

A study of stratospheric chlorine partitioning based on new satellite measurements and modeling

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[1] Two recent satellite instruments, the Microwave Limb Sounder (MLS) on Aura and the Atmospheric Chemistry Experiment Fourier Transform Spectrometer (ACE-FTS) on SCISAT-1, provide an unparalleled opportunity to investigate stratospheric chlorine partitioning. We use measurements of ClO, HCl, ClONO₂, and other species from MLS and ACE-FTS to study the evolution of reactive and reservoir chlorine throughout the lower stratosphere during two Arctic and two Antarctic winters characterizing both relatively cold and relatively warm and disturbed conditions in each hemisphere. At middle latitudes, and at high latitudes at the beginning of winter, HCl greatly exceeds ClONO₂, representing ~0.7–0.8 of estimated total inorganic chlorine. Nearly complete chlorine activation is seen inside the winter polar vortices. In the Arctic, chlorine recovery follows different paths in the two winters: In 2004/2005, deactivation initially takes place through reformation of ClONO₂, then both reservoirs are produced concurrently but ClONO₂ continues to significantly exceed HCl, and finally slow repartitioning between ClONO₂ and HCl occurs; in 2005/2006, HCl and ClONO₂ rise at comparable rates in some regions. In the Antarctic, chlorine deactivation proceeds in a similar manner in both winters, with a rapid rise in HCl accompanying the decrease in ClO. The measurements are compared to customized runs of the SLIMCAT three-dimensional chemical transport model. Measured and modeled values typically agree well outside the winter polar regions. In contrast, partly because of the equilibrium scheme used to parameterize polar stratospheric clouds, the model overestimates the magnitude, spatial extent, and duration of chlorine activation inside the polar vortices.

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1. Introduction

[2] Understanding the latitudinal, seasonal, and interannual variations in reactive and reservoir chlorine species, and their relative partitioning, is essential for predicting future stratospheric ozone recovery. Accurate knowledge of stratospheric inorganic chlorine (Cl_y) abundances has been shown to be important for assessing the performance of chemistry-climate models, which currently exhibit wide intermodel spread in this quantity [Eyring *et al.*, 2006,

2007; World Meteorological Organization, 2007]. Despite numerous observational and modeling studies over the past two decades, however, aspects of stratospheric chlorine partitioning at both middle and high latitudes remain uncertain. Most previous studies have been hampered by the lack of concurrent measurements of ClO, the predominant form of reactive chlorine in the stratosphere, and ClONO₂ and HCl, the two main chlorine reservoirs.

[3] Chlorine partitioning undergoes strong seasonal variations in the lower stratosphere, as low temperatures in the winter polar vortices promote heterogeneous reactions on the surfaces of polar stratospheric clouds (PSCs) or sulfate aerosols that convert chlorine from reservoir to reactive forms. The Arctic exhibits a large degree of interannual variability, with ClO significantly enhanced by mid-December in some years but not until January (or not at all) in others [e.g., Toohey *et al.*, 1993; Santee *et al.*, 2003, and references therein]. Measurements from ground-based, balloon, aircraft, and satellite instruments have indicated that, after rising temperatures curtail heterogeneous processing, HCl remains depressed, whereas ClONO₂ increases rapidly, so that by spring it is well above initial values and exceeds

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HCl by as much as a factor of two [Oelhaf *et al.*, 1994; Adrian *et al.*, 1994; Toon *et al.*, 1994; Roche *et al.*, 1994; Blom *et al.*, 1995; Wehr *et al.*, 1995; Müller *et al.*, 1996; Notholt *et al.*, 1997b; Blumenstock *et al.*, 1997; Payan *et al.*, 1998; Galle *et al.*, 1999; Mellqvist *et al.*, 2002]. Modeling studies have shown that, for the ozone and odd nitrogen concentrations typical of the Arctic, the primary chlorine recovery pathway is the reformation of ClONO₂, which then remains the dominant chlorine reservoir for more than a month as the equilibrium between ClONO₂ and HCl is slowly reestablished [Prather and Jaffe, 1990; Lutman *et al.*, 1994; Müller *et al.*, 1994; Douglass *et al.*, 1995; Douglass and Kawa, 1999; Michelsen *et al.*, 1999]. Recently, however, in situ measurements obtained during the exceptionally cold 1999/2000 winter have suggested that HCl formation may be considerably more important in chlorine recovery in the Arctic than previously believed [Wilmouth *et al.*, 2006]. Although mean HCl inside the vortex was observed to be low and roughly constant throughout the mission, an inferred low bias in the HCl measurements implied the presence of substantially larger amounts of HCl inside the midwinter vortex than expected, and results from a box model indicated that HCl production accompanies ClONO₂ production.

[4] In the Antarctic, ClO is enhanced in the sunlit portions of the vortex by late May/early June [Santee *et al.*, 2003, and references therein]. Virtually all HCl has been converted to reactive forms by early to mid-September, but it is then rapidly regenerated, recovering to near unperturbed abundances by middle-to-late October [Toon *et al.*, 1989; Murcray *et al.*, 1989; Liu *et al.*, 1992; Kreher *et al.*, 1996; Santee *et al.*, 1996; Notholt *et al.*, 1997a], when the PSC season is drawing to a close [e.g., Fromm *et al.*, 1997; David *et al.*, 1998; Adriani *et al.*, 2004]. Modeling studies [Prather and Jaffe, 1990; Douglass *et al.*, 1995; Grooß *et al.*, 1997, 2005b; Mickley *et al.*, 1997; Douglass and Kawa, 1999; Michelsen *et al.*, 1999] have shown that, in the absence of denitrification (the irreversible removal of total reactive nitrogen from the lower stratosphere through the sedimentation of PSC particles, which limits the availability of NO₂ for producing ClONO₂), the relative rates of springtime chlorine reservoir recovery are controlled by ozone: Under severely depleted conditions typical of Antarctic spring (O₃ < ~0.5 ppmv), HCl production is highly favored. Some studies, however, have found a mismatch between the decay of reactive chlorine and the production of chlorine reservoirs in the Antarctic lower stratospheric vortex [e.g., Santee *et al.*, 1996; Chipperfield *et al.*, 1996].

[5] Two recent satellite instruments provide measurements of unprecedented scope for investigating chlorine partitioning. The Atmospheric Chemistry Experiment Fourier Transform Spectrometer (ACE-FTS) on the Canadian SCISAT-1 mission has been providing solar occultation profiles of a large number of species, including HCl and ClONO₂, since February 2004 [Bernath *et al.*, 2005]. The Microwave Limb Sounder (MLS), an advanced successor to the instrument on the Upper Atmosphere Research Satellite (UARS), was launched as part of NASA's Aura mission in July 2004. Aura MLS measures several key species, including the first simultaneous daily global profiles of HCl and ClO [Waters *et al.*, 2006]. MLS began routine operations in time to observe the 2004 Antarctic late winter, which, by

Antarctic standards, was relatively warm and dynamically disturbed, with less ozone loss than in most other recent years [Hoppel *et al.*, 2005; Huck *et al.*, 2007; World Meteorological Organization, 2007]. By contrast, the 2005 ozone hole was typical of the last decade [World Meteorological Organization, 2007]. The first two Arctic winters observed by Aura also provide a study in contrasts: The 2004/2005 winter was the coldest on record in the lower stratosphere, with large chemical ozone losses [Manney *et al.*, 2006; Rex *et al.*, 2006; von Hobe *et al.*, 2006; Jin *et al.*, 2006b; Singleton *et al.*, 2007; Feng *et al.*, 2007; Grooß and Müller, 2007], whereas in 2005/2006 a major warming in late January prematurely terminated processing, inhibiting ozone loss [World Meteorological Organization, 2006]. In this paper, theoretical understanding of chlorine partitioning throughout the lower stratosphere is assessed by comparing the measurements to customized runs of the updated SLIMCAT chemical transport model [Chipperfield, 2006].

2. Measurement and Model Descriptions

2.1. MLS Measurements

[6] MLS measures millimeter- and submillimeter-wavelength thermal emission from the limb of Earth's atmosphere [Waters *et al.*, 2006]. The Aura MLS fields of view point in the direction of orbital motion and vertically scan the limb in the orbit plane, leading to data coverage from 82°S to 82°N latitude on every orbit. Because the Aura orbit is sun-synchronous (with a 1:45 PM local solar time ascending equator-crossing time), MLS observations at a given latitude on either the ascending or descending side of the orbit have essentially the same local solar time. Northern high latitudes are sampled by ascending measurements near midday local time, whereas southern high latitudes are sampled by ascending measurements in the late afternoon. Vertical profiles are measured every ~165 km along the suborbital track; depending on the product, horizontal resolution is ~200–600 km along-track and ~3–10 km across-track, and vertical resolution is ~3–4 km in the lower to middle stratosphere [Froidevaux *et al.*, 2006; Livesey *et al.*, 2005].

[7] In this study we use ClO, HCl, O₃, H₂O, N₂O, and HNO₃ from the first publicly-released Aura MLS data set, version 1.5 (v1.5) [Livesey *et al.*, 2006]. Single-profile measurement precisions are estimated to be 0.1–0.2 ppbv, 0.1–0.2 ppbv, 0.2–0.3 ppmv, 0.2–0.3 ppmv, 15–30 ppbv, and ~1 ppbv for ClO, HCl, O₃, H₂O, N₂O, and HNO₃, respectively, for the range of altitudes shown here [Froidevaux *et al.*, 2006; Livesey *et al.*, 2005]. For the latitude-band averages on which most of the conclusions of this study are based, the estimated precisions are improved by a factor of 5–10 over these values. Validation analyses for v1.5 HCl, O₃, H₂O, and N₂O indicate overall good agreement (within ~5–15%, ~5–10%, ~10%, and ~20%, respectively) with data from balloon-borne and other space-based instruments [Froidevaux *et al.*, 2006]. In contrast, v1.5 HNO₃ data are biased high by ~10–40% relative to nearly-coincident satellite and balloon measurements [Froidevaux *et al.*, 2006; Barret *et al.*, 2006]. To correct for this artifact, which has been traced to a typographical error in one of the spectroscopy files used in v1.5 processing [Santee *et al.*,

2007], MLS HNO_3 values have been scaled by 0.7 here. Early validation analyses revealed the existence of a significant negative bias in the v1.5 MLS ClO data at the lowest retrieval levels (below 22 hPa) [Livesey *et al.*, 2005; Barret *et al.*, 2006]. As discussed in detail by Santee *et al.* [2008], who quantify a similar (but slightly larger) negative bias in the v2.2 MLS ClO data, it is necessary to correct individual ClO measurements by subtracting the estimated value of the negative bias at each of the affected retrieval levels before interpolation to potential temperature surfaces. The estimated magnitudes of the bias in the v1.5 ClO measurements are -0.04 , -0.12 , -0.24 , and -0.29 ppbv at 32, 46, 68, and 100 hPa, respectively.

2.2. ACE-FTS Measurements

[8] ACE-FTS, the primary instrument on SCISAT-1, is a high-resolution (0.02 cm^{-1}) infrared Fourier transform spectrometer that measures solar occultation spectra between 2.2 and $13.3\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ ($750\text{--}4400\text{ cm}^{-1}$) [Bernath *et al.*, 2005]. Vertical profiles are retrieved for up to 15 sunrises and 15 sunsets per day, whose latitudes vary over an annual cycle from 85°S to 85°N with an emphasis on the polar regions during winter and spring. Vertical and horizontal resolution of the ACE-FTS measurements are 3–4 km and ~ 500 km, respectively.

[9] We use ACE-FTS version 2.2 (v2.2) HCl, ClONO_2 , O_3 , HNO_3 , N_2O , CH_4 , and H_2O data [Boone *et al.*, 2005]. Froidevaux *et al.* [2008] showed that v2.2 ACE-FTS HCl generally agrees with both v2.2 and v1.5 MLS HCl to within $\sim 5\text{--}10\%$. Dufour *et al.* [2006] estimated the total error in v2.2 ClONO_2 to be 10–12% in the lower stratosphere, and good agreement (mean differences less than 0.04 ppbv below 27 km) has been demonstrated with MIPAS ClONO_2 [Höpfner *et al.*, 2007; Wolff *et al.*, 2008]. For O_3 , we use the v2.2 “ozone update” retrievals, which agree with a number of other satellite data sets to within 10% (typically +5%) [Dupuy *et al.*, 2008]. Dedicated validation papers for ACE-FTS v2.2 measurements are available in a special issue of *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*; in particular, see papers by Mahieu *et al.* [2008], Wolff *et al.* [2008], Strong *et al.* [2008], De Mazière *et al.* [2007], and Carleer *et al.* [2008] for HCl, HNO_3 , N_2O , CH_4 , and H_2O , respectively. ClO is also retrieved from ACE-FTS spectra, but at this time it remains a research product requiring special handling [K. Walker, personal communication, 2005; Dufour *et al.*, 2006] and is not included in this study.

2.3. Model Calculations

[10] SLIMCAT is a three-dimensional (3D) off-line chemical transport model [Chipperfield *et al.*, 1996; Chipperfield, 1999] that has been used extensively to investigate a wide range of polar processes. The model configuration has recently undergone substantial revision [Chipperfield, 2006], greatly improving its ability to reproduce polar chemical and dynamical processes [Chipperfield, 2006; Chipperfield *et al.*, 2005; Feng *et al.*, 2005]. The updated model has now been used to estimate chemical ozone loss during several Arctic winters [e.g., Feng *et al.*, 2005, 2007; Goutail *et al.*, 2005; Singleton *et al.*, 2005, 2007].

[11] SLIMCAT includes a detailed description of stratospheric chemistry. Photochemical data are taken from JPL 2003 [Sander *et al.*, 2003], except for the Cl_2O_2 photolysis

rate, for which the values of Burkholder *et al.* [1990] are used, with a long-wavelength extrapolation to 450 nm [Stimpfle *et al.*, 2004]. The model is forced using specified bottom boundary conditions for surface volume mixing ratios of source gases, taken from *World Meteorological Organization* [2003] scenarios with the addition of 100 pptv of inorganic chlorine, Cl_y , and 6 pptv of inorganic bromine, Br_y , to account for contributions from short-lived species.

[12] The model also includes heterogeneous reactions on cold liquid sulfate aerosols and nitric acid trihydrate (NAT) and ice polar stratospheric clouds (PSCs) [Chipperfield, 1999; Davies *et al.*, 2002]. The key reactions are: (1) $\text{ClONO}_2 + \text{HCl} \rightarrow \text{Cl}_2 + \text{HNO}_3$, (2) $\text{ClONO}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{HOCl} + \text{HNO}_3$, and (3) $\text{HOCl} + \text{HCl} \rightarrow \text{Cl}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O}$. On NAT surfaces the model uses reaction probabilities (γ) of 0.2 for Reaction 1, 0.004 for Reaction 2, and 0.1 for Reaction 3 [Sander *et al.*, 2003]. For cold liquid sulfate aerosols, Reactions 1 and 2 are parameterized following Hanson and Ravishankara [1994], with HCl solubility taken from Luo *et al.* [1995]. Reaction 3 is treated as a bulk aqueous reaction with a second order rate constant of $1 \times 10^5\text{ dm}^3\text{mol}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$.

[13] Although a 3D Lagrangian NAT particle sedimentation model has been employed with SLIMCAT to investigate Arctic denitrification [Mann *et al.*, 2002, 2003, 2005; Davies *et al.*, 2005, 2006], none of those studies used coupled chemistry. The “standard” version of SLIMCAT used here and in most other studies of polar processing and ozone loss does not include a microphysical model. Rather, PSCs are assumed to form at the equilibrium NAT saturation temperature, calculated according to Hanson and Mauersberger [1988], and to instantaneously grow to a specified size. Denitrification occurs through the sedimentation of large NAT particles [Davies *et al.*, 2002]. Davies *et al.* [2006] showed that, compared to microphysical models, NAT equilibrium schemes lead to earlier and more severe denitrification than observed. This overestimation of PSC occurrence and denitrification has ramifications for both the activation and the deactivation of chlorine in the model.

[14] The seasonal simulations analyzed here have $2.8^\circ \times 2.8^\circ$ horizontal resolution and 50 vertical levels from the surface to 3000 K (~ 60 km), with purely isentropic surfaces above 350 K and a spacing of ~ 20 K between 450 and 680 K. For most species SLIMCAT is initialized using output from a lower-resolution ($7.5^\circ \times 7.5^\circ$) multi-annual run [e.g., Feng *et al.*, 2005; Singleton *et al.*, 2005]. For O_3 and H_2O , model initial values are taken directly from the MLS measurements on the initialization day. Initial HNO_3 is based on MLS data in the lower stratosphere, scaled by 0.7 to account for the known high bias in v1.5 MLS HNO_3 measurements (see section 2.1); no adjustment to other model NO_y species is made, and above 1050 K the initialization reverts to the original model HNO_3 field. Similarly, N_2O initialization is based on MLS measurements below 1450 K, merged with the original model values above that level. Model initial HCl is also taken directly from MLS measurements. No other measurements are used for the initialization of chlorine species; however, model initial ClONO_2 and total reactive chlorine ($\text{ClO}_x = \text{ClO} + 2 \times \text{Cl}_2\text{O}_2$) are adjusted such that the original model Cl_y is retained. That is, where MLS HCl exceeds the original model HCl, model ClO_x is reduced, dividing evenly

between HCl and ClONO₂; if model ClO_x is exhausted before HCl abundances reach those measured by MLS, then the necessary amount of ClONO₂ is converted into HCl. Where MLS HCl is less than the original model HCl, the model's excess HCl is converted to ClONO₂. Note that no further adjustment of model ClONO₂ or ClO_x is performed as the run progresses.

[15] Horizontal winds and temperatures for these simulations are from the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) operational analyses (model cycles from 28r2 through 30r1 over the dates encompassed by this study) [Simmons *et al.*, 2005]. For some of the winters examined here, corresponding SLIMCAT runs were performed using U.K. Met Office analyses [Swinbank *et al.*, 2002]. The general characteristics of model/measurement agreement were found to be similar for ECMWF- and Met Office-driven simulations.

[16] In addition to the standard runs, which are performed for all four winters studied, two sets of SLIMCAT sensitivity tests are conducted for one Arctic (2004/2005) and one Antarctic (2005) winter. In the first set of tests, we investigate a variant on the PSC scheme whereby, rather than allowing PSC formation at the NAT saturation temperature, a supersaturation of 10 is required (corresponding to a formation temperature ~ 3 K lower under typical vortex conditions). In the second set of tests, we explore the impact of new Cl₂O₂ absorption cross sections [Pope *et al.*, 2007] on modeled chlorine partitioning and ozone loss. Further details about these sensitivity tests are given in section 3.1.

[17] For all of these simulations, an equivalent model value is obtained for each MLS data point, interpolated to the MLS location and taken at the nearest available time (always within 15 min).

[18] Off-line calculations [MacKenzie *et al.*, 1996] are performed to infer ClO_x from MLS ClO using the same photochemical parameters and photolysis scheme as SLIMCAT. Because Cl₂O₂ is assumed to be in photochemical equilibrium with ClO, the calculations are performed only for daylight (solar zenith angles less than 89°) measurements. The largest uncertainty in inferred ClO_x lies in the Cl₂O₂ photolysis rate. Equilibrium Cl₂O₂ values calculated using the long-wavelength extrapolation of Cl₂O₂ cross sections from Burkholder *et al.* [1990] are 40–50% smaller than those given by JPL 2003 cross sections but are more consistent with Cl₂O₂ measurements [Stimpfle *et al.*, 2004].

3. Northern Hemisphere Seasonal Evolution

3.1. The 2004/2005 Arctic Winter

[19] The Northern Hemisphere lower stratosphere was extremely cold throughout most of the 2004/2005 winter. Temperatures were low enough for PSCs on 95 days, more than any other Arctic winter on record, and low temperatures also covered a much broader area than usual [Kleinböhl *et al.*, 2005; Manney *et al.*, 2006]. As a result, evidence for substantial denitrification was seen in both airborne measurements [Kleinböhl *et al.*, 2005; Dibb *et al.*, 2006] and satellite measurements from the MLS [Schoeberl *et al.*, 2006] and ACE-FTS [Jin *et al.*, 2006a] instruments. In addition, the 2004/2005 lower stratospheric polar vortex was stronger than average, but it was also very active and distorted, with frequent intrusions of extravortex air and

mixing between vortex edge and core regions, particularly during late winter [Manney *et al.*, 2006; Schoeberl *et al.*, 2006].

[20] The evolution of chlorine partitioning in the 2004/2005 winter is shown in Figure 1. Measured and modeled quantities are broadly consistent, but MLS indicates significant vortex-averaged chlorine activation from the beginning of January, whereas SLIMCAT indicates the onset of enhanced ClO and an abrupt decline in HCl (compare the slopes of the HCl contours) more than a month earlier. The coverage of ACE-FTS inside the polar vortex in December (see <https://database.uwaterloo.ca/validation/measurement-description.php> for ACE-FTS occultation locations) precludes comparison of measured and modeled ClONO₂ in early winter, but data from the beginning of January suggest model overestimation of ClONO₂ depletion. Furthermore, reactive chlorine extends over a larger vertical domain and maximum abundances persist longer at the end of winter in the model than in the MLS data.

[21] The MLS data in Figure 1 indicate maximum ClO enhancement near 490 K (~ 20 km) for much of the winter, so we focus on that level in Figure 2, which shows daily averages similar to zonal means but calculated as a function of equivalent latitude (EqL, the latitude encircling the same area as a given contour of potential vorticity (PV) [Butchart and Remsberg, 1986]) to provide a vortex-centered view. The MLS and ACE-FTS data are compared with SLIMCAT results in 5° EqL bands from 60° to 80° EqL to distinguish variations in behavior between vortex interior and edge regions. ClO_x inferred from MLS ClO (section 2.3) is also compared to the model, along with estimates of Cl_y (the sum of reactive chlorine and the two reservoirs). Similarly, Figure 3 shows the evolution of the fraction of total inorganic chlorine residing in the different species. Variations in the geographic sampling of inherently inhomogeneous fields can give rise to significant day-to-day scatter in these plots. To minimize the possibility of sampling biases affecting the comparisons, equivalent points are included in the averages of all MLS species (only data passing the quality control criteria for all species and for which the solar zenith angle is less than 89°), and corresponding profiles are selected for MLS and SLIMCAT averages. Unfortunately, the sampling pattern of ACE-FTS is distinctly different from that of MLS, so the ACE-FTS averages do not encompass the same air masses. The excellent agreement between ACE-FTS and MLS HCl (solid green circles and triangles) throughout most of the winter lends confidence in the representativeness of the ACE-FTS averages, although, as seen below, in some cases the ACE-FTS sampling leads to ambiguity in interpreting these time series.

[22] EqL-band averages like those in Figures 2 and 3 for northern midlatitudes (not shown) indicate that HCl greatly exceeds ClONO₂ throughout the study period, representing ~ 0.7 – 0.8 of Cl_y compared to ~ 0.2 – 0.3 for ClONO₂. The high-EqL measurements paint a similar picture for early winter, before significant processing has occurred. On the basis of ACE-FTS observations, Dufour *et al.* [2006] reported that HCl began to decline in early January, with ClO significantly enhanced only after 10 January. MLS data show, however, that changes in chlorine partitioning at the highest EqLs occur in early-to-middle December, whereas they are not evident in the 60°–65° EqL band until January

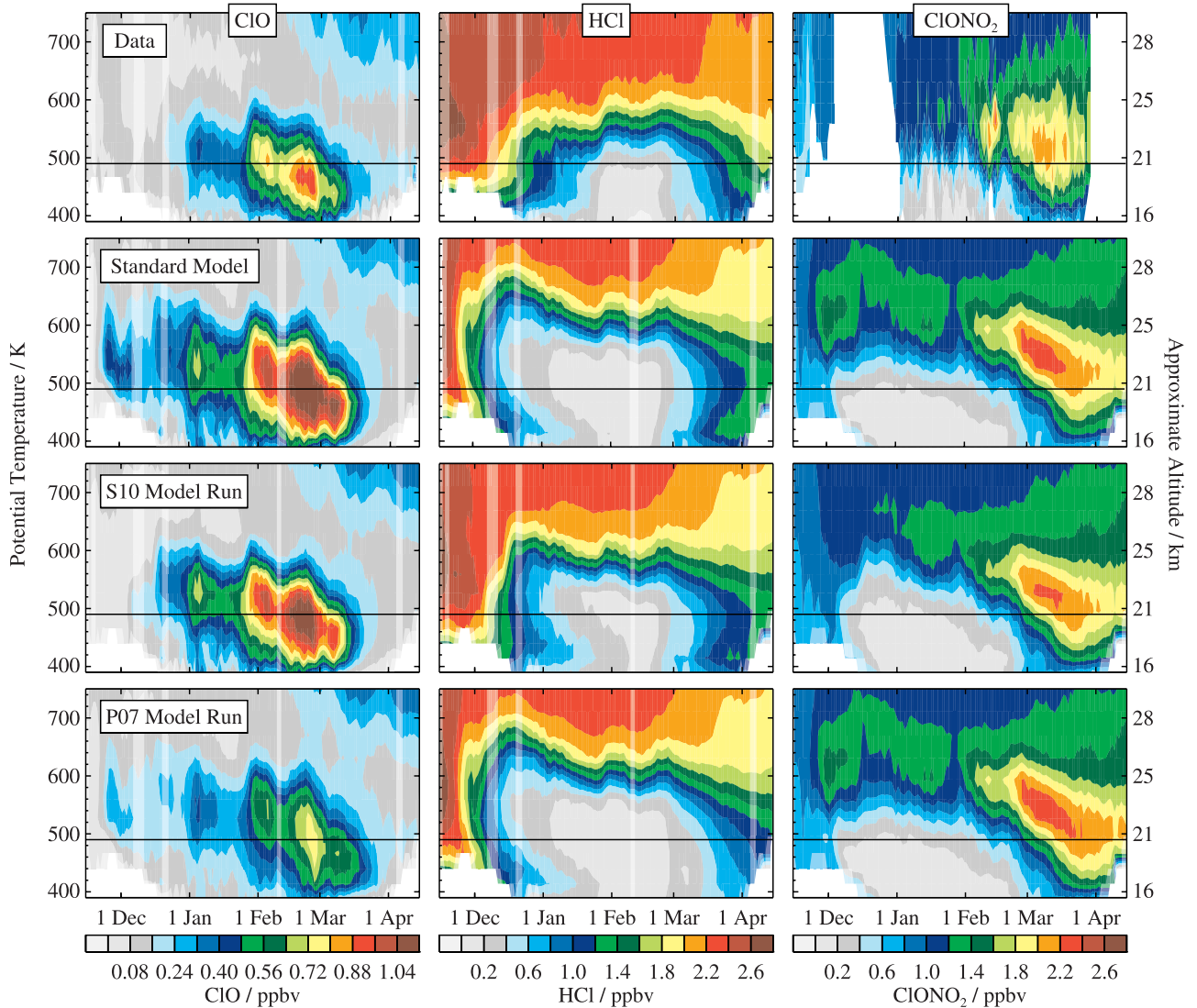


Figure 1. Time series over the 2004/2005 Arctic winter of vortex-averaged quantities calculated within the $1.6 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$ contour of scaled potential vorticity (where sPV, which has roughly the same values on isentropic surfaces throughout the stratosphere, is calculated using the method of Manney *et al.* [1994]) as a function of potential temperature. (Top row) CIO and HCl data from Aura MLS and ClONO₂ data from ACE-FTS. Only daytime (ascending) data are shown for CIO; the individual measurements contributing to the daily averages have been adjusted to correct for a known negative bias in the MLS CIO data as discussed in section 2.1. Occasional small gaps in MLS data have been filled by running the daily averages through a Kalman smoother. As described by Santee *et al.* [2004], a tunable parameter, often termed the drift rate, has been set to produce fields with minimal smoothing that match those plotted from the raw data extremely closely while filling in data gaps of a few days or less; paler colors denote the regions in which the estimated precision of the interpolated values is poor (MLS data are not available). ACE-FTS ClONO₂ data have been smoothed to a slightly greater degree to enhance the legibility of the plots, but the large gaps arising from the sparse sampling of the ACE-FTS measurements within the polar vortex at the beginning and end of the observation period have not been filled. The black horizontal line in each panel marks the 490 K level. (Second row) Corresponding SLIMCAT model results, sampled at the MLS measurement locations and times. For consistency, both measurements and model results have been interpolated to potential temperature surfaces using NASA's Global Modeling and Assimilation Office Goddard Earth Observing System Version 4.0.3 (GEOS-4) temperatures [Bloom *et al.*, 2005]. (Third row) Results of a model sensitivity test in which the supersaturation, S , required for NAT formation is set to 10 (see text). (Fourth row) Results of a model sensitivity test in which the Cl₂O₂ absorption cross sections of Pope *et al.* [2007] are used.

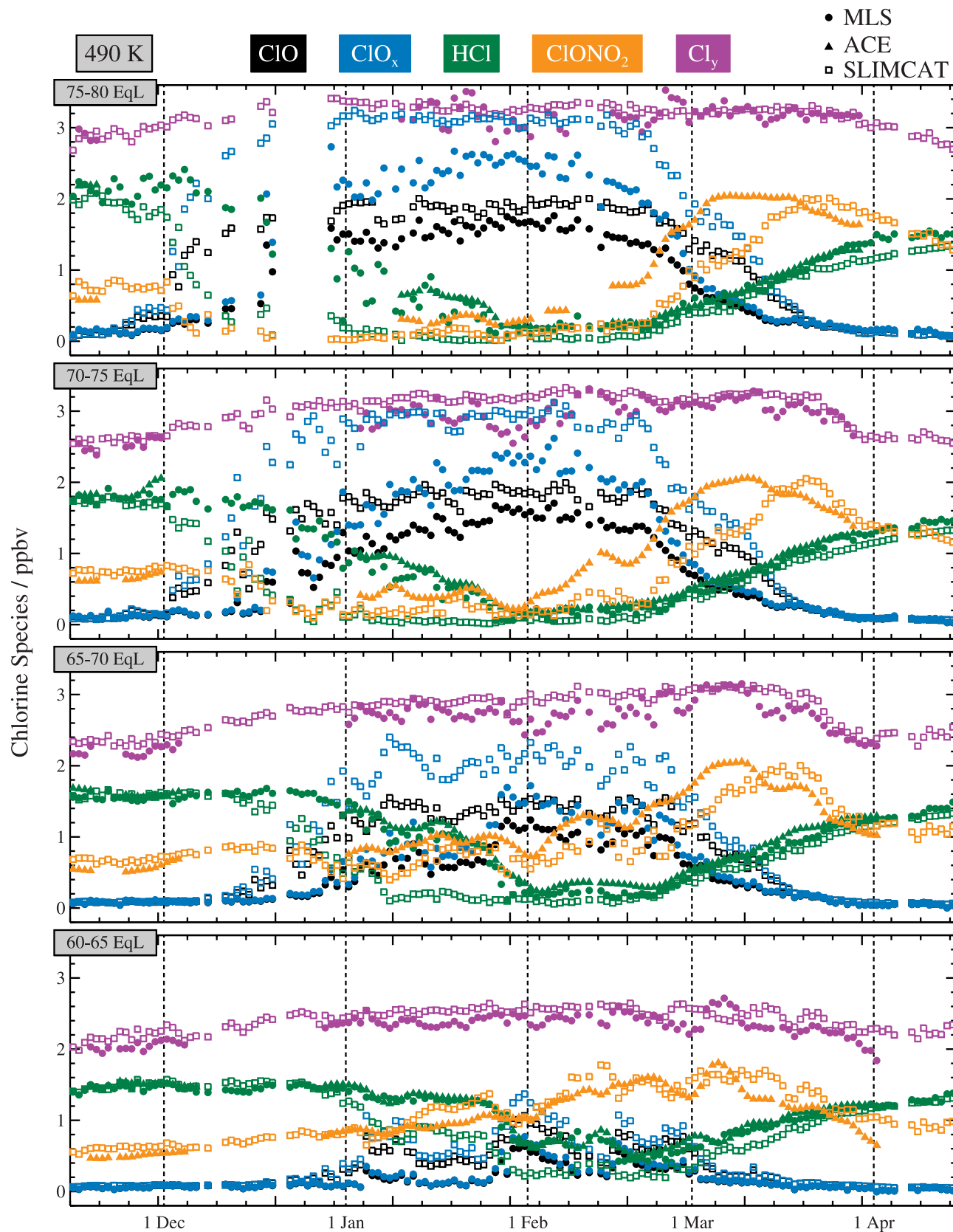


Figure 2

(Figure 2). Because ACE-FTS samples outside or near the edge of the vortex in December, it does not capture the onset of processing.

[23] As noted above, SLIMCAT overestimates chlorine activation, with modeled HCl smaller and ClO_x larger than measured by late November in the vortex core and by early January near the vortex edge. Although the model initially agrees fairly well with ACE-FTS ClONO₂, by January it underestimates ClONO₂ at the highest EqLs. It is unlikely that the greater degree of chemical processing in the model indicated in Figures 1–3 can be attributed to a systematic low bias in the forcing ECMWF temperatures. Zonal mean temperature differences for December–January–February 2004/2005 between ECMWF and CHALLENGING Minisatellite Payload (CHAMP) temperatures are less than 0.5 K in the northern polar lower stratosphere [A. Gobiet, personal communication, 2006], comparable to the biases seen in similar comparisons for previous years [Gobiet *et al.*, 2005]. Biases of this magnitude are not sufficient to account for SLIMCAT's overly enthusiastic chlorine activation.

[24] We also investigated whether errors in modeled transport influenced chemical processing by producing unrealistic trace gas distributions. Comparisons with measurements of N₂O (Figure 4) and CH₄ (from ACE-FTS, not shown) indicate that the revised SLIMCAT model generally reproduces the diabatic descent, as found by Feng *et al.* [2005], especially during the first half of the study period. Agreement is not perfect; either the modeled descent is slightly too strong (as found also by Feng *et al.* [2007]), or the model does not have quite enough mixing into the vortex to dilute the signature of descent, especially at lower levels. Again, however, the differences are insufficient to explain the discrepancy in reactive chlorine.

[25] The earlier and more extensive activation of chlorine in the model appears to arise at least in part from the NAT equilibrium scheme used to parameterize PSCs. Maps of SLIMCAT results (not shown) indicate localized HNO₃ depletion as soon as temperatures dip below the NAT threshold, as early as 20 November to 1 December depending on the altitude, with immediate HCl depletion and ClO enhancement in and just downstream from the PSC region. In contrast, localized depletion in HNO₃ and HCl and significant enhancement in ClO are not seen in MLS data until ~10 December. These small pockets of processed air are smeared out in the averages shown in previous plots, which consequently suggest an even greater lag between the onset of modeled and measured processing. The dramatic difference in the evolution of gas-phase HNO₃ from MLS and SLIMCAT is illustrated in Figure 4, which shows that modeled HNO₃ is almost completely depleted by early January at the highest EqLs below ~500 K. Initializing the model with MLS H₂O may have exacerbated this problem, since that tended to increase H₂O abundances

over those in the original initialization field and thus increased the temperature at which NAT formation occurs. Overestimation of chlorine activation appears to be largely independent of initial conditions, however, as Feng *et al.* [2005] also reported pronounced enhancement in model reactive chlorine by 1 December (the first date shown) in several Arctic winters.

[26] Allowing NAT formation as soon as it is thermodynamically possible, as in the standard model runs shown here, clearly provides an upper limit to the spatial and temporal occurrence of PSCs and consequently denitrification [e.g., Davies *et al.*, 2006]. Previous studies [e.g., Krämer *et al.*, 2003] have found that models assuming PSC formation at the NAT equilibrium temperature activate chlorine earlier than those requiring a saturation ratio, *S*, of HNO₃ with respect to NAT of 10 (requiring a temperature to initiate NAT formation ~3 K lower under typical vortex conditions than in the *S* = 1 case). We have therefore conducted a sensitivity study in which the degree of supersaturation needed for NAT formation is increased from *S* = 1 to *S* = 10. The results (“S10 Model Run”) in Figure 1 indicate that, although chlorine activation is slightly delayed, it still starts earlier and reaches peak ClO enhancement considerably greater than that measured by MLS. These results underscore the difficulty in realistically simulating chlorine activation, a rapid process triggered by crossing a narrow threshold of physical conditions. The performance of the model hinges on its PSC scheme. The model treatment of the large NAT particles leading to denitrification is based on observations obtained during the 1999/2000 Arctic winter [Davies *et al.*, 2002] and may not simulate particle growth as successfully for other winters with different meteorological conditions. More accurate modeling of PSCs, such as a 3D Lagrangian NAT particle sedimentation model [e.g., Davies *et al.*, 2005, 2006; Grooß *et al.*, 2005a], needs to be incorporated into the chemical transport model as a fully-interactive module in order to definitively test theoretical understanding of chlorine partitioning.

[27] Figures 2 and 3 show that, as expected given their initial relative abundances, observed HCl continues to exceed ClONO₂ until late January, at which time each reservoir represents only ~0.1 of Cl_y in the vortex core. ClO_x/Cl_y peaks at ~0.8–0.9 in late January/early February, attaining larger values at higher EqLs as seen in UARS MLS ClO [Santee *et al.*, 2003]. During the period of peak activation, the approximation to Cl_y based on MLS and ACE-FTS measurements departs from initial values in the vortex core by as much as 0.5 ppbv, well outside the precision uncertainty in daily-averaged Cl_y, which is conservatively estimated to be ~0.1 ppbv based on the combined precisions of the ClO, HCl, and ClONO₂ measurements. The observed behavior is in contrast to

Figure 2. Time series over the 2004/2005 Arctic winter of chlorine species at 490 K. Daily means have been calculated by binning the data into 5° equivalent latitude (EqL) bands and averaging. For MLS ClO, adjustments are made for the known negative bias as discussed in section 2.1. Dashed vertical lines demark calendar months. Solid symbols denote measurements (circles = MLS, triangles = ACE-FTS); open squares denote SLIMCAT model results. Different colors represent different species as indicated in the legend. ClO_x = ClO + 2 × Cl₂O₂, calculated from the MLS ClO data as described in section 2.3; Cl_y = ClO_x + HCl + ClONO₂, using MLS HCl and ACE-FTS ClONO₂ measurements. For consistency, model ClO_x and Cl_y are defined similarly.

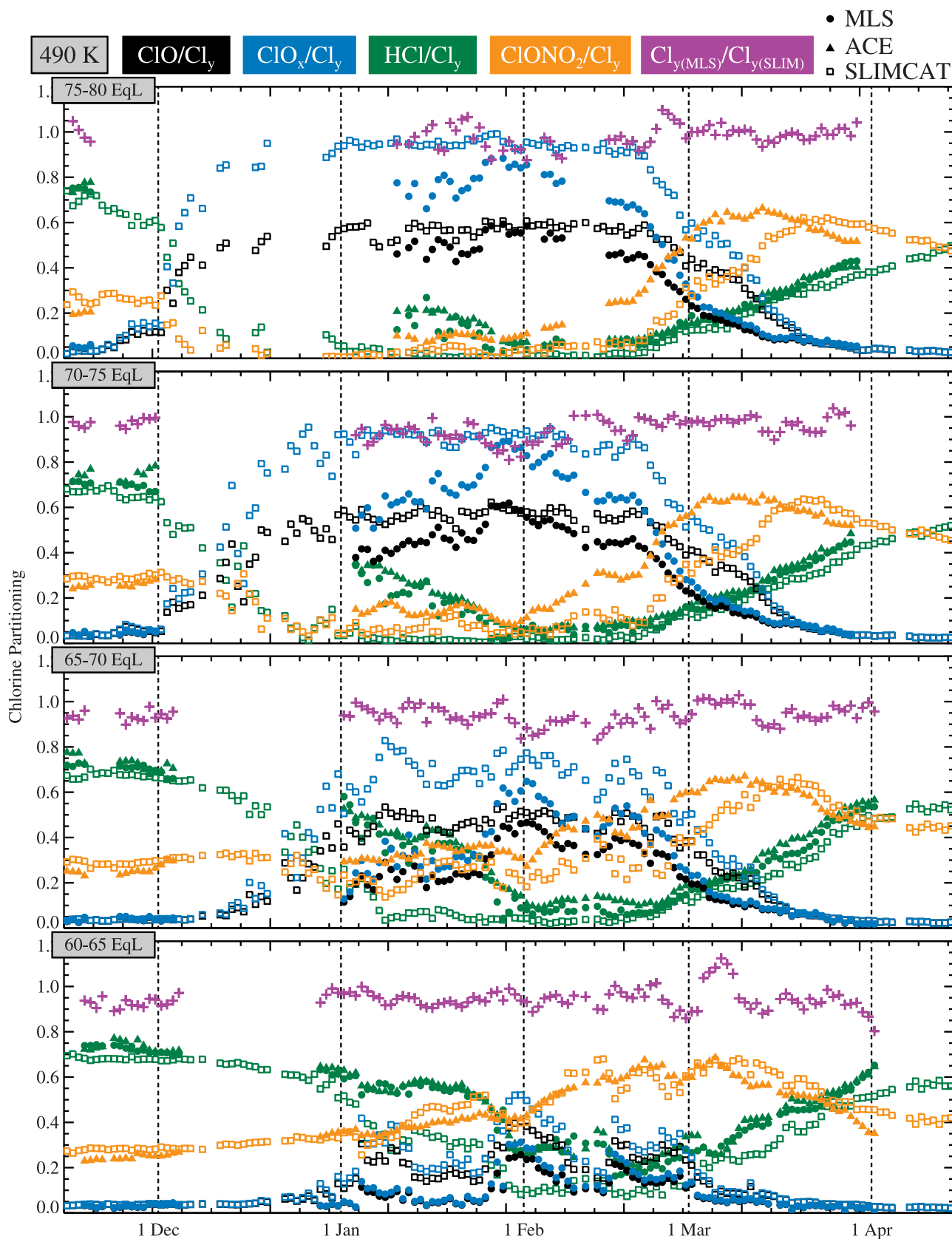


Figure 3. As in Figure 2, for the fraction of total inorganic chlorine (Cl_y) residing in ClO , ClO_x , HCl , and ClONO_2 at 490 K. The ratio of measured to modeled total inorganic chlorine ($\text{Cl}_{y(\text{MLS})}/\text{Cl}_{y(\text{SLIM})}$) is also shown. Note that fewer measurement points appear here for some of the species than in Figure 2 because data from both ACE-FTS and MLS are needed to define Cl_y .

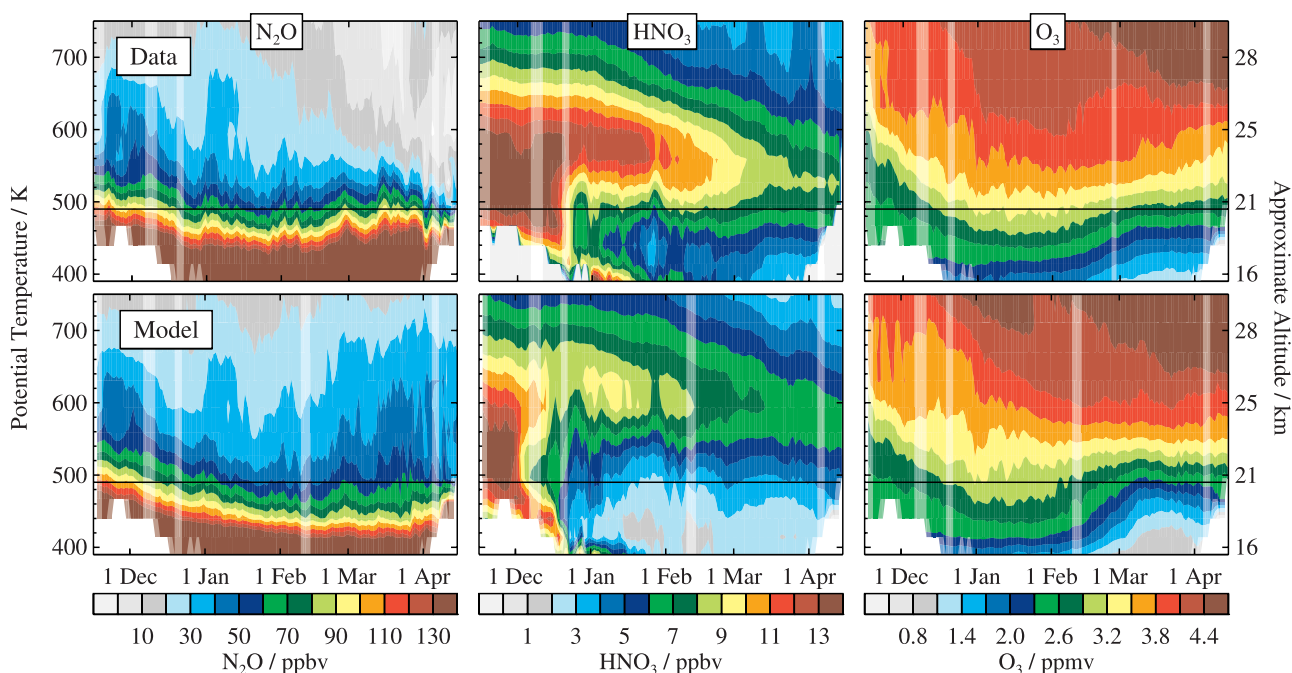


Figure 4. As in Figure 1, for MLS N_2O , gas-phase HNO_3 , and O_3 and corresponding SLIMCAT model results. MLS HNO_3 values have been scaled by 0.7 to account for a known high bias in v1.5 HNO_3 data (see section 2.1).

modeled Cl_y , which stays relatively flat (in terms of day-to-day variations, which are less than ~ 0.2 ppbv; the slight growth of ~ 0.6 ppbv in model Cl_y over the course of the winter results from descent bringing down air in which more of the source gases have photolyzed, releasing chlorine). That measured Cl_y varies significantly only at the highest EqLs during late January and February may suggest a contribution from an unmeasured species in polar night. *Wilmouth et al.* [2006] attributed a ~ 0.5 – 1.0 ppbv discrepancy in the chlorine budget in midwinter 1999/2000 to the presence of significant concentrations of Cl_2 in darkness. HOCl may also play a role, and other unmeasured forms of inorganic chlorine have been proposed [e.g., *Sander et al.*, 1989]. On the other hand, the observed variability may simply be related to the sampling of the ACE-FTS measurements relative to the shape of the vortex. Small fluctuations in ACE-FTS N_2O and CH_4 (not shown) suggest that sampling artifacts may be giving rise to the changes seen in ClONO_2 at this time and thus may be dominating the variability observed in Cl_y . These kinds of sampling effects, which have not been quantified in the estimation of the uncertainty in Cl_y , are explored in detail by *Manney et al.* [2007] and discussed further below.

[28] Both ACE-FTS and MLS provide unambiguous evidence that HCl abundances deep inside the midwinter vortex remain relatively constant at ~ 0.1 – 0.2 ppbv for several weeks, during which MLS observes ClO to decrease and ACE-FTS observes ClONO_2 to increase. It is possible that the steep rate of increase in ClONO_2 in February is not a real atmospheric signal but merely an artifact. The sparse ACE-FTS sampling combined with strong PV and trace gas gradients across the vortex edge could induce large variations in averages calculated within 5° -wide EqL bins,

especially since from early February onward the vortex was very dynamically active, with episodes of strong wave activity and mixing until the final warming in mid-March [*Manney et al.*, 2006]. On the other hand, the undulations seen in ACE-FTS ClONO_2 in late February and March and the sharp drop at lower EqLs in late March are strongly correlated with changes in N_2O and CH_4 (not shown), indicating a dynamical and/or sampling origin, whereas the tracers show no major variations in early February. This strongly suggests that the observed increases in ClONO_2 in early February are chemical in nature. Thus substantial recovery of ClONO_2 precedes that of HCl at the end of the 2004/2005 winter.

[29] ClONO_2 peaks in early-to-middle March, at values much higher than observed at the beginning of winter (~ 2 ppbv; $\text{ClONO}_2/\text{Cl}_y \sim 0.6$ – 0.7 , Figure 3), and then slowly declines as chlorine is shifted into HCl , the longer-lived reservoir. Although starting to level off, HCl has not quite recovered to prewinter abundances by the end of the study period (mid-April), when HCl and ClONO_2 fractions are roughly equal at ~ 0.4 – 0.6 , depending on the EqL band. Thus ACE-FTS and MLS measurements during the 2004/2005 winter clearly support the canonical view of chlorine deactivation in the Arctic (section 1), with the initial pathway the reformation of ClONO_2 . The initial recovery stage is followed by an interval during which both reservoirs are produced concurrently but ClONO_2 continues to significantly exceed HCl . Finally, slow repartitioning between ClONO_2 and HCl takes place.

[30] This progression is in contrast to the findings of *Wilmouth et al.* [2006], who conclude that HCl production approached that of ClONO_2 during the initial recovery phase in 1999/2000. *Wilmouth et al.* [2006] use in situ

measurements of HCl from the aircraft laser infrared absorption spectrometer (ALIAS) [e.g., Webster *et al.*, 1994]. Averages of the data obtained on flights inside the Arctic polar vortex in January and March 2000 appear to indicate that HCl remained low and relatively constant over this period. Wilmouth *et al.* [2006], however, attribute a shortfall in the inorganic chlorine budget based on outside-vortex in situ measurements of ClO, Cl₂O₂, ClONO₂, and ALIAS HCl to a low bias in the HCl data; similar conclusions had been reached earlier by Bonne *et al.* [2000]. Correcting for the inferred low bias leads to significantly higher values of HCl inside the vortex that are inconsistent with the historical picture of preferential ClONO₂ formation before significant HCl formation. Wilmouth *et al.* [2006] report results from a box model that support the inference of a low bias in the ALIAS HCl data and the notion that production of HCl rivals that of ClONO₂ at the beginning of the recovery period. While the results shown here confirm that HCl plays a not insignificant role in Arctic chlorine deactivation, with production of HCl occurring along with that of ClONO₂ after the initial recovery stage, the dominant deactivation pathway in the 2004/2005 winter is found to be ClONO₂ formation.

[31] Wilmouth *et al.* [2006] point out that their results pertain to the portions of the Arctic vortex sampled by the ER-2 during the exceptionally cold 1999/2000 winter and may represent an atypical situation. The 2004/2005 winter studied here, however, was also exceptionally cold (in fact, by many measures it was even colder, if considerably less quiescent dynamically). The observed degree of denitrification was comparable to that of 1999/2000 [e.g., Kleinböhl *et al.*, 2005; Jin *et al.*, 2006a]. Thus relative rates of recovery in HCl and ClONO₂ like those reported by Wilmouth *et al.* [2006] might have been expected in 2004/2005.

[32] The model simulations in Figure 2 do not mirror observed ClONO₂. One possible cause for the discrepancy is that, because the model results are sampled at MLS measurement locations and times, they are not well-aligned with the local solar times of the ACE-FTS occultations, which correspond to sunrise measurements before mid-February and sunset measurements after that time. Comparisons between averages of daytime-only and nighttime-only SLIMCAT values (not shown) suggest, however, that the small changes in ClONO₂ over the diurnal cycle cannot account for the model/measurement divergence seen in Figure 2.

[33] Previous studies have shown that chlorine partitioning is highly sensitive to ozone abundances, with lower ozone mixing ratios in late winter leading to preferential reformation of HCl [e.g., Douglass *et al.*, 1995; Groß *et al.*, 1997, 2005b; Mickley *et al.*, 1997; Douglass and Kawa, 1999]. In order to successfully simulate the relative abundances of the reservoir species it is necessary that measured and modeled ozone agree. Figure 4 shows that as the cumulative ozone loss resulting from the greater model chlorine activation outpaces the larger influx of ozone into the lower stratosphere from the stronger model descent, measured and modeled ozone values diverge at the highest EqLs. Unlike earlier versions of SLIMCAT, which underestimated Arctic ozone loss, the version used here slightly overestimates the loss observed in 2004/2005 [Feng *et al.*, 2007; Singleton *et al.*, 2007]. The discrepancy between

measured and modeled ozone is not yet that substantial by early-to-middle February, however, and is also smaller at 490 K than at lower altitudes. Furthermore, the model does not exhibit a rapid rise in HCl to compensate for the slow response in ClONO₂; modeled and measured values of HCl agree well during this period. The model simply fails to form ClONO₂ as rapidly as observed.

[34] The underestimation of ClONO₂ during February and early March most likely arises because SLIMCAT's ability to form ClONO₂ is limited by the availability of NO₂, which is produced through HNO₃ photolysis and reaction with OH. Because the model overestimates the prevalence and persistence of PSCs and/or the degree of denitrification, gas-phase HNO₃ is suppressed, allowing ClO to remain enhanced. The modeled deactivation process is thus fundamentally similar to that indicated by the measurements, but the longevity of modeled PSC activity induces a shift of several weeks in its timing. SLIMCAT ClONO₂ peaks in middle-to-late March, whereas the measurements indicate that it is already starting to decline by that time as chlorine is converted into HCl. The model therefore slightly overestimates ClONO₂ and underestimates HCl toward the end of the study period in most EqL bins. Recovery starts from a similar state in the $S = 10$ runs, and consequently the agreement with measurements is only slightly better at the end of the winter (Figure 1) than in the standard model.

[35] Corresponding plots for other potential temperature surfaces (not shown) reveal a similar picture of vortex chlorine activation and deactivation, although small differences in the timing of these processes are evident. As can be seen in Figure 1, chlorine is activated at roughly the same time throughout the lower stratosphere, but ClO remains enhanced about a month longer at 460 K than at 580 K. A similar downward progression in the altitude of peak ClO has also been reported in UARS MLS [Santee *et al.*, 2003] and Antarctic ground-based [de Zafra *et al.*, 1995; Solomon *et al.*, 2002] measurements, consistent with the effects of diabatic descent and the patterns in temperatures and PSC formation in late winter. In addition, at higher altitudes HNO₃ abundances are larger (Figure 4), and Chipperfield *et al.* [1997] have shown that the rate of release of NO₂ from HNO₃ is about a factor of two faster, leading to earlier recovery.

[36] We note that the latest JPL evaluation [Sander *et al.*, 2006] recommends a rate for the $\text{Cl} + \text{CH}_4 \rightarrow \text{HCl} + \text{CH}_3$ reaction that is $\sim 13\%$ faster at 200 K than that in JPL 2003 [Sander *et al.*, 2003] used for the simulations shown here. Employing the updated reaction coefficient would favor the formation of HCl over ClONO₂. On the other hand, Chipperfield *et al.* [1996] found that a significant fraction of the HCl formation in the model occurs via the $\text{OH} + \text{ClO} \rightarrow \text{HCl} + \text{O}_2$ mechanism, the coefficient for which is unchanged in JPL 2006. Chipperfield [1999] showed that, in the Antarctic, the $\text{OH} + \text{ClO}$ reaction is more important during the initial stages of deactivation, whereas the $\text{Cl} + \text{CH}_4$ reaction dominates during the final recovery. Since both reactions contribute significantly to model HCl production, inclusion of the revised rate for the $\text{Cl} + \text{CH}_4$ reaction is not expected to dramatically affect comparisons between modeled and measured HCl.

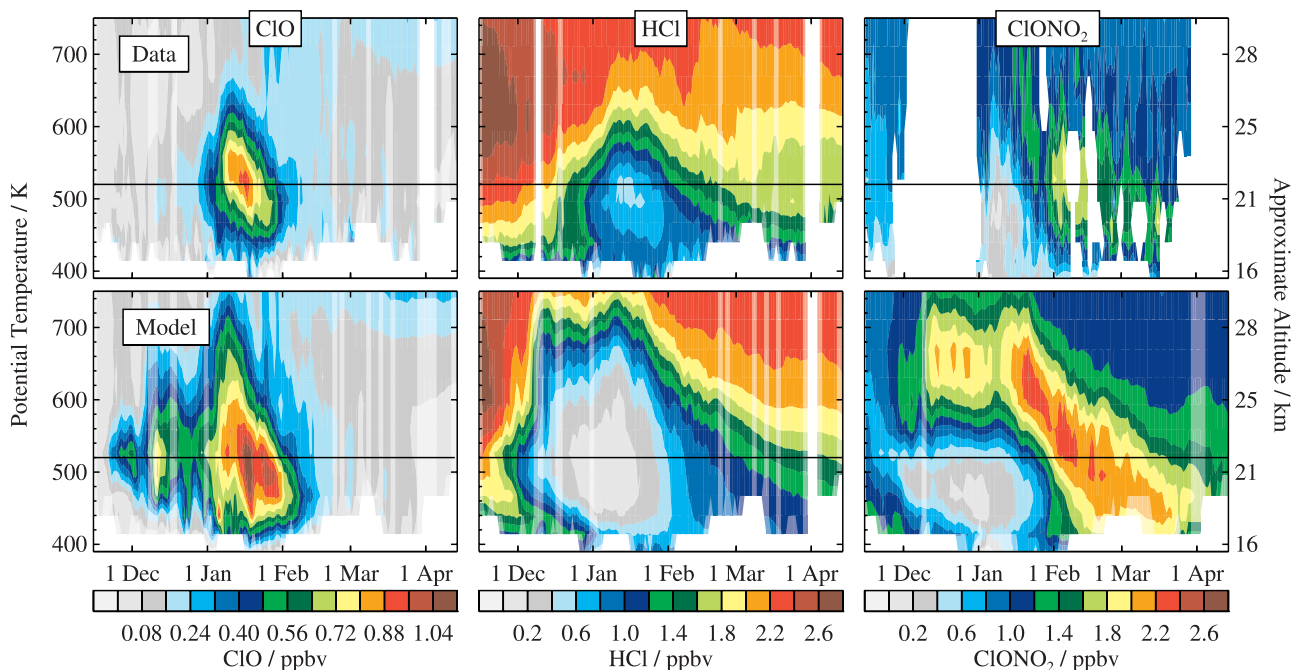


Figure 5. As in Figure 1, for the 2005/2006 Arctic winter. The black horizontal line in each panel marks the 520 K level.

[37] As discussed in section 2.3, the updated SLIMCAT model used for this study produces much more realistic representations of Arctic ozone loss than previous versions [e.g., Feng *et al.*, 2005; Chipperfield *et al.*, 2005]. Among other refinements, the updated model employs Cl_2O_2 absorption cross sections from the work of Burkholder *et al.* [1990], extrapolated to 450 nm using the formula given by Stimpfle *et al.* [2004]. This Cl_2O_2 photolysis rate leads to significantly faster polar ozone loss rates than those calculated based on the values recommended in JPL 2003 [e.g., Chipperfield *et al.*, 2005; Frieler *et al.*, 2006; World Meteorological Organization, 2007]. Recently, however, new laboratory studies using a novel approach for generating Cl_2O_2 to minimize the impurities giving rise to uncertainties in earlier experiments have been reported [Pope *et al.*, 2007]. The new absorption cross sections are substantially smaller longward of 300 nm than all previous measurements, yielding a stratospheric Cl_2O_2 photolysis rate four to nine times lower than earlier estimates [Pope *et al.*, 2007]. We have performed model runs using the cross sections of Pope *et al.* [2007], with all other aspects of the test matching those of the standard run; results are presented in Figure 1 (“P07 Model Run”). Modeled Cl_y and ClO_x (not shown) are essentially unchanged, but the partitioning between ClO , Cl_2O_2 , and the two reservoirs is altered throughout the winter relative to the standard run. As shown also by von Hobe *et al.* [2007], the new cross sections result in a substantial reduction in modeled ClO , with peak values at 490 K decreased by about a factor of 2. In addition, chlorine deactivation is delayed, with HCl abundances in late March and early April significantly lower (and ClONO_2 abundances slightly higher) than those in the standard run, exacerbating the model/measurement mismatch at the end of the study period. As expected, modeled ozone loss is also substantially reduced, such that

modeled ozone mixing ratios are larger than measured, especially at the lower potential temperature levels (not shown). In addition to the SLIMCAT sensitivity test, the off-line calculations to infer ClO_x from MLS ClO (see section 2.3) have also been performed for this winter using the cross sections of Pope *et al.* [2007]. These calculations yield unrealistically high ClO_x (in excess of 6 ppbv) over large areas of the vortex core in the midwinter lower stratosphere (not shown). These results confirm that, as Pope *et al.* [2007] point out, other photolytic and/or reaction pathways must exist if models using the new cross sections are to be reconciled with measurements.

3.2. The 2005/2006 Arctic Winter

[38] The 2005/2006 Arctic winter started out with an unusually strong cold vortex, but a major stratospheric sudden warming in mid-January effectively terminated winter conditions, curtailing chemical processing [World Meteorological Organization, 2006]. Prior to the warming, the vortex was highly elongated, with the cold pool situated well off the pole in the region of both sunlight and strong winds. These conditions promoted significant chlorine activation several weeks earlier than in 2004/2005 (Figures 1 and 5). ClO also peaked at higher altitude, near 520 K. SLIMCAT again calculates chlorine activation that is considerably greater in magnitude, spatial extent, and duration than observed (Figures 5 and 6). As for the previous winter, comparisons of measured and modeled HNO_3 (Figure 7) indicate that the exaggerated activation in the model can be attributed to overly abundant PSCs.

[39] In addition to earlier onset of substantial activation, the evolution of chlorine partitioning differs from that in the previous year in several other ways (Figures 2 and 6). In 2004/2005, chlorine is initially deactivated into ClONO_2 , with ClONO_2 abundances exceeding those of HCl for 1–2

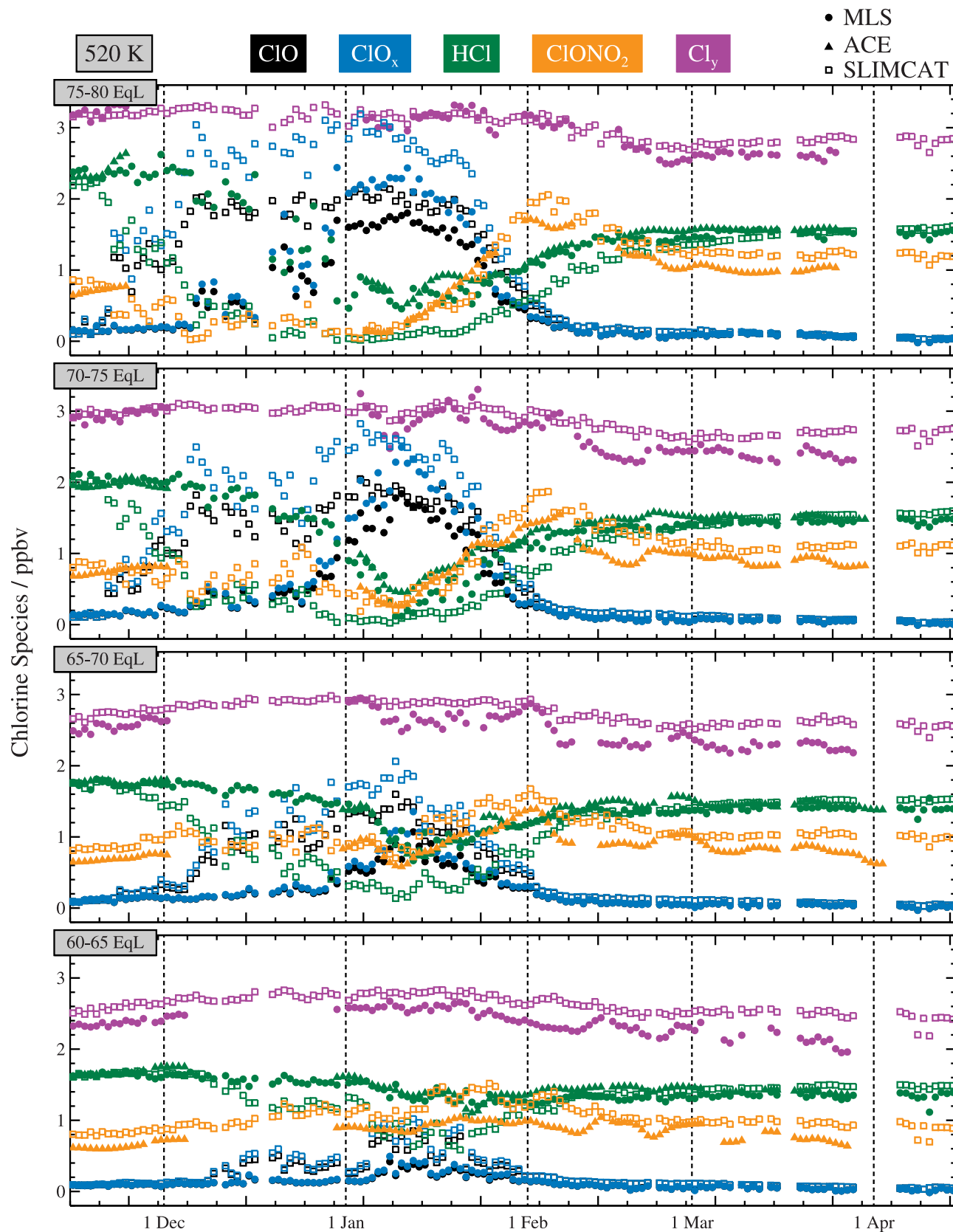


Figure 6. As in Figure 2, for the 2005/2006 Arctic winter at 520 K.

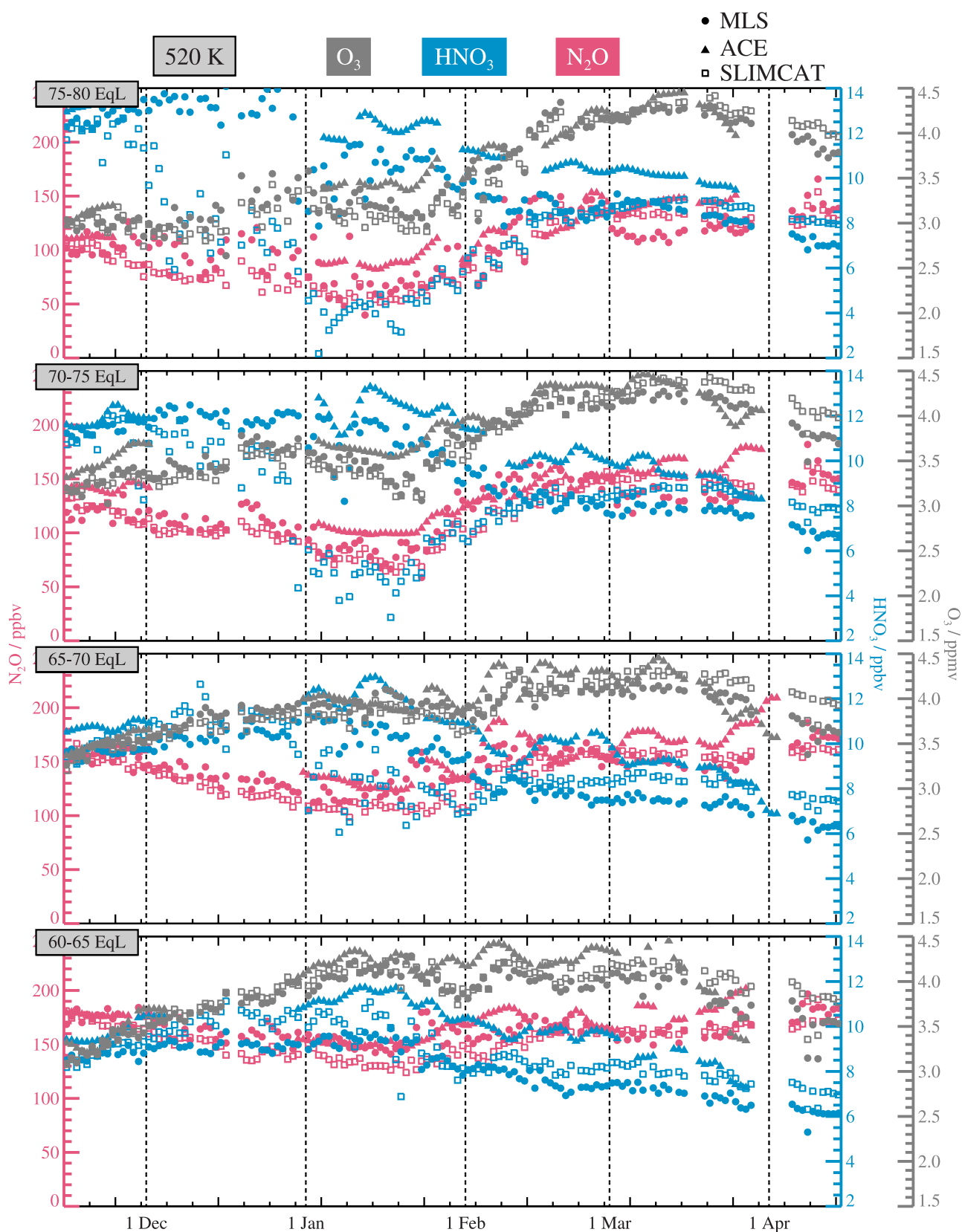


Figure 7. Time series over the 2005/2006 Arctic winter of N_2O , gas-phase HNO_3 , and O_3 at 520 K, calculated as in Figure 6. MLS HNO_3 values have been scaled by 0.7 to account for a known high bias in v1.5 HNO_3 data (see section 2.1). Solid symbols denote measurements (circles = MLS, triangles = ACE-FTS); open squares denote SLIMCAT model results. Different colors represent different species as indicated in the legend.

months. In 2005/2006, HCl rises at roughly the same rate as ClONO₂ between 65° and 75° EqL (Cl_y fraction of both ~0.4–0.5 at the beginning of February, not shown). At 75°–80° EqL, however, ClONO₂ reforms first and briefly surpasses HCl at the end of January/beginning of February. Thus, unlike in 2004/2005, a different picture of chlorine deactivation is seen at different locations in the vortex: in accord with the canonical view in the innermost core, but in accord with that presented by *Wilmouth et al.* [2006] elsewhere. Even at 75°–80° EqL, ClONO₂ plays a less important role than in the previous winter, with ClONO₂/Cl_y never quite reaching 0.6 and with the period of ClONO₂ in excess of HCl lasting only a few weeks. Furthermore, the relative abundances of the two reservoirs vary with altitude; whereas in 2004/2005 the characteristics of chlorine deactivation are essentially similar at all potential temperature levels, in 2005/2006 the recovery rates for HCl and ClONO₂ at 70°–75° EqL are roughly comparable at the top three levels but ClONO₂ reformation is faster at 490 and 460 K (Figure 8). As at 520 K, however, latitudinal differences are seen at these levels.

[40] The patterns of chlorine partitioning in Figures 6 and 8 may have been influenced by mixing. Even before the major warming, the 2005/2006 winter was more dynamically active than the previous year, with potentially large exchange between extravortex, edge, and vortex interior air. ACE-FTS sampling may also be a factor. As discussed earlier, EqL band averages based on only a few measurements near the edge of the collar region may exhibit day-to-day variations unrelated to chemical changes. ACE-FTS tracer measurements, however, do not reflect substantial heterogeneity in the sampled air masses until late January (Figure 7), well after the start of the rapid increase in HCl. Moreover, MLS indicates HCl production rates very similar to those from ACE-FTS at all EqLs and altitudes. Thus, even without considering ClONO₂, clear differences in chlorine reservoir reformation are evident in the two winters.

[41] Differences are also observed in other species; in particular, although ozone abundances are initially very similar to those at the beginning of the 2004/2005 winter, by January they are significantly smaller in much of the vortex. Since ClO is already highly enhanced, chemical ozone loss may be partially responsible for the lower ozone mixing ratios in January 2006 [*World Meteorological Organization*, 2006]. In addition, the fact that N₂O mixing ratios are higher (not shown) suggests that diabatic descent is weaker in 2005/2006 than in 2004/2005, contributing to lower ozone values. The inference of weaker descent in 2005/2006 is consistent with differences in the GEOS-4 diabatic heating rates between the two winters.

[42] Detailed examination (not shown) reveals that where January 2006 ozone abundances are similar to those in 2005 (e.g., at 75°–80° EqL at 520 K or 70°–80° EqL at 490 K), ClONO₂ recovery precedes that of HCl, whereas where they are ~0.5 ppmv less than those in 2005 (at 65°–70° EqL at 520 and 490 K), ClONO₂ and HCl recovery rates are comparable. This appears to be consistent with the results of *Douglass and Kawa* [1999], who showed that, in comparison to 1992, a colder and more persistent vortex delayed deactivation and exacerbated ozone loss in 1997, when HCl recovered much more rapidly. Using a 3D

chemical transport model, *Douglass and Kawa* [1999] found that in spring 1997 low temperatures and low ozone combined to push chlorine partitioning toward HCl, with HCl/Cl_y similar to that in the Antarctic (~0.8–0.9). The difference in ozone between the parcels in 1992 and those in 1997 in which HCl increased was ~0.5 ppmv; temperature was also found to play a nonnegligible role in promoting HCl production. The meteorological and chemical ozone loss conditions in 2006 are very different from those in 1997 [*Douglass and Kawa*, 1999] or 2000 [*Wilmouth et al.*, 2006], and a dedicated set of model sensitivity tests (beyond the scope of this paper) is needed to confirm the critical role of ozone in controlling chlorine reservoir reformation for the specific conditions of the 2005/2006 winter.

4. Southern Hemisphere Seasonal Evolution

4.1. The 2005 Antarctic Winter

[43] The lower stratosphere was colder than average during much of the 2005 Antarctic winter, with temperatures low enough to support PSCs over a substantial portion of the vortex from late May until middle-to-late September [*World Meteorological Organization*, 2005]. The vortex was also very strong, particularly from the beginning of July through October.

[44] An overview of the chlorine partitioning throughout the 2005 Antarctic winter is shown in Figure 9. ClO starts to increase in the sunlit portions of the vortex by late May (not shown), but significant enhancement is not evident in the vortex averages until early June. Chlorine activation continues to intensify until September, after which deactivation is rapid, with steep gradients in the ClO and HCl contours. Vortex-averaged ClONO₂ values are high throughout the lower stratosphere during a brief interval in mid-August, but this is largely a sampling artifact that arises as ACE-FTS coverage of the southern high-latitude region switches from sunrise to sunset occultations, causing an interlude in which no observations are made deep in the vortex, skewing the vortex averages toward higher values more representative of the collar region than the vortex interior. Immediately following this interval is a period in which the collar region is undersampled by ACE-FTS, causing the early-September ClONO₂ averages to be heavily weighted toward lower values representative of the inner vortex core.

[45] The disparity between modeled and measured quantities is less severe than in the Arctic. From late June through mid-July, measured ClO even slightly exceeds that from the model in much of the lower stratosphere (Figures 9 and 10). The better agreement suggests that the model's equilibrium NAT PSC scheme is more appropriate in the Antarctic, where the region of low temperatures is typically both larger and more concentric with the vortex and temperatures drop more rapidly at the beginning of winter than in the Arctic. Nevertheless, SLIMCAT again indicates earlier, more extensive, and more abrupt chemical processing. Consistent with these results, Figure 11 shows the much larger extent and degree of modeled HNO₃ depletion. As in the Arctic, requiring a supersaturation of 10 for NAT formation produces only a modest improvement in model/measurement agreement (Figure 9). Figure 11 also shows that the model calculates considerably stronger diabatic descent than indicated by MLS N₂O measurements. The

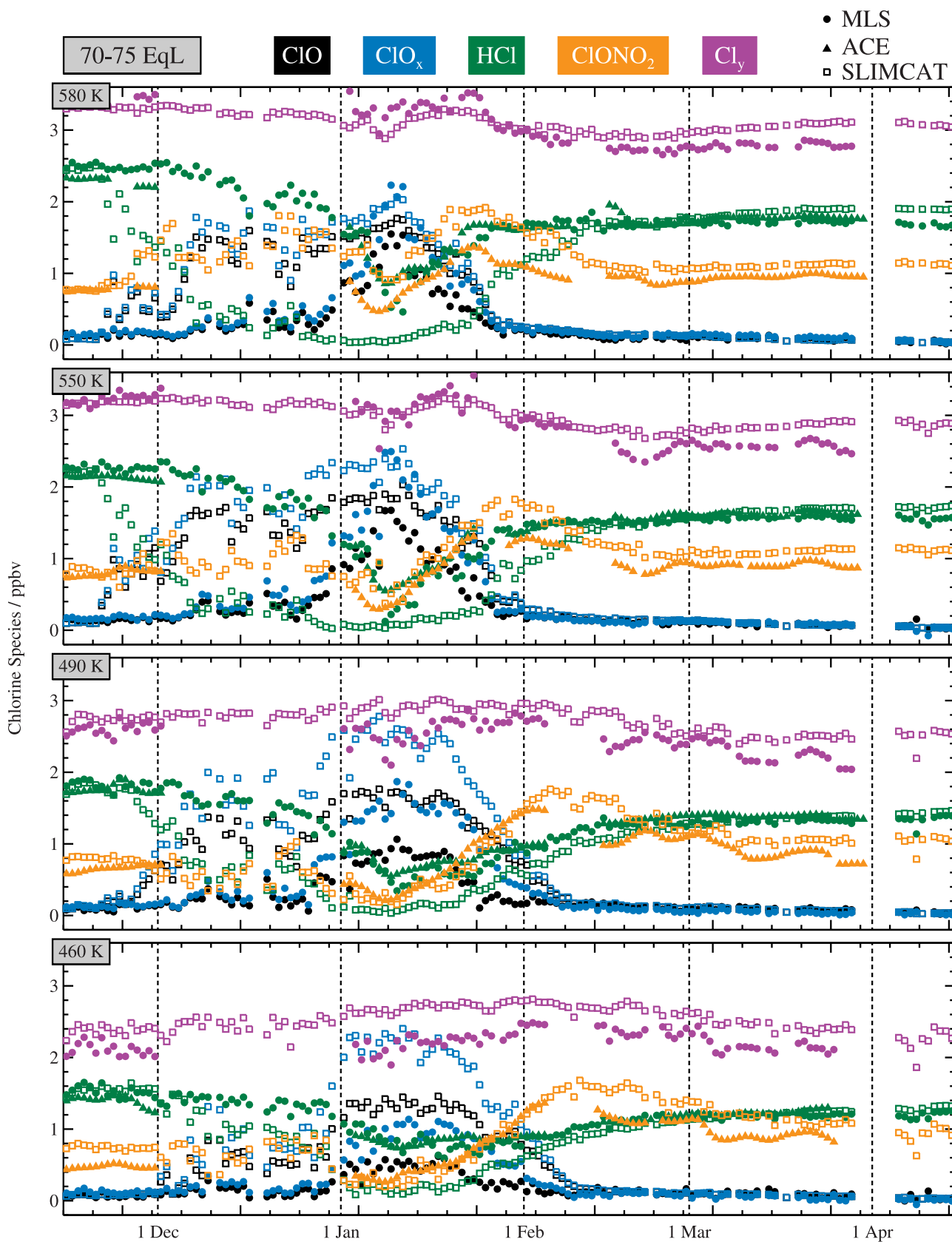


Figure 8. As in Figure 6, but for a single EqL band (70°–75°EqL) at 460, 490, 550, and 580 K. (Note that this EqL band appears in Figure 6 for 520 K.)

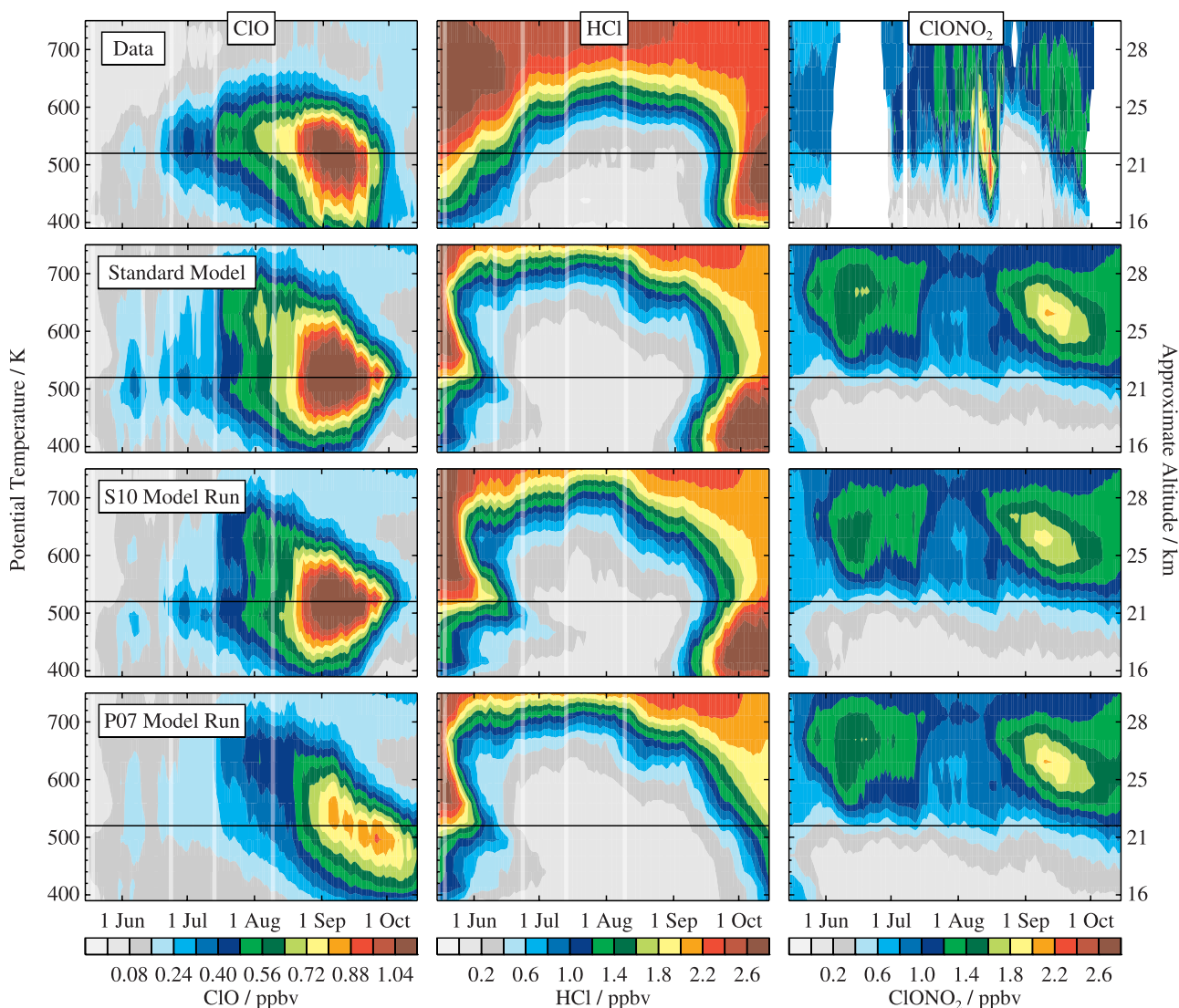


Figure 9. As in Figure 1, averaged within the $1.4 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$ sPV contour for the 2005 Antarctic winter. The black horizontal line in each panel marks the 520 K level.

vigorous descent may partially compensate for the greater chlorine activation at some levels, since modeled ozone abundances at the end of the winter are only slightly lower than those measured by MLS at 520 K (Figure 11) and 490 K (not shown), whereas at 460 K (also not shown) both measured and modeled ozone mixing ratios approach zero in the vortex core by October.

[46] As in the Arctic, HCl greatly exceeds ClONO₂ (HCl/Cl_y ~ 0.7 – 0.8 , ClONO₂/Cl_y ~ 0.2 – 0.3) at southern midlatitudes (not shown) and at high latitudes before significant processing. Figure 10 shows the high-EqL averages at 520 K, near the altitude of maximum activation. Many fewer points appear at the highest EqLs than in the corresponding plots for the Arctic, where more distortion of the vortex leads to greater data coverage in sunlit conditions in early winter. HCl drops rapidly and by late June/early July approaches zero poleward of 60° EqL. ClONO₂ also approaches zero at the highest EqLs but does not drop below ~ 0.2 – 0.4 ppbv at 65°–70° EqL, and it

increases over initial values at 60°–65° EqL as the ClONO₂ collar develops. Chlorine becomes fully activated (ClO_x/Cl_y ~ 0.9 – 1.0) at the highest EqLs by early July and remains so until early September, when deactivation commences. Although measured and modeled Cl_y agree well near the beginning and end of the study period, significant differences are seen in midwinter, particularly at the lowest EqLs. These discrepancies most likely arise from the ACE-FTS sampling artifact mentioned above, which causes measured ClONO₂ values in early September to be more representative of the depleted inner vortex core than the collar region.

[47] At first glance, the EqL-band averages in Figure 10 appear to indicate that ClONO₂ and HCl recover at roughly the same rates at the end of winter, contrary to previous studies, which have found preferential reformation of HCl in Antarctic spring [e.g., Douglass *et al.*, 1995; Santee *et al.*, 1996; Grooß *et al.*, 1997; Mickley *et al.*, 1997; Michelssen *et al.*, 1999]. Unlike in the Arctic, however, ACE-FTS and MLS HCl measurements are not in good agreement in

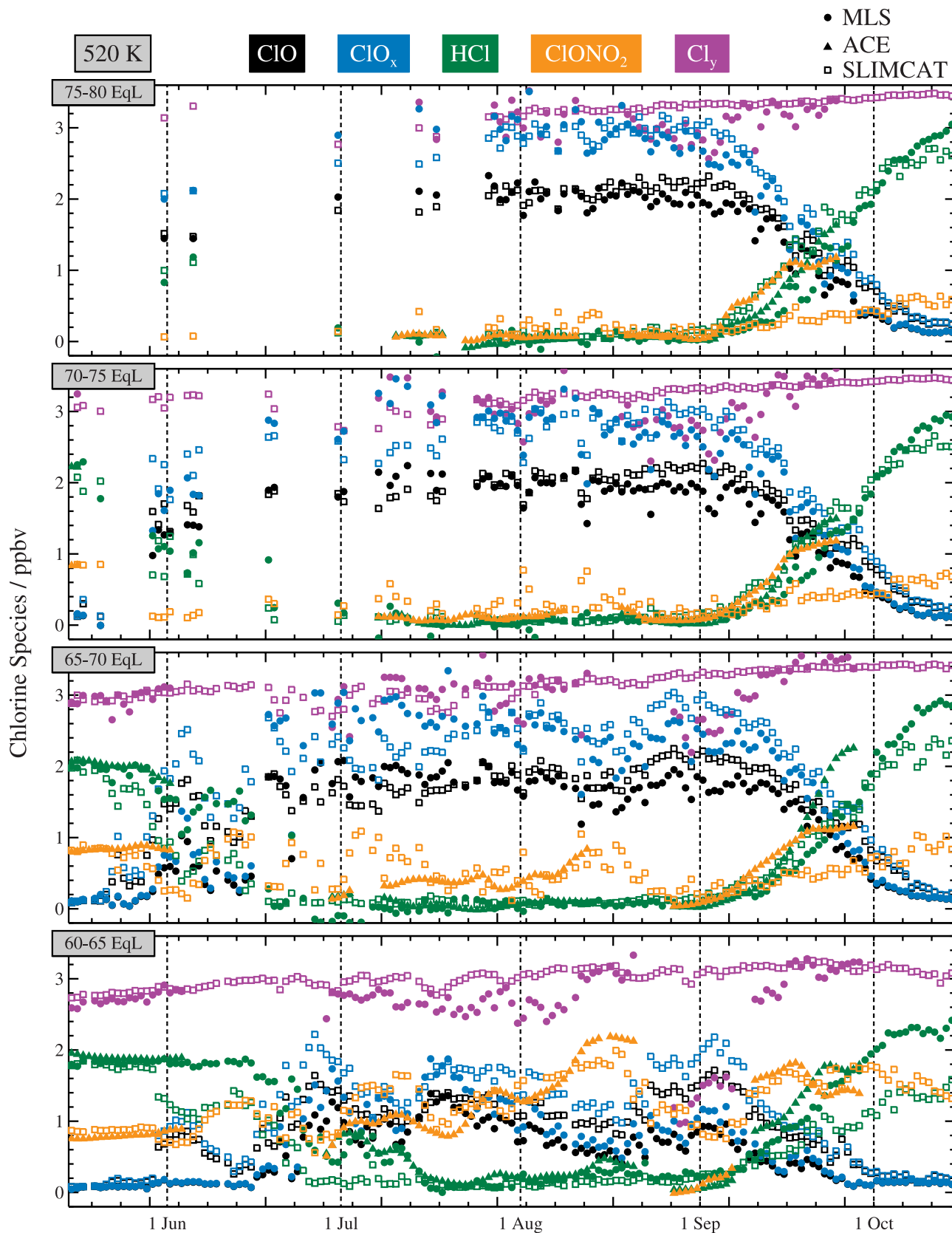


Figure 10. As in Figure 2, for the 2005 Antarctic winter at 520 K.

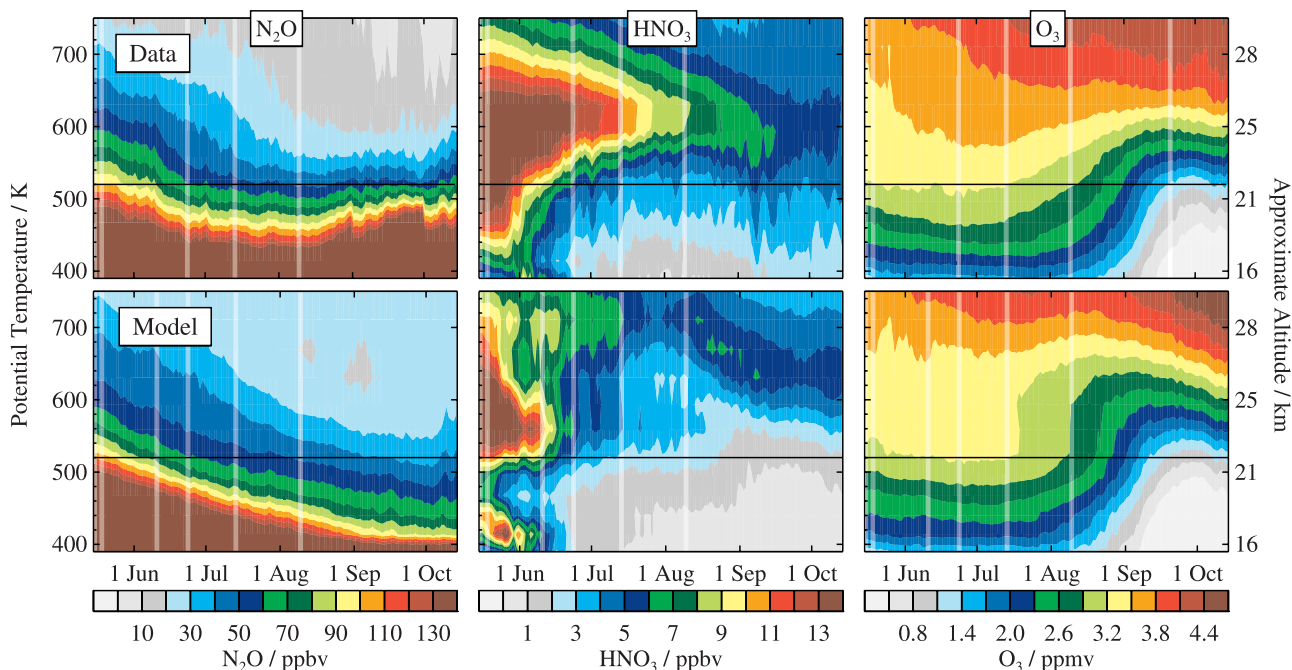


Figure 11. As in Figure 4, averaged within the $1.4 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$ sPV contour for the 2005 Antarctic winter. The black horizontal line in each panel marks the 520 K level.

late winter even at the highest EqLs (compare Figure 10 with Figures 2 and 6), suggesting that they are sampling different air masses. This is confirmed in Figure 12, which shows oscillations or sharp changes in ACE-FTS N_2O , O_3 , and HNO_3 (also present in CH_4 and H_2O , not shown) in all EqL bands in September. This pattern is characteristic of abrupt changes in the region of the vortex sampled by ACE-FTS, consistent with the shift in the sunset occultations from the highest latitudes deep inside the vortex to near or just outside the vortex edge during this period, as illustrated in Figure 13. This transit through the collar region imposes increases in ACE-FTS HCl and ClONO_2 on top of those caused by chemistry, complicating interpretation of the chlorine partitioning.

[48] By the end of the study period (mid-October), MLS registers HCl abundances of 2.5–3.0 ppbv throughout most of the vortex (Figure 10), considerably higher than those observed before the onset of chemical processing. In fact, the HCl measured in mid-October is roughly comparable to the prewinter estimate of Cl_2 , implying that ClONO_2 values are extremely low at this time. Few season-long HCl data records exist to compare this result against, but it is consistent with previous studies based on measurements from the Michelson Interferometer for Passive Atmospheric Sounding (MIPAS) [Höpfner *et al.*, 2004] and the UARS Cryogenic Limb Array Etalon Spectrometer (CLAES) [Roche *et al.*, 1994], which found ClONO_2 mixing ratios in Antarctic spring (October/November) to be lower than those at the start of winter.

[49] Although measured and modeled chlorine species generally match much better than in the Arctic, during the deactivation phase agreement between SLIMCAT and MLS HCl varies with EqL. Despite slightly overestimating activation in September at the highest EqLs, SLIMCAT over-

estimates HCl as measured by MLS. At $65^\circ\text{--}70^\circ$ EqL, SLIMCAT and MLS HCl agree well throughout September. Near the vortex edge, SLIMCAT significantly underestimates HCl. Even where SLIMCAT matches MLS HCl in September, however, it underestimates it by mid-October, because the model partitions a nonnegligible amount of chlorine into ClONO_2 , such that ClONO_2 approximately equals that calculated in the fall. A fundamentally similar picture of chlorine activation and deactivation is seen throughout the lower stratosphere, although slight differences in the magnitude or duration of the model/measurement discrepancy are found (not shown).

[50] As discussed in section 3.1, we have performed SLIMCAT sensitivity tests employing the new Cl_2O_2 absorption cross sections measured by Pope *et al.* [2007]. The impact of the lower Cl_2O_2 photolysis rate is much greater in the Antarctic than in the Arctic (Figures 1 and 9). Modeled ClO severely underestimates that measured by MLS during the peak activation period, but remains significantly enhanced, especially at the lower levels, well after MLS indicates that deactivation has taken place. The considerable delay in modeled deactivation is evident in the comparisons with HCl measurements as well. As expected, the much lower ClO abundances in the test run lead to a substantial underestimation of ozone depletion (not shown). Off-line calculations again yield unphysically high values of ClO_x inferred from MLS ClO throughout much of the vortex (not shown).

4.2. The 2004 Late Antarctic Winter

[51] Lower stratospheric minimum temperatures were below average and the vortex was unusually strong during the first half of the 2004 Antarctic winter. After MLS began routine science operations in mid-August, however, lower stratospheric temperatures rose and remained near average

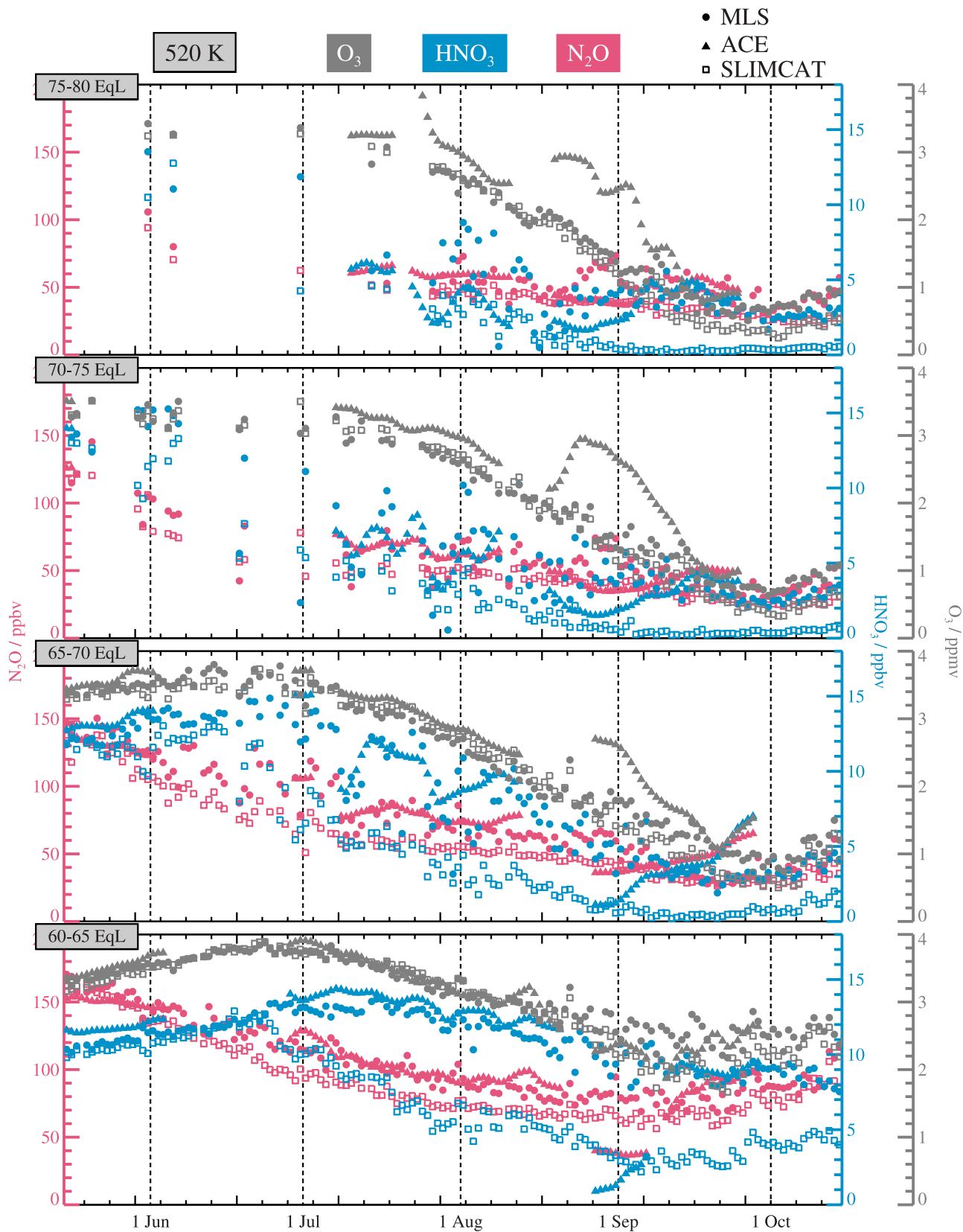


Figure 12. As in Figure 7, for the 2005 Antarctic winter at 520 K.

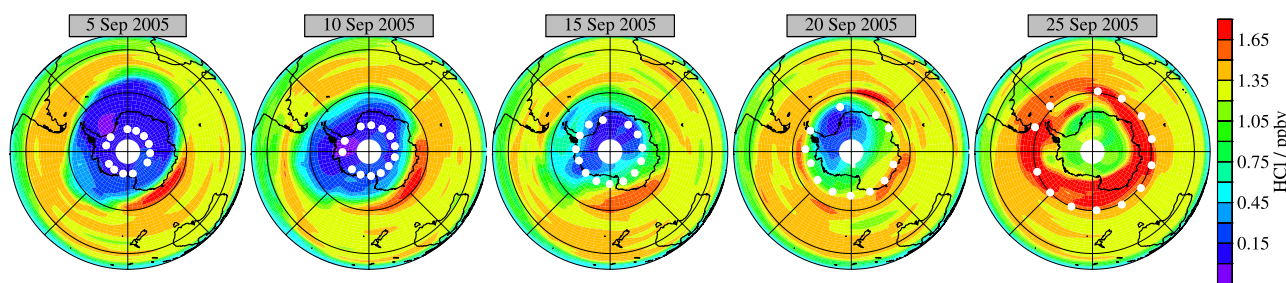


Figure 13. Maps of MLS HCl for selected days in September 2005, interpolated to 520 K. Overlaid white dots indicate the ACE-FTS occultation locations.

[Santee *et al.*, 2005]. Conditions near the top of the ozone hole (~ 580 – 550 K) were even warmer, with vortex minimum temperatures significantly higher than in other recent years throughout most of August and September [Hoppel *et al.*, 2005]. Dynamical activity was also stronger than typical [World Meteorological Organization, 2007].

[52] Comparison of Figures 10 and 14 indicates that the warmer and more dynamically disturbed conditions in the latter half of the 2004 winter led to considerably less extensive processing and an earlier retreat from maximum chlorine activation than in 2005, consistent with the much smaller degree of ozone loss than in most other recent winters, including 2005 [Hoppel *et al.*, 2005; Huck *et al.*, 2007; World Meteorological Organization, 2007]. Nevertheless, chlorine deactivation proceeds in a very similar manner in the two winters, with MLS indicating a rapid rise in HCl in September. HCl abundances in mid-October, however, are slightly lower than those in 2005, especially at lower EqLs. ClONO₂ behavior is very similar to that observed in 2005, again apparently implying that the two reservoirs recover at comparable rates in early to middle September. Because the ACE-FTS coverage pattern repeats from year to year, the same issues discussed in section 4.1 arise in disentangling chemical, dynamical, and sampling effects and determining the relative recovery rates of the chlorine reservoirs based on the ACE-FTS data.

[53] As in other winters studied here, SLIMCAT overestimates chlorine activation. Although the mismatch between model and observations in late September and October is smaller than in 2005 near the vortex edge, it is larger at high EqLs, where the model calculates significantly more HCl than observed (or than calculated in 2005). Interestingly, despite the slightly later onset of modeled deactivation, at the end of the study period modeled ClO_x abundances are actually lower than those estimated from MLS data in 2004, the only winter for which this is the case. The overestimation of HCl in late September and October is thus a consequence of faster chlorine deactivation in the model. In addition, SLIMCAT overestimates ozone destruction in the vortex core to a much greater degree in 2004 than in 2005 (not shown). Modeled ozone mixing ratios, which are almost as low as those calculated in 2005, are ~ 0.5 ppmv lower than those measured by MLS at 490 K at the highest EqLs in October 2004 (and ~ 1 ppmv lower than measured at 520 K). As discussed in section 3.2, HCl production is very sensitive to small variations in ozone abundances. The very low ozone values calculated by SLIMCAT may have caused it to overestimate the fraction

of chlorine partitioned into HCl in 2004; the fact that modeled ClONO₂ values are lower in October 2004 than in 2005 is consistent with this picture.

5. Summary and Conclusions

[54] We use a suite of Aura MLS and ACE-FTS measurements from two Arctic and two Antarctic winters to investigate interannual and interhemispheric variability in chlorine partitioning throughout the lower stratosphere (400–750 K). Theoretical understanding of chlorine activation and deactivation is assessed by comparing the measurements to customized runs of the recently-updated SLIMCAT 3D chemical transport model.

[55] In both hemispheres at middle latitudes, and at high latitudes before the onset of chlorine activation, HCl greatly exceeds ClONO₂, representing ~ 0.7 – 0.8 of Cl_y (estimated from MLS ClO and HCl and ACE-FTS ClONO₂), compared to ~ 0.2 – 0.3 for ClONO₂. Measured and modeled values typically agree well at these locations/times.

[56] The 2004/2005 Arctic winter is the coldest on record in the lower stratosphere, causing extensive heterogeneous chemical processing. MLS observes ClO enhancement at the highest equivalent latitudes starting in early to middle December. Although HCl declines throughout the activation period, it continues to exceed ClONO₂ until late January, at which time each reservoir represents only ~ 0.1 of Cl_y in the vortex core, with ClO_x/Cl_y reaching ~ 0.8 – 0.9 . ClO then begins to decrease in early to middle February as lower stratospheric temperatures rise. ACE-FTS ClONO₂ increases throughout the vortex beginning in early February, whereas HCl from both ACE-FTS and MLS remains low and relatively constant until late February or early March. ClONO₂ peaks in early-to-middle March, at mixing ratios much higher than observed at the beginning of winter. ClONO₂ then slowly declines as chlorine is shifted into HCl, which has not quite recovered to prewinter abundances by the end of the study period (15 April), when HCl/Cl_y and ClONO₂/Cl_y are roughly comparable (~ 0.4 – 0.6). A fundamentally similar picture is seen throughout the lower stratosphere. Thus MLS and ACE-FTS provide consistent evidence that chlorine deactivation in the 2004/2005 Arctic winter initially occurs through the reformation of ClONO₂, in agreement with the canonical view of Arctic chlorine recovery. The initial recovery stage is followed by an interval during which both reservoirs are produced concurrently but ClONO₂ continues to significantly exceed HCl. Finally, slow repartitioning between ClONO₂ and HCl takes place.

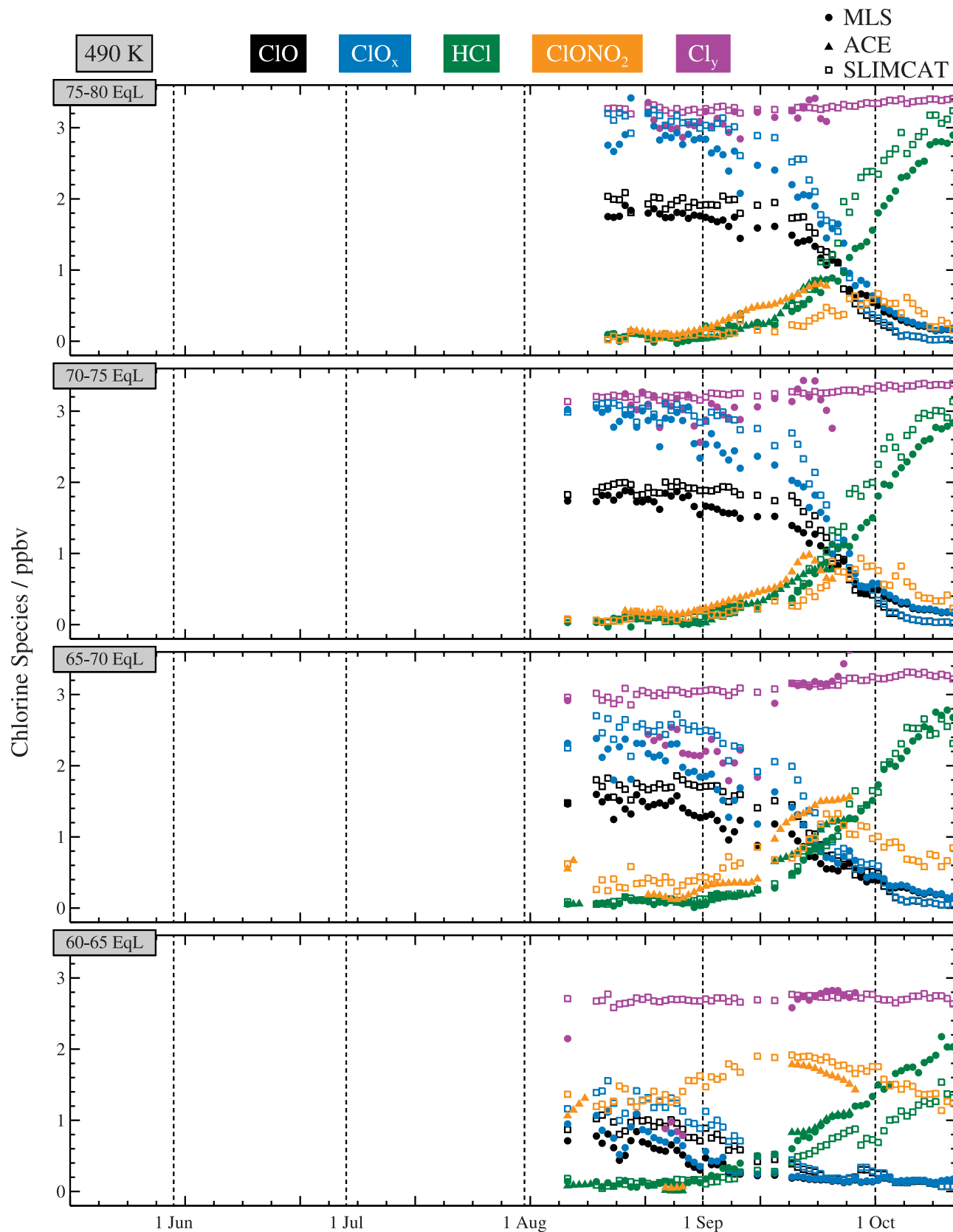


Figure 14. As in Figure 2, for the 2004 Antarctic winter.

[57] A different picture of chlorine recovery emerges from the 2005/2006 Arctic winter. Initially a strong cold vortex leads to substantial chlorine activation several weeks earlier than in 2004/2005, but a major warming in mid-January curtails chemical processing. Deactivation proceeds with HCl rising at roughly the same rate as ClONO₂ near the vortex edge. ClONO₂ reforms first and briefly surpasses HCl in the vortex core, but even there it plays a less important role than in 2004/2005. Detailed examination shows that where January 2006 ozone mixing ratios are similar to those in 2005, ClONO₂ recovery precedes that of HCl, whereas where they are ~0.5 ppmv less, ClONO₂ and HCl recovery rates are comparable. This appears to be consistent with the results of Douglass and Kawa [1999], who found that low ozone and low temperatures combined to push chlorine partitioning toward HCl in spring 1997.

[58] The Southern Hemisphere winters studied here also cover both cold (2005) and relatively warm and disturbed (2004) conditions. Unlike in the north, however, the meteorological situations are sufficiently similar that chlorine deactivation proceeds in the same manner. ClO, which is enhanced in the sunlit portions of the vortex by late May, starts to decline in late August or early September, at which time MLS observes a rapid rise in HCl. ACE-FTS suggests that ClONO₂ initially recovers at roughly the same rate as HCl, contrary to results from previous studies. ACE-FTS measurements of HCl (and other species) do not agree well with those from MLS, however, indicating that the instruments sample different air masses. These sampling differences preclude definitive interpretation of changes in chlorine partitioning. By mid-October, MLS HCl is considerably higher throughout the vortex than measured at the beginning of winter, implying extremely low values of ClONO₂. An essentially similar pattern of chlorine activation and deactivation is observed throughout the lower stratosphere.

[59] Although modeled and measured values generally agree well outside the winter polar regions, SLIMCAT overestimates the magnitude, spatial extent, and duration of chlorine activation inside the polar vortices. A likely cause of this discrepancy is SLIMCAT's PSC parameterization. Because the standard model employs an equilibrium scheme that calculates NAT PSC particles to be present whenever they are thermodynamically allowed, modeled chlorine activation begins earlier and lasts longer than indicated by the measurements, particularly in the Arctic. Sensitivity tests in which the supersaturation, *S*, required for NAT formation is set to 10 provide only modest improvement in model/measurement agreement. Chlorine deactivation follows a path similar to that seen in the data, but the longevity of modeled PSC activity induces a shift of several weeks in its timing. In general, the disparity between modeled and measured quantities is smaller in the Antarctic, where the equilibrium PSC scheme is perhaps more suitable than in the Arctic. Our results highlight the need for more accurate modeling of PSC processes, such as the 3D Lagrangian NAT particle sedimentation model used with SLIMCAT in studies of Arctic denitrification by Davies *et al.* [2005, 2006]. Incorporation of a microphysical model into the full-chemistry version of SLIMCAT is required to fully exploit the wealth of observations available for refining our understanding of polar chlorine partitioning.

[60] Finally, sensitivity studies have also been performed to assess the impact of newly-measured Cl₂O₂ absorption cross sections on the model/measurement agreement. The new cross sections, which yield a stratospheric Cl₂O₂ photolysis rate four to nine times lower than previous estimates [Pope *et al.*, 2007], result in a substantial reduction in modeled ClO in both the 2004/2005 Arctic and 2005 Antarctic winters. In addition, chlorine deactivation is significantly delayed, particularly in the Antarctic, with modeled ClO higher and HCl lower than measured at the end of the study periods. As expected, modeled ozone depletion is considerably smaller than in the standard model run, severely underestimating that indicated by the measurements. As noted by Pope *et al.* [2007], other avenues besides Cl₂O₂ photolysis will have to be invoked to reform ClO and close the ClO+ClO cycle of ozone destruction if the new cross sections are to be reconciled with existing observations of stratospheric chlorine partitioning and ozone loss. Investigations using Aura MLS measurements, in particular ClO, HCl, and O₃, to constrain the possible pathways for recycling Cl₂O₂ into ClO are ongoing.

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