# Author's response file

In the following, we include the answers to the referees together with the complete revised manuscript. Changes in the text of the manuscript are marked with red colour.

# **Response to Referee #1:**

First of all we thank the referee for the effort to carefully reading the manuscript and for all comments.

# **General comments:**

1. Which is better for estimating Bry: daytime BrO or nighttime BrONO2?

I would suggest to add some discussion about the estimate of Bry. If we select a condition where no heterogeneous reactions occur, is the measurement of BrONO2 in nighttime a better way? The authors state comparison with previous studies in "Conclusion" without any discussion about it in "Results and discussion". Thus, I suggest to add a subsection, e.g., "Comparison with other studies", then discuss about studies on BrO measurements, the estimation of Bry, and the advantage of BrONO2 in the estimation, if so.

First, we have to emphasize that MIPAS-B can only measure BrONO2 but not BrO such that we are only able to estimate Bry from BrONO2 data. However, we performed chemical model calculations with EMAC and a 1-D stacked box model to look at the diurnal variation of BrONO2 and BrO. As already mentioned in the text in section 3.2, more than 90% of Bry are in the form of BrONO2 between 21 and 29 km during the night at mid-latitudes in September. In contrast, the maximum relative daytime amount of BrO is only 80% of Bry near 36 km, the upper altitude limit of this MIPAS-B measurement. Furthermore, the BrO VMR is gradually changing during day (while BrONO2 VMR is rather constant during night). Hence, BrONO2 appears to be better suited to estimate Bry compared to BrO. This holds also for the situation during the Arctic flight in March where the nighttime BrONO2/Bry ratio is larger than the daytime BrO/Bry ratio as well. We added a new Section 3.3 where we discuss the estimation of Bry together with the comparison to DOAS results.

2. Are heterogeneous reactions on sulphate not important for the destruction of BrONO2 in nighttime under volcanically quiescent periods and temperatures observed?

Under conditions where no PSCs were evident in the Arctic March and the mid-latitude September, significant enhancements of BrONO2 up to 21-22 pptv were measured by MIPAS-B. This may suggest that any heterogeneous reactions (or hydrolysis) of BrONO2 on sulphate is not important, at least, under such a low aerosol surface area density and temperatures.

Aerosol surface areas are very low in the altitude regions of the BrONO2 VMR maxima (2.0E-09 cm2/cm3 at 24 km on 31 March 2011 and 2.0E-09 cm2/cm3 at 28 km on 7 September 2014 in the EMAC simulation) and are not important in these two cases.

# Minor comments:

1. Page 5, line 130: What is instrumental offset? The authors mention that continuum could be separated from individual spectral lines.

Instrumental offset is an additive radiometric parameter which is not completely eliminated during the calibration process (for all instrumental issues, see Friedl-Vallon et al., 2004 as cited in the text). We included "radiometric" in the text for better clarity.

2. Page 6, Figure 6: What is a cause of difference in peak altitudes? Namely, 24 km in nighttime and 22 km in daytime. This feature is also seen from the model result, so that the authors can provide some explanation for that. In connection with this, additional figures from model computations are useful, if the authors provide figures showing difference in the partitioning of Bry species at day and night with and without PSCs. Then, add some discussion on that.

The displacement of the nighttime BrONO2 VMR maximum from 24 km down to 22 km during day can be explained by photolysis. Towards higher altitudes, the decomposition of BrONO2 according to (R2a), (R2b), and (R3) is increasingly faster than the BrONO2 build-up via (R1). We explain this in the text now and included a Figure showing BrO from the model. Further Figures showing the complete model bromine partitioning are not necessary to explain this displacement.

3. Page 7, line 209: is it right for this calculation, because the model grid  $(x - xa^*)$  is larger than that of MIPAS-B (xa)?

The formula is correct. The Matrix A has not a quadratic but a rectangular form to account for the different altitude grids.

4. Page 9, line 274: The authors state "starts earlier". What is the difference in time? I suggest to write: e.g., "The BrONO2 increase starts at XXXXUT in the measurement, whereas the model BrONO2 increase starts at YYYYUT."

It is difficult, to give exact times for the beginning of the BrONO2 increases. However, we changed the corresponding text to characterize both increases more precise.

# **Response to Referee #2:**

First of all we thank the referee for the effort to carefully reading the manuscript and for all comments.

# General comments:

1. The comparisons between measured and modelled BrONO2 mixing ratios are discussed in a too qualitative way and therefore it is very difficult for the reader to have a quantitative view about the level of agreement (or discrepancy) between MIPAS-B and EMAC. To improve this, I suggest to add in the manuscript 2D colorplots of EMAC minus MIPAS-B BrONO2 VMR relative differences for the three balloon flights and for both smoothed and unsmoothed model profiles. Those plots would also help to better characterize and discuss the impact of the smoothing of model profiles by MIPAS-B averaging kernels on the comparison results (see e.g. page 9, lines 255-261).

As proposed by the referee we added the corresponding 2D plots to the manuscript and modified the text accordingly.

2. As Anonymous Referee #1, I strongly recommend to discuss the pros and cons of using nighttime BrONO2 for estimating Bry, instead of daytime BrO.

We included a new section 3.3 where we discuss all the issues concerning the estimation of Bry.

# **Specific comments:**

1. Page 6, lines 169-171: The authors should briefly describe here how the vertical resolution of the MIPAS-B BrONO2 observations is estimated (FWHM of the averaging kernel matrix). I think that showing typical averaging kernels could be also useful to see in which altitude range the maximum sensitivity of the MIPAS-B BrONO2 measurements is located.

The altitude resolution was calculated from the full width at half maximum (FWHM) of the rows of the averaging kernel matrix. This is written in the text now. The altitude resolution is shown in the right column of Figures 4 and 5. The maximum sensitivity is located in the altitude region near the measured tangent altitudes (as typical for limb sounding).

2. Page 8, lines 223-227: It is stated that the sensitivity study of Kreycy et al. (2013) about the BrONO2 photolysis rate is not relevant here because it was conducted for mid-latitude conditions. If this is true for the two Kiruna flights, this is not the case for the third flight, which was launched from Timmins (49°N, Canada), i.e. at mid-latitude. For the latter, I would suggest to also perform model simulations using the Kreycy et al. BrONO2 photolysis rate and see how it impacts (1) the MIPAS-B versus model comparison, and (2) the Bry estimate.

There was a mistake in the manuscript. The Kreycy et al. (2013) flight was performed at the beginning of September 2009 not at mid-latitudes but from Kiruna (Sweden). Anyhow, we tested the 1.7\*J/k ratio recommended by Kreycy et al. by using a 1-D photochemical stacked box model for the situation of our September 2014 flight. The photolysis rate of BrONO2 will then be enhanced and the production rate of BrONO2 will be reduced. As expected, this leads to lower BrONO2 during day towards higher BrO amounts. Hence, the Kreycy et al. recommendation further degrades the agreement between model simulations and our measurements since daytime BrONO2 values are already lower in the model (compared to the measurement) using the standard JPL kinetics. Thus, in our case, we should rather scale the J/k ratio with a factor < 1 (and not > 1 as stated by Kreycy et al.) to get a better daytime agreement between measurement and simulation. Hence, concerning the EMAC calculations, we stick on the JPL data. It is important to emphasize, that during night, the BrONO2 VMR does not change significantly (< 0.1 pptv) when varying the J/k ratio in the altitude region where the BrONO2/Bry ratio is high (> 0.90) such that our estimation of Bry from measured nighttime BrONO2 is not influenced by the outcome of the Kreycy et al. study. These conclusions are also valid for the situation during the March 2011 flight. We added some sentences in Section 3.2 to explain these issues in the manuscript.

# Diurnal variations of BrONO<sub>2</sub> observed by MIPAS-B at mid-latitudes and in the Arctic

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#### Abstract

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The first stratospheric measurements of the diurnal variation of the inorganic bromine  $(Br_y)$  reservoir species BrONO<sub>2</sub> around sunrise and sunset are reported. Arctic flights of the balloon-

- 15 borne Michelson Interferometer for Passive Atmospheric Sounding (MIPAS-B) were carried out from Kiruna (68°N, Sweden) in January 2010 and March 2011 inside the stratospheric polar vortices where diurnal variations of BrONO<sub>2</sub> around sunrise have been observed. High nighttime BrONO<sub>2</sub> volume mixing ratios of up to 21 parts per trillion by volume (pptv) were detected in the late winter 2011 in the absence of polar stratospheric clouds (PSCs). In contrast,
- 20 the amount of measured BrONO<sub>2</sub> was significantly lower in January 2010 due to low available NO<sub>2</sub> amounts (for the build-up of BrONO<sub>2</sub>), heterogeneous destruction of BrONO<sub>2</sub> on PSC particles, and the gas-phase interaction of BrO (the source to form BrONO<sub>2</sub>) with ClO. A further balloon flight took place at mid-latitudes from Timmins (49°N, Canada) in September 2014. Mean BrONO<sub>2</sub> mixing ratios of 22 pptv were observed after sunset in the altitude region
- 25 between 21 and 29 km. Measurements are compared and discussed with the results of a multiyear simulation performed with the chemistry climate model ECHAM5/MESSy Atmospheric Chemistry (EMAC). The calculated temporal variation of BrONO<sub>2</sub> is in principal agreement with the balloon-borne observations. Using the nighttime simulated ratio between BrONO<sub>2</sub> and Br<sub>y</sub>, the amount of Br<sub>y</sub> observed by MIPAS-B was estimated to about 21-25 pptv in the lower

30 stratosphere.

#### **1** Introduction

Chlorine and bromine species play a dominant role in the contribution to ongoing stratospheric ozone depletion since the amount of equivalent effective stratospheric chlorine (chlorine and bromine) is predicted to return to 1980 values by 2050 at mid-latitudes (Newman et al., 2007;

Stolarski et al., 2010). BrONO<sub>2</sub> is, besides BrO, the most abundant inorganic bromine (Br<sub>y</sub>) compound in the stratosphere (see e.g. Brasseur and Solomon, 2005; Sinnhuber et al., 2009; Sinnhuber and Meul, 2015). BrONO<sub>2</sub> is formed via the reaction with BrO and NO<sub>2</sub>:

$$BrO + NO_2 + M \rightarrow BrONO_2 + M.$$
(R1)

During day, BrONO2 is photolyzed with different possible channels

$$40 \quad \text{BrONO}_2 + hv \rightarrow \text{Br} + \text{NO}_3 \tag{R2a}$$

$$\rightarrow$$
 BrO + NO<sub>2</sub> (R2b)

with a higher quantum yield of (R2a) compared to (R2b). BrONO<sub>2</sub> can also be destroyed via the reaction with atomic oxygen:

$$BrONO_2 + O({}^{3}P) \rightarrow BrO + NO_3.$$
(R3)

45 (R1) to (R3) exhibit the close connection between BrO and BrONO<sub>2</sub> leading to an opposite diurnal variation of these species. Gas-phase BrONO<sub>2</sub> can also be converted to gas-phase HOBr and BrCl on sulphate aerosols and polar stratospheric cloud (PSC) particles where H<sub>2</sub>O, HCl, and HNO<sub>3</sub> are in liquid (l) or solid phase (s):

$$BrONO_2 + H_2O(l, s) \rightarrow HOBr + HNO_3(l, s)$$
(R4)

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$$\operatorname{BrONO}_2 + \operatorname{HCl}(l, s) \to \operatorname{BrCl} + \operatorname{HNO}_3(l, s).$$
 (R5)

An interaction between the chlorine and bromine family (particularly important at high latitudes in winter under conditions of elevated ClO) is the gas-phase production of BrCl via:

$$ClO + BrO \rightarrow BrCl + O_2.$$
 (R6)

Stratospheric BrONO2 was detected for the first time by the Michelson Interferometer for

55 Passive Atmospheric Sounding (MIPAS) aboard the Envisat satellite (Höpfner et al., 2009). Strong day/night variations were observed with much lower concentrations during day compared to nighttime. A maximum amount of 20-25 pptv (parts per trillion by volume) was inferred from MIPAS spectra recorded during the night. Flights of the balloon version of the MIPAS instrument (MIPAS-B) investigated in this work were carried out from Kiruna (68°N, Sweden) on 24 January 2010 and 31 March 2011 as well as from Timmins (49°N, Canada), on 7/8 September 2014. For the first time, diurnal variations of BrONO<sub>2</sub> around sunrise (Kiruna flights) and sunset (Timmins flight) were measured by MIPAS-B with high temporal resolution. A description of the MIPAS-B instrument, data analysis and chemical modelling is given in Sect. 2. A discussion of observed BrONO<sub>2</sub> volume

65 mixing ratio (VMR) vertical profiles follows in Sect. 3 together with a comparison of the measured data to simulations of the chemistry climate model ECHAM5/MESSy Atmospheric Chemistry (EMAC) to check the current understanding of stratospheric bromine chemistry and to estimate the amount of lower stratospheric Br<sub>y</sub>.

# 70 2 MIPAS-B instrument, data analysis and modelling

In the following sections, we give an overview of the MIPAS-B instrument and the balloon flights together with the corresponding data analysis and a description of chemical modelling performed for this study.

# 2.1 MIPAS-B instrument and balloon flights

- 75 The balloon-borne cryogenic Fourier Transform limb emission spectrometer operates in the mid-infrared spectral region between about 4 and 14 μm. The maximum optical path difference of 14.5 cm of the beam in the interferometer correlates with 0.0345 cm<sup>-1</sup> spectral resolution. This corresponds to about 0.07 cm<sup>-1</sup> after apodization with the Norton and Beer (1976) "strong" function and allows the separation of individual spectral lines from continuum-like emissions.
- Noise equivalent spectral radiance (NESR) values for a single calibrated spectrum are typically within 1x10<sup>-9</sup> and 7x10<sup>-9</sup> W(cm<sup>2</sup> sr cm<sup>-1</sup>)<sup>-1</sup>. A reduction of spectral noise by a factor of n<sup>-0.5</sup> is obtained by recording and averaging of n spectra (n ≤ 16) per single elevation scan. Besides a high radiometric accuracy of typically 1%, the pointing system allows a knowledge of the tangent altitude of better than 50 m at the 1-σ confidence limit. An overview of instrument characterization in terms of the instrumental line shape, field of view, NESR, line of sight of
- the instrument, detector non-linearity (Kleinert, 2006) and the error assessment of the calibrated spectra is given by Friedl-Vallon et al. (2004).

In this study, we report BrONO<sub>2</sub> results from three MIPAS-B flights. Details are shown in Table 1. The first flight took place on 24 January 2010 from Kiruna over northern Scandinavia inside

- 90 the Arctic vortex at the beginning of a major stratospheric warming (Wetzel et al., 2012). The second one was carried out from the same location on 31 March 2011 inside a still persistent late-winter Arctic vortex (Wetzel et al., 2015). The third one was performed at mid-latitudes from Timmins (Ontario, Canada) on 7 to 8 September 2014. For this mid-latitude flight, we show retrieval results from spectra observed around sunset. For the Arctic flights, MIPAS-B
- 95 measurements were performed from night into day. All flights have in common that fast sequences of spectra were recorded in short time steps of about 10 min to enable the retrieval of photochemically active species, which change quickly their concentration around sunrise and sunset. The line of sight of the instrument was aligned perpendicular to the azimuth direction of the sun to allow for a symmetric illumination of the sounded air mass before and beyond the 100 tangent point. The analysis of the recorded spectra is described in the following section.

2.2 Data analysis

Radiance calculations were carried out with the Karlsruhe Optimized and Precise Radiative transfer Algorithm (KOPRA; Stiller et al., 2002). Spectroscopic parameters for the calculation of emission spectra were taken from the high-resolution transmission molecular absorption
database (HITRAN; Rothman et al., 2009) and a MIPAS dedicated line list (Raspollini et al., 2013). Spectral features of the molecule BrONO<sub>2</sub> were calculated using new pressure-temperature dependent absorption cross sections measured by Wagner and Birk (2016) with a 2% intensity accuracy. KOPRA also provides derivatives of the radiance spectrum with respect to atmospheric state and instrument parameters (Jacobians) which are used by the retrieval procedure KOPRAFIT (Höpfner et al., 2002). The vertical distance of tangent altitudes ranges between 1 and 1.5 km. Thus, the retrieval grid was set to 1 km up to the balloon float (observer) altitude. Above this level, the vertical spacing increases gradually up to 10 km at the top altitude of 100 km. Considering the smoothing of the vertical part of the instrumental field of view, the retrieval grid is somewhat finer than the achievable vertical resolution of the measurement for

115 most parts of the altitude region covered (especially above the observer altitude). To avoid retrieval instabilities caused by this oversampling, a Tikhonov-Phillips regularization approach (Phillips, 1962; Tikhonov, 1963) was applied using a constraint with respect to a first derivative of the a priori profile  $x_a$  of the target species:

$$\boldsymbol{x}_{i+1} = \boldsymbol{x}_i + [\boldsymbol{K}_i^T \boldsymbol{S}_y^{-1} \boldsymbol{K}_i + \boldsymbol{R}]^{-1} [\boldsymbol{K}_i^T \boldsymbol{S}_y^{-1} (\boldsymbol{y}_{\text{meas}} - \boldsymbol{y}(\boldsymbol{x}_i)) - \boldsymbol{R}(\boldsymbol{x}_i - \boldsymbol{x}_a)],$$
(1)

- 120 where  $x_{i+1}$  is the vector of the state parameters  $x_i$  for iteration i+1;  $y_{\text{meas}}$  is the measured radiance vector and  $y(x_i)$  the calculated radiance using state parameters of iteration i; **K** is the Jacobian matrix with partial derivatives  $\partial y(x_i)/\partial x_i$  while  $\mathbf{S}_y^{-1}$  is the inverse noise measurement covariance matrix and **R** a regularization matrix composed of the first derivative operator and a regularization strength parameter.
- 125 The BrONO<sub>2</sub> retrieval calculations were performed in the range of the v<sub>3</sub> band centred at 803.37 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Figure 1 shows spectral contributions of relevant species in the BrONO<sub>2</sub> microwindow from 801 to 820 cm<sup>-1</sup> that has been found best appropriate to derive the BrONO<sub>2</sub> amount from MIPAS-B spectra. Besides the target molecule BrONO<sub>2</sub>, all main interfering species H<sub>2</sub>O, CO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, HNO<sub>3</sub>, COF<sub>2</sub>, HCFC-22 (CHClF<sub>2</sub>), CCl<sub>4</sub>, CFC-113 (C<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>3</sub>F<sub>3</sub>), ClONO<sub>2</sub>, HO<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>, and
- 130 PAN (peroxyacetyl nitrate) were fitted simultaneously together with temperature, instrumental (radiometric) offset and wavenumber shift. The molecule HO<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> shows a similar spectral band shape like the target species BrONO<sub>2</sub>. Since the HO<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> absorption cross sections (included in HITRAN) measured by May and Friedl (1993) are derived at only one temperature (220 K) a second set of cross sections derived by Friedl et al. (1994) at room temperature (298
- 135 K) was used to allow a two-point interpolation of the cross section intensity to the current atmospheric temperature.

Vertical profiles of minor contributing species were either adjusted in appropriate microwindows prior to the BrONO<sub>2</sub> retrieval or taken from a climatological atmosphere (Remedios et al., 2007), updated with surface concentration data from NOAA ESRL GMD
(National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Earth System Research Laboratory, Global Monitoring Division; Montzka et al., 1999). An example of a best fit of a measured MIPAS-B spectrum zoomed around the Q-branch region of the BrONO<sub>2</sub> v<sub>3</sub> band for a tangent altitude near 20 km is shown in Figure 2. The spectrum was recorded during night. If the fit is performed in absence of BrONO<sub>2</sub> in the model atmosphere, a systematic residual is remaining around the centre of the BrONO<sub>2</sub> Q-branch at 803.37 cm<sup>-1</sup> (blue solid line in Figure 2). If the molecule BrONO<sub>2</sub> is taken into account by the radiative transfer calculation, the systematic

- molecule BrONO<sub>2</sub> is taken into account by the radiative transfer calculation, the systematic residual around the Q-branch disappears demonstrating the existence of BrONO<sub>2</sub> in the stratosphere. Another example for a best fit in the same altitude region but for a MIPAS-B spectrum recorded during day is illustrated in Figure 3. Here, we recognize that for a daytime
- 150 situation the effect whether the species BrONO<sub>2</sub> is included in the radiative transfer calculations or not, is clearly smaller compared to the nighttime case (cf. Figure 2) such that we expect lower

stratospheric BrONO<sub>2</sub> VMRs during day and higher values at night. This is confirmed by the retrieved vertical profiles of BrONO<sub>2</sub> illustrated in Figures 4 and 5 together with the error budget and altitude resolution. The dominant part of the total error in the BrONO<sub>2</sub> retrieval is

- 155 spectral (random) noise resulting in a BrONO<sub>2</sub> VMR error of about 2 to 4 pptv (10-25%) in the altitude region of the VMR maximum. An important systematic error source are uncertainties of disturbing gases overlapping the BrONO<sub>2</sub>  $v_3$  band. This influence was estimated using uncertainties in line intensity and half-width as given by Flaud et al. (2003) and HITRAN (Rothman et al., 2009) and results into a BrONO<sub>2</sub> error of up to 2 pptv (10-20%) in the altitude
- 160 region of the BrONO<sub>2</sub> VMR maximum. Retrieval simulations of the major interfering species O<sub>3</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>, and H<sub>2</sub>O have revealed an influence (line half-width and intensity uncertainties) within 10% on the BrONO<sub>2</sub> amount (Höpfner et al., 2009). The species ClONO<sub>2</sub>, followed by HO<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> have large contributions to the limb emission spectra (see Figure 1). Temperature and pressure dependent ClONO<sub>2</sub> absorption cross sections were measured by Wagner and Birk (2003) with
- 165 high accuracy. Systematic errors in the BrONO<sub>2</sub> VMR due to ClONO<sub>2</sub> spectroscopy are expected to be within 10% (Wagner and Birk, 2016). As mentioned above, a temperature dependence of HO<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> absorption cross sections was included to improve spectroscopy of this interfering species. Further systematic error sources like radiometric gain, line of sight, and the spectroscopy of the target molecule BrONO<sub>2</sub> itself are of minor importance for the total error
- 170 budget of the BrONO<sub>2</sub> retrieval (see Figures 4 and 5). The altitude resolution of the retrieved BrONO<sub>2</sub> profiles was calculated from the full width at half maximum (FWHM) of the rows of the averaging kernel matrix. It amounts to between about 4 and 6 km (~ 4-5 degrees of freedom) over a wide range in the stratosphere (see right column of Figures 4 and 5).

#### 2.3 Model calculations

- 175 Measured MIPAS-B data are compared to a multi-year simulation of the chemistry climate model EMAC that includes sub-models describing tropospheric and middle atmosphere processes (Jöckel et al., 2010). The core atmospheric model is the 5th generation European Centre Hamburg general circulation model (ECHAM5; Roeckner et al., 2006) which is linked to the sub-models via the interface Modular Earth Submodel System (MESSy). For the present
- 180 study we applied EMAC (ECHAM5 version 5.3.02, MESSy version 2.52) in the T42L90MAresolution, i.e., with a spherical truncation of T42 (corresponding to a Gaussian grid of approximately 2.8 by 2.8 degrees in latitude and longitude) and 90 vertical hybrid pressure levels from the ground up to 0.01 hPa (approx. 80 km). The calculation of gas-phase chemistry

is realized by the submodel MECCA (Sander et al., 2005). The submodel MSBM (Kirner et al.,

185 2011) simulates polar stratospheric clouds and calculates heterogeneous reaction rates.

A Newtonian relaxation technique of the surface pressure and the prognostic variables temperature, vorticity, and divergence above the boundary layer and below 1 hPa towards the ECMWF reanalysis ERA-Interim (Dee et al., 2011) has been applied to simulate realistic synoptic conditions (van Aalst, 2005). The simulation includes a comprehensive chemistry setup from the troposphere to the lower mesosphere with more than 100 species involved in gas phase-, photolysis-, and heterogeneous reactions on liquid sulphate aerosols, nitric acid trihydrate (NAT) and ice particles. Rate constants of gas-phase reactions originate from Atkinson et al. (2007) and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) compilation (Sander et al.,

2011). Photochemical reactions of short-lived bromine-containing organic compounds CH<sub>3</sub>Br,

195 CHBr<sub>3</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>ClBr, CHClBr<sub>2</sub>, and CHCl<sub>2</sub>Br are integrated into the model setup (Jöckel et al., 2016). Surface emissions of these species are taken from scenario 5 of Warwick et al. (2006). During the time period with MIPAS-B balloon flights the model output data were saved every 10 minutes. The temporally closest model output to the MIPAS-B measurements was interpolated in space to the observed geolocations.

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# **3** Results and discussion

In this section, vertical profiles retrieved from MIPAS-B limb emission spectra measured before and after sunrise (Arctic flights) and sunset (mid-latitude flight) are shown. The measured data have been temporally smoothed with a 3-point adjacent averaging routine to 205 attenuate noisy structures. These data were compared to EMAC simulations. To permit a more realistic comparison with respect to different altitude resolutions in the measurement and the simulation, EMAC vertical profiles were additionally smoothed with the averaging kernel matrix and the a priori profile of MIPAS-B. A smoothed EMAC profile  $x_s$  is calculated following the method described in Rodgers (2000):

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$$\boldsymbol{x}_{s} = \boldsymbol{x}_{a} + \mathbf{A}(\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{x}_{a}^{*}), \qquad (2)$$

where  $x_a$  is the a priori profile of MIPAS-B,  $x_a^*$  the a priori profile interpolated to the altitude grid of the EMAC profile x, and A is the averaging kernel matrix of MIPAS-B.

#### 3.1 Arctic measurements

The temporal evolution of BrONO<sub>2</sub> measured during the balloon flight from Kiruna on 31 215 March 2011 inside the late winter stratospheric polar vortex is shown in Figure 6. No PSCs were present during the time of the MIPAS-B measurement (Wetzel et al., 2015). A nighttime maximum of BrONO<sub>2</sub> around 25 km with values of more than 20 pptv is clearly visible. After sunrise, the amount of BrONO<sub>2</sub> decreases to maximum values of about 14 pptv around 22 km. This downward displacement of the VMR maximum in terms of altitude can be explained by

- 220 photolysis. Towards higher altitudes, the decomposition of BrONO<sub>2</sub> according to (R2a), (R2b), and (R3) is increasingly faster than the BrONO<sub>2</sub> build-up via (R1). The overall structure (including the VMR altitude displacement) of the simulated temporal evolution of BrONO<sub>2</sub> is similar to the measured one and is shown in Figure 7 together with the temporal development of the directly linked molecule BrO (Figure 8). Maximum nighttime BrONO<sub>2</sub> values in EMAC
- are comparable to the measured amounts. However, above the nocturnal VMR maximum, EMAC calculates higher BrONO<sub>2</sub> concentrations compared to the balloon observation (see Figure 9). Furthermore, the daytime photochemical destruction of BrONO<sub>2</sub> is slightly faster in the model yielding several pptv lower daytime BrONO<sub>2</sub> VMRs in the model compared to MIPAS-B. The EMAC simulation smoothed with the averaging kernel matrix of MIPAS-B
- 230 according to Eq. (2) is displayed in Figure 10. A main difference to the unsmoothed case shown in Figure 7 is the reduction of the nighttime BrONO<sub>2</sub> VMR at altitudes above the maximum that yields to a better agreement with measured BrONO<sub>2</sub> (see Figure 11).

Another Arctic balloon flight was performed from Kiruna on 24 January 2010 inside a cold polar vortex under mid-winter weak illumination conditions. As a consequence of low stratospheric temperatures in this winter, widespread PSCs were present in an altitude region between about 18 and 24 km at the time of the MIPAS-B observation (Wetzel et al., 2012). The observed BrONO<sub>2</sub> as seen from night until noon is shown in Figure 12. Nighttime BrONO<sub>2</sub> mixing ratios are clearly lower compared to the previously discussed situation in late March 2011. This is also reflected in the EMAC simulation (Figure 13) although there are some

240 differences visible with regard to the observation (see Figure 14). During the long polar night the amount of available NO<sub>2</sub> (Wetzel et al. 2012) to produce BrONO<sub>2</sub> via (R1) is significantly reduced due to the conversion of NO<sub>2</sub> into its reservoir species (mainly HNO<sub>3</sub>). In this period of darkness, nearly all BrONO<sub>2</sub> below 25 km (PSC region) is converted to BrCl via heterogeneous chemistry according to (R5) and gas-phase conversion of BrO to BrCl via (R6).

- Here, more than 90 % of  $Br_y$  are in the form of BrCl in the model simulation during night. Above this altitude region, BrONO<sub>2</sub> and BrCl together are the dominant species of the nocturnal  $Br_y$  budget in the EMAC run. During day, photolyzation of both species (BrONO<sub>2</sub> and BrCl) leads to an increase of BrO such that this species then dominates the  $Br_y$  budget. If we smooth the EMAC BrONO<sub>2</sub> data with the averaging kernel matrix of MIPAS-B, we see a better
- 250 agreement with MIPAS-B in the structure of the temporal evolution of the BrONO<sub>2</sub> amount (see Figures 15 and 16). The effect of the smoothing appears to be stronger compared to the case in March 2011 since low temperatures together with low amounts of BrONO<sub>2</sub> in January 2010 entailed to perform the retrieval with a factor of 2 coarser altitude resolution compared to a standard BrONO<sub>2</sub> retrieval setup as depicted in Figures 4 and 5.

#### 255 **3.2** Mid-latitude measurements

MIPAS-B spectra have been recorded from day until night over Ontario (Canada) during a balloon flight launched from Timmins on 7 September 2014. The temporal evolution of measured BrONO<sub>2</sub> is depicted in Figure 17. A significant increase of BrONO<sub>2</sub> starting shortly before sunset is visible. This is caused by the weakened illumination at SZAs near 90° that
enables the build-up of BrONO<sub>2</sub> from daytime BrO via (R1). Nighttime BrONO<sub>2</sub> mixing ratios of more than 24 pptv are seen by MIPAS-B around 28 km altitude. The corresponding EMAC model simulation is displayed in Figure 18. The principal shape of the increase of BrONO<sub>2</sub> VMR is reproduced by the model run although absolute values in the altitude region of the VMR maximum are somewhat lower in the simulation compared to the measurement (see

- 265 Figure 19). A sensitivity study based on measured BrO slant column densities performed by Kreycy et al. (2013) points to a possible stronger BrONO<sub>2</sub> photolysis rate and a lower reaction rate of the BrONO<sub>2</sub> build-up from BrO and NO<sub>2</sub> with respect to the JPL recommendation (Sander et al., 2011). However, own sensitivity studies with a 1-D photochemical stacked box model (Sinnhuber et al., 2005) have shown that using the Kreycy et al. (2013) recommendation
- 270 leads to lower BrONO<sub>2</sub> values during day towards higher BrO amounts and thus further degrades the agreement between model simulations and our MIPAS-B measurements. During night, the simulated BrONO<sub>2</sub> VMR does not change significantly (< 0.1 pptv below 30 km). However, the Kreycy et al. (2013) study refers to Arctic September conditions and the outcome is therefore not directly comparable to the mid-latitude observations shown here.</p>
- 275 Differences in absolute BrONO<sub>2</sub> amounts between EMAC and MIPAS-B are at least partly connected with the fact that EMAC NO<sub>2</sub> values are up to 20 % lower than the observed NO<sub>2</sub> in

the altitude region of the BrONO<sub>2</sub> VMR maximum. In the afternoon, the simulation already shows a weak temporal increase in BrONO<sub>2</sub> that is not seen by MIPAS-B. However, during the time of strongest increase (18:30-19:20 LST) differences between EMAC and MIPAS-B are

small. (see Figure 19). Nighttime maximum BrONO<sub>2</sub> values in EMAC reach about 22 pptv and are located in the same altitude region as seen in the observation. Smoothing the EMAC data with the averaging kernel matrix of MIPAS-B yields to a better agreement with the structure of the observational data at altitudes below about 18 km (see Figures 20 and 21).

# 3.3 Estimation of inorganic bromine

- As already discussed in Sect. 1, BrONO<sub>2</sub> is a dominant species of lower stratospheric inorganic bromine. Simulations with EMAC show that more than 90% of nocturnal Br<sub>y</sub> is in the form of BrONO<sub>2</sub> between 21 and 29 km during the time of the MIPAS-B flight in September 2014. For comparison, the species BrO (not measurable by MIPAS-B) contributes not more than 80% to total Br<sub>y</sub> during daytime in the altitude region of the MIPAS-B measurement). Furthermore, the concentration of BrO is gradually changing during day while the amount of BrONO<sub>2</sub> is rather
- constant during nighttime. Hence,  $BrONO_2$  is best suited to estimate the amount of "measured" inorganic bromine [ $Br_y(meas)$ ] from measured nighttime [ $BrONO_2(meas)$ ] using the calculated [ $BrONO_2(mod)$ ]/[ $Br_y(mod)$ ] ratio from EMAC in the following form:

$$[Br_{y}(meas)] = \frac{[BrONO_{2}(meas)][Br_{y}(mod)]}{[BrONO_{2}(mod)]}.$$
(3)

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We now apply Eq. (3) for the MIPAS-B mid-latitude flight in September 2014 for a nighttime  $(SZA \ge 99^{\circ})$  ratio  $[BrONO_2(mod)]/[Br_y(mod)] \ge 0.9$  corresponding to an altitude region between 21 and 29 km. We then calculate  $[Br_y(meas)]$  (including the total  $[BrONO_2(meas)]$  error) to 23.6 ± 1.9 pptv. The given error bar represents the 1- $\sigma$  total error originating from measured BrONO<sub>2</sub>.

In the case of the Arctic flight in March 2011, the portion of BrONO<sub>2</sub> of total Br<sub>y</sub> is slightly smaller compared to the mid-latitude situation. Applying Eq. (3) in an altitude region between 23 and 29 km, corresponding to a nighttime (SZA  $\ge$  96°) ratio [BrONO<sub>2</sub>(mod)]/[Br<sub>y</sub>(mod)]  $\ge$  0.8, we calculate [Br<sub>y</sub>(meas)] to 22.3  $\pm$  2.2 pptv. An estimation of total Br<sub>y</sub> from the MIPAS-B data obtained during the Arctic flight in January 2010 is not reasonable since measured BrONO<sub>2</sub>

values are very low during this time of the winter.

Our estimated  $Br_y$  values can be compared to observations of stratospheric  $Br_y$  calculated with photochemical modelling using balloon-borne direct sun DOAS (Differential Optical Absorption Spectroscopy) BrO observations (Dorf et al., 2006; Carpenter et al., 2014) and

- 310 annual mean mixing ratios derived from ground-based UV-visible measurements of stratospheric BrO (Sinnhuber et al., 2002; Hendrick et al., 2007; Hendrick et al., 2008; Carpenter et al., 2014). These observations show the temporal development of Br<sub>y</sub> in dependence of the year when air masses are entering the stratosphere. Assuming a mean age of air of 6 years at 25 km (Haenel et al., 2015) we can compare the measured Br<sub>y</sub> from MIPAS-B
- 315 directly to the Br<sub>y</sub> from DOAS observations in the years (of stratospheric entry) 2005 and 2008. In these years, the range of expected Br<sub>y</sub> spans from about 18 to 25 pptv taking into account the error limits. Although the amount of Br<sub>y</sub> inferred from MIPAS-B measurements lies more towards the upper edge of this range, it is still consistent with the Br<sub>y</sub> estimates from DOAS observations.

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#### 4 Conclusions

BrONO<sub>2</sub> observations around sunrise were performed during balloon flights with MIPAS-B carried out in the Arctic from Kiruna on 24 January 2010 and 31 March 2011 and at midlatitudes from Timmins on 7/8 September 2014. Measured BrONO<sub>2</sub> diurnal variations with high nightime and low daytime values confirm the stratospheric bromine chemistry (introduced in Sect. 1) that is dominated by the interaction of BrO and BrONO<sub>2</sub> according to (R1) – (R3). During polar winter (January 2010) with weak illumination, large parts of nighttime Br<sub>y</sub> are in the form of BrCl resulting in significantly lower BrONO<sub>2</sub> values compared to the situation in late Arctic winter (March 2011) and mid-latitude summer (September 2014).

330 The chemistry climate model EMAC is able to reproduce the temporal variation of the measured BrONO<sub>2</sub> values. However, some differences in the absolute amounts of BrONO<sub>2</sub> are obvious. The simulated BrONO<sub>2</sub> mixing ratios are dependent on the assumed total Br<sub>y</sub> in the model, which amounts about 23 pptv in the lower stratosphere. As mentioned in Sect. 2.3 reactions of short-lived bromine-containing organic compounds are integrated into the model setup according to emission scenarios shown by Warwick et al. (2006). This is equivalent to about 6-7 pptv inorganic bromine from these oceanic short-lived bromocarbons in the upper troposphere. As discussed in Sect. 3.3,  $Br_y$  in the lower stratosphere was estimated from MIPAS-B measurements. For the Arctic observation in March 2011, we obtain 22.3 ± 2.2 pptv  $Br_y$  and

for the mid-latitude measurement in September 2014, we calculate  $23.6 \pm 1.9$  pptv Br<sub>y</sub> in the lower stratosphere. These values are consistent with the range of Br<sub>y</sub> estimates from DOAS observations.

Finally, it should be mentioned that there is still some limited potential on the improvement of the spectroscopy of the interfering species (mainly HO<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>) in the BrONO<sub>2</sub> spectral analysis

345 window (Wagner and Birk, 2016). However, BrONO<sub>2</sub> test retrieval simulations for MIPAS-B (within this work) and MIPAS (Höpfner et al., 2009) have shown that future improvements in the spectroscopic database will most probably not exceed the total error limits given in this study.

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**Table 1.** Overview of MIPAS balloon flights and number of limb sequences recorded around sunrise (Kiruna) and sunset (Timmins). Measurement times are given in UTC and local solar time (LST) together with the solar zenith angle (SZA). Latitude and Longitude refer to the tangent points of the observations.

Location	Date	UTC	LST	SZA (deg)	# Seq.	Latitude (°N)	Longitude (°E)
Kiruna	24 Jan 2010	06:17 - 10:21	08:13 - 12:36	98.1 - 86.2	19	69.3 - 66.9	28.8 - 33.7
Kiruna	31 Mar 2011	02:00 - 04:38	04:01 - 06:34	99.4 - 83.1	12	64.0 - 63.5	30.1 - 28.9
Timmins	7/8 Sep 2014	21:40 - 02:33	16:25 - 21:00	69.9 - 115.1	37	45.9 - 46.2	-78.883.2



**Figure 1.** Simulated limb emission spectra (with spectral resolution of MIPAS-B) for a midlatitude summer standard atmosphere (Remedios et al., 2007) in the spectral region of the BrONO<sub>2</sub> analysis window for a tangent altitude of 20 km. Emissions of individual species contributing to the combined spectrum (all molecules, black line) are shown.



**Figure 2.** Top panel: Best fit of measured spectrum (black solid line) zoomed around the Qbranch of the BrONO<sub>2</sub>  $v_3$  fundamental band at 803.37 cm<sup>-1</sup> for a tangent altitude ( $z_{min}$ ) near 20 km recorded during night on 7/8 September 2014 above Timmins (Seq. 05a). A calculation with (red dashed line) and without (blue dashed line) BrONO<sub>2</sub> in the model atmosphere was performed. The calculated individual emission of the BrONO<sub>2</sub> band (scaled by a factor of 10; cyan solid line) is shown, too. Bottom panel: Difference between the calculated and measured spectrum (red solid line); difference between the calculated spectrum (without BrONO<sub>2</sub>) and the measured one (blue solid line); difference of both calculations (green solid line). The 3- $\sigma$ NESR (brown dotted line) is displayed, too.



**Figure 3.** Same as Figure 2 but for a spectrum observed during day (Seq. 02e). The difference between the red and blue solid line (bottom panel) is smaller than the corresponding nighttime difference shown in Figure 2. Hence,  $BrONO_2$  amounts seen during day are lower than the ones observed at night.



**Figure 4.** Retrieved BrONO<sub>2</sub> VMR vertical profile (and a priori profile) for a nighttime (Seq. 05a) limb sequence recorded by MIPAS-B on 7/8 September 2014 above Timmins together with absolute and relative errors and the altitude resolution, determined from the full width at half maximum of the columns of the averaging kernel matrix. The following error contributions are shown: spectral noise (red solid line), radiometric gain (green dotted line), LOS (blue dashed line), spectroscopic data of disturbing gases (dash dotted cyan line), spectroscopic data of target molecule BrONO<sub>2</sub> (short dash dotted magenta line), and total error (black solid line).



Figure 5. Same as Figure 4 but for a limb sequence measured during day (Seq. 02e).



**Figure 6.** Temporal evolution of BrONO<sub>2</sub> volume mixing ratios (pptv) as seen by MIPAS-B from a float altitude around 35 km above northern Scandinavia on 31 March 2011 inside the late winter Arctic vortex. The black solid line marks the sunrise terminator. A decrease in the BrONO<sub>2</sub> amount starting around sunrise is clearly visible.



**Figure 7.** Temporal evolution of BrONO<sub>2</sub> on 31 March 2011 as simulated by the chemistry climate model EMAC. The decrease of BrONO<sub>2</sub> starts close to sunrise.



**Figure 8.** Temporal evolution of BrO on 31 March 2011 as simulated by the chemistry climate model EMAC. The opposite variation with  $BrONO_2$  according to (R1) - (R3) is clearly visible.



**Figure 9.** Relative BrONO<sub>2</sub> difference between EMAC and MIPAS-B in percent on 31 March 2011. Dark grey regions indicate MIPAS-B values less than zero.



**Figure 10.** Same as Figure 7 but EMAC vertical profiles smoothed with the MIPAS-B averaging kernel (AK).



**Figure 11.** Relative BrONO<sub>2</sub> difference between EMAC (AK smoothed) and MIPAS-B in percent on 31 March 2011. Dark grey regions indicate MIPAS-B values less than zero.



**Figure 12.** Temporal evolution of BrONO<sub>2</sub> volume mixing ratios (pptv) as measured by MIPAS-B on 24 January 2010 inside the mid-winter Arctic vortex (observer altitude about 34 km). The black solid line marks the sunrise terminator. The still weak illumination at the end of the polar night is responsible for the small diurnal variation of the BrONO<sub>2</sub> amount.



**Figure 13.** Temporal evolution of BrONO<sub>2</sub> on 24 January 2010 as simulated by the chemistry climate model EMAC. The decrease of BrONO<sub>2</sub> starts close to sunrise.



**Figure 14.** Relative BrONO<sub>2</sub> difference between EMAC and MIPAS-B in percent on 24 January 2010. Dark grey regions indicate MIPAS-B values less than zero.



**Figure 15.** Same as Figure 13 but EMAC vertical profiles smoothed with the MIPAS-B averaging kernel (AK).



**Figure 16.** Relative BrONO<sub>2</sub> difference between EMAC (AK smoothed) and MIPAS-B in percent on 24 January 2010. Dark grey regions indicate MIPAS-B values less than zero.



**Figure 17.** Temporal evolution of BrONO<sub>2</sub> amounts observed by MIPAS-B near 46°N above Ontario (Canada) on 7 September 2014. The grey line indicates the time periods where the balloon gondola float altitude was lower or equal to 36 km. The black solid line marks the sunset terminator. The build-up of BrONO<sub>2</sub> from daytime BrO starts shortly before sunset.



**Figure 18.** Temporal evolution of BrONO<sub>2</sub> on 7 September 2014 as simulated by the EMAC model.



**Figure 19.** Relative BrONO<sub>2</sub> difference between EMAC and MIPAS-B in percent on 7 September 2014. Dark grey regions indicate MIPAS-B values less than zero.



**Figure 20.** Same as Figure 18 but EMAC vertical profiles smoothed with the MIPAS-B averaging kernel (AK).



**Figure 21.** Relative BrONO<sub>2</sub> difference between EMAC (AK smoothed) and MIPAS-B in percent on 7 September 2014. Dark grey regions indicate MIPAS-B values less than zero.