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## Atmospheric impact of 2-methylpentanal emissions: kinetics, photochemistry, and formation of secondary pollutants

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**Abstract.** The tropospheric fate of 2-methylpentanal (2MP) has been investigated in this work. First, the photochemistry of 2MP under simulated solar conditions was investigated by determining the UV absorption cross sections (220–360 nm) and the effective photolysis quantum yield in the UV solar actinic region ( $\lambda > 290$  nm). The photolysis rate coefficient in that region was estimated using a radiative transfer model. Photolysis products were identified by Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy. Secondly, a kinetic study of the chlorine (Cl) and hydroxyl (OH) reactions of 2MP was also performed at 298 K and as a function of temperature (263–353 K), respectively. For the Cl reaction, a relative kinetic method was used in a smog chamber coupled to FTIR spectroscopy, whereas for the OH reaction, the pulsed laser photolysis of 2MP with laser-induced fluorescence (LIF) technique was employed. The estimated lifetime of 2MP depends on the location, the season, and the time of the day. Under mild–strong irradiation conditions, UV photolysis of 2MP may compete with its OH reaction in a mid-latitude inland urban atmosphere, while Cl reaction dominates in mid-latitude coastal urban areas at dawn. Finally, the gaseous product distribution of the Cl and OH reactions was measured in a smog chamber as well as the formation of secondary organic aerosols (SOAs) in the Cl reaction and its size distribution (diameter between 5.6 and 560 nm). The implications for air quality are discussed based on the observed products.

## 1 Introduction

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that air pollution is responsible for around 7 million deaths worldwide. One of the damaging air pollutants is particulate matter (PM). Concretely, fine and ultrafine particles (UFPs), with diameters smaller than 2.5 and 0.1  $\mu$ m, respectively, are extremely dangerous since they penetrate deep into the lungs and enter the bloodstream. UFPs and other secondary pollutants are formed in the gas-phase reactions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), such as aldehydes, with oxidants such as hydroxyl (OH) radicals or chlorine (Cl) atoms. In the atmosphere, OH radicals are ubiquitous, while Cl is mainly present in marine or coastal atmospheres since it is formed from reactions of sea-salt aerosols (Atkinson et al., 1995; Wennberg et al., 2018; Rodríguez et al., 2012; Atkinson and Arey, 2003; Antiñolo et al., 2019, 2020). Globally, ceramic industries and coal-fired power plants are relevant sources of Cl<sub>2</sub> inland (Galán et al., 2002; Sarwar and Bhave, 2007; Deng et al., 2014) and, therefore, of Cl atoms.

Saturated aldehydes, like formaldehyde, acetaldehyde, pentanal, and hexanal, are emitted into the atmosphere (Clarisse et al., 2003; Calvert et al., 2011; Villanueva et al., 2022) mainly from primary sources, e.g., natural gas from

power stations, landfill gas, flaring from offshore, and transport (Calvert et al., 2011). But they can also be formed in situ in the atmosphere as secondary pollutants from reactions of alkenes and alcohols with oxidants (Atkinson et al., 1995; Wennberg et al., 2018; Rodríguez et al., 2012; Atkinson and Arey, 2003). In this work, we focus on the diurnal atmospheric chemistry of 2-methylpentanal (2MP, CH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)C(O)H) and its impact in the troposphere in terms of its lifetime and generated products. This aldehyde has been detected in the atmosphere (Xu et al., 2003) as it can be released to the environment from some foods (Aisala et al., 2019) and from contaminated water in waste streams (Bao et al., 1998), since it is widely used as a flavoring ingredient and as an intermediate in the synthesis of dyes, resins, and pharmaceuticals (Furia and Bellanca, 1975). Moreover, 2MP has been detected in ambient air at the foot of Mount Everest (Ciccioli et al., 1993). The former source of 2MP implies that it comes from localized sources, but the latter one could imply that 2MP is both long-lived and well-mixed throughout the troposphere or has a specific local source in that remote region. In addition, 2MP has been detected in certain indoor environments from emission of cigarette smoke (Lippmann, 2000).

Once emitted, 2MP can be degraded during the daytime by different processes forming secondary pollutants (gases and/or PM) that can have a significant impact on air quality and health. In the atmosphere, these processes include ultraviolet (UV) photolysis by the solar actinic radiation (Reaction R1), reaction with Cl atoms (Reaction R2), and/or reaction with OH radicals (Reaction R3),

$$CH_{3}CH_{2}CH_{2}CH(CH_{3})C(O)H + h\nu(\lambda \ge 290 \text{ nm})$$
  

$$\rightarrow \text{ products } J, \qquad (R1)$$
  

$$CH_{3}CH_{2}CH_{2}CH(CH_{3})C(O)H + CI$$

$$\rightarrow$$
 products  $k_{\rm Cl}$ , (R2)

$$CH_{3}CH_{2}CH_{2}CH(CH_{3})C(O)H + OH$$
  
 $\rightarrow$  products  $k_{OH}$ . (R3)

To our knowledge, the photolysis rate coefficient (J) of 2MP in the atmosphere and the rate coefficient for Reaction (R2),  $k_{\text{Cl}}$ , have not been reported to date in the literature. D'Anna et al. (2001) reported the rate coefficient for the 2MP + OH reaction (Reaction R3),  $k_{\text{OH}}$ , at 298 K and 760 Torr of air. The reaction products of Reactions (R1)–(R3) are still unknown.

In this work, the evaluation of the atmospheric fate of 2MP has been carried out under NO<sub>x</sub>-free conditions, simulating a clean atmosphere. Therefore, the UV photodissociation of 2MP has been investigated at room temperature, determining the UV absorption cross sections ( $\sigma_{\lambda}$ ) between 220 and 360 nm and the effective photolysis quantum yield ( $\Phi_{\text{eff}}$ ) and J at an altitude z and a solar zenith angle  $\theta$  in the actinic region in a Spanish mid-latitude inland city (Ciudad Real) and a coastal city (Valencia). The

rate coefficients of Reactions (R2) and (R3) have been determined by the relative method using Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy and by pulsed laser photolysislaser-induced fluorescence (PLP-LIF), respectively. The gasphase products of Reactions (R1)-(R3) have been also detected by gas chromatography (GC) coupled to mass spectrometry (MS), FTIR spectroscopy, and proton transfer reaction time-of-flight mass spectrometry (PTR-ToF-MS). No information on the formation of secondary organic aerosols (SOAs) of Reactions (R1)-(R3) has been reported yet. In this work, we study the SOA formation in Reaction (R2) by using a fast-mobility particle sizer spectrometer (FMPS). The potential implications of the diurnal degradation processes of 2MP are discussed in terms of the estimated lifetime in mid-latitude inland and coastal urban atmospheres. The identification of the gaseous products formed in Reactions (R1)-(R3) as well as the formation of submicron particles in the Reaction (R2) provides a better understanding of the tropospheric photochemistry of 2MP and its impact on air quality.

### 2 Experimental section

### 2.1 Atmospheric photodissociation of 2MP

The experimental systems and procedures have been described in detail elsewhere (Blázquez et al., 2020; Asensio et al., 2022), so only a brief description is given here. The UV absorption cross sections of 2MP ( $\sigma_{\lambda}$  in base *e*) were determined by UV absorption spectroscopy (Blázquez et al., 2020) between 220 and 360 nm at (298 ± 1) K. A cylindrical cell with an optical pathlength of 107.15 cm was filled with gas-phase 2MP in the range of 1.02–9.65 Torr and irradiated by a deuterium lamp (DT-200, StellarNet). The transmitted radiation was detected by a 2048-pixel CCD camera coupled to a Czerny–Turner spectrograph (BLACK-Comet model C, StellarNet) with 3 nm spectral resolution.  $\sigma_{\lambda}$  values were determined from the slopes of Beer–Lambert's law plots, such as shown in Fig. S1 and as described in the Supplement.

The experimental setup used to investigate the photolysis of 2MP by sunlight under atmospheric conditions ((298  $\pm$ 1) K and  $(760 \pm 2)$  Torr of air) has been described elsewhere (Asensio et al., 2022). Briefly, a 20 cm long cylindrical jacketed cell was filled with diluted 2MP in synthetic air (dilution factors,  $P_{2\text{MP}} / (P_{2\text{MP}} + P_{air})$ , ranged from  $1.07 \times 10^{-3}$  to  $1.73 \times 10^{-3}$ ). The temperature of the gas mixture in the cell was kept constant by recirculating water through the jacket from a thermostatic bath (CD-200F, CORIO). The gas mixture was irradiated with a solar simulator (model 11002-2, SunLite<sup>TM</sup>) at  $\lambda > 290$  nm for 30, 60, 90, 120, or 150 min. Average irradiance was  $(2.335 \pm 0.126)$  suns. One sun is the irradiance of the AM1.5G reference solar spectrum (Gueymard et al., 2002). At each photolysis time, the gas mixture (unreacted 2MP and reaction products) was transferred to a 16 L white-type cell, with an optical path length of 71 m, coupled to an FTIR spectrometer (Nicolet Nexus 870, Thermo

Fisher Scientific) (Asensio et al., 2022) with a  $2 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  resolution. Spectra were recorded between 650 and 4000 cm<sup>-1</sup> and after the accumulation of 32 interferograms. The selected IR bands for monitoring 2MP were those centered at 1748 cm<sup>-1</sup> and between 2630 and 3000 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

In some experiments, cyclohexane was added to the gas mixture as a radical scavenger ([cyclohexane]<sub>0</sub> / [2MP]<sub>0</sub> = 8.8–10.5) to evaluate the impact of secondary chemistry. Out of a total of 10 experiments, 6 experiments were performed adding cyclohexane, finding no difference in the photolysis rate coefficient, *J*, and photoproducts were identified in the absence of cyclohexane. In addition, dark experiments were performed to evaluate the loss of 2MP by heterogeneous reaction onto the reactor walls. The rate coefficient,  $k_{heterog}$ , was determined to be  $1.43 \times 10^{-5} \text{ s}^{-1}$ . The heterogeneous loss process accounts for 39% of the total 2MP loss. Therefore, the total loss of 2MP after irradiation was corrected with  $k_{heterog}$  to obtain *J* (in s<sup>-1</sup>) from the slope of the plot of  $\ln([2MP]_0 / [2MP]_t)$  versus time according to Eq. (1):

$$\ln([2MP]_0/[2MP]_t) = (k_{\text{heterog}} + J)t, \qquad (1)$$

where the subscripts 0 and *t* refer to the concentrations of 2MP at initial time and elapsed time *t*, respectively. The initial concentration of 2MP in the photolysis cell ranged from  $1.12 \times 10^{16}$  to  $6.55 \times 10^{16}$  molecules cm<sup>-3</sup> (i.e., 455–2663 ppm).

### 2.2 Gas-phase kinetics of the reaction of 2MP with Cl and OH

### 2.2.1 Relative measurements of k<sub>CI</sub>

The relative rate methodology and the experimental system to determine  $k_{\text{Cl}}$  at  $(298 \pm 2)$  K and  $(760 \pm 5)$  Torr have already been described (Antiñolo et al., 2019, 2020). In this work, isoprene and propene were used as reference compounds which react with Cl  $(k_{ref})$  in competition with 2MP. The mixture of 2MP, Cl<sub>2</sub>, one of the reference compounds, and synthetic air was introduced into the 16L cell described above, and FTIR spectroscopy was used as a detection technique to monitor 2MP and the reference compounds (isoprene or propene). IR spectra were recorded every 2 min, and the IR bands selected for monitoring 2MP, isoprene, and propene were 2630–3000, 3100, and  $3050-3100 \,\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ , respectively. Ranges of initial concentrations were  $[2MP]_0 = (3.7-9.4) \times 10^{14} \text{ molecules cm}^{-3}$  (15-38 ppm),  $[isoprene]_0 = (3.7-6.2) \times 10^{14}$  molecules cm<sup>-3</sup> (15 -25 ppm) or [propene]<sub>0</sub> =  $(4.2-6.2) \times 10^{14}$  molecules cm<sup>-3</sup> (17-25 ppm), and  $[Cl_2]_0 = (3.4-4.2) \times 10^{14} \text{ molecules cm}^{-3}$ (14-17 ppm). Cl atoms were generated in situ by photolysis of Cl<sub>2</sub> by three actinic lamps (Philips Actinic BL TL 40W/10 1SL/25,  $\lambda = 340-400$  nm) surrounding the cell. Both 2MP and the reference compound mainly react with Cl, but they can also be removed by heterogeneous reaction onto the reactor walls, UV photolysis, and/or reaction with Cl<sub>2</sub>. The rate coefficient for these three loss processes of 2MP ( $k_{loss}$ ) and the reference compound ( $k_{ref,loss}$ ) was evaluated prior to each experiment (Antiñolo et al., 2019, 2020). As shown in Table S1, 2MP and the reference compounds only exhibited wall losses and no photolysis at the emission wavelengths of the actinic lamps was observed for any of them. Only isoprene reacts with Cl<sub>2</sub>.

Considering all the processes, the integrated rate equation is given by Eq. (2):

$$\ln\left(\frac{[2MP]_0}{[2MP]_t}\right) - k_{\text{loss}}t = \frac{k_{\text{Cl}}}{k_{\text{ref}}} \left[\ln\left(\frac{[\text{Ref}]_0}{[\text{Ref}]_t}\right) - k_{\text{ref,loss}}t\right].$$
 (2)

The total loss of 2MP and the reference compounds in the absence of Cl atoms was on the order of  $10^{-5}$  s<sup>-1</sup> in all cases.

### 2.2.2 Absolute measurements of $k_{OH}(T)$

The pulsed laser photolysis–laser-induced fluorescence (PLP–LIF) technique was employed to determine  $k_{OH}$  as a function of temperature (T = 263-353 K),  $k_{OH}(T)$ , and total pressure ( $P_T = 50-500$  Torr). The experimental setup was previously described (Martínez et al., 1999; Albaladejo et al., 2002; Jiménez et al., 2005; Antiñolo et al., 2012; Blázquez et al., 2017; Asensio et al., 2022); thereby a brief description is given here. The reactor consisted of a jacketed Pyrex cell (ca. 200 mL) through which a gas mixture formed by He (bath gas, main flow), H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> / He, and diluted 2MP is flown. The mass flow rates employed in this work are summarized in Table S2 of the Supplement.

The OH radicals were generated in situ by the PLP of gaseous H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> at 248 nm, radiation emitted by a KrF excimer laser (Coherent, Excistar 200). The OH radicals generated were subsequently excited at ca. 282 nm by doubling the output radiation of a Rhodamine-6G dye laser (LiopTec, LiopStar) pumped by the second harmonic of a Nd:YAG laser (InnoLas, SpitLight 1200). At 90° from photolysis and excitation lasers, the LIF at ca. 310 nm was collected by a filtered phototube (Thorn EMI, 9813B). At a constant *T* and *P*<sub>T</sub>, the pseudo-first-order rate coefficient, *k'*, was obtained from the analysis of the LIF intensity decays shown in Fig. S2, at several initial concentrations of 2MP,  $[2MP]_0 = (0.30-5.91) \times 10^{14}$  molecules cm<sup>-3</sup>. Then,  $k_{OH}(T)$  was determined from the slope of *k'* versus  $[2MP]_0$  plots. See the Supplement for more details.

### 2.3 Product studies of 2MP reactions with CI (Reaction R2) and OH (Reaction R3)

### 2.3.1 Gaseous products

Briefly, two atmospheric simulation chambers were used to detect and identify the products generated in Reactions (R2) and (R3) at  $(759 \pm 3)$  Torr of air and  $(298 \pm 2)$  K: the 16L cell described above coupled to the FTIR spectrometer (only used for the Cl reaction) (Ballesteros et al., 2017; Antiñolo

et al., 2019) and a 264 L chamber (Antiñolo et al., 2020) from which the sample is injected into a GC-MS instrument (Thermo Electron, models Trace GC Ultra and DSQ II) (only used for the Cl reaction) (Asensio et al., 2022) or a PTR-ToF-MS (PTR TOF 4000, Ionicon). The 264 L chamber was surrounded by eight actinic lamps (Philips Actinic BL TL 40W/10 1SL/25,  $\lambda = 340-400$  nm) to generate Cl atoms by Cl<sub>2</sub> photolysis and four germicidal lamps (Philips TUV 36W SLV/6,  $\lambda = 254$  nm) to generate OH radicals by H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> photolysis. In all cases, preliminary tests were carried out in the dark to check if products were generated in the potential reaction of 2MP with the oxidant precursor. In addition, in the absence of oxidant precursor, the formation of products during the UV light exposure of 2MP was also checked. For the product study of the OH reaction,  $2MP / H_2O_2 / air$ mixtures were irradiated for 70 min by the germicidal lamps, whereas in the Cl atoms experiments, 2MP / Cl<sub>2</sub> / air mixtures were irradiated with the actinic lamps for 60 min. IR spectra, chromatograms, and mass spectra were recorded every 2 min, 15 min, and 20 s, respectively.

The GC–MS instrument was equipped with a BPX35 column (30 m × 0.25 mm i.d. × 0.25 µm, SGE Analytical Science), and the solid-phase microextraction technique was used as a sampling method with a 50/30 µm divinylbenzene– carboxen–polydimethylsiloxane (DVB–CAR–PDMS) fiber (Supelco) exposed during 10 min to the gas mixture in the chamber. In these experiments, ranges for the initial concentrations were  $[2MP]_0 = (1.5-4.4) \times 10^{14}$  molecules cm<sup>-3</sup> (6– 18 ppm) and  $[Cl_2]_0 = (1.1-2.5) \times 10^{14}$  molecules cm<sup>-3</sup> (4– 10 ppm). Note that the limit of detection (LOD) of the GC– MS instrument is  $1 \times 10^{11}$  molecules cm<sup>-3</sup> (4 ppb).

In the FTIR experiments, initial concentrations were slightly different and were  $[2MP]_0 = (6.1-8.5)$  $\times\,10^{14}\,\text{molecules}\,\text{cm}^{-3}$  (25–35 ppm) and  $[\text{Cl}_2]_0=$  (1.6– 5.4) × 10<sup>14</sup> molecules cm<sup>-3</sup> (6–22 ppm) (LOD = 8 × 10<sup>11</sup> molecules cm<sup>-3</sup> (32 ppb)), while in the PTR-ToF-MS experiments (LOD =  $1.2 \times 10^8$  molecules cm<sup>-3</sup> (5 ppt)),  $[2MP]_0 = (1.3-2.3) \times 10^{13}$  molecules cm<sup>-3</sup> (0.5-0.9 ppm) and  $[Cl_2]_0 = (1.1-1.4) \times 10^{13}$  molecules cm<sup>-3</sup> (0.4– 0.6 ppm), which were lower than those used in the experiments using GC-MS instrument and FTIR due to the higher sensitivity of the PTR-ToF-MS. For the OH reaction monitored by PTR-ToF-MS,  $[H_2O_2]_0 = 3.8 \times 10^{14} \text{ molecules cm}^{-3}$ (15 ppm). The mass spectra of the reactive gas mixture were recorded with a time resolution of 20 s, and the detected mass range was set between 29 and 390.86 amu (atomic mass units) working at E/N = 138 Td and  $V_{\text{drift}} = 650$  V. Prior to the in situ measurements, a calibration of the PTR-ToF-MS was made between  $0.3 \times 10^{13}$  and  $2.9 \times 10^{13}$  molecules cm<sup>-3</sup> (122-1179 ppb).

Regarding the oxidant concentrations, [Cl] and [OH] were estimated from the first-order loss rate of 2MP measured by FTIR and PTR-ToF-MS. From FTIR experiments, [Cl] was estimated to range between  $2.0 \times 10^6$  and

 $3.1 \times 10^6$  atoms cm<sup>-3</sup> (0.08–0.13 ppt), while in the PTR-ToF-MS experiments the estimated [Cl] was found to vary between  $1.0 \times 10^7$  and  $2.2 \times 10^7$  atoms cm<sup>-3</sup> (0.4–0.9 ppt) and [OH] =  $4.8 \times 10^5$  radicals cm<sup>-3</sup> (0.02 ppt).

## 2.3.2 Secondary organic aerosols (SOAs)

To detect and quantify the SOA formation in the Cl reaction, the 264 L chamber, and the 16 L cell were connected in series, as described previously (Antiñolo et al., 2020). SOA experiments were performed in the absence of the reference compounds used in the relative kinetic study (isoprene or propene) to avoid any interference from their degradation initiated by Cl atoms. No seed was added to the gas mixture either. The concentration of 2MP was monitored by the FTIR spectrometer every 2 min, whereas the formed SOAs were monitored by a FMPS spectrometer (TSI 3091) every 1 min. Initial concentrations were  $8.3 \times 10^{14}$  molecules cm<sup>-3</sup> (34 ppm) of 2MP and  $7.8 \times 10^{14}$  molecules cm<sup>-3</sup> (32 ppm) of Cl<sub>2</sub> ([Cl] was estimated to be  $8.0 \times 10^5$  atoms cm<sup>-3</sup> (0.03 ppt)). The total timescale of the experiment was 90 min. In the first 15 min, the Cl<sub>2</sub> / 2MP / air mixture was not irradiated to monitor the dark losses of gaseous 2MP or its reaction with Cl<sub>2</sub>. After that, the lamps were turned on and the Cl reaction started monitoring 2MP loss and particles for 60 min. Finally, the lights were switched off to evaluate the loss of the SOA formed due to the walls or other dark processes for 15 min.

## 3 Results and discussion

# 3.1 Ultraviolet photochemistry of 2MP: absorption cross sections, photolysis quantum yield, and products

Beer–Lambert's law was used to obtain the UV absorption cross sections in the range 220–360 nm at room temperature, as explained in the Supplement, from nine UV spectra corresponding to nine [2MP] values. This series of measurements were duplicated, and the average  $\sigma_{\lambda}$  values are summarized in Table S3 and depicted in Fig. 1 every 1 nm. The absorption maximum was observed at around 296 nm with a peak UV absorption cross section of  $\sigma_{\lambda} = (6.64 \pm 0.11) \times 10^{-20} \text{ cm}^2 \text{ molec.}^{-1}$ . As shown in Fig. 1, the solar actinic flux,  $F(\lambda, z, \theta)$ , overlaps with part of the UV absorption band of 2MP; therefore, UV photolysis in the troposphere of 2MP could be a significant atmospheric removal process.

Photolysis of 2MP follows first-order kinetics, where *J* is the photolysis rate coefficient to be determined from the slope of  $\ln([2MP]_0 / [2MP]_t)$  versus time plot (Eq. 1). In Fig. S3 the average values of individual  $\ln([2MP]_0 / [2MP]_t)$  values obtained in 10 experiments, corrected with  $k_{heterog}$ , are plotted against *t*. Under the experimental irradiation conditions,  $J (\pm 2\sigma)$  was  $(2.2 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{-5} \text{ s}^{-1}$ . The effective photolysis quantum yield of 2MP at  $\lambda \ge 290 \text{ nm}$ ,  $\Phi_{eff}$  (2MP), was calculated from Eq. (3) as described in Asensio



**Figure 1.** UV absorption cross sections of 2MP at 298 K. The error bars represent the statistical uncertainty  $(\pm 2\sigma)$ .

et al. (2022),

$$J \cong \Phi_{\rm eff}(2\rm{MP}) \sum_{290\,\rm{nm}}^{360\,\rm{nm}} I_{\lambda} \sigma_{\lambda} \Delta \lambda, \tag{3}$$

where  $I_{\lambda}$  (in photons cm<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> nm<sup>-1</sup>) is the irradiance of the solar simulator at each wavelength,  $\sigma_{\lambda}$  is the UV absorption cross section of 2MP measured in this work, and  $\Delta \lambda = 1$  nm. Considering all these parameters, the effective quantum yield of 2MP is  $\Phi_{\text{eff}}$  (2MP) = (0.32 ± 0.03). No quantum yields of 2MP have been previously reported. However, for other C-6 aldehydes like hexanal or 3-methylpentanal, the reported  $\Phi_{\text{eff}}$  values were similar (0.28 ± 0.05 in Wenger, 2006, and 0.34 in Rebbert and Ausloos, 1967, respectively) to that determined in this work.

The UV photodissociation of 2MP can proceed through the different channels (Reactions R1a–R1d) similarly to other aldehydes (see, e.g., Wenger, 2006). Under atmospheric conditions, the Norrish type I (R1a) and type II (R1c) processes are the most important pathways (Moortgat, 2001). Reactions (R1a) and (R1d) are radical-forming channels, whilst the Norrish type II process and Reaction (R1b) produce stable molecules with no radical formation (pentane and CO for the Reaction R1b and 2-buten-2-ol and propene for the Reaction R1c). Radicals from Reactions (R1a) and (R1d) may generate 2-pentanone and 2-pentanol as primary products of the reaction of CH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH(CH<sub>3</sub>) and CH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)CO with O<sub>2</sub>, respectively:

$$CH_3CH_2CH_2CH(CH_3)C(O)H + hv$$

$$\rightarrow$$
 CH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH(CH<sub>3</sub>) + HCO, (R1a)

$$\rightarrow CH_3CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_3 + CO, \tag{R1b}$$

$$\rightarrow CH_3(OH)C = CHCH_2 + CH_3CH = CH_2, \quad (R1c)$$

$$\rightarrow CH_3CH_2CH_2CH(CH_3)CO + H.$$
(R1d)

In Fig. 2, the IR spectra recorded before and after 150 min of irradiation are presented. The identified photolysis products were 2-pentanone (bands around 3000–2900 and  $1732 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), which indicate that the Norrish type I



**Figure 2.** FTIR spectra of the 2MP/air mixture: (a) before irradiation, (b) after 150 min of photolysis (features of unreacted 2MP were subtracted), and (c) residual spectrum after subtraction of the reference spectra of the identified products (CO, 2-pentanone, pentane, and propene) shown in Fig. S4.

and R1d channels are open, and CO (characteristic band  $2000-2300 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) formed directly via Reaction (R1b) and/or from the fast reaction of HCO radicals with O2. However, it cannot be assured that the co-product of CO, pentane, was formed since the IR bands used for its identification  $(3000-2800 \text{ and } 1480-1340 \text{ cm}^{-1})$  can also be attributed to propene. Therefore, the Norrish type II process could also be open. The reference IR spectra used in the identification of these products are shown in Fig. S4. After subtracting the IR features of CO, 2-pentanone, pentane, and propene, some IR features are still in the residual spectrum (see Fig. 2c). The remaining features can be assigned to oxygenated compounds formed from the chemistry of the radicals generated in Reactions (R1a) and (R1d) (for example, 2-pentanol from oxidation of CH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH(CH<sub>3</sub>) and CH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)CO radicals) or butanone formed by the keto-enolic tautomerism of 2-buten-2-ol (reaction product of R1c). The quantification of the reaction products identified was very imprecise. For that reason, no molar yield is provided.

### 3.2 Kinetics and products of the 2MP + CI reaction

Relative rate plots (Eq. 2) are shown in Fig. S5. The slope of these plots yields the individual  $k_{\text{Cl}}/k_{\text{ref}}$  values listed in Table 1 for each reference compound. The good linearity of such plots suggests that the extent of secondary reactions was negligible. The average rate coefficient  $k_{\text{Cl}}$ , reported here for the first time, is

$$k_{\rm Cl} = (2.2 \pm 0.4) \times 10^{-10} \,{\rm cm}^3 \,{\rm molec.}^{-1} \,{\rm s}^{-1}.$$

The stated uncertainty  $(\pm 2\sigma)$  in  $k_{\text{Cl}}$  includes the propagation of the reported errors in  $k_{\text{ref}}$ , the statistical errors from the slope of the plots shown in Fig. S5, and the systematic uncertainties (estimated to be  $\pm 10\%$  of  $k_{\text{Cl}}$ ). In the Supplement, a detailed description of the error analysis can be found.

The GC-MS technique was only used as an identification technique. Figure S6 shows the chromatogram obtained before (t = 0) and after 40 min of irradiation. The following reaction products were identified: acetaldehyde, butanedial, acetic acid, 2-pentanone, 3-pentanone, butanal, and 2methylbutanoic acid. The mass spectra of 2MP and the identified products are shown in Fig. S7. No products were observed during the UV light exposure of 2MP in the absence of Cl precursor or in its dark reaction with Cl<sub>2</sub>.

Not all the reaction products identified by GC-MS instrument were detected by FTIR spectroscopy. The products identified by FTIR were CO, HCl, 2-pentanone, acetaldehyde, 2-methylbutanoic acid, acetic acid, and formaldehyde. The IR spectra used for quantification of 2-pentanone, acetic acid, acetaldehyde, formaldehyde, HCl, and CO were recorded in our lab, while those of pentane, 2-methylbutanoic acid, and propene were taken from the NIST FTIR database (Fig. S4). After subtracting the IR features of all these products, some bands between 1900 and 1100 cm<sup>-1</sup> still remain in the residual spectrum (see the bottom of Fig. S8). This could be due to the other compounds with lower concentration identified by GC-MS instrument for which the detection by FTIR was difficult due to the lack of characteristic bands in the residual spectrum. The remaining bands could correspond to butanal, butanedial, or a mixture of both. The molar yields for the major products, Y<sub>Product</sub>, were obtained from the slope of [product] versus consumed [2MP] plots (Fig. S9a).  $Y_{\text{Product}}$  values  $(\pm 2\sigma)$  were  $(84.6\pm 3.4)$  % for HCl,  $(23.9 \pm 0.6)$ % for 2-pentanone, and  $(11.1 \pm 0.3)$ % for acetaldehyde.

All reaction products identified by GC-MS instrument and FTIR spectroscopy, except CO, were also observed by PTR-ToF-MS. These products are formaldehyde (CH<sub>2</sub>OH<sup>+</sup>, m/z = 31.02), acetaldehyde (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>OH<sup>+</sup>, m/z = 45.03), acetic acid (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub>H<sup>+</sup>, m/z = 61.02), 2-pentanone (C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>10</sub>OH<sup>+</sup>, m/z = 87.08), 2-methylbutanoic acid ( $C_5H_{10}O_2H^+$ , m/z = 103.13), butanedial ( $C_4H_6O_2H^+$ , m/z = 87.04), and butanal (C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>8</sub>OH<sup>+</sup>, m/z = 73.06). In addition, other products were also observed such methanol (CH<sub>4</sub>OH<sup>+</sup>, m/z = 33.03), methylglyas oxal (C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub>H<sup>+</sup>, m/z = 73.03), and propanoic acid  $(C_3H_6O_2H^+, m/z = 75.04)$  but at lower concentrations. The PTR-ToF-MS signal from the identified products was calibrated to ensure the accuracy in the quantification. From the product yield plots shown in Fig. S9b,  $Y_{\text{Product}}$  ( $\pm 2\sigma$ ) was  $(18.9 \pm 0.4)$ % for 2-pentanone and  $(14.1 \pm 1.1)$ % for acetaldehyde.

The time evolution of 2MP and the products identified with an average ion concentration greater than  $2 \times$   $10^{11}$  molecule cm<sup>-3</sup> (8.1 ppb) is shown in Fig. 3. Although these products were also formed during the 2MP exposure to the UV light in the test experiments (without Cl<sub>2</sub>) performed prior to the Cl reaction, their concentration was negligible (<4 × 10<sup>10</sup> molecules cm<sup>-3</sup> = 1.6 ppb) compared with the observed levels after the Cl reaction. For minor products, no yield values are provided.

The presence of HCl as a primary product in Reacton (R2) indicates that the reaction proceeds via H abstraction mainly from one of the following three sites:

 $CH_3CH_2CH_2CH(CH_3)C(O)H + Cl$ 

$\rightarrow$ CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub>	$_{2}CH_{2}CH(CH_{3})C(O) + HC$	, (R2a)
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 $\rightarrow CH_3CH_2CH_2C(CH_3)C(O)H + HCl, \qquad (R2b)$ 

 $\rightarrow$  CH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CHCH(CH<sub>3</sub>)C(O)H + HCl. (R2c)

Two of the major products, HCl and acetaldehyde, can be explained by any of the three pathways mentioned above (Reactions R2a-R2c). The first step leads to the formation of HCl and a radical, after several reactions with O<sub>2</sub> or RO<sub>2</sub> radicals, that forms acetaldehyde. Reactions (R2a) and (R2b) lead to the generation of 2pentanone, another major product. In Reaction (R2a), the carbonyl radical obtained after the H abstraction from the -C(O)H group reacts with  $O_2$  and  $RO_2$  radicals, after subsequent reactions, yielding 2-pentanone. In addition, the decomposition of the radical prior to the formation of 2-pentanone generates butanal, detected by PTR-ToF-MS and GC-MS instrument. Other minor products, such as formaldehyde and methanol, are generated through the three pathways as final decompositions products. Finally, the decomposition of CH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>C(CH<sub>3</sub>)C(O)H and CH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CHCH(CH<sub>3</sub>)C(O)H radicals from Reactions (R2b) and (R2c) generates methylglyoxal, another minor product detected by PTR-ToF-MS.

### 3.2.1 Formation of secondary organic aerosols (SOAs)

The size distribution of the particles formed in the Cl + 2MP reaction with mobility diameters  $(D_p)$  between 6 and 523 nm is shown in terms of the normalized particle number,  $dN / dlogD_p$ , and mass,  $dM / dlogD_p$ , in Fig. 4. As shown in Fig. 4a, after 2–4 min (t = 0 min corresponds to the beginning of Cl reaction), the maximum  $dN / dlogD_p$  corresponds to particles with a diameter of ca. 100–150 nm, while the maximum  $dM / dlogD_p$  was reached at t = 10 min for particles of ca. 500 nm (Fig. 4b), close to the maximum  $D_p$  that can be detected by the FMPS. Due to this instrumental limitation, the total SOA mass formed could not be inferred.

### 3.3 Kinetics and products of the 2MP + OH reaction

Since no pressure dependence of the individual second-order rate coefficient,  $k_{OH}(T)$ , for the OH + 2MP reaction was found between 50 and 500 Torr, as shown in Table S4, the

<sup>a</sup> Ceacero-Vega et al. (2009). <sup>b</sup> Orlando et al. (2003).

Reference	$k_{\rm Cl}/k_{\rm ref}$	$(10^{-10} \mathrm{cm}^3 \mathrm{molec.}^{-1} \mathrm{s}^{-1})$	$(10^{-10} \mathrm{cm}^3 \mathrm{molec.}^{-1} \mathrm{s}^{-1})$
Propene	$0.92\pm0.01$	$2.23\pm0.30^{\rm a}$	$2.1\pm0.3$
Isoprene	$0.55\pm0.01$	$4.30\pm1.16^{\rm b}$	$2.4 \pm 0.6$
			Average: $2.2 \pm 0.4$



Figure 3. Time evolution of  $2MP(C_6H_{12}OH^+)$  and the products measured by PTR-ToF-MS during the Cl and OH reactions.

rate coefficients at a single temperature were obtained by plotting  $k' - k'_0$  vs. [2MP]<sub>0</sub> at different total pressures (Fig. 5). For example, at room temperature,

$$k_{\rm OH}(298\,{\rm K}) = (3.3\pm0.3)\times10^{-11}\,{\rm cm}^3\,{\rm molec.}^{-1}\,{\rm s}^{-1}$$

which is in excellent agreement with that reported by D'Anna et al. (2001),  $k_{\rm OH}$  (298 K) = (3.32 ± 0.14) × 10<sup>-11</sup> cm<sup>3</sup> molec.<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>. To our knowledge, this is the first kinetic study of Reaction (R3) as a function of temperature. In the studied range of temperature (263– 353 K),  $k_{\rm OH}$  (*T*) shows a slightly negative temperature dependence, increasing by around 61 % from 353 to 263 K, as shown in Table S4. The values of  $k_{\rm OH}$  (*T*) fit to the Arrhenius equation (Fig. S10). The Arrhenius parameters found were the pre-exponential factor  $A = (6.18 \pm 0.94)$ × 10<sup>-12</sup> cm<sup>3</sup> molec.<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> and  $E_a/R = -(509 \pm 45)$  K, i.e., an activation energy of  $E_a = -(4.23 \pm 0.38)$  kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>. Uncertainties in *A* and  $E_a$  correspond to 2 $\sigma$  statistical errors.

Figure 3 shows the temporal profile of 2MP and the products identified in the OH reaction by PTR-ToF-MS. In the timescale of the experiment, 2MP is less reactive towards OH radicals than towards Cl atoms. The major products were acetaldehyde, formaldehyde, and 2-pentanone with lower concentrations than those generated in the Cl reaction. The reason for such observations can also be related to a low OH concentration generated in the photolysis of

H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. This suggests that the OH reaction proceeds by a Habstraction pathway similarly to the Cl reaction. Other minor products were ketene (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>OH<sup>+</sup>, m/z = 43.02), formic acid (CH<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>H<sup>+</sup>, m/z = 47.01), and butanal. Nevertheless, as confirmed in prior experiments in the absence of OH radicals, acetaldehyde, 2-pentanone, and formaldehyde were also formed at lower concentrations than those observed after the OH reaction, in the dark reaction of 2MP with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> ( $1.6 \times 10^{11}$ ,  $3.59 \times 10^{10}$ , and  $3.37 \times 10^{10}$  molecules cm<sup>-3</sup> (6, 1, and 1 ppb), respectively), and by UV photolysis ( $3.76 \times 10^{11}$ ,  $4.53 \times 10^{10}$ , and  $1.01 \times 10^{11}$  molecules cm<sup>-3</sup> (10, 2, and 4 ppb), respectively).

### 4 Atmospheric implications

Considering the most important degradation pathways (UV photolysis and reactions with Cl atoms and OH radicals), the lifetime of 2MP,  $\tau_{2MP}$ , can be estimated according to Eq. (4):

$$\tau_{2\text{MP}} = \frac{1}{J(z,\theta) + k_{\text{CI}}[\text{Cl}] + k_{\text{OH}}[\text{OH}]},\tag{4}$$

where  $J(z, \theta)$  is the photolysis rate of 2MP at a certain z and  $\theta$ ;  $k_{Cl}$  and  $k_{OH}$  are those determined in this work at 298 K; and [Cl] and [OH] are the concentrations of Cl atoms and OH radicals, depending on the considered scenario (Table 2).



Figure 4. Time evolution of the size of the SOA generated in the 2MP + Cl reaction in terms of the (a) normalized particle number and (b) mass.

Scenario	[OH] (radicals cm <sup>-3</sup> )	Reference	[Cl] (atoms cm <sup>-3</sup> )	Reference
(i)	10 <sup>6</sup>	Prinn et al. (2001)	$10^{3}$	Singh et al. (1996)
(ii)	10 <sup>5</sup>	Holland et al. (2003)	$10^{5}$	Spicer et al. (1998)



**Figure 5.** Examples of the  $k' - k'_0$  vs. [2MP]<sub>0</sub> plots (Eq. S3) at 263, 298 and 353 K in the 50–500 Torr pressure range.

In this work, the following scenarios for a mid-latitude urban atmosphere were considered:

- i. *Inland.* This is for a winter and a summer day at 13:00 GMT+1 in Ciudad Real (z = 0.6 km).
- ii. *Coastal.* This is for a winter and a summer day in Valencia (z = 0 km) at dawn, where the Cl chemistry can play a significant role.

 Table 3. Estimated lifetimes of 2MP due to the investigated processes.

Scenario	$\tau_{h\nu}$	$\tau_{\rm OH}$	$\tau_{\rm Cl}$	$\tau_{2MP}$
(i)	21 h <sup>a</sup> 8 h <sup>b</sup>	8 h	52 d	6 h <sup>a</sup> 4 h <sup>b</sup>
(ii)	29 d <sup>a</sup> 3 d <sup>b</sup>	3 d	12 h	11 h <sup>a</sup> 9 h <sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> In wintertime. <sup>b</sup> In summertime.

The photolysis rate coefficient  $J(z, \theta)$  was estimated as follows (Jiménez et al., 2007):

$$J(z,\theta) \cong \Phi_{\rm eff}(2\rm{MP}) \sum_{\lambda > 290\,\rm{nm}} F(\lambda, z, \theta) \sigma_{\lambda} \Delta \lambda, \tag{5}$$

where  $\sigma_{\lambda}$  values used in the calculation were those listed in Table S3, and  $\Phi_{\text{eff}} = 0.32$  was determined in this work.  $F(\lambda, z, \theta)$  (in photons cm<sup>-2</sup> nm<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>) is the solar spectral actinic flux for a specific  $\theta$  in the troposphere, obtained using the TUV radiative transfer model (5.3 version) developed by Madronich and Flocke (1999), and  $\Delta \lambda = 1$  nm. In Table S5, the photolysis rate coefficients obtained for scenarios (i) and (ii) are summarized, and they were used to calculate the lifetime of 2MP due to this process as  $\tau_{h\nu} = 1/J(z, \theta)$  (see Table 3).

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Product	Chemical formula	Process			Detection technique		
		2MP + hv	2MP + Cl	2MP + OH	FTIR	PTR-ToF-MS	GC-MS
Hydrogen chloride	HCl		Major		Yes		
Formaldehyde	CH <sub>2</sub> O		$\checkmark$	Major	Yes	Yes	
Formic acid	CH <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>			$\checkmark$		Yes	
Methanol	CH <sub>4</sub> O		$\checkmark$			Yes	
Ketene	$C_2H_2O$			$\checkmark$		Yes	
Acetaldehyde	$C_2H_4O$		$\checkmark$	Major	Yes	Yes	Yes
Acetic acid	$C_2H_4O_2$		$\checkmark$		Yes	Yes	Yes
Propanoic acid	$C_3H_6O_2$		$\checkmark$			Yes	
Methylglyoxal	$C_3H_4O_2$		$\checkmark$			Yes	
Propene	C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>6</sub>	$\checkmark$			Yes		
Butanal	$C_4H_8O$		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$		Yes	Yes
2-Pentanone	$C_5H_{10}O$	Major	Major	$\checkmark$	Yes	Yes	Yes
Butanedial	$C_5H_8O_2$		$\checkmark$		Yes	Yes	Yes
Pentane	$C_{5}H_{12}$	$\checkmark$			Yes		
2-Methylbutanoic acid	$C_5H_{10}O_2$		$\checkmark$		Yes	Yes	Yes

Table 4. Summary of identified reaction products in Reactions (R1), (R2), and (R3) and analytical techniques used.

Considering the concentration of oxidants provided in Table 2, the estimated lifetime of 2MP due to the reaction with OH radicals ( $\tau_{OH} = 1/\{k_{OH}[OH]\}$ ) is 8 h in a midlatitude inland urban atmosphere and 3 d in a coastal atmosphere at dawn. The lifetime of 2MP due to the Cl reaction ( $\tau_{Cl} = 1/\{k_{Cl}[Cl]\}$ ) is 52 d in a mid-latitude inland urban atmosphere but 12 h in a mid-latitude coastal urban atmosphere at dawn. As shown in Table 3, the contribution of each process can be derived considering the individual lifetimes. In a mid-latitude inland urban atmosphere, the dominant degradation pathway for 2MP is the reaction with OH radicals in winter, while UV photolysis is a competing process in summer.

Tropospheric removal of 2MP by NO<sub>3</sub> radicals is negligible ( $\tau_{NO_3} = 41$  h) compared to the diurnal removal (on the order of a few hours). To estimate  $\tau_{NO_3}$ , the rate coefficient for the 2MP + NO<sub>3</sub> reaction reported by D'Anna et al. (2001) has been considered. In the estimation, a 24 h average [NO<sub>3</sub>] is preferred, even though NO<sub>3</sub> is photolyzed at daytime. Based on a nighttime average [NO<sub>3</sub>] of  $5 \times 10^8$  radicals cm<sup>-3</sup> (Shu and Atkinson, 1995), the 24 h average [NO<sub>3</sub>] considered here is  $2.5 \times 10^8$  radicals cm<sup>-3</sup>.

Regarding the impact of 2MP degradation on air quality, the consequences extend beyond the formation of carbonyl compounds mentioned earlier in low-NO<sub>x</sub> areas. The detected products, as summarized in Table 4, highlight the presence of various VOCs that, in polluted environments, may play a significant role in the generation of photochemical smog. For instance, 2-pentanone, which emerges as the most abundant VOC resulting from the Cl + 2MP reaction and UV photolysis of 2MP, is also formed in the OH+2MP reaction. Additionally, acetaldehyde and formaldehyde, the predominant VOCs in the OH + 2MP reaction, may further contribute to photochemical smog. As 2MP is primarily emitted to the atmosphere from anthropogenic sources,  $NO_x$  chemistry typical of polluted environments cannot be fully decoupled. When high levels of  $NO_x$  are present, ozone is formed. The amount of tropospheric ozone that may be generated from the degradation of 2MP initiated by OH radicals (POCP, photochemical ozone creation potential) is estimated to be 46 (relative to ethene, POCP = 1). This parameter for 2MP and, therefore, its contribution to photochemical smog are on the same order of magnitude as other aldehydes (Jenkin et al., 2017). Moreover, in these environments, it is likely that toxic and irritant peroxyacyl nitrates (PANs) will be formed.

Furthermore, the evidence obtained from this research demonstrates the fast formation and subsequent growth of SOAs. Nonetheless, these findings must be interpreted cautiously, as the concentrations of  $Cl_2$  and 2MP employed in the SOA experiments were notably higher in comparison to what is typically expected in the atmosphere.

In polluted sites, such as coastal areas or locations with ceramic industries and coal-fired power plants (Galán et al., 2002; Sarwar and Bhave, 2007; Deng et al., 2014), the photolysis of  $Cl_2$  is the dominant daytime Cl atom source together with ClNO<sub>2</sub> (see Tham et al., 2016; Liu et al., 2017; Xia et al., 2020). While the Cl+2MP reaction could eventually play a role in the atmospheric HCl budget, given the current 2MP emissions, it is likely to have a relatively minor impact on acid rain compared to other sources of HCl.

### **5** Conclusions

Once 2MP is emitted, it can be degraded in a few hours during daytime (4–11 h) depending on the location and season. Not only does the direct impact of the degradation of 2MP lead to the formation of harmful carbonyl compounds and the

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growth of submicron particles, exacerbating photochemical smog, and atmospheric pollution, but it can also contribute to the atmospheric budget of HCl, especially in regions where the concentration of Cl atoms are high, although it will have a small impact on acid rain.

**Data availability.** Infrared spectra for compounds not measured in this work can be found in the NIST WebBook (https://webbook. nist.gov/chemistry/name-ser/, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 2023).

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**Competing interests.** The contact author has declared that none of the authors has any competing interests.

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