

Sources, distribution, and acidity of sulfate-ammonium aerosol in the Arctic in winter-spring

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Citation	Fisher, J.A., D.J. Jacob, Q. Wang, R. Bahreini, C.C. Carouge, M.J. Cubison, J.E. Dibb, T. Diehl, J.L. Jimenez, E.M. Leibensperger, Z. Lu, M.B.J. Meinders, H.O.T. Pye, P.K. Quinn, S. Sharma, D.G. Streets, A. van Donkelaar, and R.M. Yantosca. 2011. "Sources, distribution, and acidity of sulfate-ammonium aerosol in the Arctic in winter-spring." Atmospheric Environment 45: 7301-7318.
Published Version	doi:10.1016/j.atmosenv.2011.08.030
Accessed	February 16, 2015 2:47:59 PM EST
Citable Link	http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:HUL.InstRepos:12712846
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1 Sources, distribution, and acidity of sulfate-ammonium aerosol in

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32 Abstract

33 We use GEOS-Chem chemical transport model simulations of sulfate-ammonium aerosol data 34 from the NASA ARCTAS and NOAA ARCPAC aircraft campaigns in April 2008, together with 35 longer-term data from surface sites, to better understand aerosol sources in the Arctic in winter-36 spring and the implications for aerosol acidity. Arctic pollution is dominated by transport from 37 mid-latitudes, and we test the relevant ammonia and sulfur dioxide emission inventories in the 38 model by comparison with wet deposition flux data over the source continents. We find that a 39 complicated mix of natural and anthropogenic sources with different vertical signatures is 40 responsible for sulfate concentrations in the Arctic. East Asian pollution influence is weak in 41 winter but becomes important in spring through transport in the free troposphere. European 42 influence is important at all altitudes but never dominant. West Asia (non-Arctic Russia and 43 Kazakhstan) is the largest contributor to Arctic sulfate in surface air in winter, reflecting a 44 southward extension of the Arctic front over that region. Ammonium in Arctic spring mostly 45 originates from anthropogenic sources in East Asia and Europe, with added contribution from 46 boreal fires, resulting in a more neutralized aerosol in the free troposphere than at the surface. The ARCTAS and ARCPAC data indicate a median aerosol neutralization fraction 47 $[NH_4^+]/(2[SO_4^{2-}]+[NO_3^-])$ of 0.5 mol mol⁻¹ below 2 km and 0.7 mol mol⁻¹ above. We find that 48 49 East Asian and European aerosol transported to the Arctic is mostly neutralized, whereas West 50 Asian and North American aerosol is highly acidic. Growth of sulfur emissions in West Asia 51 may be responsible for the observed increase in aerosol acidity at Barrow over the past decade. As global ammonia emissions grow over the next century, increasing aerosol neutralization in 52 53 the Arctic is expected, potentially accelerating Arctic warming through indirect radiative forcing 54 and feedbacks. 55

56 Keywords: Arctic; aerosol acidity; sulfate; ammonium; pollution sources

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58 **1. Introduction**

59 Long-range transport of pollution from mid-latitudes is a major source of aerosols to the Arctic,

60 with a winter-spring maximum known as Arctic haze (Rahn, 1981a; Quinn et al., 2009). Sulfate

¹ ARCTAS: Arctic Research of the Composition of the Troposphere from Aircraft and Satellites ARCPAC: Aerosol, Radiation, and Cloud Processes affecting Arctic Climate

61 is the dominant component of this aerosol (Ouinn et al., 2007), and it may range from highly 62 acidic to fully neutralized depending on the availability of ammonia. The extent to which sulfate 63 aerosol is neutralized has implications for aerosol radiative forcing (Martin et al., 2004), ice 64 cloud nucleation (Abbatt et al., 2006; Eastwood et al., 2009; Baustian et al., 2010), and 65 heterogeneous chemistry (Fan and Jacob, 1992; Fickert et al., 1999). Here we use the GEOS-66 Chem 3-D global chemical transport model (CTM) to interpret observations of sulfate-67 ammonium aerosol composition and acidity from the NASA ARCTAS (Arctic Research of the 68 Composition of the Troposphere from Aircraft and Satellites) and NOAA ARCPAC (Aerosol, 69 Radiation, and Cloud Processes affecting Arctic Climate) aircraft campaigns conducted in April 70 2008, using also ground-based measurements to place the aircraft data in a broader seasonal 71 context. Our objective is to better understand the sources contributing to sulfate, ammonium, and 72 aerosol acidity through the depth of the Arctic troposphere over the winter-spring season. 73

74 High aerosol concentrations in the Arctic in winter-spring reflect a combination of fast transport 75 from mid-latitudes, reduced vertical mixing, and lack of precipitation (Barrie et al., 1981; Raatz 76 and Shaw, 1984; Iversen and Joranger, 1985; Barrie, 1986; Shaw, 1995; Quinn et al., 2007; 77 Garrett et al., 2010). The resulting aerosol radiative forcing may play a major role in driving 78 climate change in the Arctic (Shindell and Faluvegi, 2009), where recent warming has been 79 especially rapid (Trenberth et al., 2007). Scattering sulfate aerosols reflect incoming solar 80 radiation, generally resulting in atmospheric cooling (Quinn et al., 2008). However, warming 81 may result where the surface albedo is very high (Pueschel and Kinne, 1995) or if the sulfate is 82 internally mixed with absorbing aerosol (Jacobson, 2001b). Hygroscopic growth of particles 83 leads to absorption of terrestrial radiation, inducing a direct warming effect that can be 84 particularly efficient during polar night (Ritter et al., 2005). Indirect effects of aerosols on cloud 85 properties typically cause surface cooling (Quinn et al., 2008) but can also warm the surface 86 through interactions with terrestrial radiation (Garrett and Zhao, 2006; Lubin and Vogelmann, 87 2006). The warming is expected to dominate during Arctic winter (Lubin and Vogelmann, 2007). 88

89 The chemical composition of the Arctic aerosol, in particular the extent to which sulfate aerosol

90 is neutralized, has major implications for aerosol radiative forcing. Observations show that

91 ammonia (NH₃) is the main neutralizing agent. It is quantitatively absorbed by the acidic sulfate

92 aerosol, titrating its acidity, reducing its hygroscopicity, and producing solid ammonium sulfate 93 at low relative humidity. The resulting decrease in aerosol water content both reduces the direct 94 radiative forcing of sulfate (Boucher and Anderson, 1995; Adams et al., 2001; Jacobson, 2001a; 95 Martin et al., 2004; J. Wang et al., 2008b) and inhibits homogenous ice nucleation by liquid 96 sulfate-containing particles (Koop et al., 2000). Solid ammonium sulfate particles can also play a 97 role in cold cloud formation by serving as heterogeneous ice nuclei (Abbatt et al., 2006; Wise et 98 al., 2009; Baustian et al., 2010). Hydrophobic dust particles coated with ammonium sulfate are 99 efficient ice nuclei, whereas particles coated with pure sulfuric acid are not (Eastwood et al., 100 2009). Sulfate aerosol neutralization also suppresses acid-catalyzed heterogeneous bromine 101 reactions thought to be critical in driving ozone and mercury depletion events in Arctic spring 102 (Fan and Jacob, 1992; Ayers et al., 1999; Fickert et al., 1999; Piot and von Glasow, 2008). 103 104 Most of the information on sulfate aerosol in the Arctic has come from surface sites. Early

105 studies attributed sulfate in the North American Arctic to sulfur dioxide (SO₂) sources in Europe 106 and the Soviet Union based on metal tracers (Rahn, 1981b; Raatz and Shaw, 1984; Lowenthal 107 and Rahn, 1985). More recently, Quinn et al. (2009) used the same methodology with data from 108 Barrow, Alaska to show that despite large decreases in emissions and a decreasing trend in 109 sulfate concentrations, the attribution of sulfate sources has not changed over the past 30 years. 110 In contrast, data from Alert, Canada suggest a growing relative contribution from North America 111 as the influence from Eurasian sources has decreased (Gong et al., 2010; Hirdman et al., 2010a). 112 Eurasian emissions are still thought to dominate sulfate concentrations at both Barrow and Alert 113 (Hirdman et al., 2010a; Hirdman et al., 2010b).

114

115 Because the highly stable Arctic boundary layer is decoupled from the free troposphere in 116 winter-spring, measurements at the surface are not representative of the tropospheric column. 117 The sources of sulfate in the Arctic free troposphere are not as well understood as the sources at 118 the surface, and source contributions may vary greatly with altitude (Shindell et al., 2008). Back-119 trajectory analyses of 1983-1992 aircraft data from the Arctic Gas and Aerosol Sampling 120 Program (AGASP) implied dominant sulfate sources in both the boundary layer and the free 121 troposphere from Europe and the former Soviet Union (Sheridan and Musselman, 1985; Herbert 122 et al., 1989; Parungo et al., 1993). More recent aircraft measurements and model analyses from

123 the Tropospheric Ozone Production about the Spring Equinox (TOPSE) campaign in February-

124 May 2000 suggested dominant sulfate sources from Europe in the boundary layer and from

125 North America in the mid-troposphere (Klonecki et al., 2003; Scheuer et al., 2003).

126

127 A number of CTM studies have investigated the sources of sulfate in the Arctic, with varying 128 results. Simulations for the late 1980s and early 1990s showed a major contribution to Arctic 129 sulfate from the Norilsk industrial site in Siberia. Christensen (1997) found Norilsk to be 130 responsible for 30% of low-altitude sulfate in the Arctic in all seasons, with the remainder from 131 western Europe and Russia. At higher altitudes, Russian and European sources were found to 132 dominate (Christensen, 1997; Tarrasón and Iversen, 1998). More recent work has recognized the 133 growing importance of East Asian emissions, especially in the free troposphere (Koch and 134 Hansen, 2005; Shindell et al., 2008; Huang et al., 2010). While most models agree that Arctic 135 sulfate can be attributed to a mix of anthropogenic sources from Europe, Russia, North America, 136 and East Asia, they disagree considerably both on the relative importance of these sources and on 137 the absolute concentrations of sulfate in the Arctic atmosphere. A recent multi-model sulfate 138 intercomparison by Shindell et al. (2008) showed concentrations varying between models by a 139 factor of 1000 in the Arctic free troposphere, with none of the models able to successfully 140 reproduce observed surface sulfate concentrations or seasonality.

141

142 Little attention has been paid so far to the factors determining the neutralization of acidic sulfate 143 aerosol by ammonia in the Arctic. Combined observations of aerosol sulfate and ammonium, 144 providing a diagnostic of sulfate neutralization, are available from a few Arctic surface sites. 145 Ammonium concentrations also peak in winter-spring but the seasonal amplitude is less than for 146 sulfate, resulting in peak aerosol acidity in winter (Toom-Sauntry and Barrie, 2002). While 147 northern hemispheric NH₃ emissions are estimated to have increased by 20% over the last decade 148 due to agricultural activity (Galloway et al., 2008; Clarisse et al., 2009), data from Barrow show 149 decreasing Arctic ammonium concentrations over the last decade (Ouinn et al., 2009). 150 Concurrent decreases in sulfate are proceeding more slowly, resulting in increasing aerosol 151 acidity at Barrow (Quinn et al., 2009). Data at Alert also show a decline in ammonium, but 152 proceeding less rapidly than for sulfate, leading to more neutralized aerosol (Hole et al., 2009).

153 The differences between Barrow and Alert point to different source influences affecting different 154 regions of the Arctic in a time-dependent way.

155

156 Data from the April 2008 ARCTAS and ARCPAC aircraft campaigns based in Fairbanks, Alaska 157 (Brock et al., 2010; Jacob et al., 2010) provide unprecedented information on the vertical 158 distribution of sulfate-ammonium aerosols through the depth of the troposphere in the North 159 American Arctic. Both aircraft included extensive chemical payloads. We use here the GEOS-160 Chem CTM in combination with the aircraft data and seasonal observations from surface sites to 161 probe the sources of sulfate-ammonium aerosols in the Arctic in winter-spring and the 162 implications for aerosol acidity. Other studies have applied GEOS-Chem to interpretation of 163 ARCTAS/ARCPAC observations of CO (Fisher et al., 2010), carbonaceous aerosols (Q. Wang et 164 al., 2011), HO_x radicals (Mao et al., 2010), and mercury (Holmes et al., 2010).

165

166 2. GEOS-Chem Simulation

167 We use the GEOS-Chem CTM version 8-02-03 (http://geos-chem.org) to simulate coupled

aerosol-oxidant chemistry on the global scale. The model is driven by GEOS-5 assimilated

169 meteorological data from the NASA Goddard Earth Observing System (GEOS) with 6-hour

temporal resolution, 47 vertical levels, and 0.5°x0.667° horizontal resolution, regridded to

171 2°x2.5° for input to GEOS-Chem. We initialize the model with a one-year spin-up followed by

172 simulation of January-May 2008.

173

174 The GEOS-Chem coupled aerosol-oxidant simulation was originally described by Park et al.

175 (2004), but the present version includes a number of updates. NH₃ and SO₂ emissions for the

176 simulation period are compiled in Table 1 and shown in Fig. 1. Direct emission of anthropogenic

177 sulfate is included as a small fraction of anthropogenic SO₂ (Chin et al., 2000) and is not

178 included in Table 1. Open biomass burning emissions are from the Fire Location and Monitoring

179 of Burning Emissions (FLAMBE) inventory (Reid et al., 2009), injected into the local planetary

180 boundary layer, with SO₂ and NH₃ emissions scaled to carbon emissions using emission factors

181 from Andreae and Merlet (2001). Unusually large Russian wildfires affected the North American

182 Arctic during ARCTAS/ARCPAC (Warneke et al., 2009). Fisher et al. (2010) found that the

183 FLAMBE emissions for CO needed to be reduced by 47% for Russia and 55% for Southeast

184 Asia to match the aircraft observations and we apply the same corrections here for SO₂ and NH₃.

185 We also include SO₂ emission from both eruptive and non-eruptive (continuous degassing)

186 volcanism. In winter-spring 2008, sustained eruptive activity was recorded at Karymsky and

187 Shiveluch in Kamchatka and Cleveland in the Aleutian Islands. Non-eruptive activity was

188 common throughout our simulation period at a number of volcanoes in Iceland, Kamchatka, and

189 the Aleutian Islands.

190

191 Emitted SO₂ is oxidized to sulfate by the hydroxyl radical (OH) in the gas phase and by ozone 192 (O_3) and hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) in the aqueous phase at temperatures above 258 K. Unlike in 193 previous versions of the model (Park et al., 2004; Alexander et al., 2009), cloud volume fraction 194 (used to determine where aqueous SO₂ chemistry occurs) and cloud liquid water content (used to 195 compute the aqueous SO₂ chemistry reaction rates) are now taken directly from the GEOS-5 196 assimilated meteorological fields for each gridbox. Ammonia and nitric acid are partitioned 197 between the gas and the sulfate-nitrate-ammonium aerosol phases using the ISORROPIA II 198 thermodynamic equilibrium model (Fountoukis and Nenes, 2007). Nitrate was usually negligible 199 compared to sulfate in ARCTAS/ARCPAC, both in the observations and the model, owing to the 200 general acidic nature of the aerosol. We discuss the nitrate data briefly in Section 6. 201

202 Aerosol is removed by dry and wet deposition. Dry deposition in GEOS-Chem follows a 203 resistance-in-series scheme (Wesely, 1989) originally described by Y. Wang et al. (1998). Over snow and ice surfaces, we impose an aerosol dry deposition velocity of 0.03 cm s⁻¹ based on 204 205 eddy-covariance flux measurements by Nilsson and Rannik (2001) and consistent with earlier 206 estimates (Ibrahim et al., 1983; Duan et al., 1988). Wet deposition in the model is based on the 207 scheme described by Liu et al. (2001) with improved representation of scavenging by ice clouds 208 and snow as described by Q. Wang et al. (2011). We assume 100% sulfate and ammonium 209 incorporation into liquid cloud droplets and rime ice for warm and mixed-phase clouds (T>258210 K) and no incorporation into ice crystals for cold clouds (T<258 K). We also use a higher below-211 cloud scavenging efficiency for snow than for rain (Murakami et al., 1983). Gaseous NH₃ in the 212 model is efficiently scavenged by liquid precipitation but has a retention efficiency of only 0.05 213 upon riming (which drives precipitation in mixed-phase clouds) and is not scavenged at all in 214 cold clouds (J. Wang et al., 2008a). A sensitivity study assuming complete scavenging of

215 gaseous NH₃ in cold and mixed-phase clouds showed no significant difference in the Arctic

- 216 relative to the standard simulation because most of the total $NH_X (\equiv NH_3 + NH_4^+)$ in the Arctic is
- 217 present as ammonium.
- 218

219 **3. Testing emission inventories with wet deposition flux data**

220 SO₂ and NH₃ emissions in North America, Europe, and East Asia are potential major sources of 221 sulfate and ammonium aerosol to the Arctic. The corresponding emission inventories used in the 222 model can be tested by comparison with wet deposition flux data over these source continents. 223 Because most of what is emitted is deposited near the source, wet deposition data provide a 224 better constraint on emission than concentration data. While there are large uncertainties 225 associated with modeled precipitation (Dentener et al., 2006; Stephens et al., 2010), we expect 226 the effect of precipitation errors to be small since we consider monthly mean flux data and 227 continental-scale statistics. We used for this analysis data from the ensemble of sites of the U.S. 228 National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP; National Atmospheric Deposition Program, 229 2010), the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range 230 Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP; EMEP/CCC, 2010), and the Acid Deposition 231 Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET; http://www.eanet.cc/product/index.html). The 232 EANET network includes a large number of sites labeled as urban, and these were excluded from 233 the comparison as potentially non-representative. 234

Figure 2 compares distributions of observed and modeled sulfate and ammonium wet deposition

fluxes in April 2008, along with correlation coefficients (r) and normalized mean biases (NMB =

237 $100\% \times \sum_{i} (M_i - O_i) / \sum_{i} O_i$, where M_i and O_i are the modeled and observed values,

238 respectively, and the summation is over all sites). The GEOS-Chem sulfate simulation shows 239 good agreement with deposition observations over the U.S. (r = 0.72, NMB = +4.7%), consistent 240 with prior model evaluations for this region (Park et al., 2004; Liao et al., 2007; Pye et al., 2009; 241 Drury et al., 2010). Ammonium deposition over the U.S. shows good agreement with NADP observations at low values but a low bias for deposition greater than 0.5 kg NH_4^+ ha⁻¹ (r = 0.73, 242 NMB = -40%). As seen in Fig. 2b, this bias is driven by the agricultural upper Midwest where 243 244 spring emissions are apparently underestimated. Because transport from North America to the 245 Arctic in spring is mostly from warm conveyor belts over the U.S. east coast (Stohl, 2006; Fisher

- et al., 2010), we expects errors over the upper Midwest to have limited impact on our Arctic
- simulation. Over Europe, the model-observation agreement is best at low sulfate values, with
- 248 model underestimates of high sulfate concentrations observed at a few sites (r = 0.69, NMB = -
- 14%). Simulated ammonium deposition over Europe agrees well with observations (r = 0.61,
- NMB = +1.0%). Wet deposition over East Asia is on average too low in GEOS-Chem for both
- sulfate (r = 0.85, NMB = -40%) and ammonium (r = 0.60, NMB = -20%). This bias is driven by
- a few sites with extremely high deposition values (2-3 kg NH_4^+ ha⁻¹, 4-17 kg SO_4^{2-} ha⁻¹),
- 253 highlighted in white trim in Fig. 2. When these sites are removed from the comparisons the NMB
- improves to -0.98% (r = 0.71) for sulfate and -6.3% (r = 0.42) for ammonium. Overall, our SO₂
- and NH₃ emission inventories appear unbiased except for the NH₃ underestimate in the upper
- 256 Midwest U.S.
- 257

258 In Table 2 we diagnose the acidity of emissions originating from each region as the NH_3/SO_2 emission ratio and the NH_4^+/SO_4^{-2-} wet deposition flux ratio. Some difference between these two 259 260 measures of acidity is expected because of differences in dry deposition, wet scavenging 261 efficiencies, and source locations for SO₂ and NH₃. We do not include NO_x emissions and nitrate 262 wet deposition in this analysis since nitrate does not contribute to aerosol acidity. Unlike sulfate, 263 which can exist in the aerosol phase as sulfuric acid or bisulfate, nitrate only partitions to the 264 aerosol phase in the presence of sufficient ammonia to produce neutralized NH₄NO₃ with no free H^+ ions. The model emission ratios in Table 2 indicate that emissions in the U.S. lead to highly 265 266 acidic aerosol, whereas they promote fully neutralized aerosol in Europe and East Asia, at least 267 on the continental scale. While SO₂ emissions in our inventory are similar in Europe and the 268 U.S., NH₃ emissions are much lower in the U.S. (Table 1), consistent with recent estimates (Reis 269 et al., 2009). This difference reflects higher emissions associated with livestock housing, storage, 270 and grazing in Europe (Beusen et al., 2008).

- 271
- 272 The differences in emission ratios are reflected in the simulated and observed molar NH_4^+/SO_4^{2-}
- 273 wet deposition ratios for Europe and the U.S. (Table 2). Over East Asia, wet deposition at
- EANET sites appears moderately acidic in both the observations ($[NH_4^+]/2[SO_4^{2-}] = 0.76$) and
- the model $([NH_4^+]/2[SO_4^{2-}] = 0.87)$, whereas the continental emissions suggest full
- 276 neutralization. The EANET sites are not, however, representative of the East Asian region as a

- 277 whole, in large part because there are no observational sites over agricultural regions in India 278 where the NH₃/SO₂ emission ratio is particularly high (Figure 1). GEOS-Chem deposition fluxes 279 averaged over the whole region show aerosol deposition to be as neutralized as expected from the emissions. The NH₄⁺/SO₄²⁻ ratios indicate more acidic deposition over North America 280 $([NH_4^+]/2[SO_4^{2-}] = 0.76)$ than over Europe $([NH_4]^+/2[SO_4^{2-}] = 1.4)$. Observed pH shows less 281 282 regional variation, with average deposition only marginally more acidic over the U.S. (pH =283 4.93) than over Europe (pH = 5.02). This is due to higher wet deposition fluxes of nitrate (from 284 both aerosol nitrate and gas-phase nitric acid) over Europe. The wet deposition data also indicate 285 partial neutralization by alkaline dust over all three continents. Aircraft observations from 286 ARCPAC indicate that dust particles in the Arctic are generally externally mixed with sulfate, 287 with sulfate mostly in the fine mode (<0.7 µm) and dust mostly in the coarse mode (Brock et al., 288 2010). Further, observations of Asian outflow from the INTEX-B aircraft campaign show the 289 dominant sulfate counterion to be ammonium, not dust (McNaughton et al., 2009; Fairlie et al., 290 2010). We thus expect that mid-latitude dust would not neutralize the acidity of the submicron 291 sulfate aerosol in the Arctic.
- 292

4. Simulation and source attribution of Arctic sulfate

294 4.1 Aircraft data

295 The NASA ARCTAS campaign (1-19 April 2008) is described in detail by Jacob et al. (2010). 296 We use here data collected onboard the DC-8 aircraft that was based in Fairbanks, Alaska and 297 covered a large swath of the North American Arctic over 74 flight hours. All concentrations are 298 used at STP conditions (1 atm, 273 K). Speciated aerosol composition data were obtained with 299 an Aerosol Mass Spectrometer (AMS) (Dunlea et al., 2009) measuring submicron aerosol mass 300 and with the SAGA instrumentation package (Dibb et al., 2003) measuring fine aerosol sulfate 301 (<2.7 µm) using a mist chamber/ion chromatograph (MC/IC) and bulk sulfate, ammonium, 302 nitrate, calcium, and sodium using filters analyzed by ion chromatography. Speciated aerosol 303 data were also collected during the NOAA ARCPAC campaign (3-23 April 2008) using an AMS 304 onboard the WP-3D aircraft also based in Fairbanks, Alaska (Brock et al., 2010). Flight tracks 305 for ARCTAS and ARCPAC are shown in Fig. 3. The ARCPAC flights covered much less area 306 than ARCTAS, spent more time in the boundary layer, and frequently encountered plumes.

307

308 For comparison to the aircraft data, the GEOS-Chem simulation is sampled along the flight track 309 at the times and locations of the aircraft observations, averaging over either the instrument 310 sampling time or the three-dimensional model grid and time step (Section 2), whichever is 311 coarser. Observations outside the Arctic region (south of 60°N) and those from the stratosphere (diagnosed as $[O_3]/[CO] > 1.25$ mol mol⁻¹; Hudman et al., 2008) are excluded. Data from the first 312 two ARCTAS flights (1 and 4 April 2008) are also excluded due to apparent problems with the 313 314 AMS instrument. Fine-structure plumes are not well simulated by Eulerian CTMs due to 315 numerical diffusion and displacement (Rastigejev et al., 2010). We thus exclude strong biomass 316 burning plumes as diagnosed by observed acetonitrile (CH₃CN) in excess of 225 pptv (Heald et 317 al., 2006; Hudman et al., 2007; Hudman et al., 2008), amounting to 3% of the ARCTAS data and 318 10% of the ARCPAC data. We use a high CH₃CN threshold for this purpose in order to avoid 319 removing biomass burning contributions to background aerosol concentrations, which should be 320 captured by the CTM. We also exclude observations likely to be contaminated by local pollution 321 in Alaska, diagnosed as points below 4 km altitude and within 0.5° of Fairbanks or the Prudhoe 322 Bay oil field. This filter excludes 20% of the ARCPAC data and less than 2% of the ARCTAS 323 data. Finally, we remove one major outlier from each campaign with sulfate in excess of 60 nmol 324 m⁻³ STP. These two outliers represent singularly large concentrations for which we have no 325 explanation.

326

Sulfate in the observations includes a contribution from primary sea salt sulfate $(ssSO_4^{2-})$ that is 327 328 not included in GEOS-Chem. We subtract this contribution from the SAGA filter observations by using a sea salt $[ssSO_4^{2-}]/[Na^+]$ mass ratio of 0.252 (Calhoun et al., 1991). Primary sea salt 329 330 sulfate estimated in this way accounts for only a small fraction of total bulk sulfate (1.5±2.9% on 331 average) and peaks in the boundary layer (2.6±3.7% on average below 2 km). No sodium data 332 are available from the AMS measurements, but we assume the sea salt contribution to be 333 negligible. This assumption is reasonable because sodium sulfate does not volatilize rapidly at 334 the temperatures used by the AMS instrument and because these data are only for submicron 335 aerosol while sea salt aerosol is mostly supermicron. 336

We compared the three ARCTAS sulfate datasets using reduced major axis regression (Hirsch
and Gilroy, 1984). Submicron sulfate measured by the SAGA MC/IC and by the AMS show

339 good agreement (r = 0.88, slope = 1.0). SAGA bulk sulfate from the filters generally agrees well 340 with the submicron measurements (AMS: r = 0.80, slope = 1.1; SAGA MC/IC: r = 0.77, slope = 341 1.1), except during flights on 5 and 8 April 2008 when bulk sulfate concentrations from the 342 SAGA filters were two to three times higher than measured by the other instruments (AMS: 343 slope = 2.1; SAGA MC/IC: slope = 2.8). A large contribution from supermicron sulfate aerosol 344 may arise from sulfate uptake on dust particles (Dibb et al., 2003); however, the data from those 345 two flights were not correlated with dust tracers. We therefore exclude sulfate observations from 346 these two flights from comparisons with GEOS-Chem. For all subsequent ARCTAS analysis, we 347 use the SAGA filter observations due to the similar information content of the SAGA and AMS 348 data.

349

350 Figure 4a shows scatterplots of modeled versus observed sulfate for ARCTAS and ARCPAC. 351 The model has some success in reproducing the variability in the ARCTAS data (r = 0.60), with 352 a mean model overestimate of +5.6% and model underestimates at high sulfate concentrations. 353 Model representation of variability is much poorer for ARCPAC (r = 0.28), although the mean 354 bias is again small (-5.4%). The small cluster of model points with values in excess of 30 nmol 355 m⁻³ STP reflects a misplaced volcanic plume; without these points the correlation coefficient 356 increases to r = 0.47. We conducted model sensitivity simulations to try to understand the poor 357 simulation of variability in ARCPAC but could not relate it to a specific source or conditions, 358 and could not find corrections that would not compromise the simulation of ARCTAS or surface 359 data. The observations do not appear biased as there was internal consistency between the 360 physical, optical and chemical measurements made during ARCPAC (Brock et al., 2010). Our 361 best explanation is that the small sampling domain and time spent in plumes during ARCPAC 362 makes model simulation of the observed variability difficult. The ARCTAS data cover a much 363 larger domain and we view them as more representative.

364

Figure 5a shows the mean vertical distributions of observed and modeled sulfate concentrations along the aircraft flight tracks. Model values are decomposed into the contributions from individual sources and regions, as diagnosed by a series of sensitivity simulations with individual sources shut off either globally (ships, biomass burning, natural sources) or for each region shown in Fig. 3 (anthropogenic sources). There is some nonlinearity associated with titration of 370 H₂O₂ in clouds (Chin and Jacob, 1996), the effects of which are included in the relatively small 371 "other" term. We find that there is little mean vertical gradient of sulfate concentrations in either 372 the observations or the model, and that a diversity of sources contribute to sulfate burdens in the 373 North American Arctic at all altitudes. Individual source contributions in the model show much 374 more vertical structure than total sulfate. Below 2 km we find that East Asian, European, and 375 North American anthropogenic sources have comparable influences, each contributing 10-20% 376 of modeled sulfate. The North American influence is limited to the lower troposphere, while 377 European and East Asian contributions are substantial throughout the column. Above 2 km, East 378 Asian emissions are dominant, although still accounting for less than half of the mean total 379 sulfate burden. Natural sources also make substantial contributions to total sulfate. Volcanic 380 sources account for 12-24% of the modeled sulfate at all altitudes, with peak contribution in the 381 mid-troposphere. Dimethyl sulfide (DMS) oxidation is a major source in the lower troposphere, 382 responsible for up to 25% of sulfate below 2 km in the aircraft flight domain during ARCTAS 383 and ARCPAC. We find little contribution ($\leq 2\%$) from open burning to sulfate along the aircraft 384 flight tracks. Recent analyses show sulfate enhancements of up to 30% in biomass burning 385 plumes encountered during both ARCPAC (Warneke et al., 2010) and ARCTAS (Kondo et al., 2011), suggesting that SO₂ emissions from fires in Russia may be larger than assumed in current 386 387 inventories. Even with increased fire emissions, however, the global SO₂ source would still be 388 dominated by anthropogenic emissions, and the impact of burning on Arctic sulfate would be 389 small. Furthermore, because Asian anthropogenic emissions and Russian fire emissions follow 390 similar pathways of uplift and transport (Fisher et al., 2010), mixing of anthropogenic sulfate 391 with biomass burning plumes en route to the Arctic is likely and may explain the high observed 392 sulfate concentrations in these plumes.

393

Roughly 10% of the model sulfate along the flight tracks originates from emissions in West Asia and Southern Siberia (hereafter abbreviated as "West Asia" as most of the emissions are in that part of the region, see Fig. 1). The region includes major industrial areas and oil fields in southwestern Russia and Kazakhstan and represents a sizable source of SO₂ that has likely been growing in recent years based on energy and economic indicators (Grammelis et al., 2006; IEA Statistics, 2009). Emissions from this source are subject to rapid and direct transport to the Arctic 400 around the Siberian high pressure system (Raatz and Shaw, 1984), still active in April during the
401 ARCTAS/ARCPAC period (Fuelberg et al., 2010).

402

403 Recent studies have suggested a large influence on Arctic sulfate from smelters at Norilsk and 404 the Kola Peninsula (Yamagata et al., 2009; Hirdman et al., 2010a; Hirdman et al., 2010b) on the 405 basis of backward trajectories and Lagrangian particle dispersion simulations. In our simulation, 406 these sources (included in our European Arctic region) provide negligible contributions at all 407 altitudes to observed sulfate over the North American Arctic. Indeed, they contribute less than 408 10% to mean concentrations over the High Arctic (>75°N), even in surface air in winter. Our 409 finding agrees with analyses from the 1980s showing on the basis of trace element signatures 410 that the Norilsk source had no discernible impact on sulfate at Barrow (Rahn et al., 1983). Since 411 that time, emissions from Norilsk have shown only modest growth, and those from the Kola peninsula have decreased (Boyd et al., 2009; Prank et al., 2010). More recent evidence of limited 412 413 impact from northern Russian sources comes from a statistical analysis of Arctic snow samples 414 by Hegg et al. (2010) showing that a pollution source associated with high metal loadings 415 characteristic of smelters was responsible for less than 20% of observed sulfur.

416

417 4.2 Surface data

418 Surface aerosol data provide a seasonal context for the ARCTAS and ARCPAC results. Figure 419 6a shows monthly mean January-May sulfate concentrations at four surface sites: Alert, 420 Zeppelin, Barrow, and Denali (locations shown in Fig. 3). Observations for both 2008 (thin line) 421 and the 2004-2008 five-year mean (thick line) are shown; the 2008 data are generally 422 representative of the five-year record. Other Alaskan sites from the IMPROVE network (Malm 423 et al., 1994) are not shown as they are located near Denali and have similar concentrations. 424 Sampling frequency varies by site. At Alert and Zeppelin, sampling is continuous with filters 425 changed daily (Zeppelin) or weekly (Alert). At Denali, 24-hr filter samples are collected every 426 three days. Sampling times at Barrow vary by time of year, with 24-hr samples in winter when 427 aerosol concentrations are highest. The Barrow data are subject to large data gaps due to both 428 occasional equipment malfunction and sector-controlled sampling that prevents collection of 429 aerosol contaminated by sources in the town of Barrow. These data gaps, often of a week or 430 more, may introduce biases in the monthly means. In 2008, 24-hr filter samples were collected

for 6 days in January, 7 in February, 15 in March, 5 in April, and 18 in May. Also shown in Fig.
6a are modeled sulfate concentrations at each site, decomposed into contributions from various
sources. For comparison to the surface data, GEOS-Chem is sampled in the lowest model level
of the grid box containing the site. Modeled monthly means are calculated based on averages

435 over all days in each month (not just days with valid samples).

436

437 We find that the surface data in April 2008 are consistent across sites (except for Barrow) and with the aircraft data, with mean concentrations of 10-14 nmol m⁻³ STP. Relative to the 2004-438 439 2008 mean, Barrow was lower than average in April 2008 (in contrast to the other sites), which 440 could reflect either a sampling bias or the influence of sector-controlled sample collection at 441 Barrow. GEOS-Chem has moderate but non-systematic biases relative to April 2008 442 observations at all sites and is close to or within the interannual variability of the April means. 443 Model source attribution in April is similar to that in the low-altitude aircraft data, with large 444 contributions from East Asia, DMS oxidation, and volcanism. Local Arctic sources such as 445 Prudhoe Bay, Norilsk, and the Kola Peninsula are important at Barrow and Zeppelin, but their 446 influence does not extend to other sites or to the aircraft flight domain.

447

Observations at the High Arctic sites (Alert, Zeppelin, Barrow) show only weak seasonal 448 449 variation from winter to spring, whereas Denali is distinctly lower in winter. We find in the 450 model that the West Asian source is a major contributor to winter sulfate burdens at the High 451 Arctic sites (30-45%), in agreement with back trajectories for black carbon at Alert and Barrow 452 showing influence from this region (Sharma et al., 2006). This source is much less important at 453 Denali, which is generally south of the Arctic front (Barrie and Hoff, 1984). Over Eurasia, the 454 Arctic front in winter often extends as far south as 40°N (Barrie and Hoff, 1984; Stohl, 2006), 455 thus encompassing the sources in the West Asian region. Isentropic transport from these sources 456 to other regions within the Arctic front is enhanced by blocking anticyclones associated with the 457 climatological Siberian high pressure system (Raatz and Shaw, 1984; Iversen and Joranger, 458 1985) and by limited precipitation (Barrie, 1986), while mixing across the Arctic front to areas 459 further south is limited. Southward transport toward Denali is further inhibited by the Brooks 460 Range (Quinn et al., 2002).

461

462 We find that West Asian sources are far more important than Arctic sources in contributing to 463 sulfate concentrations at the Arctic sites in winter. This is because the lower latitudes of the West 464 Asian emissions enables the SO₂ emitted there to be oxidized to sulfate even in winter. By 465 contrast, oxidation of SO₂ emitted from Arctic sources (such as Norilsk and Prudhoe Bay) is 466 restricted by darkness and cold clouds, and we find that most of that SO₂ is deposited rather than oxidized within the Arctic. Heterogeneous SO₂ oxidation mechanisms not included in our model 467 468 could possibly cause a greater influence from Arctic sources (Alexander et al., 2009), although 469 wintertime sulfate would then be overestimated at Zeppelin and Barrow (not at Alert). The 470 "other" component of our source attribution reflects in part the nonlinearity of the SO₂-sulfate 471 system under oxidant-limited conditions, as discussed above, and is largest in winter when 472 oxidant limitation is most severe. This could also cause some underestimate of our Arctic source 473 contribution.

474

475 All four sites in the model indicate a sharp seasonal transition in source influence from winter to 476 spring, even though changes in total sulfate concentrations are relatively small. In April, the 477 impact of West Asian emissions decreases dramatically at the High Arctic sites while the 478 contributions from East Asia, North America, local Arctic sources, volcanism, and DMS 479 oxidation grow. This transition reflects several processes associated with the end of polar night, 480 including the dissipation of the Siberian High (Raatz and Shaw, 1984), the increase in local 481 oxidant levels, the increase in biogenic DMS emissions (Quinn et al., 2007), and the increasing 482 frequency of warm conveyor belt transport of pollution from East Asia to the Arctic (Liu et al., 483 2003). Without the West Asian source of SO_2 , we find in the model that sulfate concentrations in 484 the High Arctic would be much lower in winter than in spring.

485

486 **4.3 Budget for the High Arctic**

487 We used GEOS-Chem to construct a circumpolar budget of sulfate in the High Arctic (75-90°N),

488 as shown in Fig. 7. Mean concentrations in April are up to 40% lower than along the aircraft

489 flight tracks, reflecting both the greater remoteness and the targeting of plumes by the aircraft.

490 Relative contributions from different sources are similar, although the European contribution is

491 somewhat larger in the High Arctic while the North American contribution is smaller. The

492 contribution from sources in the European Arctic (mainly Norilsk and the Kola Peninsula) is also493 somewhat larger although still very small, especially in the free troposphere.

494

495 In winter, sulfate sources in the High Arctic are more stratified than in spring (Fig. 7), reflecting 496 the lack of vertical mixing. Consistent with our simulation of the surface sites, the low-altitude 497 winter sulfate budget is dominated by West Asian emissions (32%) followed by European 498 emissions (17%). No other source contributes more than 10%. Concentrations in the free 499 troposphere are much lower than in the boundary layer due largely to limited poleward transport 500 from sources south of the Arctic front in winter. In particular, prevailing transport from East Asia 501 in winter is to the south (winter monsoon) rather than to the north (Liu et al., 2003). Above 5 km, 502 the only substantive contributions to Arctic sulfate are from East Asia (31%), volcanism (20%), 503 and DMS oxidation (15%).

504

505 Our sulfate source attribution disagrees in spring with the multi-model intercomparison of 506 Shindell et al. (2008), which examined the relative sensitivity of Arctic sulfate to sources from 507 North America, Europe, East Asia, and Southeast Asia (but did not consider West Asia). Rather 508 than quantify the absolute burdens associated with each source as we have done here, the authors 509 calculated the decrease in Arctic sulfate associated with a 20% decrease in emissions from each 510 source region. While both approaches are valid, the difference in methodology means that our 511 results can be compared qualitatively but not quantitatively. In contrast to our finding of similar 512 contributions to Arctic surface sulfate from Europe and East Asia, their mean contribution from 513 Europe was more than three times that from East Asia (although with a large spread between models; Shindell et al., 2008). This is because our European SO₂ emissions (7 Tg S a⁻¹ for 2005) 514 are much lower than those used in the Shindell et al. (2008) models (8-25 Tg S a⁻¹ for 2001, with 515 a multi-model mean of 18 Tg S a⁻¹). Smith et al. (2010) show a reduction of only 15-20% in 516 517 European SO₂ emissions from 2000 to 2005, so that cannot explain the difference. Substantially higher European SO₂ emissions in our simulation would cause an overestimate of sulfate wet 518 519 deposition in Europe (Section 3) larger than the ~30% attributable to differences in wet removal 520 mechanisms between models (Dentener et al., 2006).

521

522 5. Simulation and source attribution of Arctic ammonium

523 5.1 Aircraft data

524 Ammonium was measured during ARCTAS by both the AMS and the SAGA filters.

525 Comparison of these two datasets shows a persistent bias. The two are well correlated (r = 0.91),

- 526 but the AMS ammonium is consistently lower than the SAGA ammonium, with a normalized
- 527 mean difference of -31%. Conversion of gas-phase NH₃ by acidic aerosols on the filters
- 528 (especially between sampling and analysis) may explain some of the AMS/SAGA discrepancy.
- 529 We use the SAGA ammonium observations in what follows as they agree better with the
- 530 concentrations observed during ARCPAC, although some difference might be expected due to
- 531 location differences between the two aircraft. Using the AMS observations instead of SAGA
- 532 would decrease observed ARCTAS ammonium concentrations by 30% relative to the values
- reported here but would not otherwise affect our conclusions. As for sulfate (Section 4.1), the
- 534 data have been filtered to exclude stratospheric observations, biomass burning plumes, local
- pollution, and major outliers. For ammonium, outliers (defined by $[NH_4^+] > 60 \text{ nmol m}^{-3} \text{ STP}$)
- 536 include three data points during ARCTAS and six during ARCPAC. We attribute model
- 537 ammonium to individual sources by conducting sensitivity simulations where we shut off NH₃
- 538 emissions from each source while leaving SO₂ emissions unchanged to prevent nonlinearities
- 539 associated with sulfate availability.
- 540
- 541 Figures 4b and 5b show that GEOS-Chem reproduces both the mean vertical structure and much
- of the variability of ammonium in the ARCTAS observations (r = 0.64, NMB = -4.8%).
- 543 Simulation of ammonium during ARCPAC indicates substantial model underestimates,
- 544 especially below 5 km, as previously found for sulfate (Section 4.1), with r = 0.43 and NMB = -
- 545 19%. As for sulfate, we cannot resolve the discrepancy between GEOS-Chem and ARCPAC in a
- 546 manner consistent with the other data sets, and we view the ARCTAS data as more
- 547 representative of the North American Arctic.
- 548
- 549 Vertical distributions shown in Fig. 5b indicate peak ammonium concentrations in the mid-
- troposphere and depletion in the boundary layer, with a larger vertical gradient than for sulfate.
- 551 Because the aerosol, in general, was acidic (Section 6), ammonium can be regarded as
- representing total ammonia; gaseous ammonia was not measured on the aircraft but should be
- negligible based on thermodynamics (Seinfeld and Pandis, 2006). In the free troposphere, the

554 source influences for ammonium are less complex than for sulfate, with more than 80% of Arctic 555 ammonium originating from three sources: East Asian anthropogenic, European anthropogenic, 556 and biomass burning. The anthropogenic source is mainly from agriculture. East Asia is the 557 largest source, accounting for 35-45% of modeled ammonium. Biomass burning is responsible 558 for 20-25%, which reflects the unusually intense Russian fire activity in April 2008 (Warneke et 559 al., 2009; Fisher et al., 2010; Warneke et al., 2010). Below 2 km, the North American 560 anthropogenic and the natural contribution become comparable to the East Asian and European 561 influences, similarly to sulfate. The larger gradient between the boundary layer and the free 562 troposphere for ammonium reflects the greater relative contributions of East Asian and biomass 563 burning sources, which are mainly transported to the Arctic in the free troposphere following 564 lifting by warm conveyor belts (Stohl, 2006; Fisher et al., 2010).

565

566 5.2 Surface data

567 Ammonium data from surface sites (Fig. 6b) provide seasonal context for the aircraft data as for 568 sulfate. There is a tendency for higher values in spring than winter but interannual variability is 569 large. The model tends to overestimate observations in winter and this appears driven by the 570 natural source. The GEIA natural NH₃ source used in GEOS-Chem, originally described by 571 Bouwman et al. (1997), includes both oceanic and continental (soil and crop decomposition) 572 emissions. The continental source is dominant at mid-latitudes but there is a non-negligible 573 ocean source in the Arctic including in particular wintertime emission from some areas normally 574 covered by sea ice. It appears likely that the GEIA inventory overestimates oceanic NH₃ 575 emissions in the Arctic in winter and that this is the cause for the model ammonium

576 overestimates at Barrow and Zeppelin.

577

We find in the model that anthropogenic sources in Europe and West Asia each contribute 20-30% of winter ammonium at Arctic surface sites, even though Europe is a much larger source of NH₃ than West Asia (Fig. 1b, Table 1). This is because West Asian air masses are more readily transported to the Arctic around the Siberian High, as discussed previously for sulfate. In addition, a greater fraction of NH₃ emitted from Europe remains as gaseous NH₃ because of the high NH₃/SO₂ emission ratio (Table 2) and is therefore effectively dry deposited (unlike the aerosol ammonium component) during transport to the Arctic. 585

586 The winter-spring transition in ammonium source contributions in the model is similar to that for 587 sulfate. Dissipation of the polar front increases the influence from East Asia and suppresses the 588 influence from West Asia. For ammonium, the transition is amplified by increased springtime 589 agricultural emissions and biomass burning, whereas in the case of sulfate it was amplified by 590 increased oxidant availability and oceanic biological activity.

591

592 **5.3 Budget for the High Arctic**

593 Our model budget for ammonium in the High Arctic in April 2008 (Fig. 7b) shows source 594 contributions consistent with those derived from the aircraft campaigns. East Asian and

574 Contributions consistent with those derived from the uncluit campaigns. East Asian and

595 European anthropogenic emissions contribute similarly at all altitudes, with additional

596 contributions from biomass burning and natural sources. The European influence peaks in the

597 Eurasian sector of the Arctic beyond the flight domain of the ARCTAS and ARCPAC aircraft,

598 explaining the larger contribution from European emissions to ammonium in the High Arctic

599 (25-35%) than during the aircraft campaigns (15-20%). The spatial heterogeneity of the

600 European influence in spring was also seen in simulation of the surface sites (Fig. 6), which

showed more European ammonium at Zeppelin (25%) than Barrow (10%). There is less

602 variation in the East Asian influence, which peaks in the free troposphere for both the aircraft

- 603 campaigns and the High Arctic domain.
- 604

As for sulfate, ammonium is more stratified in winter than spring, with concentrations more than two times higher below 2 km than above. Consistent with simulation of the surface sites, the low-altitude winter ammonium budget reflects dominant contributions from European, West Asian, and natural sources, although the ocean component of the natural source is probably too high as previously discussed. At 2-5 km the ammonium concentrations represent a diverse mix of sources, while above 5 km East Asia is the single most important source.

611

612 6. Acidity of the Arctic aerosol

613 6.1 Aircraft data

The aerosol observed during the April 2008 aircraft campaigns ranged from highly acidic to fully

615 neutralized. Figure 8a shows the observed aerosol acidity as defined by the relationship of

 $2[SO_4^{2-}]+[NO_3^{-}]$ versus $[NH_4^{+}]$ (Zhang et al., 2007a). We define the mean neutralized fraction as 616 $f = [NH_4^+]/(2[SO_4^{2-}]+[NO_3^-])$ with all concentrations in molar units. We include nitrate for anion 617 618 closure, but observed nitrate concentrations were generally very small relative to sulfate, with median (interguartile) values of 2.0 (1.2-3.3) nmol m^{-3} STP during ARCTAS and 0.9 (0.2-2.7) 619 620 nmol m⁻³ STP during ARCPAC. Even when sulfate was neutralized (f > 0.9), nitrate contributed 621 on average only 15% of the total anion concentration. Thus f = 1 implies a (NH₄)₂SO₄ sulfate 622 aerosol (solid or aqueous), while f = 0.5 implies a NH₄HSO₄ sulfate aerosol in the bulk. 623 Observations with f > 1 (excess aerosol ammonium) cannot be reconciled with sulfate-nitrate-624 ammonium aerosol thermodynamics, but are possible due to the neutralization of organic acids 625 with ammonia (e.g., Dinar et al., 2008; Mensah et al., 2011). These data are also within the 626 precision of the ARCPAC AMS measurement (±35%). These values were mainly associated 627 with biomass burning plumes (identified on the basis of acetonitrile concentrations), where 628 sulfate should be fully neutralized because of the large NH₃ source and where the very large 629 organic aerosol concentrations and organic acid aerosol markers could result in some additional 630 uptake of ammonium.

631

632 We see from Figure 8a that the aerosol was most acidic below 2 km, with median neutralized 633 fraction in the observations of f = 0.53 for ARCTAS and f = 0.50 for ARCPAC. We find no 634 mean vertical gradient in aerosol acidity above 2 km and thus lump those points together in 635 Figure 8. The aerosol above 2 km was still predominantly acidic, with median observed neutralized fractions of f = 0.69 for ARCTAS and f = 0.65 for ARCPAC. The vertical gradient in 636 637 acidity is due to large free tropospheric sources of NH₃ from East Asia and biomass burning, as 638 discussed in Section 5. Figure 8b shows that GEOS-Chem provides a good simulation of the 639 aerosol acidity along the flight tracks, although it slightly underestimates the median neutralized fractions both below 2 km (ARCTAS: f = 0.45, ARCPAC: f = 0.40) and above (ARCTAS: f =640 0.60, ARCPAC: f = 0.66). The underestimates are largest near the surface, consistent with the 641 642 low-altitude sulfate overestimates and ammonium underestimates seen in April in the aircraft and 643 surface data (Figs. 5, 6).

644

645 We used the GEOS-Chem sensitivity simulations with suppressed SO₂ and NH₃ emissions from 646 individual source regions to interpret the aerosol acidity observed during ARCTAS and 647 ARCPAC. The simulated aerosol neutralization signatures from the four major anthropogenic 648 source regions (East Asia, Europe, West Asia, and North America) are shown in Fig. 9 as scatter 649 plots of the reductions in sulfate and ammonium along the aircraft trajectories that arise from 650 suppressing each source in the model. Aerosol from North America and West Asia is more acidic 651 than aerosol from East Asia and Europe due to lower NH₃/SO₂ emission ratios (Table 2). 652 Averaged over both campaigns, neutralized fractions in the model are f = 0.99, 0.75, 0.51, and 653 0.41 for the aerosol originating from East Asia, Europe, West Asia, and North America, 654 respectively. The aerosol acidity source attribution in the model helps to explain the observed 655 vertical gradient in aerosol acidity in Fig. 8. The East Asian influence peaks above 2 km, 656 supplying neutralized aerosol to the free troposphere, while the highly acidic North American 657 aerosol is largely confined below 2 km (Fig. 5).

658

659 6.2 Surface data

The high acidity of the low-altitude aerosol observed and modeled during the aircraft campaigns 660 661 is consistent with observations at surface sites. In April 2008, the observed surface-level aerosol neutralized fractions were f = 0.36 at Alert, f = 0.39 at Zeppelin, and f = 0.40 at Barrow. Modeled 662 neutralized fractions were f = 0.41 at Alert, f = 0.36 at Zeppelin, and f = 0.43 at Barrow. Figure 663 664 10 indicates little seasonal variation over winter-spring in aerosol neutralization at any of the 665 sites in the five-year mean. Averaged over January-May for 2004-2008, observed aerosol is most acidic at Alert (mean f = 0.26) and most neutralized at Barrow (mean f = 0.49); however, this 666 667 spatial gradient was not evident in 2008 when both model and observations indicate similar 668 neutralization at both sites.

669

670 Long-term observations at Barrow and Alert show conflicting trends in aerosol acidity. At

Barrow, January-April ammonium decreased more rapidly than sulfate between 1998 and 2008,

leading to a decrease in the ammonium-to-sulfate ratio of $6\% a^{-1}$ (significance of 0.01) and

673 implying an increasingly acidic aerosol (Quinn et al., 2009). In contrast, at Alert there was no

674 significant trend in ammonium, sulfate, or the ammonium-to-sulfate ratio over this period,

675 implying no change in aerosol neutralization there. Acidic West Asian emissions provide a major

676 source of sulfate to Barrow but are less important at Alert, in part because deposition is higher en

route to Alert due to the more direct, surface-level transport (Sharma et al., 2004; Sharma et al.,

678 2006). In both Kazakhstan and Russia, coal production grew by 20-40% and petroleum by 50-

679 80% between 2000 and 2007 (IEA Statistics, 2009; United Nations Statistics Division,

680 http://unstats.un.org/unsd/industry/). This growth may mask decreases in SO₂ from Europe and

North America, accounting for the slower decrease in sulfate relative to ammonium observed at

- 682 Barrow.
- 683

684 6.3 Pan-Arctic perspective

685 Figure 11 shows the mean model distributions of aerosol neutralized fraction in surface air and 686 the free troposphere (5 km) for winter (Jan-Feb) and spring (April). Patterns of aerosol acidity in 687 April are consistent between the aircraft flight tracks and the High Arctic in general, with more 688 acidic aerosol at the surface than above. The most acidic air is found in surface air over northern 689 Eurasia where both West Asian sources and Norilsk have a major influence. Over Russia and 690 Scandinavia, there is a strong meridional gradient in aerosol neutralization. This marks the edge 691 of the polar front, which during April 2008 typically extended to at least 60°N and often further 692 south over Eurasia (Fuelberg et al., 2010). Small areas of high acidity are also evident near local 693 sulfate sources at Prudhoe Bay in Alaska and Norilsk in Russia. In the free troposphere, the 694 aerosol is weakly acidic ($f \approx 0.6$) across the High Arctic. More neutralized air is found over 695 eastern Siberia and the Bering Sea, where the contributions from biomass burning and East 696 Asian emissions are largest.

697

698 We find that the free troposphere is much more acidic in winter ($f \approx 0.3$) than spring, and that the 699 vertical gradient in aerosol acidity is reversed. Free tropospheric aerosol concentrations in winter 700 are low, and high acidity arises from the contributions of volcanism and DMS (Fig. 7), with low 701 Arctic emissions of the latter compensated by higher wind speeds and transport from further 702 south. Modeled neutralization in High Arctic surface air in winter is promoted by high oceanic 703 NH₃ emissions in the Arctic basin. This seasonal trend of increasing surface acidity from winter 704 to spring is not seen in the observations (Fig. 10), again suggesting that these oceanic NH₃ 705 emissions are too high in the model as previously discussed. The acidity maxima over the 706 northern Atlantic and Pacific in winter reflect high surface wind speeds that drive NH_3 dry 707 deposition over the oceans. Arctic sulfur emissions from Norilsk and Prudhoe Bay, which 708 produced hotspots of aerosol acidity in April, are less manifest in winter because of the slower

- SO₂ oxidation. The influence from West Asia, on the other hand, is evident in the widespread
 region of acidity over Eurasia that extends to lower latitudes within the polar front.
- 711

712 According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), global SO₂ emissions are

713 expected to decrease over the coming decades while NH₃ emissions are expected to increase

714 (RCP Database, http://www.iiasa.ac.at/web-apps/tnt/RcpDb/). Thus the Arctic aerosol should

become increasingly neutralized. However, growth in West Asian energy production is projected

for at least the next five years (Klotsvog et al., 2009) and could increase the acidity of the surface

- aerosol over the short-term horizon as observed by Quinn et al. (2009).
- 718

719 The extent of sulfate neutralization has implications for the properties of Arctic clouds in winter 720 and spring. The formation and stability of mixed-phase Arctic clouds are highly sensitive to ice 721 nuclei concentration (Harrington et al., 1999; Jiang et al., 2000; Harrington and Olsson, 2001). 722 Arctic air masses with elevated sulfate concentrations have been shown to be depleted in ice 723 nuclei relative to clean air in spring (Borys, 1989), which Girard et al. (2005) found to result in 724 larger ice crystal sizes and enhanced ice precipitation followed by tropospheric dehydration. The 725 dehydration reduces absorption of longwave radiation and cools the atmosphere (Blanchet and 726 Girard, 1995; Curry, 1995), further increasing the dehydration rate (Girard et al., 2005). This 727 relationship results in a positive feedback known as the dehydration-greenhouse feedback (DGF) 728 that can cool the Arctic surface by as much as -3°C (Girard and Stefanof, 2007). Neutralization 729 of sulfate by ammonium may decrease the efficacy of this feedback cycle by providing an 730 increased source of ice nuclei. At the temperatures and relative humidities characteristic of the 731 Arctic free troposphere, ammonium sulfate particles are expected to be predominantly in the 732 solid phase, even accounting for metastability hysteresis (J. Wang et al., 2008a). Ammonium 733 sulfate can therefore serve as heterogenous ice nuclei under conditions unfavorable to 734 homogeneous nucleation on sulfate particles (Abbatt et al., 2006; Wise et al., 2009; Baustian et 735 al., 2010). If NH₃ emissions increase in the future as projected by the IPCC, an increased 736 population of ammonium sulfate particles in the Arctic may lead to increased ice nuclei 737 formation, reduced dehydration, and enhanced Arctic warming.

738

739 7. Conclusions

740 We used observations from the ARCTAS and ARCPAC aircraft campaigns in April 2008

741 together with longer-term records from Arctic surface sites to better understand the sources of

742 sulfate-ammonium aerosol in the Arctic in winter-spring and the implications for Arctic aerosol

743 acidity. Aerosol concentrations in the Arctic are particularly high in winter-spring. Sulfate is a

744 dominant component of this aerosol, and its neutralization by ammonium has important

745 implications for climate forcing. Our analysis was based on simulations of observations with the

746 GEOS-Chem chemical transport model, including sensitivity simulations to diagnose the

747 contributions from different source regions and source types to aerosol concentrations and 748 acidity.

749

750 Observed wet deposition fluxes of sulfate and ammonium in the U.S., Europe, and East Asia in

751 April 2008 were used to test the emissions of SO₂ and NH₃ from these continental source regions

752 in GEOS-Chem. Results showed good agreement except for ammonium over the Midwest U.S.,

753 where spring agricultural emissions are apparently underestimated. Using the SO_2/NH_3 emission ratio and the $SO_4^{2^-}/NH_4^+$ wet deposition flux ratio, we found that spring emissions are conducive

754

755 to full neutralization by large NH₃ inputs from agricultural activity in both Europe ($E_{NH3}/2E_{SO2}$ = 1.3 mol mol⁻¹) and East Asia ($E_{NH3}/2E_{SO2} = 1.2 \text{ mol mol}^{-1}$), whereas emissions in the U.S. should 756

lead to much more acidic aerosol ($E_{NH3}/2E_{SO2} = 0.3 \text{ mol mol}^{-1}$). 757

- 758

759 Sulfate concentrations in the aircraft observations were relatively uniform through the depth of 760 the troposphere, and this is well simulated with the model. The model shows that a diversity of 761 sources contribute to sulfate burdens in spring, with major contributions at all altitudes from East 762 Asian and European anthropogenic sources, oxidation of DMS, and volcanic emission. North 763 American anthropogenic emissions are also important below 2 km. Surface sites north of the 764 Arctic front (Barrow, Alert, Zeppelin) show little variation of total sulfate from winter to spring, 765 consistent with the model, but the model indicates an important seasonal shift in source 766 attribution with non-Arctic West Asian sources (southwest Russia and Kazakhstan) dominating 767 in winter. This strong West Asian influence dissipates in the spring with the northward 768 contraction of the polar front, to be replaced by increasing sulfate contributions from East Asia 769 and DMS emissions. We find that industrial sources of SO₂ in the Arctic (Norilsk, Kola Peninsula, Prudhoe Bay) make little contribution to the Arctic sulfate budget. 770

771

772 Our finding of non-Arctic West Asia (southwest Russia and Kazakhstan) as a major source 773 region for Arctic sulfate in winter, distinct from the well-known sources in northwest Russia and 774 Siberia, does not seem to have been recognized before. Sharma et al. (2006) show back-775 trajectories for black carbon at Alert that also point to a significant source from that region. Oil 776 fields and industrial centers in that region are a large and growing source of SO₂. These 777 emissions are released at low enough latitudes to enable oxidation of SO₂ in winter but are still 778 within the boundary of the Arctic front (which over Eurasia can extend as far south as 40°N in 779 winter; Barrie and Hoff, 1984), facilitating rapid low-altitude transport to the Arctic. By contrast, 780 oxidation of SO₂ emitted from Arctic industrial sources is limited in winter by darkness and cold 781 clouds. West Asian emissions are highly uncertain and more work is needed to quantify them in 782 view of their apparent importance as a source of Arctic sulfate. 783 784 Ammonium concentrations observed during ARCTAS and ARCPAC were higher in the free

785 troposphere than in the boundary layer. The source influences in spring are less complex than for 786 sulfate, with 80% of free tropospheric ammonium originating from a mix of biomass burning and 787 East Asian and European anthropogenic emissions. Biomass burning and East Asian influences 788 are stronger in the free troposphere due to lifting in warm conveyor belts over the Pacific. 789 Surface sites show a general tendency for higher ammonium concentrations in spring than winter 790 due to increased NH₃ emission associated with the onset of agricultural fires and fertilizer 791 application. The model overestimates observed winter ammonium and therefore aerosol 792 neutralization at the surface sites, likely because of poor representation of sea ice suppression of 793 oceanic NH₃ emission in the GEIA inventory of Bouwman et al. (1997). Work is needed to better 794 quantify oceanic NH₃ emissions and their seasonal variation.

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The aircraft data indicated predominantly acidic aerosol throughout the depth of the Arctic troposphere in spring, with higher acidity below 2 km (median neutralized fraction $f = [NH_4^+]/(2[SO_4^{2^-}]+[NO_3^-]) = 0.5)$ than above (median f = 0.7). Observed acidity at surface sites was even higher (f = 0.4). This gradient reflects the preferential transport of neutralized biomass burning and East Asian aerosol in the free troposphere. Simulation with GEOS-Chem indicates

that the free troposphere is more acidic in winter than in spring, and natural emissions play a

802 major role in driving this seasonality. DMS oxidation and volcanic emission provide a source of

803 sulfate throughout the troposphere that is not matched by natural NH₃ emission. At the surface,

804 observations show no seasonal variation in aerosol neutralization from winter to spring.

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806 Source neutralization signatures computed from GEOS-Chem and consistent with observations 807 indicate that East Asia and Europe provide neutralized aerosol to the Arctic, while West Asia is 808 the dominant source of acidic aerosol. Our results help explain observed long-term trends in 809 aerosol acidity at surface sites. Observations from Barrow show increasing acidity over the last 810 decade due to more rapid decreases in ammonium than sulfate (Quinn et al., 2008), while there 811 has been no change in aerosol acidity at Alert. Because Barrow is more heavily influenced by 812 acidic West Asian sources than Alert, the impacts at Barrow of recent decreases in SO₂ 813 emissions from North America and Europe may have been masked by concurrent increases in 814 emissions from coal and petroleum production in Russia and Kazakhstan. While further growth 815 in this region is expected over the next few years (Klotsvog et al., 2009), longer-term projections 816 suggest global decreases in SO₂ emissions over the next decades together with increases in NH₃ emissions (RCP Database, http://www.iiasa.ac.at/web-apps/tnt/RcpDb/). The resultant increase 817 818 in the concentration of ammonium sulfate aerosols may lead to enhanced ice nuclei formation, 819 initiating a dehydration-greenhouse feedback that could accelerate warming in the Arctic. 820 821 Acknowledgments. This work was supported by the NASA Tropospheric Chemistry Program.

822 We thank A. M. Middlebrook for obtaining the ARCPAC AMS data.

823 References

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1217 Figure captions

- 1218 Figure 1. January-May 2008 GEOS-Chem emissions of (a) SO₂ (kg S km⁻²) and (b) NH₃ (kg N
- 1219 km^{-2}), averaged over the 2°x2.5° model grid. Regional totals are given in Table 1.

Figure 2. (a) Sulfate and (b) ammonium wet deposition fluxes over North America, Europe, and East Asia in April 2008. Model results (background) are compared to observations (circles) from

- the NADP, EMEP, and EANET networks. Major outliers in the observations (sulfate deposition
- 1223 > 4 kg ha⁻¹, ammonium deposition > 1.5 kg ha⁻¹) are highlighted in white trim. Correlation
- 1224 coefficients (r) and normalized mean biases (NMB), computed after removing major outliers, are
- given inset. Mean observed pH for each network (computed by averaging the mean precipitation-
- 1226 weighted $[H^+]$ at each site) is also given inset.
- 1227 Figure 3. Regions used for source attribution of sulfate-ammonium aerosol in the Arctic. Model
- sensitivity simulations were conducted with anthropogenic emissions from each of these regions
- shut off individually. Additional sensitivity simulations were conducted shutting off global ship,
- biomass burning and natural emissions. Also shown are the flight tracks for ARCTAS (brown)
- 1231 and ARCPAC (yellow) and the locations of surface stations used for model evaluation: Alert
- 1232 (A), Barrow (B), Denali (D), and Zeppelin (Z).
- 1233 Figure 4. Comparison of modeled and observed (a) sulfate and (b) ammonium during ARCTAS
- 1234 (top) and ARCPAC (bottom), colored by altitude. Biomass burning plumes, stratospheric air,
- local pollution, observations south of 60°N, and major outliers have been removed from the
- 1236 comparisons as described in the text. All concentrations are reported in nmol m^{-3} at standard 1237 temperature and pressure (STP). Also shown are the 1:1 lines (dashed) and reduced-major-axis
- regression lines (solid). Correlation coefficients (r) and normalized mean biases (NMB) are
- 1239 given inset. There are many more comparison points for ARCPAC than ARCTAS, despite fewer
- flight hours and smaller sampling domain, because of the long integration time (4-24 minutes) of
- 1241 the SAGA filters on the ARCTAS aircraft.
- Figure 5. Mean vertical distributions of (a) sulfate and (b) ammonium during ARCTAS (top) and ARCPAC (bottom). Dark gray bars show mean observed concentrations, and colored bars show mean model results. Modeled concentrations are decomposed into contributions from various sources as indicated in the legend. Biomass burning refers to open biomass burning; biofuel is included in the anthropogenic source. The "other" anthropogenic term also includes minor non-linear effects in source attribution (see text). Biomass burning plumes, stratospheric air, local pollution, observations south of 60°N, and major outliers have been removed from the
- 1249 data as described in the text.
- 1250 Figure 6. January-May monthly mean (a) sulfate and (b) ammonium concentrations observed
- and modeled at Arctic surface sites. No ammonium data are available at Denali or other
- 1252 IMPROVE sites. The thick black lines show the observed 2004-2008 monthly means and
- interannual standard deviations; 2008 monthly means are shown as thin lines. Modeledconcentrations are subdivided into contributions from individual sources as indicated in the
- 1255 legend. Biomass burning refers to open biomass burning; biofuel is included in the
- 1256 anthropogenic source. The "other" anthropogenic term also includes minor non-linear effects in
- source attribution (see text). Data sources are as follows: Alert Environment Canada (Gong et
- 1258 al., 2010); Zeppelin EMEP (http://ebas.nilu.no); Barrow the NOAA Pacific Marine

- 1259 Environmental Laboratory (http://saga.pmel.noaa.gov/data/); Denali the IMPROVE network
- 1260 (Malm et al., 1994).
- 1261 **Figure 7.** GEOS-Chem budgets of sulfate and ammonium aerosols in the High Arctic (75-90°N)
- 1262 in (a) April 2008 and (b) January-February 2008. Aerosol concentrations from 10 different
- sources are shown for three altitude bands. Biomass burning refers to open biomass burning;
- biofuel is included in the anthropogenic source. The "other" anthropogenic term also includes
- 1265 minor non-linear effects in source attribution (see text).
- 1266 **Figure 8.** Scatterplots of (a) observed and (b) modeled acid aerosol neutralization during
- 1267 ARCTAS and ARCPAC, as given by the $2[SO_4^2]+[NO_3]$ vs. $[NH_4^+]$ relationship. Dashed lines
- 1268 indicate the degree of aerosol neutralization, with fully neutralized aerosols falling along the f =
- 1269 1 line.
- 1270 Figure 9. Scatterplot of the aerosol neutralization fraction for aerosol originating from the four
- 1271 major anthropogenic source regions in the GEOS-Chem simulation of the ARCTAS and
- 1272 ARCPAC aircraft data in April 2008. Colored lines show the reduced-major-axis linear
- 1273 regressions. Dashed lines indicate the f = 0.5 and f = 1 lines, as in Fig. 8.
- 1274 Figure 10. 2004-2008 monthly means and interannual standard deviations of aerosol neutralized
- fraction ($f = [NH_4^+]/(2[SO_4^{2-}]+[NO_3^-]))$) observed at Zeppelin (blue), Barrow (purple), and Alert
- 1276 (red).
- 1277 **Figure 11.** Maps of mean aerosol neutralized fraction $(f = [NH_4^+]/(2[SO_4^{2-}]+[NO_3^-]))$ simulated
- 1278 by GEOS-Chem in surface air and at 5 km altitude for April and January-February 2008. The
- 1279 black dashed line marks the limit of the High Arctic at 75°N.

Source	SO ₂ , Tg S	NH ₃ , Tg N
Anthropogenic ^b	64 (27)	39 (15)
Contiguous U.S. and Canada (south of 60°N)	$8.0(3.3)^{c,d}$	$2.6 (0.82)^{d}$
Europe (south of 60°N)	$6.9(3.2)^{\rm e}$	$5.2(2.3)^{\rm e}$
West Asia and Siberia (south of 60°N)	3.3 (1.4)	1.2 (0.30)
East Asia	$23 (9.7)^{\rm f}$	21 (7.4) ^g
North American Arctic (60-90°N, 180-37.5°W)	$0.016 (0.0067)^{d}$	$0.0015 (0.0006)^{d}$
Eurasian Arctic (60-90°N, 37.5°W-180°E)	$0.58 (0.25)^{e}$	$0.14 (0.049)^{e}$
Rest of world	13 (5.3)	8.5 (3.8)
Ships	$8.5(3.5)^{h}$	
Aircraft	$0.070 (0.028)^{i}$	
Open Biomass burning ⁱ	$2.0(0.56)^{k}$	$9.5(2.3)^{k}$
Natural sources	31 (13)	14.3 (5.9)
Oxidation of biogenic dimethyl sulfide (DMS)	$18(8.1)^{1}$	
Volcanism	$13(5.1)^{m}$	
Ocean, soil, crop decomposition, wild animals		$14.3(5.9)^{n}$
TOTAL	97 (41)	62 (23)
		•

Table 1. Global SO₂ and NH₃ emissions for 2008.^a

^a Annual totals for 2008 used in GEOS-Chem. Totals for January-May are given in parentheses.

^b Including fuel and industrial emissions of SO_2 and agricultural and fuel emissions of NH_3 . Fuel emissions are mostly from coal for SO_2 and from biomass (biofuel) for NH_3 . Default anthropogenic emission inventories are EDGAR 3.2 for SO_2 in 2000 (Olivier et al., 1999) and the Bouwman et al. (1997) implementation of the Global Emissions Inventory Activity (GEIA) for NH_3 in 1990 with seasonality from Park et al. (2004). These inventories are overwritten for specific regions as indicated in footnotes. See Fig. 3 for region definitions.

^c U.S. anthropogenic SO₂ emissions are from the US Environmental Protection Agency National Emission Inventory for 1999 (EPA-NEI99,

http://www.epa.gov/ttnchie1/net/1999inventory.html).

^d Canadian anthropogenic emissions are from the Criteria Air Contaminants (CAC) inventory for 2005 (Environment Canada,

http://www.ec.gc.ca/pdb/cac/cac_home_e.cfm).

^e European anthropogenic emissions are from the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP) inventory for 2005 (Vestreng and Klein, 2002). These are also used for the European Arctic, while EDGAR 3.2 is used for the Asian Arctic in the absence of better information.

^f Asian SO₂ emissions are from the NASA INTEX-B inventory for 2006 (Zhang et al., 2009) with seasonality based on monthly NO_x emissions (Zhang et al., 2007b).

^g East Asian annual NH_3 emissions are from Streets et al. (2003) with superimposed relative seasonal variation based on the length of the growing season for fertilizer use and on temperature and wind speed for everything else (L. Bouwman, personal communication).

^h Ship emissions of SO₂ are based on EDGAR 2000 (Eyring et al., 2005a; Eyring et al., 2005b), overwritten over Europe by the EMEP inventory.

ⁱ Aircraft emissions of SO₂ are based on mean fuel consumption from the NASA Atmospheric Effects of Aviation Project (Baughcum et al., 1996) as described by Chin et al. (2000).

^j Excluding biofuel, which is included in the anthropogenic source.

^k Biomass burning emissions are from the FLAMBE inventory (Reid et al., 2009) corrected by Fisher et al. (2010), and are computed as described in the text.

¹ The source from DMS oxidation is as described by Park et al. (2004).

^m Volcanic SO₂ emissions are from the AEROCOM inventory (Diehl, 2009). Emissions from continuous (non-eruptive) volcanic degassing are injected at the altitude of the volcanic crater. Eruptive emissions are emitted evenly over the top third of the volcanic plume, as described by Chin et al. (2000).

ⁿ Natural NH₃ emissions (ocean, soil, crop decomposition, and wild animals) are from Bouwman et al. (1997).

Region ^b	Emissions ^c	Wet deposition (source region) ^d			
	$E_{NH3}/2E_{SO2}$	$[NH_4^+]/(2[SO_4^{2^-}])$			
	$(mol mol^{-1})$	(mol mol^{-1})			
		Observations	Model		
East Asia	1.2	0.76	0.87		
Europe	1.3	1.4	1.7		
North America	0.29	0.76	0.45		
West Asia	0.23				

Table 2. Sulfate neutralization ratios by source region.^a

 ^a Values are for April 2008
 ^b Region definitions are given in Fig. 3.
 ^c Ratio of regional emissions as given in Table 1, for April only.
 ^d Ratios of mean precipitation-weighted concentrations at the NADP, EMEP, and nonurban EANET sites.







Figure3



















Figure10



