

1 **On the Photochemistry of Methane and Ethane in the**  
2 **Martian Atmosphere: Towards Indirect Detection of**  
3 **Methane Emissions**

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7 **Key Points:**

- 8 • Photochemical products of methane ( $\text{CH}_4$ ) can be used to test indirectly presence  
9 of atmospheric  $\text{CH}_4$ .  
10 • Formaldehyde and formic acid are two key photochemical products of  $\text{CH}_4$  and  
11 ethane ( $\text{C}_2\text{H}_6$ ).  
12 • Oxidation of  $\text{CH}_4$  and  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_6$  produce distinct profiles of photochemical products.  
13 • Photolysis of acetaldehyde, produced by  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_6$  photochemistry, is a small but sig-  
14 nificant source of atmospheric  $\text{CH}_4$ .

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**Abstract**

Detecting the presence of atmospheric methane ( $\text{CH}_4$ ) on Mars is an ongoing scientific debate, with multiple observations reporting elevated  $\text{CH}_4$  amounts that are difficult to reconcile with photochemistry models that describe Martian atmospheric chemistry. We develop an existing 1-D photochemistry model to include a more comprehensive description of organic chemistry, including the oxidation products of  $\text{CH}_4$  and ethane ( $\text{C}_2\text{H}_6$ ), a longer-chain hydrocarbon that often accompanies abiotic releases of  $\text{CH}_4$  on Earth. We report the atmospheric lifetime of  $\text{CH}_4$  as a function of altitude along its solar orbit, highlighting regions above the water vapour saturation point where the abundance of  $\text{O}(^1\text{D})$  reduces the lifetime to 25–60 years, and a region between 50 and 70 km where loss rates are at a minimum that result in a lifetime in excess of 1000 years. We find the two largest photochemical products of  $\text{CH}_4$  and  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_6$  are formaldehyde (HCHO) and formic acid (HCOOH). We show that a 14 ppb uniform profile of  $\text{CH}_4$  photochemically results in a latitude-independent layered structure of HCHO at 20–40 km during the Martian northern summer with magnitudes peaking at 0.2 ppt, and oxidation of  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_6$  produces HCHO at rates an order of magnitude larger than for  $\text{CH}_4$ . Formic acid is found to have atmospheric lifetimes spanning 10–200 sols below 10 km that show little temporal or zonal variability, and is produced in greater abundances by the oxidation of  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_6$  than of  $\text{CH}_4$ . The photochemistry of  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_6$  has allowed us to identify an atmospheric source of  $\text{CH}_4$  from the UV photolysis of acetaldehyde.

**Plain Language Summary**

Detection of atmospheric  $\text{CH}_4$  in the Martian atmosphere remains a scientific challenge to reconcile with photochemical model calculations of atmospheric  $\text{CH}_4$ , suggesting a missing loss process and/or errors in the available data. Here we use a photochemical model of  $\text{CH}_4$  and its oxidation products to explore how high-yield oxidation products of formaldehyde and formic acid that are now observable from orbiting satellites can help reconcile the mismatch between models and data. We also investigate the production of  $\text{CH}_4$  from the oxidation of ethane, which often accompanies  $\text{CH}_4$  emissions on Earth, and show it represents a small but significant source of atmospheric  $\text{CH}_4$  through the UV photolysis of acetaldehyde.

**1 Introduction**

There is considerable debate in the community about the validity and robustness of detections of atmospheric methane ( $\text{CH}_4$ ) on Mars. Detections and non-detections of atmospheric  $\text{CH}_4$  have been reported using data collected by satellites (Formisano et al., 2004; Geminale et al., 2011; Fonti & Marzo, 2010; Geminale et al., 2008; Giuranna et al., 2019), Earth-based telescopes (Mumma et al., 2009; Villanueva et al., 2013; Krasnopolsky, 2012; V. A. Krasnopolsky, 2007; Krasnopolsky, 2011; Krasnopolsky et al., 2004; V. Krasnopolsky et al., 1997) and *in situ* instruments (Webster et al., 2018, 2015; Moores et al., 2019). This debate highlights the difficulty of measuring atmospheric  $\text{CH}_4$  on Mars, and the gaps in our current understanding of the production and loss terms that determine atmospheric  $\text{CH}_4$  on Mars. We explore how the presence of  $\text{CH}_4$  could be determined by its oxidation products and in the process discuss how abiotic  $\text{CH}_4$  could be potentially produced by organic chemistry.

Detections of atmospheric  $\text{CH}_4$  at the Gale crater by the NASA Curiosity rover were observed episodically rising from mean volume mixing ratios (VMRs) of  $0.69 \pm 0.25$  parts per billion (ppb) to  $7.20 \pm 2.10$  ppb across a 60-sol period (Webster et al., 2015), and the diurnal variations of  $\text{CH}_4$  observations via Curiosity have recently been constrained by the ExoMars Trace Gas Orbiter’s Nadir and Occultation for Mars Discovery (NOMAD) spectrometer (Moores et al., 2019; Korabiev et al., 2019). Ground-based telescopes reported a signal during northern hemisphere midsummer of a plume that contained ap-

65 proximately 19,000 tonnes of CH<sub>4</sub> (Mumma et al., 2009) near the Syrtis Major region,  
66 consistent with an estimated 0.60 kg m<sup>-2</sup>s<sup>-1</sup> seasonal point source of organic compounds.  
67 Other searches for CH<sub>4</sub> on Mars have conversely failed to detect the compound (Webster  
68 et al., 2013), including the Trace Gas Orbiter’s year and a half long search (Korablev et  
69 al., 2019). This highlights the possibility of methane being significantly more temporally  
70 variable than current models predict (Lefèvre & Forget, 2009). This inconsistency with  
71 regards to CH<sub>4</sub>’s detection has also ignited some polemic against the existence of the gas  
72 on Mars (Zahnle et al., 2011). Recent analysis of data from the Planetary Fourier Spec-  
73 trometer (PFS) aboard the Mars Express orbiter identified the presence of CH<sub>4</sub> in the  
74 Martian atmosphere that was confirmed via independent observations by Giuranna et  
75 al. (2019). These results appear to confirm Curiosity’s detection of CH<sub>4</sub> at the Gale Crater.  
76 The team retrieved column integrated VMRs of 15.5 ± 2.50 ppb above the Gale Crater  
77 only 1 Martian day (sol) after the Curiosity rover’s measurement of a 5.78 ± 2.27 ppb  
78 (Webster et al., 2015).

79 To further study these possible emissions of CH<sub>4</sub>, and to also provide a more de-  
80 tailed series of observations of the vertical structure and composition of Mars’ atmosphere,  
81 the ExoMars mission program was established by the European Space Agency (ESA)  
82 (Vago et al., 2015) and the Russian Roscosmos State Corporation for Space Activities.  
83 The first mission conducted within this program was the launch of the Trace Gas Or-  
84 biter (TGO) in 2016, that included two suites of spectrometers, the Nadir and Occul-  
85 tation for MArs Discovery (NOMAD) spectrometer (Vandaele et al., 2018) and the At-  
86 mospheric Chemistry Suite (ACS) (Korablev et al., 2017). The TGO underwent 11 months  
87 of aerobraking to reduce its orbital speed and altitude, eventually establishing an approx-  
88 imately circular orbit of altitude roughly 400 km allowing scientific observations to start  
89 in April 2018 (Vandaele et al., 2019). Over the first year, no successful observations of  
90 CH<sub>4</sub> were reported by the TGO instrumentation (Korablev et al., 2019). We developed  
91 our investigation bearing in mind the capabilities of TGO instruments, especially the so-  
92 lar occultation channels of NOMAD (NOMAD-SO) and ACS (ACS-MIR). The NOMAD-  
93 SO instrument has been designed to be sensitive to CH<sub>4</sub> abundances as low as 0.025 ppb  
94 when observed in solar occultation mode (Robert et al., 2016). This expected detection  
95 limit was confronted to the experimental values in (Vandaele et al., 2019). The TGO in-  
96 struments improved the experimental upper limit of previous instrumentation to reach  
97 a limit of roughly 0.05 ppb for methane. A few profiles reported in Vandaele et al. (2019)  
98 and obtained via ACS-MIR, measured in clear northern conditions, were able to achieve  
99 the most precise detection limits of 0.012 ppb down to an altitude of roughly 3 km.

100 Previous studies using 1-D photochemical models (Wong et al., 2003; Summers et  
101 al., 2002) calculate the photochemical lifetime of CH<sub>4</sub> to be roughly 300 years below 70 km.  
102 In the absence of a strong surface loss process, surface emissions of CH<sub>4</sub> will then be-  
103 come homogeneously distributed across the planet after being introduced into the at-  
104 mosphere. This inconsistency between models and data means that the available atmo-  
105 spheric data is misinterpreted, and/or there is a loss mechanism that we do not cur-  
106 rently consider in models (V. A. Krasnopolsky, 2006). Previous calculations using a global  
107 3-D general circulation model have determined that to reconcile models and data we need  
108 a CH<sub>4</sub> loss process that is up to 600 times faster than any known process (Lefèvre & For-  
109 get, 2009). That additional sink would lower the atmospheric lifetime of CH<sub>4</sub> from cen-  
110 turies to less than 200 days. With the advent of the TGO, another approach we can take  
111 is to analyse observed spatial and temporal variations of the oxidation products of at-  
112 mospheric CH<sub>4</sub>.

113 In this study, we describe the development of the 1-D photochemistry submodule  
114 from the LMD-UK General Circulation Model (GCM) (Forget et al., 1999; Lewis et al.,  
115 1999) to include organic chemistry and run it as an independent model to study pho-  
116 tochemistry on Mars. We report results from a series of numerical experiments that de-  
117 scribe how the presence of CH<sub>4</sub> affects photochemistry on Mars. We also report pho-

118 chemical results when we replace CH<sub>4</sub> with ethane (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub>) to show this longer-chain hy-  
 119 drocarbon produced richer atmospheric chemistry but also allows us to consider an abi-  
 120 otic source of atmospheric CH<sub>4</sub> from the oxidation of acetaldehyde. In the next section  
 121 we describe our developed 1-D model of Mars photochemistry. In section 3 we report re-  
 122 sults from our numerical experiments. We conclude the paper in section 4 in which we  
 123 discuss the implications of our results for broadly understanding atmospheric chemistry  
 124 on Mars but in particular the implications for detecting the presence of CH<sub>4</sub> on Mars  
 125 from its oxidation products.

## 126 2 Methods

### 127 3 1-D Photochemical Model

128 We use the 1-D photochemistry submodule from the parent 3-D LMD-UK Mars  
 129 General Circulation Model as the basis for a standalone 1-D model that includes an im-  
 130 proved treatment of atmospheric organic photochemistry.

131 We use this standalone 1-D model to describe time-dependent vertical distributions  
 132 of trace gases from the surface to an altitude of approximately 70 km, described by 25  
 133 vertical layers with a resolution of under 0.5km below 2 km increasing to a resolution  
 134 of 10 km above an altitude of 20 km where 3-D macroscopic processes begin to domi-  
 135 nate. We divide a Mars sol into 48 time steps ( $\Delta t = 1800$  s), allowing us to describe di-  
 136 urnal variations of trace gases by calculating time-dependent changes in solar zenith an-  
 137 gle, taking into consideration changes in solar longitude and axial tilt. To decrease the  
 138 stiffness of the discretized equations used to compute the photochemical rates of change,  
 139 determined by a prescribed chemical mechanism described below, we use a chemistry sub-  
 140 timestep of  $\Delta t_c = 600$  s.

141 Vertical tracer transport between model layers is described by classical diffusion  
 142 equation (Mellor & Yamada, 1982). For details on the vertical diffusion and turbulent  
 143 mixing routines we refer the reader to Forget et al. (1999). We use a radiative transfer  
 144 scheme (Madeleine et al., 2011) that uses opacity values from the Mars Climate Database  
 145 v5.3. We describe the condensation and sublimation of carbon dioxide, (Forget et al.,  
 146 1998), water ice (Navarro et al., 2014), and hydrogen peroxide (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>); and an implicit  
 147 chemistry solver computes production and loss rates from photochemical reactions.

#### 148 3.1 Organic Photochemistry

149 The 1-D submodel that resides in the LMD-UK MGCM describes the atmospheric  
 150 chemistry and transport of 15 trace gases: carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), carbon monoxide (CO),  
 151 atomic oxygen (O), singlet oxygen (O(<sup>1</sup>D)), molecular oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>), ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), hydro-  
 152 gen atom (H), hydroxy radical (OH), hydroperoxyl radical (HO<sub>2</sub>), molecular hydrogen  
 153 (H<sub>2</sub>), hydrogen peroxide (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>), nitrogen (N<sub>2</sub>), argon (Ar), and H<sub>2</sub>O as ice and vapour.  
 154 The photochemistry scheme for these compounds consists of 32 chemical reactions (B1),  
 155 and 10 photolysis reactions (B2).

156 We build on the chemical mechanism by including 42 new organic compounds, guided  
 157 by previous studies (Wong et al., 2003; Summers et al., 2002) and also the theoretical  
 158 measurement capabilities of the NOMAD instrument (Robert et al., 2016), to improve  
 159 understanding of Mars' atmospheric chemistry. We include CH<sub>4</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub> and its photo-  
 160 chemical products. The extended chemical mechanism represents an additional 106 chem-  
 161 ical reactions (B1) and 29 photolysis reactions (B6). A complete list of trace gas species  
 162 within the 1-D model is provided in 1.

163 We take the organic chemistry rate coefficients from the CAABA/MECCA v4.0  
 164 atmospheric box model (R. Sander et al., 2019), which is used to model organic chem-  
 165 istry within Earth's atmosphere. We have modified the mechanism to include HCO and

**Table 1.** Trace gas species handled by the 1-D photochemistry submodule.

Formula	Name
Inorganic Tracers	
CO <sub>2</sub>	Carbon Dioxide
CO	Carbon Monoxide
O( <sup>1</sup> D)	Atomic Oxygen (excited singlet)
O ≡ O( <sup>3</sup> P)	Atomic Oxygen (ground-state)
O <sub>2</sub>	Molecular Oxygen
O <sub>3</sub>	Ozone
H	Atomic Hydrogen
OH	Hydroxyl
HO <sub>2</sub>	Hydroperoxyl
H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	Hydrogen Peroxide
H <sub>2</sub>	Molecular Hydrogen
H <sub>2</sub> O (vapour and ice)	Water Vapour and Ice
N <sub>2</sub>	Nitrogen
Ar	Argon
Organic Tracers (Methane Oxidation)	
CH <sub>4</sub>	Methane
CH <sub>3</sub>	Methyl Radical
CH <sub>3</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	Methyl Peroxy-radical
CH <sub>3</sub> OOH	Methyl Hydroperoxide
CH <sub>3</sub> OH	Methanol
CH <sub>3</sub> O	Methoxide
HCHO	Formaldehyde
HCOOH	Formic Acid
HOCH <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	Hydromethyl Peroxy
HOCH <sub>2</sub> OH	Methanediol
HOCH <sub>2</sub> OOH	Hydromethyl Hydroperoxide
HCO	Formyl Radical
Organic Tracers (Ethane Oxidation)	
C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub>	Ethane
C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	Ethyl Radical
C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	Ethylidioxy Radical
C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> OOH	Ethyl Peroxide
C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> OH	Ethanol
HOCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	-
HOCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> O	-
Ethgly ( (CH <sub>2</sub> OH) <sub>2</sub> )	Ethylene Glycol
Hyetho2h ( C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O <sub>3</sub> )	-
CH <sub>3</sub> CHO	Acetaldehyde
CH <sub>2</sub> CHOH	Ethenol
CH <sub>3</sub> CHOHO <sub>2</sub>	Hydroxy Ethyl Peroxy Radical
CH <sub>3</sub> COOH	Acetic Acid
CH <sub>3</sub> CHOHOOH	-
CH <sub>3</sub> C(O)	Acetyl Radical
CH <sub>3</sub> C(O)OO	-
CH <sub>3</sub> C(O)OOH	Peracetic Acid
HCOCH <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	-
Glyox ( OCHCHO )	Glyoxal
HCOCO	-
HOCH <sub>2</sub> CHO	Hydroperoxy Acetaldehyde
HOCH <sub>2</sub> CHO	Glycolaldehyde
HOCHCHO	Hydroxyl-Vinoy Radical
HOCH <sub>2</sub> CO	-
HOCH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	-
HOCH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> H	Glycolic Acid
HCOCO <sub>2</sub> H	-
HCOCO <sub>3</sub> H	-
HCOCO <sub>3</sub>	-
HOCH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> H	-

166 C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub> radicals. The CAABA/MECCA v4.0 model neglects these radicals as products,  
 167 and instead includes the products of the radicals with molecular oxygen, O<sub>2</sub>. This ap-  
 168 proximation is sufficient for Earth, where O<sub>2</sub> is present at 21% mass fraction, but on Mars  
 169 it is present only at a mass fraction of 10<sup>-3</sup>. Including these radicals allows us to im-  
 170 prove the description of organic chemistry. All three-body reaction rate coefficients in  
 171 the submodule are multiplied by a factor of 2.5, following Nair et al. (1994), to account  
 172 for the increase in efficiency that CO<sub>2</sub> displays when used as a bath gas in comparison  
 173 to N<sub>2</sub> or dry air (Kaufman & Kelso, 1967), commonly used in laboratories for the cal-  
 174 culation of these coefficients.

175 To improve the computational expediency of our chemistry calculation we use a  
 176 pre-calculated look-up table to interpolate photolytic frequencies. We calculated these  
 177 photolysis loss rates using the Tropospheric Ultraviolet and Visible (TUV) Radiation Model  
 178 (Madronich et al., 2002) that has been adapted for use on Mars (Lefèvre et al., 2004),  
 179 and using routines to interpolate as function of atmospheric temperature, solar zenith  
 180 angle, O<sub>3</sub> column density, the total atmospheric column density, the Sun-Mars distance,  
 181 and the dust opacity. The photolytic reaction j<sub>HOCH<sub>2</sub>OOH</sub> of B6 requires the consider-  
 182 ation of the abundance of O<sub>2</sub>, as the photolytic product of HOCH<sub>2</sub>OOH is the highly  
 183 reactive HOCH<sub>2</sub>O radical. HOCH<sub>2</sub>O proceeds to react with molecular oxygen to form  
 184 HCOOH and OH. To limit the number of compounds that the steady-state approxima-  
 185 tion has to be applied to, the 1-D model multiplies the photolytic frequency extracted  
 186 from the TUV look-up table by a temperature independent factor of 3.50 × 10<sup>-14</sup> (Veyret  
 187 et al., 1982) and the number density of O<sub>2</sub> at the respective layer.

188 To improve the accuracy of the original chemistry routine, we decreased the chem-  
 189 ical timestep to 100 seconds to decrease the numerical stiffness of the chemistry calcu-  
 190 lations. This has the additional benefit of allowing the Semi-Implicit Backward Euler  
 191 Method (SIBEM) to be used for a larger number of species across timestep  $\Delta t_c$  while  
 192 conserving mass of the studied tracers. For species with photochemical lifetimes shorter  
 193 than 100 seconds we consider a family of species, e.g. odd-hydrogen (HO<sub>x</sub>) and odd-oxygen  
 194 (O<sub>x</sub>) families, which have a collective lifetime longer than the timestep. We handle these  
 195 compounds, H, OH, HO<sub>2</sub> and O(<sup>1</sup>D), O(<sup>3</sup>P), O<sub>3</sub> respectively via the assumption of pho-  
 196 tochemical equilibrium (Rodrigo et al., 1990). The routine calculates dimensionless par-  
 197 tition functions of H/HO<sub>2</sub>, OH/HO<sub>2</sub>, and O(<sup>3</sup>P)/O<sub>3</sub>, and sums the abundances of each  
 198 family, HO<sub>x</sub> and O<sub>x</sub>, which possess atmospheric lifetimes greater than that of the chem-  
 199 istry timestep, allowing them to be computed via the SIBEM equation. The partition  
 200 functions are then applied to compute each individual compounds respective abundance.

### 201 3.2 Time-dependent meteorological boundary conditions

202 To drive the 1-D photochemistry model, we use time-dependent lateral atmospheric  
 203 boundary conditions of temperature, wind, water vapour volume mixing ratios, and sur-  
 204 face pressure from the Mars Climate Database v5.3 (MCD) (Millour et al., 2017). We  
 205 interpolate the 3-D meteorological fields from the MCD dataset, taking into account lat-  
 206 itude, solar longitude, and local time.

207 All interpolated values from the MCD dataset are longitudinal means, calculated  
 208 independently by ourselves, acknowledging that there are only small longitudinal vari-  
 209 ations of meteorological parameters that are due primarily to topographical features. We  
 210 take advantage of this so that the horizontal footprint of our model is representative of  
 211 a zonal band of 3.75° in latitude, which is the latitudinal resolution of the MCD dataset.  
 212 Zonal and meridional transport is not accounted for by the 1-D model. We use an in-  
 213 terpolation routine for trace gases that have atmospheric chemistry lifetimes greater than  
 214 the e-folding residence times associated with meridional advection of trace gases out of  
 215 the zonal band, which is approximately 0.5–2 sols. We use this approach to drive the model  
 216 with vertical profiles of CO<sub>2</sub>, CO, O<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>, and water vapour, ensuring the photochem-

ical environment is consistent with the meteorological fields from the MCD, allowing the 1-D model to be accurately representative of the temporally and spatially variable oxidising environment. Seasonal water vapour profiles from MCD are especially important for the 1-D photochemical calculations as the photolysis of Martian  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  is the source of the highly reactive odd-hydrogen species,  $\text{HO}_x = \text{H} + \text{OH} + \text{HO}_2$ , which help drive the oxidation of organic species and  $\text{O}_3$  chemistry (Lefèvre et al., 2004).

The overarching purpose of using these boundary conditions is that we can describe detailed 1-D atmospheric chemistry, including diurnal and seasonal changes associated with Mars’ atmosphere, without the computational overhead of solving the 3-D dynamical equations. In particular, the boundary conditions help to maintain realistic values and variations of wind profiles that underpin vertical diffusion calculations that correspond to calculating vertical transport. For all of our calculations, we use a prescribed dust scenario produced from the assimilation of observations of the dust optical depth made by the Mars Global Surveyor’s Thermal Emission Spectrometer (Montabone et al., 2015) during Mars Year (MY) 24. This scenario is regarded as a ‘best guess’ of the mean annual dust variability experienced on Mars without the presence of global or significant regional dust storms.

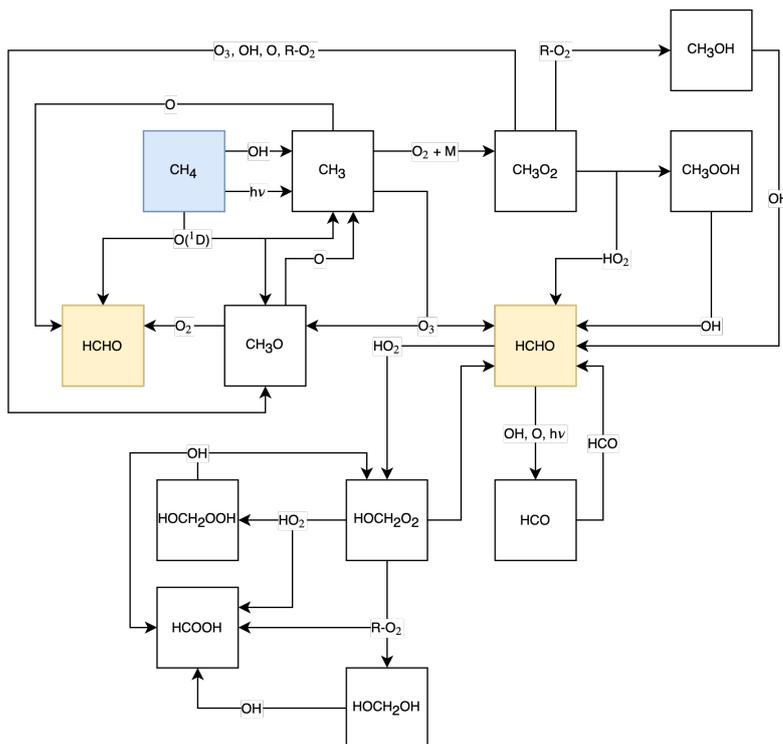
We limit our calculations to latitudes less than  $30^\circ$ , where most recent observations of  $\text{CH}_4$  on Mars have been reported (Mumma et al., 2009; Webster et al., 2018, 2015). At latitudes higher than  $40^\circ$  in both hemispheres, the MCD boundary conditions also allow us to describe the large-scale seasonal changes in atmospheric temperature that result from condensation, deposition and sublimation of  $\text{CO}_2$ , which produce significant changes in surface pressure. However, at these latitudes meridional wind profiles above the planetary boundary layer can become large enough to lower the tracer e-folding timescales to values too small for the 1-D model to neglect while still producing reliable model results. At latitudes less than  $30^\circ$ , the 1-D model in this work can be used to produce time-dependent tracer profiles for periods limited to 2 sols.

### 3.3 Definition of Numerical Experiments

We use the 1-D model to determine vertical profiles of organic compounds that evolve from a hypothetically fixed and vertically uniform 14 ppb profile of  $\text{CH}_4$ . We have chosen this value because it was the  $3\sigma$  upper limit determined by V. A. Krasnopolsky (2007) as part of their analysis of measurements of Mars collected at the NASA Infrared Telescope Facility on Mauna Kea, Hawaii.

For this calculation, we initialise the model 10 sols prior to the point where solar longitude  $L_S = 0^\circ$  with initial meteorological conditions and tracer profiles of  $\text{CO}_2$ ,  $\text{CO}$ ,  $\text{O}_2$ , water vapour, and  $\text{H}_2$  from the previously detailed MCD v5.3 look-up table, and 10 ppbv of  $\text{CH}_4$  distributed evenly across all 25 atmospheric layers ranging from the surface to approximately 70 km. We then run the 1-D over one Mars year, 668 sols, following a 10 sol spin-up period, taking into account diurnal and seasonal (orbital) variations in solar zenith angle and corresponding changes in solar flux and photolytic frequencies. We report calculations at latitudes of  $30^\circ\text{N}$ ,  $2.5^\circ\text{N}$ , and  $30^\circ\text{S}$  to investigate possible spatial variations in organic product profiles.

Following this investigation into the annual variations of the products produced by the steady and homogeneous  $\text{CH}_4$  background, we use the 1-D model to investigate time-dependent photochemical processes that result from oxidation of  $\text{CH}_4$ . For these experiments, we initialise the 1-D model at the required latitude and solar longitude at 00:00 local time (LT) with 0 ppb  $\text{CH}_4$  and other non-methane organic compounds. We use a five-day spin-up period at a constant solar longitude when we use trace gas profiles of  $\text{CO}_2$ ,  $\text{CO}$ ,  $\text{O}_2$ ,  $\text{H}_2$ , and water vapour from the MCD v5.3 (section 3.2) and diurnally-varying atmospheric parameters. This spin-up enables the  $\text{HO}_x$  and  $\text{O}_x$  chemistry to partition to the solar-longitude environment. After five sols, we add a vertically-uniform 14 ppb



**Figure 1.** Primary stages of the  $\text{CH}_4$  photochemistry that we use in our 1-D photochemistry model, taken from the CAABA/MECCA v4.0 chemical mechanism.

268 of  $\text{CH}_4$  at 00:00 LT. We then let the model run freely for a further two sols, and present  
 269 the photochemical products from the second day. We adopt a similar approach to ex-  
 270 amine the photochemistry of  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_6$ .

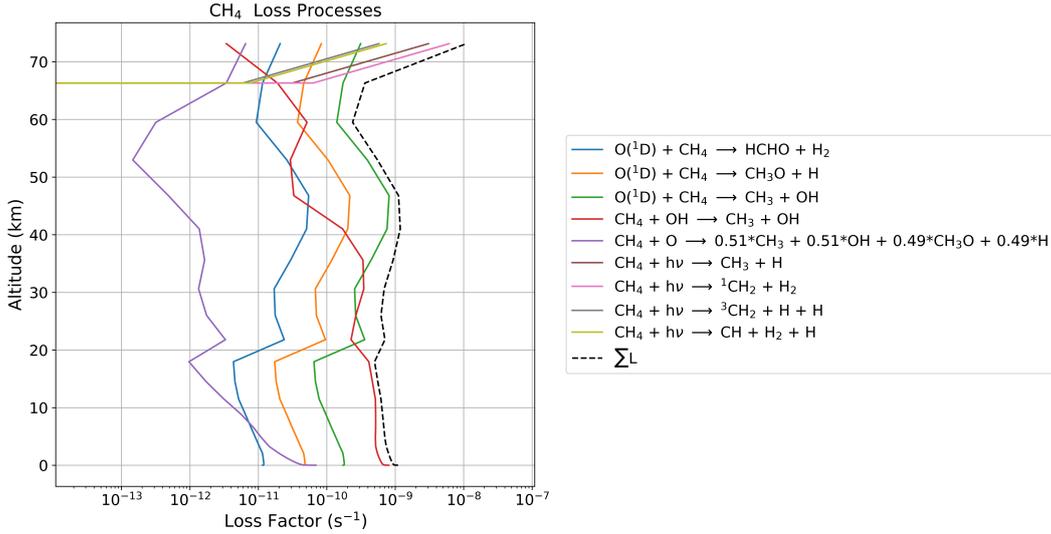
## 271 4 Results

272 We use the 1-D model described in the previous section to understand the seasonal  
 273 chemical composition of the Martian atmosphere as a function of latitude that corresponds  
 274 to a fixed, uniform vertical distribution of atmospheric  $\text{CH}_4$ . We present a similar set  
 275 of calculations that correspond to a uniform vertical distribution of atmospheric  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_6$ .

### 276 4.1 Methane Oxidation in the Atmosphere of Mars

277 Figure 1 describes the initial photochemical oxidation steps of atmospheric  $\text{CH}_4$   
 278 on Mars. The dominant atmospheric losses of  $\text{CH}_4$  are oxidation by the hydroxyl rad-  
 279 ical (OH) and the excited singlet oxygen ( $\text{O}(^1\text{D})$ ), and photolysis. The loss rates for at-  
 280 mospheric  $\text{CH}_4$  vary as a function of solar longitude. There are a number of high-yield  
 281 oxidation products that are produced rapidly, potentially allowing us to colocate elevated  
 282 values with  $\text{CH}_4$  emissions, and that are observable from orbiting instruments. In this  
 283 paper we will restrict our analysis to the production of formaldehyde (HCHO) and formic  
 284 acid (HCOOH).

285 Figure 2 shows an illustrative vertical distribution of  $\text{CH}_4$  loss factors ( $\text{s}^{-1}$ ) at the  
 286 solar longitude of  $148^\circ$ , representative of early summer on Mars. Loss factors, units of  $\text{s}^{-1}$ ,  
 287 are distinguished from loss rates, units of  $\text{molec. cm}^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , as loss factors provide a bet-  
 288 ter insight into the reactivity of the surrounding environment. These values when mul-

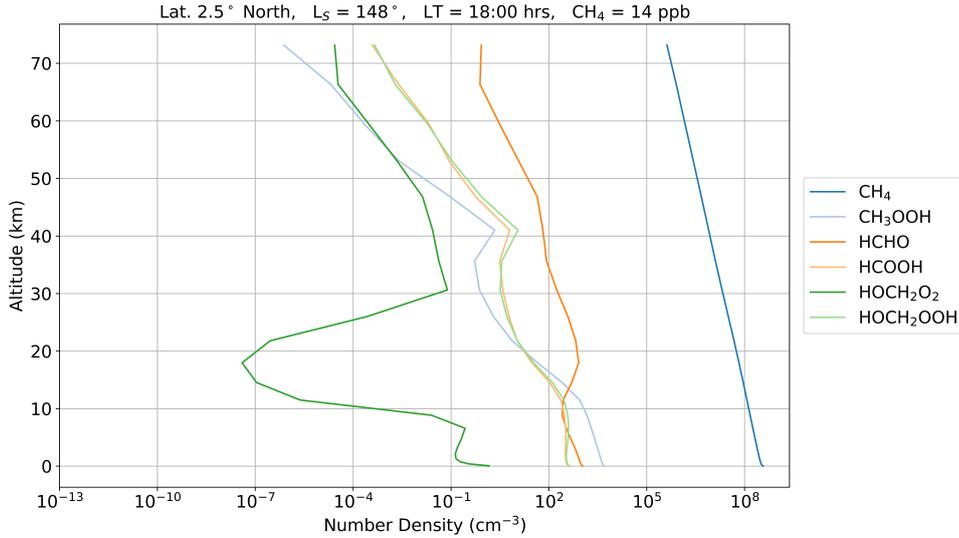


**Figure 2.** Photochemical loss factors ( $\text{s}^{-1}$ )  $\text{CH}_4$  in our 1-D photochemistry model at latitude  $2.5^\circ\text{N}$ , local time 12:00, and solar longitude  $148^\circ$  as a function of altitude.

289 multiplied by  $\text{CH}_4$  number densities equate to the rate of photochemical loss of  $\text{CH}_4$ , in molec.  
 290  $\text{cm}^{-3}\text{s}^{-1}$ , i.e. the loss rate. From the surface to roughly 20 km the dominant loss process  
 291 for  $\text{CH}_4$  is from oxidation by OH. At this solar longitude, the hygropause, describing  
 292 the atmospheric minimum in water vapour is at approximately 20 km at low latitudes in the  
 293 northern hemisphere. Consequently, at this location OH production rates, driven by the  
 294 photolysis of water vapour, are larger below 20 km. Above 20 km, the abundance of  $\text{O}(^1\text{D})$   
 295 increases, reflecting the drop in its loss from reaction with water vapour. In the middle  
 296 atmosphere, between 20 and 60 km,  $\text{O}(^1\text{D})$  becomes the dominant loss of atmospheric  
 297  $\text{CH}_4$ . There are three oxidation channels associated with this reaction (B4), but the most  
 298 efficient produce  $\text{CH}_3$  and OH. Photolysis of  $\text{CH}_4$  becomes significant only at altitudes  
 299 higher than 60 km. The decreasing abundance of  $\text{O}(^1\text{D})$  atoms in the upper atmosphere  
 300 results in a small vertical region, 50–60 km, where  $\text{CH}_4$  loss rates decline before  
 301 photolysis becomes important at higher altitudes.

302 The net atmospheric lifetime of  $\text{CH}_4$ , incorporating all loss terms (Figure 2), varies  
 303 as a function of latitude and solar longitude. Differences between latitudes are determined  
 304 by the solar radiation being received, which is a function of solar longitude and Mars’  
 305 obliquity. Atmospheric lifetimes range from 25 to 1700 years (Appendix A1). These values,  
 306 with a significant and localized surface loss process, would generate a large, slowly  
 307 varying background value for  $\text{CH}_4$  that would be difficult to attribute to individual  
 308 surface sources. Atmospheric lifetimes reach a minimum of 25–200 years between the top  
 309 of the hygropause and approximately 50 km due to the larger abundance of the  $\text{O}(^1\text{D})$   
 310 atom. Below the hygropause where OH is the dominant sink, atmospheric lifetimes vary  
 311 between 200 and 425 years. The longest lifetimes of 1000–1700 years lie between 50 and  
 312 60 km during winter ( $L_S = 270\text{--}360^\circ$ ), as described above, where the OH and  $\text{O}(^1\text{D})$   
 313 loss processes decline and before photolysis dominates above 60 km.

314 Figure 3 shows vertical profiles of the number densities ( $\text{cm}^{-3}$ ) of major organic  
 315 compounds that result from the oxidation of a fixed, uniformly distribution 14 ppb of  
 316 atmospheric  $\text{CH}_4$ . For this calculation we initialised the 1-D model with 0 ppb of  $\text{CH}_4$   
 317 across all vertical layers at  $L_S = 148^\circ$ , 00:00 LT, at a latitude of  $2.5^\circ$ , where a  $\text{CH}_4$   
 318 plume has been previously observed (Mumma et al., 2009). We spun-up for five sols using  
 319 detailed MCD v5.3 tracer profiles (section 2). We then inserted a fixed, uniform profile of 14 ppb



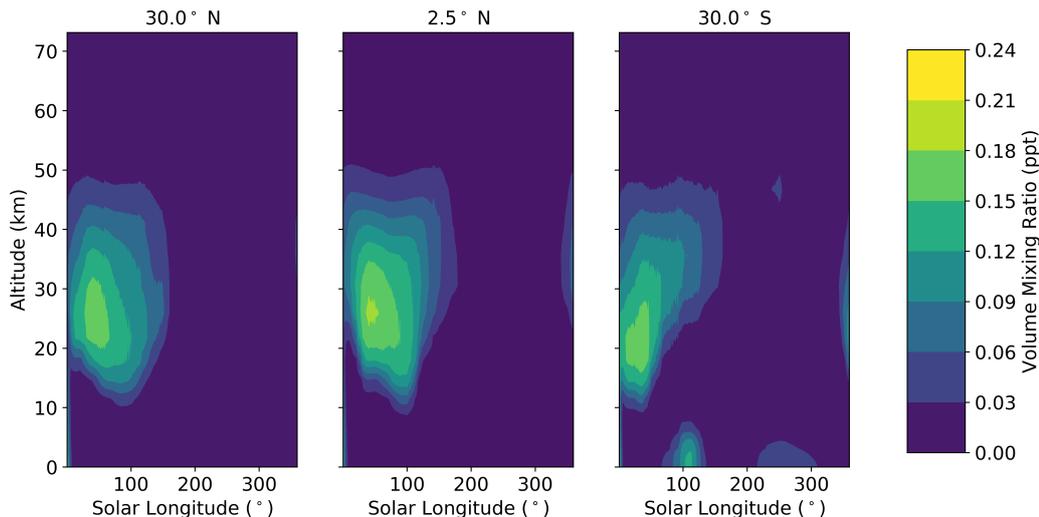
**Figure 3.** Number density profiles ( $\text{cm}^{-3}$ ) of major photochemical products of 14 ppb of  $\text{CH}_4$  after one sol. These include formaldehyde (HCHO), formic acid (HCOOH), methyl hydroperoxide ( $\text{CH}_3\text{OOH}$ ), hydromethyl peroxy ( $\text{HOCH}_2\text{O}_2$ ), and hydromethyl hydroperoxide ( $\text{HOCH}_2\text{OOH}$ ).

320 of  $\text{CH}_4$  into the model and ran forward for one sol. We sample the model at 18:00 LT  
 321 on sol 6, allowing sufficient time for products to be produced but a short enough time  
 322 to ensure these products are not advected out of the column. This allows us to study  
 323 the resulting  $\text{CH}_4$  oxidation product concentrations. We show values for  $\text{CH}_4$ , HCHO,  
 324 HCOOH, methyl hydroperoxide ( $\text{CH}_3\text{OOH}$ ), hydromethyl peroxy ( $\text{HOCH}_2\text{O}_2$ ), and hy-  
 325 dromethyl hydroperoxide ( $\text{HOCH}_2\text{OOH}$ ). The two products with the highest photochem-  
 326 ical yields are HCHO and HCOOH. We find that HCHO has a column density  $1.84 \times 10^9$   
 327  $\text{cm}^{-2}$  and HCOOH has a column density of  $5.08 \times 10^8 \text{ cm}^{-2}$ . We describe below the re-  
 328 sponsible production and loss rates associated with these two compounds.

329 **Production of Formaldehyde from  $\text{CH}_4$  Oxidation**

330 HCHO is a high-yield oxidation product of  $\text{CH}_4$  that is observable by the NOMAD  
 331 spectrometer aboard the ExoMars Trace Gas Orbiter. Figure 4 shows vertical distribu-  
 332 tions of HCHO concentrations, corresponding to a fixed vertical profile of 14 ppb  $\text{CH}_4$ ,  
 333 at 18:00 LT over all solar longitudes to determine when we might expect HCHO to be  
 334 observable during one Martian year. HCHO production peaks during spring months when  
 335 there is sufficient production of  $\text{O}(^1\text{D})$  in the middle atmosphere to oxidize  $\text{CH}_4$  but not  
 336 water vapour in the lower atmosphere. We find only small variations in the HCHO pro-  
 337 duced across the three latitudes, where HCHO consistently remains below 0.2 ppt. This  
 338 lies below the expected detection limit of 30–40 ppt for the ExoMars TGO’s NOMAD  
 339 spectrometer (Robert et al., 2016).

340 Figure 5 shows individual and net production and loss rates of HCHO as a func-  
 341 tion of altitude at 06:00 LT,  $L_S = 93^\circ$  and latitude  $2.5^\circ\text{N}$ . The solar longitude of  $93^\circ$  has  
 342 been chosen due to it coinciding with the temporal region where the layered structure  
 343 of HCHO’s lifetime exists. The 1-D model finds net production to maximise at 06:00 hrs  
 344 as the sun begins to rise above the horizon. Figure 5a shows two distinct regions where  
 345 HCHO production peaks. Below the hygropause, at roughly 15 km at this  $L_S$ , reaction



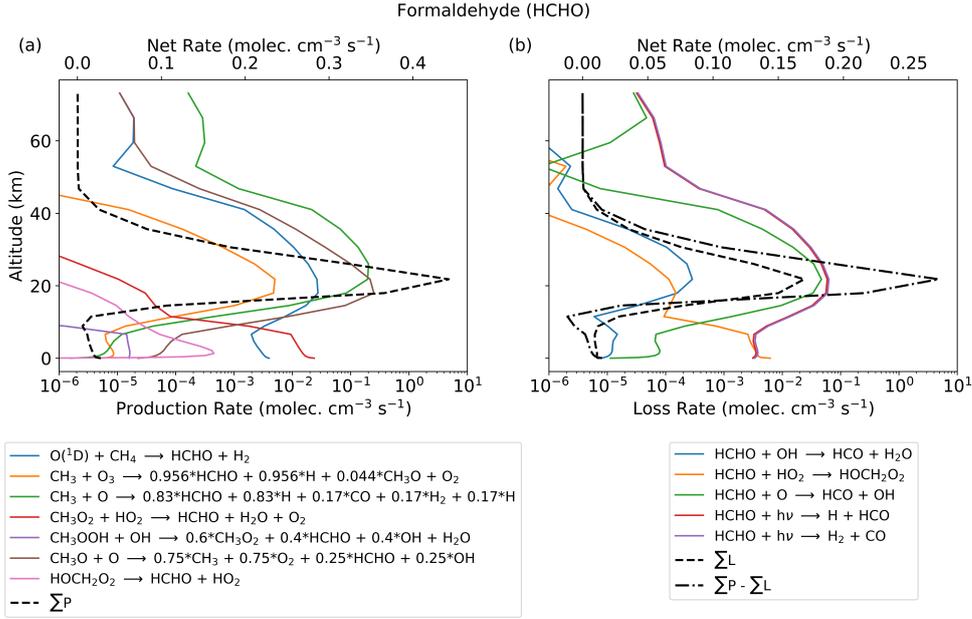
**Figure 4.** Vertical profiles of HCHO (ppt) from the photochemistry of 14 ppb CH<sub>4</sub> within a zonal band centered on latitudes 30°N, 2.5°N, and 30°S, across all solar longitudes, as calculated by our 1-D photochemical model.

346 between water vapour and excited atomic oxygen result in HCHO production dominated  
 347 by the reaction of CH<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and HO<sub>2</sub>. Above the hygropause at 15 km, the HCHO pro-  
 348 duction is from atomic oxygen reacting with methyl and methoxy radicals. Figure 5b  
 349 show the HCHO loss rates. We find that HCHO is lost rapidly by photolysis through  
 350 the atmospheric column. Below the hygropause, HCHO is lost by reaction with HO<sub>2</sub> which  
 351 produced the HOCH<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> peroxy radical. Above the hygropause, the dominant HCHO  
 352 sink is reaction with atomic oxygen. At solar zenith angles between 60 and 85°, abun-  
 353 dances of O(<sup>3</sup>P), CH<sub>3</sub>, and CH<sub>3</sub>O radicals are in large enough at the top of the hygropause  
 354 to overcome the loss of HCHO from photolysis. At lower solar zenith angles, the rate of  
 355 formaldehyde photolysis is too great to allow significant net production.

356 The resulting atmospheric lifetime of HCHO for all Martian seasons is 2–6 hours  
 357 at latitudes less than 30° (Appendix A2), consistent with previously published results  
 358 (Wong et al., 2003). As a result, a detection of HCHO below 70 km in the Martian at-  
 359 mosphere will require a strong active release of CH<sub>4</sub> in the local vicinity. Our calcula-  
 360 tions suggest that HCHO will be most likely detected at mid-altitudes (15–30 km) across  
 361 the tropics during Mars northern spring and summer months. This is due to the lower  
 362 abundance of water vapor and the increased levels of odd-oxygen species available for  
 363 reactions with organic radicals, and also coincides with the altitude regions where the  
 364 TGO instruments are expected to display the greatest level of sensitivity (Korablev et  
 365 al., 2017).

### 366 Production of Formic Acid from CH<sub>4</sub> Oxidation

367 The oxidation of HCHO via HO<sub>2</sub> radicals leads to pathways that produce HCOOH  
 368 (Figure 1). HCHO reacts with HO<sub>2</sub> to produce the HOCH<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> peroxy radical, which can  
 369 either decay into its original reactants, or react with HO<sub>2</sub> to produce HCOOH directly  
 370 or to produce the methoxy radical HOCH<sub>2</sub>OOH that subsequently reacts with OH to  
 371 produce formic acid or HOCH<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, with a branching ratio,  $k_{\text{HOCH}_2\text{O}_2}/k_{\text{HCOOH}}$ , of 0.233  
 372 at 298 K. HOCH<sub>2</sub>OOH can also photolyse under UV radiation to produce HOCH<sub>2</sub>O and



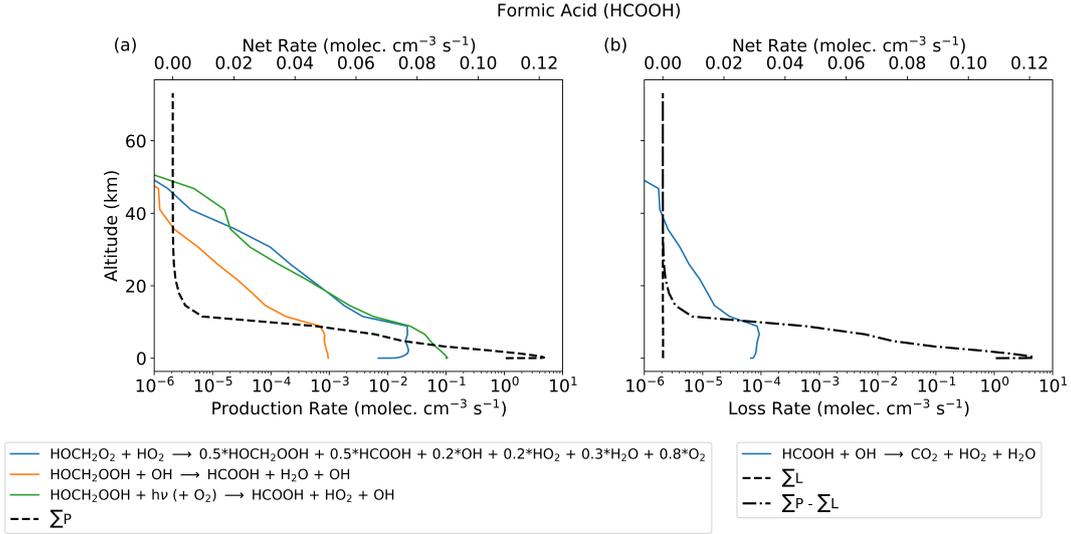
**Figure 5.** Photochemical production and loss rates for HCHO ( $\text{molec cm}^{-3}\text{s}^{-1}$ ), associated with  $\text{CH}_4$  photochemistry, as a function of altitude. Calculations are for  $L_S = 93^\circ$ , 06:00 LT, and latitude  $2.5^\circ\text{N}$ .

373 OH. The  $\text{HOCH}_2\text{O}$  radical proceeds to react with molecular oxygen to produce formic  
 374 acid and  $\text{HO}_2$ . The only sink of  $\text{HCOOH}$  in the Martian atmosphere is via oxidation by  
 375 OH. This reaction is slow, and limits loss of  $\text{HCOOH}$  to regions below the point of the  
 376 hygropause. In regions where OH concentrations are at a maximum, typically during  $L_S$   
 377  $= 150\text{--}340^\circ$  at the top of the water vapour saturation point,  $\text{HCOOH}$  has a photochem-  
 378 ical lifetime that range between 1 and 10 sols. From the surface to roughly 8 km, val-  
 379 ues range between 70 sols and 220 sols throughout the year in the northern hemisphere,  
 380 but values in the south increase to magnitudes of  $10^3$  sols during the northern summer  
 381 ( $L_S = 90\text{--}180^\circ$  with the lower abundances of atmospheric  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ).

382 Figure 6 shows the net and individual production and loss rates for  $\text{HCOOH}$  for  
 383  $L_S = 93^\circ$ , latitude  $2.5^\circ\text{N}$ , and LT = 12:00 hrs due to a fixed, uniformly distribution of  
 384 14 ppb  $\text{CH}_4$ . The largest production rate of  $\text{HCOOH}$  is from  $\text{HOCH}_2\text{O}_2$  reacting with  
 385  $\text{HO}_2$  and from the photolysis of  $\text{HOCH}_2\text{OOH}$ . The loss of  $\text{HCOOH}$  from OH oxidation  
 386 is slow compared to the production rates. Our calculations therefore suggest that a de-  
 387 tection of  $\text{HCOOH}$  would be related to the photochemical loss of HCHO. The resulting  
 388 atmospheric lifetime of  $\text{HCOOH}$  is temporally and spatially variant, with lows of 2–5 sols  
 389 at the tip of the hygropause, increasing to 75–100 sols closer to the surface where the  
 390 abundances of OH fall.

## 391 4.2 Ethane Oxidation

392 Here we consider the impact of  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_6$  on Mars' photochemistry. The impetus for  
 393 these calculations is that on Earth, emissions of  $\text{CH}_4$  are accompanied by emissions of  
 394 higher-chain hydrocarbon such as  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_6$  (Horita & Berndt, 1999; Guenther et al., 2000).  
 395  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_6$  is also listed as an observable compound through the NOMAD-SO instrument, with  
 396 detection limits between 0.02 and 0.03 ppb (Vandaele et al., 2018).



**Figure 6.** As Figure 5 but for formic acid (HCOOH).

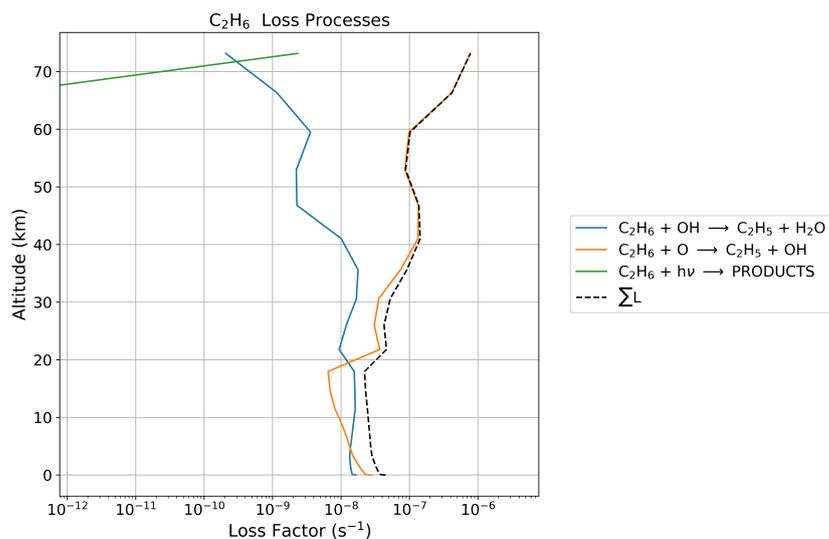
397 Figure 7 shows that the photochemistry for C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub> is more complicated than for CH<sub>4</sub>  
 398 (B4), but follows the same general routes. It is oxidized by OH and O(<sup>1</sup>D) that initiates  
 399 a series of chemical reactions that result in high yield products of HCHO and HCOOH  
 400 among other compounds. One of the initial C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub> oxidation product is the C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub> rad-  
 401 ical, which is not described explicitly by the CAABA mechanism. We have used inde-  
 402 pendent sources for reaction rates that involve the C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub> radical (B5).

403 Figure 8 shows the photochemical loss factors for C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub> in the Martian atmosphere  
 404 at noon, L<sub>S</sub> 148°, and at latitude 2.5°N. Our photolysis calculations, based on values  
 405 from the TUV model (Madronich et al., 2002) and adjusted for the Sun–Mars distance,  
 406 suggest this loss process is insignificant below 70 km. As such we have considered prod-  
 407 ucts of C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub> photolysis. Below the hygropause OH is the dominant loss process for C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub>  
 408 and above the hygropause O is the dominant loss process for C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub>, with the C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>O<sub>2</sub>  
 409 peroxy radical being a common oxidation product that results in a cascade of photochem-  
 410 ical reactions, as described in Figure 7. The resulting photochemical lifetime of C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub>  
 411 is typically between 1 and 3.5 years below altitudes of 5 km and much shorter (50–450 sols)  
 412 above the hygropause. (Appendix A).

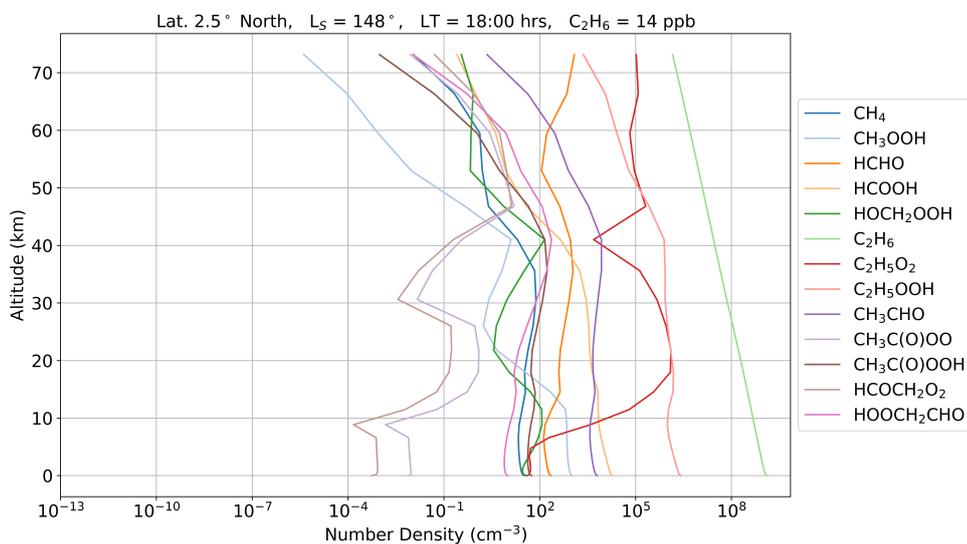
413 Figure 9 shows the vertical profiles of organic compounds produced by the oxida-  
 414 tion of 14 ppb of C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub> after one sol at L<sub>S</sub> 148°, latitude 2.5° sampled at 18:00 LT, to  
 415 allow comparisons against the methane investigation of Figure 3. The introduction of  
 416 longer chain peroxy-radicals via the C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>O<sub>2</sub> radical increases the richness of photochem-  
 417 ical products that are produced from CH<sub>4</sub> oxidation. In particular, the oxidation of C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub>  
 418 results in significant column density (3 × 10<sup>10</sup> cm<sup>-2</sup>) of acetaldehyde (CH<sub>3</sub>CHO) by 18:00 LT.  
 419 Photolysis of (CH<sub>3</sub>CHO) is a source of CH<sub>4</sub> and carbon monoxide. We find that 14 ppb  
 420 of C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub> produces a CH<sub>4</sub> column abundance of 1.98 × 10<sup>8</sup> cm<sup>-2</sup> as a result of this photolytic  
 421 reaction.

422 Formaldehyde is produced with a higher yield for C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub> oxidation than for CH<sub>4</sub> ox-  
 423 idation, resulting in a column density of 3.01 × 10<sup>9</sup> cm<sup>-2</sup>. We also calculate higher pro-  
 424 duction rates of HCOOH, yielding column abundance of 2.40 × 10<sup>10</sup> cm<sup>-2</sup>. These enhanced  
 425 yields of HCHO and HCOOH are due to the large number of pathways compared to the  
 426 CH<sub>4</sub> oxidation mechanism.





**Figure 8.** Photochemical loss factors for C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub> as a function of altitude in our 1-D photochemistry model with altitude. Calculations are for L<sub>S</sub> = 148°, 12:00 LT, and latitude 2.5°N.



**Figure 9.** Number density profiles (cm<sup>-3</sup>) of oxidised organic products after one sol of introducing a uniform profile volume mixing ratio of C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub>.

## 427 Production of Formaldehyde and Formic Acid from C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub> Oxidation

428 Figure 10 shows the production and loss rates for HCHO and HCOOH from the  
 429 oxidation of 14 ppb of C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub>. The largest production rate of HCHO is below the hygropause  
 430 from the reaction of CH<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub> peroxy radical with HO<sub>2</sub>, comparable to values from CH<sub>4</sub>  
 431 oxidation. However, above the hygropause at 20 km the three-body reaction CH<sub>3</sub>C(O)+O<sub>2</sub>+M  
 432 and the CH<sub>3</sub> radical reaction with atomic oxygen are the primary sources of HCHO. Com-  
 433 bined, the HCHO production rate is an order of magnitude larger than the rate from CH<sub>4</sub>  
 434 oxidation.

435 The higher reactivity of C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub> produces a larger quantity of HOCH<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> peroxy rad-  
 436 icals and hydroperoxy radicals in the regions just above the hygropause compared to CH<sub>4</sub>  
 437 oxidation. With no additional loss processes, the increased net production rate results  
 438 in larger concentrations of HCOOH, with production falling off rapidly towards the sur-  
 439 face.

## 440 Methane Production from the Oxidation of Acetaldehyde

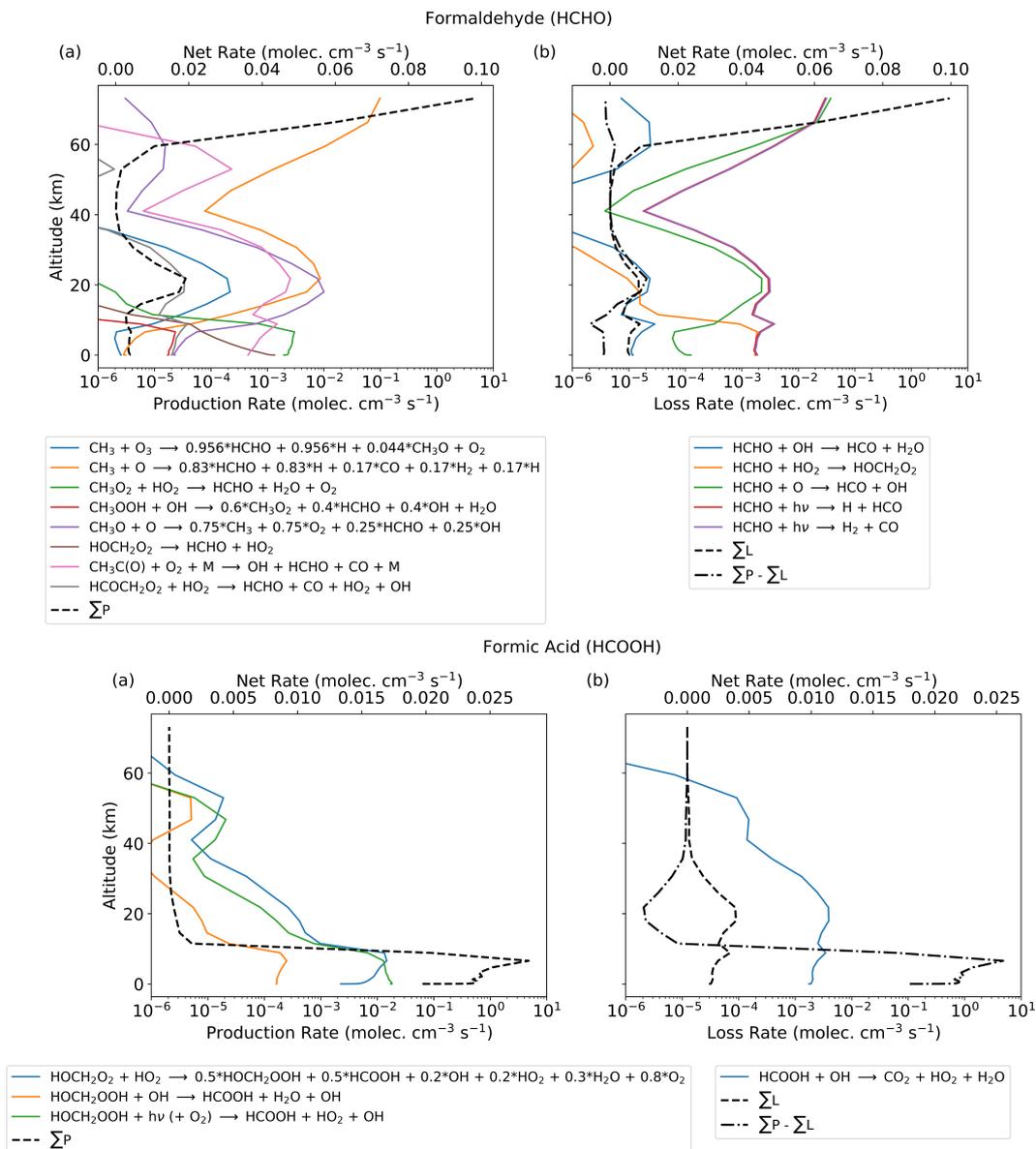
441 Figure 11 shows the number density of acetaldehyde (Figure 9) and the produc-  
 442 tion rate of CH<sub>4</sub> from the photolysis of acetaldehyde. We calculate the photolysis rates  
 443 using the TUV model (section 2) that penetrate efficiently to the surface. This photolytic  
 444 source is the only proposed source of CH<sub>4</sub> that may be possible within the CO<sub>2</sub>-dominated  
 445 atmosphere of Mars.

446 We find that the acetaldehyde produced from the oxidation of the 14 ppb vertically  
 447 homogeneous C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub> column favours altitudes that are at the top of the hygropause, i.e.  
 448 altitudes between 15 and 35 km. With the higher abundance of CH<sub>3</sub>CHO here, this re-  
 449 gion is where CH<sub>4</sub> production via atmospheric acetaldehyde will be most effective. From  
 450 Figure 11, it can be seen that production rates in this altitude band range between 0.01  
 451 and 0.20 molecules s<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-3</sup> while in the presence of ppt magnitudes of CH<sub>3</sub>CHO.

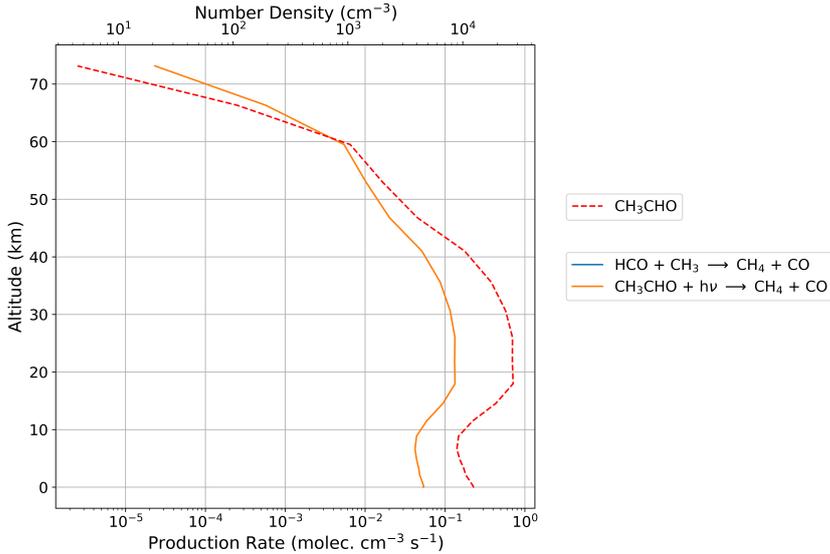
## 452 5 Discussion and Concluding Remarks

453 We find that the oxidation of atmospheric CH<sub>4</sub> in the Martian atmosphere, at mag-  
 454 nitudes similar to reported observations, produce formaldehyde and formic acid as pho-  
 455 tochemical products but at concentrations too low for successful detection via remote  
 456 sensing by the ExoMars TGO's NOMAD spectrometer. Our photochemical lifetimes of  
 457 formaldehyde are consistent with previous studies (e.g., Wong and Atreya (2004)), but  
 458 we have also reported variations as a function of altitude and solar longitude. Our use  
 459 of the MCD v5.3 atmospheric parameters and tracer profiles enabled us to deduce that  
 460 the largest atmospheric lifetimes of HCHO at latitudes less than 30° are typically around  
 461 4 hours during the northern spring and summer above the point of H<sub>2</sub>O vapour satu-  
 462 ration. Our model expands upon the findings from the steady state model by revealing  
 463 the layered seasonal structure of HCHO that can develop, whilst refining the modelled  
 464 lifetimes and revealing the seasonal variability of the compound.

465 Our 1-D model refines the vertical structure and seasonal variability of the CH<sub>4</sub>  
 466 within the equatorial regions of Mars, revealing that altitudes with low water vapour con-  
 467 tent can provide O(<sup>1</sup>D) abundances large enough to suppress the lifetime of CH<sub>4</sub> to be-  
 468 tween 50–100 years, shorter than previous estimates (Wong & Atreya, 2004; Summers  
 469 et al., 2002; Krasnopolsky et al., 2004). We reveal a region in the upper section of the  
 470 1-D model, corresponding to 50–70 km where the absence of OH, O(<sup>1</sup>D), and lower UV  
 471 photolysis increases CH<sub>4</sub> lifetimes to 400–800 years during the northern spring, and to  
 472 800–1300 years during the mid-northern summer to northern winter, significantly higher  
 473 than previous model estimations. Lifetimes close to the surface and below the hygropause  
 474 (0–30 km) are invariant with latitude during the northern spring, but display variations



**Figure 10.** Photochemical production and loss rates ( $\text{molec cm}^{-3}\text{s}^{-1}$ ) of HCHO and HCOOH in our 1-D photochemistry model associated with 14 ppb of  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_6$ . Values are for latitude  $2.5^\circ\text{N}$ , local time 12:00, and solar longitude  $148^\circ$  as a function of altitude.



**Figure 11.** Photochemical production rates of methane ( $\text{CH}_4$ ) from the photolysis of acetaldehyde produced 1 sol after the introduction of the 14 ppb vertically homogeneous distribution of  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_6$  at latitude  $2.5^\circ\text{N}$ ,  $L_S = 148^\circ$ ,  $LT = 12:00$  hrs.

475 between the north and southern hemisphere throughout the rest of the year, controlled  
 476 by the sublimation of the respective hemispheres polar caps water ice content.

477 We find that the photochemical lifetime of  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_6$  is correlated to the atmospheric  
 478 water vapour content on Mars. Within the hygropause, lifetimes are found to be within  
 479 3–4 years, where OH is the dominant photochemical sink. At higher altitudes, these life-  
 480 times are reduced to 100–400 Mars sols (0.15–0.6 years), due to the higher abundance  
 481 of atomic oxygen. The lifetimes of acetaldehyde reach values of approximately one sol  
 482 close to the Martian surface across all equatorial latitudes during the northern spring,  
 483 that lower to roughly 0.5 sols in the northern hemisphere summer to winter periods. Acetic  
 484 acid displays a similar seasonal trend, with lifetimes in the northern spring being between  
 485 3 and 4 sols below the hygropause, and lowering to between 0.2–1 sol with the eleva-  
 486 tion of the water saturation point. Oxidation of  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_6$  in the Martian atmosphere results  
 487 in a distinct profile of acetaldehyde, as well as greater yields of HCHO and HCOOH, com-  
 488 pared to  $\text{CH}_4$  oxidation. The 1-D model predicts atmospheric lifetimes of between 15  
 489 and 32 hours below altitudes of 25 km during  $L_S = 0\text{--}135^\circ$ , lowering to 4–12 hours out-  
 490 side of this time frame across all equatorial latitudes, for  $\text{CH}_3\text{CHO}$ . We therefore pro-  
 491 pose that any instrument detection of  $\text{CH}_3\text{CHO}$  can be attributed to a surface release  
 492 of  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_6$  within the immediate local environment of the site of observation.

493 Our more comprehensive description of atmospheric chemistry, involving 135 or-  
 494 ganic reactions, significantly expands on the schemes used by Wong and Atreya (2004)  
 495 and Summers et al. (2002). No formic acid was reported by the model of Wong and Atreya  
 496 (2004) for their 1-D steady state model with 100 ppm of  $\text{CH}_4$ , whereas we report con-  
 497 centrations of similar magnitude to HCHO below the hygropause with  $\text{CH}_4$  abundances  
 498 of 14 ppb, a value inspired by V. A. Krasnopolsky (2007). This discrepancy can be ex-  
 499 plained by our more detailed description of peroxy radical chemistry that is taken from  
 500 the CAABA/MECCA v4.0 chemistry scheme. In our 1-D model, photochemical lifetimes  
 501 of HCOOH are inversely proportional to the abundance of OH available. At the top of  
 502 the hygropause, lifetimes have magnitudes of 1 - 10 sols. Below, the lifetimes vary sub-  
 503 stantially depending on the water vapour availability. Below 5 km, photochemical life-

504 times in the drier southern latitudes can reach values exceeding  $10^3$  sols, whereas in the  
 505 north, values between 10 and 100 are commonly found. These long photochemical life-  
 506 times of HCOOH, in comparison to HCHO, makes it the most likely photochemical prod-  
 507 uct of CH<sub>4</sub> oxidation that could provide independent verification of CH<sub>4</sub>. However, its  
 508 spectral features do not lie within the NOMAD’s spectral range. However, the PFS spec-  
 509 trometer’s longwave channel covers a spectral wavenumber range of 250 - 1700 cm<sup>-1</sup> (Formisano  
 510 et al., 2005) does span over the position of two absorption features of the HCOOH molecule  
 511 stored within the High-resolution Transmission Molecular Absorption (HITRAN) database  
 512 (Gordon et al., 2017).

513 We find that the introduction of CH<sub>4</sub> at magnitudes similar to reported observa-  
 514 tions (less than 10<sup>1</sup> ppb) fail to produce perturbations to CO, O<sub>3</sub>, or H<sub>2</sub>O vapour (not  
 515 shown) that will be large enough to impact measurements made by solar occultation mea-  
 516 surements. CH<sub>4</sub> reactions with O(<sup>1</sup>D) above the hygropause and below 50 km has the  
 517 net effect of increasing OH concentrations by magnitudes of 10<sup>-1</sup>% after one sol of ex-  
 518 posure, which results in catalyzing the conversion of CO to CO<sub>2</sub> via reaction e<sub>1</sub> of B1.  
 519 The increase in OH arises from the previously described reactions of O(<sup>1</sup>D) atoms reac-  
 520 ting with CH<sub>4</sub> in the drier altitudes, most notably reaction b<sub>7</sub>. CO experiences rel-  
 521 ative perturbations of -10<sup>-4</sup>% in the mid-altitudes, which will be lost within instrumen-  
 522 tal noise. This rise in OH, and the loss of O(<sup>1</sup>D) to CH<sub>4</sub> interactions and O(<sup>3</sup>P) with  
 523 organic radical interactions, results in a drop in O<sub>3</sub> production in this region and increased  
 524 O<sub>3</sub> loss. These perturbations are small, however, with drops of 10<sup>-1</sup>% after one sol, an  
 525 amount that will be lost to instrument noise. This highlights that source regions of CH<sub>4</sub>  
 526 will not be identifiable by perturbations made to inorganic trace gas species observable  
 527 to the ExoMars Trace Gas Orbiter.

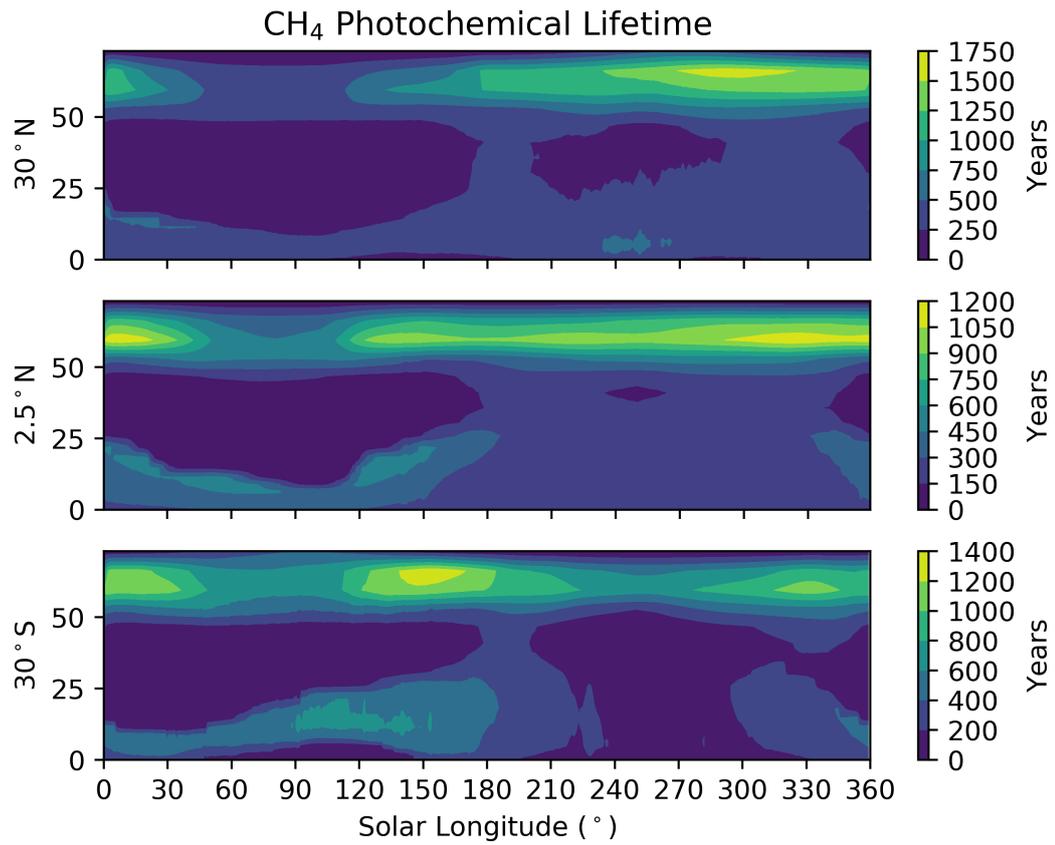
528 Finally, our model highlights the possible existence of an atmospheric source of CH<sub>4</sub>  
 529 in the form of C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub> oxidation. The photolysis of acetaldehyde in the Martian atmosphere  
 530 is capable of producing trace amounts of CH<sub>4</sub> at all altitudes above the Martian surface.  
 531 Parts per trillion concentrations of CH<sub>3</sub>CHO are capable of producing CH<sub>4</sub> at altitudes  
 532 below 20 km at rates of 10<sup>-2</sup>–10<sup>-1</sup> molec cm<sup>-3</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> during daylight hours. This could  
 533 merit further investigation, as biological reactions such as ethylene hydratase (Rosner  
 534 & Schink, 1995) are capable of converting hydrocarbons below ground to CH<sub>3</sub>CHO, which  
 535 upon exposure to UV radiation may produce abundances of CH<sub>4</sub> greater than 0.02 ppb  
 536 which could be observable to the TGO instrumentation.

## 537 **Appendix A Martian Atmospheric Lifetimes of Methane, Formalde-** 538 **hyde, Formic Acid, and Ethane**

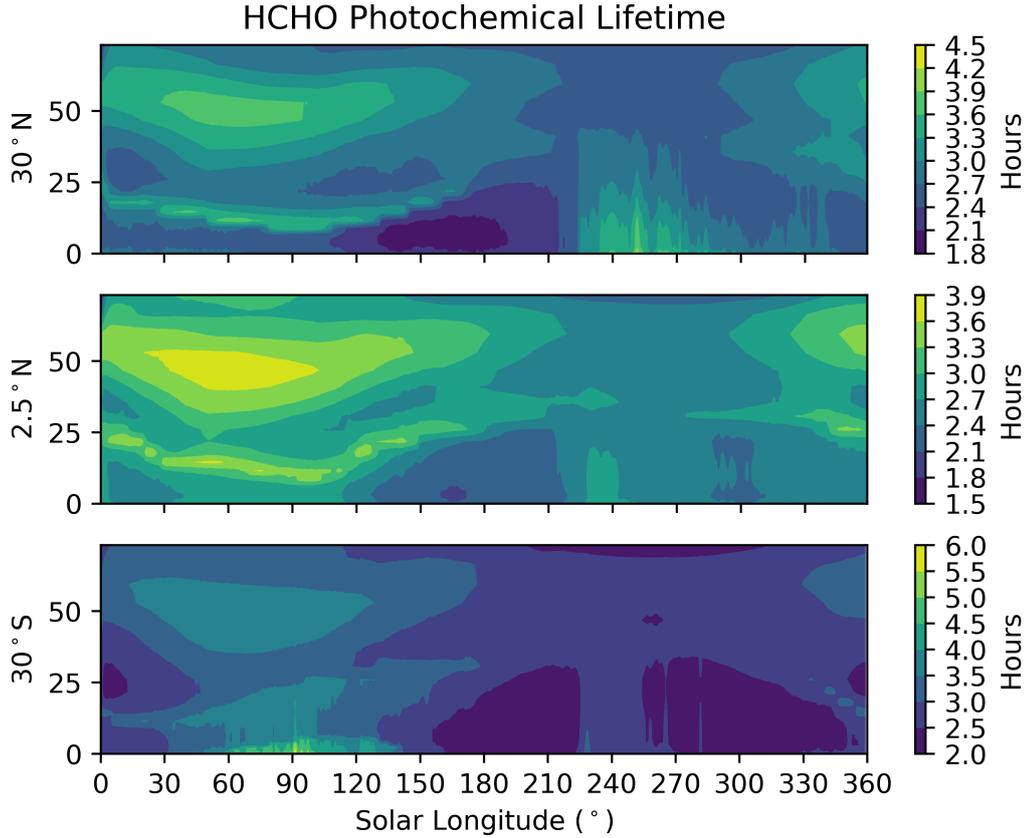
### 539 **A1 Methane**

540 Figure A1 shows the net atmospheric lifetime of CH<sub>4</sub>, incorporating all loss terms  
 541 (Figure 2), as a function of latitude and solar longitude. Atmospheric lifetimes reach a  
 542 minimum of 25–400 year between the top of the hygropause and approximately 50 km  
 543 due to the larger abundance of the O(<sup>1</sup>D) atom. Below the hygropause where OH is the  
 544 dominant sink, atmospheric lifetimes vary between 400 and 800 years. The longest life-  
 545 times of 800–1600 years lie between 50 and 60 km during winter ( $L_S = 270$ – $360^\circ$ ), as  
 546 described above, where the OH and O(<sup>1</sup>D) loss processes decline and before photolysis dom-  
 547 inates above 60 km.

548 Variations in atmospheric lifetime are driven by the position of the Martian hygropause  
 549 and the water vapour content beneath, which is determined by 3-D model output from  
 550 the MCD (section 2). Water vapour columns reach their maximum during hemispheric  
 551 summer months when polar water ice sublimates with rising atmospheric temperatures.  
 552 SPICAM water vapour column measurements at  $L_S = 50^\circ$  (Fedorova et al., 2006) show  
 553 only small variations at latitudes less than 30°, with values ranging from 2–10 pr  $\mu\text{m}$ ,



**Figure A1.** Photochemical lifetime of CH<sub>4</sub> within the atmosphere of Mars and its variations with altitude (km) and solar longitude at latitudes 30°N, 2.5 °N, and 30°S, respectively. All vertical segments are values from the 1-D photochemistry model at 12:00 LT.



**Figure A2.** Photochemical lifetime of HCHO within the atmosphere of Mars and its variations with altitude (km) and solar longitude at latitudes 30°N, 2.5 °N, and 30°S, respectively. All vertical segments are values from the 1-D photochemistry model at 12:00 LT.

554 with saturation values under 25 km. This is consistent with our model loss processes that  
 555 determine the variation in atmospheric lifetime. Above 50 km, the stronger flux of solar  
 556 radiation in the northern hemisphere due to the planets axial tilt results in a larger  
 557 abundance of  $O(^1D)$  and a subsequent lower photochemical lifetime of  $CH_4$  than in the  
 558 southern hemisphere. As water vapour column abundances and saturation altitudes increase  
 559 with  $L_S$ , the low latitude atmospheric lifetime of  $CH_4$  increases below 50 km due  
 560 to  $H_2O$  reacting with  $O(^1D)$  and decreases below roughly 25 km. The decrease in solar  
 561 flux during northern autumn and winter months ( $L_S = 180^\circ - 360^\circ$ ) reduces the production  
 562 rate of  $O(^1D)$  relative to the southern hemisphere, which explains the variation in  
 563 lifetimes between the hemispheres.

## 564 **A2 Formaldehyde**

565 Figure A2 shows the resultant seasonal variability of HCHO lifetime at latitudes  
 566 30°N, 2.5°N, and 30°S. We find the longest lifetimes, between 4 and 5 hours, are found  
 567 below 5 km in the southern hemisphere during the northern summer/southern winter,  
 568 when this region contains low levels of water vapour.

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**A3 Formic Acid**

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Figure A3 shows the resultant seasonal variability of HCOOH lifetime at latitudes  $30^\circ\text{N}$ ,  $2.5^\circ\text{N}$ , and  $30^\circ\text{S}$ . The lifetime of HCOOH is anti-correlated with water vapour, as expected. The longest lifetime (of magnitude's greater than  $10^4$  sols) is during the northern spring at altitudes greater than 60 km where OH is lowest. As OH values increase with the supply of water vapour from northern polar ice sublimation, atmospheric lifetimes falls to 1–10 sols close to the hygropause and 10–200 sols at lower altitudes closer to the surface (below 5 km).

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With atmospheric lifetimes of this length, describing seasonal changes in HCOOH profiles using a 1-D photochemistry model becomes problematic due to the photochemical lifetimes exceeding the venting timescales associated with our  $3.75^\circ$  thick zonal band that our model represents. Without horizontal transport equations to describe the loss of HCOOH to the zonal band edges, the resultant profiles after a one-year 1-D model run will be subject to gross inaccuracies. As previously discussed in section 2, solving the 1-D model equation for steady state conditions will not yield useful information due to the observed temporal and localized nature of  $\text{CH}_4$  emissions, invalidating the notion of a steady-state environment.

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**A4 Ethane**

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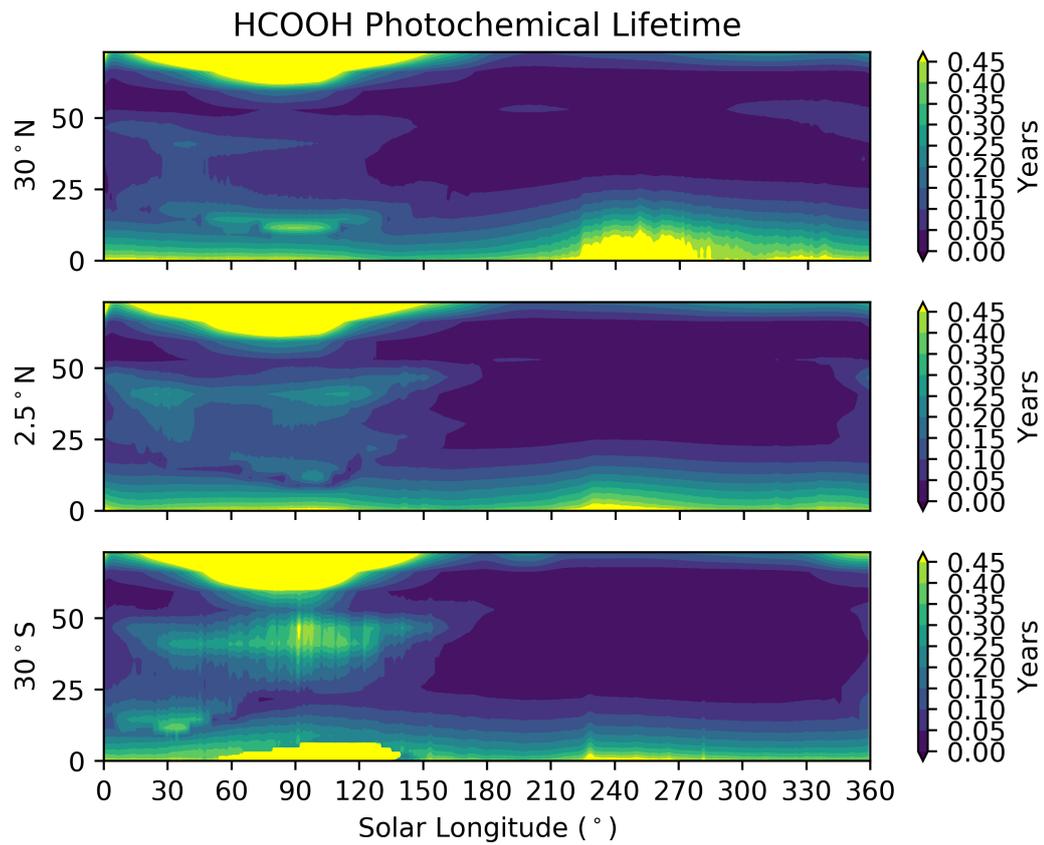
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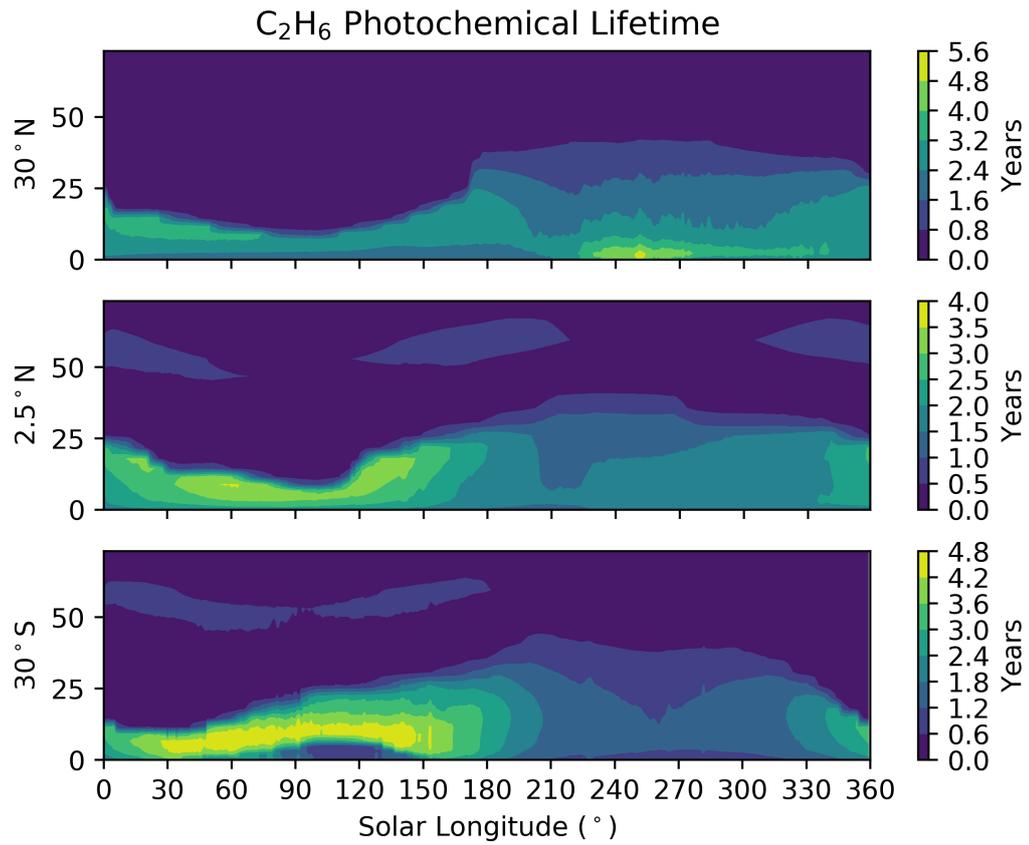
Figure A4 shows that  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_6$  has longer photochemical lifetimes below the points of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  saturation, where we find typical values that range from 3 to 5 years. In the middle atmosphere, the large abundance of  $\text{O}(^3\text{P})$  reduced the lifetime to 30–450 sols. Based on these calculations, we suggest that any detection of  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_6$  made by the TGO instruments will due to an active release.

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**Appendix B Reaction Rate Coefficients**



**Figure A3.** Photochemical lifetime of HCOOH within the atmosphere of Mars and its variations with altitude (km) and solar longitude at latitudes 30°N, 2.5 °N, and 30°S, respectively. All vertical segments are values from the 1-D photochemistry model at 12:00 LT. Contour map saturated for values greater than 0.45 years.



**Figure A4.** Photochemical lifetime of C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub> within the atmosphere of Mars and its variations with altitude (km) and solar longitude at latitudes 30°N, 2.5 °N, and 30°S, respectively. All vertical segments are values from the 1-D photochemistry model at 12:00 LT.

**Table B1.** Inorganic reaction rate coefficients within the 1-D photochemistry submodule. Bimolecular rate coefficient units are  $\text{cm}^3 \text{molec}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$ . Values denoted by superscript *a* are three-body reactions with values taken with atmospheric number density complying to temperatures of  $T = 298 \text{ K}$  and pressures of  $660 \text{ Pa}$ .

Key	Reaction	Formula	Rate at $T = 298 \text{ K}$	Reference
Reactions with O				
$a_1$	$O + O_2 + M \rightarrow O_3 + M$	$2.075 \times 6.00E-34(T/300)^{-2.4}$	$2.23E-16^a$	(S. Sander et al., 2003)
$a_2$	$O + O + M \rightarrow O_2 + M$	$2.50 \times 9.46E-34 \exp(485/T)$	$2.10E-15^a$	(Campbell & Gray, 1973)
$a_3$	$O + O_3 \rightarrow O_2 + O_2$	$8.00E-13 \exp(-2060/T)$	$7.96E-16$	(S. Sander et al., 2003)
Reactions with $O(^1D)$				
$b_1$	$O(^1D) + CO_2 \rightarrow O + CO_2$	$7.40E-11 \exp(120/T)$	$1.11E-10$	(S. Sander et al., 2003)
$b_2$	$O(^1D) + H_2O \rightarrow OH + OH$	$1.63E-10 \exp(60/T)$	$1.99E-10$	(S. Sander et al., 2006)
$b_3$	$O(^1D) + H_2 \rightarrow OH + H$	$1.20E-10$	$1.20E-10$	(S. Sander et al., 2011)
$b_4$	$O(^1D) + O_2 \rightarrow O + O_2$	$3.30E-11 \exp(55/T)$	$3.97E-11$	(S. Sander et al., 2006)
$b_5$	$O(^1D) + O_3 \rightarrow O_2 + O_2$	$1.20E-11$	$1.20E-11$	(S. Sander et al., 2003)
$b_6$	$O(^1D) + O_3 \rightarrow O_2 + O + O$	$1.20E-11$	$1.20E-11$	(S. Sander et al., 2003)
$b_7$	$O(^1D) + CH_4 \rightarrow CH_3 + OH$	$0.75 \times 1.75E-10$	$1.31E-10$	(S. Sander et al., 2003)
$b_8$	$O(^1D) + CH_4 \rightarrow CH_3O + H$	$0.20 \times 1.75E-10$	$3.50E-11$	(S. Sander et al., 2003)
$b_9$	$O(^1D) + CH_4 \rightarrow HCHO + H_2$	$0.05 \times 1.75E-10$	$8.75E-12$	(S. Sander et al., 2003)
Reactions with Hydrogen Compounds				
$c_1$	$O + HO_2 \rightarrow OH + O_2$	$3.00E-11 \exp(200/T)$	$5.87E-11$	(S. Sander et al., 2003)
$c_2$	$O + OH \rightarrow O_2 + H$	$1.80E-11 \exp(180/T)$	$3.29E-11$	(S. Sander et al., 2011)
$c_3$	$H + O_3 \rightarrow OH + O_2$	$1.40E-10 \exp(-470/T)$	$2.89E-11$	(S. Sander et al., 2003)
$c_4$	$H + HO_2 \rightarrow OH + OH$	$7.20E-11$	$7.20E-11$	(S. Sander et al., 2006)
$c_5$	$H + HO_2 \rightarrow H_2 + O_2$	$6.90E-12$	$6.90E-12$	(S. Sander et al., 2006)
$c_6$	$H + HO_2 \rightarrow H_2O + O$	$1.60E-12$	$1.60E-12$	(S. Sander et al., 2006)
$c_7$	$OH + HO_2 \rightarrow H_2O + O_2$	$4.80E-11 \exp(250/T)$	$1.11E-10$	(S. Sander et al., 2003)
$c_8$	$HO_2 + HO_2 \rightarrow H_2O_2O_2$	$1.50E-12 \exp(19/T)$	$1.60E-12$	(Christensen et al., 2002)
$c_9$	$OH + H_2O_2 \rightarrow H_2O + HO_2$	$1.80E-12$	$1.80E-12$	(S. Sander et al., 2006)
$c_{10}$	$OH + H_2 \rightarrow H_2O + H$	$2.80E-12 \exp(-1800/T)$	$6.67E-15$	(S. Sander et al., 2006)
$c_{11}$	$H + O_2 + M \rightarrow HO_2 + M$	$k_{3rd}(2.5 \times 4.4E-32, -1.3, 7.5E-11, 0.2)$	$1.88E-14^a$	(S. Sander et al., 2011)
$c_{12}$	$O + H_2O_2 \rightarrow OH + HO_2$	$1.40E-12 \exp(-2000/T)$	$1.70E-15$	(S. Sander et al., 2003)
$c_{13}$	$OH + OH \rightarrow H_2O + O$	$1.80E-12$	$1.80E-12$	(S. Sander et al., 2006)
$c_{14}$	$OH + O_3 \rightarrow HO_2 + O_2$	$1.50E-12 \exp(-880/T)$	$7.83E-14$	(S. Sander et al., 2003)
$c_{15}$	$HO_2 + O_3 \rightarrow OH + O_2 + O_2$	$1.00E-14 \exp(-490/T)$	$1.93E-15$	(S. Sander et al., 2003)
$c_{16}$	$HO_2 + HO_2 + M \rightarrow H_2O_2 + O_2 + M$	$2.50 \times 2.10E-33 \exp(920/T)$	$2.01E-14^a$	(S. Sander et al., 2011)
$c_{17}$	$OH + OH + M \rightarrow H_2O_2 + M$	$k_{3rd}(2.5 \times 6.9E-31, -1, 2.60E-11, 0)$	$2.70E-13^a$	(S. Sander et al., 2003)
$c_{18}$	$H + H + M \rightarrow H_2 + M$	$2.5 \times 1.80E-30/T$	$2.64E-14^a$	(Baulch et al., 2005)
Carbon Compounds				
$e_1$	$OH + CO \rightarrow CO_2 + H$	Details in Joshi and Wang (2006)	$1.47E-13$	(Joshi & Wang, 2006)
$e_2$	$O + CO + M \rightarrow CO_2 + M$	$2.5 \times 6.50E-33 \exp(-2184/T)$	$1.87E-18^a$	(Tsang & Hampson, 1986)

**Table B2.** Photolytic reactions of inorganic compounds used within the 1-D photochemistry submodule. Values ( $\text{s}^{-1}$ ) are interpolated from an offline look-up table constructed by a modified TUV (Madronich et al., 2002) model with respect to  $\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{O}_3$  column abundances overhead, temperature, optical opacity and solar zenith angle. Values displayed are extracted at zenith conditions,  $L_S = 251^\circ$  (perihelion).

Key	Reaction	$J(z = 0.50 \text{ km})$	$J(z = 42.67 \text{ km})$
$j_{O_2 \rightarrow O}$	$O_2 + h\nu \rightarrow O + O$	$2.95E-10$	$5.16E-09$
$j_{O_2 \rightarrow O(^1D)}$	$O_2 + h\nu \rightarrow O + O(^1D)$	0	0
$j_{CO_2 \rightarrow O}$	$CO_2 + h\nu \rightarrow CO + O$	$3.79E-12$	$1.02E-10$
$j_{CO_2 \rightarrow O(^1D)}$	$CO_2 + h\nu \rightarrow CO + O(^1D)$	0	0
$j_{O_3 \rightarrow O(^1D)}$	$O_3 + h\nu \rightarrow O_2 + O(^1D)$	$3.12E-03$	$4.09E-03$
$j_{O_3 \rightarrow O}$	$O_3 + h\nu \rightarrow O_2 + O$	$5.22E-04$	$6.86E-04$
$j_{H_2O}$	$H_2O + h\nu \rightarrow H + OH$	$1.28E-10$	$4.67E-08$
$j_{H_2O_2}$	$H_2O_2 + h\nu \rightarrow OH + OH$	$3.93E-05$	$5.26E-05$
$j_{HO_2}$	$HO_2 + h\nu \rightarrow O + OH$	$2.40E-04$	$3.20E-04$

**Table B3.** Functions and constants used by the R-O<sub>2</sub> permutation reaction handling scheme extracted from the CAABA/MECCA v4.0 box model.

CAABA/MECCA v4.0 Reaction Rate Parameters		
Key	Formula	Notes and Citations
Radical Arrhenius Equations		
k_ch3o2	1.03E-13*exp(365/T)	CH <sub>3</sub> O <sub>2</sub> Self-reaction (R. Sander et al., 2019)
k_ch3ooh	5.30E-12*exp(190/T)	CH <sub>3</sub> OOH + OH Reaction (R. Sander et al., 2019)
k_ch3co2h	4.00E-14*exp(850/T)	CH <sub>3</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> H + OH Reaction (R. Sander et al., 2019)
k_ro2ho2_1	2.91E-13*exp(1300/T)*(1 - exp(-0.245*1) )	RO <sub>2</sub> + HO <sub>2</sub> (One carbon atom) (R. Sander et al., 2019)
k_ro2ho2_2	2.91E-13*exp(1300/T)*(1 - exp(-0.245*2) )	RO <sub>2</sub> + HO <sub>2</sub> (Two carbon atoms) (R. Sander et al., 2019)
Arrhenius Equations for H Abstraction by OH		
k_s	4.50E-18*T <sup>2</sup> *exp(253./T)	(Taraborrelli, 2010; R. Sander et al., 2019)
k_t	2.12E-18*T <sup>2</sup> *exp(696/T)	(Taraborrelli, 2010; R. Sander et al., 2019)
k_rohro	2.10E-18*T <sup>2</sup> *exp(-85/T)	(Taraborrelli, 2010; R. Sander et al., 2019)
k_roohro	0.60*k_ch3ooh	(Taraborrelli, 2010; R. Sander et al., 2019)
k_co2h	0.7*k_ch3co2h	(Taraborrelli, 2010; R. Sander et al., 2019)
kdec	1.00E6	(Atkinson et al., 2006; R. Sander et al., 2019)
Updated Rate Constants for RO <sub>3</sub> + HO <sub>2</sub> Reactions		
kapho2	5.20E-13*exp(980/T)*1.865	(Groß et al., 2014; R. Sander et al., 2019)
Arrhenius Equations for Permutation Reactions		
k_ro2soro2	2*(7.70E-15*exp(1330/T)*k_ch3o2) <sup>0.5</sup>	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
k_ro2rco3	4.00E-12*exp(500/T)	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
k_ro2poro2	2*7.50E-14*exp(500/T)	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
Substituent Factors		
f_soh	3.44	(Taraborrelli, 2010; R. Sander et al., 2019)
f_sooh	8.00	(Taraborrelli, 2010; R. Sander et al., 2019)
f_pch2oh	1.29	(Taraborrelli, 2010; R. Sander et al., 2019)
f_tooh	8.00	(Taraborrelli, 2010; R. Sander et al., 2019)
f_toh	2.68	(Taraborrelli, 2010; R. Sander et al., 2019)
f_o	8.15	(Taraborrelli, 2010; R. Sander et al., 2019)
f_cho	0.55	(Taraborrelli, 2010; R. Sander et al., 2019)
f_co2h	1.67	(Taraborrelli, 2010; R. Sander et al., 2019)
Branching Ratios for RO <sub>2</sub> + HO <sub>2</sub> Reactions		
rco3_o3	0.10	(Groß et al., 2014; R. Sander et al., 2019)
rco3_oh	0.69	(Groß et al., 2014; R. Sander et al., 2019)
rco3_ooh	0.21	(Groß et al., 2014; R. Sander et al., 2019)
rchoch2o2_oh	0.10	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
rcoch2o2_oh	0.15	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
rcoch2o2_ooh	0.85	(R. Sander et al., 2019)

**Table B4.** Chemical reactions and rate coefficients involved in the oxidation of CH<sub>4</sub> used in our 1-D photochemistry model. Bimolecular rate coefficient units are cm<sup>3</sup> molec<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>a</sup> are three-body reactions with values taken with atmospheric number density complying to temperatures of T = 298 K and pressures of 660 Pa. <sup>b</sup> are unimolecular rate coefficients with units s<sup>-1</sup>.

Methane Reaction Scheme				
Key	Reaction	Formula	Rate at T = 298 K	Reference
<i>cab1</i>	$CH_4 + OH \rightarrow CH_3 + OH$	$1.85E-20 \exp(2.82 \text{LOG}(T) - 987./T)$	6.40E-15	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
<i>cab2</i>	$CH_4 + O \rightarrow 0.51 * CH_3 + 0.51 * OH$ $+0.49 * CH_3O + 0.49 * H$	$6.03E-18(T^{2.17}) \exp(-3619/T)$	7.50E-18	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
<i>cab3</i>	$CH_3 + O_2 + M \rightarrow CH_3O_2 + M$	$k_{3rd}(7.00E-31, 3., 1.80E-12, -1.1)$	1.14E-13 <sup>a</sup>	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
<i>cab4</i>	$CH_3 + O_3 \rightarrow 0.956 * HCHO + 0.956 * H$ $+0.044 * CH_3O + O_2$	$5.10E-12 \exp(-210/T)$	2.52E-12	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
<i>cab5</i>	$CH_3 + O \rightarrow 0.83 * HCHO + 0.83 * H$ $+0.17 * CO + 0.17 * H_2 + 0.17 * H$	1.30E-10	1.3E-10	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
<i>cab6</i>	$CH_3O_2 + HO_2 \rightarrow CH_3OOH + O_2$	$3.8E-13 \exp(780/T)$ $/(1 + 1/(498 \exp(1160/T)))$	5.21E-12	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
<i>cab7</i>	$CH_3O_2 + HO_2 \rightarrow HCHO + H_2O + O_2$	$3.8E-13 \exp(780/T)$ $/(1 + 498 \exp(-1160/T))$	4.67E-13	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
<i>cab8</i>	$CH_3O_2 + R - O_2 \rightarrow CH_3O + 0.5 * O_2$	$2 * 7.40E-13 \exp(-520/T)$	2.59E-13	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
<i>cab9</i>	$CH_3O_2 + R - O_2 \rightarrow 0.5 * HCHO$ $+0.5 * CH_3OH + 0.5 * O_2$	$2 * (k_{ch3o2} - 7.40E-13 \exp(-520/T))$	4.43E-13	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
<i>cab10</i>	$CH_3O_2 + O_3 \rightarrow CH_3O + O_2 + O_2$	$2.90E-16 \exp(-1000/T)$	1.01E-17	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
<i>cab11</i>	$CH_3O_2 + OH \rightarrow CH_3O + HO_2$	1.40E-10	1.40E-10	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
<i>cab12</i>	$CH_3O_2 + O \rightarrow CH_3O + O_2$	4.30E-11	4.30E-11	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
<i>cab13</i>	$CH_3OH + OH \rightarrow 0.85 * HCHO$ $+0.85 * HO_2 + 0.15 * CH_3O + H_2O$ $CH_3OOH + OH \rightarrow 0.6 * CH_3O_2$ $+0.4 * HCHO + 0.4 * OH + H_2O$	$6.38E-18(T^2) \exp(144/T)$	9.19E-13	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
<i>cab14</i>	$CH_3O + O_2 \rightarrow HO_2 + HCHO$	$k_{ch3ooh\_oh}$	1.00E-11	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
<i>cab15</i>	$CH_3O + O_2 \rightarrow HO_2 + HCHO$	$1.30E-14 \exp(-633/T)$	1.55E-15	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
<i>cab16</i>	$CH_3O + O_3 \rightarrow CH_3O_2 + O_2$	2.53E-14	2.53E-14	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
<i>cab17</i>	$CH_3O + O \rightarrow 0.75 * CH_3 + 0.75 * O_2$ $+0.25 * HCHO + 0.25 * OH$	2.50E-11	2.50E-11	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
<i>cab18</i>	$HCHO + OH \rightarrow HCO + H_2O$	$5.50E-12 \exp(-125/T)$	3.60E-12	(S. Sander et al., 2011)
<i>cab19</i>	$HCHO + HO_2 \rightarrow HOCH_2O_2$	$9.70E-15 \exp(625/T)$	7.90E-14	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
<i>cab20</i>	$HCHO + O \rightarrow HCO + OH$	$2.99E-11 \exp(-1529/T)$	1.77E-13	(Herron, 1988)
<i>cab21</i>	$HCO + O \rightarrow CO + OH$	5.00E-11	5.00E-11	(Baulch et al., 1992)
<i>cab22</i>	$HCO + CH_3 \rightarrow CH_4 + CO$	4.40E-11	4.40E-11	(S. Mulenko, 1987)
<i>cab23</i>	$HCO + CH_3 \rightarrow CH_3CHO$	4.42E-11	4.42E-11	(S. A. Mulenko, 1980)
<i>cab24</i>	$HCO + HCO \rightarrow HCHO + CO$	4.48E-11	4.48E-11	(Friedrichs et al., 2002)
<i>cab25</i>	$HCO + OH \rightarrow CO + H_2O$	1.69E-10	1.69E-10	(Baulch et al., 1992)
<i>cab26</i>	$HCO + O_2 \rightarrow CO + HO_2$	5.20E-12	5.20E-12	(S. Sander et al., 2011)
<i>cab27</i>	$HCO + H \rightarrow CO + H_2$	1.83E-10	1.83E-10	(Friedrichs et al., 2002)
<i>cab28</i>	$HOCH_2O_2 \rightarrow HCHO + HO_2$	$2.40E12 \exp(-7000/T)$	150.89 <sup>b</sup>	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
<i>cab29</i>	$HOCH_2O_2 + HO_2 \rightarrow 0.5 * HOCH_2OOH$ $+0.5 * HCOOH + 0.2 * OH + 0.2 * HO_2 + 0.3 * H_2O + 0.8 * O_2$	$5.6E-15 \exp(2300/T)$	1.26E-12	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
<i>cab30</i>	$HOCH_2O_2 + R - O_2 \rightarrow HCOOH + HO_2$	$2 * (k_{ch3o2} * 5.50E-12)^{0.5}$	2.78E-12	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
<i>cab31</i>	$HOCH_2O_2 + R - O_2 \rightarrow 0.5 * HCOOH$ $+0.5 * HOCH_2OH + 0.5 * O_2$	$2 * (k_{ch3o2} * 5.70E-14 * \exp(750/T))^{0.5}$	9.95E-13	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
<i>cab32</i>	$HCOOH + OH \rightarrow CO_2 + HO_2 + H_2O$	$2.94E-14 \exp(786/T) + 9.85E-13 \exp(-1036/T)$	4.42E-13	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
<i>cab33</i>	$HOCH_2OOH + OH \rightarrow HOCH_2O_2$	$k_{roohro}$	6.02E-12	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
<i>cab34</i>	$HOCH_2OOH + OH \rightarrow HCOOH + H_2O + OH$	$k_{rohro} + k_{sxf\_soh} * f_{sooh}$	2.59E-11	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
<i>cab35</i>	$HOCH_2OH + OH \rightarrow HO_2 + HCOOH + H_2O$	$2 * k_{rohro} + k_{sxf\_soh}^2$	1.13E-11	(R. Sander et al., 2019)

**Table B5.** Chemical reactions and rate coefficients involved in the oxidation of C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub> used in our 1-D photochemistry model. Bimolecular rate coefficient units are cm<sup>3</sup> molec<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>a</sup> are three-body reactions with values taken with atmospheric number density complying to temperatures of T = 298 K and pressures of 660 Pa. <sup>b</sup> are unimolecular rate coefficients with units s<sup>-1</sup>.

Ethane Reaction Scheme				
Key	Reaction	Formula	Rate at T = 298 K	Reference
cab36	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub> + OH → C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> + H <sub>2</sub> O	7.66E-12exp(-1020/T)	2.50E-13	(S. Sander et al., 2011)
cab37	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub> + O → C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> + OH	2.21E-15(T/298) <sup>0.5</sup> exp(-132/T)	1.42E-15	(Cohen & Westberg, 1991)
cab38	CH <sub>3</sub> + CH <sub>3</sub> + M → C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub>	Details in (Cody et al., 2003)	5.12E-11 <sup>a</sup>	(Cody et al., 2003)
cab39	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> + O <sub>2</sub> + M → C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	2.5 × 1.50E-28(298/T) <sup>3</sup> × dens	6.02E-11 <sup>a</sup>	(S. Sander et al., 2011)
cab40	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> + C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> → C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub> + C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub>	2.01E-12	2.01E-12	(Dobis & Benson, 1991)
cab41	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> + O <sub>2</sub> → C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub> + HO <sub>2</sub>	1.90E-14	1.90E-14	(S. Sander et al., 2011)
cab42	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> + H → CH <sub>3</sub> + CH <sub>3</sub>	7.95E-11exp(-132/T)	5.11E-11	(Pratt & Wood, 1984)
cab43	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> O <sub>2</sub> + HO <sub>2</sub> → C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> OOH + O <sub>2</sub>	7.50E-13exp(700/T)	7.86E-12	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab44	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> O <sub>2</sub> + RO <sub>2</sub> → 0.8 × CH <sub>3</sub> CHO + 0.6 × HO <sub>2</sub> + 0.2 × C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> OH + O <sub>2</sub>	2(7.60E-14 × k.ch3o2) <sup>0.5</sup>	3.27E-13	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab45	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> OOH + HO <sub>2</sub> → C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> OOH + O <sub>2</sub>	k.roohro	6.02E-12	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab46	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> OOH + OH → CH <sub>3</sub> CHO + OH	k.s*f.sooh	7.47E-12	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab47	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> OH + OH → 0.95 × C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> O <sub>2</sub> + 0.95 × HO <sub>2</sub> + 0.05 × HOCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> + H <sub>2</sub> O	3.00E-12exp(20/T)	3.21E-12	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab48	HOCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> + RO <sub>2</sub> → 0.6 × HOCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> O + 0.2 × HOCH <sub>2</sub> CHO + 0.2 × ETHGLY	2*(7.80E-14exp(1000/T)*k.ch3o2) <sup>0.5</sup>	1.77E-12	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab49	HOCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> + HO <sub>2</sub> → HYETHO2H	1.53E-13exp(1300/T)*(1-k.rchohch2o2,oh)	1.08E-11	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab50	HOCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> + HO <sub>2</sub> → HOCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> O + OH	1.53E-13exp(1300/T)*k.rchohch2o2,oh	1.20E-12	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab51	HOCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> O + O <sub>2</sub> → HO <sub>2</sub> + HOCH <sub>2</sub> CHO	6.00E-14exp(-550/T)	9.48E-15	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab52	HOCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> O → HO <sub>2</sub> + HCHO + HCHO	9.5E13exp(-5988/T)	1.78E <sup>5</sup> <sup>b</sup>	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab53	ETHGLY + OH → HOCH <sub>2</sub> CHO + HO <sub>2</sub> + H <sub>2</sub> O	2*k.s*f.soh*f.pch2oh + 2*k.rohro	8.57E-12	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab54	HYETHO2H + OH → HOCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> + H <sub>2</sub> O	k.roohro	6.02E-12	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab55	HYETHO2H + OH → HOCH <sub>2</sub> CHO + OH + H <sub>2</sub> O	k.s*f.sooh*f.pch2oh	9.64E-12	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab56	HYETHO2H + OH → HOOCH <sub>2</sub> CHO + HO <sub>2</sub> + H <sub>2</sub> O	k.s*f.soh*f.pch2oh + k.rohro	4.29E-12	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab57	CH <sub>3</sub> CHO + OH → CH <sub>3</sub> C(O) + H <sub>2</sub> O	4.40E-12exp(365/T)*0.95	1.42E-11	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab58	CH <sub>3</sub> CHO + OH → HCOCH <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> + H <sub>2</sub> O	4.40E-12exp(365/T)*0.05	7.48E-13	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab59	CH <sub>3</sub> CHO + HO <sub>2</sub> → CH <sub>3</sub> CHOHO <sub>2</sub>	3.46E12exp(-12500/(1.98*T)) / 6.34E26*exp(-1470/(1.98*T))	4.77E-22	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab60	CH <sub>3</sub> CHO + HCOOH → CH <sub>3</sub> CHOH + HCOOH	(1.17E-19*T <sup>2.209</sup> )exp(-556/(1.987T))	1.34E-14	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab61	CH <sub>2</sub> CHOH + OH → HCOOH + OH + HCHO	4.30E-11	4.30E-11	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab62	CH <sub>2</sub> CHOH + OH → HOCH <sub>2</sub> CHO + HO <sub>2</sub>	2.40E-11	2.40E-11	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab63	CH <sub>2</sub> CHOH + HCOOH → CH <sub>3</sub> CHO + HCOOH	(4.67E-26*T <sup>3.286</sup> )exp(-556/(T*1.987))	2.47E-18	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab64	CH <sub>3</sub> CHOHO <sub>2</sub> → CH <sub>3</sub> CHO + HO <sub>2</sub>	3.46E12exp(-12500/(T*1.98))	2.18E <sup>3</sup> <sup>b</sup>	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab65	CH <sub>3</sub> CHOHO <sub>2</sub> + HO <sub>2</sub> → 0.5 × CH <sub>3</sub> CHOHOOH + 0.3 × CH <sub>3</sub> COOH + 0.2 × CH <sub>3</sub> + 0.2 × HCOOH + 0.2 × OH + O <sub>2</sub>	5.60E-15exp(2300/T)	1.26E-11	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab66	CH <sub>2</sub> CHOHO <sub>2</sub> + RO <sub>2</sub> → CH <sub>3</sub> + HCOOH + OH	k.ro2soro2	9.68E-13	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab67	CH <sub>2</sub> COOH + OH → CH <sub>3</sub> + CO <sub>2</sub> + H <sub>2</sub> O	4.00E-14exp(850/T)	6.93E-13	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab68	CH <sub>2</sub> CHOHOHOH + OH → CH <sub>2</sub> COOH + OH	k.t*f.tooh*f.toh + k.rohro	4.19E-11	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab69	CH <sub>3</sub> CHOHOHOH + OH → CH <sub>2</sub> CHOHO <sub>2</sub>	k.roohro	6.02E-12	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab70	CH <sub>3</sub> C(O) + O <sub>2</sub> + M → CH <sub>3</sub> C(O)OO + M	5.10E-12(1 - 1/(1 + 9.48E-18*dens*2.5))	4.04E-12 <sup>a</sup>	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab71	CH <sub>3</sub> C(O) + O <sub>2</sub> + M → OH + HCHO + CO + M	5.10E-12/(1 + 9.48E-18*dens*2.5))	1.06E-12 <sup>a</sup>	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab72	CH <sub>3</sub> C(O)OO + HO <sub>2</sub> → OH + CH <sub>3</sub> + CO <sub>2</sub>	5.20E-13exp(980/T)*1.507*0.61	1.28E-11	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab73	CH <sub>3</sub> C(O)OO + HO <sub>2</sub> → CH <sub>3</sub> C(O)OOH	5.20E-13exp(980/T)*1.507*0.23	4.83E-12	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab74	CH <sub>3</sub> C(O)OO + HO <sub>2</sub> → CH <sub>3</sub> COOH + O <sub>3</sub>	5.20E-13exp(980/T)*1.507*0.16	3.36E-12	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab75	CH <sub>3</sub> C(O)OO + RO <sub>2</sub> → CH <sub>3</sub> + CO <sub>2</sub>	k.ro2roo3*0.9	1.93E-11	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab76	CH <sub>3</sub> C(O)OO + RO <sub>2</sub> → CH <sub>3</sub> COOH	k.ro2roo3*0.1	2.14E-12	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab77	CH <sub>3</sub> C(O)OOH + OH → CH <sub>3</sub> C(O)OO + H <sub>2</sub> O	k.roohro	6.02E-12	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab78	HCOCH <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> + RO <sub>2</sub> → 0.6 × HCHO + 0.6 × CO + 0.6 × HO <sub>2</sub> + 0.2 × GLYOX + 0.2 × HOCH <sub>2</sub> CHO	k.ro2poro2	8.03E-12	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab79	HCOCH <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> + HO <sub>2</sub> → HOOCH <sub>2</sub> CHO	k.ro2ho2,2*rcoch2o2,ooH	7.52E-12	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab80	HCOCH <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> + HO <sub>2</sub> → HCHO + CO + HO <sub>2</sub> + OH	k.ro2ho2,2*rcoch2o2,oh	1.33E-12	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab81	GLYOX + OH → HCOCO + H <sub>2</sub> O	3.10E-12exp(340/T)	9.70E-12	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab82	HCOCO → HCO + CO	1.40E12exp(-3159/T)	3.54E <sup>7</sup> <sup>b</sup>	(Orlando & Tyndall, 2001)
cab83	HCOCO + O <sub>2</sub> → HCOCO <sub>3</sub>	5.00E-12*3.2*exp(-550/T)	2.53E-12	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab84	HCOCO + O <sub>2</sub> → OH + CO + CO <sub>2</sub>	5.00E-12(1 - 3.2exp(-550/T))	2.47E-12	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab85	HOOCH <sub>2</sub> CHO + OH → HCOCH <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> + H <sub>2</sub> O	k.roohro	6.02E-12	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab86	HOOCH <sub>2</sub> CHO + OH → HCHO + CO + OH + H <sub>2</sub> O	0.8*8.00E-12	6.40E-12	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab87	HOOCH <sub>2</sub> CHO + OH → GLYOX + OH + H <sub>2</sub> O	0.55*k.s*f.sooh*f.cho	2.26E-12	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab88	HOCH <sub>2</sub> CHO + OH → HOCH <sub>2</sub> CO + H <sub>2</sub> O	0.8*8.00E-12	6.40E-12	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab89	HOCH <sub>2</sub> CHO + OH → HOCHCHO + H <sub>2</sub> O	0.2*8.00E-12	1.60E-12	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab90	HOCHCHO → GLYOX + HO <sub>2</sub>	kdec	1.00E <sup>6</sup> <sup>b</sup>	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab91	HOCH <sub>2</sub> CO + O <sub>2</sub> + M → HOCH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> + M	5.10E-12*(1 - 1/(1 + 1.85E-18*dens*2.5))	2.17E-12 <sup>a</sup>	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab92	HOCH <sub>2</sub> CO + O <sub>2</sub> + M → OH + HCHO + CO <sub>2</sub> + M	5.10E-12*(1 + 1.85E-18*dens*2.5)	8.89E-12 <sup>a</sup>	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab93	HOCH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> + RO <sub>2</sub> → HCHO + CO <sub>2</sub> + HO <sub>2</sub>	k.ro2roo3*0.9	1.93E-11	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab94	HOCH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> + RO <sub>2</sub> → HOCH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> H	k.ro2roo3*0.1	2.14E-12	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab95	HOCH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> + HO <sub>2</sub> → HCHO + OH + HO <sub>2</sub> + CO <sub>2</sub>	kapho2*rco3,oh	9.25E-12	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab96	HOCH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> + HO <sub>2</sub> → HOCH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> H	kapho2*rco3,ooH	2.82E-12	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab97	HOCH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> + HO <sub>2</sub> → HOCH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> H + O <sub>3</sub>	kapho2*rco3,oo3	1.34E-12	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab98	HOCH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> H + OH → 0.09 × HCHO + 0.91 × HCOCO <sub>2</sub> H + HO <sub>2</sub> + H <sub>2</sub> O	k.co2h + k.s*f.soh*f.co2h	5.50E012	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab99	HCOCO <sub>2</sub> H + OH → CO + HO <sub>2</sub> + CO <sub>2</sub> + H <sub>2</sub> O	k.co2h + k.t*f.co*f.co2h	2.66E-11	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab100	HOCH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> H + OH → HOCH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> + H <sub>2</sub> O	k.roohro	6.02E-12	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab101	HOCH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> H + OH → HCOCO <sub>2</sub> H + HO <sub>2</sub>	k.s*f.soh*f.co2h	5.37E-12	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab102	HCOCO <sub>2</sub> H + OH → HCOCO <sub>3</sub> + H <sub>2</sub> O	k.roohro	6.02E-12	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab103	HCOCO <sub>2</sub> H + OH → CO + CO <sub>2</sub> + H <sub>2</sub> O + OH	k.t*f.co*f.co2h	2.65E-11	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab104	HCOCO <sub>3</sub> + RO <sub>2</sub> → CO + HO <sub>2</sub> + CO <sub>2</sub>	k.ro2roo3*0.9	1.93E-11	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab105	HCOCO <sub>3</sub> + RO <sub>2</sub> → HCOCO <sub>2</sub> H + O <sub>2</sub>	k.ro2roo3*0.1	2.14E-12	(R. Sander et al., 2019)
cab106	HCOCO <sub>3</sub> + HO <sub>2</sub> → HO <sub>2</sub> + CO + CO <sub>2</sub> + OH	kapho2	1.34E-11	(R. Sander et al., 2019)

**Table B6.** Organic photolytic reactions used within the 1-D photochemistry submodule. Values ( $s^{-1}$ ) are interpolated from an offline look-up table constructed by a modified TUV (Madronich et al., 2002) model with respect to  $CO_2$  and  $O_3$  column abundances overhead, temperature, optical opacity and solar zenith angle. Values displayed are extracted at zenith conditions,  $L_S = 251^\circ$  (perihelion).

Key	Reaction	$J(z = 0.50 \text{ km})$	$J(z = 42.67 \text{ km})$	$J(z = 69.81 \text{ km})$
$j_{CH_4 \rightarrow CH_3}$	$CH_4 + h\nu \rightarrow CH_3 + H$	0.00	0.00	8.12E-10
$j_{CH_4 \rightarrow ^1CH_2}$	$CH_4 + h\nu \rightarrow ^1CH_2 + H_2$	0.00	0.00	1.63E-9
$j_{CH_4 \rightarrow ^3CH_2}$	$CH_4 + h\nu \rightarrow ^3CH_2 + H + H$	0.00	0.00	1.53E-10
$j_{CH_4 \rightarrow CH}$	$CH_4 + h\nu \rightarrow CH + H_2 + H$	0.00	0.00	1.95E-10
$j_{CH_3OOH}$	$CH_3OOH + h\nu \rightarrow CH_3O + OH$	2.23E-5	2.90E-5	2.97E-5
$j_{HCHO \rightarrow HCO}$	$HCHO + h\nu \rightarrow HCO + H$	3.54E-5	4.62E-5	4.74E-5
$j_{HCHO \rightarrow CO}$	$HCHO + h\nu \rightarrow H_2 + CO$	3.71E-5	4.88E-5	5.01E-5
$j_{CH_3OH}$	$CH_3OH + h\nu \rightarrow CH_3O + H$	1.59E-7	1.12E-6	1.64E-6
$j_{C_2H_6}$	$C_2H_6 + h\nu \rightarrow \text{Products}$	0.00	0.00	2.39E-9
$j_{CH_3CHO \rightarrow CH_3}$	$CH_3CHO + h\nu \rightarrow CH_3 + HCO$	2.43E-5	3.40E-5	3.44E-5
$j_{CH_3CHO \rightarrow CH_4}$	$CH_3CHO + h\nu \rightarrow CH_4 + CO$	5.46E-6	6.80E-6	6.81E-6
$j_{HOCH_2OOH}$	$HOCH_2OOH + h\nu(+O_2) \rightarrow HCOOH + HO_2 + OH$	4.43E-5	5.43E-5	5.43E-5
$j_{HOCH_2CHO \rightarrow HCO}$	$HOCH_2CHO + h\nu \rightarrow CH_3O + HCO$	4.08E-5	5.04E-5	5.05E-5
$j_{HOCH_2CHO \rightarrow CO}$	$HOCH_2CHO + h\nu \rightarrow CH_3OH + CO$	4.91E-6	6.07E-6	6.09E-6
$j_{HOCH_2CHO \rightarrow OH}$	$HOCH_2CHO + h\nu(+O_2) \rightarrow HCOCH_2O_2 + OH$	3.44E-6	4.25E-6	4.26E-6
$j_{Glyox \rightarrow HCO}$	$Glyoxal + h\nu \rightarrow HCO + HCO$	7.84E-5	8.49E-5	8.5E-5
$j_{Glyox \rightarrow H_2}$	$Glyoxal + h\nu \rightarrow H_2 + CO + CO$	1.90E-5	2.19E-5	2.20E-5
$j_{Glyox \rightarrow HCHO}$	$Glyoxal + h\nu \rightarrow HCHO + CO$	2.79E-5	3.13E-5	3.14E-5
$j_{CH_3COOH}$	$CH_3COOH + h\nu \rightarrow CH_3 + COOH$	7.77E-6	9.43E-6	9.44E-6
$j_{CH_3C(O)OOH}$	$CH_3C(O)OOH + h\nu \rightarrow CH_3 + OH + CO_2$	3.85E-5	4.73E-6	4.75E-5
Proxies				
Key	Reaction	Proxy	Source	
$j_{HOCH_2CO_3H}$	$HOCH_2CO_3H + h\nu \rightarrow HCHO + HO_2 + OH + CO_2$	$j_{CH_3OOH}$	(R. Sander et al., 2014)	
$j_{HCOCO_2H}$	$HCOCO_2H + h\nu \rightarrow 2HO_2 + CO + CO_2$	$3.95 \times j_{HCHO \rightarrow CO}$	(Kuhlmann et al., 2003)	
$j_{CH_3CHOHOOH}$	$CH_3CHOHOOH + h\nu \rightarrow CH_3 + HCOOH + OH$	$j_{CH_3OOH}$	(R. Sander et al., 2014)	
$j_{Hyetho2h}$	$Hyetho2h + h\nu \rightarrow HO_2 + CO + OH + CO_2$	$j_{CH_3OOH} + j_{HOCH_2CHO \rightarrow HCO} + j_{HOCH_2CHO \rightarrow CO} + j_{HOCH_2CHO \rightarrow OH}$	(R. Sander et al., 2014)	
$j_{HCOCO_3H}$	$HCOCO_3H + h\nu \rightarrow HO_2 + CO + OH + CO_2$	$j_{Hyetho2h}$	(R. Sander et al., 2014)	
$j_{HOCH_2CHO}$	$HOCH_2CHO + h\nu \rightarrow HCHO + OH + HO_2 + CO$	$j_{Hyetho2h}$	(R. Sander et al., 2014)	

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Data archival for this research has begun. The 1-D photochemistry model used to construct the output files analysed and presented in this work is currently stored on the GitHub repository. The offline J-value look-up tables (jmars.20111014 and jmars\_organics.nc) are too large to store alongside the 1-D model on GitHub, and will be made available via the University of Edinburgh's Datashare repository. The 1-D model output files themselves used in this research will similarly be stored within the Datashare repository. The TUV model source code used to construct the J-value look-up tables can be acquired through the url <https://www2.aom.ucar.edu/modeling/tropospheric-ultraviolet-and-visible-tuv-radiation-model>. The Mars Climate Database v5.3 source code used to create the offline tables for atmospheric parameter and long-lived tracer vmr's for the 1-D model here can be acquired through the url <http://www-mars.lmd.jussieu.fr/mars/access.html>, requiring a request to be made to the researchers listed on the site.

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