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Interactive Comment

Interactive comment on "Wavelength dependence of isotope fractionation in N_2O photolysis" by J. Kaiser et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

Received and published: 13 January 2003

Kaiser et al. present a new study of the positional isotope fractionation in N2O at both 185 nm (using a Hg pen ray lamp) and using broad band irradiation. In this study, the authors demonstrate a small, but significant depletion of heavy isotopes (15N; 18O), during photolysis at the peak of the N2O absorption band (185 nm). This finding helps test recent theoretical predictions of the fractionation due to variation in the potential energy surface.

This is a careful study and, together with its companion study on the temperature dependence of these effects, adds significantly to the discussion of N2O fractionation in the stratosphere. As a result of these studies, I believe sufficient effort has now been expended on this topic that it is time to do something else!

One small typo: Ln 18, Page 1741? N2O rather than NO2?

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Interactive Discussion

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Interactive comment on Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., 2, 1735, 2002.

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