations** were calculated **by applying a least square fit to the measured  $\alpha(\lambda)$  considering the absorbing species in the sample:**

$$\alpha(\lambda) = [NO_2]\sigma_{[NO_2]}(\lambda) + [NO_3]\sigma_{[NO_3]}(\lambda) + [O_3]\sigma_{[O_3]} + p(\lambda)$$

with  $NO_2$ ,  $NO_3$  and  $O_3$  being the species absorbing in the spectral region of the instrument,  $\sigma(\lambda)$  are the respective absorption cross sections convoluted with the apparatus function (Vandaele et al., 1998; Orphal et al., 2003, Voigt et al, 2001) and  $p(\lambda)$  is a cubic polynomial to correct baseline deformations due to small LED intensity variations. To avoid saturation of the IBBCEAS in these experiments, the OFR sample was diluted by a controlled dilution factor ranging from 9 to 41 and the detection response was deliberately lowered by reducing the optical path length. **Sampling lines and instrument (cavity) were made of PFA. The residence time in the IBBCEAS sampling line and instrument ranged from 8.3 to 21.8 s. At these residence times, the calculated transmission efficiency of  $NO_3$  from the OFR to the IBBCEAS instrument ranged from 0.3 to 11% assuming a  $NO_3$  wall loss rate constant of  $0.27\text{ s}^{-1}$  (Kennedy et al., 2011). Corrections to measured  $NO_2$  and  $NO_3$  values accounting for  $N_2O_5$  thermal decomposition,  $N_2O_5$  wall loss, and sample dilution in the IBBCEAS inlet were additionally applied to results presented in this paper.”**

The following citations were added to references:

Fouqueau, A., Cirtog, M., Cazaunau, M., Pangui, E., Zapf, P., Siour, G., Landsheere, X., Méjean, G., Romanini, D. and Picquet-Varrault, B.: Implementation of an IBBCEAS technique in an atmospheric simulation chamber for in situ  $NO_3$  monitoring: characterization and validation for kinetic studies, Atmos Meas Tech, (amt-2020-103), in review, 2020.

S. Voigt, J. Orphal, K. Bogumil, and J.P. Burrows, "The temperature dependence (203-293 K) of the absorption cross sections of  $O_3$  in the 230-850 nm region measured by Fourier-transform spectroscopy", J. Photochem. Photobiol. A: Chem. 143, 1-9 (2001); DOI: [10.1016/S1010-6030\(01\)00480-4](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1010-6030(01)00480-4)

- 3) a) The description of the results in section 3.4 is not consistent with the results in the figure. “First, at  $[O_3]_{0,LFR} < 1000\text{ ppm}$  and  $[NO_2]_{0,LFR}:[O_3]_{0,LFR} = 0.1\text{ to }1.8$ , maximum  $NO_{3exp}$  increased with decreasing  $[NO_2]_{0,LFR}:[O_3]_{0,LFR}$  (Fig. 7a).” It is very hard to see the results in the figure when  $[O_3]_{0,LFR} < 100\text{ ppm}$ . For me, it looks like maximum  $NO_{3exp}$  first increase with increasing  $[NO_2]_{0,LFR}:[O_3]_{0,LFR}$  ratio and then decrease with it, especially when  $[O_3]_{0,LFR}$  was in the range of 100-1000ppm”

We modified the text as follows:

“First, at  $[O_3]_{0,LFR} < 1000\text{ ppm}$  and  $[NO_2]_{0,LFR}:[O_3]_{0,LFR} = 0.01\text{ to }1.8$ , maximum  $NO_{3exp}$  **increased with  $[NO_2]_{0,LFR}:[O_3]_{0,LFR}$  prior to decreasing at  $[NO_2]_{0,LFR}:[O_3]_{0,LFR} > 1.0$  (Fig. 7a).**”

b) “Above  $[O_3]_{0,LFR} \approx 2000\text{ ppm}$ ,  $NO_{3exp}$  was less sensitive to  $[NO_2]_{0,LFR}:[O_3]_{0,LFR}$ .” This is true except for  $[NO_2]_{0,LFR}:[O_3]_{0,LFR} = 2.0$ .

We modified the text as follows:

“Above  $[O_3]_{0,LFR} \approx 2000\text{ ppm}$  and below  $[NO_2]_{0,LFR}:[O_3]_{0,LFR} = 2.0$ ,  $NO_{3exp}$  was less sensitive to  $[NO_2]_{0,LFR}:[O_3]_{0,LFR}$ .”

c) “Second, maximum  $\text{NO}_3:\text{O}_3$  increased with increasing  $[\text{NO}_2]_{0,\text{LFR}}:[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}}$  (Figure 7c).” This statement is true only when the  $\text{O}_3$  was above 1000 ppm, even get rid of the results from  $[\text{NO}_2]_{0,\text{LFR}}:[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}}=2.0$ .

We modified the text as follows:

“Second, maximum  $\text{NO}_3:\text{O}_3$  increased with increasing  $[\text{NO}_2]_{0,\text{LFR}}:[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}}$  **above  $[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} = 1000$  ppm** (Figure 7c).”

d) “conversion of  $\text{O}_3$  to  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  inside the LFR” I felt more comfortable to say “conversion of  $\text{O}_3$  to  $\text{O}_2$  inside the LFR”.

We modified the text as follows:

“conversion of  $\text{O}_3$  to  $\text{O}_2$  inside the LFR”

- 4) The authors tried to investigate the  $\text{RO}_2$  fate and considered “ $\text{RO}_2$  react with  $\text{NO}$ ,  $\text{NO}_2$ ,  $\text{NO}_3$ ,  $\text{HO}_2$ , or other  $\text{RO}_2$  to generate alkoxy ( $\text{RO}$ ) radicals, peroxy nitrates ( $\text{RO}_2\text{NO}_2$ ), hydroperoxides or organic peroxides, and may additionally undergo autooxidation via sequential isomerization and  $\text{O}_2$  addition.” Recent studies by Berndt et al. (2018) revealed that self- and cross-reaction of  $\text{RO}_2$  radicals would produce dimers effectively. How could this process affect the fate of the  $\text{RO}_2$  radical?

Self- and cross-reactions of  $\text{RO}_2$  were considered in the model – please see the last two rows in Table S3, reproduced below for reference. Under the conditions that were studied this process was minor compared to  $\text{RO}_2 + \text{NO}_3$  and  $\text{RO}_2 + \text{NO}_2$ .

**Table S3.** KinSim mechanism used to model destruction of alkyl and acyl organic peroxy radicals formed from  $\text{VOC} + \text{NO}_3$  reactions in the OFR. Kinetic data is adapted from (Orlando and Tyndall, 2012).

Reactant 1	Reactant 2	Product 1	Product 2	Product 3	$A_\infty$	$E_\infty$	$n_\infty$	$A_0$	$E_0$	$n_0$
VOC	$\text{NO}_3$	alkylRO2			0 or 2.5E-12	0	0	0	0	0
VOC	$\text{NO}_3$	acylRO2			2.5E-12 or 0	0	0	0	0	0
alkylRO2	$\text{NO}$				2.7E-12	-360	0	0	0	0
acylRO2	$\text{NO}$				7.5E-12	-290	0	0	0	0
alkylRO2	$\text{NO}_2$	alkylRO2NO2			6.1E-12	0	0	1.3E-30	6.2	0.31
alkylRO2NO2		alkylRO2	$\text{NO}_2$		8.8E+15	10440	0	0.00048	9285	0.31
acylRO2	$\text{NO}_2$	acylRO2NO2			1.2E-11	0	0.9	2.7E-28	7.1	0.3
acylRO2NO2		acylRO2	$\text{NO}_2$		5.4E+16	13830	0	0.0049	12100	0.3
alkylRO2	$\text{NO}_3$	alkylRO	$\text{NO}_2$		2.4E-12	0	0	0	0	0
acylRO2	$\text{NO}_3$	acylRO	$\text{NO}_2$		3.2E-12	0	0	0	0	0
alkylRO2	$\text{HO}_2$				7.4E-13	-700	0	0	0	0
acylRO2	$\text{HO}_2$				5.2E-13	-980	0	0	0	0
alkylRO2	alkylRO2				2.2E-12	-500	0	0	0	0
acylRO2	acylRO2				2.9E-12	-500	0	0	0	0

In response to the reviewer’s comment, we conducted additional sensitivity studies where the  $\text{RO}_2 + \text{RO}_2$  rate constant was assumed to be  $1 \times 10^{-10} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , close to the values reported by Berndt et al. (2018). The sensitivity cases cover the range of conditions used in Section 3.4 and those with  $\text{NO}_3\text{R}_{\text{ext}}$  (and

hence VOC concentration) increased by a factor of 10. In these cases, the relative contribution of  $\text{RO}_2 + \text{RO}_2$  to  $\text{RO}_2$  fate is always <1%. To include this information in the paper, we modified the text as follows:

P8, L23-25: “Under almost all OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$  conditions shown in Figure 7,  $\text{RO}_2$  reactions with  $\text{NO}$ ,  $\text{HO}_2$ , and  $\text{RO}_2$  were minor (< 1%) loss pathways compared to reaction with  $\text{NO}_2$  and  $\text{NO}_3$ . **We conductive a model sensitivity analysis in which the  $\text{RO}_2 + \text{RO}_2$  reaction rate was enhanced by increasing  $\text{NO}_3\text{R}_{\text{ext}}$  from 0.07 to 0.7  $\text{s}^{-1}$  and increasing the  $\text{RO}_2 + \text{RO}_2$  rate constant from  $1 \times 10^{-11}$  to  $1 \times 10^{-10} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  (Berndt et al., 2018, 2018a). Despite these perturbations, the relative contribution of  $\text{RO}_2 + \text{RO}_2$  reactions to total  $\text{RO}_2$  loss remained < 1% across this range of OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$  conditions.”**

The following citations were added to References:

Berndt, T.; Mentler, B.; Scholz, W.; Fischer, L.; Herrmann, H.; Kulmala, M.; Hansel, A., Accretion Product Formation from Ozonolysis and OH Radical Reaction of alpha-Pinene: Mechanistic Insight and the Influence of Isoprene and Ethylene. Environ. Sci. Technol. 2018, 52, (19), 11069-11077.

Berndt, T.; Scholz, W.; Mentler, B.; Fischer, L.; Herrmann, H.; Kulmala, M.; Hansel, A., Accretion Product Formation from Self- and Cross-Reactions of  $\text{RO}_2$  Radicals in the Atmosphere. Angew Chem Int Edit 2018, 57, 1, 3820-3824.

#### **Anonymous Referee #2 – N/A (referee did not submit review)**

#### **Anonymous Referee #3**

General comments.

1. a) Section 2.2.1, the section cited some references about the wall loss of  $\text{NO}_3$  and  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  in Teflon/Pyrex tube, and the  $\text{NO}_3$  and  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  wall loss in LFR and OFR is extrapolating or interpolation based on the reported results, which weak the results as the wall loss of  $\text{NO}_3$  and  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  in the system is an important source of uncertainty. The lab quantification of the wall loss in LFR and OFR in the future works can further improve the value of this study.

Our results suggest that  $\text{NO}_3$  wall loss is not an important source of uncertainty because  $\text{NO}_3$  is too short-lived for  $\text{NO}_3$  wall loss to compete with  $\text{NO}_3$  oxidative loss. We modified the text as follows to underscore the importance of characterizing  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  wall loss rates for a specific LFR-OFR configuration (changes bolded):

P12, L8-12: “Because OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$  can continuously generate  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  and  $\text{NO}_3$  at room temperature, it is significantly easier to apply in continuous flow reactor studies than related techniques. However, in addition to the aforementioned considerations, high  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  and  $\text{HNO}_3$  concentrations that are generated using OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$  complicate the application of techniques such as iodide-adduct chemical ionization mass spectrometry due to efficient reactions between the iodide reagent ion and  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  or  $\text{HNO}_3$  (Lee et al., 2014). **Additionally, the humidity-dependent  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  wall loss rate must be accurately characterized to model the performance of a specific OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$  configuration.**”

b) Additionally, page 5, line 9-10, the fixed condition of OFR is ambiguous, please clear it, at least add the simulation results in SI.

We modified the text as follows (changes bolded):

P5, L6-10: “Published  $k_{wLFR,NO_3}$  values onto tubing with 1 cm (**Teflon**) and 4 cm (**Pyrex**) ID are 0.2 and 0.1  $s^{-1}$  respectively [...] Assuming  $k_w$  is inversely proportional to the internal diameter of the tube, we assumed  $k_{wLFR,NO_3} = 0.15 s^{-1}$ . Extrapolating this value to the OFR yielded  $k_{wOFR,NO_3} = 0.02 s^{-1}$ . At fixed OFR- $iN_2O_5$  conditions **that are summarized in Table S3**, varying  $k_{wLFR,NO_3}$  between 0 and 0.3  $s^{-1}$  changed  $NO_{3exp}$  achieved in the OFR by 0.3%.”

We added the following table to the Supplement:

**Table S3.** Sensitivity analysis of the effect of varying  $k_{wLFR,NO_3}$  on  $NO_{3exp}$ . The following inputs to the KinSim mechanism were assumed:  $[NO_2]_{0,LFR} = [O_3]_{0,LFR} = 300$  ppm,  $T_{LFR} = T_{OFR} = 24^\circ C$ ,  $RH_{LFR} = RH_{OFR} = 1\%$ ,  $k_{wLFR,N_2O_5} = 0.1 s^{-1}$ ,  $k_{wOFR,N_2O_5} = 0.014 s^{-1}$ ,  $\tau_{LFR} = 20$  s,  $\tau_{OFR} = 120$  s, dilution factor = 4.4 between LFR and OFR.

$k_{wLFR,NO_3} [s^{-1}]$	$NO_{3exp} [molecules\ cm^{-3}\ s]$	Normalized $NO_{3exp}$
0	$1.277 \times 10^{14}$	1
0.1	$1.275 \times 10^{14}$	0.9984
0.2	$1.273 \times 10^{14}$	0.9969
0.3	$1.272 \times 10^{14}$	0.9965

c) Page 5, line 11-13, the Extrapolating results is confuse, the reference said 0.04 and 0.009  $s^{-1}$  corresponding to ID (4 and 7 cm), what is corresponding parameter of the  $k_{wall,LFR}$  of 0.07 and 0.03  $s^{-1}$  mentioned here?

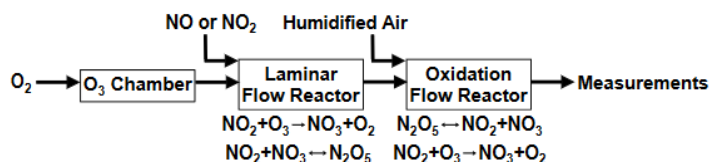
We assumed  $k_{wLFR,N_2O_5} = 0.05 s^{-1}$  by calculating the average of the cited  $k_{wLFR,N_2O_5} = 0.03$  and  $0.07 s^{-1}$  values that were obtained after extrapolating to the ID of the LFR. We clarified this by modifying the text as follows (changes bolded):

P5, L11-13: “Published  $k_{w,N_2O_5}$  values onto dry ( $RH \approx 20\%$ ) Pyrex/PFA tubing with 4 and 7 cm ID are 0.04 and 0.009  $s^{-1}$  [...] Extrapolating these values to the LFR used here **and then averaging them together yielded**  $k_{w,N_2O_5} = 0.05 s^{-1}$  **that was applied** in the LFR-KinSim model.”

Specific comments.

- Page 2, line 29-34, this introduction of the LFR is confusing. The authors can use a schematic figure to show more details about the OFR- $iN_2O_5$  (rather than Figure 1 from references), which would increase the paper’s readability.

Figure 1 in this manuscript, reproduced below, already shows the OFR- $iN_2O_5$  schematic that we think the reviewer is requesting:



**Figure 1.** Process flow diagram of the OFR- $iN_2O_5$  technique used to generate nitrate radicals ( $NO_3$ ).

We are assuming that the references to Wood et al. (2003) and Boyd et al. (2015) caused the confusion, based on the reviewer's statement regarding "Figure 1 from references". To clarify this section, we modified the text as follows (changed bolded):

P2, L29-31: "Figure 1 shows a process flow diagram of the OFR-iN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> method. Separate flows containing NO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> were input to a PFA tube with 2.54 cm outer diameter, 2.22 cm inner diameter, and 152.4 cm length that was operated as an LFR. **Previous studies used a similar process to generate N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> (Wood et al., 2003; Boyd et al., 2015) although the LFR materials, flow rates, and reagent concentrations were different.**"

3. Page 4, line 8. Romanini et al. (1997) is not the right reference of the IBBCEAS principle, I suggest the author replace it by e.g., Fiedler et al., 2003.(Fiedler, S. E., Hese, A., and Ruth, A. A.: Incoherent broad-band cavity-enhanced absorption spectroscopy, Chem Phys Lett, 371, 284-294, 2003.)

We made the substitution suggested by the reviewer.

4. In Eq .2 the kNO<sub>2</sub> or kNO<sub>3</sub> should revised to kNO<sub>2</sub>+RO<sub>2</sub> or kNO<sub>3</sub>+RO<sub>2</sub>, the similar change also applied in Eq. 3 and Eq. 4

We made the revisions suggested by the reviewer.



# Nitrate radical generation via continuous generation of dinitrogen pentoxide in a laminar flow reactor coupled to an oxidation flow reactor

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**Abstract.** Oxidation flow reactors (OFRs) are an emerging tool for studying the formation and oxidative aging of organic aerosols and other applications. The majority of OFR studies to date involved generation of the hydroxyl radical (OH) to mimic daytime oxidative aging processes. On the other hand, use of the nitrate radical (NO<sub>3</sub>) in modern OFRs to mimic nighttime oxidative aging processes has been limited due to the complexity of conventional techniques that are used to generate NO<sub>3</sub>.

- 5 Here, we present a new method that uses a laminar flow reactor (LFR) to continuously generate dinitrogen pentoxide (N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>) in the gas phase at room temperature from the NO<sub>2</sub> + O<sub>3</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub> + NO<sub>3</sub> reactions. The N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> is then injected into a dark Potential Aerosol Mass OFR and decomposes to generate NO<sub>3</sub>; hereafter, this method is referred to as “OFR-iN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>” (“i” = injected). To assess the applicability of the OFR-iN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> method towards different chemical systems, we present experimental and model characterization of the integrated NO<sub>3</sub> exposure, NO<sub>3</sub>:O<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>:NO<sub>3</sub>, and NO<sub>2</sub>:O<sub>2</sub> as a function of LFR and OFR
- 10 conditions. These parameters were used to investigate the fate of representative organic peroxy radicals (RO<sub>2</sub>) and aromatic alkyl radicals generated from volatile organic compound (VOC) + NO<sub>3</sub> reactions, and VOCs that are reactive towards both O<sub>3</sub> and NO<sub>3</sub>. Finally, we demonstrate the OFR-iN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> method by generating and characterizing secondary organic aerosol from the β-pinene + NO<sub>3</sub> reaction.

## 1 Introduction

- 15 The importance of nitrate radicals (NO<sub>3</sub>) as a nighttime oxidant is well established (Wayne et al., 1991; Brown and Stutz, 2012; Ng et al., 2017). In the atmosphere, NO<sub>2</sub> + O<sub>3</sub> is the primary source of NO<sub>3</sub>, after which NO<sub>3</sub> exists in equilibrium with

NO<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>. Atmospheric nighttime NO<sub>3</sub> mixing ratios can vary by at least two orders of magnitude, ranging from 1 ppt or less in remote areas to 10-400 ppt in polluted urban regions (Finlayson-Pitts and Pitts Jr., 2000; Asaf et al., 2010; Warneck and Williams, 2012; Ng et al., 2017). Atmospheric organic compounds that are reactive towards NO<sub>3</sub> include isoprene and monoterpenes that are emitted from biogenic sources (including urban vegetation); phenols and methoxyphenols emitted from biomass burning; and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) emitted from combustion processes. NO<sub>3</sub> oxidation of these compounds generates oxygenated volatile organic compounds (OVOCs) and/or secondary organic aerosol (SOA), including particulate organic nitrates or nitroaromatics. The importance of these sources and processes are likely to continue to increase for the foreseeable future due to climate change (Melaas et al., 2016; Short, 2017).

Laboratory studies have attempted to elucidate the mechanisms associated with NO<sub>3</sub>-initiated oxidative aging processes, in the gas and condensed phase, and in environmental chambers and flow tubes. Traditional NO<sub>3</sub> generation techniques typically utilize N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> as the radical precursor. N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> is generated from the reaction  $\text{NO} + \text{O}_3 \rightarrow \text{NO}_2 + \text{O}_2$ , followed by the reactions  $\text{NO}_2 + \text{O}_3 \rightarrow \text{NO}_3 + \text{O}_2$  and  $\text{NO}_2 + \text{NO}_3 \rightarrow \text{N}_2\text{O}_5$ . The synthesized N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> is collected and stored in a cold trap under dry conditions to minimize hydrolysis of N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> to nitric acid (HNO<sub>3</sub>). This method has limitations that hinder widespread usage: specifically, long-term storage and handling of N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> at low temperature and dry conditions is difficult, and continuous generation of N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> as is required for oxidation flow reactors (OFRs) or other continuous flow chambers is challenging. Field studies investigating the NO<sub>3</sub>-induced SOA formation potential of ambient air are thus extremely limited (Palm et al., 2017). Alternative NO<sub>3</sub> generation techniques that utilize reactions between chlorine atoms and chlorine nitrate (ClONO<sub>2</sub>) or fluorine atoms and HNO<sub>3</sub> require cold storage of ClONO<sub>2</sub> and handling or generation of reactive-halogen species that are reactive towards organic compounds (Burrows et al., 1985).

To address issues associated with traditional NO<sub>3</sub> generation techniques, we developed and characterized a new method that is well suited to applications where a continuous source of N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/NO<sub>3</sub> is required, such as OFR studies. The method is capable of continuous N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> generation in the gas phase at room temperature using a laminar flow reactor (LFR) that is coupled to a dark OFR in which N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> injected into the OFR decomposes to generate NO<sub>3</sub> and initiate oxidation of reactive VOCs. Hereafter, we refer to this method as “OFR-iN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>” (“i” = injected). We present experimental and model characterization of OFR-iN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> as a function of LFR and OFR conditions, and we demonstrate application of OFR-iN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> to generate and characterize SOA from the β-pinene + NO<sub>3</sub> reaction.

## 2 Methods

### 2.1 N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and NO<sub>3</sub> generation

Figure 1 shows a process flow diagram of the OFR-iN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> method. Separate flows containing NO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> were input to a PFA tube with 2.54 cm outer diameter, 2.22 cm inner diameter, and 152.4 cm length that was operated as a LFR (Wood et al., 2003; Boyd et al., 2015). Previous studies used a similar process to generate N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> (Wood et al., 2003; Boyd et al., 2015), although the LFR materials, flow rates, and reagent concentrations were different. A compressed gas cylinder containing 1.00 ± 0.02% NO<sub>2</sub> in N<sub>2</sub> (Praxair) was used to supply NO<sub>2</sub>. While not used for this study, replacing NO<sub>2</sub> with NO to avoid NO<sub>2</sub>-to-HNO<sub>3</sub> conver-

sion inside the gas cylinder and increasing  $[O_3]$  accordingly achieves similar results.  $O_3$  was generated by passing 1750-1800  $cm^3 min^{-1}$  of pure  $O_2$  through a custom  $O_3$  chamber housing a mercury fluorescent lamp (GPH212T5VH, Light Sources, Inc.) or 500-1800  $cm^3 min^{-1}$   $O_2$  through a corona discharge ozone generator (Enaly 1KNT). We used 1800  $cm^3 min^{-1}$  of  $O_2$  carrier gas flow through the LFR (Re  $\sim 110$ , i.e. laminar flow) to achieve  $\tau_{LFR} = 20$  s for reasons that are discussed in Section 3.1. The  $NO_2$  mixing ratio entering the LFR,  $[NO_2]_{0,LFR}$ , was calculated from the  $NO_2$  mixing ratio in the compressed gas mixture and the dilution ratio of 0-50  $cm^3 min^{-1}$  or 0-1300  $cm^3 min^{-1}$  gas flow into  $O_2$  which was controlled using mass flow controllers. The  $O_3$  mixing ratio entering the LFR,  $[O_3]_{0,LFR}$ , was measured using a 2B Technologies 106-MFT or a Teledyne M452 flow-through  $O_3$  analyzer when generated from the mercury lamp or corona discharge source respectively. The output of the LFR was mixed with a carrier gas containing 3.8  $L min^{-1}$  synthetic air and then injected into a Potential Aerosol Mass OFR (Aerodyne Research, Inc.), which is a horizontal 13.3 L aluminum cylindrical chamber operated in continuous flow mode (Kang et al., 2007; Lambe et al., 2011, 2019) with 6.5  $L min^{-1}$  flow through the reactor. The mean residence time in the OFR ( $\tau_{OFR}$ ) was  $120 \pm 34$  s ( $\pm 1\sigma$ ), as obtained from measurements of 10 s pulsed inputs of  $NO_2$  to the OFR obtained using a 2B Technologies Model 405  $NO_x$  analyzer (Figure S1). Across all experiments, the relative humidity in the OFR ( $RH_{OFR}$ ) was controlled in the range of 7-85% at 23-25° C by passing the carrier gas through a Nafion humidifier (Perma Pure LLC) or heated recirculating water bath (Neslab Instruments, Inc.) prior to mixing with the LFR outflow. The  $O_3$  mixing ratio at the exit of the OFR was measured with a 2B Technologies Model 106-M ozone analyzer.

### 2.1.1 OFR- $iN_2O_5$ characterization studies

In one set of experiments, the integrated  $NO_3$  exposure ( $NO_{3exp}$ ), defined here as the product of the average  $NO_3$  concentration and  $\tau_{OFR}$ , was characterized by measuring the decay of VOC tracers reactive towards  $NO_3$  using a ToFwerk/Aerodyne Vocus Proton Transfer Reaction Time-of-Flight Mass Spectrometer (PTR-MS) (Krechmer et al., 2018). For this purpose, the tracer decay method is advantageous to direct  $NO_3$  measurements at the OFR inlet and/or outlet because potential  $NO_3$  concentration gradients inside the OFR that might otherwise bias  $NO_{3exp}$  are easily accounted for. Tracers that were liquid at room temperature were injected into the OFR through a 10.2 cm length of 0.0152 cm ID Teflon tubing at a liquid flow rate of about 0.94  $\mu L hr^{-1}$  using a syringe pump, prior to evaporation into a 2.4  $L min^{-1}$   $N_2$  carrier gas. In preliminary studies, tracers such as isoprene and  $\beta$ -pinene were too reactive towards  $NO_3$  to facilitate accurate characterization of  $NO_{3exp}$  over the majority of OFR- $iN_2O_5$  conditions that were investigated. Thus, experiments described in this paper used mixtures of tracers with bimolecular  $k_{NO_3}$  ranging from approximately  $10^{-16}$  to  $10^{-13}$   $cm^3 molecules^{-1} s^{-1}$  and  $k_{O_3} < 10^{-19}$   $cm^3 molecules^{-1} s^{-1}$  (Table S1). Acetonitrile was used as a nonreactive tracer. In “low  $O_3$ ” experiments ( $[O_3]_{0,LFR} = 10$  to 300 ppm) a mixture of acetonitrile, butanal, thiophene, 2,3-dihydrobenzofuran, and naphthalene- $d_8$  ( $C_{10}D_8$ ), each with mixing ratios of approximately 660 ppb, 50 ppb, 56 ppb, 40 ppb, and 18 ppb, respectively, was used. For this tracer mixture, the total external  $NO_3$  reactivity ( $NO_{3R_{ext}}$ ), which is the summed product of each tracer mixing ratio and its  $NO_3$  rate constant, was approximately 0.07  $s^{-1}$ . Naphthalene- $d_8$  was introduced by flowing 5  $cm^3 min^{-1}$   $N_2$  through a Teflon tube packed with solid  $C_{10}D_8$ . In “high  $O_3$ ” experiments ( $[O_3]_{0,LFR} = 6100$  to 7400 ppm), which generated higher  $NO_{3exp}$ , a mixture of acetonitrile (275 ppb),

toluene (45 ppb), o-xylene (40 ppb), p-cymene (31 ppb), 1,2,4-trimethylbenzene (35 ppb), 1-butanol (53 ppb), benzaldehyde (47 ppb), butanal (53 ppb), and thiophene (56 ppb) was used, with  $\text{NO}_3\text{R}_{\text{ext}} \approx 0.38 \text{ s}^{-1}$ .

In another set of experiments that were conducted as part of the Aerosol Chemical Monitor Calibration Center (ACMCC) particulate organonitrates (pON) experiment (Albinet et al., 2019), direct measurements of  $\text{NO}_3$  generated via OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$  were performed using a newly developed Incoherent Broad Band Cavity Enhanced Absorption Spectroscopy (IBBCEAS) technique (Cirtog et al., manuscript in preparation)(Cirtog et al., manuscript in preparation; Fouqueau et al., 2020). The IBBCEAS instrument that was used measured absorption as a function of wavelength between  $\lambda = 640$  and  $680 \text{ nm}$ , thereby allowing simultaneous measurements of  $\text{NO}_2$  and  $\text{O}_3$  along with  $\text{NO}_3$ . During this experiment, pON were generated in a PAM OFR that used  $[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} = 150\text{--}180\text{--}150\text{--}160 \text{ ppm}$  and  $[\text{NO}_2]_{0,\text{LFR}}:[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} = 0.75, 1.0, \text{ and } 2.0$ . IBBCEAS has been used to measure trace  $\text{NO}_3$  levels in laboratory and field studies (Venables et al., 2006; Kennedy et al., 2011) using measurement principles that are described in detail by Romanini et al. (1997) Fiedler et al. (2003) and Langridge et al. (2008). Briefly, measurements were conducted by exciting a high-finesse optical cavity formed by two high reflectivity mirrors with an incoherent broad-band-source centered on the  $\lambda = 662 \text{ nm}$  absorption cross section of  $\text{NO}_3$  ( $2 \times 10^{-17} \text{ cm}^2$ , Orphal et al. (2003)). Photons resonate between the two mirrors, allowing an effective path length of up to  $4.5 \text{ km}$  inside the cavity. The absorption coefficient of the sample in the cavity,  $\alpha(\lambda)$ , was calculated using Equation 1:

$$\alpha(\lambda) = \left( \frac{I_0(\lambda)}{I(\lambda)} - 1 \right) \left( \frac{1 - R(\lambda)}{d} \right) \quad (1)$$

Where  $\alpha(\lambda)$  is the absorption coefficient of the OFR sample in the instrument,  $I(\lambda)$  and  $I_0(\lambda)$  were the measured transmitted intensities in the presence and absence of ~~respectively, the sample~~,  $d = 61 \text{ cm}$  was the distance between the cavity mirrors, and  $R(\lambda)$  was the mirror reflectivity ( $\sim 99.98\%$ ), ~~which was~~.  $I_0(\lambda)$  was obtained by stopping the OFR sample through the instrument and flowing nitrogen from a cylinder (Air Liquide). A period of at least  $30 \text{ s}$  was allowed between the measurement of  $I_0(\lambda)$  and  $I(\lambda)$  to ensure the complete purge of the instrument.  $R(\lambda)$  was measured before each experiment using a certified calibration cylinder containing  $600 \text{ ppb}$   $\text{NO}_2$  in zero air (Air Liquide). Concentrations were calculated by applying a least square fit to the measured  $\alpha(\lambda)$  considering the absorbing species in the sample:

$$\alpha(\lambda) = [\text{NO}_2]\sigma_{\text{NO}_2} + [\text{NO}_3]\sigma_{\text{NO}_3} + [\text{O}_3]\sigma_{\text{O}_3} + p(\lambda) \quad (2)$$

with  $\text{NO}_2$ ,  $\text{NO}_3$  concentrations were calculated from the Beer-Lambert law using the measured  $\alpha_{662}$  values and a absorption cross-section of  $2 \times 10^{-17} \text{ cm}^2$  at and  $\text{O}_3$  being the species absorbing in the spectral region of the instrument,  $\alpha(\lambda = 662 \text{ nm})$  (Vandaele et al., 1998; Orphal et al., 2003) are the respective absorption cross sections convoluted with the apparatus function (Vandaele et al., 1998; Voigt et al., 2001; Orphal et al., 2003) and  $p(\lambda)$  is a cubic polynomial to correct baseline deformations due to small LED intensity variations. To avoid saturation of the IBBCEAS in these experiments, the OFR sample was diluted by a controlled dilution factor ranging from 9 to ~~50~~ 41 and the detection response was deliberately lowered by reducing the optical path length. The sampling line and optical cavity were made of PFA. The residence time in the IBBCEAS sampling line and instrument ranged from  $8.3$  to  $21.8 \text{ s}$ . At these residence times, the calculated transmission efficiencies of  $\text{NO}_3$  from

the OFR to the IBBCEAS ranged from 0.3 to 11% assuming a  $\text{NO}_3$  wall loss rate constant of  $0.27 \text{ s}^{-1}$  (Kennedy et al., 2011). Corrections to measured  $\text{NO}_3$  and  $\text{NO}_2$  values accounting for  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  thermal decomposition,  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  wall loss, and sample dilution were applied to IBBCEAS results presented in this paper.

To demonstrate the application of OFR-i $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  to generate SOA, the chemical composition and mass concentration of  $\beta$ -pinene +  $\text{NO}_3$  condensed-phase oxidation products was measured with an Aerodyne long-time-of-flight aerosol mass spectrometer (L-ToF-AMS) and/or an aerosol chemical speciation monitor (ACSM). A syringe pump was used to deliver  $\beta$ -pinene (10% (v/v) in carbon tetrachloride or 50% (v/v) in ethanol) into the carrier gas flow at liquid flow rates ranging from 0.94 to 19  $\mu\text{L hr}^{-1}$ . Results presented in this paper assume an AMS/ACSM collection efficiency of 0.5 (Middlebrook et al., 2012) and a relative ionization efficiency of particulate organics equal to 1.6 (Xu et al., 2018).

## 2.2 Photochemical model

We used the KinSim chemical kinetic solver to calculate concentrations of radical/oxidant species (Peng et al., 2015; Peng and Jimenez, 2017, 2019). The KinSim mechanism shown in Table S2 was adapted from Palm et al. (2017) to model  $\text{NO}_3$  and  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  concentrations in the LFR and OFR. Inputs to the LFR-KinSim model were:  $[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}}$ ,  $[\text{NO}_2]_{0,\text{LFR}}$ ,  $\text{RH} = 1\%$ ,  $T = 24^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $\tau_{\text{LFR}} = 20 \text{ s}$  (modeled as plug flow, see Section 3.1), and first-order wall loss rates of  $\text{NO}_3$  and  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  ( $k_{\text{wLFR},\text{NO}_3}$  and  $k_{\text{wLFR},\text{N}_2\text{O}_5}$ ). Inputs to the OFR-KinSim model were:  $[\text{O}_3]$ ,  $[\text{NO}_2]$ ,  $[\text{NO}_3]$ , and  $[\text{N}_2\text{O}_5]$  output from the LFR and scaled by a measured dilution factor of 4.4;  $\text{RH}$  and  $T$  measured in the OFR;  $\tau_{\text{OFR}} = 120 \text{ s}$ ,  $k_{\text{wOFR},\text{NO}_3}$ , and  $k_{\text{wOFR},\text{N}_2\text{O}_5}$ , and input VOC tracer concentrations and their  $k_{\text{NO}_3}$  values. Because the calculated  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  residence time in the OFR inlet ( $\sim 0.04 \text{ s}$ ) was short compared to the  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  decomposition timescale at  $T = 23 - 25^\circ\text{C}$  ( $\sim 20 \text{ s}$ ), potential thermal decomposition of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  during the dilution step was not considered in the model.

### 2.2.1 LFR and OFR $k_{\text{w},\text{NO}_3}$ and $k_{\text{w},\text{N}_2\text{O}_5}$ values

Published  $k_{\text{w},\text{NO}_3}$  values onto ~~Teflon/Pyrex~~-tubing with 1 cm (Teflon) and 4 cm (Pyrex) ID are  $0.2$  and  $0.1 \text{ s}^{-1}$  respectively (Dubé et al., 2006; Wood et al., 2003), which bound the 2.22 cm ID of the LFR used in this study. Assuming  $k_{\text{w}}$  is inversely proportional to the internal diameter of the tube, we assumed  $k_{\text{wLFR},\text{NO}_3} = 0.15 \text{ s}^{-1}$ . Extrapolating this value to the OFR (20.32 cm ID) yielded  $k_{\text{wOFR},\text{NO}_3} = 0.02 \text{ s}^{-1}$ . At fixed OFR-i $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  conditions that are summarized in Table S3, varying  $k_{\text{wLFR},\text{NO}_3}$  between 0 and ~~0.2-0.3~~  $\text{s}^{-1}$  changed  $\text{NO}_{3\text{exp}}$  achieved in the OFR by 0.3%. Results were even less sensitive to  $k_{\text{wOFR},\text{NO}_3}$  assumed for the OFR because of its larger diameter and higher  $\text{NO}_3\text{R}_{\text{ext}}$ .

Published  $k_{\text{w},\text{N}_2\text{O}_5}$  values onto dry ( $\text{RH} \approx 20\%$ ) Pyrex/PFA tubing with 4 and 7 cm ID are 0.04 and  $0.009 \text{ s}^{-1}$  respectively (Wagner et al., 2008; Gržinić et al., 2015). Extrapolating these values to the LFR used here and then averaging them together yielded  $k_{\text{w},\text{N}_2\text{O}_5}$  ~~values of 0.07 and  $0.03 \text{ s}^{-1}$  respectively. We therefore assumed  $k_{\text{w},\text{N}_2\text{O}_5} = 0.05 \text{ s}^{-1}$  that was applied~~ in the LFR-KinSim model. In preliminary OFR-KinSim modeling studies, we assumed  $k_{\text{w},\text{N}_2\text{O}_5} = 0.014 \text{ s}^{-1}$  (Palm et al., 2017). However, as will be discussed in Section 3.3,  $k_{\text{w},\text{N}_2\text{O}_5}$  was humidity-dependent and required modifications to match measured  $\text{NO}_{3\text{exp}}$  values as a function of  $\text{RH}_{\text{OFR}}$ .

### 3 Results and Discussion

#### 3.1 LFR design considerations

The optimal LFR residence time ( $\tau_{\text{LFR}}$ ) was identified using model simulations of the injection of 300 ppm  $\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{NO}_2$  into the LFR followed by dilution and injection of the LFR output into an OFR operated with  $\tau_{\text{OFR}} = 120$  s. Figure S2 plots  $\text{NO}_{3\text{exp}}$  achieved in the OFR as a function of  $\tau_{\text{LFR}}$  ranging from 1 to 60 s. Potential entry length effects that may have influenced results obtained below  $\tau_{\text{LFR}} \approx 4\text{-}5$  s were not considered in the model. Figure S2 shows that maximum  $\text{NO}_{3\text{exp}}$  in the OFR was obtained at  $\tau_{\text{LFR}} = 20$  s at room temperature (unheated case); other  $\text{NO}_{3\text{exp}}$  values were normalized to this condition. Below  $\tau_{\text{LFR}} = 20$  s,  $\text{NO}_{3\text{exp}}$  was suppressed due to higher  $\text{NO}_2$  levels entering the OFR. Above  $\tau_{\text{LFR}} = 20$  s,  $\text{NO}_{3\text{exp}}$  was suppressed due to lower  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  levels entering the OFR because of more extensive LFR wall loss.

In traditional studies of  $\text{NO}_3$  oxidative aging processes that are conducted at low pressure and short residence time ( $\tau \sim 1$  s),  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  is heated to generate a burst of  $\text{NO}_3$  prior to injection into the system (Knopf et al., 2011). While not experimentally considered in this work, we modeled the  $\text{NO}_{3\text{exp}}$  achieved assuming complete thermal dissociation of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  between the LFR and OFR - for example, by heating to  $120^\circ\text{C}$  for 300 ms (Wood et al., 2003). Figure S2 suggests that the effect of heating  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  on  $\text{NO}_{3\text{exp}}$  was most significant at short  $\tau_{\text{LFR}}$ , where  $[\text{N}_2\text{O}_5]$  at the exit of the LFR was higher due to less wall loss and room-temperature decomposition. For example, at  $\tau_{\text{LFR}} = 8$  s, the modeled  $\text{NO}_{3\text{exp}}$  was 2.8 times higher in the complete-dissociation case than in the unheated case, whereas  $\text{NO}_{3\text{exp}}$  increased by factors of 2.3 and 1.5 at  $\tau_{\text{LFR}} = 20$  and 60 s. Thus, a combination of reducing  $\tau_{\text{LFR}}$  and heating  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  at the exit of the LFR increases  $\text{NO}_{3\text{exp}}$ , and should be explored for future advanced implementations of OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$ .

#### 3.2 Example OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$ characterization studies

Figure 2a shows time series of  $\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{NO}_2$  concentrations during an OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$  characterization experiment where  $\text{RH}_{\text{OFR}} = 11\%$ ,  $[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} = 280$  ppm, and  $[\text{NO}_2]_{0,\text{LFR}} = 0$  to 320 ppm. Figure 2b shows time series of acetonitrile ( $\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{N}$ ), butanal ( $\text{C}_4\text{H}_8\text{O}$ ), thiophene ( $\text{C}_4\text{H}_4\text{S}$ ), 2,3-dihydrobenzofuran ( $\text{C}_8\text{H}_8\text{O}$ ) and naphthalene- $\text{d}_8$  ( $\text{C}_{10}\text{D}_8$ ) signals measured during the same period. Following  $\text{NO}_3$  generation, the fractional decay of  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{N}$ ,  $\text{C}_4\text{H}_8\text{O}$ ,  $\text{C}_4\text{H}_4\text{S}$  and  $\text{C}_8\text{H}_8\text{O}$  increased with increasing tracer  $k_{\text{NO}_3}$  as expected.  $\text{C}_8\text{H}_8\text{O}$  was too reactive to measure any significant changes in its decay as a function of OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$  conditions shown in Figure 2; however, maximum decay of  $\text{C}_4\text{H}_8\text{O}$  and  $\text{C}_4\text{H}_4\text{S}$  was observed at  $[\text{NO}_2]_{0,\text{LFR}}:[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} \approx 0.7$  in this experiment. Decay of naphthalene- $\text{d}_8$ , which was influenced by both  $\text{NO}_3$  and  $\text{NO}_2$  concentrations (Table S1), was maximized at  $[\text{NO}_2]_{0,\text{LFR}}:[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} \approx 0.3$  to 1.1.

To confirm that VOC degradation shown in Fig. 2b was due to reaction with  $\text{NO}_3$ , Figure 3 shows IBBCEAS measurements of  $\text{NO}_3$  obtained in separate OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$  characterization experiments that used  $[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} = 150\text{-}160$  ppm and  $[\text{NO}_2]_{0,\text{LFR}}:[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} = 0.75$  and 2.0. The maximum IBBCEAS signal observed at  $\lambda = 662$  nm indicated the presence of  $\text{NO}_3$ , as is evident from comparison with the wavelength-dependent absorption cross section of  $\text{NO}_3$  obtained by Orphal et al. (2003) and plotted in Figure 3b. Additionally, Figure S3 shows the relative rate coefficient obtained from the decay of  $\text{C}_4\text{H}_8\text{O}$  and  $\text{C}_4\text{H}_4\text{S}$  measured with PTR-MS. We measured a relative rate coefficient of 2.83, which is in agreement with a relative rate

coefficient value of  $3.22 \pm 0.95$  calculated from  $C_4H_8O + NO_3$  and  $C_4H_4S + NO_3$  rate coefficients (Atkinson, 1991; D'Anna et al., 2001). Ions corresponding to peroxy butyl nitrate, nitrothiophene, and nitronaphthalene-d<sub>7</sub>, which are known  $NO_3$  oxidation products of  $C_4H_8O$ ,  $C_4H_4S$ , and  $C_{10}D_8$ , respectively (Atkinson et al., 1990; Jenkin et al., 2003; Saunders et al., 2003; Cabañas et al., 2005), were also detected with PTR-MS. Tracer decay experiments similar to the measurements shown in Figure 2 were repeated over  $[O_3]_{0,LFR}$  ranging from 10 to 7400 ppm,  $[NO_2]_{0,LFR}$  ranging from 0 to 7200 ppm, and  $RH_{OFR}$  ranging from 7 to 85%. For experiments where  $[O_3]_{0,LFR} > 6000$  ppm,  $NO_{3exp}$  was calculated from the decay of o-xylene because (1) p-cymene has a large ionized fragment at  $C_7H_9^+$  (thus interfering with detection of toluene that was also present), (2)  $NO_3$  oxidation products were generated that interfered with detection of oxygenated tracers (butanol, benzaldehyde, butanal) and (3) the remaining tracers that were used were too reactive towards  $NO_3$  to accurately constrain  $NO_{3exp}$ .

### 3.3 Effect of $RH_{OFR}$ , $[O_3]_{0,LFR}$ , and $[NO_2]_{0,LFR}$ on $NO_{3exp}$

Figure 4 shows  $NO_{3exp}$  as a function of  $RH_{OFR}$  at  $[O_3]_{0,LFR} = 250$  ppm and  $[NO_2]_{0,LFR} = 130$  ppm. At these conditions,  $NO_{3exp}$  decreased from  $1.2 \times 10^{14}$  to  $2.0 \times 10^{13}$  molecules  $cm^{-3}$  s as  $RH_{OFR}$  increased from 11% to 81%. We hypothesize that this result is due to more efficient hydrolysis of  $N_2O_5$  to  $HNO_3$  on the wetted walls of the OFR at higher RH, thereby suppressing  $NO_{3exp}$  relative to values obtained at lower RH conditions. In an attempt to model this behavior,  $k_{w,N_2O_5}$  values input to the model were adjusted as a function of  $RH_{OFR}$ . Figure 4 suggests that humidity-dependent  $k_{w,N_2O_5}$  values ranging from 0.01 to 0.08  $s^{-1}$  were required to cover the range of measured  $NO_{3exp}$ . These values agreed within a factor of 2 or better with humidity-dependent  $k_{w,N_2O_5}$  values ranging from 0.014 to 0.040  $s^{-1}$  measured by Palm et al. (2017) in a similar OFR and were applied in subsequent model calculations.

Figure 5 shows  $NO_{3exp}$  as a function of  $[O_3]_{0,LFR}$  for measurements with  $[NO_2]_{0,LFR}:[O_3]_{0,LFR} = 0.5 \pm 0.1$  and  $RH_{OFR} = 11 \pm 2\%$ . The equivalent ambient photochemical age shown on the right y-axis was calculated assuming a 14-hour average nighttime  $NO_3$  mixing ratio of 30 ppt and a 10-hour daytime  $NO_3$  mixing ratio of 0 ppt (Asaf et al., 2010).  $NO_{3exp}$  increased with increasing  $[O_3]_{0,LFR}$  due to increased  $NO_3$  production from higher  $[N_2O_5]$ . Over the range of measured conditions, increasing  $[O_3]_{0,LFR}$  from 33 to 7092 ppm increased  $NO_{3exp}$  from  $6.4 \times 10^{12}$  to  $4.0 \times 10^{15}$  molec  $cm^{-3}$   $s^{-1}$ . The black line in Figure 5 represents  $NO_{3exp}$  modeled using the mechanism shown in Table S2. Measured and modeled  $NO_{3exp}$  values agreed within a factor of 2 or better above  $[O_3]_{0,LFR} \approx 40$  ppm, and the gain in  $NO_{3exp}$  as a function of  $[O_3]_{0,LFR}$  was highest between  $[O_3]_{0,LFR} \approx 10$  and 300 ppm. Over this range of  $[O_3]_{0,LFR}$ , the  $NO_2$  oxidation lifetime with respect to  $O_3$  decreased from 115 s to 4 s. Because  $\tau_{LFR} = 20$  s, in this range of LFR conditions, the  $NO_2$  lifetime in the LFR was long enough that high  $NO_2$  levels exiting the LFR suppressed  $NO_{3exp}$  in the OFR. On the other hand, increasing  $[O_3]_{0,LFR}$  from 300 to 7000 ppm decreased the  $NO_2$  oxidation lifetime with respect to  $O_3$  from 4 s to 0.2 s, and  $[NO_2]$  exiting the LFR was too low to significantly affect  $NO_{3exp}$ . To support this hypothesis, Figure 6 plots  $NO_{3exp}$  as a function of  $[NO_2]_{0,LFR}:[O_3]_{0,LFR}$  at  $[O_3]_{0,LFR} = 250 \pm 20$  ppm and  $6850 \pm 400$  ppm. Here, we incorporated  $NO_{3exp}$  values obtained over  $RH_{OFR} = 11\%$  to 81% for better statistics, and normalized each  $NO_{3exp}$  value to the maximum  $NO_{3exp}$  obtained at the same RH. Figure 6 shows that at  $[O_3]_{0,LFR} = 250$  ppm, maximum  $NO_{3exp}$  was achieved at  $[NO_2]_{0,LFR}:[O_3]_{0,LFR} \approx 0.5$  to 0.7. On the other hand, at  $[O_3]_{0,LFR} = 6850$  ppm, maximum  $NO_{3exp}$  value was achieved at  $[NO_2]_{0,LFR}:[O_3]_{0,LFR} \approx 1.2$ .

In a related set of experiments, IBBCEAS measurements of the  $\text{NO}_2:\text{NO}_3$  ratio at the exit of the OFR (obtained from Figure 3a spectra) confirmed that significantly higher  $\text{NO}_2$  levels were present in the OFR at higher  $[\text{NO}_2]_{0,\text{LFR}}:[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}}$ , as expected. For example, at  $[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} = 150$  ppm and  $[\text{NO}_2]_{0,\text{LFR}} = 112$  ppm,  $\text{NO}_2:\text{NO}_3 = 28$ , whereas at  $[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} = 160$  ppm and  $[\text{NO}_2]_{0,\text{LFR}} = 320$  ppm,  $\text{NO}_2:\text{NO}_3 = 613$ .  $\text{NO}_2:\text{NO}_3$ , along with  $\text{NO}_3:\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{NO}_2:\text{O}_2$ , has important implications for the fate of organic species in OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$  that are discussed in the following sections.

### 3.4 Model characterization of OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$ : $\text{NO}_3:\text{O}_3$ , $\text{NO}_2:\text{NO}_3$ , and $\text{NO}_2:\text{O}_2$

To examine OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$  performance over a wider range of conditions, Figure 7 plots the mean  $\text{NO}_{3\text{exp}}$ ,  $[\text{O}_3]$ ,  $\text{NO}_3:\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{NO}_2:\text{NO}_3$ , and  $\text{NO}_2:\text{O}_2$  values obtained with the model as a function of  $[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} = 10$  ppm to  $10^5$  ppm (10%), for  $[\text{NO}_2]_{0,\text{LFR}}:[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} = 0.01, 0.1, 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 1.8$  and  $2.0$ . Three observations are apparent from Figure 7. First, at  $[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} < 1000$  ppm and  $[\text{NO}_2]_{0,\text{LFR}}:[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} = 0.1$  to  $1.8$ , maximum  $\text{NO}_{3\text{exp}}$  increased with decreasing  $[\text{NO}_2]_{0,\text{LFR}}:[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}}$  prior to decreasing at  $[\text{NO}_2]_{0,\text{LFR}}:[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} > 1.0$  (Fig. 7a). Above  $[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} \approx 2000$  ppm and below  $[\text{NO}_2]_{0,\text{LFR}}:[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} = 2.0$ ,  $\text{NO}_{3\text{exp}}$  was less sensitive to  $[\text{NO}_2]_{0,\text{LFR}}:[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}}$ . Second, maximum  $\text{NO}_3:\text{O}_3$  increased with increasing  $[\text{NO}_2]_{0,\text{LFR}}:[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}}$  above  $[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} = 1000$  ppm (Figure 7c). Third, the  $[\text{NO}_2]_{0,\text{LFR}}:[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} = 2.0$  case demonstrated unique behavior relative to the other cases because residual  $\text{O}_3$  exiting the LFR was low ( $< 10$  ppm) because of nearly complete conversion of  $\text{O}_3$  to  $\text{O}_2$  inside the LFR (Figure 7b). Consequently, the high residual  $[\text{NO}_2]$  suppressed  $\text{NO}_{3\text{exp}}$  by one to two orders of magnitude relative to  $[\text{NO}_2]_{0,\text{LFR}}:[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} < 2$  cases (Fig. 7a) and generated enhanced  $\text{NO}_3:\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{NO}_2:\text{NO}_3$ , and  $\text{NO}_2:\text{O}_2$  values. In addition,  $\text{NO}_2:\text{NO}_3$  ratios obtained from IBBCEAS measurements at  $[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} = 150$  to  $160$  ppm and  $[\text{NO}_2]_{0,\text{LFR}}:[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} = 0.75, 1.0$  and  $2.0$  are shown in Figure 7d. The measured  $\text{NO}_2:\text{NO}_3$  values are comparable to, or lower than, the modeled  $\text{NO}_2:\text{NO}_3$  values obtained at similar conditions, and therefore broadly support using model results to further investigate the fate of (1)  $\text{RO}_2$  that are formed from  $\text{NO}_3$  oxidation of VOCs, (2) alkyl radicals that are reactive towards  $\text{NO}_2$  and  $\text{O}_2$ , and (3) VOCs that are reactive towards  $\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{NO}_3$  in the following sections.

#### 3.4.1 Fate of organic peroxy radicals ( $\text{RO}_2$ ) formed from $\text{NO}_3 + \text{VOC}$ reactions

$\text{RO}_2$  react with  $\text{NO}$ ,  $\text{NO}_2$ ,  $\text{NO}_3$ ,  $\text{HO}_2$ , or other  $\text{RO}_2$  to generate alkoxy ( $\text{RO}$ ) radicals, peroxy nitrates ( $\text{RO}_2\text{NO}_2$ ), hydroperoxides or organic peroxides, and may additionally undergo autooxidation via sequential isomerization and  $\text{O}_2$  addition. To investigate the fate of  $\text{RO}_2$  as a function of OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$  conditions, we applied the methodology of Peng et al. (2019) by calculating the fractional oxidative loss of a generic alkyl or acyl  $\text{RO}_2$  to each of these species over the range of conditions shown in Figure 7. Kinetic data from Orlando and Tyndall (2012) that was used in these calculations is summarized in Table S4. Under almost all OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$  conditions shown in Figure 7,  $\text{RO}_2$  reactions with  $\text{NO}$ ,  $\text{HO}_2$ , and  $\text{RO}_2$  were minor ( $< 1\%$ ) loss pathways compared to reaction with  $\text{NO}_2$  and  $\text{NO}_3$ , although the  $\text{RO}_2 + \text{RO}_2$  pathway is potentially more important at higher  $\text{NO}_3\text{R}_{\text{ext}}$  from  $0.07$  to  $0.7 \text{ s}^{-1}$  and increasing the  $\text{RO}_2 + \text{RO}_2$  rate constant from  $1 \times 10^{-11}$  to  $1 \times 10^{-10} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  (Berndt et al., 2018a, b). Despite these perturbations, the relative contribution of  $\text{RO}_2 + \text{RO}_2$  reactions to total  $\text{RO}_2$  loss remained  $< 1\%$  across this range of OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$  conditions.



5 To investigate the relative importance of competing  $\text{RO}_2 + \text{NO}_2$  and  $\text{RO}_2 + \text{NO}_3$  pathways, we defined the fractional reactive loss of  $\text{RO}_2$  due to  $\text{NO}_3$ ,  $F_{\text{RO}_2+\text{NO}_3}$ :

$$F_{\text{RO}_2+\text{NO}_3} = \frac{k_{\text{NO}_3}[\text{NO}_3]}{k_{\text{NO}_3}[\text{NO}_3] + k_{\text{NO}_2}[\text{NO}_2]} \frac{k_{\text{RO}_2+\text{NO}_3}[\text{NO}_3]}{k_{\text{RO}_2+\text{NO}_3}[\text{NO}_3] + k_{\text{RO}_2+\text{NO}_2}[\text{NO}_2]} \quad (3)$$

Figures 8a and 8b show  $F_{\text{RO}_2+\text{NO}_3}$  calculated for alkyl and acyl  $\text{RO}_2$  respectively. To simplify the analysis, we assumed that the thermal decomposition of  $\text{RO}_2\text{NO}_2$  species formed from  $\text{RO}_2 + \text{NO}_2$  reactions was slow compared to  $\tau_{\text{OFR}}$ . This assumption generates a lower limit  $F_{\text{RO}_2+\text{NO}_3}$  value for the alkyl  $\text{RO}_2$  case, where  $\text{RO}_2\text{NO}_2$  decomposition occurs on timescales of seconds or less (Orlando and Tyndall, 2012)), but has minimal influence on the acyl- $\text{RO}_2$  case due to higher thermal stability of peroxy acyl nitrates. For alkyl  $\text{RO}_2$ , Figure 8a shows that  $F_{\text{RO}_2+\text{NO}_3} = 0.5$  was achieved between  $[\text{NO}_2, \text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} = (125 \text{ ppm}, 250 \text{ ppm})$  and  $(3240 \text{ ppm}, 1800 \text{ ppm})$ . For acyl  $\text{RO}_2$ , due to faster reaction with  $\text{NO}_2$ , Figure 8b shows that  $F_{\text{RO}_2+\text{NO}_3} = 0.5$  was achieved using  $[\text{NO}_2, \text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} = (350 \text{ ppm}, 700 \text{ ppm})$  to  $(1.1\%, 0.6\%)$ .

15 To investigate the feasibility of generating OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$  conditions where  $\text{RO}_2$  loss is dominated by autooxidation, we calculated the lifetime of alkyl and acyl  $\text{RO}_2$  ( $\tau_{\text{RO}_2}$ ) over the range of OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$  conditions shown in Figures 7 and 8a-b. As shown in Figures 8d-e, maximum  $\tau_{\text{RO}_2} \approx 1.4 \text{ s}$  (alkyl) and  $0.4 \text{ s}$  (acyl) were obtained at  $[\text{NO}_2]_{0,\text{LFR}} \approx 2 \text{ ppm}$  and  $[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} \approx 200 \text{ ppm}$ . At lower  $[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}}$ ,  $\tau_{\text{RO}_2}$  decreased due to faster  $\text{RO}_2 + \text{NO}_2$  reaction rate, and at higher  $[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}}$ ,  $\tau_{\text{RO}_2}$  decreased due to faster  $\text{RO}_2 + \text{NO}_3$  reaction rate. Because  $\text{RO}_2$  autooxidation timescales range from 0.005 to 200 s depending on the specific  $\text{RO}_2$  composition (Crounse et al., 2013), OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$  may achieve autooxidation-dominant conditions for some  $\text{RO}_2$  but not for others.

### 3.4.2 Fate of aromatic alkyl radicals (R) formed from $\text{NO}_3 + \text{VOC}$ reactions

The majority of  $R$  that are generated from  $\text{NO}_3$  oxidation of VOCs quickly react with  $\text{O}_2$  to generate  $\text{RO}_2$ . However,  $\text{NO}_3$  oxidation of a subset of aromatic VOCs generates  $R$  that react more slowly with  $\text{O}_2$ , thereby enabling competing reactions with  $\text{NO}_2$ . For example, the phenoxy radical ( $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{O}$ ) generated from  $\text{NO}_3$  oxidation of phenol ( $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{OH}$ ) has  $k_{\text{O}_2}:k_{\text{NO}_2} < 2.4 \times 10^{-9}$  (Platz et al., 1998), and the  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_7\text{NO}_3$  radical that is generated from  $\text{NO}_3$  oxidation of naphthalene ( $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_8$ ) has  $k_{\text{O}_2}:k_{\text{NO}_2} < 4 \times 10^{-7}$  (Atkinson et al., 1994). Alkyl radicals generated from  $\text{NO}_3$  oxidation of other PAH may behave similarly to  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_7\text{NO}_3$  but kinetic data are unavailable in the literature. To investigate the relative importance of competing  $R + \text{NO}_2$  and  $R + \text{O}_2$  reactions in these systems, we defined the fractional reactive loss of  $R$  with respect to  $\text{O}_2$ ,  $F_{\text{R}+\text{O}_2}$ :

$$F_{\text{R}+\text{O}_2} = \frac{k_{\text{O}_2}[\text{O}_2]}{k_{\text{O}_2}[\text{O}_2] + k_{\text{NO}_2}[\text{NO}_2]} \frac{k_{\text{R}+\text{O}_2}[\text{O}_2]}{k_{\text{R}+\text{O}_2}[\text{O}_2] + k_{\text{R}+\text{NO}_2}[\text{NO}_2]} \quad (4)$$

Figure 8c shows  $F_{\text{R}+\text{O}_2}$  over the same OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$  operating conditions used to generate Figures 7 and 8a-b. For  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{O}$  (not shown),  $F_{\text{R}+\text{O}_2} < 0.08$  over the entire range of OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$  conditions shown in Figures 7e and 8c. For  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_7\text{NO}_3$ ,  $F_{\text{R}+\text{O}_2} \geq 0.5$  was achieved for the majority of OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$  conditions where  $[\text{NO}_2]_{0,\text{LFR}}:[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} \leq 0.1$ , and also between  $[\text{NO}_2, \text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} = (100 \text{ ppm}, 200 \text{ ppm})$  and  $(5000 \text{ ppm}, 10000 \text{ ppm})$ . The use of  $[\text{NO}_2]_{0,\text{LFR}}:[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} \geq 1$  always generated conditions where the reaction rate of  $R + \text{NO}_2$  exceeded  $R + \text{O}_2$ .

### 3.4.3 Fate of VOCs reactive towards O<sub>3</sub> and NO<sub>3</sub>

We defined the fractional reactive loss of a VOC with respect to NO<sub>3</sub>,  $F_{\text{VOC}+\text{NO}_3}$ :

$$F_{\text{VOC}+\text{NO}_3} = \frac{k_{\text{NO}_3}[\text{NO}_3]}{k_{\text{NO}_3}[\text{NO}_3] + k_{\text{O}_3}[\text{O}_3]} \frac{k_{\text{VOC}+\text{NO}_3}[\text{NO}_3]}{k_{\text{VOC}+\text{NO}_3}[\text{NO}_3] + k_{\text{VOC}+\text{O}_3}[\text{O}_3]} \quad (5)$$

and established  $F_{\text{VOC}+\text{NO}_3} = 0.9$  as the criterion for NO<sub>3</sub>-dominated oxidative loss. Figure 9 plots NO<sub>3</sub>:O<sub>3</sub> at which  $F_{\text{VOC}+\text{NO}_3} = 0.9$  for several classes of organic compounds with published  $k_{\text{NO}_3}$  and  $k_{\text{O}_3}$  values greater than  $10^{-16}$  and  $10^{-19}$  cm<sup>3</sup> molecules<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. This figure therefore excludes compounds such as alkanes and monocyclic aromatics that react slowly with NO<sub>3</sub> and are essentially unreactive towards O<sub>3</sub> ( $F_{\text{NO}_3} \approx 1$ ). NO<sub>3</sub>:O<sub>3</sub> values that correspond to [NO<sub>2</sub>]<sub>0,LFR</sub> and [O<sub>3</sub>]<sub>0,LFR</sub> = [2 ppm, 200 ppm], [150 ppm, 300 ppm], and [5400 ppm, 3000 ppm] are represented by horizontal bands with upper and lower limit values calculated assuming  $k_{\text{w},\text{N}_2\text{O}_5}$  values of 0.01 and 0.08 s<sup>-1</sup> (Section 3.3). These LFR inputs generated OFR-iN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> conditions that maximize RO<sub>2</sub> lifetime and NO<sub>3</sub>:O<sub>3</sub> at [NO<sub>2</sub>]:[O<sub>3</sub>]<sub>0,LFR</sub> = 0.5 and 1.8, respectively (Figures 7-8). Figures 7 and 9 together with kinetic data in the literature suggest that injection of 2 ppm NO<sub>2</sub> and 200 ppm O<sub>3</sub> into the LFR was sufficient to achieve  $F_{\text{VOC}+\text{NO}_3} \geq 0.9$  for phenols, PAHs with no double bonds, and mono- and sesquiterpenes with 1 double bond at low RH<sub>OFR</sub>. Increasing [NO<sub>2</sub>]<sub>0,LFR</sub> to 150 ppm and [O<sub>3</sub>]<sub>0,LFR</sub> to 300 ppm additionally achieved  $F_{\text{VOC}+\text{NO}_3} \geq 0.9$  for acenaphthylene, isoprene, and mono- and sesquiterpenes with 1 double bond at elevated RH<sub>OFR</sub>. Further increasing [NO<sub>2</sub>]<sub>0,LFR</sub> to 5400 ppm and [O<sub>3</sub>]<sub>0,LFR</sub> to 3000 ppm achieved  $F_{\text{VOC}+\text{NO}_3} \geq 0.9$  for  $\geq$  C3 linear alkenes, unsaturated aldehydes, and mono- and sesquiterpenes with 2 double bonds at low RH<sub>OFR</sub>. While [NO<sub>2</sub>,O<sub>3</sub>] = [20%, 10%] (not shown) achieved  $F_{\text{VOC}+\text{NO}_3} \geq 0.9$  for (E)-3-penten-2-one and ethene, the corresponding NO<sub>3exp</sub>  $\approx 10^{14}$  molecules cm<sup>-3</sup> s achieved at this condition (Figure 7a) was insufficient to oxidize more than 1-2% of the initial ethene concentration due to its slow NO<sub>3</sub> rate constant (Atkinson, 1991).

### 3.5 NO<sub>3</sub> estimation equation for OFR-iN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>

Previous studies reported empirical OH exposure algebraic estimation equations for use with OFRs (Li et al., 2015; Peng et al., 2015, 2018; Lambe et al., 2019). These equations parameterize OH<sub>exp</sub> as a function of readily-measured experimental parameters, therefore providing a simpler alternative than detailed photochemical models for experimental planning and analysis. Here, we expand on those studies by deriving an NO<sub>3exp</sub> estimation equations for OFR-iN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>. Model results obtained from the base case of the model – a VOC reacting with NO<sub>3</sub> at  $2.5 \times 10^{-12}$  cm<sup>3</sup> molecule<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> as surrogate of NO<sub>3</sub>R<sub>ext</sub> – were used to derive the following equation that allows estimating NO<sub>3exp</sub> for OFR-iN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>:

$$\begin{aligned} \log[(\text{NO}_3)_{\text{exp}}] = & a + b \log[273.15 + T_{\text{OFR}}] + c \log[\tau_{\text{OFR}}] + d \log[\text{NO}_2]_{0,\text{LFR}} + e \log[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} \cdot T_{\text{OFR}} \\ & + f \log[k_{\text{wOFR},\text{N}_2\text{O}_5}] + \log \left( \frac{[\text{NO}_2]_{0,\text{LFR}}}{[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}}} \right) \cdot (g (\log[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}})^2 + h \log[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}}) - \frac{[\text{NO}_2]_{0,\text{LFR}}}{[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}}} \cdot (i + j \log[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}}) \\ & + k \log(\text{NO}_3\text{R})_{\text{ext}} + l \log[\text{NO}_2]_{0,\text{LFR}} \cdot T + m \log[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} \cdot \log k_{\text{wOFR},\text{N}_2\text{O}_5} \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

The phase space of OFR-iN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> parameters for fitting Equation 6 to NO<sub>3exp</sub> model results was defined as follows: [O<sub>3</sub>]<sub>0,LFR</sub> = 10-1000 ppm, [NO<sub>2</sub>]<sub>0,LFR</sub> = 10-1000 ppm, [NO<sub>2</sub>]<sub>0,LFR</sub>: [O<sub>3</sub>]<sub>0,LFR</sub> ≤ 2, NO<sub>3</sub>R<sub>ext</sub> = 1-200 s<sup>-1</sup>,  $k_{w,OFR,N_2O_5}$  = 0.01-0.08 s<sup>-1</sup>, T<sub>OFR</sub> = 0 - 40°C, and τ<sub>OFR</sub> = 60 - 300 s. The cases where [O<sub>3</sub>]<sub>0,LFR</sub> > 1000 ppm and/or [NO<sub>2</sub>]<sub>0,LFR</sub>: [O<sub>3</sub>]<sub>0,LFR</sub> > 2 were not considered because of less practical interest. We explored 11, 11, 7, 4, and 5 logarithmically evenly distributed values in the ranges of [O<sub>3</sub>]<sub>0,LFR</sub>, [NO<sub>2</sub>]<sub>0,LFR</sub> (11 values over 10–1000 ppm), NO<sub>3</sub>R<sub>ext</sub>,  $k_{w,N_2O_5}$ , and τ<sub>OFR</sub>, respectively. Due to significantly different chemical regimes in different parts of the phase space, fit coefficients that are reported in Table 1 were obtained by fitting the same functional form (Equation 6) over 3 sub-phase spaces with the following additional constraints: (i) [NO<sub>2</sub>]<sub>0,LFR</sub>: [O<sub>3</sub>]<sub>0,LFR</sub> = 0-1 and NO<sub>3</sub>R<sub>ext</sub> = 20-200 s<sup>-1</sup>; (ii) [NO<sub>2</sub>]<sub>0,LFR</sub>: [O<sub>3</sub>]<sub>0,LFR</sub> = 0-1 and NO<sub>3</sub>R<sub>ext</sub> = 1-20 s<sup>-1</sup>; (iii) [NO<sub>2</sub>]<sub>0,LFR</sub>: [O<sub>3</sub>]<sub>0,LFR</sub> = 1-2. For these 3 subspaces, 10080, 13440, and 5880 model cases respectively were simulated. In Equation 6, the terms involving the coefficients  $g-j$  were included to reproduce the relationship between normalized NO<sub>3exp</sub> and [NO<sub>2</sub>]<sub>0,LFR</sub>: [O<sub>3</sub>]<sub>0,LFR</sub> shown in Figure 5. Logarithms of first- and second-order terms were successively added until no further fit quality improvement was achieved. Figure 10 compares NO<sub>3exp</sub> estimated from Equation 6 and calculated from the model described in Section 2.2. The mean absolute value of the relative deviation was 49% which is comparable with results obtained for previous estimation equations with significant NO<sub>y</sub> chemistry (Peng et al., 2018).

NO<sub>3</sub>R<sub>ext</sub> of a system will change over the course of multiple generations of NO<sub>3</sub> oxidation due to changes in kinetic rate coefficients between different species and NO<sub>3</sub> ( $k_{NO_3}$ ). The sensitivity of Eq. 6 to changes in NO<sub>3</sub>R<sub>ext</sub> depends in part on the relative magnitudes of NO<sub>3</sub>R<sub>ext</sub> and the internal NO<sub>3</sub> reactivity, NO<sub>3</sub>R<sub>int</sub>, which is approximately equal to  $k_{NO_2+NO_3}[NO_2]$ . If NO<sub>3</sub>R<sub>int</sub> >> NO<sub>3</sub>R<sub>ext</sub>, changes in NO<sub>3</sub>R<sub>ext</sub> would have minimal influence on Eq. 6.

In one case study, we examined changes in NO<sub>3</sub>R<sub>ext</sub> following conversion of biogenic VOCs (BVOCs) to gas-phase carbonyl oxidation products with known  $k_{NO_3}$  values. Table S5 compares  $k_{NO_3}$  of isoprene to methyl vinyl ketone and methacrolein, α-pinene to pinonaldehyde, sabinene to sabinaketone, and 3-carene to caronaldehyde. In the limit where 100% of each BVOC is converted to its carbonyl oxidation product, NO<sub>3</sub>R<sub>ext</sub> decreases by a factor of 200 or greater. Unsaturated organic nitrates that are generated from BVOC + NO<sub>3</sub> may also be reactive towards NO<sub>3</sub>, but  $k_{NO_3}$  for these species are not available. In another case study, we examined changes in NO<sub>3</sub>R<sub>ext</sub> following conversion of BVOCs to SOA. An effective  $k_{NO_3}$  for SOA was calculated using the following equation adapted from Lambe et al. (2009):

$$k_{NO_3} = \frac{3}{2} \frac{\gamma \times \bar{c} \times M_{SOA} \times F_{diff}}{D_p \times \rho_p \times N_A} \quad (7)$$

where  $F_{diff}$  is a correction factor accounting for diffusion limitations to the particle surface in the transition regime (Fuchs and Sutugin, 1970).

$$F_{diff} = \frac{1 + 6 \times \frac{D_{NO_3}}{\bar{c} \times D_p}}{1 + 10.26 \times \frac{D_{NO_3}}{\bar{c} \times D_p} + 47.88 \times \left( \frac{D_{NO_3}}{\bar{c} \times D_p} \right)^2} \quad (8)$$

and  $\gamma$  is the fraction of collisions between NO<sub>3</sub> and SOA resulting in reaction,  $D_p$  is the surface area-weighted mean particle diameter,  $\rho_p$  is the particle density,  $N_A$  is Avogadro's number,  $\bar{c}$  is the mean molecular speed of NO<sub>3</sub> ( $3.2 \times 10^4$  cm s<sup>-1</sup> at

$T = 298$  K),  $M_{\text{SOA}}$  is the mean molecular weight of the SOA, and  $D_{\text{NO}_3} = 0.08 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$  is the  $\text{NO}_3$  diffusion coefficient in air (Rudich et al., 1996). Figure S4 shows  $k_{\text{SOA}+\text{NO}_3}$  as a function of  $D_p$  ranging from 1 to 1000 nm assuming  $\rho_p = 1.4 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ ,  $M_{\text{SOA}} = 250 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$  (Nah et al., 2016) and an upper limit  $\gamma = 0.1$  for BVOC-derived SOA (Ng et al., 2017). For reference, the range of slowest (isoprene) and fastest (humulene) known  $k_{\text{BVOC}+\text{NO}_3}$  are indicated by the vertical blue line on the y-axis. In the limit where 100% of a BVOC is converted to SOA,  $\text{NO}_3\text{R}_{\text{ext}}$  decreases by a factor of 10 or greater depending on  $k_{\text{BVOC}+\text{NO}_3}$  and  $D_p$ . Taken together, these results suggest that  $\text{NO}_3\text{R}_{\text{ext}}$  decreases following  $\text{NO}_3$  oxidation of BVOCs to carbonyl oxidation products and/or SOA. In this case, inputting  $\text{NO}_3\text{R}_{\text{ext}}$  of the BVOC precursor to Eq. 6 generates a lower limit to  $\text{NO}_3\text{exp}$  over multiple generations of  $\text{NO}_3$  oxidation. Results for other systems will depend on  $k_{\text{NO}_3}$  values of associated gas- and condensed-phase precursors and their oxidation products.

### 3.6 SOA generation from $\beta$ -pinene + $\text{NO}_3$

To apply the OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$  technique to SOA formation studies, we generated SOA from  $\beta$ -pinene +  $\text{NO}_3$  in the absence of seed particles using  $[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} = 300 \text{ ppm}$ ,  $[\text{NO}_2]_{0,\text{LFR}} = 150 \text{ ppm}$ , and  $\text{RH}_{\text{OFR}} \approx 1\%$ . PTR-MS measurements confirmed complete consumption of  $\beta$ -pinene, and numerous product ions were detected. The largest ions detected were  $(\text{H}^+)\text{C}_9\text{H}_{14}\text{O}$  and  $(\text{H}^+)\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{14}$  which may correspond to nopinone ( $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{14}\text{O}$ ) and fragmentation/decomposition products of  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_4$  respectively (Hallquist et al., 1999; Clafin and Ziemann, 2018). The mass yield of SOA ranged from 0.03 to 0.39 over  $\beta$ -pinene mixing ratios ranging from 20-400 ppbv that were injected into the OFR. These yield values are broadly consistent with previous environmental chamber studies (Ng et al., 2017) but are lower than chamber SOA yields obtained at the same  $\beta$ -pinene mixing ratio, presumably due to the absence of seed particles in the OFR (Lambe et al., 2015). To compare results obtained using OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$  with a conventional environmental chamber method, Figures 11a-b show HR-ToF-AMS spectra of SOA generated from  $\text{NO}_3$  oxidation of  $\beta$ -pinene in the Georgia Tech chamber (Boyd et al., 2015) and in the OFR, along with a scatter plot of relative ion abundances present in the two spectra (Figure 11c). The same spectra are presented on a logarithmic scale in Figure S4S5. As is evident,  $\beta$ -pinene +  $\text{NO}_3$  SOA generated in the chamber and OFR exhibit a high degree of similarity (linear regression slope = 0.98 and  $r^2 = 0.99$ ). The largest ion signal was observed at  $\text{NO}^+$ , which, along with signal at  $\text{NO}_2^+$  and  $\text{NO}^+ : \text{NO}_2^+ = 6.7$ , is consistent with the formation of particulate organic nitrates (Farmer et al., 2010). Signals observed at  $\text{CHO}^+$ ,  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$ , and other  $\text{C}_x\text{H}_y\text{O}_{>1}^+$  ions suggest the presence of other multifunctional oxidation products.

## 4 Conclusions

OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$  complements recently developed methods that enable  $\text{NO}_x$ -dependent photooxidation studies in OFRs such as OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}$  and OFR- $\text{iC}_3\text{H}_7\text{ONO}$  (Lambe et al., 2017; Peng et al., 2018; Lambe et al., 2019) by enabling studies of nighttime  $\text{NO}_3$ -initiated oxidative aging processes. Important OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$  parameters are  $[\text{O}_3]$ ,  $[\text{NO}_2]$ ,  $[\text{H}_2\text{O}]$ ,  $T$ ,  $\text{NO}_3\text{R}_{\text{ext}}$ , and  $\tau_{\text{OFR}}$ . By contrast, important OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}$  and OFR- $\text{iC}_3\text{H}_7\text{ONO}$  parameters are UV intensity, external OH reactivity ( $\text{OHR}_{\text{ext}}$ ),  $\tau_{\text{OFR}}$ , and either  $[\text{O}_3] + [\text{H}_2\text{O}] + [\text{N}_2\text{O}]$  or  $[\text{C}_3\text{H}_7\text{ONO}]$ . Notably,  $\text{NO}_3\text{R}_{\text{ext}}$  is typically less significant in OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$  than  $\text{OHR}_{\text{ext}}$  in OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}$  or OFR- $\text{iC}_3\text{H}_7\text{ONO}$  because (1) most compounds are less reactive towards  $\text{NO}_3$  than OH, (2)  $\text{NO}_3\text{exp}$  is higher

than  $\text{OH}_{\text{exp}}$ , and (3) ~~the internal reactivity~~  $(\text{NO}_3\text{R})_{\text{int}}$  of OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$ , which is dominated by the  $\text{NO}_3 + \text{NO}_2$  reaction, is larger and easier to manipulate than the internal OH reactivity of OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}$  and OFR- $\text{iC}_3\text{H}_7\text{ONO}$ , which is dominated by  $\text{OH} + \text{HO}_2$  and  $\text{OH} + \text{NO}_2$  reactions. To identify optimal OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$  conditions for different applications, we characterized

5  $\text{NO}_{3\text{exp}}$ ,  $\tau_{\text{RO}_2}$ ,  $F_{\text{RO}_2+\text{NO}_3}$ ,  $F_{\text{R}+\text{O}_2}$  and  $F_{\text{VOC}+\text{NO}_3}$  at  $[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} = 10 \text{ ppm to } 10\%$ ,  $[\text{NO}_2]_{0,\text{LFR}}:[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} = 0.01 \text{ to } 2.0$ , and  $\text{RH}_{\text{OFR}} = 7 \text{ to } 85\%$ . Optimal  $\text{NO}_{3\text{exp}}$  was achieved by minimizing  $[\text{H}_2\text{O}]$  in the OFR and associated humidity-dependent  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  wall losses. This is contrary to most OFR techniques that are used to generate OH radicals, where optimal  $\text{OH}_{\text{exp}}$  is achieved by maximizing  $[\text{H}_2\text{O}]$  and associated OH production from the  $\text{O}(^1\text{D}) + \text{H}_2\text{O}$  reaction and/or  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  photolysis at  $\lambda = 185 \text{ nm}$ .

10 Figure 12 presents image plots that represent OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$  conditions suitable for generating optimal  $\text{NO}_{3\text{exp}}$ ,  $\text{NO}_3:\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{NO}_2:\text{NO}_3$ , and  $\tau_{\text{RO}_2}$  values at the lower and upper-limit  $k_{\text{w},\text{N}_2\text{O}_5}$  values that were measured. Most OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$  conditions using  $[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} > 200 \text{ ppm}$  generated  $\text{NO}_{3\text{exp}} > 1.5 \times 10^{12} \text{ molecules cm}^{-3} \text{ s}$  (Figures 12a-b), which is sufficient to oxidize isoprene and compounds with similar  $k_{\text{NO}_3}$ ; for reference,  $\text{NO}_{3\text{exp}} > 1.6 \times 10^{11} \text{ molecules cm}^{-3} \text{ s}$  is required to oxidize  $\alpha$ -pinene. At  $[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} > 200 \text{ ppm}$  and  $[\text{NO}_2]_{0,\text{LFR}}:[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} > 0.5$ , OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$  generated  $\text{NO}_3:\text{O}_3 > 10^{-3}$  at  $k_{\text{w},\text{N}_2\text{O}_5}$

15  $= 0.01 \text{ s}^{-1}$  (Figure 12c), which achieved  $F_{\text{VOC}+\text{NO}_3} > 0.9$  for mono- and sesquiterpenes with 1 double bond, most PAHs, and phenol/methoxyphenol species. Achieving  $\text{NO}_3:\text{O}_3 > 10^{-3}$  at  $k_{\text{w},\text{N}_2\text{O}_5} = 0.08 \text{ s}^{-1}$  was more challenging (Figure 12d). Increasing  $[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}}$  decreased  $[\text{NO}_2]:[\text{NO}_3]$  and therefore increased  $F_{\text{RO}_2+\text{NO}_3}$  (Figures 12e-f). On the other hand, decreasing  $[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}}$  or increasing  $k_{\text{w},\text{N}_2\text{O}_5}$ , and, consequently,  $\text{NO}_{3\text{exp}}$ , increased  $\tau_{\text{RO}_2}$  (Figures 12g-h), potentially allowing more time for autooxidation processes to occur. The best overlap between OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$  conditions that achieved  $F_{\text{RO}_2+\text{NO}_3} > 0.9$

20 and  $\tau_{\text{RO}_2} > 1 \text{ s}$  were obtained with  $[\text{NO}_2]_{0,\text{LFR}} \approx 2\text{-}3 \text{ ppm}$  and  $[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} \approx 200\text{-}300 \text{ ppm}$ . Because atmospheric  $\text{NO}_2:\text{NO}_3$  is highly variable and often much larger than  $\text{NO}_2:\text{NO}_3$  achieved using OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$  (Brown et al., 2003; Stutz et al., 2004), simply attempting to maximize  $F_{\text{RO}_2+\text{NO}_3}$  may not always be necessary and has tradeoffs such as decreasing  $\text{NO}_3:\text{O}_3$  and  $F_{\text{VOC}+\text{NO}_3}$ . OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$  was more difficult to apply to species such as unsaturated carbonyls and mono- and sesquiterpenes with multiple double bonds that react more efficiently with  $\text{O}_3$  than other VOCs; here, alternative  $\text{NO}_3$  generation techniques

25 that do not introduce  $\text{O}_3$  to the OFR warrant consideration, even though they are more difficult to implement (Palm et al., 2017).

Because OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$  can continuously generate  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  and  $\text{NO}_3$  at room temperature, it is significantly easier to apply in continuous flow reactor studies than related techniques. However, in addition to the aforementioned considerations, high  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  and  $\text{HNO}_3$  concentrations that are generated using OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$  complicate the application of techniques such as iodide-adduct chemical ionization mass spectrometry due to efficient reactions between the iodide reagent ion and  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  or  $\text{HNO}_3$  (Lee et al., 2014). Additionally, the humidity-dependent  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  wall loss rate must be accurately characterized to model the performance

5 of a specific OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$  configuration. Future applications of OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$  will investigate the  $\text{NO}_3$ -initiated OVOC and SOA formation potential of simple and complex precursors in laboratory and field studies.

*Code and data availability.* Data and KinSim mechanisms presented in this manuscript are available upon request. The KinSim kinetic solver is freely available at <http://tinyurl.com/kinsim-release>.

*Author contributions.* AL, EW, and AA conceived and planned the experiments. AL, JK, FM, LW, PC, AA, and JEP carried out the experiments. MC and AF performed the IBBCEAS measurements and data analysis. AL, JJ and ZP conceived and planned the model simulations, and AL and ZP carried out the model simulations. AL, EW, ZP, and JJ contributed to the interpretation of the results. AL took the lead in writing the manuscript. All authors provided feedback on the manuscript.

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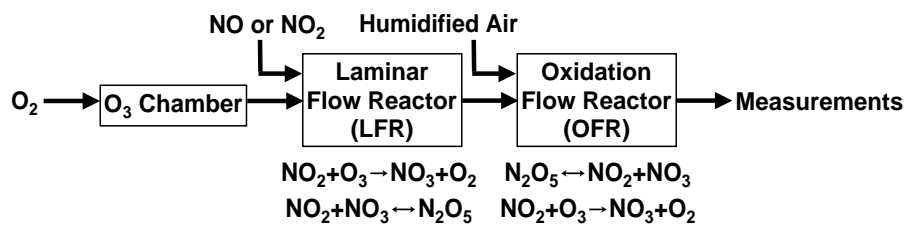
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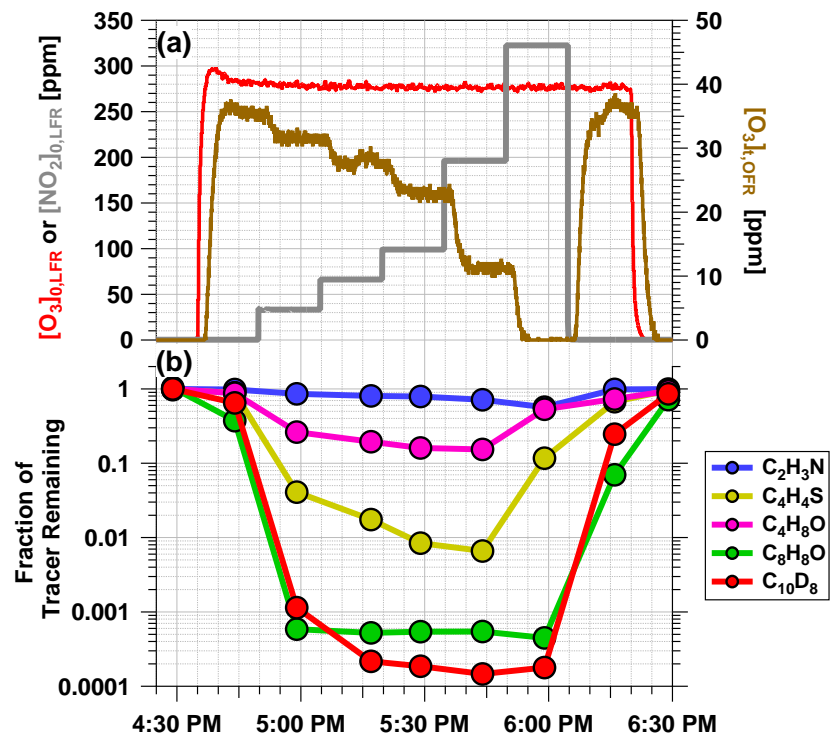
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**Table 1.** Fit parameters for  $\text{NO}_{3\text{exp}}$  estimation equation (Equation 6).

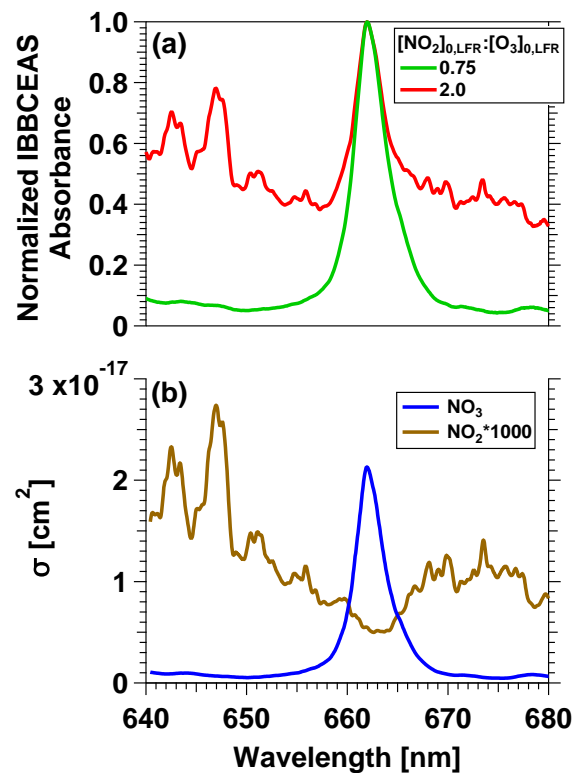
Parameter	Subspace 1 Values	Subspace 2 Values	Subspace 3 Values
a	61.0694	-59.3835	246.416
b	-20.1400	27.3434	-122.229
c	0.795209	0.803508	0.581443
d	-0.375825	1.18285	51.2355
e	0.0311034	0.00815681	-0.66569
f	0.888193	-0.0731138	-0.0210958
g	-0.379009	0.13199	-0.346062
h	1.73605	-0.422009	-81.9221
i	0.14737	0.035132	-22.4373
j	0.261402	0.311104	13.204
k	-1.22009	-0.323329	-0.118988
l	0.00733645	-0.004277	0.676436
m	-0.957064	-0.436977	-0.3983



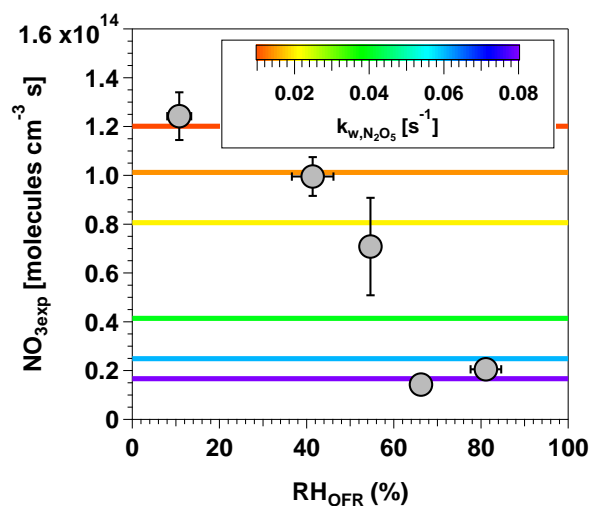
**Figure 1.** Process flow diagram of the OFR-i $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  technique used to generate nitrate radicals ( $\text{NO}_3$ ).



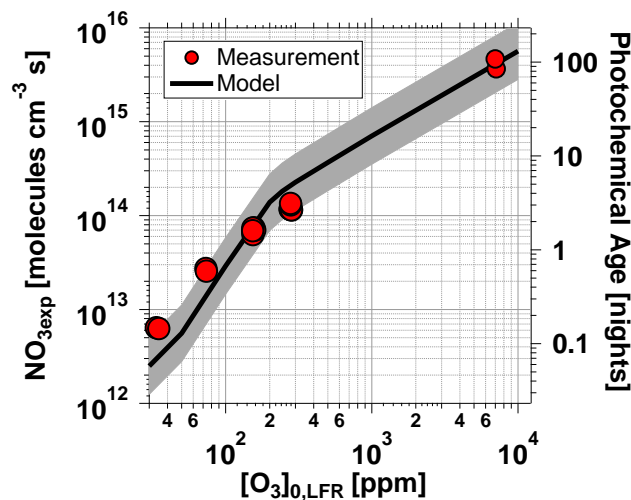
**Figure 2.** Time series from a representative OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$  characterization experiment conducted at  $\text{RH}_{\text{OFR}} = 11\%$  of (a)  $\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{NO}_2$  mixing ratios input to LFR (left axis) and  $\text{O}_3$  measured at the exit of the OFR (right axis) (b) VOC tracers measured with PTR-MS: acetonitrile ( $\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{N}$ ), butanal ( $\text{C}_4\text{H}_8\text{O}$ ), thiophene ( $\text{C}_4\text{H}_4\text{S}$ ), 2,3-dihydrobenzofuran ( $\text{C}_8\text{H}_8\text{O}$ ) and naphthalene- $\text{d}_8$  ( $\text{C}_{10}\text{D}_8$ ).



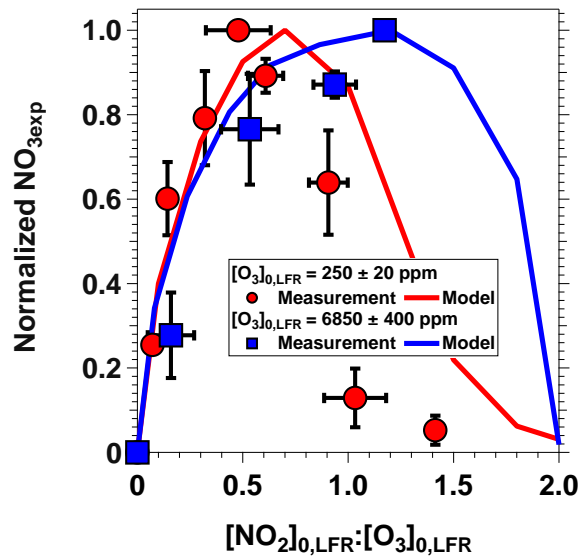
**Figure 3.** (a) IBBCEAS measurements of  $\text{NO}_2$  and  $\text{NO}_3$  absorbance obtained from an OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$  characterization experiment conducted at  $[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} = 150\text{-}160$  ppm and  $[\text{NO}_2]_{0,\text{LFR}}:[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} = 0.75$  and  $2.0$ . (b) Absorption cross sections of  $\text{NO}_2$  and  $\text{NO}_3$  (Vandaele et al., 1998; Orphal et al., 2003).



**Figure 4.**  $\text{NO}_{3\text{exp}}$  as a function of  $\text{RH}_{\text{OFR}}$  at  $[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} = 250$  ppm and  $[\text{NO}_2]_{0,\text{LFR}} = 130$  ppm. Horizontal lines represent  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  wall loss rate constants ranging from 0.01 to 0.08  $\text{s}^{-1}$  that were input to the OFR-i $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  KinSim mechanism (Table S2).

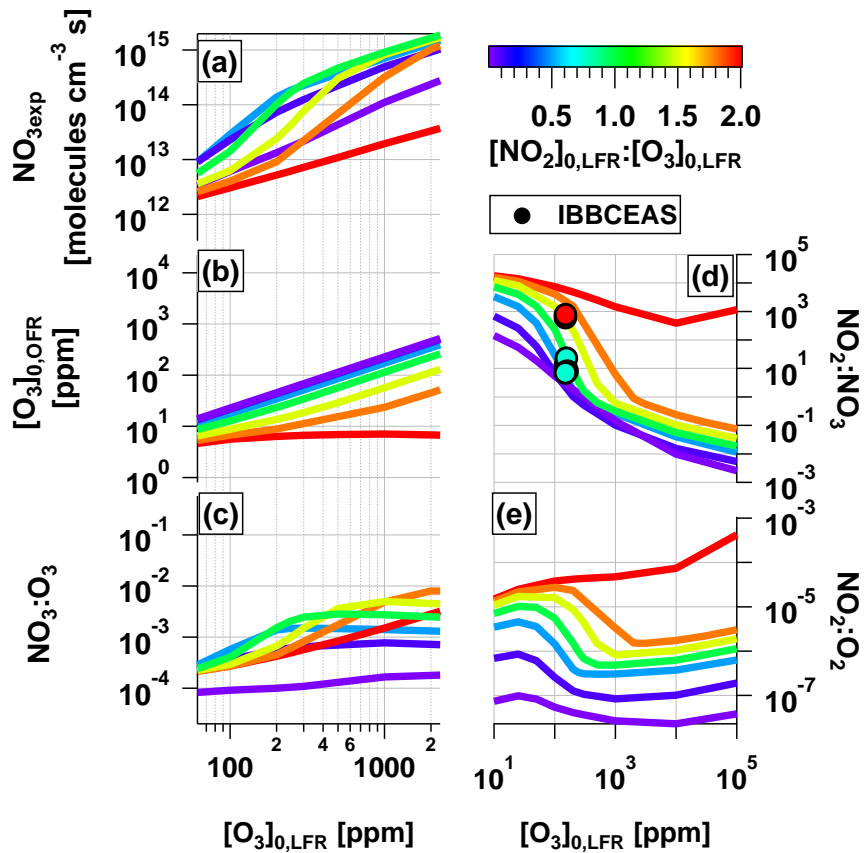


**Figure 5.**  $\text{NO}_{3\text{exp}}$  as a function of  $[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}}$  for measurements with  $[\text{NO}_2]_{0,\text{LFR}}:[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} = 0.5 \pm 0.1$ . Equivalent ambient photochemical age was calculated assuming a 14-hour average nighttime  $\text{NO}_3$  mixing ratio of 30 ppt and 10-hour daytime average  $\text{NO}_3$  mixing ratio of 0 ppt (Asaf et al., 2010). Model inputs:  $k_{w,\text{N}_2\text{O}_5} = 0.01$   $\text{s}^{-1}$  and  $\text{NO}_3\text{R}_{\text{ext}} = 0.07$   $\text{s}^{-1}$  ( $[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} < 1000$  ppm) or 0.38  $\text{s}^{-1}$  ( $[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}} > 1000$  ppm). Shaded region encompasses model output scaled by factors of 0.5 and 2.

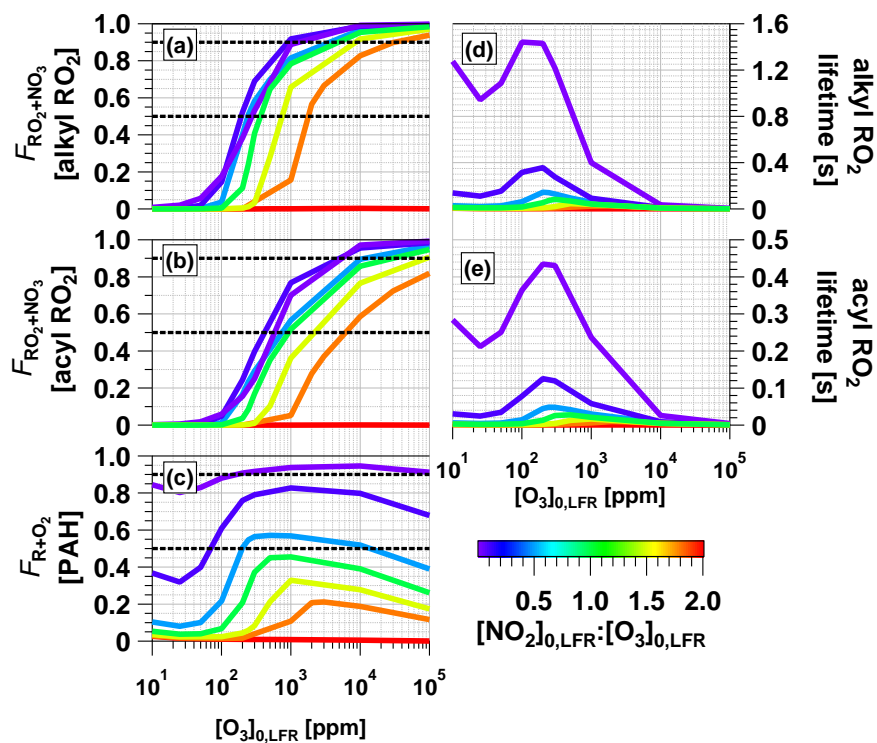


**Figure 6.**  $\text{NO}_{3\text{exp}}$  as a function of  $[\text{NO}_2]_{0,\text{LFR}}:[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}}$  at fixed  $[\text{O}_3]_{0,\text{LFR}}$  values of  $250 \pm 20$  and  $6850 \pm 400$  ppm and  $\text{RH}_{\text{OFR}} = 11\%$  to  $81\%$ .  $\text{NO}_{3\text{exp}}$  values were normalized to maximum  $\text{NO}_{3\text{exp}}$  value obtained at the same RH.

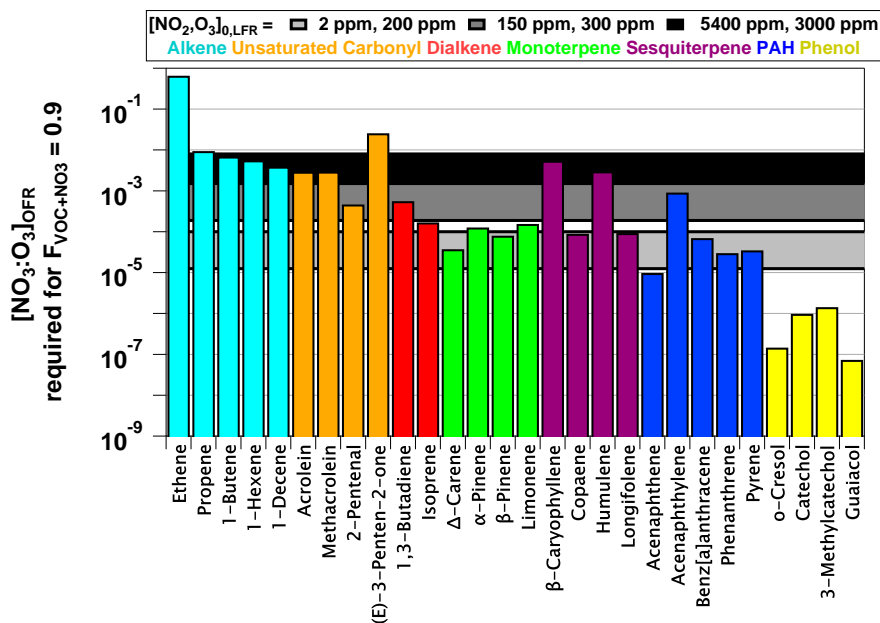




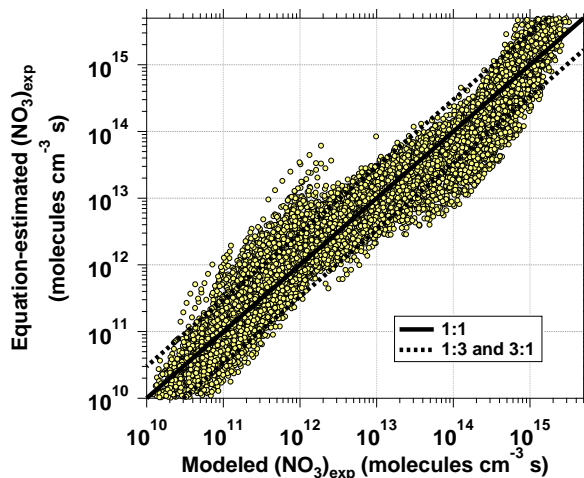
**Figure 7.** Modeled (a)  $NO_{3exp}$ , (b)  $[O_3]$ , (c)  $NO_3:O_3$ , (d)  $NO_2:NO_3$ , and (e)  $NO_2:O_2$  as a function of  $[O_3]_{0,LFR} = 10$  ppm to  $10^5$  ppm, for  $[NO_2]_{0,LFR}:[O_3]_{0,LFR} = 0.01, 0.1, 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 1.8$  and  $2.0$ . Model inputs:  $k_{w,N_2O_5} = 0.01 s^{-1}$ ,  $NO_3R_{ext} = 0.07 s^{-1}$ . IBBCEAS-measured  $NO_2:NO_3$  values are plotted in (d).



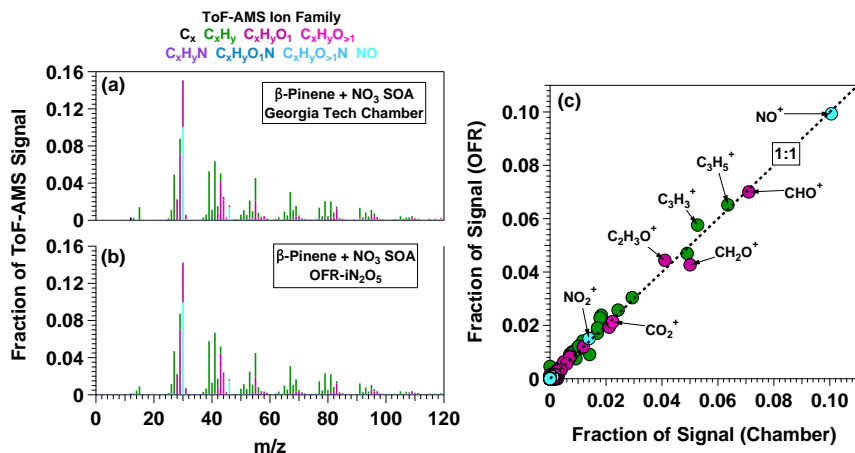
**Figure 8.**  $F_{RO_2+NO_3}$  for (a) alkyl and (b) acyl  $RO_2$ , and (c)  $F_{R+O_2}$  over the same OFR- $iN_2O_5$  operating conditions and model inputs used to generate Figure 7, with corresponding lifetimes for (d) alkyl and (e) acyl  $RO_2$ .



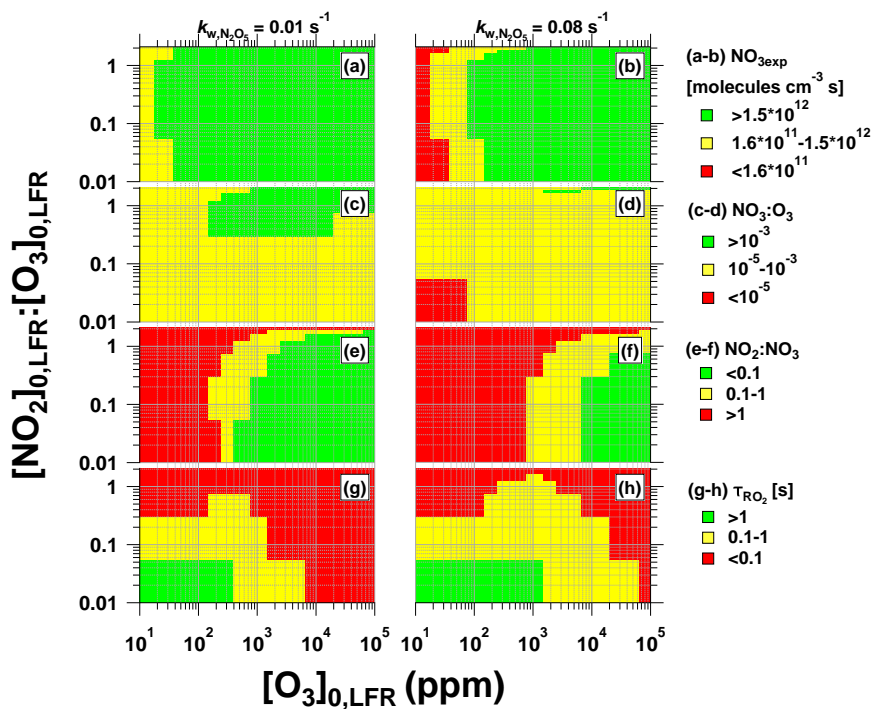
**Figure 9.**  $\text{NO}_3:\text{O}_3$  at which  $F_{\text{VOC}+\text{NO}_3} = 0.9$  for representative VOCs with  $k_{\text{NO}_3} > 10^{-16}$  and  $k_{\text{O}_3} > 10^{-19} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecules}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  (Manion et al., 2015). Horizontal bands represent upper and lower limit values calculated assuming  $k_{w,\text{N}_2\text{O}_5} = 0.01$  and  $0.08 \text{ s}^{-1}$ .



**Figure 10.**  $\text{NO}_3_{\text{exp}}$  calculated from estimation equation (Equation 6 and Table 1) as a function of  $\text{NO}_3_{\text{exp}}$  calculated from full OFR- $\text{iN}_2\text{O}_5$  KinSim mechanism (Table S2). Solid and dashed lines correspond to 1:1, 1:3 and 3:1 lines respectively.



**Figure 11.** AMS spectra of SOA generated from NO<sub>3</sub> oxidation of  $\beta$ -pinene in (a) Georgia Tech environmental chamber (Boyd et al., 2015) and (b) OFR-iN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>. Scatter plot in (c) shows spectra generated in the OFR and chamber plotted against each other.



**Figure 12.** Summary of OFR-iN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> operating conditions suitable for maximum (a-b) NO<sub>3exp</sub>, (c-d) NO<sub>3</sub>:O<sub>3</sub>, (e-f) NO<sub>2</sub>:NO<sub>3</sub>, and (g-h)  $\tau_{RO_2}$  assuming  $k_{w,N_2O_5} = 0.01$  and  $0.08$  s<sup>-1</sup>.

# Nitrate radical generation via continuous generation of dinitrogen pentoxide in a laminar flow reactor coupled to an oxidation flow reactor

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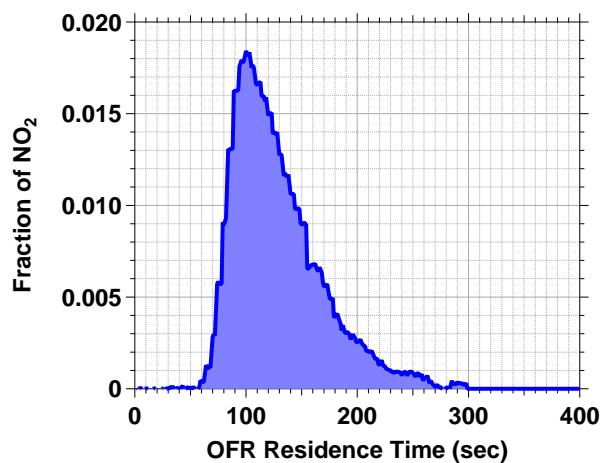
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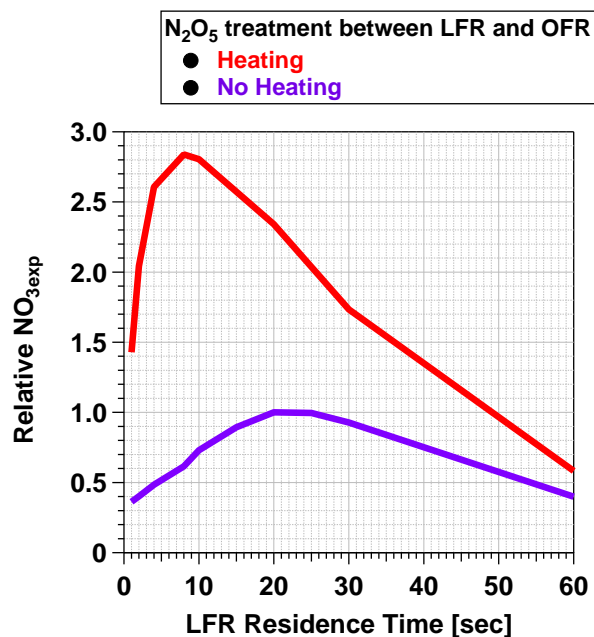
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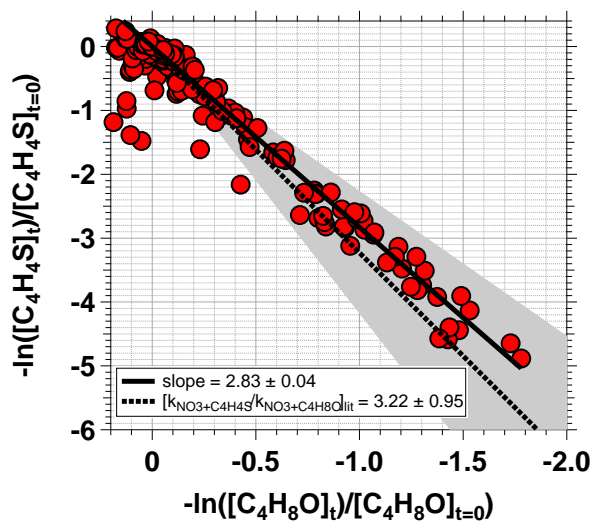
**Correspondence:** Andrew T. Lambe (lambe@aerodyne.com), Zhe Peng (zhe.peng@colorado.edu)



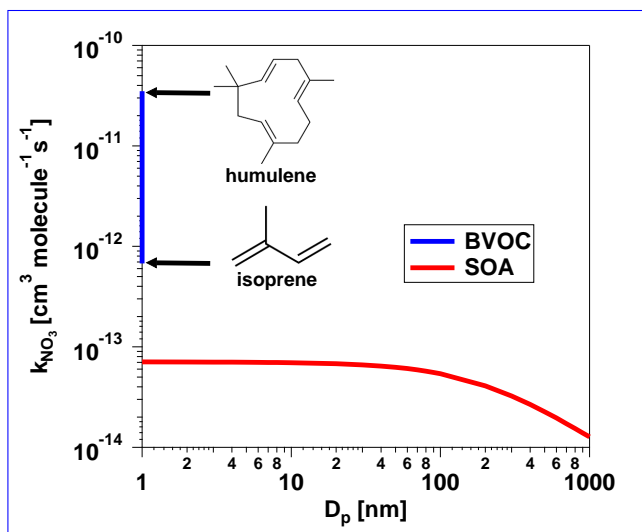
**Figure S1.** Residence time distribution of 10 s pulsed inputs of  $\text{NO}_2$  injected into the Potential Aerosol Mass OFR obtained with lights off and  $6.5 \text{ L min}^{-1}$  flow through the reactor.



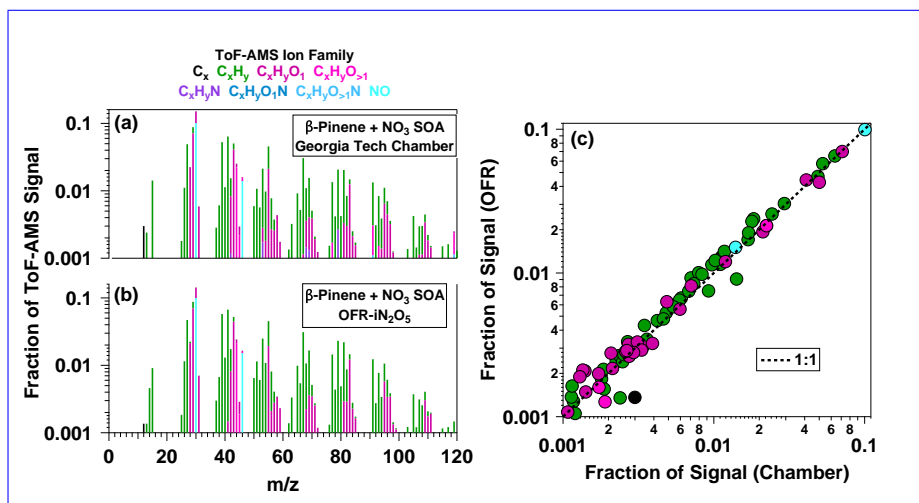
**Figure S2.** Model simulations of the relative  $\text{NO}_{3\text{exp}}$  achieved in the OFR following injection of 300 ppm  $\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{NO}_2$  into the LFR as a function of  $\tau_{\text{LFR}}$  ranging from 1 to 60 s. Purple and red lines represent modeling cases corresponding to 0% (“no heating”) and 100% (“heating”) thermal dissociation of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  between the LFR and OFR.



**Figure S3.** Relative rate constant obtained from PTR-MS measurements of butanal ( $C_4H_8O$ ) and thiophene ( $C_4H_4S$ ) tracers used in OFR- $iN_2O_5$  characterization studies. Literature relative rate constant obtained from kinetic data published by Atkinson (1991) and D'Anna et al. (2001).



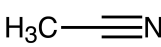
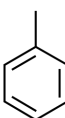
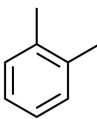
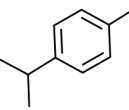
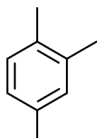
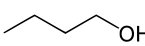
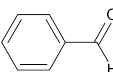
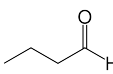
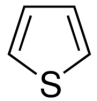
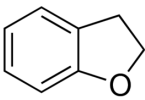
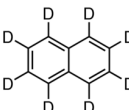
**Figure S4.** Logarithmically scaled AMS spectra of SOA generated from Effective rate constant between  $NO_3$  oxidation of  $\beta$ -pinene in the (a) Georgia Tech environmental chamber (Boyd et al., 2015) and SOA particles ( $k_{NO_3}$ ) OFR calculated using Eq. Scatter plot in (c) shows spectra generated in the OFR-6 assuming  $\rho_p = 1.4 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ ,  $M_{SOA} = 250 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$  and chamber plotted against each other  $\gamma = 0.1$ .



**Figure S5.** Logarithmically scaled AMS spectra of SOA generated from  $\text{NO}_3$  oxidation of  $\beta$ -pinene in the (a) Georgia Tech environmental chamber (Boyd et al., 2015) and (b) OFR. Scatter plot in (c) shows spectra generated in the OFR and chamber plotted against each other.



**Table S1.** VOC tracers used in OFR-iN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> characterization studies. Bimolecular rate ~~constants~~coefficients for reaction with NO<sub>3</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> are given in units of cm<sup>3</sup> ~~mole~~molecule<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>.

Compound	Formula	Structure	k <sub>NO<sub>3</sub></sub>	k <sub>O<sub>3</sub></sub>	References
Acetonitrile	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N		<3.01×10 <sup>-19</sup>	N/A	1
Toluene	C <sub>7</sub> H <sub>8</sub>		6.79×10 <sup>-17</sup>	3.90×10 <sup>-22</sup>	2,3
o-Xylene	C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>10</sub>		3.77×10 <sup>-16</sup>	1.72×10 <sup>-21</sup>	2,3
p-Cymene	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>14</sub>		1.00×10 <sup>-15</sup>	<5.00×10 <sup>-20</sup>	2,4
1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>12</sub>		1.81×10 <sup>-15</sup>	<1.3×10 <sup>-21</sup>	2
Butanol	C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O		<2.71×10 <sup>-15</sup>	N/A	5
Benzaldehyde	C <sub>7</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O		4.3×10 <sup>-15</sup>	<2.00×10 <sup>-19</sup>	2,6
Butanal	C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>8</sub> O		1.22×10 <sup>-14</sup>	N/A	7
Thiophene	C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>4</sub> S		3.94×10 <sup>-14</sup>	5.99×10 <sup>-20</sup>	2,8
2,3-Dihydrobenzofuran	C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>8</sub> O		1.15×10 <sup>-13</sup>	<1.00×10 <sup>-19</sup>	2,9
Naphthalene-d <sub>8</sub>	C <sub>10</sub> D <sub>8</sub>		4.76×10 <sup>-28</sup> ×[NO <sub>2</sub> ]	N/A	2

<sup>1</sup>Cantrell et al. (1987); <sup>2</sup>Atkinson (1991); <sup>3</sup>Toby et al. (1985); <sup>4</sup>Atkinson et al. (1990); <sup>5</sup>Chew et al. (1998);

<sup>6</sup>Bernard et al. (2013); <sup>7</sup>D'Anna et al. (2001); <sup>8</sup>Atkinson et al. (1983); <sup>9</sup>Atkinson et al. (1992)

**Table S2.** KinSim mechanism used to model NO<sub>3</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> formation and destruction in the LFR and OFR. Kinetic data is adapted from mechanism published in Palm et al. (2017) and references therein.

Reactant 1	Reactant 2	Product 1	Product 2	Product 3	A <sub>∞</sub>	E <sub>∞</sub>	n <sub>∞</sub>	A <sub>0</sub>	E <sub>0</sub>	n <sub>0</sub>
NO	O <sub>3</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	O <sub>2</sub>		3E-12	1500	0	0	0	0
NO <sub>2</sub>	O <sub>3</sub>	NO <sub>3</sub>	O <sub>2</sub>		1.2E-13	2450	0	0	0	0
NO <sub>3</sub>	NO <sub>3</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	O <sub>2</sub>	8.5E-13	2450	0	0	0	0
N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	H <sub>2</sub> O	HNO <sub>3</sub>	HNO <sub>3</sub>		1E-22	0	0	0	0	0
NO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>3</sub>	N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>			1.9E-12	0	-0.2	3.6E-30	0	4.1
N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>		NO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>3</sub>		9.7E+14	11080	-0.1	0.0013	11000	3.5
NO	NO <sub>3</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>		1.8E-11	-110	0	0	0	0
NO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>3</sub>	NO	NO <sub>2</sub>	O <sub>2</sub>	4.5E-14	1260	0	0	0	0
NO <sub>3</sub>	wall1	wall1-NO <sub>3</sub>			0.02 - 0.15	0	0	0	0	0
N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	wall2	wall2-N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>			0.01 - 0.08	0	0	0	0	0

**Table S3.** Sensitivity analysis of the effect of varying  $k_{wLFR,NO_3}$  on NO<sub>3exp</sub>. The following inputs to the KinSim mechanism were assumed: [NO<sub>2</sub>]<sub>0,LFR</sub> = [O<sub>3</sub>]<sub>0,LFR</sub> = 300 ppm,  $T_{LFR} = T_{OFR} = 24^{\circ}\text{C}$ ,  $RH_{LFR} = RH_{OFR} = 1\%$ ,  $k_{wLFR,N_2O_5} = 0.1\text{ s}^{-1}$ ,  $k_{wOFR,N_2O_5} = 0.014\text{ s}^{-1}$ ,  $\tau_{LFR} = 20\text{ s}$ ,  $\tau_{OFR} = 120\text{ s}$ , dilution factor = 4.4 between LFR and OFR.

$k_{wLFR,NO_3} [\text{s}^{-1}]$	NO <sub>3exp</sub> [molecules cm <sup>-3</sup> s]	Normalized NO <sub>3exp</sub>
0	$1.277 \times 10^{14}$	1
0.1	$1.275 \times 10^{14}$	0.9984
0.2	$1.273 \times 10^{14}$	0.9969
0.3	$1.272 \times 10^{14}$	0.9965

**Table S4.** KinSim mechanism used to model destruction of alkyl and acyl organic peroxy radicals formed from VOC + NO<sub>3</sub> reactions in the OFR. Kinetic data is adapted from [\(Orlando and Tyndall, 2012\)](#)[Orlando and Tyndall \(2012\)](#).

Reactant 1	Reactant 2	Product 1	Product 2	Product 3	A <sub>∞</sub>	E <sub>∞</sub>	n <sub>∞</sub>	A <sub>0</sub>	E <sub>0</sub>	n <sub>0</sub>
VOC	NO <sub>3</sub>	alkylRO2			0 or 2.5E-12	0	0	0	0	0
VOC	NO <sub>3</sub>	acylRO2			2.5E-12 or 0	0	0	0	0	0
alkylRO2	NO				2.7E-12	-360	0	0	0	0
acylRO2	NO				7.5E-12	-290	0	0	0	0
alkylRO2	NO2	alkylRO2NO2			6.1E-12	0	0	1.3E-30	6.2	0.31
alkylRO2NO2		alkylRO2	NO2		8.8E+15	10440	0	0.00048	9285	0.31
acylRO2	NO2	acylRO2NO2			1.2E-11	0	0.9	2.7E-28	7.1	0.3
acylRO2NO2		acylRO2	NO2		5.4E+16	13830	0	0.0049	12100	0.3
alkylRO2	NO3	alkylRO	NO2		2.4E-12	0	0	0	0	0
acylRO2	NO3	acylRO	NO2		3.2E-12	0	0	0	0	0
alkylRO2	HO2				7.4E-13	-700	0	0	0	0
acylRO2	HO2				5.2E-13	-980	0	0	0	0
alkylRO2	acylRO2				2.2E-12	-500	0	0	0	0
acylRO2	acylRO2				2.9E-12	-500	0	0	0	0

**Table S5.** [Bimolecular rate coefficients between selected biogenic volatile organic compounds \(BVOCs\) and NO<sub>3</sub>, and BVOC + NO<sub>3</sub> carbonyl oxidation products and NO<sub>3</sub>. Rate coefficients were obtained from Ng et al. \(2017\) and references therein, and are given in units of cm<sup>3</sup> molecule<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>.](#)

<a href="#">BVOC</a>	<a href="#">k<sub>NO<sub>3</sub></sub></a>	<a href="#">Oxidation Product</a>	<a href="#">k<sub>NO<sub>3</sub></sub></a>
<a href="#">isoprene</a>	<a href="#">6.5 × 10<sup>-13</sup></a>	<a href="#">methyl vinyl ketone</a>	<a href="#">&lt;6 × 10<sup>-16</sup></a>
		<a href="#">methacrolein</a>	<a href="#">3.4 × 10<sup>-15</sup></a>
<a href="#">α-pinene</a>	<a href="#">6.2 × 10<sup>-12</sup></a>	<a href="#">pinonaldehyde</a>	<a href="#">2.0 × 10<sup>-14</sup></a>
<a href="#">3-carene</a>	<a href="#">9.1 × 10<sup>-12</sup></a>	<a href="#">caronaldehyde</a>	<a href="#">2.5 × 10<sup>-14</sup></a>
<a href="#">sabinene</a>	<a href="#">1.0 × 10<sup>-11</sup></a>	<a href="#">sabinaketone</a>	<a href="#">3.6 × 10<sup>-16</sup></a>

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