

1 **Deciphering Potential Chemical Compounds of Gaseous**  
2 **Oxidized Mercury in Florida, USA**

3 Jiaoyan Huang<sup>1</sup>, Matthieu B. Miller<sup>2</sup>, Eric Edgerton<sup>3</sup>, Mae Sexauer Gustin<sup>2</sup>

4 <sup>1</sup> Institute for the Environment, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 100 Europa  
5 Drive, Suite 490, Chapel Hill, NC, 27517, United States

6 <sup>2</sup> Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences, University of Nevada-  
7 Reno, 1664 N. Virginia Street, Reno, NV, 89557, United States

8 <sup>3</sup> Atmospheric Research & Analysis, Inc., 410 Midenhall Way, Cary, North Carolina  
9 27513, United States

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11

12 **Abstract**

13 The highest mercury (Hg) wet deposition in the United States of America (USA) occurs  
14 along the Gulf of Mexico, and in the southern and central Mississippi River Valley.  
15 Gaseous oxidized Hg (GOM) is thought to be a major contributor due to high water  
16 solubility and reactivity. Therefore, it is critical to understand concentrations, potential  
17 for wet and dry deposition, and GOM compounds present in the air. Concentrations and  
18 dry deposition fluxes of GOM were measured and calculated for Outlying Landing Field  
19 (OLF), Florida, using data collected by a Tekran® 2537/1130/1135, the University of  
20 Nevada-Reno Reactive Mercury Active System (UNRRMAS) with cation exchange and  
21 nylon membranes, and Aerohead samplers that use cation-exchange membranes to  
22 determine dry deposition. Relationships with Tekran® derived data must be interpreted  
23 with caution, since GOM concentrations measured are biased low depending on the  
24 chemical compounds in air, and interferences with water vapor and ozone. Criteria air  
25 pollutants were concurrently measured.

26 This allowed for comparison and better understanding of GOM. In addition to other  
27 methods previously applied at OLF, use of the UNRRMAS provided a platform for  
28 determination of the chemical compounds of GOM in the air. Results from nylon  
29 membranes with thermal desorption analyses indicated 7 GOM compounds in this area,  
30 including HgBr<sub>2</sub>, HgCl<sub>2</sub>, HgO, Hg-nitrogen and sulfur compounds, and two unknown  
31 compounds. This indicates that the site is influenced by different gaseous phase reactions  
32 and sources. Using back trajectory analysis during a high GOM event related to high CO,  
33 but average SO<sub>2</sub>, indicated air parcels moved from the free troposphere, and across  
34 Arkansas, Mississippi, and Alabama at low elevation (<300 m). This event was initially  
35 characterized by HgBr<sub>2</sub> followed by a mixture of GOM compounds. Overall, GOM  
36 chemistry indicates oxidation reactions with local mobile source pollutants, and long  
37 range transport.

38 In order to develop methods to measure GOM concentrations and chemistry, and model  
39 dry deposition processes, the actual GOM compounds need to be known, as well as their  
40 corresponding physicochemical properties, such as Henry's Law constants.

41 *Keywords: multiple-resistance model, dry deposition, cation exchange membrane,*  
42 *criteria pollutants, active samplers*

43

44 **1 Introduction**

45 Mercury (Hg) has been classified as a persistent, bioaccumulative toxin (PBT) (UNEP,  
46 2013), and deposition from the atmosphere is considered the dominant pathway by which  
47 Hg enters remote ecosystems (Lindberg et al., 2007). In some areas, scavenging by  
48 precipitation controls atmospheric Hg removal processes, such as in the Southeastern  
49 United States of America (USA), where precipitation amounts are high (Prestbo and Gay,  
50 2009). However, wet deposition concentrations are not necessarily correlated with  
51 precipitation amounts >81mm, and deposition has not decreased with emission reductions  
52 as coal combustion facilities in the region have implemented control technologies  
53 (Prestbo and Gay, 2009; MDN, 2014). For example, concentrations at OLF 17.1  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2$  in  
54 2012 and 21.0  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2$  in 2014 (MDN, 2014). A contributing factor to wet deposition in the  
55 Gulf Coast area may be related to high atmospheric convection during thunderstorms and  
56 scavenging of gaseous oxidized Hg (GOM) from the free troposphere (Nair et al., 2013),  
57 and down mixing of air with high GOM from the free troposphere (Gustin et al., 2012).

58

59 An additional concern is that the Tekran® system measurement currently used to  
60 quantify GOM does not equally quantify all GOM forms, and has interferences with  
61 water vapor and ozone (cf. Ambrose et al., 2013; Gustin et al., 2013; Huang et al., 2013;  
62 Lyman et al., 2010; McClure et al., 2014; Lyman et al., 2016 ). Since GOM is considered  
63 an important form that can be rapidly removed from the atmosphere due to high water  
64 solubility (Lindberg et al., 2007); it is important to understand both atmospheric  
65 concentrations and chemistry (i.e. specific chemical compounds). Use of the University  
66 of Nevada-Reno Reactive Mercury Active System (UNRRMAS) that collects GOM on  
67 nylon membranes in tandem with cation exchange membranes has indicated that there are  
68 different chemical compounds in the air and concentrations are 2-to-13 times higher than  
69 previously thought at locations in the Western USA (Huang et al., 2013; Gustin et al.,  
70 2016).

71 Mercury has been studied in Florida for many years, initially because of the high  
72 concentrations measured in fish and the Florida Panther (Dvonch et al., 1999; Gustin et  
73 al., 2012; Marsik et al., 2007; Pancras et al., 2011; Peterson et al., 2012). Long-term

74 GEM and GOM concentrations as measured by the Tekran® system have declined;  
75 however, PBM concentrations increased after 2009 (Edgerton, unpublished data),  
76 suggesting the atmospheric chemistry has changed. Peterson et al. (2011) and Gustin et al.  
77 (2012) suggested based on detailed assessment of passive sampler and Tekran® system  
78 collected Hg data, criteria air pollutants, and meteorology that at 3 locations in Florida  
79 (OLF, Davie, Tampa) different GOM compounds were present, and these were generated  
80 by *in situ* oxidation associated with pollutants generated by mobile sources, indirect and  
81 direct inputs of Hg from local electricity generating plants, and direct input of Hg  
82 associated with long range transport. At OLF, background deposition was equal to that  
83 associated with mobile sources, and a significant component was derived from long range  
84 transport in the spring. Long range transport has been reported for OLF in the spring  
85 (Weiss-Penzias et al. 2011; Gustin et al., 2012). Long range transport of ozone is a very  
86 common event in the spring (see special issues on ozone (Gertler and Bennett, 2015;  
87 Lefohn and Cooper, 2015).

88

89 In this work, GOM collected using the UNRRMAS, and the Aerohead dry deposition  
90 measurement method (Lyman et al., 2007; 2009) were analyzed, along with Tekran® Hg  
91 and criteria air pollutant data to understand GOM chemistry and dry deposition at  
92 Outlying Landing Field (OLF), located ~ 15 kilometers NW of Pensacola, Florida.

93 GOM dry deposition fluxes were calculated using deposition velocities determined using  
94 a multi-resistance model with ambient air GOM concentrations from the Tekran®  
95 system (multiplied by a factor of 3 due to bias in the Tekran® system; cf. Huang and  
96 Gustin, 2015), and compared to those obtained using Aerohead data. Chemistry of GOM  
97 compounds was identified. Results were used to estimate dry deposition velocities for the  
98 GOM compounds observed. The hypothesis for this work was that since GOM  
99 compounds can vary spatially and temporally, due to different compounds produced by  
100 different sources and processes, this will result in different dry deposition velocities and  
101 dry deposition flux.

## 102 **2 Methods**

## 103 2.1 Field site

104 The sampling site was located at OLF (30.550°N, 87.374°W, 44 m above sea level). The  
105 closest major Hg emission source is a coal-fired power plant (Plant Crist) northeast of the  
106 site (Figure 1). This area has been used for atmospheric Hg research in previous studies  
107 (Caffrey et al., 2010; Lyman et al., 2009; Gustin et al., 2012; Peterson et al., 2012; Weiss-  
108 Penzias et al., 2011). OLF is a coastal site (~25 km away from Gulf of Mexico)  
109 influenced by sea breezes especially during the summer (Gustin et al., 2012). Based on  
110 cluster analyses of data from one year at this location, ~24% of the air is derived from the  
111 marine boundary layer during the day and 60% at night (Figure 1).

## 112 2.2 Sampling Methods

113 Aerohead samplers for determination of dry deposition were deployed bi-weekly from  
114 June 2012 to March 2014. UNRRAMS samples were taken bi-weekly from March 2013  
115 to March 2014. Atmospheric Hg concentrations, including GEM, GOM, and PBM, were  
116 measured using a Tekran® system (model 2357/1130/1135, Tekran® Instrument Corp.,  
117 Ontario, Canada) that was operated with one-hour sampling and one-hour desorption with  
118 detection limits of 0.1 ng m<sup>-3</sup>, 1.5 pg m<sup>-3</sup>, and 1.5 pg m<sup>-3</sup>, respectively.

119 Reactive Hg (GOM + PBM) concentrations were measured using the UNRRAMS with 3  
120 sets of two in-series 47 mm cation-exchange membranes (ICE450, Pall Corp., MI, USA).  
121 Three sets of nylon membranes (0.2 µm, Cole-Parmer, IL, USA) were also deployed to  
122 assess Hg compounds in the air (see Pierce and Gustin, 2016 for schematic). Cation  
123 exchange membranes have been demonstrated to quantitatively measure specific  
124 compounds of GOM in the laboratory; however, may not measure all compounds (Gustin  
125 et al., 2015; Gustin et al., 2016). These membranes have also been shown to retain  
126 compounds loaded for 3 weeks (Pierce and Gustin, 2016). Nylon membranes do not  
127 retain GOM compounds quantitatively, and retention during transport needs to be tested  
128 (Huang et al., 2013; Gustin et al., 2015; Gustin et al., 2016). Nylon membrane retention is  
129 impacted by relative humidity that might limit uptake of specific forms. Criteria air  
130 pollutants and meteorological data, including CO, SO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, NO, NO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>y</sub>,  
131 temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, wind direction, pressure, solar radiation, and

132 precipitation were available at this site for the sampling period. See Peterson et al. ( 2012)  
133 for detailed information on collection of these measurements.

134 Aeroheads and membranes were prepared at UNR, packed in a thermal isolated cooler,  
135 and shipped back and forth between the laboratory and site. Samples were stored in a  
136 freezer (-22°C) at UNR until analyzed. Cation-exchange membranes were digested and  
137 analyzed following EPA Method 1631 E (Peterson et al., 2012), and nylon membranes  
138 were first thermally desorbed, and then analyzed using EPA Method 1631 E (Huang et al.,  
139 2013). Cation-exchange membrane blanks for Aerohead and UNRRAMS were  $0.40 \pm 0.18$   
140 ( $n=42$ ),  $0.37 \pm 0.26$  ( $n=77$ ) ng, respectively; and for nylon membranes used in the active  
141 system blanks were  $0.03 \pm 0.03$  ( $n=69$ ) ng. Therefore, method detection limits (MDL, 3-  
142 sigma) for two-week sampling time (336 hrs) was  $0.13 \text{ ng m}^{-2} \text{ hr}^{-1}$  for dry deposition,  
143 respectively. For the active membrane system, the Hg amount on the back-up filters and  
144 blanks were not significantly different (cation-exchange membrane:  $0.4 \pm 0.3$  vs  $0.4 \pm 0.3$   
145 ng; nylon membrane:  $0.03 \pm 0.03$  vs  $0.02 \pm 0.02$  ng); therefore, the back-up filters were  
146 included in the calculation of the bi-weekly blanks. The bi-weekly MDL (336 hrs) for  
147 active system with cation-exchange and nylon membranes were 2-68  $\text{pg m}^{-3}$  (mean: 24  $\text{pg}$   
148  $\text{m}^{-3}$ ) and 0.01-14.6  $\text{pg m}^{-3}$  (mean: 2.1  $\text{pg m}^{-3}$ ), respectively. Bi-weekly MDL was  
149 calculated from 3 times the standard deviation of bi-weekly blanks. The MDL was  
150 calculated for each period of sampling, due to the fact this can vary based on treatment of  
151 the membranes, when preparing samples for deployment, deployment at the field site,  
152 and handling once returned to the laboratory. The membranes may also vary by material  
153 lot. All samples were corrected by subtracting the blank for the corresponding two-week  
154 period.

### 155 2.3 Data analyses

156 Hourly Tekran®, criteria air pollutants, and meteorological data were managed and  
157 validated by Atmospheric Research & Analysis, Inc (see Peterson et al., 2012). These  
158 were then averaged into two-week intervals to merge with the membrane measurements.

159 In previous studies, scaling factors similar to  $\text{HNO}_3$  ( $\alpha=\beta=10$ ) were used to calculate  
160 oxidized Hg dry deposition velocity (Marsik et al., 2007; Castro et al., 2012); however,

161 Lyman et al. (2007) used the effective Henry's Law constant, and half-redox reactions in  
162 neutral solutions of  $\text{HgCl}_2$ , and indicated HONO might better represent the chemical  
163 properties of oxidized Hg rather than  $\text{HNO}_3$ . Huang et al. (2015a) indicated that due to  
164 limited understanding of oxidized Hg chemical properties, no single value can be used to  
165 calculate oxidized Hg dry deposition, because  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  would change with different GOM  
166 compounds. Here dry deposition was calculated using the multiple resistance model of  
167 Lyman et al. (2007) using both  $\alpha=\beta=2, 5, 7$ , and 10.

168 Back trajectories were calculated using the Hybrid Single Particle Lagrangian Integrated  
169 Trajectory (HYSPLIT 4.9) with EDAS 40-km, 1000-meter starting height. For day and  
170 nighttime analyses, starting times were Local Standard Time (LST) 1100-1300 h and  
171 100-300 h, 72-hour simulations. For a high-concentration event analyses, trajectories  
172 were started for each day at 0000, 0400, 0800, 1200, 1600, and 2000 LST. Overall, the  
173 uncertainties of back trajectories calculated from HYSPLIT are 20% of the air parcel  
174 traveling distance (Draxler, 2013 ; Gebhart et al., 2005; Stohl, 1998; Stohl et al., 2003).  
175 Back trajectories for the entire sampling time were analyzed using cluster analysis (Liu et  
176 al., 2010).

177 Sigmaplot 14.0 (Systat Software Inc, San Jose, CA, USA), and Minitab 16.0 (Minitab  
178 Inc., PA, US) were used to do t-tests and correlation analyses. Comparisons were  
179 considered significantly different and correlations considered significant when  $p < 0.05$ .

## 180 **3 Results and Discussion**

### 181 3.1 Overall measurements

182 Similar to previous work at this location (Gustin et al., 2012),  $\text{O}_3$  was highest in the  
183 spring; and CO concentrations were high in winter due to a low boundary layer and  
184 biomass burning, and low in summer (Table 1). Observations from the 3 GOM sampling  
185 methods (Tekran®, and nylon and cation exchange membranes) showed higher GOM  
186 concentrations in spring relative to other seasons (Table 1). Concentrations of GOM  
187 measured by cation-exchange membranes in the active system were significantly ( $p$ -value  
188  $< 0.05$ , paired-t test) higher than those measured by Tekran® KCl-coated denuder and



189 nylon membranes, both of which have been reported to be influenced by relative  
190 humidity (Huang and Gustin, 2015b; Gustin et al., 2015). Mean cation-exchange  
191 membrane concentrations were higher than Tekran® derived GOM by 14, 48, 11, and 13  
192 times in the spring, summer, fall and winter, respectively.

193 Nylon membranes collected higher GOM concentrations than those measured by the  
194 Tekran® in spring 2013 when the humidity was low. Overall, air concentrations  
195 measured by the Tekran® system in this study were similar to those measured at OLF in  
196 2010 (Peterson et al., 2012). Particulate-bound Hg had the same diel trend as GOM, but  
197 higher concentrations.

198 Understanding the oxidants present in air is important for understanding potential GOM  
199 compounds. Oxidants to consider include O<sub>3</sub>, halogenated compounds, and sulfur and  
200 nitrogen compounds (cf. Gustin et al., 2016). Since the active system is currently limited  
201 to a 2-week sampling period, they are useful for understanding the specific compounds  
202 that might be present, and this in turn can be used to understand sources.

### 203 3.2 Potential GOM compounds

204 Standard desorption profiles for GOM compounds obtained by Huang et al. (2013) and  
205 Gustin et al. (2015) are compared to those obtained at OLF (Figure 2). Compounds used  
206 in the permeation tubes included HgBr<sub>2</sub>, HgCl<sub>2</sub>, HgN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub>•H<sub>2</sub>O, HgSO<sub>4</sub>, and HgO. HgCl<sub>2</sub>  
207 and HgBr<sub>2</sub> have been identified as being released from permeation tubes (Lyman et al.,  
208 2016); however, the exact N and S compounds are not known. During 10 periods the  
209 nylon membranes (collected in triplicate) collected a significant amount of GOM based  
210 on their bi-weekly detection limit (Figure 2), and the desorption profiles varied. Although  
211 data are limited, we have observed similar thermal desorption compounds in other studies  
212 (i.e. Huang et al, 2013 and Gustin et al. 2016). For example, in the marine boundary layer  
213 in Santa Cruz, California, based on the additional curves in Gustin et al. (2015), Hg-  
214 nitrogen and sulfur compounds were observed. At the Reno Atmospheric Mercury  
215 Intercomparison eXperiment site (RAMIX) site, Nevada, Huang et al. (2013) reported  
216 HgBr<sub>2</sub>/HgCl<sub>2</sub> compounds, this is due to free troposphere inputs at this site (Gustin et al.,  
217 2013). At a highway impacted site Huang et al. (2013) reported similar patterns to that in

218 Gustin et al. (2016) that included Hg-nitrogen and sulfur compounds, and unknown  
219 compounds that generated a high residual tail in the profile. This indicates similar  
220 chemical forms are being collected, and is supported by work described below, and that  
221 the compounds are not being generated on the membranes. Lack of generation on  
222 membranes has also been shown to be the case in a limited study (Pierce and Gustin,  
223 2016). In addition to our work, HgBr<sub>2</sub> and HgCl<sub>2</sub> were reported to occur in Montreal,  
224 Canada (Deeds et al., 2015).

225  
226 Seven distinct patterns of release were observed from membranes collected at OLF  
227 during thermal desorption. One had a high residual tail that does not match our standard  
228 profiles; however, was also observed in Nevada (Gustin et al, 2016). These occurred on  
229 4/2/2013, 4/9/2013 and 5/21/2013. This suggests that in spring there is a compound that  
230 is unknown based on current standard profiles. Based on our methylmercury profile  
231 generated using methylmercury added as a liquid to membranes, presented in Gustin et al.  
232 (2015), it is possible this could be some organic compound. A nitrogen-based compound  
233 was found on 5/21/2013 based on the desorption profile. A pattern occurred on 3/19/2013  
234 and 11/19/2013, and this corresponded to HgBr<sub>2</sub>/HgCl<sub>2</sub> with some residual tail that is  
235 again some compound not accounted for.

236  
237 Patterns observed on 5/7/2013 and 8/27/2013 corresponded to a Hg-nitrogen based  
238 compound with a residual tail. The 5<sup>th</sup> pattern occurred on 1/14/2014, and 9/24/2013 was  
239 associated with HgSO<sub>4</sub> and the error bars are small. Data collected on 10/22/23 was noisy  
240 and had subtle peaks that correspond with HgO, a nitrogen-based compound, and a high  
241 residual tail. It is interesting to note that the 11/19 profile was similar to HgCl<sub>2</sub>.

242 Previous studies reported consistent desorption profiles from 3 sites in Nevada and  
243 California without significant point sources (Huang et al., 2013). Huang et al. ( 2013)  
244 presented desorption profiles from a highway, agriculture, and marine boundary layer site.  
245 Profiles from the marine boundary layer and agriculture impacted site did not show clear  
246 residual tails at 185°C, but these were observed at the highway impacted site. At OLF, a  
247 significant amount of GOM (15-30%) was released after 160 °C. This and previous work  
248 implies that we are missing one or more GOM compound(s) (Figure 2) in our permeation

249 profiles. Interestingly, a peak was found in the 4/9/2013 sample at the GEM release  
250 temperature, and this is not due to GEM absorption as demonstrated by Huang et  
251 al.(2013), and was also observed in Nevada (Gustin et al., 2016), suggesting an additional  
252 unidentified compound. This information indicates GOM compounds at OLF varied with  
253 time, and this variation is due to complicated Hg emission sources and chemistry at this  
254 location (cf. Gustin et al., 2012).

255 At OLF, GOM composition on the nylon membrane was more complicated than that  
256 collected at rural sites in the Western USA (cf. Huang et al.,2013; Gustin et al., 2016);  
257 however, similar complexity was observed at a highway location in Reno, Nevada  
258 (Gustin et al., 2016). Desorption curves from the nylon filters collected at rural locations  
259 in Nevada were in the range of the standard GOM compounds that have been investigated  
260 (Huang et al., 2013; Gustin et al., 2016). Curves with multiple peaks in this study imply  
261 that there were at least 7 GOM compounds collected on the nylon membranes.

### 262 3.3 Dry deposition measurements

263 Dry deposition of GOM measured by Aerohead samplers ranged from 0 to 0.5 ng m<sup>-2</sup> hr<sup>-1</sup>,  
264 and 83% of GOM dry deposition was higher than the detection limit (0.13 ng m<sup>-2</sup> hr<sup>-1</sup>).  
265 Higher GOM dry deposition was observed in spring relative to winter (ANOVA one-way  
266 rank, p-value < 0.01); GOM dry deposition was slightly lower in summer and fall (not  
267 statistically different) relative to the spring due to high wet deposition and scavenging  
268 processes during these seasons. The pattern in GOM seasonal dry deposition was similar  
269 to that reported by Peterson et al. (2012). However, GOM dry deposition rates were  
270 significantly higher in this study than 2010 values (0.2 vs 0.05 ng m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup>). This is due to  
271 the correction of 0.2 ng m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> applied in Peterson et al. (2012) to account for  
272 contamination of the Aerohead that has been demonstrated to be unnecessary (Huang et  
273 al., 2014). Although, highest GOM dry deposition measured using the Aerohead sampler  
274 and GOM concentrations measured using the UNRRAMS were observed in spring 2013,  
275 the value in March 2014 was relatively low. In March 2014, atmospheric conditions were  
276 more similar to winter than spring, with low temperatures and high CO concentrations.  
277 These results are different from those calculated using Tekran® measurements that

278 suggest low GOM concentrations and high deposition velocities, and this is because the  
279 denuder measurements are biased low.

280 Modeled GOM dry deposition fluxes were calculated using GOM concentrations  
281 measured by the Tekran® system that were multiplied by a factor of three (cf. Huang et  
282 al., 2014). In general, measured Hg dry deposition fluxes were similar to those modeled  
283 simulations with GOM dry deposition  $\alpha=\beta=2$  during winter, spring, and fall (see below;  
284 Figure 3). Measured Hg dry deposition was significantly higher than modeled results  
285 (both  $\alpha=\beta=2$  and 10) in summer and early fall (Figure 3). This indicates there are  
286 compounds of GOM in the summer that are poorly collected by the denuder, and this also  
287 can help explain the higher wet deposition measured during this season (Prestbo and Gay,  
288 2009). Highest deposition was measured during the spring, when the input from long  
289 range transport is greatest (Gustin et al., 2012). Figure 3 shows the disparity that occurs  
290 by season, and comparing model and measured values. For example in spring  $\alpha=\beta=10$   
291 significantly overestimates deposition, while in the summer and early fall measured  
292 deposition is greater than modeled values.

293 Because of the low GOM concentrations and influence of humidity on the nylon  
294 membrane measurements (Huang and Gustin, 2015b), GOM compounds were identified  
295 only in one summertime sample as  $\text{HgN}_2\text{O}_6 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ . During this time, measured GOM dry  
296 deposition was ~6 times higher than both modeled results, and considering the Tekran®  
297 correction factor of 3, membrane-based  $\text{HgN}_2\text{O}_6 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$  dry deposition flux was ~18 times  
298 higher than the Tekran®-model-based value. Gustin et al. (2015) indicated  $\text{HgN}_2\text{O}_6 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$   
299 collection efficiency on cation-exchange membrane in charcoal scrubbed air was ~ 12.6  
300 times higher than on Tekran KCl-coated denuder.

301 However, in May 2013, two samples were dominated by a profile similar to the Hg  
302 nitrogen-based compound with lower measured/modeled ratios (2.1-6.0 with Tekran®  
303 correction factor). This might be due to ambient air GOM chemistry being dominated by  
304 a compound with a different dry deposition velocity, less interference on the denuder  
305 surface, or parameters in the dry deposition scheme. In May, GOM concentrations  
306 measured by the Tekran® were higher than in summer due to lower wet deposition and

307 mean humidity (Table 1). Therefore, despite the fact that GOM collection efficiency  
308 associated with the Tekran and nylon membranes are impacted by environmental  
309 conditions, this demonstrates the presence of different compounds in the air. The dry  
310 deposition scheme needs Henry's Law constants for determining the scaling factors for  
311 specific resistances for different compounds (Lyman et al., 2007; Zhang et al., 2002).

312 Lin et al. (2006) stated that the dry deposition velocity of HgO is 2-times higher than that  
313 for HgCl<sub>2</sub>, due to the different Henry's Law constant. The Henry's Law constants for  
314 HgCl<sub>2</sub>, HgBr<sub>2</sub>, and HgO presented in previous literature (Schroeder and Munthe, 1998)  
315 have high uncertainty, for how these calculations were done is not clear (S. Lyman, Utah  
316 State University, personal communication, 2015), and the constants for HgN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub>•H<sub>2</sub>O and  
317 HgSO<sub>4</sub> are unknown. Some researchers considered that GOM is similar to HNO<sub>3</sub>  
318 ( $\alpha=\beta=10$ ), and some treated GOM as HONO ( $\alpha=\beta=2$ ) (Castro et al., 2012; Lyman et al.,  
319 2007; Marsik et al., 2007); however, using the parameters of HNO<sub>3</sub> could overestimate  
320 GOM dry deposition velocities due to the differences of effective Henry's law constants  
321 (HgCl<sub>2</sub>:  $\sim 10^6$  HNO<sub>3</sub>:  $\sim 10^{13}$  M atm<sup>-1</sup>).

322 If the ratios (HgBr<sub>2</sub>: 1.6, HgCl<sub>2</sub>:2.4, HgSO<sub>4</sub>: 2.3, HgO: 3.7, and HgN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub>•H<sub>2</sub>O: 12.6) of  
323 GOM concentrations measured by the Tekran® versus cation-exchange membranes for  
324 different GOM permeated compounds (Gustin et al., 2015; Huang et al., 2013) are used  
325 to correct Tekran® GOM data in this study, modeled GOM dry deposition (Figure 3) are  
326 not correlated with measurements. For example, on 3/9/2013 and 11/19/2013 (Figure 3),  
327 GOM was dominated by HgBr<sub>2</sub> and HgCl<sub>2</sub>. Dry deposition of HgBr<sub>2</sub> from Aerohead  
328 measurements and modeling were close to  $\alpha=\beta=10$ ; however, modeled and measured  
329 HgCl<sub>2</sub> dry deposition were matched as  $\alpha=\beta=2$ . Average deposition velocity for  $\alpha=\beta=2$   
330 was 0.78 cm s<sup>-1</sup>, and for  $\alpha=\beta=10$  is 1.59 cm s<sup>-1</sup>, if we assume the model is right. There  
331 were three samples that were identified as Hg-nitrogen based compounds using nylon  
332 membranes; however, the ratios of measurement and modeling HgN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub>•H<sub>2</sub>O dry  
333 deposition were inconsistent over time. In spring, all modeled HgN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub>•H<sub>2</sub>O dry  
334 deposition values were much higher than measured values; however, in summer,  
335 measured and modeled HgN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub>•H<sub>2</sub>O dry deposition were similar as  $\alpha=\beta=5$  (Table 2). If  
336 you assume the dry deposition measurements made by the surrogate surfaces are accurate

337 then this demonstrates there are different forms that occur over time, and these will have  
338 different deposition velocities as suggested by Peterson et al. (2012).

### 339 3.4 Elevated Pollution Event

340 In spring 2013, there was a time period when high concentrations of O<sub>3</sub>, CO, and all Hg  
341 measured (Figure 4). Figure 5 shows that during this time air masses traveled west to east  
342 across the continent. The air movement pattern is similar to that found in Gustin et al.  
343 (2012) for OLF Class 2 events which had low SO<sub>2</sub> concentrations. During this 4-week  
344 period, air parcels traveling to OLF were in the free troposphere and descended to the  
345 surface (Figure 5). Although there are coal-fired power plants in the upwind area within a  
346 500 km range (Figure 1), the low SO<sub>2</sub> concentrations, and elevated CO, O<sub>3</sub>, and GOM  
347 values were not from fossil fuel combustion. Gustin et al. (2012) also indicated that free  
348 troposphere air impacted OLF. The first few endpoints for these trajectories indicate air  
349 parcels entered North America at > 1000 m agl; therefore, there was transport of some air  
350 measured during this time from the free troposphere. Ozone concentrations were also  
351 similar to those measured in Nevada in the free troposphere at this time (Gustin et al.,  
352 2014). It is important to note that the back trajectories are only for 72 hours and the ones  
353 that subsided to surface levels in the Midwest were traveling fast. This is a common event  
354 in the spring that represents free troposphere/stratosphere transport into the Western  
355 United States and Florida (Gertler and Bennett, 2015; Lefohn and Cooper, 2015 Weiss-  
356 Penzias et al., 2011; Gustin et al., 2012).

357  
358 The chemical composition of this event suggests potential input from Asia as previously  
359 suggested for three locations in Florida in the spring by Gustin et al. (2012). During this  
360 time, based on thermal desorption profiles, HgBr<sub>2</sub> was measured initially and then the  
361 following profiles obtained showed a gradual increase in GOM with increasing  
362 temperature with a high residual tail. This would suggest initial subsidence of air from  
363 the stratosphere/troposphere (cf. Lyman et al., 2012) followed by a mixture of polluted  
364 air as observed in the Western USA (c.f. VanCuren and Gustin, 2015)

## 365 **4 Conclusions**

366 The chemical forms of GOM in the atmosphere at OLF varied by season as suggested by  
367 Gustin et al. (2012). Seven potential different GOM compounds were identified at OLF  
368 using nylon membranes with thermal desorption analysis, including HgBr<sub>2</sub>, HgCl<sub>2</sub>, HgO,  
369 Hg-nitrogen and sulfur compounds, and 2 unknown compounds. Given the long sampling  
370 time detailed assessment of specific sources is difficult, but the presence of different  
371 compounds indicate multiple sources and different GOM chemistry. Comparing modeled  
372 and measured Hg dry deposition fluxes also demonstrate there are different forms in air  
373 and this will affect dry deposition velocities. In order to measure GOM accurately, we  
374 need to know what compounds exist in the atmosphere.

## 375 **5 Acknowledgements**

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381 membranes in the lab, and keeping the glassware clean (Keith Heidecorn, Douglas Yan,  
382 Matt Peckham, Jennifer Arnold, Jen Schoener, and Addie Luippold).

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582 Table 1 – Overall seasonal average of criteria air pollutants, GEM, PBM, GOM  
 583 (measured using three different methods) concentration, GOM dry deposition (DD), and  
 584 meteorological data at OLF.

	2012			2013				2014
	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	March
Ozone [ppb]	30±15	30±12	29±11	38±12	24±12	26±11	27±10	35±12
CO [ppb]	143±38	161±35	167±41	165±36	139±35	156±33	167±35	183±33
SO <sub>2</sub> [ppb]	0.3±0.4	0.6±1.5	0.4±0.5	0.3±0.5	0.2±0.3	0.4±0.5	0.7±1.2	0.3±0.4
NO [ppb]	0.3±0.7	0.3±0.7	0.3±0.8	0.2±0.5	0.3±0.7	0.3±0.8	0.4±0.8	0.2±0.5
NO <sub>2</sub> [ppb]	2.4±2.4	3.0±2.7	3.0±3.1	2.0±2.3	2.2±2.1	3.1±2.9	3.2±3.0	2.3±2.8
NO <sub>y</sub> [ppb]	3.6±2.9	4.3±3.1	4.3±3.6	3.1±2.8	3.2±2.5	4.4±3.3	4.2±3.4	3.6±3.1
GEM [ng m <sup>-3</sup> ] <sup>a</sup>	1.2±0.1	1.2±0.1	1.3±0.1	1.2±0.2	1.1±0.1	1.0±0.1	1.2±0.3	1.2±0.1
GOM [pg m <sup>-3</sup> ] <sup>a</sup>	0.6±1.3	1.1±2.8	1.0±2.2	2.9±5.1	0.5±1.0	1.1±2.1	1.3±2.5	2.0±3.6
PBM [pg m <sup>-3</sup> ] <sup>a</sup>	2.4±2.6	3.6±3.8	7.3±8.7	5.9±6.8	2.3±2.0	2.9±2.3	4.9±5.3	4.0±3.4
GOM [pg m <sup>-3</sup> ] <sup>b</sup>	-	-	-	43±110	24±57	14±18	17±23	24±15
GOM [pg m <sup>-3</sup> ] <sup>c</sup>	-	-	-	4±10	0.4±1.3	1.2±1.1	0.6±0.6	0.6±0.5
GOM DD [ng m <sup>-2</sup> hr <sup>-1</sup> ]	0.24±0.20	0.17±0.12	0.15±0.06	0.40±0.23	0.20±0.13	0.13±0.18	0.20±0.50	0.14±0.04
WS [m s <sup>-1</sup> ]	2.1±1.2	2.1±1.0	2.8±1.7	2.9±1.8	2.0±1.1	2.1±1.1	2.5±1.3	2.5±1.5
TEMP [°C]	26±3	19±6	14±6	18±6	26±3	20±7	11±7	14±5
RH [%]	83±14	76±18	79±19	73±21	84±13	77±17	76±23	78±21
SR [w m <sup>-2</sup> ]	230±302	193±271	121±199	266±304	210±278	175±255	129±212	182±278
Precipitation [mm]	637	186	385	223	1010	254	357	183

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586 <sup>a</sup>: Tekran data

587 <sup>b</sup>: cation-exchange membrane data

588 <sup>c</sup>: nylon membrane data

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Table 2 – Modeled (multiple-resistance model) and measured (surrogate surfaces) GOM dry deposition ( $\text{ng m}^{-2} \text{hr}^{-1}$ ), GOM concentrations used to calculate for modeled results are from the Tekran® data and corrected by compounds' corresponding ratios from Gustin et al. (2015; 2016). The sample with unknown compound is used the Tekran® data with correction factor of three (average ratio). The tentative GOM compounds are identified from nylon membrane results.

Start date	Tentative GOM compound	Measured GOM dry deposition flux	Modeled GOM dry deposition $\alpha=\beta=2$	Modeled GOM dry deposition $\alpha=\beta=5$	Modeled GOM dry deposition $\alpha=\beta=7$	Modeled GOM dry deposition $\alpha=\beta=10$
3/12/2013	HgBr <sub>2</sub>	0.50±0.06	0.34	0.49	0.54	0.58
3/26/2013	unknown	0.40±0.11	0.34	0.47	0.52	0.56
4/30/2013	Hg(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	0.50±0.13	1.21	1.67	1.81	1.95
5/14/2013	Hg(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	0.40±0.09	1.19	1.69	1.88	2.07
8/20/2013	Hg(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	0.15±0.07	0.10	0.14	0.16	0.17
11/12/2013	HgCl <sub>2</sub>	0.08±0.03	0.11	0.16	0.17	0.19
1/7/2014	HgSO <sub>4</sub>	0.19±0.03	0.18	0.24	0.27	0.29

## Figure Caption

Figure 1 – Sampling site and point sources (NEI 2011) map. Cluster trajectories for daytime (11:00-13:00) and nighttime (1:00-3:00).

Figure 2 – Desorption profiles from nylon membranes with standard materials in laboratory investigation (top) and field measurements. Whisker is 1 standard variation, and only present in the desorption peak. Note the Hg-nitrogen compound in the permeation tube was  $\text{HgN}_2\text{O}_6 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ .

Figure 3 – Measured and modeled GOM dry deposition fluxes, Tekran® data (correction factor of three) were used with multiple resistance models ( $\alpha=\beta=2$  and 10). Tentative GOM compounds were determined using the results from nylon membranes desorption.

Figure 4 – Temporal variation of GOM concentrations (mean  $\pm$  standard deviation, bi-week average), outlined rectangle indicates a polluted event with high Hg, CO, and ozone concentrations. Data are missing for 3 weeks because it was not collected. Tekran data is presented when  $>75\%$  of the data were available and membrane data are shown when above the method detection limit.

Figure 5 – Results of gridded frequency distribution (top panel), light color indicates less endpoints in a grid. Altitude of 72-hr trajectories (bottom panel) during the polluted event (3/12/2013-4/2/2013), light color of dots on left panel represents low altitude.

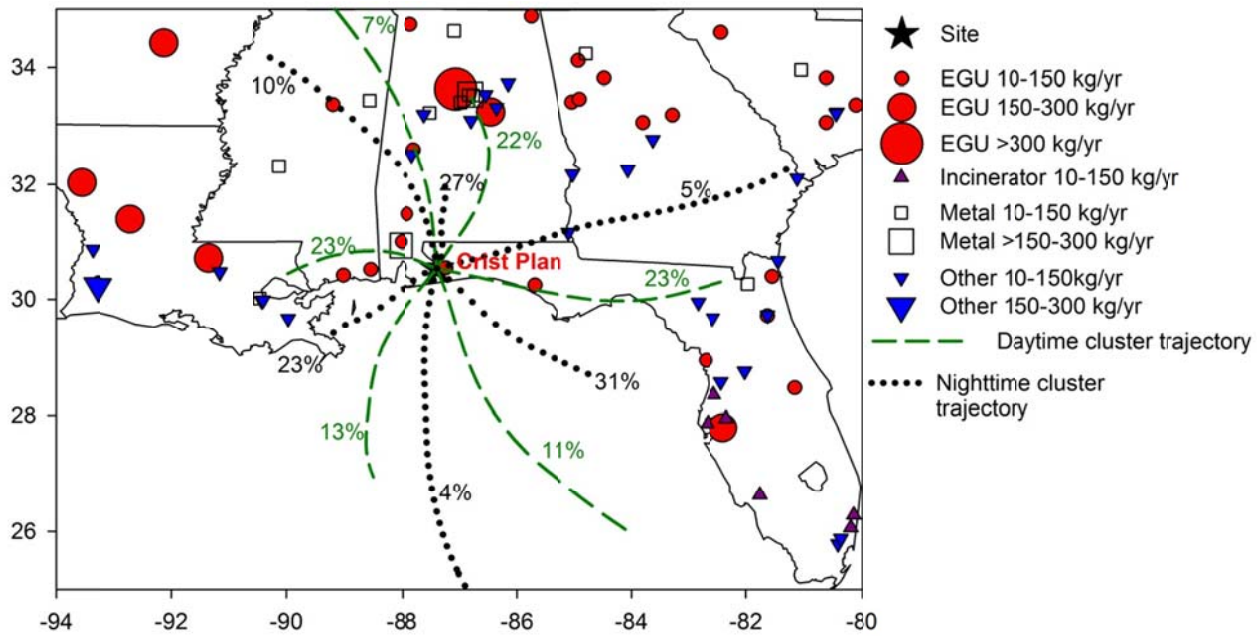


Figure 1 – Sampling site and point sources (NEI 2011) map. Cluster trajectories for daytime (11:00-13:00) and nighttime (1:00-3:00).



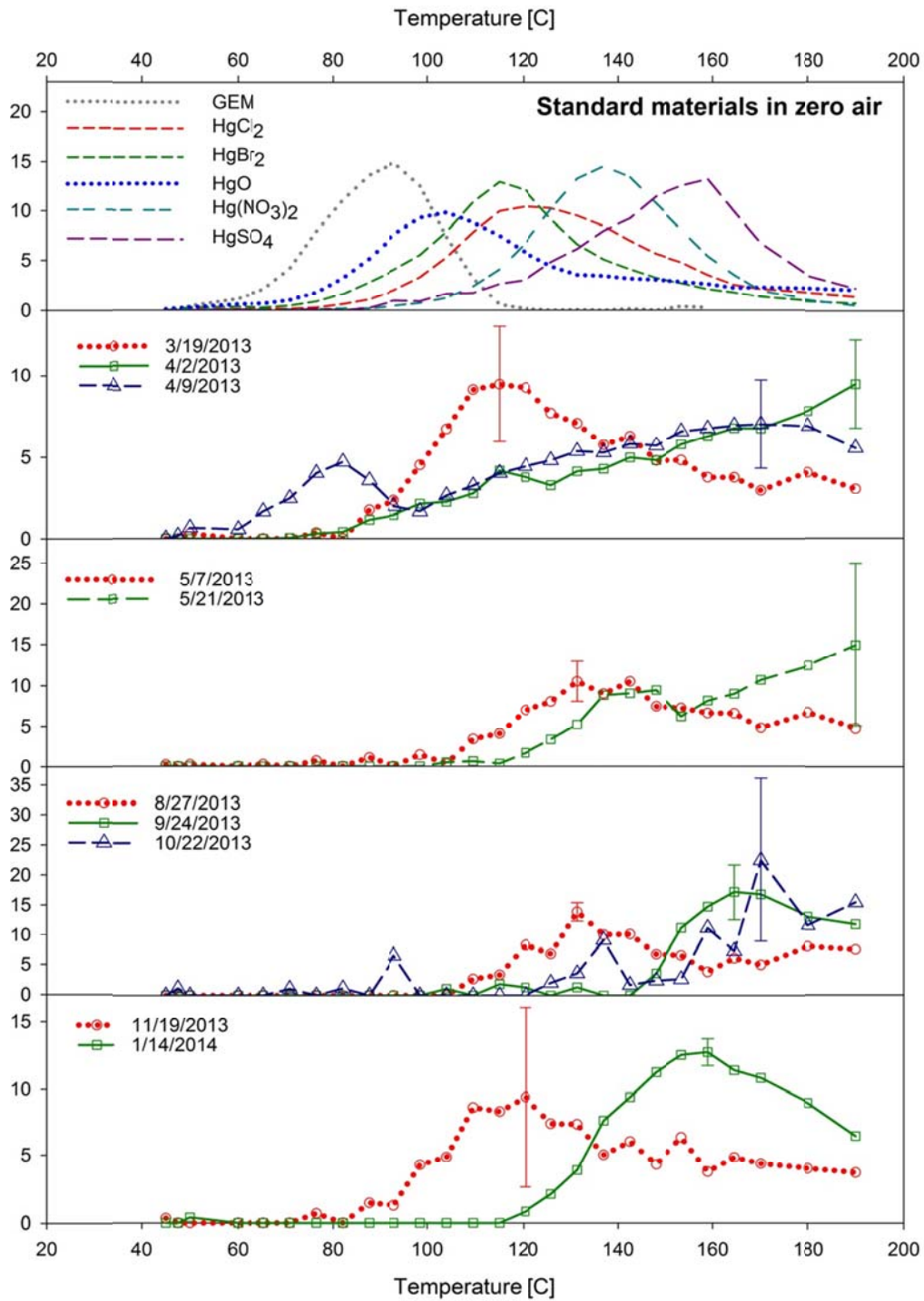


Figure 2 – Desorption profiles from nylon membranes with standard materials in laboratory investigation (top) and field measurements. Whisker is 1 standard variation, and only present in the desorption peak. Note the Hg-nitrogen compound in the permeation tube was  $\text{HgN}_2\text{O}_6 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ .

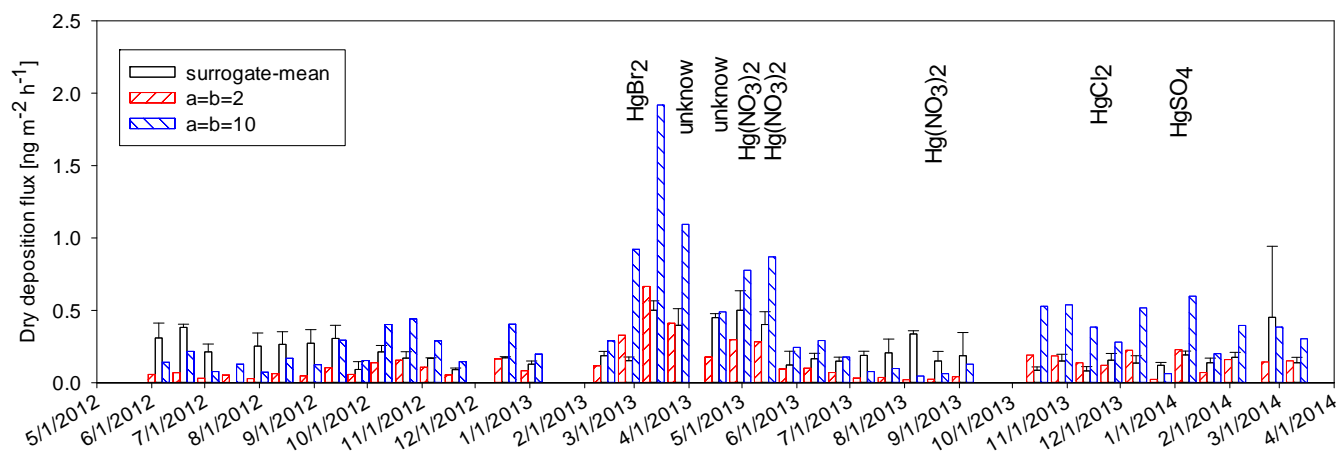
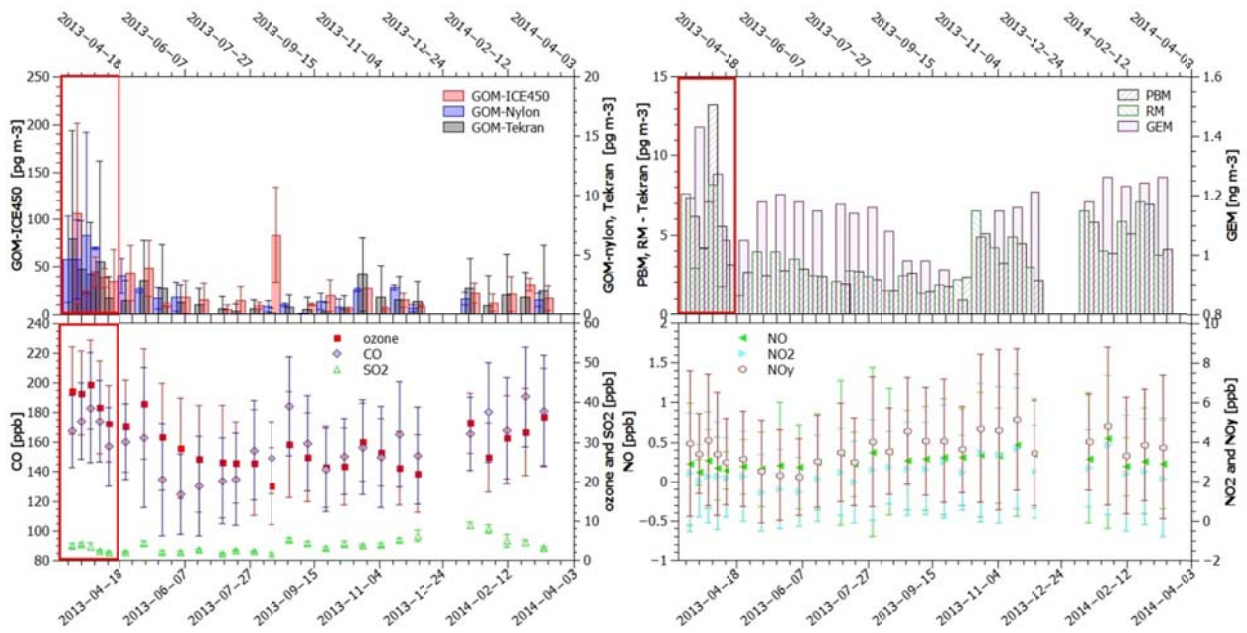


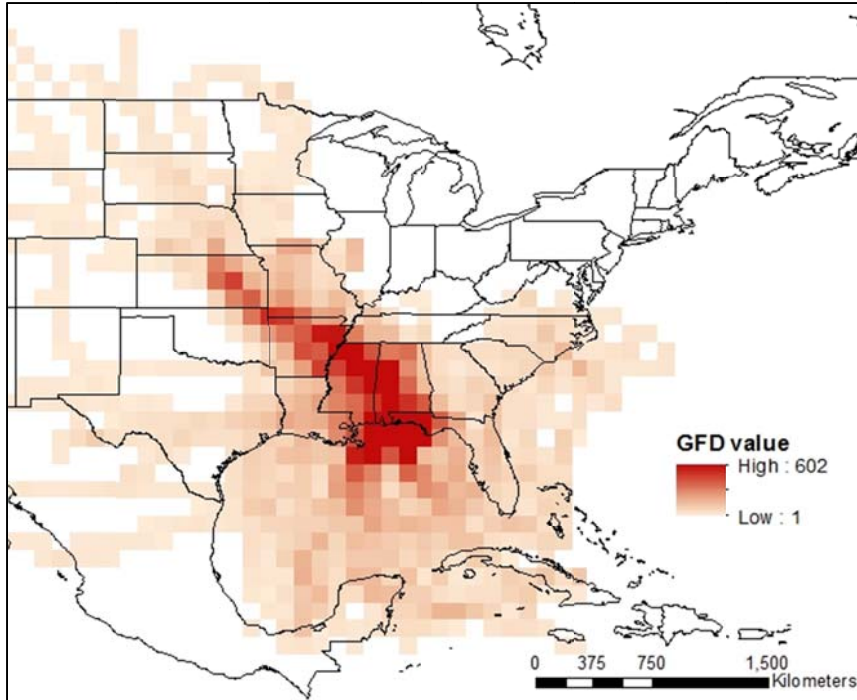
Figure 3 – Measured and modeled GOM dry deposition fluxes, Tekran® data (correction factor of three) were used with multiple resistance models ( $\alpha=\beta=2$  and 10). Tentative GOM compounds were determined using the results from nylon membranes desorption.

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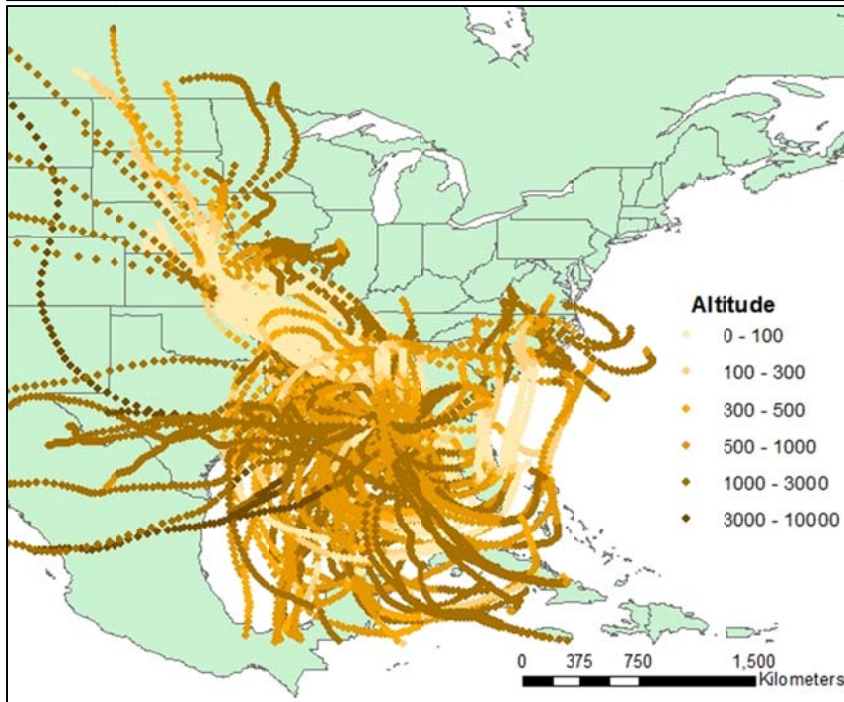


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Figure 4 – Temporal variation of GOM concentrations (mean  $\pm$  standard deviation, bi-week average), outlined rectangle indicates a polluted event with high Hg, CO, and ozone concentrations. Data are missing for 3 weeks because it was not collected. Tekran data is presented when >75% of the data were available and membrane data are shown when above the method detection limit.



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Figure 5 – Results of gridded frequency distribution (top panel), light color indicates less endpoints in a grid. Altitude of 72-hr trajectories (bottom panel) during the polluted event (3/12/2013-4/2/2013), light color of dots on left panel represents low altitude.