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LABORATORY STUDIES OF STICKING COEFFICIENTS AND HETEROGENEOUS REACTIONS IMPORTANT IN THE STRATOSPHERE

Ming-Taun Leu

Jet propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, 4800 Oak Grove Drive, Pasadena, California 91109.

The discovery of ozone depletion during springtime in the Antarctic stratosphere has received wide spread attention. Both meteorological and chemical mechanisms have been used in attempts to explain this observation. The chemical theory focused on the chlorofluoromethanes released into the atmosphere. However, gas-phase, homogeneous reactions alone in the model can not adequately explain such a depletion. Heterogeneous reactions, such as:

(1)	ClONO ₂	+	HCl	>	Cl_2	+	hno ₃
(2)	C10N02	+	H ₂ O	>	HOCI	+	HNO ₃
(3)	N205	+	нČl	>	$ClNO_2$	+	HNO ₃
(4)	N205	+	H_2O	>	2 HNŌ3		

on ice surfaces could be important in the Antarctic stratosphere. Reactions (1)-(4) are thought to convert $ClONO_2$ and N_2O_5 into HNO_3 in the solid phase while Cl_2 , HOCl, and $ClNO_2$ are released into the stratosphere as gas -phase products. The photolysis of Cl_2 , HOCl, and $ClNO_2$, then produces active chlorine which subsequently removes ozone through several catalytic cycles, including the Cl_2O_2 mechanism. The polar stratospheric clouds are thought to consist of mixtures of water ice, nitric acid, and sulfuric acid. Condensation of HCl onto the PSC's could provide active surfaces for heterogeneous reactions, such as (1) and (3).

A fast flow reactor was used for investigating the sticking coefficients of the trace gases on ice. The diameter of the flow tube was 1.89 cm, and the length was 50 cm. The temperature of the flow tube was measured by a pair of thermocouples and its temperature was maintained at about 190-200 K by circulating cooled dry nitrogen through its outside jacket. The cooling jacket was further insulated by another exterior jacket which was evacuated by a mechanical pump. The pressure was monitored at the downstream end of the flow tube by means of a Baratron The ice surface was prepared by passing water pressure meter. vapor in helium carrier through an injector tube which was slowly moved along the length of the flow tube until a thin uniform ring was formed. Ice was prevented from forming in the injector tube by flowing dry nitrogen through a jacket which extended beyond its downstream end. The flow rate of water vapor was measured by monitoring the pressure and the temperature at the water reservoir and also monitoring the helium flow rate. The detection of the trace gases was performed by using an EMBA II quadrupole mass spectrometer. We utilized the electron impact ionization method to monitor the parent peak or the fragmentation peaks of the gas molecules. For example, H_2O or HCl were detected by their parent peaks while $ClONO_2$ or N_2O_5 were measured by NO_2 ions.

Measurements of sticking coefficients for H_2O , HCl, Cl_2 and HNO_3 on ice and of reaction probabilities for reactions (1) and (2) have been summarized in a recent publication. Measured sticking coefficients are: 0.3 (+0.7,-0.1) for H_2O , 0.4 (+0.6,-0.4) for HCl, < 1.0 x 10^{-4} for Cl_2 , and 0.3 (+0.7,-0.3) for HNO_3 at 200 K. The reaction probability of $ClONO_2$ on ice was found to be 0.06 (±0.03) while HOCl was observed as the sole product in the gas phase. In the presence of 0.015-0.071 mole fractions of HCl in ice, the reaction probability of $ClONO_2$ is greatly enhanced, approaching 0.27 (+0.73, -0.13) while molecular chlorine was found to be the major product in the gas phase. Another reaction product was nitric acid which remained in the solid phase.

In a preliminary investigation the reaction probability of N_2O_5 was found to be 2.8 (±1.1) x 10^{-2} on ice at 195 K and 3.4 (±1.4) x 10^{-2} with 0.015-0.040 mole fractions of HCl at 195 K. One of the reaction products, HNO₃, remained in the condensed phase. It should be noted that the yield of NO_2 , a probable reaction product, was negligible in these N_2O_5 reactions. This work will be continued in the laboratory and the results will be presented at the Workshop.

In addition, similar reactions on sulfuric acid/water ice surfaces will be investigated because of their potential importance for the global stratosphere.

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