Rethinking the global secondary organic aerosol (SOA) budget: stronger production, faster removal, shorter lifetime

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Abstract: Recent laboratory studies suggest that secondary organic aerosol (SOA) formation rates are higher than assumed in current models. There is also evidence that SOA removal by dry and wet deposition occurs more efficiently than some current models suggest, and that photolysis and heterogeneous oxidation may be important (but currently ignored) SOA sinks. Here, we have updated the global GEOS-Chem model to include this new information on formation (i.e. wall-corrected yields and emissions of semi-volatile and intermediate volatility organic compounds) and on removal processes (photolysis and heterogeneous oxidation). We compare simulated SOA from various model configurations against ground, aircraft and satellite measurements to assess the extent to which these improved representations of SOA formation and removal processes are consistent with observed characteristics of the SOA distribution. The updated model presents a more dynamic picture of the lifecycle of atmospheric SOA, with production rates 3.9 times higher and sinks a factor of 3.6 more efficient than in the base model. In particular, the updated model predicts larger SOA concentrations in the boundary layer and lower concentrations in the upper troposphere, leading to better agreement with surface and aircraft measurements of organic aerosol compared to the base model. Our analysis thus suggests that the long-standing discrepancy in model predictions of the vertical SOA distribution can now be resolved, at least in part, by a stronger source and stronger sinks leading to a shorter lifetime. The predicted global SOA burden in the updated model is 0.88 Tg and the corresponding direct radiative forcing at top of the atmosphere is -0.33 W m^{-2}, which is comparable to recent model estimates constrained by observations. The updated model predicts a population-weighed global mean surface SOA concentration that is a factor of 2 higher than in the base model, suggesting the need for a reanalysis of the contribution of SOA to PM pollution-related human health effects. The potential importance of our estimates highlights the need for more extensive field and laboratory studies focused on characterizing organic aerosol removal mechanisms and rates.

1 Introduction

Secondary organic aerosol (SOA) is formed through complex photochemical gas and aqueous reactions involving a variety of biogenic and anthropogenic hydrocarbons, and accounts for a substantial fraction of the submicron aerosol mass [*Zhang et al.,* 2007]. Despite its importance from a climate and air quality perspective, there are significant uncertainties in our understanding of SOA. A recent intercomparison study of more than twenty state-of-the-art global aerosol models showed that estimates of the SOA annual production rate vary among models by an order of magnitude, from ~13 to 119 Tg yr^{-1}, and estimates of its lifetime range from 5 to 15 days [*Tsigaridis et al.,* 2014]. This wide spread in model results arises from a limited knowledge of underlying processes controlling both SOA formation and removal in the atmosphere.

SOA formation rates used in current large scale models are commonly based on yields derived from chamber experiments, which might be severely underpredicted (up to a factor of 4) due to loses of organic vapors onto chamber walls [*La et al.,* 2015; *Zhang et al.,* 2014; *Matsunaga and Ziemann,* 2010]. As a consequence, these models often significantly underpredict ambient SOA concentrations [e.g. *Heald et al.,* 2011; *Spracklen et al.,* 2011]. To compensate for these model underestimations in an effort to match surface organic aerosol (OA) and SOA measurements, models increasingly include unconstrained aging parameterizations in which more volatile organic constituents are converted to less volatile ones [e.g. *Jo et al.,* 2013; *Shrivastava et al.,* 2011; *Tsimpidi et al.,* 2010]. A detailed analysis by *Heald et al.* [2011] suggests however that an adjustment of this sort will lead to other biases in model performance. In their study, global model simulations that were adjusted to correctly reproduce surface concentrations of organic aerosols (OA) displayed unrealistic accumulation of OA in the upper troposphere. These studies suggest that in addition to SOA formation processes,

64 there is also a need to re-examine the representation of SOA removal processes in

65 chemistry-climate models.

66 Wet scavenging is typically the major direct loss (90%) of SOA in global models

67 [*Tsigaridis et al.,* 2014], with dry deposition representing a much smaller sink (<10%)

68 due to the small dry deposition velocities predicted for accumulation mode aerosols

69 [*Seinfeld and Pandis,* 2006; *Farmer et al.,* 2013]. SOA loss can also occur indirectly by

70 wet and dry removal of gas phase semi-volatile oxidized species, which act to suppress

71 the amount of condensable material available for SOA formation through gas-particle

72 partitioning. Global models typically treat the removal of these gas-phase oxidized

73 organic compounds (OVOCs) in an ad-hoc manner using constant Henry's law solubility

74 coefficients between 10^3 and 10^6 M atm^{-1} [*Knote et al.,* 2015 and references therein].

75 However, recent explicit modeling results [*Hodzic et al.*, 2014] show that Henry's law

76 solubility coefficients can vary significantly as a function of the volatility of OVOCs,

77 indicating the need for a reassessment of effective wet and dry removal lifetimes of

78 SOA.

79 In addition to wet and dry removal, there is increasing evidence of other potentially

80 important SOA loss mechanisms that are, to our knowledge, rarely implemented in

81 global model calculations. Laboratory studies suggest that photolytic processing of

82 organic gases and particles can remove tropospheric aerosols on timescales

83 comparable to those of wet deposition, although the chemical transformations involved

84 are not well understood [*Henry and Donahue,* 2012; *Epstein et al.,* 2014; *Wong et al.,*

85 *2014*]. Model estimates performed by *Hodzic et al.* [2015] indicate that SOA photolytic

86 frequencies equivalent to 0.04% of typical NO_2 photolysis frequencies can decrease

87 SOA tropospheric concentrations by 20-60%. Furthermore, organic compounds at or

88 near the surface of particles were also found to be sensitive to heterogeneous (surface)

89   oxidation by OH and O_3 [*Moise and Rudich,* 2002; *Molina et al.,* 2004; *Kroll et al.,* 2009;

90   *George and Abbatt,* 2010; *Ortega et al.,* 2015]. An attempt to include this process in a

91   global model by oxidizing SOA with OH with an effective gas-phase-equivalent rate

92   constant of 10^{-12} cm^3 molecule^{-1}s^{-1} and assuming that only 5% of reacted molecules is

93   lost, suggested a 25% loss of SOA in the upper troposphere and 15% elsewhere [*Heald*

94   *et al.,* 2011]. The implications of O_3 oxidation on the large-scale SOA distribution have

95   not yet been estimated using 3D models. Given the potential effect of these processes

96   on SOA lifecycle, there is a need to estimate the relative efficiency of SOA removal by

97   these competing pathways in a common modeling framework.

98   In this study, we focus on re-assessing the global SOA distribution, budget and radiative

99   forcing in light of new insights into SOA production and loss processes in the

100 atmosphere derived from recent laboratory measurements and theoretical calculations.

101 We perform a series of model sensitivity simulations using the GEOS-Chem global

102 model to evaluate the importance of the wall-corrected SOA yields, the additional

103 emissions of semi-volatile and intermediate volatility organic species, as well as the

104 effect of additional removal pathways discussed above on the SOA spatial distribution

105 and budget. We then compare simulated SOA from these sensitivity runs against a suite

106 of surface and free tropospheric measurements to investigate whether the updated

107 treatment of sources and sinks leads to a more realistic simulation of observed spatial

108 SOA patterns.

2 Modeling approach

In this study, we use the GEOS-Chem global chemical transport model [*Bey et al.,* 2001] at a horizontal resolution of 2° × 2.5° with 47 vertical hybrid pressure-sigma levels up to 0.01 hPa to conduct simulations of aerosol-oxidant chemistry for 2005-2008 with a spin-up of 1 year (2004). The model (http://acmg.seas.harvard.edu/geos/index.html) uses assimilated meteorological data from the Goddard Earth Observing System (GEOS-5) of the NASA Global Modeling and Assimilation Office (GMAO). The standard version of GEOS-Chem includes a comprehensive description of tropospheric NO_X-hydrocarbon-O_3 gas-phase chemistry, as well as the treatment of major aerosol components including sulfate, nitrate, ammonium, black carbon, and primary (POA) and secondary organic aerosols. Anthropogenic VOC emissions are taken from the REanalysis of the TROpospheric chemical composition (RETRO) inventory, whereas POA emissions are from *Bond et al.* [2007]. Biomass burning emissions for all species are based on the Global Fire Emission Database version 3 (GFEDv3) inventory. Biogenic emissions are calculated online using the MEGAN v2.1 model [*Guenther et al.,* 2012]. Here, we use v.9.1.2 of the model with an added extension for SOA that incorporates a Volatility Basis Set (VBS) approach as described in *Jo et al.* [2013]. This base SOA model configuration is described in Section 2.1. We have implemented specific updates to account for wall-corrected SOA yields, SOA formation from additional long chain n-alkanes, solubility of organic vapors, and heterogeneous and photolytic loss of SOA, as described in Sections 2.2 and 2.3.

2.1 Base SOA model configuration

The base version of GEOS-Chem uses the volatility basis set approach (hereafter referred as VBS_REF) to simulate SOA as previously described in *Jo et al.* [2013]. In this approach, oxygenated semi-volatile organic compounds formed by the gas-phase

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134   reaction of hydrocarbon species such as isoprene, monoterpenes, sesquiterpenes, and

135   aromatic compounds, with OH, O_3, and NO_3 are allocated to 4 volatility bins with

136   saturation concentrations (C*) of 1, 10, 100 to 1000 µg m^{-3} at 300K. Two additional

137   volatility bins 0.01 and 0.1 µg m^{-3} are used to represent SOA formed from aged

138   anthropogenic precursors by further reactions of OVOCs with OH. Partitioning between

139   gas and particle phase in each bin in each model grid cell is calculated based on the

140   total OA concentration and temperature in the grid cell. The temperature dependence of

141   the partitioning coefficient is calculated based on an assumed value for the enthalpy of

142   vaporization of 112 kJ mol^{-1} at C* = 0.01 µg m^{-3} with a decrease of 6 kJ mol^{-1} for each

143   increase in order of magnitude of C* [*Robinson et al.,* 2007]. Chemical aging of

144   anthropogenic oxidation intermediates with OH is considered with a rate constant of

145    $4x10^{-11}$ cm^3 molecule^{-1} s^{-1} and leads to a reduction of the vapor pressure of the products

146   by one order of magnitude. There was no mass increase (oxygen gain) upon aging

147   reaction. Biogenic precursors are not artificially aged. It should be noted that we do not

148   support in any case the *ad hoc* aging of oxidation products, but since this is a common

149   modeling practice [e.g. *Tsimpidi et al.,* 2010; *Jo et al.,* 2013] we use it in this study as a

150   basis for comparisons with our updated model described below.

151   **2.2   Updated parameterization of SOA formation**

152   We have updated the SOA formation mechanism to use a modified set of VBS product

153   yields (called hereafter VBS_NEW) for which the influence of vapor wall-losses on the

154   SOA yields in chamber studies have been, at least approximately, accounted for.

155   Specifically, synthetic SOA yield curves (i.e. the amount of SOA formed versus the

156   amount of VOC reacted) were generated using the Statistical Oxidation Model (SOM)

157   based on previously-derived fits to chamber data [*Cappa and Wilson*, 2012]. The SOM

158   accounts   for   the   influence   of   multi-generational   chemistry,   including   both

159 functionalization and fragmentation. The SOM parameterizations are unique to precursor

160 species and NO_X conditions. The SOM parameters are determined by fitting laboratory

161 chamber data, specifically the time-evolution of the SOA formed during oxidation of a

162 given VOC. All experiments considered were performed in the Caltech chambers and

163 results from the fits are summarized in *Zhang et al.* [2014]. The SOM framework can

164 account for the influence of losses of semi- and low-volatility vapors to the chamber

165 walls on SOA formation using the *Matsunaga and Ziemann* [2010] methodology, and as

166 described by *Zhang et al.* [2014]. The appropriate value to use for the vapor wall-loss

167 rate coefficient (k_{wall}) remains a point of discussion, but can vary between chambers due

168 to differences in chamber size and operation. Here, a value of $k_{wall} = 10^{-4}$ s^{-1} was

169 assumed. This is likely a conservative (i.e. low) estimate as *Zhang et al.* [2014] derived a

170 slightly larger value (2.5×10^{-4} s^{-1}) and *Matsunaga and Ziemann* [2010] a substantially

171 larger value ($\sim 10^{-3}$ s^{-1}), albeit in the latter case for a different chamber. Here, this

172 conservative estimate is used so as to provide an initial assessment of the influence of

173 vapor wall losses, the effects of which may actually be larger than simulated here if the

174 appropriate k_{wall} is larger than 10^{-4} s^{-1} [*Cappa et al.,* 2016]. For isoprene specifically,

175 which contains two double bonds and can form products that react as fast, if not faster

176 than, isoprene itself, especially under low NO_X conditions [*Paulot et al.,* 2009; *Surratt et*

177 *al.,* 2010; *St. Clair et al.,* 2015], an isoprene-specific version of SOM was also used to fit

178 the chamber observations. Parameterizations resulting from both the original and

179 isoprene-specific SOM formulations have been described and compared in the

180 Supplemental Material (Figure S1 and Table S2). The primary results in this work are

181 based on the isoprene-specific formulation.

182 Results from SOM simulations are used to determine parameters for use in the volatility

183 basis set (VBS) model framework. Specifically, after determining a set of SOM

184   parameters for each precursor with vapor wall losses accounted for, a set of simulations

185   were run for each precursor VOC with: constant [OH] = 2x10^6 molecules cm^{-3}; run time =

186   36h; absorbing seed concentration = 10 μg m^{-3}; precursor [VOC] = 1 ppt. The SOM

187   product species from these simulations were then binned by their saturation

188   concentration into logarithmically spaced bins (e.g. logC* ranging from -2 to 3, see Table

189   1) according to their gas + particle phase concentrations at the end of the simulation,

190   and normalized by the total precursor concentration to determine mass yields as a

191   function of volatility. Thus, the long-time (36 h) VBS mass yields can be calculated as:

$$a_{VBS,x} = \frac{\sum_{\log C^*_{SOM,i} \geq x-0.5}^{\log C^*_{SOM,i} < x+0.5} C_{SOM,i}}{\Delta[HC]}$$

192   where $a_{VBS,x}$ indicates the mass yield in VBS bin defined as $\log C^*_{VBS} = x$, $C_{SOM,i}$ is the

193   gas + particle mass concentration of a given SOM species *i* after 36 h of reaction and

194    $C^*_{SOM,i}$ is the saturation concentration of that species, and $\Delta[HC]$ is the reacted amount of

195   a given parent hydrocarbon. All species with $\log C^*_{SOM,i} < -2.5$ were added to the $\log C^*_{VBS}$

196   = -2 bin. This produces a VBS for each compound for use in the global simulations that

197   effectively accounts for the influence of vapor wall losses and, to first order, for the long-

198   time influence of multi-generational chemistry. This new set of parameters used in the

199   VBS_NEW model is summarized in Table 1 for low- and high-NO$_X$ SOA production from

200   monoterpenes, isoprene, sesquiterpenes, benzene, toluene and xylene. Similar to *Jo et*

201   *al.* [2013], we use the low-NO$_X$ yield values for biogenic species since most of the

202   biogenic emissions occur over low-NO$_X$ forested regions and since the coarse model

203   resolution cannot resolve high-NO$_X$ conditions. This is also consistent with the previous

204   global model study by *Pye et al.* [2010], which reported that more than 90% of biogenic

205   hydrocarbon reactions proceed through the low-NO$_X$ pathway. For anthropogenic

206   species, we perform a linear interpolation between low- and high-NO_X values for

207   anthropogenic species based on the relative ratio of HO_2 and NO at the location and

208   time of VOC oxidation [*Lane et al.,* 2008]. The range of volatilities was extended to 6

209   bins, from 0.01 to 1000 µg m^{-3} at 300K for all species. The enthalpy of vaporization was

210   updated to the experimentally derived values starting at 151 kJ mol^{-1} at C* = 0.01 µg m^{-3}

211   and decreasing by 11 kJ mol^{-1} for each increase in order of magnitude of C* [*Epstein et*

212   *al.*, 2010].

213   The artificial aging of anthropogenic oxidation products is no longer considered in this

214   updated model. However, it is important to note that the SOM accounts for multi-

215   generational oxidation implicitly, including both functionalization and fragmentation

216   reaction pathways, while the VBS type models do not. Therefore, when VBS_NEW yield

217   distributions are determined from the corrected yield curves (or even when determined

218   from the uncorrected yield curves) the influence of multi-generational oxidation (aging)

219   on the observed SOA formation is, to some extent, captured in the derived VBS yield

220   parameters even though the VBS fits assume the OVOC product species are unreactive.

221   In contrast, the aging reactions included in the base-case VBS_REF model above

222   (Section 2.1., REF run) are added *ad hoc* on top of the original parameterization, which

223   can lead to substantial overestimates of the SOA formation [*Jathar et al.,* 2016; *Dzepina*

224   *et al.,* 2011; *Lane et al.,* 2008]. The addition of this *ad hoc* aging results in higher yields

225   and the formation of less volatile organic species from anthropogenic precursors in the

226   default VBS_REF model [*Jo et al.,* 2013] compared to the updated VBS_NEW as

227   demonstrated for Toluene in Figure S2.

228   It is worth noting that the chamber data set used here to determine the modified

229   VBS_NEW parameters is not identical to that used to determine the base-case

230   VBS_REF parameters. However, *Jathar et al.* [2016] have demonstrated that there are

231 relatively small differences between the amounts of SOA simulated using the new data

232 set versus using a traditional set of parameters when a 2-product approach is used,

233 which suggests that this data set difference should have minimal influence on the

234 VBS_NEW simulations here. The method used here to determine the modified

235 VBS_NEW parameters (fitting of a vapor wall-loss adjusted synthetic data set) is an

236 extension of the approach of *Cappa et al.* [2016], where they fitted a set of 2-product

237 yields [*Odum et al.,* 1996] to the synthetic (wall loss corrected) model runs, and where

238 they found that the 2-product model fits were not sufficiently robust due to the limited

239 number of fit parameters. The use of a 6-product parameterization here was found to

240 allow for reasonable fits to the synthetic yield curves. The difference between

241 uncorrected yields and wall-corrected yields (1.1 to 4.1 times) is shown in the

242 supplementary material (Figure S3).

243 In this study, we also include SOA formation from the oxidation of long-chain n-alkanes

244 (C>12) emitted from fossil-fuel, biofuel, and biomass burning sources [e.g. *Robinson et*

245 *al.,* 2007; *Gentner et al.,* 2012]. These semi-volatile (SVOC) and intermediate (IVOC)

246 volatility organic compounds are typically not included in traditional emission inventories.

247 This gap arises from the fact that SVOCs are lost rapidly by evaporation upon dilution

248 are thus not accounted for as primary emissions, and as well as a typical lack of

249 characterization and quantification IVOC compounds in emission studies. Based on the

250 analysis by *Jathar et al.* [2014, their Table 1], we set SVOC mass emissions as 60% of

251 POA emissions and IVOC emissions as 20% of NMVOC emissions (not including SVOC

252 emissions) in each grid cell. We consider both anthropogenic and biomass burning

253 emissions of S/IVOC. The emitted S/IVOCs can undergo oxidation with OH in the model,

254 and produce OVOCs that can partition to form SOA. Table 1 shows the volatility

255 distribution of produced OVOCs (and thus the corresponding SOA yields) that were

256   derived from the GECKO-A model (Generator of Explicit Chemistry and Kinetics of

257   Organics in the Atmosphere, [*Aumont et al.,* 2005]) for low and high NO_X conditions

258   considering a mixture of n-alkane species shown in Table 3 [*Lee-Taylor et al.,* 2011].

259   GECKO-A explicitly accounts for the multi-generational oxidation of OVOCs, including

260   both functionalization and fragmentation reaction pathways, and thus the multi-

261   generational aging of OVOCs from S/IVOCs is implicitly built into the VBS_NEW

262   parameterization provided in Table 1. For GECKO-A, VBS yield distributions were

263   derived in a similar manner as was done for determining distributions from SOM for the

264   other SOA precursors (discussed above), assuming background OA concentrations of

265   10 µg m^{-3} and simulation conditions similar to *Hodzic et al.* [2014]. For computational

266   efficiency, OVOC formation from SVOC was mapped to that of IVOCs by increasing the

267   yields by 20%, which corresponds to the ratio in mass yields between SVOC and IVOCs

268   as calculated from GECKO-A.

269   Global annual mean (2005-2008) emissions of I/SVOC were estimated to be about 54

270   Tg yr^{-1} (split evenly between biomass-burning and fossil/biofuels source categories)

271   based on the corresponding emissions of POA (36.8 Tg yr^{-1} biomass burning; 19.7 Tg yr^{-}

272   ^{1} fossil- and bio-fuels) and of NMVOC (23.7 Tg yr^{-1} biomass burning; 74.9 Tg yr^{-1} fossil-

273   and biofuels). The resulting production of secondary organic gases with the updated

274   VBS_NEW parameterization is 13 Tg yr^{-1} for biomass burning sources, and an additional

275   13 Tg yr^{-1} for fossil- and bio-fuels sources. Our S/IVOC emission estimates (53.6 Tg yr^{-1})

276   are on the low side of the values used in previous studies. For example, Shrivastava et

277   al. [2015] assumed that SIVOC emissions were 6.5 times those of POA from biomass

278   burning and fossil fuels, which lead to 234 Tg yr^{-1} of S/IVOC gases. *Jathar et al.* [2011]

279   assumed that IVOC emissions (84.6 Tg yr^{-1}) were 1.5 times those of POA, which lead to

280   the formation of 27.3 Tg yr^{-1} of SOA (close to our estimates of total SOA from S/IVOC).

281 They also modeled POA emissions (56.4 Tg yr^{-1}) as SVOC gases, assuming that POA

282 was semi-volatile following the volatility distribution of *Robinson et al.* [2007], and that

283 SVOC oxidation formed 22.5 Tg yr^{-1} of SOA, and that the rest equilibrated to form POA.

2.3   Updated parameterization of SOA removal

2.3.1   Dry and wet deposition

286 In GEOS-Chem, soluble gases and aerosols are removed by both convective and grid-

287 scale precipitation as described by *Liu et al.* [2001]. Similar to other global model

288 studies, a fixed value of the effective Henry's law solubility coefficient (H^{eff}) of 10^5 M atm$^-$

289 ^{1} was used in the base model configuration for all intermediate OVOC gas-phase

290 species that can partition to form SOA [*Jo et al.,* 2013]. Aerosol wet scavenging

291 efficiency is set to 80% as in the standard GEOS-Chem model [*Chung and Seinfeld*,

292 2002]. We modified the model to account for the volatility dependence of the Henry's law

293 water solubility coefficients for these species based on *Hodzic et al.* [2014]. H^{eff} values

294 used are summarized in Table 2. For traditional anthropogenic precursors, we use H^{eff}

295 typical of oxidation products of n-alkanes while for biogenic precursors we use H^{eff}

296 values typical of oxidation products of monoterpenes. For oxidation products of IVOCs,

297 we use H^{eff} of 10^3 M atm^{-1}.

298 Dry deposition of organic gases and particles is represented by the standard resistance

299 approach [*Wesely,* 1989; *Seinfeld and Pandis,* 2006], which depends on meteorological

300 conditions through atmospheric and laminar resistances, surface type through the

301 surface resistance, and gravitational settling velocity for particles. The surface resistance

302 describes partitioning of gases into plants and wet surfaces. For particles the surface

303 resistance is set to zero as particles are assumed to stick to the surface. We note

304 however that the GEOS-Chem configuration used by *Jo et al.* [2013] did not include dry

305 deposition of organic vapors. In this study, we include dry deposition of organic vapors

306   using the same volatility-dependent Henry's law coefficients as in the wet deposition

307   parameterization (Table 2).

308   ### 2.3.2 Photolytic removal of particle phase organics

309   We also include the SOA loss by photolysis as a first order reaction following the

310   parameterization proposed by *Hodzic et al.* [2015]. We assume that absorption of each

311   photon by an SOA molecule leads to the irreversible loss of one carbon atom (as the

312   lowest possible limit) from the molecule with a quantum yield of QY. With this

313   assumption, the loss rate of SOA can be written as:

314    $$d[SOA]/dt = -J_{SOA} \times [SOA] \tag{1}$$

315   where $$J_{SOA} = AF \times MAC \times QY \times m_c \tag{2}$$

316   In these equations, J_{SOA} is the first order photolysis rate coefficient for SOA integrated

317   over the 280-400nm wavelength range, [SOA] is the SOA mass concentration (g m^{-3}),

318   *AF* is the total actinic flux over 280-400nm (photons m^{-2} s^{-1}), *MAC* is the SOA mass

319   absorption coefficient (m^2 g^{-1}), *QY* is the quantum yield (atoms of C/photon), and m_c is

320   mass of a C atom (g). J_{SOA} can be rewritten in terms of the NO_2 photolysis rate coefficient

321   (*J$_{NO2}$*) as:

322    $$J_{SOA} = 2 \times 10^{22} \times J_{NO2} \times MAC \times QY \times m_c \tag{3}$$

323   where 2×10^{22} (in units of photons m^{-2}) is the value of [AF/*J$_{NO2}$*] estimated by the

324   photolysis model TUV (http://cprm.acom.ucar.edu/Models/TUV/Interactive_TUV/)

325   [*Madronich et al.,* 1993] for overhead sun conditions at 1 km altitude over 280-400nm.

326   This value varies by only ±5% over a range of solar zenith angles (0 to 90°), altitudes (1

327   to 10km), overhead ozone column (250 to 400 Dobson Units), and summer and winter

328   conditions.

329 Similar to *Hodzic et al.* [2015] here, we use *MAC* = 0.1 m^{2}g^{-1} and *QY* = 0.01 (or 1%) as a

330 representative value for ambient SOA aerosols. The resulting value for J_{SOA} is 0.04% of

331 J_{NO2} ($J_{SOA} = 4 \times 10^{-4} \times J_{NO2}$) which is more than an order of magnitude lower than the

332 photolysis loss coefficients reported by *Henry and Donahue* [2012] who estimated the

333 photolytic loss of SOA as 2% of J_{NO2} (average value of the net effect of both particle and

334 gas-phase photolysis). It should be noted that the implicit assumption in this formulation

335 is that only one carbon atom is lost upon SOA photolysis reaction and not the entire

336 SOA molecule. For more details on the parameterization we refer readers to a previous

337 study by *Hodzic et al.* [2015] that presents a detailed discussion of the comparability of

338 the photolysis rate estimates used in his study with the laboratory-derived estimates of

339 *Henry and Donahue* [2012] and also discussed impact of faster photolysis rates on

340 modeled SOA distributions.

341 ### 2.3.3 Heterogeneous reaction with ozone

342 The removal of organic molecules by heterogeneous reactions at the surface of particles

343 was also implemented into the updated GEOS-Chem model. Reported values of the

344 reactive uptake coefficient (γ), which represents the probability that a reaction occurs

345 upon gas-surface collision, span several orders of magnitude. Values of γ for the uptake

346 of OH radicals range 0.1 to 1.0 [*George and Abbatt*, 2010], whereas for NO_3 and O_3 the

347 uptake kinetics vary considerably depending on the phase and chemical composition of

348 the organic surface. Values of γ for heterogeneous reactions of O_3 with unsaturated

349 organics are typically ~10^{-3} for liquid phase organics, and an order of magnitude smaller,

350 5×10^{-5} to 10^{-4}, for solid organics as the reactants are confined to the surface due to

351 decreased diffusion coefficients into the bulk of the particle [*Moise and Rudich*, 2002;

352 *Hearn and Smith,* 2004]. The O_3 reaction is less efficient with liquid aldehydes and

353 ketones (γ=10^{-4}, [*De Gouw and Lovejoy,* 1998]), alkanes (γ=2×10^{-5} for hexadecane,

354   [*Moise and Rudich,* 2000]) or alcohols ($\gamma \leq 10^{-5}$, [*De Gouw and Lovejoy,* 1998]). For NO_3,

355   *Moise et al.* [2002] reported γ values ranging from 1.5×10^{-2} to 3.8×10^{-4} for a variety of

356   organics including alkanes, alkenes, alcohols, and carboxylic acids with saturated and

357   unsaturated bonds.

358   Given the range of uncertainties, here we estimate the potential effect on SOA removal

359   by OH, NO_3 and O_3 heterogeneous oxidation for typical conditions. Aerosol particles

360   consist of molecules that are reactive with these oxidants. The rate of loss of the gas

361   phase oxidants is equal to

362
$$\left[\frac{d[oxidant]}{dt} \right]_{het} = 1/4 \times \gamma \times [oxidant] \times <c> \times A \tag{4}$$

363   where [*oxidant*] is the oxidant concentration, *<c>* is the mean gas-phase speed of the

364   oxidant and *A* is the specific surface area of organic aerosols (per unit volume of air).

365   This formulation does not account for diffusion limitations. We assume that each oxidant

366   lost from the gas phase reacts with one molecule of OA, and that 10% of the OA mass is

367   lost as a result. For $O_3 = 10^{12}$ molecules cm^{-3}, $A = 10^{-5}$ $m^2 m^{-3}$, and $\gamma = 10^{-5}$, the bulk SOA

368   mass loss rate is about 4% per day. For OH, assuming γ values of 0.1-1 and a

369   concentration of 10^6 molecules cm^{-3}, the corresponding SOA loss rate is about 6-60

370   times slower. For NO_3, assuming $\gamma = 0.01$ and a concentration of 10^7 molecules cm^{-3},

371   the corresponding SOA loss rate is about 100 times lower than the loss rate due to

372   reaction with O_3.

373   Given these estimates, we only consider the surface oxidation loss by O_3 with $\gamma = 10^{-5}$ in

374   the GEOS-Chem sensitivity simulations presented in this study. The chosen uptake

375   coefficient is 1-2 orders of magnitude lower than the reported values for unsaturated

376   organics, which accounts for the fact that unsaturated organic compounds are only a

377   minor fraction of the total organic aerosol, and that values for other compounds are

378   $\gamma \leq 2 \times 10^{-5}$. In each grid cell and at each chemical time step, the loss rate of SOA due to

379   heterogeneous oxidation by O_3 is calculated on the basis of the local organic aerosol

380   surface area and O_3 concentration.

381   **2.4   Model simulations**

382   Five model simulations were performed for the 2005-2008 period. Their characteristics

383   are listed in Table 4. The base-case simulation (REF) corresponds to the model setup as

384   used in the previous simulations by *Jo et al.* [2013] and is typical of other global model

385   studies in which the VBS framework is used. The sensitivity simulations are designed to

386   study the effect of new wall-corrected chamber yields and SOA production from S/IVOCs

387   (NY), updated dry and wet deposition of organic vapors (NY_D), and photolytic (NY_DP)

388   and heterogeneous (NY_DPH) loss of SOA. Each of the sensitivity simulations builds

389   successively on the NY simulation. For example, the NY_DP simulation adds updated

390   Henry's law coefficients and photolytic SOA loss to the new yields simulation, and the

391   NY_DPH adds heterogeneous chemistry SOA loss to the NY_DP simulation (Table 4).

392   The overall effect of new removal pathways on SOA global budgets was estimated by

393   comparing the NY and NY_DPH runs.

394   **2.5   Data used for model evaluation**

395   **2.5.1   Ground measurements**

396   Over the continental U.S. model results are evaluated using surface organic carbon

397   (OC) measurements (in $PM_{2.5}$ filter samples collected every 3 days) from the IMPROVE

398   network   (Interagency   Monitoring   of   Protected   Visual   Environments,

399   http://www.epa.gov/ttn/airs/airsaqs). For the comparison, measurements taken from

400   2005 to 2008 are used (more than 76,000 data points), and data were averaged over the

401   entire period for each month. Measurements are mostly representative of rural

402 background OC concentrations since the IMPROVE sites are, for the most part, located

403 in U.S. national parks. Over Europe, the monthly mean observations of OC (in PM_{10}

404 samples) collected at the EMEP (European Monitoring and Evaluation Programme) sites

405 from 2002 to 2003 [*Yttri et al.,* 2007] are used to evaluate GEOS-Chem monthly mean

406 results. We only use data from the rural background sites (see Table S4). Both the

407 IMPROVE and EMEP site measurements determined OC concentrations using thermo-

408 optical methods. During the considered period, the mean OC concentration are 2.5 times

409 larger at the EMEP sites (3.46 µg m^{-3}) than at the IMPROVE sites (1.27 µg m^{-3}), which

410 could be due to a greater proximity of urban and industrial centers. Evaporation of OC

411 from IMPROVE summer samples which are kept in the field for several days and

412 shipped without cooling, could also play a role [*Kim et al.,* 2015].

413 Surface measurements from the Aerosol Mass Spectrometer (AMS) global network for

414 years 2000-2008 (*Zhang et al.* [2007]; https://sites.google.com/site/amsglobaldatabase/)

415 are used to evaluate modeled SOA. The bulk OA observations have been further

416 analyzed through positive matrix factorization to assess contributions from different OA

417 types, or factors, and are divided into two key OA types i.e. oxygenated OOA and

418 hydrocarbon-like HOA. We assume that the observed OOA can be directly compared

419 with model predicted SOA. Multi year (2005-2008) monthly means from the model are

420 compared with the corresponding observations reported at 20 locations including 16

421 rural and 4 background locations (urban site were not considered).

422 ### 2.5.2 Aircraft measurements

423 We use OA measurements from recent aircraft field campaigns [*Heald et al.,* 2011] that

424 took place between 2005 and 2009 to evaluate the vertical distribution of organic

425 aerosols (see Table S5). The comparison is performed for conditions representative of

426 remote (ITOP IMPEX, VOCALS-UK), moderately polluted (SEAC4RS, ADRIEX, TexAQ,

427 EUCAARI) and biomass burning influenced (ARCTAS) regions. Given the coarse model

428 resolution, data from heavily polluted regions (e.g. Mexico City MILAGRO, Asia ACE-

429 Asia, Borneo OP3) were not considered. In these campaigns, total OA concentrations

430 were measured using the AMS instrument [*Canagaratna et al.,* 2007]. Observations

431 were averaged over each aircraft campaign according to their vertical location and

432 compared to the simulated monthly mean OA vertical profiles in the corresponding

433 month and location in the model. For ARCTAS, the observed OA concentrations above

434 the 99th percentile i.e. larger than 16 µg m^{-3}(STP) (where 'STP' stands for standard

435 conditions of 273 K and 1 atm) were filtered out to limit the influence of biomass burning

436 plumes that the GEOS-Chem model cannot resolve at the considered horizontal

437 resolution. For SEAC4RS, the 80th percentile value of acetonitrile (~140ppt) was used as

438 a cut-off to exclude OA measurements heavily influenced by fire plumes. For three

439 campaigns (ITOP, ADRIEX and SEAC4RS) that occurred outside of the modeled period,

440 we used averaged model values between 2005 and 2008 for the month corresponding to

441 the field project.

442 **3   Results and discussion**

443 **3.1   SOA spatial distribution**

444 The spatial distribution of annual mean (2005-2008) concentrations of SOA from various

445 sources (total, biogenic VOC, anthropogenic and biomass burning VOC, and

446 anthropogenic and biomass burning S/IVOCs) in the lower troposphere (ground to 5km

447 agl) as predicted by the GEOS-Chem NY run are shown in Figure 1. The simulated

448 continental background SOA levels in the lower troposphere are typically between 0.2

449 and 0.5 µg m^{-3}, and the highest concentrations (>2 µg m^{-3}) are predicted over tropical

450 forest regions of Africa and South America. Industrialized and urban areas in China,

451 Europe and the U.S. feature SOA concentrations significantly larger (1-2 µg m^{-3}) than

452 the background. The biggest contribution to SOA worldwide is from biogenic sources.

453 The predicted spatial distribution and amounts of biogenic SOA, with high values over

454 tropical forest regions, are consistent with previous modeling studies [e.g. *Farina et al.,*

455 2010; *Shrivastava et al.,* 2015], and somewhat larger than concentrations estimated by

456 *Spracklen et al.* [2011]. Anthropogenic emissions of traditional hydrocarbons (aromatics

457 and short n-alkanes) contribute up to 0.5 µg m^{-3} over industrialized and urban regions,

458 and about 0.1 µg m^{-3} elsewhere. The contribution of intermediate and semi-volatile

459 anthropogenic compounds, which are not treated in traditional emission inventories, is

460 significant, ranging from 0.1 µg m^{-3} background levels, to 0.5 µg m^{-3} over continental

461 Europe and North America, to 1-2 µg m^{-3} over polluted regions of China and India, and

462 over tropical biomass burning regions in Africa and South America. Spatial patterns and

463 concentrations of SOA predicted from S/IVOCs are within similar to those reported by

464 *Jathar et al.* [2011, Figure 4].

3.1.1 Effect of wall-corrected chamber yields

466 Figure 1 also shows the difference between the NY simulation using the vapor wall-loss

467 corrected yields for SOA formation from traditional anthropogenic and biogenic

468 precursors, and the REF simulation using the typical non-corrected yields with artificial

469 aging of intermediate organic vapors produced from anthropogenic precursors as in

470 previous studies [*Farina et al.,* 2010; *Jo et al.,* 2013]. In terms of annual averages, the

471 difference between the two simulations shows an increase in biogenic SOA of ~1 µg m^{-3}

472 over eastern U.S., Australia and southeast Asia, and up to 4-8 µg m^{-3} over SOA hotspots

473 of tropical Africa and South America. This change can be attributed to effectively higher

474 SOA yields and the formation of less volatile SOA as shown in Figure S2. SOA formation

475 from the traditional anthropogenic VOC precursors is decreased in the NY simulation by

476 0.1 to 0.3 µg m^{-3}. The wall-corrected yields for aromatics are lower than the traditional

477   yields combined with the aging parameter, which were used in the default version of the

478   model (see Figure S2). This difference is primary due to the addition of aging reactions

479   in the REF model, which leads to substantial and likely excessive production of SOA as

480   discussed in *Dzepina et al.* [2011] and *Jathar et al.* [2016]. However, the total

481   anthropogenic fraction is increased in the NY simulation by ~0.5 µg m^{-3} over southeast

482   Asia, and up to ~2 µg m^{-3} over south America and Africa due to the contribution of

483   intermediate and semi-volatile compounds that were only accounted for in the NY

484   simulation. Vertical profiles of SOA concentrations averaged over the entire globe or the

485   continental U.S. (Figure 2) show that SOA production using the vapor wall-loss corrected

486   yields has led to a larger fractional increase of the near surface SOA concentrations

487   (surface to 3km agl), which is the region where the model underprediction is the most

488   severe [*Heald et al.,* 2011].

489   3.1.2   Effect of removal processes

490   Figure 3 shows the sensitivity of SOA levels in the boundary layer and in the free

491   troposphere to the three types of removal pathways considered here: dry and wet

492   deposition of organic vapors and aerosols, photolysis, and heterogeneous removal of

493   SOA. Given the relatively short chemical lifetime of SOA compared to typical

494   tropospheric transport time scales, there is a strong correspondence between regions

495   where the surface concentrations are highest and where the free tropospheric

496   concentrations are the highest. Dry and wet removal of gases and particles depends on

497   their water solubility, which is given by the effective Henry's law constant (H^{eff}). For

498   organic gases, H^{eff} has been typically fixed to an arbitrary value in the 10^3-10^5 M atm^{-1}

499   range. The choice of this value can impact SOA predictions [*Bessagnet et al.,* 2010; *Pye*

500   *and Seinfeld*, 2010; *Ahmadov et al.,* 2012; *Hodzic et al.,* 2014; *Knote et al.,* 2015]. The

501   comparison between the NY simulation, which uses a constant H^{eff} of 10^5 M atm^{-1}

502   (default value in GEOS-Chem), and the sensitivity NY_D simulation, which uses values

503   determined from the explicit chemical modeling (see Table 2), shows a modest decrease

504   of tropospheric SOA, ranging from of 5 to 10% over water surfaces and from 5 to 20%

505   over continents (Figure 3c,i). This suggests that the overall H^{eff} is somewhat higher than

506   the typical values of 10^5 M atm^{-1} used in global models. Our results are consistent with

507   *Knote et al.* [2015, Figure 9] that showed that over the continental U.S. SOA levels are

508   decreased by ~20% when H^{eff} values based on the explicit chemical modeling were used

509   instead of a constant $H^{eff}=10^5$ M atm^{-1}. The decrease in SOA results from both a more

510   limited formation of SOA from oxidized organic vapors because they are removed, but

511   also from the evaporation of already formed SOA to satisfy thermodynamic equilibrium.

512   The maximum relative reduction is seen over areas where SOA concentrations are the

513   highest. Figure 2 indicates that there are no significant vertical gradients in SOA

514   reduction (comparing NY_D with NY). The relatively modest impact on SOA

515   concentrations with increased H^{eff} beyond 10^5 M atm^{-1} is expected due to saturation

516   effects as already discussed by *Knote et al.,* [2015], and *Hodzic et al.* [2014, Figure S5].

517   Figures 3d and 3j show the effect of in-particle photolysis reactions on SOA

518   concentrations using the photolytic loss rate of 0.04% J_{NO2} [*Hodzic et al.*, 2015]. Annual

519   mean boundary layer SOA concentrations are typically decreased by 10-30% over

520   continental regions close to sources, and up to 80% over remote regions. Domain

521   averaged SOA vertical profiles shown in Figure 2 illustrate more clearly this vertical

522   gradient. The reduction in SOA concentrations ranges from 20% near surface to 60%

523   above 4km for the NY_DP run compared to the NY_D run. The strong spatial gradient

524   especially between land and water surfaces can be explained by continuous photolytic

525   loss, the effect of which accumulates further away from source regions. Model results

526   show that this loss pathway will play an important role in the regions where wet

527   deposition is not very efficient such as the upper troposphere and lower stratosphere.

528   Figures 3e and 3k show a <5% decrease in SOA boundary layer concentrations over

529   continental areas and a 5-10% decrease over the outflow regions, when the surface

530   oxidation loss by O_3 with $\gamma = 10^{-5}$ is considered. Here we did not consider OH reactions,

531   as our estimates presented in Section 2.3.2 suggest that the reaction rate with OH is one

532   to two orders of magnitude slower than reaction with O_3.

533   The lifetime of SOA with regard to the combined effect of photolytic loss and

534   heterogeneous reactions with ozone is ~6.2 days for biogenic SOA, 6.6 days for SOA

535   from aromatic and short-chain VOCs, and 6.8 days for SOA from S/IVOCs, which is

536   comparable to the lifetime of SOA against wet removal (3.8-7.4 days). We note that the

537   additional effect of heterogeneous loss of SOA in our simulations is small. Our values

538   are also lower than that reported by *Heald et al.* [2011] for SOA heterogeneous removal

539   by OH despite the fact that the inferred global average lifetimes against heterogeneous

540   loss in our simulations (60-70 days) are somewhat lower than the corresponding

541   lifetimes used by *Heald et al.* [2011] (80-90 days). This is due to the relatively rapid loss

542   of SOA by photolysis in our simulations. As a consequence, the inclusion of

543   heterogeneous SOA loss in the NY_DPH simulation reduces SOA lifetimes and burdens

544   by only 4-5% relative the corresponding quantities in the NY_DP simulation.

545   After studying the effect on SOA concentrations of various loss pathways individually, we

546   assess their combined effect by comparing the NY_DPH vs. NY simulations. The results

547   show a ~30-40% reduction in annual mean SOA concentrations within the continental

548   boundary layer, and more than 60% in the outflow remote regions (oceans). A stronger

549   impact on SOA concentrations is found in the free troposphere, with a 40-50% decrease

550   over continental regions of the Southern Hemisphere, and 60% decrease over

551   continental areas of the Northern Hemisphere. The outflow regions over the Pacific and

552   Atlantic oceans show an 80% decrease in SOA. SOA concentrations in the NY_DPH

553   simulation (with updated treatment of SOA production and removal) range from

554   background concentrations of 0.1 µg m^{-3} over oceans and 0.5-1 µg m^{-3} over continental

555   areas throughout the lower troposphere, to 2-3 µg m^{-3} over urbanized regions of Europe

556   and U.S., and to >4 µg m^{-3} over China, India, and tropical forest regions of Africa and

557   South America (Figure 3b). The relative contribution to SOA concentrations of biogenic,

558   anthropogenic and biomass burning VOC and S/IVOC precursors is shown in Figure S4.

559   We find that biogenic precursors contribute most of the SOA mass in the southern

560   hemisphere, and about ~40% in the northern hemisphere, whereas traditional

561   anthropogenic and biomass burning VOC precursors account for 20-30% over the

562   northern hemisphere, and anthropogenic and biomass burning semi-volatile and

563   intermediate volatility precursors contribute 30-40% over China and its outflow region,

564   and over tropical regions.

565   **3.2   Evaluation of the modeled organic aerosol concentration**

566   The results presented above confirm that the modeled SOA distribution is quite sensitive

567   to the treatment of removal processes. Here, we evaluate the extent to which simulated

568   OA fields using various configurations of the model are consistent with observations. We

569   note that dispersion errors might contribute to discrepancies between observed and

570   modeled OA, but isolating the impact of these errors is difficult [*Arellano et al.* 2006]. We

571   therefore compare model simulations with a broad suite of OA surface and vertical

572   profile measurements to assess the extent to which they provide support for our

573   alternative hypotheses of SOA sources and sinks. We also note that performance with

574   regards to inorganic aerosol components is documented in *Jo et al.* [2013], who find that

575 the simulation results are in general agreement with surface observations of sulfate and

576 ammonium, but that nitrate is overestimated. Model simulations are monthly averaged

577 over the period of 2005-2008, and are compared to the corresponding monthly mean

578 observations taken over multi-year time periods (IMPROVE 2005-2008, EMEP 2002-

579 2003, and AMS 2000-2008). It should be noted that whereas the IMPROVE and EMEP

580 monitoring networks have generally continuous measurements at fixed sites, the AMS

581 measurements are periodic and thus the average in one specific region is likely

582 representative of the particular year. Similar to previous studies, we ignore year-to-year

583 variability [e.g. *Jo et al.,* 2013]. The observed monthly mean concentrations are

584 averaged on the 2 x 2.5 degree model grid. Organic carbon (OC) concentrations have

585 been estimated from the simulated OA concentrations, which are the sum of

586 anthropogenic and biogenic SOA and POA. POA is tracked in the model as primary

587 organic carbon, and SOA mass is converted to organic carbon mass assuming that the

588 OA/OC ratio is 2.1 (similar to previous GEOS-Chem studies [e.g. *Pye and Seinfeld,*

589 2010; *Jo et al.,* 2013].

590 ### 3.2.1 Comparison with surface measurements

591 Figure 4a shows the model evaluation over the continental U.S. with the monthly mean

592 ground OC data from the IMPROVE network. The comparison shows that predicted OC

593 is underestimated by ~10% for the REF run. With the new wall-corrected yields (NY), the

594 predicted OC concentrations are 35% higher than the observed ones, and these

595 overpredictions can reach a factor of 2-3 at some locations. When the photolytic and

596 heterogeneous losses of SOA are included (NY_DPH run), the model is in better

597 agreement with observations for average OC concentrations (bias of ~7%) and slightly

598 better spatiotemporal correlation (R^2=0.49 vs. 0.45). Figure 5a shows that the NY_DPH

599 simulation captures well the magnitude and seasonal variability in OC observations,

600   which are characterized by 2-3 times larger OC concentrations during summer than

601   during winter. The positive bias in NY_DPH seems to occur mainly during summer

602   months (10-20% in August), and could partially be due to evaporation of OC from

603   IMPROVE summer samples during sampling and shipping, which was estimated to be

604   ~25% by *Kim et al.,* [2015]. The other model variants also capture relatively well the

605   seasonal variability, but the absolute values are either severely underpredicted (REF) or

606   overpredicted (NY). The comparison of surface concentrations could also suffer from

607   uncertainties in the boundary layer parameterizations, and it should be noted that the

608   GEOS-5 meteorological analysis were found to reproduce reasonably well (within 25%)

609   the boundary layer height as compared to the CALIPSO data [*Jordan et al.,* 2010].

610   The comparison over Europe with the EMEP data (Figure 4b) shows a more severe

611   model underestimation with a normalized mean bias of -38% for the REF run, and -31%

612   for the NY_DPH run. The correlation coefficient is low (R^2~0.17), possibly due to the

613   comparison of different time periods (measurements 2002-2003). Figure 5b suggests

614   that the observed OC seasonal cycle is very different in Europe than in the U.S., with the

615   highest OC concentrations occurring during winter vs. summer, respectively. Most of the

616   model bias for Europe can be attributed to a severe underprediction of the primary OC

617   during winter months in all model runs. These wintertime OC discrepancies are likely

618   due to underestimated wood-burning contributions as discussed in previous studies [e.g.

619   *Denier van der Gon et al.,* 2015; *Simpson et al.*, 2007].

620   Figure 4c also compares the predicted monthly mean SOA concentrations (averaged

621   over 2005-2008) with the AMS measurements made at 20 locations worldwide [*Zhang et*

622   *al.,* 2007]. Only background and rural sites were considered given the model coarse

623   horizontal resolution. Figure 4c suggest that the REF simulation is underpredicting SOA

624   concentrations by on average ~40% over all sites. Increased production in the NY

625   simulation leads to a 23% average overprediction of surface SOA. The best agreement

626   is obtained for simulations that accounted for both updated production yields and

627   removal processes (NY_DPH) with a negative model average bias of 14%. Given the

628   coarse model resolution, the most meaningful comparison with the measurements is

629   expected to be with the background sites (blue triangles) at which the NY_DPH

630   simulations is capturing reasonably the observed SOA levels. Again the correlation

631   coefficients for all simulations are low (R^2~0.1) due to differences in time periods.

632   ### 3.2.2   Comparison with aircraft vertical profiles

633   Figure 6 compares the mean vertical profiles of OA measured during several aircraft

634   campaigns and predicted by GEOS-Chem. Three of these campaigns are representative

635   of remote conditions (ITOP, IMPEX, VOCALS-UK) whereas the other five were

636   performed to study regional pollution or biomass burning plumes (EUCAARI, ARCTAS,

637   TexAQS, ADRIEX, SEAC4RS). It should be kept in mind that the model resolution is too

638   coarse to correctly represent typical biomass burning plume structures and spatial

639   gradients. The base case model (REF) typically underestimates observed OA

640   concentrations in the lower troposphere and overestimates in the upper troposphere in

641   most regions. This difficulty in capturing the vertical distribution of OA is particularly

642   noticeable for the IMPEX and EUCAARI data. Increasing the SOA production (NY) leads

643   to much larger concentrations at all altitudes, resulting sometimes in a better agreement

644   with observations near the surface (SEAC4RS, TexAQS, EUCAARI), but also often in a

645   model overprediction of surface concentrations (ARCTAS, ADRIEX, VOCALS-UK). The

646   overprediction of the upper troposphere OA concentrations is systematic in all

647   environments for the NY run, suggesting that additional removal processes may be

648   occurring. This overestimation in the free troposphere was seen in previous studies as

649   well when the SOA production was artificially increased [e.g. *Hodzic et al.,* 2010; *Heald*

650   *et al.,* 2011; *Shrivastava et al.,* 2011; *Shrivastava et al.,* 2015]. The model better

651   captures the shape of the OA vertical profile when photolytic and heterogeneous

652   removals are included. This improvement is seen for most campaigns. With the

653   NY_DPH run, higher concentrations are simulated in the boundary layer than with the

654   REF simulations reducing the gap with observations, while the model overprediction in

655   the upper troposphere is reduced compared to the NY run. The globally averaged ratio

656   between the predicted SOA by the updated NY_DPH, and the default REF model

657   simulations is also shown in Figure 2, and indicates that the updated SOA scheme leads

658   up to a 50% increase in near surface SOA concentrations, and up to a 60% decrease in

659   the upper troposphere.

660   ### 3.2.3   Comparison with satellite AOD measurements

661   Figure 7 compares aerosol optical depth (AOD) at 550nm simulated by the GEOS-Chem

662   base case (REF) and modified (NY_DPH) runs with the corresponding retrievals from

663   the MODIS (MODerate resolution Imaging Spectrometers) Terra and Aqua satellites

664   between 2005 and 2008. The largest mean AOD levels (>0.5) are observed over

665   Northern Africa due to dust emissions, and over China and India in relation to

666   anthropogenic activities. As the AOD variable accounts for all aerosols including the

667   aerosol water, its sensitivity to SOA parameterizations is only going to be significant over

668   regions where SOA is the major contributor to the total aerosol load. Figure 7d shows

669   the contribution of OA to the simulated total AOD by the NY_DPH run. The predicted

670   AOD is particularly sensitive to organic aerosols with contribution of >60% over the

671   Amazon, South Africa and Southeast Asia. These regions are also strongly influenced

672   by biomass burning and a large fraction of OA is likely from POA emissions. Over the

673   continental U.S. and Europe the sensitivity is somewhat lower with OA contribution of

674   10-30% to the calculated AOD. The relative OA contribution to AOD is increased by 5-

27

675   10% in the NY_DPH simulation relative to the base case run (not shown here). This

676   increased OA contribution to the total aerosol load (predicted by NY_DPH) is consistent

677   with the global AMS surface observations reported by *Zhang et al.* [2007] in which OA

678   accounts for more than 35% of the submicron aerosol at the surface. Our results are

679   also consistent with the modeling study by *Kim et al.* [2015] who found that OA

680   contributed about ~40% of the total AOD over the southeast U.S. during the SEAC4RS

681   field project. It should be noted that regions that are dominated by OA (contribution to

682   AOD >50%) are not the ones displaying the largest biases in AOD, although the

683   contribution of OA could be underpredicted.

684   The comparison of seasonal AOD cycles over the U.S. (Figure 7f) shows a relatively

685   small model bias during winter months, and a large model underestimation in summer

686   (up to 50%). Even though the relative contribution of OA to the total AOD is higher

687   during summer 25-35% (consistent with *Zhang et al.* [2007]) the OA fraction is likely

688   underestimated. The seasonal variability and aerosol load predicted by the NY_DPH run

689   are particularly well captured over South America, and are within a factor of two of

690   observed AODs over central Africa.

691   **3.3   Global annual budgets**

692   Global 2005-2008 annual-average budgets showing the mass burden and source/sink

693   terms for the combined gas- and particle-phase SOA system are presented in Table 5

694   and Figure 8 for the REF, NY, and NY_DPH simulations. We assess individual and

695   combined effects of the various sink processes considered on global SOA burdens by

696   examining diagnosed process lifetimes (see Table 6).

697   As expected, the SOA particle burden is largest in the NY simulation (2.31 Tg), which is

698   a factor of 2.6 higher than the corresponding burden in the REF simulation. This large

699   increase is caused by two factors: (i) the increased production (228 Tg yr^{-1} vs. 155 Tg yr^{-}

700   ^{1}) and lower volatility (43% vs. 14% net conversion of oxygenated gas-phase VOCs to

701   particle-phase) of biogenic SOA constituents in the NY simulation relative to the REF

702   simulation, and (ii) the additional source in the NY simulation of 27.7 Tg yr^{-1} oxygenated

703   VOC gases from IVOC oxidation, which largely partition to the particle-phase (net

704   conversion of >90% to particle-phase) owing to their low volatility (see Table 1). These

705   two factors more than offset the decrease in SOA from traditional anthropogenic

706   precursors (discussed in section 3.2.1; see panel showing decrease in anthropogenic

707   SOA in the NY simulation relative to the REF simulation in Figure 1) and the lower

708   biogenic SOA particle lifetimes in the NY simulation relative to the REF simulation.

709   For the REF and NY simulations (which have identical loss parameterizations), SOA

710   removal is dominated by wet deposition (70-80% of total sink), with dry deposition

711   playing a minor role in determining the overall SOA removal lifetime. This is generally

712   consistent with previous global model studies, which do not consider photochemical

713   losses of organics or use H^{eff} in the 10^3-10^5 M atm^{-1} range (see for example, the multi-

714   model intercomparison by *Tsigaridis et al.* [2013]). Comparing the NY_DPH simulation

715   with the NY simulation shows that using the updated Henry's coefficients results in more

716   efficient dry deposition of biogenic oxygenated VOC gases thereby shifting the balance

717   between dry and wet deposition as the primary sink of these gases, and lowering the

718   overall lifetime of both gas- and particle-phase constituents.

719   While the particle-phase production rate in the NY_DPH simulation is comparable to the

720   production rate in the NY simulation, the overall particle phase lifetime is significantly

721   lower in the NY_DPH simulation due to the photolytic loss of particle-phase SOA at rates

722   comparable to wet deposition rates. As a consequence, the particle-phase burden in the

723   NY_DPH simulation (0.88 Tg) is significantly lower than in the NY simulation (2.31 Tg).

724 It is also worth noting that global-average particle-phase burdens in the REF and

725 NY_DPH simulations are comparable. However, the NY_DPH simulation presents a far

726 more dynamic picture, with stronger production rates and more efficient removal leading

727 to very different, and likely more realistic, horizontal and vertical spatial patterns in the

728 SOA distribution relative to the REF simulation as discussed in the previous sections.

729 Our best estimate of the global SOA particle-phase production rate is 132.2 Tg yr^{-1},

730 which is remarkably similar to the central estimate of 140 Tg yr^{-1} derived by *Spracklen et*

731 *al.* [2011] using a top-down approach constrained by a global dataset of surface AMS

732 measurements (Figure 9). *Spracklen et al.* [2011] further estimate that a large fraction

733 (100 Tg yr^{-1}) is anthropogenically-controlled, but from non-fossil sources of carbon.

734 While we cannot estimate an equivalent anthrogenically-controlled source fraction in our

735 study, our estimate of the biogenic source (97.5 Tg yr^{-1}) is also consistent with the

736 *Spracklen et al.* [2011] estimate of the non-fossil source magnitude. It is worth noting

737 however that our simulated global burden of 0.88 Tg in the NY_DPH simulation is about

738 a factor of 2 lower than in the *Spracklen et al.* [2011] study because of the shorter

739 aerosol lifetimes due to the inclusion of particle-phase photolysis in our simulations.

740 Our best estimate of the particle-phase SOA source is also a factor of 3-4 higher than

741 the central estimate from the AeroCom Phase II multi-model intercomparison exercise

742 [*Tsigaridis et al.,* 2014] though our calculated global burden is comparable owing to the

743 corresponding shorter aerosol lifetimes in our NY_DPH simulation. By contrast, our best

744 source estimate is about a factor of 2 lower than the upper limit estimate of 300 Tg yr^{-1}

745 (assuming a 2:1 OA/OC mass ratio) derived by *Heald et al.* [2010] using continental

746 AOD retrievals from MISR. This is despite the fact that the aerosol lifetimes in the *Heald*

747 *et al.* [2010] study are about a factor of 2 lower than in the NY_DPH simulation. While

748 we cannot compare directly to their study, we speculate that a portion of this apparent

749   discrepancy is due to the simplifying assumption by *Heald et al*. [2010] that the scale

750   height of the atmosphere (~7.5km) can be used to characterize the exponentially

751   decreasing vertical profile of OA. This differs significantly from the much steeper vertical

752   gradient, corresponding to a scale height of about 2.5km, in the NY_DPH simulation

753   (see Figure 2), which provides the best match to aircraft vertical profiles as discussed in

754   Section 3.2.2. As noted by *Heald et al.* [2010], for a given column loading of dry aerosol

755   mass, AOD is higher when a greater fraction of the aerosol mass is near the surface due

756   to increased water uptake. As a consequence, a lower source strength can be consistent

757   with measured AOD if a greater fraction of aerosol mass is near the surface.

758   We also note that the upper limit contribution of the biomass burning source to SOA

759   formation in the updated NY_DPH model is ~15.5 Tg yr^{-1} (14 Tg yr^{-1} produced from

760   I/SVOC precursors, and ~1.5 Tg yr^{-1} from aromatics). Compared to estimates from the

761   earlier field campaign analysis (Figure 9), our results are within the range of values

762   reported by *Cubison et al.* [2011] who suggested the biomass burning contribution to

763   SOA of ~8 (±7) Tg yr^{-1}, and are consistent with *Jolleys et al.* [2012] who found a small

764   production of organic aerosols in biomass burning plumes. Compared to recent global

765   modeling studies (Figure 9), our estimates are much lower than those reported by

766   *Shrivastava et al.* [2015] (~64 Tg yr^{-1} from biomass burning), and are comparable to

767   those of *Spracklen et al.* [2011] who estimated the biomass burning SOA source of 3 Tg

768   yr^{-1} from direct emissions of its precursors and an additional 23 Tg yr^{-1} from conversion

769   of POA (mostly from biomass burning). The anthropogenic SOA source from traditional

770   aromatic precursors present in the emission inventories is ~7 Tg yr^{-1} in the updated

771   NY_DPH model, and is comparable to estimates provided by previous studies i.e. 10 Tg

772   yr^{-1} [*Spracklen et al.* 2011], and 13.5 Tg yr^{-1} [*de Gouw and Jimenez*, 2009].

3.4 Atmospheric and societal implications

3.4.1 Effect on health exposure

Changes in SOA spatial distribution resulting from the updated representation of production and removals rates were discussed in Section 3.1. On a global-average basis, Figure 2 shows that surface SOA concentrations increase from ~0.25 µg m^{-3} in the REF simulation to ~0.5 µg m^{-3} in the NY_DPH simulation. From a human health exposure perspective, it is important to assess the extent to which spatial changes in simulated SOA concentrations overlap with the spatial distribution of population and how these changes translate into changes in estimated health impacts. A detailed analysis of health impacts is beyond the scope of this paper, and would require higher resolution model predictions. Here, we focus on a simple metric to characterize human-health relevant changes in surface SOA concentrations, and identify broad regions where these changes could have an impact. For each simulation, we calculate the global-average population-weighted surface SOA concentration [PWSOA]$_{surf}$ by combining 2005-2008 annual average modeled surface SOA fields with gridded population data for 2005 (http://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu). We find that [PWSOA]$_{surf}$ for the NY_DPH simulation is 2.6 µg m^{-3} which is a factor of 2 higher than the corresponding metric for the REF simulation. Figure 10 shows the contribution of individual model grid cells to [PWSOA]$_{surf}$ for the NY_DPH simulation, as well as the contribution to changes in [PWSOA]$_{surf}$ between the NY_DPH and REF simulations. Comparing the top panel of Figure 10 with Figure 3b shows that while highest-boundary layer SOA concentrations are found in tropical Africa and South America, high population regions in east and southeast Asia contribute the most to [PWSOA]$_{surf}$. These are also the regions that contribute the most to changes in [PWSOA]$_{surf}$ between the NY_DPH and REF simulations.

797   Recent analysis by *Lim et al.* [2012] and future projections by *Lelieveld et al.* [2015]

798   suggest that current and future impacts of particulate pollution on human health are and

799   will be significant. The simple analysis presented here suggests the need for a more in-

800   depth study to evaluate the contribution of SOA to PM-related human health effects in

801   order to better understand how SOA precursor controls can serve to mitigate these

802   negative effects.

803   ### 3.4.2   Direct radiative effect

804   The clear-sky direct radiative effect (DRE) of SOA at the top of the atmosphere is

805   estimated for the GEOS-Chem NY_DPH simulation to assess the potential radiative

806   effects of the modeled updates in production and removal of organic aerosols (Figure

807   11). DRE is calculated offline from the GEOS-Chem model outputs using the rapid

808   radiative transfer model for GCMs (RRTMG, [*Iacono et al.,* 2008]). We use 14

809   wavelength bands ranging from 300 to 8021 nm. RRTMG uses the AOD, single

810   scattering albedo and asymmetry parameter for each aerosol type to determine aerosol

811   impacts on radiation. Furthermore, RRTMG requires surface albedo inputs, and these

812   inputs are from MERRA reanalysis [*Rienecker et al.,* 2011]. Aerosol optical properties at

813   a specific wavelength are calculated from the GEOS-Chem output using FlexAOD [*Curci*

814   *et al.,* 2015], which is based on the Mie theory [Wiscombe, 1980]. SOA is assumed to

815   follow log-normal distributions with microphysical properties from OPAC dataset [*Hess et*

816   *al.,* 1998]. The meteorological input data needed for FlexAOD are from GEOS-5

817   assimilated meteorological data.

818   The area-weighted global mean clear-sky DRE value is -0.33 W m^{-2} in the updated

819   NY_DPH simulation, which has a fairly comparable cooling effect at the top of the

820   Earth's atmosphere to the one found for the REF simulation of -0.37 W m^{-2}. Although the

821   global value is similar between the two runs, the spatial distribution is very different. In

822   the NY_DPH simulation, DRE ranges from -0.01 to -0.1 W m^{-2} over the background and

823   to -0.2 W m^{-2} over the outflow oceanic regions, -0.5 to -1 W m^{-2} over the Continental U.S.

824   and Europe, to -2 to -5 W m^{-2} over the SOA source regions including South America,

825   Central and South Africa, Southeast Asia and Southeast U.S. Compared to the REF

826   simulation, DRE is significantly increased over the source regions, and decreased over

827   the remote regions, which is consistent with a stronger SOA production and a shorter

828   SOA lifetime in the NY_DPH simulation as previously discussed. These differences are

829   expected to modify atmospheric stability and affect the cloud formation [*IPCC, Forster et*

830   *al.,* 2007]. The estimated DRE associated with SOA (-0.33 W m^{-2} in NY_DPH) is within

831   the range of recently reported values of -0.26 W m^{-2} [*Spracklen et al.,* 2011], -0.28 W m^{-2}

832   [*Jo et al.,* 2013], -0.5 W m^{-2} and -0.26 W m^{-2} [*Shrivastava et al.,* 2015]. The estimated

833   DRE is larger than in other studies i.e. -0.94 W m^{-2} (NY simulation) when only the

834   updates to the production rates are considered, These values also suggest that

835   additional removals are likely occurring within the entire tropospheric column.

836   **4   Conclusions**

837   Current global models do not reproduce important features of the observed OA

838   distribution, particularly with regards to the relative gradient in SOA concentrations

839   between the boundary layer and the free troposphere. Here, we have presented a

840   revised picture of atmospheric SOA that involves stronger production rates and more

841   efficient sinks that were implemented within the GEOS-Chem model. Together, these

842   updates help overcome some of the limitations that current models have in simulating

843   tropospheric SOA.

844   SOA production with new wall-corrected yields and emissions of semi-volatile and

845   intermediate volatility organic species is substantially increased relative to the default

846   GEOS-Chem simulation. Our best estimate of the global SOA particle-phase production

847   rate is 132.2 Tg yr^{-1} which is remarkably similar to the central estimate of 140 Tg yr^{-1}

848   derived by *Spracklen et al.* [2011] using a top-down approach constrained by a global

849   dataset of surface AMS measurements. The largest contribution to SOA production is

850   from biogenic sources (~74%, 97.5 Tg yr^{-1}) with the remainder from anthropogenic and

851   biofuel sources (~15%, ~13 Tg yr^{-1} from I/SVOC precursors and ~7 Tg yr^{-1} from

852   aromatics), and biomass burning sources (~11%, 13 Tg yr^{-1} from I/SVOC precursors and

853   ~1.5 Tg yr^{-1} from aromatics). However, stronger production rates alone lead to an

854   overprediction of the surface SOA concentrations relative to measurements from the

855   AMS global network data, and to an accumulation of SOA in the upper troposphere,

856   which is not supported by vertical OA profiles measured by recent aircraft studies. The

857   corresponding global SOA burden is 2.31 Tg and the corresponding direct radiative

858   effect at top of the atmosphere is -0.94 W m^{-2}, which is larger than in previous studies.

859   The inclusion of new and updated removal processes substantially reduces OA

860   concentrations near the surface and in the free troposphere, and generally leads to an

861   improved agreement with measured vertical profiles from aircraft campaigns (although

862   data are still sparse to allow for a definitive conclusion at this point). We find that

863   photolytic removal could account for ~38% of the direct removal of the particle-phase

864   SOA, and serve as an important loss mechanism in the free troposphere where wet and

865   dry deposition of OA is less efficient. The simulated global OA burden is similar between

866   the updated (0.88 Tg) and the base case (0.88 Tg) GEOS-Chem model configurations,

867   and also similar to the central estimate simulated by the AeroCom Phase II models

868   [*Tsigaridis et al.,* 2014]. Thus, our analysis suggests that the suite of AeroCom models

869   underestimate SOA production rates, and overestimate SOA lifetimes.

870   In the revised model with both updated sinks and sources, near surface SOA

871   concentrations (global averaged) are increased by up to 50% (within the 1st kilometer),

872   whereas the upper troposphere concentrations are decreased by up to 60%. One

873   implication of this change is that the new model yields a population-weighted global

874   mean SOA concentration that is twice as large as the base model, suggesting the need

875   for a revaluation of human health impacts from ambient OA pollution. Changes in the

876   clear-sky direct radiative effects at the top of the atmosphere are not substantial in terms

877   of global averaged values with -0.33 W m^{-2} for the updated simulation, however the

878   spatial distribution is very different, which could lead to changes in local climate impacts.

879   We have shown that the combination of missing precursor emissions, new production

880   rates and removal processes leads to qualitative (and sometimes quantitative)

881   improvements in simulating SOA, especially in terms of the vertical OA distribution.

882   While initial comparisons with the limited available measurements are encouraging,

883   uncertainties remain in the proposed source and sink parameterizations. One should

884   keep in mind that the proposed VBS parameterization for the VOCs are derived from

885   empirical fitting of laboratory experiments, which are performed on individual precursors

886   and are highly dependent on experimental conditions. Further work is thus needed to

887   fully understand the limitations associated with the use of the chamber-based SOA

888   yields available for a small subset of surrogate precursors in 3D models to represent

889   complex atmospheric mixtures and ambient conditions. Although we have considerably

890   improved the emissions of SOA precursors for the purpose of this study by adding

891   S/IVOC emissions, we note that large uncertainties remain in emission inventories of

892   biogenic and anthropogenic precursors [*Goldstein and Galbally*, 2007]. We also

893   recognize that our study has accounted for a subset of known SOA formation pathways,

894   leaving out in particular the potentially important aqueous-phase formation of SOA in

895   clouds droplets and wet particles [e.g. *Ervens et al.,* 2011; *Knote et al.,* 2014], or the

896   condensed-phase processes that lead to the formation of low-volatility compounds [e.g.

897   *Shiraiwa et al.,* 2013]. Another important uncertainty pertains to SOA photolysis rates.

898   To the extent that atmospheric SOA photolysis rates seem to be in the lower range of

899   estimates reported from limited laboratory studies, SOA production rates may need to be

900   higher to explain the observed SOA distribution. An important next step therefore is to

901   reconcile laboratory and theoretical estimates of SOA photolysis rates. More field

902   measurements are also needed to better characterize and evaluate boundary layer vs.

903   free troposphere gradients in various source regions and in the remote atmosphere to

904   further test our hypothesis.

905

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1207   EMEP. Atmos. Chem. Phys., 7, 5711-5725, doi:10.5194/acp-7-5711-2007, 2007.

1208

1209 Table 1: Parameters used in the new volatility basis set (VBS_NEW). Wall corrected
1210 mass yields are based on the Statistical Oxidation Model (SOM) fit to the chamber data
1211 from *Zhang et al.* [2014]. For isoprene, an isoprene-specific version of SOM was used
1212 (see Supplementary Material for details). IVOC yields are derived from the explicit model
1213 GECKO-A simulations performed for n-alkanes mixtures at low (0.1 ppb) and high (10
1214 ppb) NO_X levels. For SOM and GECKO-A fits, yields were derived assuming background
1215 OA concentrations of 10 µg m^{-3}.

Precursor	IVOC	TERP	ISOP	BENZ	TOL	XYL	SESQ
Mw g mol^{-1}	189	136	68	78	92	106	204
$k_{OH@298K}$ (s^{-1})	1.34×10^{-11}	5.3×10^{-11}	10^{-10}	1.22×10^{-12}	5.63×10^{-12}	2.31×10^{-11}	5.3×10^{-11}
Log[C*]	Mass yields at low NO_X						
< -2	0.315	0.093	0.012	0.007	0.371	0.395	0.270
-1	0.173	0.211	0.013	0.003	0.028	0.041	0.253
0	0.046	0.064	0.001	0.270	0.207	0.203	0.080
1	0.010	0.102	0.100	0.142	0.586	0.121	0.157
2	0.007	0.110	0.078	0.400	0.063	0.232	0.068
3	0.008	0.125	0.097	0.120	0.138	0.145	0.072
	Mass yields at high NO_X						
< -2	0.140	0.045	0.001	0.031	0.042	0.015	0.157
-1	0.136	0.015	0.001	0.011	0.123	0.056	0.220
0	0.069	0.142	0.027	0.507	0.263	0.006	0.083
1	0.019	0.061	0.021	0.019	0.020	0.026	0.097
2	0.010	0.074	0.044	0.030	0.319	0.087	0.054
3	0.012	0.165	0.185	0142	0.329	0.193	0.100

1216 Table 2: Henry's law constants used in this study based on values reported in *Hodzic et*
1217 *al.* [2014]. H^{eff} of the oxidation products of n-alkanes is used for oxidation products of all
1218 anthropogenic precursors whereas H^{eff} of the oxidation products of monoterpenes is
1219 used for those of biogenics. For products of IVOCs used in table 1, we use H^{eff} = 10^3 M
1220 atm^{-1}.

Saturation concentrations (µg m^{-3})	0.01	0.1	1	10	100	1000
Anthropogenic: H^{eff} n-alkanes (M atm^{-1})	1.3×10^7	3.2×10^5	4.0×10^5	1.3×10^5	1.6×10^5	10^5
Biogenic: H^{eff} monoterpenes (M atm^{-1})	7.9×10^{11}	6.3×10^{10}	3.2×10^9	6.3×10^8	3.2×10^7	1.3×10^7

1221 Table 3: Chemical speciation of the considered SVOC and IVOC mixtures in GECKO-A
1222 [*Lee-Taylor et al.*, 2011].

Surrogate	species	Nb. C	Contribution to surrogate
IVOC	n-dodecane	12	22.50%
	n-tridecane	13	20.80%
	n-tetradecane	14	15.70%
	n-pentadecane	15	11.30%
	n-hexadecane	16	10.60%
	n-heptadecane	17	8.00%
	n-octadecane	18	7.50%
	n-nonadecane	19	3.60%
SVOC	n-nonadecane	19	9.10%
	n-eicosane	20	17.40%
	n-henicosane	21	16.60%
	n-docosane	22	9.50%
	n-tricosane	23	9.10%
	n-tetracosane	24	7.70%
	n-pentacosane	25	6.50%
	n-hexacosane	26	6.20%
	n-heptacosane	27	3.90%
	n-octacosane	28	3.70%
	n-nonacosane	29	3.00%
	n-triacontane	30	7.30%

1223

1224 Table 4: Description of the GEOS-Chem simulations performed for years 2004-2008.

Simulation	Production	$Heff$ (M atm^{-1}) for dry and wet deposition	SOA photolysis	SOA+ O_3
REF	VBS_REF [*Jo et al.*, 2013]	10^5	NO	NO
NY	VBS_NEW (Table 1)	10^5	NO	NO
NY_D	VBS_NEW (Table 1)	Volatility dependent $H^{eff(*)}$	NO	NO
NY_DP	VBS_NEW (Table 1)	Volatility dependent H^{eff} [*]	$4\times10^{-4}\times J_{NO2}$ [**]	NO
NY_DPH	VBS_NEW (Table 1)	Volatility dependent H^{eff} [*]	$4\times10^{-4}\times J_{NO2}$ [**]	YES

1225 [*] based on the H^{eff} parameterization by *Hodzic et al.* [2014]; [**] from *Hodzic et al.* [2015].

1226

Sources of oxygenated species	Gas Production (Tg yr^{-1})	Gas Burden (Tg)	Gas Dry Deposition (Tg yr^{-1})	Gas Wet Deposition (Tg yr^{-1})	Net particle production[1] (Tg yr^{-1})	Particle Dry Dep. (Tg yr^{-1})	Particle Wet Dep. (Tg yr^{-1})	Photolytic/heterogeneous loss (Tg yr^{-1})	Particle Burden (Tg)	Particle lifetime (days)
REF run										
Anthro. and BB VOC	21.1	0.04	3.0	3.4	14.7	1.9	12.8	0	0.35	8.6
Biogenic VOC	151.5	1.03	48.6	84.6	21.5	2.2	19.3	0	0.53	9.0
Total[1]	172.6	1.07	51.6	88.0	36.2	4.1	32.1	0	0.88	
Primary					Source: 56.4	9.9	46.5	0	0.94	6.1
NY run										
Anthro. and BB VOC	16.0	0.1	3.5	5.0	7.4	0.95	6.5	0	0.20	10
Biogenic VOC	228.1	1.1	44.9	83.9	99.3	9.4	89.9	0	1.62	6
Anthro. and BB I/SVOC	27.7	0.02	1.1	1.4	25.2	3.15	22.1	0	0.48	7
Total[1]	271.8	1.2	49.5	90.4	132	13.5	118.5	0	2.31	
Primary					Source: 56.4	9.9	46.5	0	0.94	6.1
NY_DPH run										
Anthro. and BB VOC	16.0	0.07	3.0	4.3	8.8	0.6	3.8	4.3	0.08	3.3
Biogenic VOC	228.1	0.617	71.8	58.8	97.5	6.3	56.5	34.7	0.59	2.2
Anthro. and BB I/SVOC	27.7	0.014	0.7	1.0	25.9	2.0	12.6	11.3	0.21	3.0
Total[2]	271.8	0.701	75.5	64.1	132.2	8.9	73.0	50.3	0.88	

1230 [1]: Net particle production included the condensation and evaporation of organic gases.

1231 [2]: "Total" refers to the total SOA including ASOA, BSOA and when available IS-SOA.

1232

1233

1234 Table 6: Global annual-average lifetimes for organic gases and particles for the 4 year
1235 (2005-2008) period. VOC from anthropogenic, biomass burning (BB) and biogenic
1236 sources are indicated, as well as S/IVOC from anthropogenic and BB sources.

Sources of oxygenated species	Gas Dry Deposition Lifetime (days)	Gas Wet Depostion Lifetime (days)	Particle Dry Deposition Lifetime (days)	Particle Wet Deposition Lifetime (days)	Particle Chem Loss Lifetime (days)	Particle Overall Lifetime (days)
REF SIMULATION						
Anthro. and BB VOC	5.0	4.4	66.5	9.9	NA	8.6
Biogenic VOC	7.7	4.4	87.4	10.1	NA	9.0
NY SIMULATION						
Anthro. and BB VOC	9.4	6.8	78.2	11.5	NA	10.0
Biogenic VOC	8.7	4.7	63.1	6.6	NA	6.0
Anthro. and BB I/SVOC	7.2	5.4	55.7	8.0	NA	7.0
NY_DPH SIMULATION						
Anthro. and BB VOC	8.5	6.1	43.3	7.4	6.6	3.3
Biogenic VOC	3.1	3.8	34.4	3.8	6.2	2.2
Anthro. and BB I/SVOC	6.8	5.1	38.4	6.1	6.8	3.0

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1297 Figures:

1298

1299 Figure 1: 2005-2008 average concentrations for SOA and its constituents as predicted
1300 by the GEOS-Chem NY run in the lower troposphere (surface to 5km; left column). Total
1301 SOA is separated into SOA from biogenic VOCs, anthropogenic and biomass burning
1302 traditional VOCs, and anthropogenic and biomass burning I/SVOC. The NY run is also
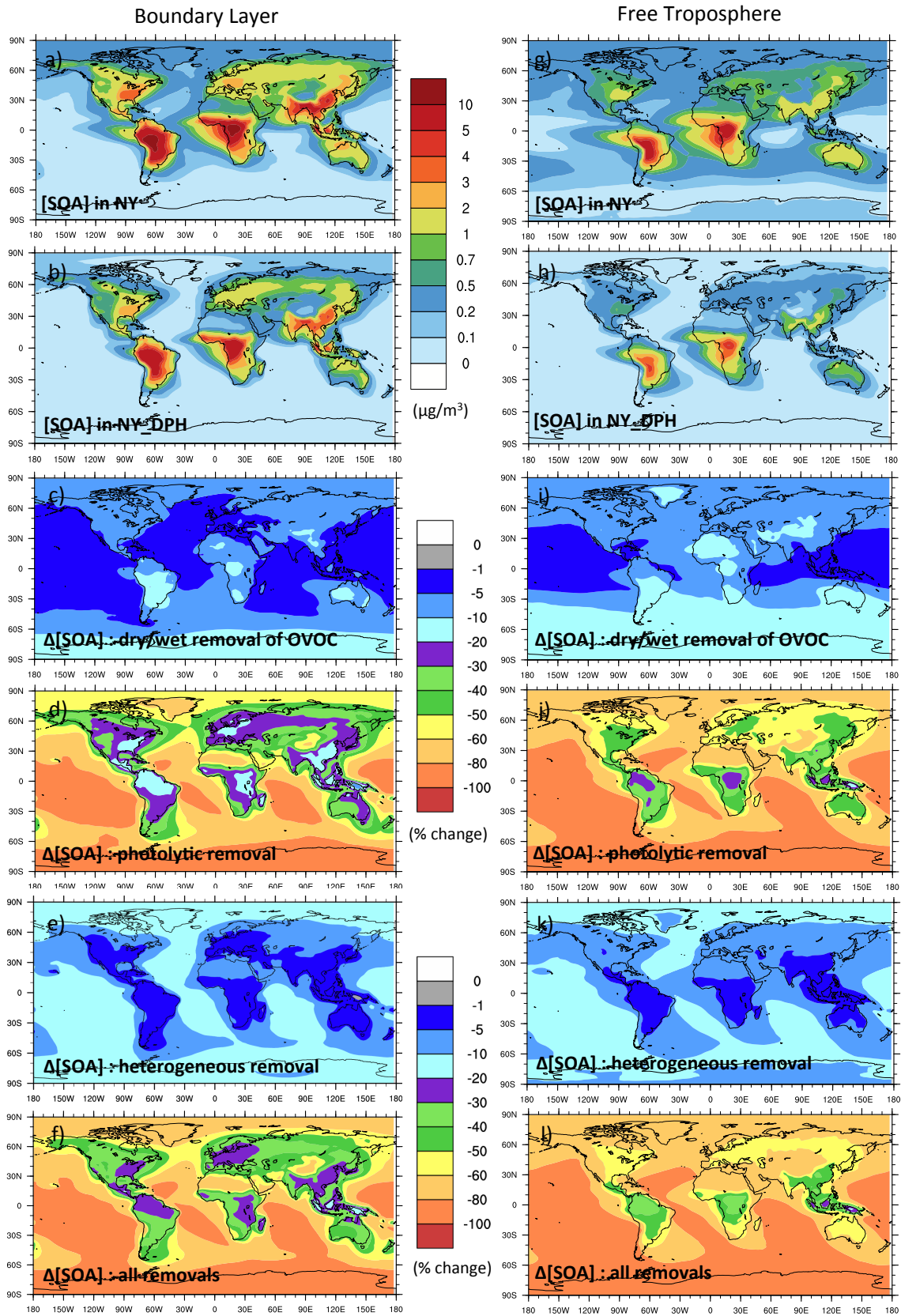1303 compared with REF (right column).

1304
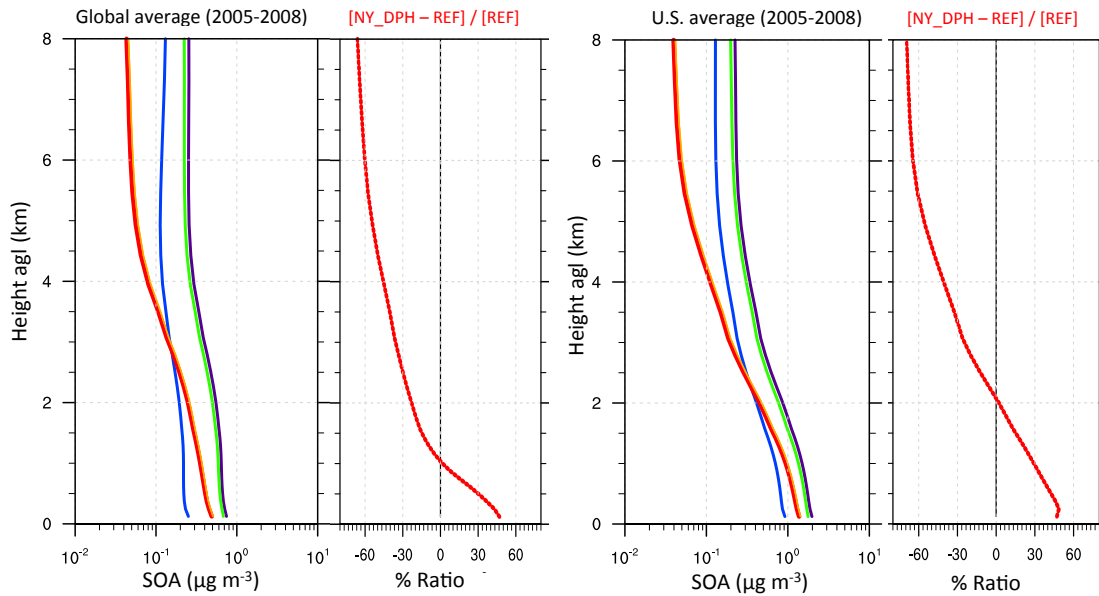
1305
1306 Figure 2: Vertical profiles of average SOA concentrations (at ambient temperature and
1307 pressure) integrated globally and regionally over the continental U.S. between 2005 and
1308 2008. The ratios between SOA predictions by the NY_DPH and REF runs are also
1309 shown for each region.

1310

1311

Boundary Layer | Free Troposphere

a) [SQA] in NY — g) [SQA] in NY

b) [SOA] in NY_DPH — h) [SOA] in NY_DPH

c) Δ[SOA] : dry/wet removal of OVOC — i) Δ[SOA] : dry/wet removal of OVOC

d) Δ[SOA] : photolytic removal — j) Δ[SOA] : photolytic removal

e) Δ[SOA] : heterogeneous removal — k) Δ[SOA] : heterogeneous removal

f) Δ[SOA] : all removals — l) Δ[SOA] : all removals

(μg/m³)

(% change)

1312

1313 Figure 3: Average SOA concentrations for 2005-2008 as predicted by NY and NY_DPH

1314 runs in the boundary layer (surface to 1.5km; left column) and in the free troposphere

1315 (1.5-5km; right column). Percent decrease in SOA concentrations resulting from dry/wet

1316 removal ([NY_D - NY] / [NY]), photolytic removal ([NY_DP – NY_D] / [NY_D]) and

1317 heterogeneous removal ([NY_DPH – NY_DP] / [NY_DP]) of SOA. The combined effect

1318 of all considered removal pathways on SOA concentrations is also shown ([NY_DPH -

1319 NY] / [NY]).
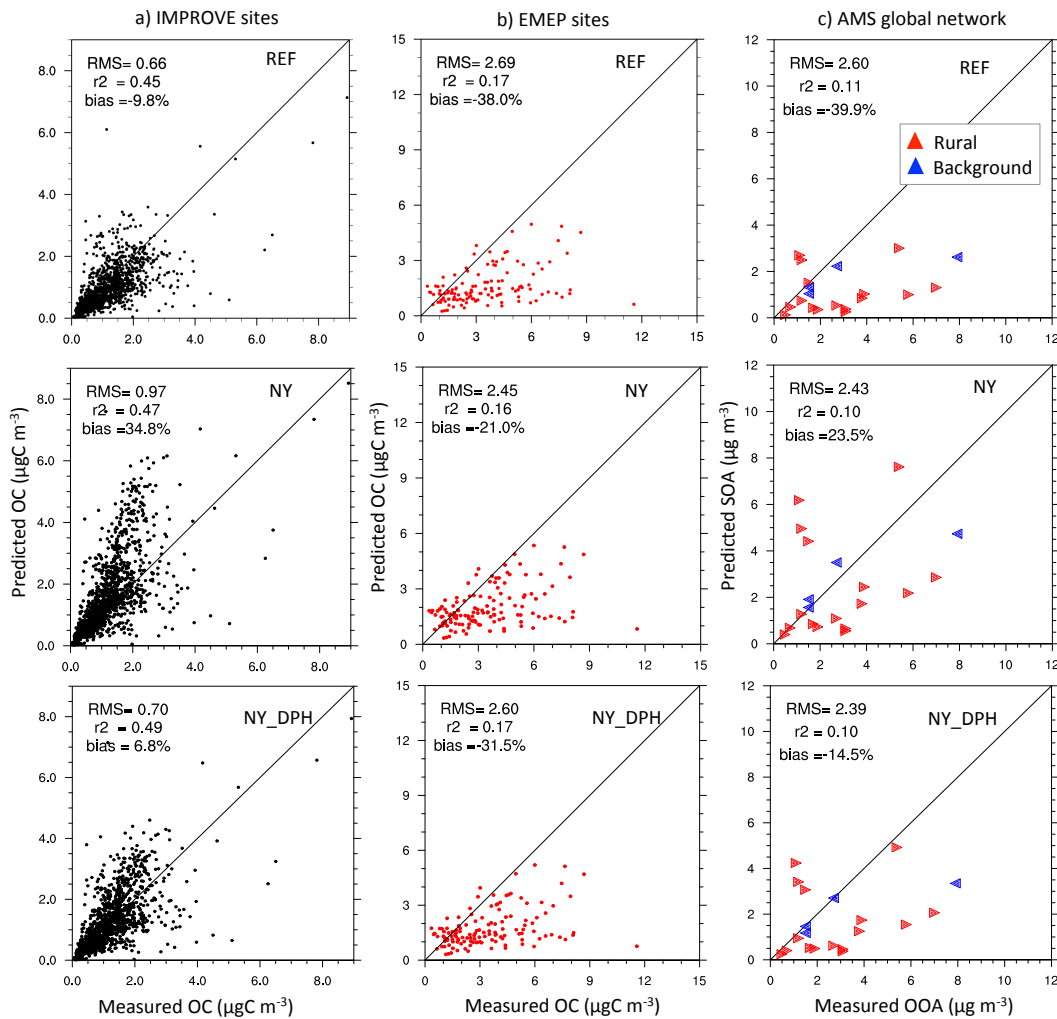
1320

1321 Figure 4: Scatter plots of predicted vs. measured monthly mean OC (µgC m^{-3}) and SOA

1322 (µg m^{-3}) at the surface sites of the U.S. IMPROVE network, the European EMEP network

1323 and the global AMS network. AMS data are divided into rural sites (red) and background

1324 sites (blue). Given model coarse horizontal resolution, urban sites were not considered.

1325 Modeled monthly mean values are representative of years 2005 to 2008 and are

compared with monthly mean observations averaged over 2005-2008 for IMPROVE,
and 2002-2003 for EMEP sites.

a) IMPROVE data (U.S., 2005-2008)

b) EMEP data (Europe, 2002-2003)
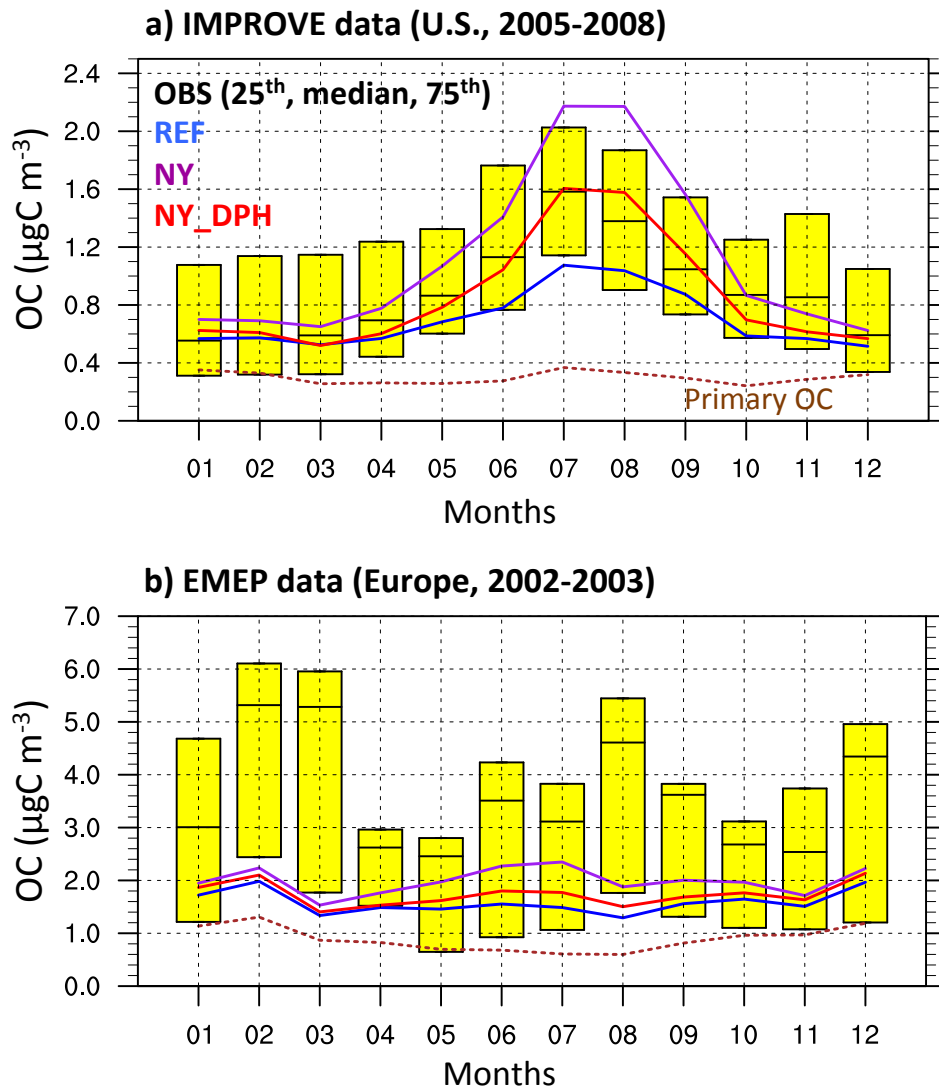
Figure 5: Monthly average OC concentrations as predicted by the GEOS-Chem 2005-2008 simulations, and as measured by (a) the IMPROVE network (2005-2008) and (b) the EMEP network (2002-2003). The yellow boxes show the observed medians, 25th and 75th quintiles reflecting the spatial (among stations) and temporal (among years) variability. The predicted OC medians are shown for the REF (blue), NY (purple) and NY_DPH (red) simulations. The predicted primary OC is also shown (brown dashed line) and is similar for all simulations.
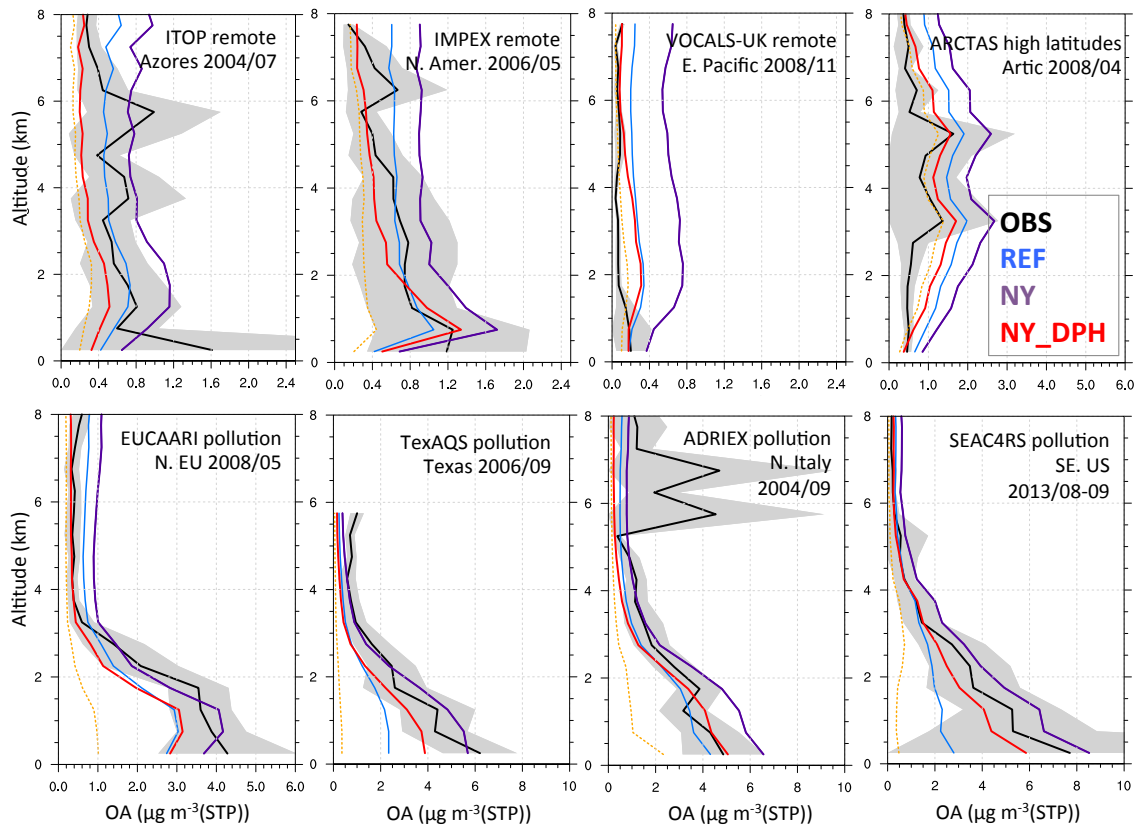
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1338 Figure 6: Comparison of mean OA vertical profiles (μg m^{-3}(STP) at 288.15K and 1013.25
1339 hPa) measured during recent aircraft field campaigns (see Table S5) with the
1340 corresponding GEOS-Chem predictions from 3 simulations including REF (blue), NY
1341 (green) and NY_DPH (red). Concentrations of primary OC are also shown (dashed red
1342 line) and are similar in all model runs. Flights in remote or high latitude (top row), and
1343 moderately polluted (bottom row) regions are shown. Variability around observed values
1344 (2 standard deviations) at each altitude are shown with shaded area. For ARCTAS, the
1345 observed OA concentrations above the 99th percentile i.e. larger than 16 μg m^{-3}(STP
1346 were filtered out to limit the influence of biomass burning plumes. For SEAC4RS the
1347 observations of acetonitrile were used to filter out fire plumes, and data above the 80th
1348 percentile (~140ppt) of observed acetonitrile concentrations were excluded. The model
1349 simulations are sampled for the year, month and locations of each aircraft campaign
1350 except for two campaigns including ITOP and ADRIEX for which average values
1351 between 2005-2008 are used for the month matching the field project.
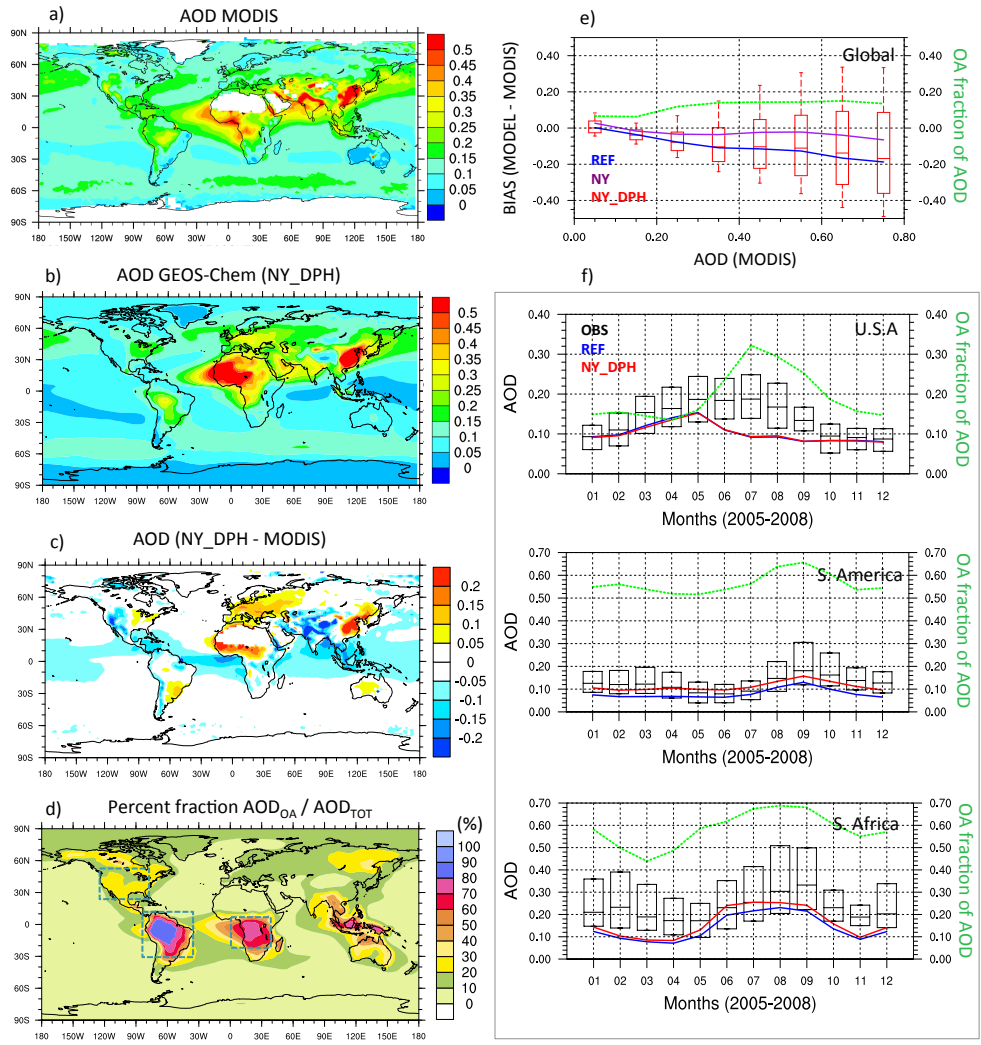
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Figure 7: Comparison of 2005-2008 averaged AOD levels as measured by MODIS (Aqua and Terra) and predicted by the GEOS-Chem NY_DPH simulation. The difference (c) between modeled and observed AODs is also shown, only for days/locations when observations are available. The dependence of the model bias on the AOD levels is also shown (e). (d) shows the contribution of organic aerosols to total modeled AOD for the NY_DPH simulations, which allows to identify regions where AOD predictions are highly sensitive to SOA predictions. (f) shows the predicted and observed 2005-2008 monthly average AOD in various regions shown in (d). The boxes show the observed medians, 25th and 75th quintiles reflecting the spatial (among grid boxes in the region) and temporal (among years) variability.
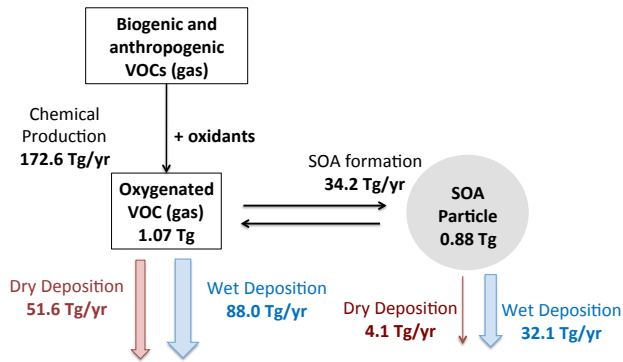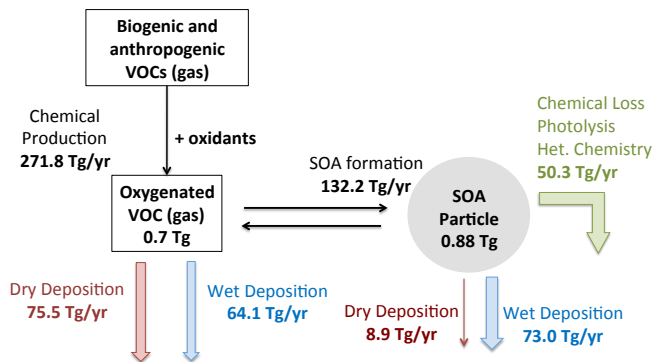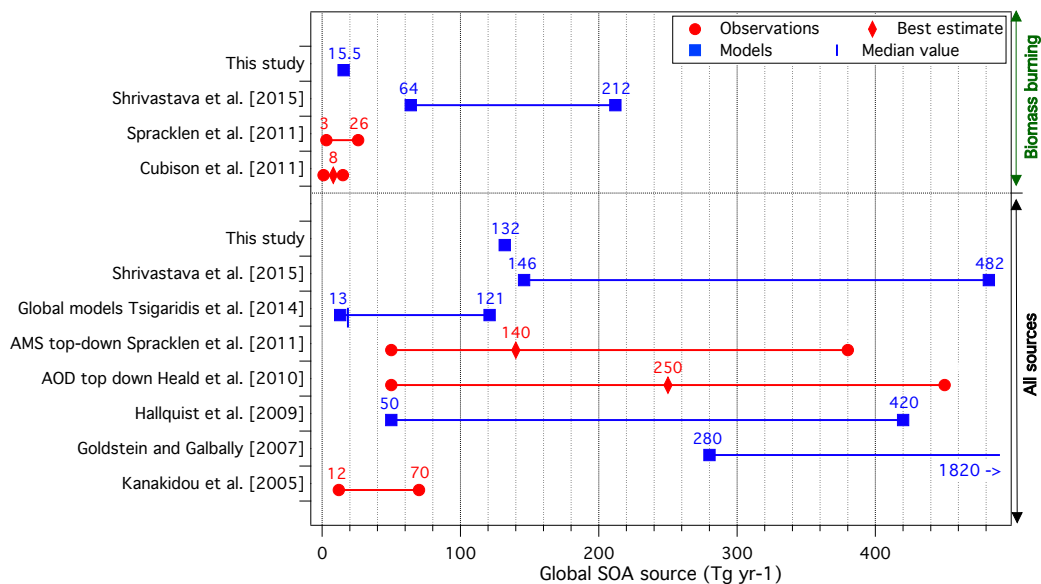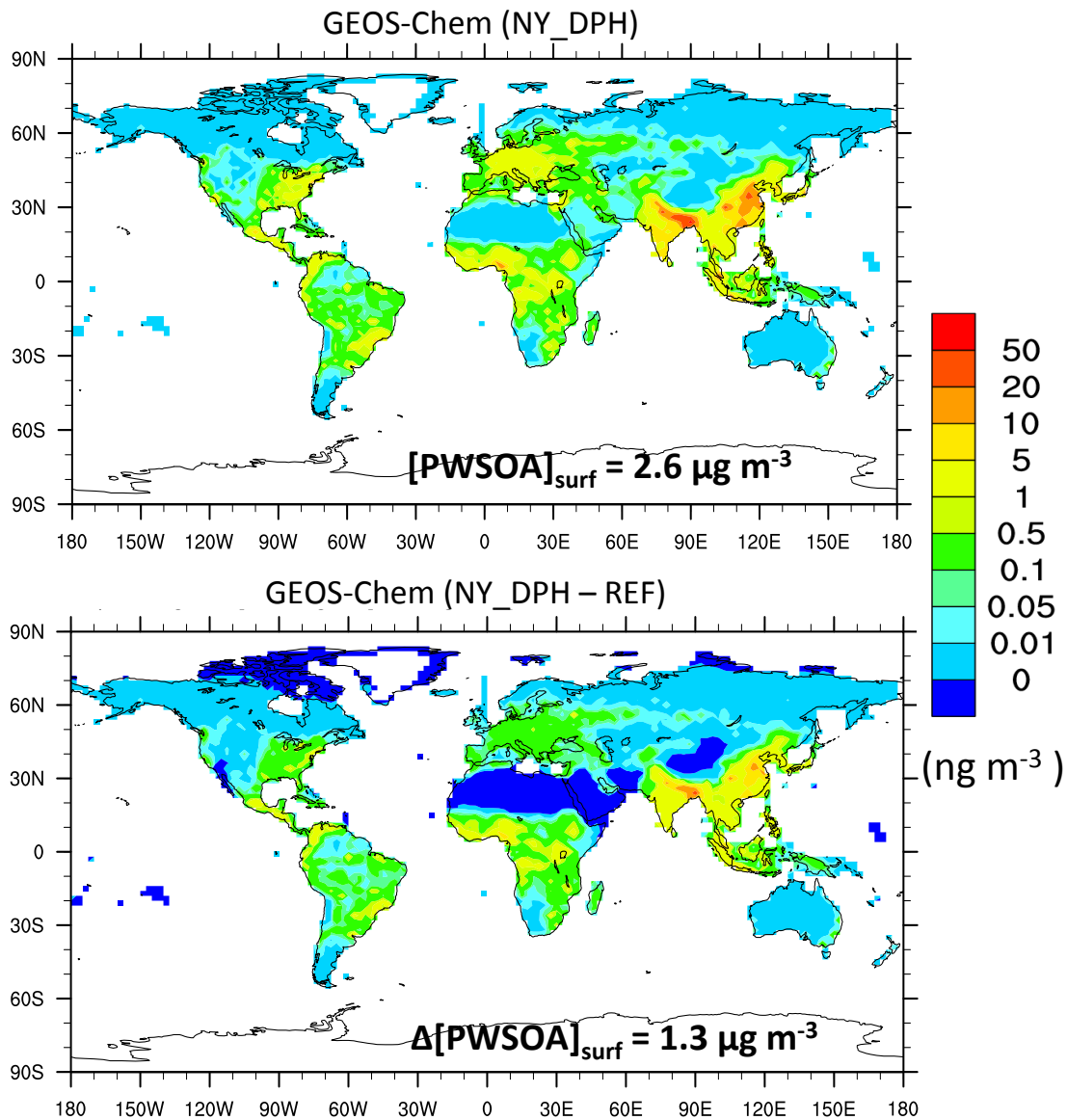
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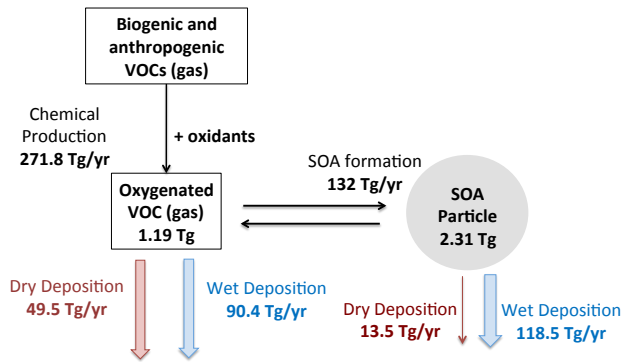
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1366   Figure 8: Global budgets (sources/sinks Tg yr^{-1} and burden Tg) of condensable

1367   secondary organic gas and particle compounds as predicted by the GEOS-Chem REF,

1368   NY and NY_DPH simulations for 2005-2008.

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Figure 9: Global SOA particle-phase source (Tg yr^{-1}) as predicted in this study
(NY_DPH) and as reported by previous studies. SOA production from all sources
(anthropogenic, biomass burning, biofuel and biogenic) as well as from biomass burning
alone is shown.

GEOS-Chem (NY_DPH)

[PWSOA]$_{surf}$ = 2.6 µg m^{-3}

GEOS-Chem (NY_DPH − REF)

Δ[PWSOA]$_{surf}$ = 1.3 µg m^{-3}

(ng m^{-3})

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Figure 10: Contribution of individual models grid cells to global population-weighted surface SOA concentration [PWSOA]$_{surf}$ in the NY_DPH simulation (top) and to changes in in [PWSOA]$_{surf}$ between the NY_DPH and REF simulation. The total PWSOA is obtained by summing up the individual grid cell contributions shown in the figure.

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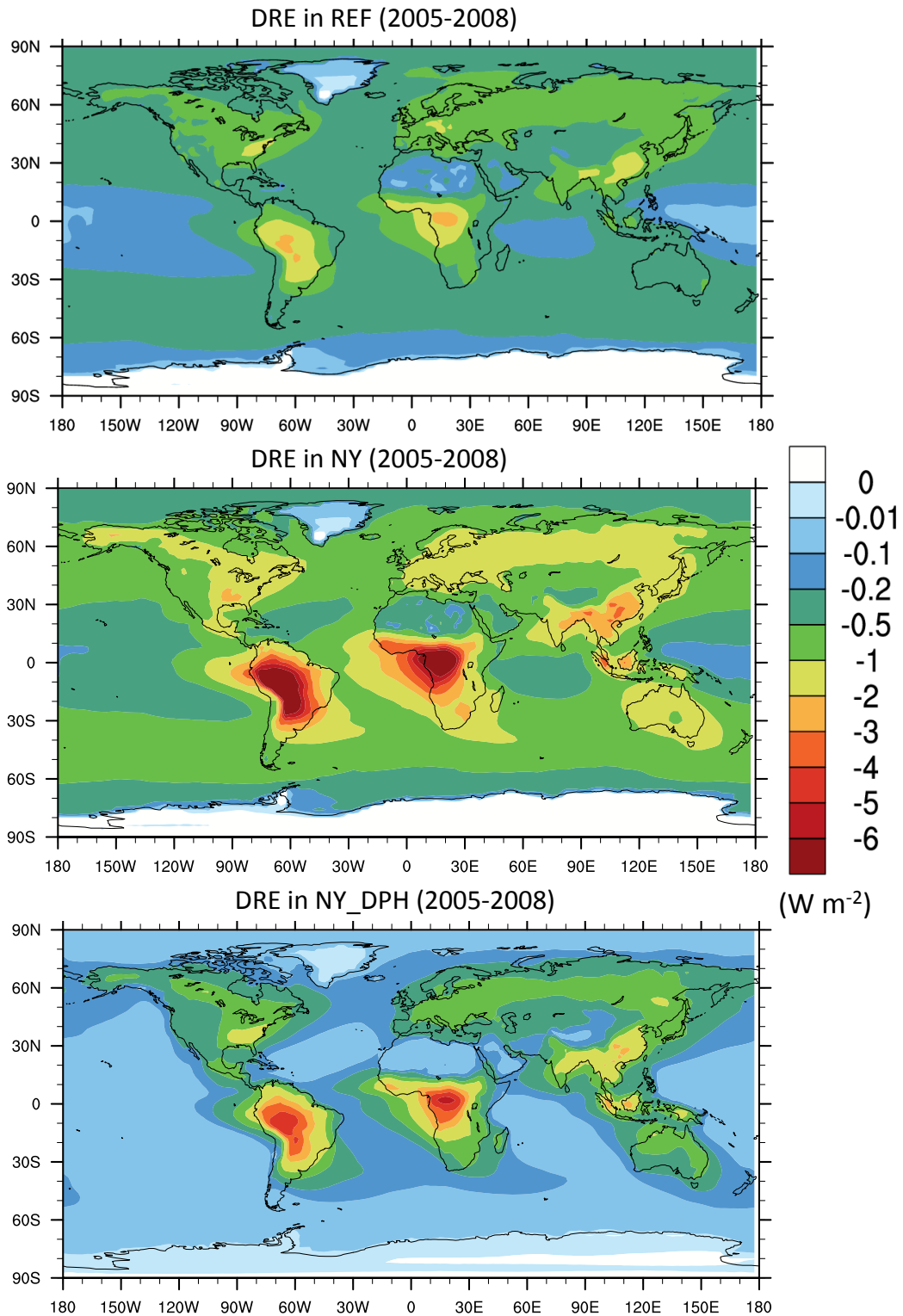
Figure 11: Simulated clear-sky SOA direct radiative effect (DRE) at the top of the atmosphere for the REF (upper), NY (middle) and NY_DPH runs (bottom).