

Intensity of the second and third OH overtones of H₂O₂, HNO₃, and HO₂NO₂

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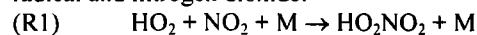
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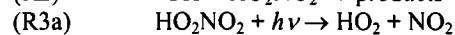
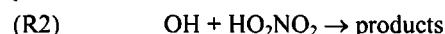
Abstract. The 3v_{OH} and 4v_{OH} of H₂O₂, HNO₃, and HO₂NO₂ have been observed. The band strengths of 3v_{OH} are $(7.0 \pm 1.8) \times 10^{-20}$, $(2.9 \pm 0.7) \times 10^{-20}$, and $(3.8 \pm 1.1) \times 10^{-20} \text{ cm}^2 \text{ molecules}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ for H₂O₂, HNO₃, and HO₂NO₂, respectively. Those of 4v_{OH} are $(4.5 \pm 1.6) \times 10^{-21}$, $(2.8 \pm 1.0) \times 10^{-21}$, and $(3.0 \pm 1.8) \times 10^{-21} \text{ cm}^2 \text{ molecules}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ for H₂O₂, HNO₃, and HO₂NO₂, respectively. The uncertainty is for one standard deviation. Assuming excitation of these modes by solar absorption is dissociative for HO₂NO₂, these measurements confirm that this process will play a small role in the atmospheric photochemistry of the lower stratosphere.

1. Introduction

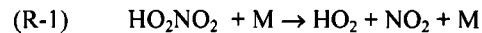
From the time it was first observed in the gas phase [Niki *et al.*, 1977], peroxy nitric acid (HO₂NO₂) has been thought to be important to the chemistry of the terrestrial atmosphere. It is the current understanding that HO₂NO₂ is formed in the atmosphere exclusively by the recombination of hydroperoxy radical and nitrogen dioxide:



and is removed by reaction with hydroxyl radicals, via photodissociation:



and in the troposphere, by thermal decomposition:



Reaction (R-1) is unimportant above 7 km because of the low temperature and pressure [Graham *et al.*, 1977]. Assuming (R2) yields H₂O, O₂, and NO₂, the net result of (R1) and (R2) is to remove odd hydrogen radicals ($\text{HO}_x \equiv \text{OH} + \text{HO}_2$):



On the other hand, the photodissociation of HO₂NO₂ (reaction R3) produces a null cycle for HO_x. The importance of HO₂NO₂ as a HO_x sink is controlled by the rate of its formation (reaction R1) and by the ratio of the rates of (R2) to (R3).

Interest in the atmospherically important chemistry of HO₂NO₂ evolved from the realization that photochemical

models, based on standard chemistry of the time, under estimated OH concentrations following sunrise, particularly in the lower stratosphere [Wennberg *et al.*, 1994; Salawitch *et al.*, 1994]. Since solar UV photons are strongly attenuated due to the long pathlength for ozone absorption at the large zenith angles at dawn, photochemical processes generating HO_x from light at visible wavelengths were proposed. Donaldson *et al.* [1997] presented calculations which indicated that excitation of OH overtone vibrations leading to dissociation in molecules such as HNO₃, HO₂NO₂, and H₂O₂ could potentially contribute to the production of HO_x in the lower stratosphere at high zenith angles. HO₂NO₂ was considered to more likely to enhance the HO_x production than HNO₃ or H₂O₂ because the energy of the second and third overtones of HO₂NO₂ lie above its photodissociation threshold, while for HNO₃ or H₂O₂, excitation to the fourth and fifth overtone, respectively, is required. Recent twilight observations [Wennberg *et al.*, 1999] led to the suggestion that the wavelength responsible for producing HO_x must be longer than 650 nm and again that HO₂NO₂ was put forward as the likely source.

The importance of OH overtone excitation in HO₂NO₂ came into question though when the integrated absorption intensity of the 3v_{OH} band measured by Fono *et al.* [1999] was found to be 5 times too weak to account for the missing HO_x source [Wennberg *et al.*, 1999]. In the Fono *et al.* work the 3v_{OH} band intensities of both HO₂NO₂ and HNO₃ were measured in concentrated sulfuric acid solutions, and the gas phase spectrum for HO₂NO₂ was obtained by linearly scaling the HO₂NO₂ solution spectrum according to the gas-solution behavior observed with HNO₃. A cautionary note was given that “because of solvent effects on the overtone intensities, the solution phase results should not be directly compared with gas phase values.”

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Reported here is the first observation of the 3v_{OH} and 4v_{OH} cross sections of HO₂NO₂ vapor between 700 and 1100 nm. Overtone intensities for HNO₃ and H₂O₂ were also obtained. On the basis of these measurements the importance of overtone-initiated photodissociation for the atmospheric chemistry of HO₂NO₂ is discussed.

2. Experiment

In this two-color direct absorption experiment, both the UV and near-IR absorbance are simultaneously measured in a flow tube. The recommended UV cross sections of H₂O₂, HNO₃, and HO₂NO₂ [DeMore *et al.*, 1997] are used to quantify the concentrations of these species. The measured near-IR optical depths can then be directly converted to absolute cross sections.

2.1. Instrumentation

The optical/vacuum apparatus used in this study has been described previously [Watson *et al.*, 1979]. The configuration used in this experiment is shown in Figure 1. The system is composed of two lamp sources, the absorption cell/vacuum system, and the UV and near-IR detectors.

Collimated light from a 250 W Quartz-tungsten-halogen lamp (Oriel, part 6334) and a deuterium lamp (Hamamatsu, model L1314X) are combined at dichroic mirror 1 (Oriel, part 66217), which reflects 260 < λ < 320 nm and transmits λ > 350 nm. The beam is then folded by two 45° reflectors into a multipass absorption cell through a 4 mm aperture. Both the two reflectors and the White cell mirrors are MgF₂-coated aluminum.

The Pyrex absorption cell is 90 cm long and has an inner diameter of 30 mm. Light passes through it eight times. The cell has an outer cooling jacket where chilled methanol is

circulated to maintain thermal control. Temperature is monitored with a thermocouple probe located at 7 cm from the end. Pressure in the cell is monitored with a thermocouple pressure gauge and a capacitance manometer (MKS Instruments). The absorption cell can be evacuated to less than 10 mtorr by a mechanical pump with a liquid nitrogen trap in line. Two 1-inch quartz windows are fused onto a quartz tube, which is sealed to the absorption cell with an O-ring joint. When the cell is cooled, the windows are purged from outside with dry nitrogen gas to prevent condensation. After eight passes, light exits the absorption cell, and then the UV and the visible/near-IR probe beams are separated at a second dichroic mirror that has the same spectral characteristics as dichroic mirror 1.

The UV light is focused into a 0.5 m UV monochromator (216.5 GCA/McPherson) equipped with a 2400 grooves/mm grating blazed at 240 nm. The light is detected by a multialkali photocathode photomultiplier tube (Hamamatsu R955) operated at ~750 V. Just before entering the monochromator, the UV beam is modulated at 2 kHz with an optical chopper (New Focus). The PMT current is processed by a lock-in amplifier (Stanford Research Systems). The widths of both the entrance and the exit slits on the monochromator are set at 500 μm. Scattered light is negligible for the UV system at the wavelength region used in this experiment. The monochromator wavelength scale is calibrated with a Hg lamp. This lamp is also used to confirm the spectral resolution of 0.3 nm.

The visible/near-IR light is dispersed with a 0.32 m monochromator (ISA, HR320) equipped with a 1024-element silicon photodiode array detector (EG&G, model 1412). A long-pass filter (Corion, LL700) is placed in the collimated beam to minimize the interference from the higher-order light. The 300 grooves/mm grating (blazed at 1.0 μm) combined with the entrance slit of 50 μm produces a spectral resolution

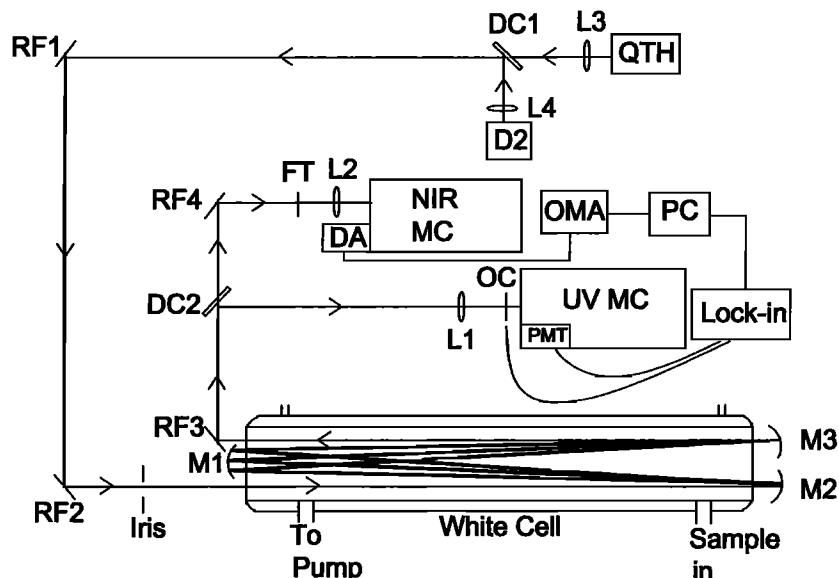


Figure 1. Schematic diagram of the two-color absorption experiment setup. D₂, deuterium lamp; DA, diode array detector; DC1, DC2, dichroic mirrors; FT, long-pass filter; L1, L2, focusing lenses; L3, L4, collimating lenses; M1, M2, M3, White Cell mirrors; NIR MC, near-IR monochromator; OC, optical chopper; OMA, optical multichannel analyzer; PMT, photon multiplier tube; QTH, quartz tungsten halogen lamp; RF1, RF2, RF3, RF4, reflectors; UV MC, UV monochromator.

of 0.5 nm (full width at half maximum (FWHM)). This performance is confirmed by recording the spectrum of a low-pressure Argon pen ray lamp.

The visible/near-IR absorption spectra were recorded in segments of about 250 nm, while the UV absorbance are monitored at a single wavelength. For comparison, measurements were made at both 250 nm and 260 nm. The smallest near-IR absorbance detectable is 2×10^{-4} . Besides noise in the electronics and lamp drift, an interference from water adsorbed to the cell windows limits the smallest UV detection to absorbance of $\sim 1 \times 10^{-2}$. In addition, scattered light in the White cell causes curvature in the Beer's law plot at optical depths as low as 3, and so all the data reported here were taken at lower optical depths.

2.2. HO₂NO₂ Synthesis

HO₂NO₂ was prepared in a nitrogen-purged glove box according to the method described by Kenley *et al.* [1981]. Briefly, ~1 g BF₄NO₂ (Aldrich, 95+%) was slowly added into ~5 mL of 95+ wt% H₂O₂ in ~50 mg increments. The highly concentrated H₂O₂ was obtained by distillation of 70 wt% H₂O₂ (FMC). The mixture was vigorously stirred in a jacketed glass vessel with water, cooled to ~273 K, circulating around it. Once the synthesis was finished, the mixture was quickly transferred to a glass bubbler, and then the bubbler was immediately immersed into an ice/water bath.

Impurities were always found in the prepared HO₂NO₂. Among them, HNO₃, H₂O₂, and NO₂ are problematic because they absorb at the UV wavelengths used to quantify [HO₂NO₂]. The strengths of 3v_{OH} for H₂O₂ (95+ wt%) and HNO₃ (Fisher, minimum 69.0%, maximum 71.0%, used without further purification) were determined in separate experiments using their known cross sections [DeMore *et al.*, 1997] at 250 nm and 260 nm. The spectrum of NO₂ over the visible/near-IR region was also measured. Throughout the experiment, the concentrations of these impurities were monitored using their distinct visible and near-IR absorption

features in order to estimate their contributions to the observed UV absorption. The typical impurities levels are [H₂O₂] $\sim (6\text{--}7) \times 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3}$, [HNO₃] $< 4 \times 10^{14} \text{ cm}^{-3}$, and [NO₂] $\sim (1\text{--}1.5) \times 10^{14} \text{ cm}^{-3}$, and the typical [HO₂NO₂] is in the range of $(2.5\text{--}10) \times 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3}$.

2.3. Spectra Acquisition and Analysis

All data were obtained by flowing argon (UHP/Zero Grade, Air Products) through a bubbler to carry the sample into the absorption cell. The glass sample bubbler was connected as closely as possible to the inlet of the absorption cell with only glass in between to avoid decomposition of the samples. HO₂NO₂ data were obtained with both the bubbler and the absorption cell kept at $273 \pm 1 \text{ K}$ and the carrier gas precooled by passing it through a copper coil emerged in ice-water mixture. Data for HNO₃ and H₂O₂ were obtained near room temperatures ($297 \pm 2 \text{ K}$). In addition, data for H₂O₂ at $\sim 273 \text{ K}$ were obtained to study the temperature dependence of its near-IR cross section.

Two flow configurations were used. For HNO₃ and H₂O₂ the argon flow over the sample was combined with a larger flow of pure argon as a means of varying the concentration of the analyte. In the case of HO₂NO₂ the concentration of HO₂NO₂ in the sample gradually decreased during the experiment, hence it was not necessary to vary the concentration by dilution. A solenoid control valve was employed to maintain a constant pressure (~35 torr) inside the cell between the background and the sample spectra.

The absorption spectra of HO₂NO₂ was recorded in the 700–1000 nm region and smoothed subsequently to a resolution of ~1 nm. We found that for some HO₂NO₂ samples the amount of HNO₃ and NO₂ was negligible. For others, however, HNO₃ and NO₂ were elevated initially, but after bubbling argon through the sample for 5–10 min, the concentration of HNO₃ and NO₂ was reduced significantly. This is illustrated in Figure 2 by two typical raw spectra taken from the same HO₂NO₂ sample. Identified on the spectra are

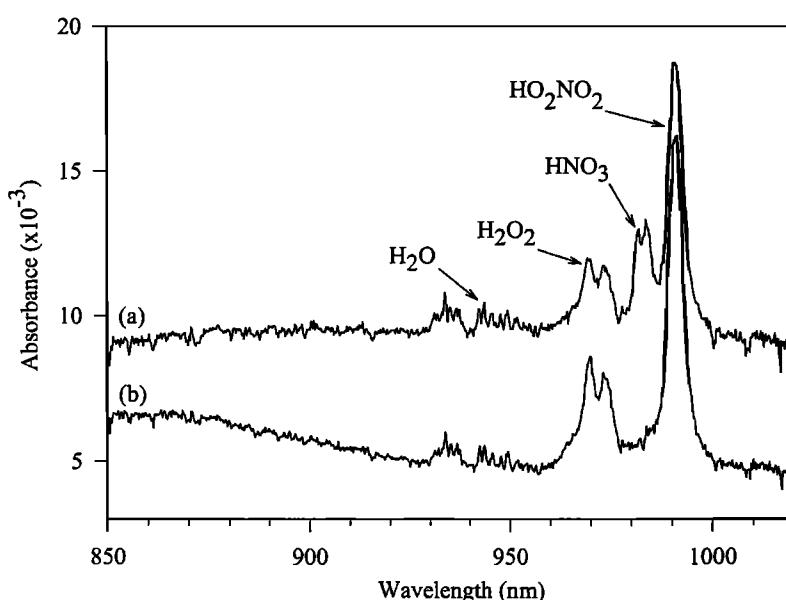


Figure 2. Raw spectra of HO₂NO₂. (curve a) Initial spectrum; (curve b) after about 5 min of flow, when HNO₃ impurity has been significantly reduced. The negative-going spikes may be due to the nonlinearity of the detector.

$3\nu_{\text{OH}}$ for HO₂NO₂, HNO₃, and H₂O₂, as well as H₂O. The grating was moved from time to time to the stronger NO₂ visible band [Kirmse *et al.*, 1997] to monitor its concentration. For the HO₂NO₂ data reported here, HNO₃ and NO₂ impurities contribute less than 0.2% of the total UV optical depth and thus are not considered further in the spectral analysis.

H₂O₂ was present as a significant impurity in all our HO₂NO₂ samples. In the analysis it is assumed that no species other than HO₂NO₂ and H₂O₂ contribute to the UV absorbance:

$$A_{\text{UV},\text{H}_2\text{O}_2} + A_{\text{UV},\text{HNO}_3} = A_{\text{total UV}} \quad (1)$$

The contribution of H₂O₂ is subtracted from the UV absorbance using the ratio of the UV to overtone intensities determined in this study:

$$A_{\text{UV},\text{H}_2\text{O}_2} = (\sigma_{\text{UV},\text{H}_2\text{O}_2}/\sigma_{\text{NIR},\text{H}_2\text{O}_2}) \times A_{\text{NIR},\text{H}_2\text{O}_2} \quad (2)$$

The absolute intensity of the overtone of HO₂NO₂ is then calculated from the measured near-IR absorbance and its known UV cross section [DeMore *et al.*, 1997]:

$$\sigma_{\text{NIR},\text{HO}_2\text{NO}_2} = (A_{\text{NIR},\text{HO}_2\text{NO}_2}/A_{\text{UV},\text{HO}_2\text{NO}_2}) \times \sigma_{\text{UV},\text{HO}_2\text{NO}_2} \quad (3)$$

For the data reported here, only those measurements when HO₂NO₂ contributes more than 60% of the UV optical depth are used. The baseline fluctuation seen in Figure 2 is due to unknown origin. Corrections have been made to the baseline as part of the spectral processing.

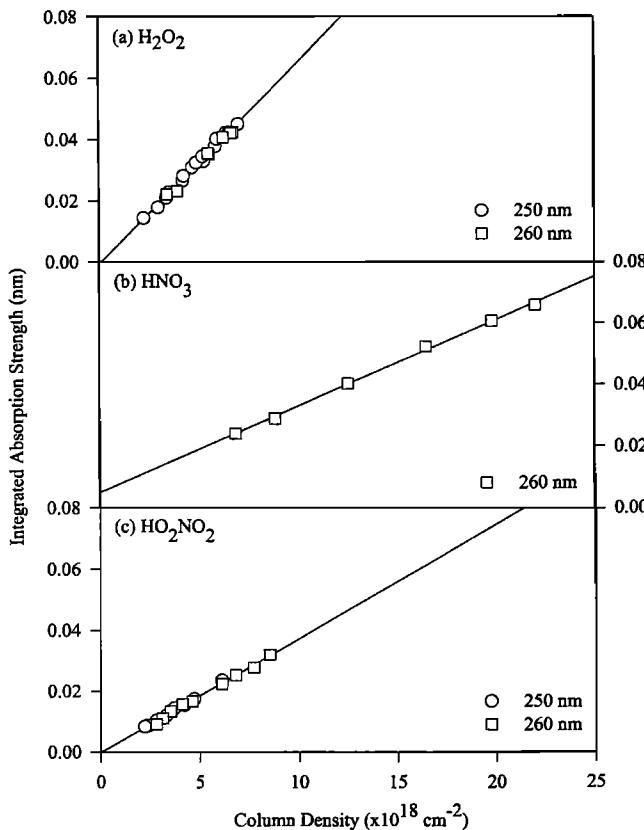


Figure 3. Plot of the band strength for $3\nu_{\text{OH}}$ as a function of column density derived from the absorbance measurements at 250 nm and/or 260 nm. (a) H₂O₂, including samples taken at both room temperature and ~273 K; (b) HNO₃; (c) HO₂NO₂ after accounting for H₂O₂.

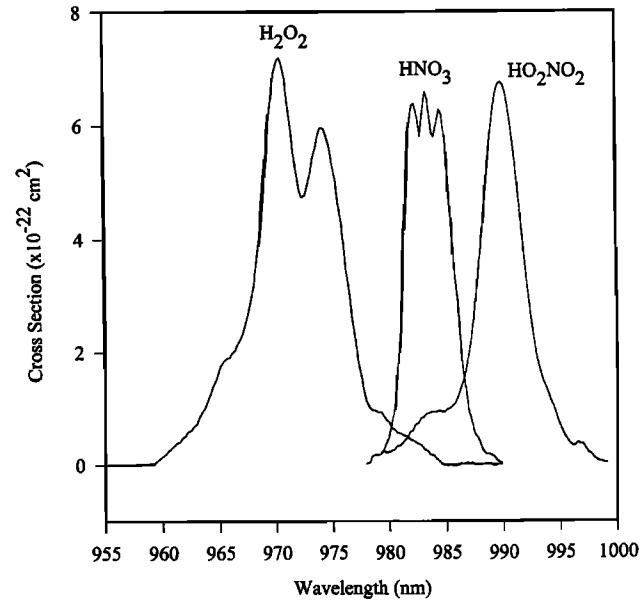


Figure 4. Spectrum of $3\nu_{\text{OH}}$ for H₂O₂, HNO₃, and HO₂NO₂ at a resolution of ~1 nm. They were taken at room temperature for H₂O₂ and HNO₃, and at ~273 K for HO₂NO₂.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Overtone Intensities

Shown in Figure 3 is the plot of the integrated optical depth of $3\nu_{\text{OH}}$ as a function of column density for H₂O₂, HNO₃, and HO₂NO₂. The slope of the least squares fit gives the integrated cross section. For H₂O₂, within the precision of these measurements, there is no temperature dependence of the IR cross section. The spectra of the $3\nu_{\text{OH}}$ for HNO₃, H₂O₂, and HO₂NO₂ are shown in Figure 4. Essentially the OH stretch is of similar strength in these three molecules. The $4\nu_{\text{OH}}$ of H₂O₂, HNO₃, and HO₂NO₂ are also observed. Table 1 summarizes the observed peak positions, the band strengths, and the oscillator strengths for these overtones.

The uncertainty in the reported cross section has two components: our experimental uncertainty and the uncertainty of the UV cross sections from previous studies. The former is mainly composed of the observed S/N (5% for $3\nu_{\text{OH}}$ and 15% for $4\nu_{\text{OH}}$), uncertainties in the baseline (10%), and, in the case of HO₂NO₂, error in our estimate of the contributions due to H₂O₂, NO₂, and HNO₃ (5%). On the basis of the original papers used in the JPL97 assessment [DeMore *et al.*, 1997], we estimate the uncertainty in the UV cross sections is 10% for all the three species at 250 nm and 260 nm.

The band strength for HNO₃ is in good agreement with the measurements of Donaldson *et al.* [1998]. The locations of the H₂O₂ bands agree with previous measurements [Zumwalt and Giguere, 1941; Douketis and Reilly, 1989]. For HO₂NO₂ the observed peak position for both $3\nu_{\text{OH}}$ and $4\nu_{\text{OH}}$ is in excellent agreement with the ab initio calculation of Fono *et al.* [1999]. The measured oscillator strength is within 25% for $3\nu_{\text{OH}}$ and 15% for $4\nu_{\text{OH}}$ of the same calculation. Interestingly, despite the puzzling fact that the solution spectrum of $3\nu_{\text{OH}}$ is blue-shifted by as much as ~20 nm for HO₂NO₂ while for HNO₃ it is red-shifted by ~32 nm, the relative intensity

Table 1. OH Overtones in H₂O₂, HNO₃, and HO₂NO₂

	Peak Position, nm			Band Strength, $\times 10^{-21}$ cm ² molecules ⁻¹ cm ⁻¹				Oscillator Strength, $\times 10^9$		
	This Work	Ab Initio	Previous Work	A ^a	B ^a	C ^a	1σ ^b , %	This Work	Ab Initio	Previous Work
3v_{OH}										
H ₂ O ₂	970	-	972 ^c	70	69	70	15	79	-	-
HNO ₃	983	-	983 ^d	-	29	29	15	33	-	26.3 ^d
HO ₂ NO ₂	991	990 ^e	-	40	38	38	20	43	56.6 ^c	-
4v_{OH}										
H ₂ O ₂	747	-	748 ^f	4.3	4.5	4.5	25	5.0	-	-
HNO ₃	755	-	755 ^d	-	2.8	2.8	25	3.2	-	2.37 ^d
HO ₂ NO ₂	763	762 ^c	-	-	-	3.0 ^g	50	3.4	4.0 ^e	-

^a“A” is from UV measurements at 250 nm, “B” is from 260 nm, and “C” is to fit all the data points. UV cross sections used in data analysis from DeMore *et al.* [1997] in 10^{-20} cm² molecules⁻¹ are as follows: at 250 nm, 298 K, 8.3, 1.97, and 41.2 for σ_{H₂O₂}, σ_{HNO₃}, and σ_{HO₂NO₂}, respectively; at 250 nm, 273 K, 8.3, 1.91, and 41.2 for σ_{H₂O₂}, σ_{HNO₃}, and σ_{HO₂NO₂}, respectively; at 260 nm, 298 K, 5.3, 1.91, and 28.5 for σ_{H₂O₂}, σ_{HNO₃}, and σ_{HO₂NO₂}, respectively; at 260 nm, 273 K, 5.2, 1.86, and 28.5 for σ_{H₂O₂}, σ_{HNO₃}, and σ_{HO₂NO₂}, respectively. On the basis of the original papers for the JPL assessment we estimate the uncertainty (1σ) is 10% for the UV cross sections.

^bOne standard deviation not including uncertainty in the UV cross sections.

^cFrom Zumwalt and Giguere [1941].

^dFrom Donaldson *et al.* [1998].

^eFrom Fono *et al.* [1999]. See text for details.

^fFrom Douketis and Reilly [1989].

^gEstimation based on only two measurements.

scaling between gas and solution spectrum predicts gas-phase HO₂NO₂ cross sections in good agreement with our measurements.

3.2. Atmospheric Significance

Excitation of 3v_{OH} and 4v_{OH} will play a small role in the atmospheric photochemistry of HO₂NO₂ provided that this process is dissociative. The solar flux near 10,000 cm⁻¹ (i.e., 1000 nm) is approximately 4×10^{13} photons cm⁻² s⁻¹ cm⁻¹ [Neckel and Labs, 1984]. Because the atmosphere is essentially transparent at this wavelength, the actinic flux is approximately the same as the solar flux and will not vary with solar zenith angle (SZA) during the daytime (neglecting the planetary albedo). Thus, by simply multiplying our measured integrated band strength by the solar flux, we obtain a photolysis rate for HO₂NO₂ via excitation of 3v_{OH} of $\sim 1.5 \times 10^{-6}$ s⁻¹, essentially independent of SZA. Photolysis of HO₂NO₂ in the UV, on the other hand, depends strongly on the ozone optical depth and thus drops off rapidly with increasing SZA. Excitation of 3v_{OH} significantly increases the photolysis rate of HO₂NO₂ in the lower stratosphere only for SZA > 80° (R. J. Salawitch, personal communication, 1999). Therefore, only at high latitudes, where the Sun remains at high SZA for a significant fraction of the day, will inclusion of this overtone-induced dissociation process alter the calculated concentration of HO₂NO₂ [Wennberg *et al.*, 1999]. For equinox conditions at 60° latitude the overtone excitation increases the 24-hour average photolysis rate of HO₂NO₂ by approximately 20% in the lower stratosphere. At lower latitudes the increase is much smaller (a few percent).

Wennberg *et al.* [1999] calculated that a SZA-independent HO_x source of approximately 3×10^3 molecules cm⁻³ s⁻¹ was missing from photochemical models during daylight. If photolysis of HO₂NO₂ in the near-IR is responsible, a rate of 1.2×10^{-5} s⁻¹ is required to match this source. Assuming the

dissociation quantum yield is unity, this is nearly an order of magnitude larger than can be contributed by the overtone excitation as determined in this study. Wennberg *et al.* [1999] suggested that in addition to 3v_{OH}, excitation of combination bands of 2v_{OH} or broadband absorption to a low-lying triplet state of HO₂NO₂ might be responsible for the HO_x production. In this study we are unable to investigate these mechanisms because (1) the silicon diode array is not sensitive beyond 1100 nm (where the combinations bands would occur) and (2) the stability of the background is not sufficient to observe broadband weak absorption features (see Figure 2).

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