

# Urban Snowpack ClNO<sub>2</sub> Production and Fate: A One-Dimensional Modeling Study

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Cite This: <https://dx.doi.org/10.1021/acsearthspacechem.0c00116>



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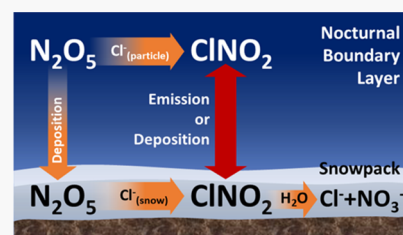
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**ABSTRACT:** Nitryl chloride (ClNO<sub>2</sub>) is formed in urban areas from the multiphase reaction of dinitrogen pentoxide (N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>) on chloride-containing surfaces. ClNO<sub>2</sub> undergoes photolysis to produce atomic chlorine (Cl•), a strong atmospheric oxidant. While previous ClNO<sub>2</sub> studies have focused on atmospheric particulate chloride, the saline snowpack in locations impacted by sea spray and road salt usage represents an additional, potentially large, source of ClNO<sub>2</sub>. Here, we present the first modeling study to explore the production of ClNO<sub>2</sub> from the inland urban snowpack. The coupled snowpack-atmospheric one-dimensional model is constrained to and evaluated by an array of ambient measurements in Ann Arbor, Michigan, during February 2016. The model predicts strong N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> deposition onto the snowpack, with ClNO<sub>2</sub> formation and release to the atmosphere at low temperatures (<~260 K). However, at higher temperatures (>~270 K), the ClNO<sub>2</sub> yield is low (e.g., 10%), with ClNO<sub>2</sub> undergoing hydrolysis on the snow grains, making the snowpack a net sink for ClNO<sub>2</sub>. These results motivate measurements to quantify ClNO<sub>2</sub> production from the urban snowpack because of potential broader impacts on atmospheric composition and air quality.

**KEYWORDS:** atmospheric chemistry, snow, 1-D modeling, road salt, air quality, winter, ClNO<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>



## 1. INTRODUCTION

Nitryl chloride (ClNO<sub>2</sub>) is an important precursor for atomic chlorine (Cl) in the lower troposphere<sup>1,2</sup> that has been observed in coastal, marine, and inland environments.<sup>3</sup> Cl atoms can destroy the greenhouse gas methane<sup>3</sup> and react with volatile organic compounds much faster than the hydroxyl radical, leading to an enhanced formation of ozone.<sup>4,5</sup> ClNO<sub>2</sub> can be formed from the multiphase reaction of N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> with chloride-containing particles.<sup>6</sup> Wintertime conditions of low temperatures and longer nights are particularly conducive for ClNO<sub>2</sub> formation.<sup>5,7</sup> This is due, in part, to the slower N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> thermal dissociation at lower temperatures<sup>8</sup> and reduced photolysis with less sunlight, in addition to increased particulate chloride during winter.<sup>9</sup>

Previous studies have focused on ClNO<sub>2</sub> production from ambient particles.<sup>3</sup> However, at lower temperatures, laboratory studies have revealed efficient N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> uptake and subsequent ClNO<sub>2</sub> production on chloride-containing droplets (down to 262 K)<sup>10</sup> and chloride-doped ice surfaces (220–255 K).<sup>11</sup> Therefore, it appears plausible that N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> uptake and ClNO<sub>2</sub> production may occur on the natural snowpack, providing yet another source for ClNO<sub>2</sub> in the ambient environment. This mechanism may be particularly relevant in snow-covered coastal regions influenced by sea spray aerosols, as well as in mid-latitude urban areas where chloride-containing salts and brines are widely used as de-icing agents during winter.<sup>9,12</sup>

Trace gas exchange between the snowpack and ambient air involves multiple chemical and physical processes,<sup>13</sup> including chemical production and removal within the snowpack, as well as physical transport such as wind pumping<sup>14</sup> and molecular diffusion.<sup>15</sup> The snowpack is highly porous, containing a wide range of “impurities” such as chloride, nitrate, and so forth, and from which multiphase reactions can affect the photochemistry in the overlying air,<sup>13,16</sup> including in the wintertime urban environment.<sup>17–20</sup> Snowpack emissions of a variety of compounds have been observed from the natural snowpack in the polar and mid-latitude regions: nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>),<sup>18,21–23</sup> nitrous acid (HONO),<sup>17,22</sup> formaldehyde (HCHO),<sup>24</sup> and molecular halogens (Cl<sub>2</sub>, BrCl, Br<sub>2</sub>, and I<sub>2</sub>),<sup>25–27</sup> for example. The snowpack also serves as a depositional sink for species such as ozone (O<sub>3</sub>),<sup>28,29</sup> N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>,<sup>20,30</sup> and nitric acid (HNO<sub>3</sub>).<sup>22</sup> McNamara et al.<sup>31</sup> reported elevated ClNO<sub>2</sub> in the coastal Arctic and hypothesized multiphase reactions of N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> on the surface snowpacks, in addition to on aerosols. However, few studies have

Received: May 2, 2020

Revised: June 23, 2020

Accepted: June 24, 2020

Published: June 24, 2020

examined air–snow exchange and the chemical reactions associated with the urban mid-latitude snowpack.

The multiphase chemistry of  $\text{ClNO}_2$  has received less attention compared to  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  and other surface-reactive species, partially due to its weaker surface reactivity. Behnke et al.<sup>32</sup> reported  $\text{ClNO}_2$  reactive uptake on aqueous NaCl solutions near room temperature (291 K), with the reactive uptake coefficient of  $\text{ClNO}_2$  ranging from  $4.8 \times 10^{-6}$  (for pure water) to  $0.27 \times 10^{-6}$  (for a 4.6 M NaCl solution). In coastal California, Kim et al.<sup>33</sup> reported a net downward flux of  $\text{ClNO}_2$  over the ocean, likely due to the hydrolysis of  $\text{ClNO}_2$  at the seawater surface, consistent with the  $\text{ClNO}_2$  uptake experiments conducted in the laboratory.<sup>32</sup>  $\text{ClNO}_2$  hydrolysis produces aqueous-phase chloride and nitrate.<sup>32</sup> The production or loss of  $\text{ClNO}_2$  at the snowpack surface is unknown.

Previous modeling studies have explored the impacts of snowpack photochemistry on atmospheric composition.<sup>20,34–39</sup> Thomas et al.<sup>34,35</sup> developed a simple snowpack module and coupled it to a one-dimensional (1-D) atmospheric model, finding that snowpack photochemical processes involving nitrate and bromide can explain the atmospheric nitric oxide (NO) and bromine monoxide (BrO) observed at Summit, Greenland. Toyota et al.<sup>36,37</sup> developed a conceptually similar 1-D snow-atmosphere chemistry model to explore atmospheric ozone and mercury depletion in the Arctic boundary layer. They showed that atmospheric HOBr deposits onto the surface snowpack, leading to the formation and release of  $\text{Br}_2$  and chemically linking the snowpack and overlying atmosphere.<sup>36</sup> Despite these advances in our understanding of polar air–snow interactions, to the best of our knowledge, no previous modeling studies have examined air–snow interactions involving mid-latitude halogen chemistry. In this work, a 1-D multiphase photochemical box model with a simplified snowpack module, conceptually following previous 1-D Arctic snow-atmospheric models,<sup>34–37</sup> is used to examine the fate of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  deposition onto the saline urban snowpack. The model is constrained by ambient measurements of trace gases and aerosols made in Ann Arbor, MI during February 2016, when the urban snowpack was influenced by road salt deposition.

**1.1. Model Description.** The 1-D model used in this work is described by McNamara et al.<sup>40</sup> and based on the 0-D model described in our previous work.<sup>41</sup> The model framework is similar to that described by Toyota et al.<sup>36</sup> and Thomas et al.,<sup>34</sup> except that the snow module used in this work consists of only one thin layer (2 cm) of snow (see Section 1.3), due to the shallower snow depth in Ann Arbor, MI, compared to the Arctic tundra. The 1-D model prognostic equations, turbulent transport, gas-phase chemistry, phase-transfer, aqueous-phase chemistry, and heterogeneous chemistry are described in detail in the Supporting Information (Sections S1–S6). This model consists of 21 log-spaced vertical layers above the surface, up to 1000 m. A schematic of the 1-D model is given in Figure S1. The formulation for turbulent transport is parameterized for mid-latitude conditions (Section S3, Figures S2–S3). The model is constrained to a number of observations of trace gases and aerosols, including  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$ ,  $\text{O}_3$ , NO, and other species, measured at 12 m above the surface (Section 1.2). The model scheme for  $\text{ClNO}_2$  production in snow resulting from the  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  deposition is described in Section 1.4.  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  uptake and  $\text{ClNO}_2$  yield on ambient particles are described in Section S7 and Figure S4, based on the parametrization described by Bertram and Thornton,<sup>54</sup> using online, bulk inorganic ion

measurements of ambient  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  (particulate matter with aerodynamic diameter less than or equal to  $2.5 \mu\text{m}$ )  $\text{Cl}^-$  and  $\text{NO}_3^-$ .

**1.2. Case Period and Measurements.** The period of 17–19 February 2016 in Ann Arbor, Michigan, was selected as the case study period, based on the work of McNamara et al.<sup>40</sup> This case study period experienced no drastic changes in wind speed and direction, and hence was ideal for numerical modeling. There was a thin snow cover on the ground in the evening of 17 February until the morning of 18 February. The following online ambient measurements obtained at 12 m above ground level were used to constrain the model at the same height:  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$ ,  $\text{O}_3$ , NO, HCl,  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  chloride, nitrate, and total aerosol surface area. A detailed description of the meteorological and chemical data and corresponding instrumentation is given in McNamara et al.<sup>40</sup> In this work, the purpose of the ambient measurements is to provide realistic model conditions for the scenario of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  uptake onto snow.

Briefly,  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  and  $\text{ClNO}_2$  mole ratios were measured using an iodide-chemical ionization mass spectrometer (THS Instruments).<sup>31,40,42</sup> NO was measured using a chemiluminescence detector,<sup>43</sup> and  $\text{O}_3$  was measured using an ozone analyzer (model 205, 2B Technologies). Gaseous HCl mole ratios and  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  chloride and nitrate mass concentrations were measured hourly using an ambient ion monitor-ion chromatograph (AIM-IC, URG Corp.).<sup>44</sup> The aerosol surface area ( $0.015\text{--}20 \mu\text{m}^2$ ; time-varying) was calculated from size distributions measured using a scanning mobility particle sizer spectrometer (model 3082, TSI Inc.; mobility diameter:  $15\text{--}600 \text{ nm}$ ) and an aerodynamic particle sizer (model 3321, TSI Inc.; aerodynamic diameter:  $0.6\text{--}20 \mu\text{m}$ ).

$\text{C}_2\text{--C}_4$  hydrocarbons (ethane, propane, *i*-/*n*-butane), formaldehyde, acetaldehyde, and acetone in the model were constrained (held constant) by offline measurements of canister samples collected at 12 m. Electropolished, stainless steel canisters were used for whole air sampling and analyzed using a Trace Organic Gas Analyzer (TOGA)<sup>45</sup> for HCHO and  $\text{CH}_3\text{CHO}$ , and a gas chromatograph with a flame-ionization detector for  $\text{C}_2\text{--C}_4$  alkanes.<sup>46,47</sup> Carbon monoxide mole ratios in the model (all layers) are initialized with observations obtained in Allen Park, Michigan (closest location with measurements available),  $\sim 44 \text{ km}$  to the east of Ann Arbor, from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.<sup>48</sup> Methane mole ratios in the model (all layers) are initialized with observations obtained at Park Falls, Wisconsin,  $673 \text{ km}$  to the West of Ann Arbor, from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) global monitoring network.<sup>49</sup> While these data are from locations that are further away than ideal, these long-lived compounds (CO and methane) are not expected to directly affect  $\text{ClNO}_2$  chemistry and the results of our modeling study.

Snow inorganic ion composition was measured and used to calculate the snow liquid fraction, as well as  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  uptake coefficients and  $\text{ClNO}_2$  yields on the snowpack. A total of 58 surface snow samples were collected in multiple locations near the Central Campus of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, from 9 February to 6 March 2016. These locations span from next to the roadside (e.g., the sidewalk near North University Avenue) to locations that were not directly influenced by the traffic (e.g., the open green space located  $\sim 170 \text{ m}$  away from the nearest road). These snow samples were stored at 233 K until analysis. The snow samples were then thawed and immediately analyzed for a number of inorganic ions

(detection limits of chloride, sulfate, nitrate, sodium, potassium, magnesium, and calcium were 0.03, 0.06, 0.005, 0.07, 0.08, 0.03, and 0.13  $\mu\text{M}$ , respectively) using ion chromatography (IC; Dionex ICS 1100 and 2100 for cations and anions, respectively).

**1.3. Snowpack Parameterization.** In the 1-D model, a simulated snowpack (2 cm thickness) was placed beneath the lowest atmospheric layer. The snow module is conceptually similar to that in Toyota et al.<sup>34,36</sup> and was previously described by Wang and Pratt.<sup>41</sup> Snow properties were estimated based on mid-latitude conditions. Previous studies of mid-latitude snow<sup>50,51</sup> demonstrated that the grain radius in the near-surface layer (a few cm) of the snowpack ranges from 40 to 500  $\mu\text{m}$ , with snow density ranging from 0.14 to 0.26  $\text{g cm}^{-3}$ . In this work, snow grain radius ( $r_s$ ) was assumed to be 500  $\mu\text{m}$ , and snow density was assumed to be 0.2  $\text{g cm}^{-3}$ . The corresponding snow-specific surface area is then calculated to be 65  $\text{cm}^2 \text{g}^{-1}$ .

Laboratory studies have indicated that as the temperature of a salt solution decreases below the freezing point, pure ice will form with a liquid phase at the surface of the ice that can be enriched in inorganic ions.<sup>52</sup> Based on laboratory experiments, Cho et al.<sup>53</sup> parameterized the liquid fraction of brine ( $f_{\text{brine}}$ ), as a function of temperature and total solute concentration, and this has been used in Arctic snow chemistry models.<sup>34,36</sup> In this work, we utilize the Cho et al.<sup>53</sup> formulation to calculate the  $f_{\text{brine}}$  using the measured salt content (sum of  $\text{Na}^+$  and  $\text{Cl}^-$ ) in the melted snow samples. Other ions are not considered in the model because  $\text{Na}^+$  and  $\text{Cl}^-$  together accounted for 92% of the measured inorganic ion concentration in snowmelt samples.<sup>40</sup> The freezing point depression calculated from the snow salt content is  $\ll 1$  K, and is therefore negligible. Because of the lack of measurements of snow temperature, the ambient temperature measured at 12 m (Figure 1) was used for the  $f_{\text{brine}}$  calculation. Note that  $f_{\text{brine}}$  is overestimated during Period III, as snow was still visible on the ground although the ambient air temperature was above

freezing ( $>273$  K), leading to the 100% brine calculation, meaning only liquid water present.

**1.4.  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  Uptake and  $\text{ClNO}_2$  Production on Snowpack.** Because the inorganic ion composition in the ambient snow samples was dominated by  $\text{Na}^+$  and  $\text{Cl}^-$ , previous  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  uptake experiments using NaCl solutions<sup>10,32,54–56</sup> are used to calculate the  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  uptake on snow grains. The effective uptake coefficient of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  on snow ( $\gamma_{\text{N}_2\text{O}_5, \text{snow, eff}}$ ) is given by<sup>57</sup>

$$\frac{1}{\gamma_{\text{N}_2\text{O}_5, \text{snow, eff}}} = \frac{1}{\Gamma_{\text{diff}}} + \frac{1}{\gamma_{\text{N}_2\text{O}_5, \text{snow}}} \quad (1)$$

where  $\gamma_{\text{N}_2\text{O}_5, \text{snow}}$  is the reactive uptake coefficient of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  on snow.  $\Gamma_{\text{diff}}$  is a correction term for normalized gas-diffusion rate (in this case, diffusion in the snow interstitial air, SIA)<sup>57</sup>

$$\Gamma_{\text{diff, s}} = \frac{8D_{\text{SIA}}}{\bar{v}(2 \cdot r_s)} \quad (2)$$

where  $D_{\text{SIA}}$  ( $\text{m}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$ ) is the gas diffusion coefficient in the SIA (Section S2).  $\bar{v}$  ( $\text{cm s}^{-1}$ ) is the thermal speed and is given by  $\bar{v} = 100 \sqrt{\frac{8RT}{\pi \text{MW}}}$ , where MW is the species molecular weight ( $\text{kg mol}^{-1}$ ),  $R$  is the ideal gas constant ( $8.314 \text{ J K}^{-1} \text{ mol}^{-1}$ ), and  $T$  is the temperature (K).  $r_s$  (m) is the snow grain radius.  $\gamma_{\text{N}_2\text{O}_5, \text{snow}}$  is described by the resistance analogue model (eq 3)<sup>57</sup>

$$\frac{1}{\gamma} = \frac{1}{\alpha} + \frac{\bar{v}}{4HRT\sqrt{k^1 D_{\text{aq}}}} \quad (3)$$

where  $\alpha$  is the dimensionless mass accommodation coefficient and  $H$  is the Henry's law constant of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  ( $5 \text{ M atm}^{-1}$ ).<sup>58</sup>  $k^1$  ( $\text{s}^{-1}$ ) is the pseudo-first order rate in the aqueous-phase and  $D_{\text{aq}}$  ( $\text{m}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$ ) is the aqueous diffusion coefficient ( $10^{-5} \text{ cm}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$ ).<sup>48</sup> The total pseudo-first order  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  reactivity,  $k^1$ , is given by

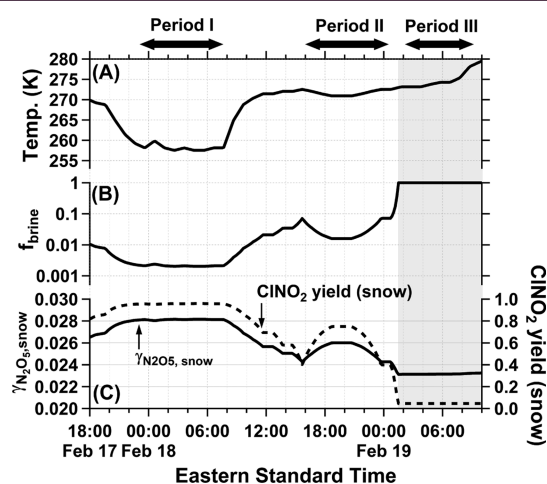
$$k^1 = k_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}[\text{H}_2\text{O}] + k_{\text{Cl}^-}[\text{Cl}^-] \quad (4)$$

$[\text{H}_2\text{O}]$  is the liquid water content of snow brine ( $\approx 55 \text{ M} = \rho / M_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ , where  $\rho \approx 1000 \text{ g L}^{-1}$  and  $M_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} = 18 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$ ).  $[\text{Cl}^-]$  (M) is the chloride concentration in the snow brine phase, which is estimated by dividing the snow melt chloride concentrations by  $f_{\text{brine}}$ .  $k_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  and  $k_{\text{Cl}^-}$  values are estimated based on previous aqueous-phase experiments: Gaston and Thornton<sup>55</sup> estimated  $k_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  and  $k_{\text{Cl}^-}$  to be  $2.7\text{--}3.9 \times 10^4$  and  $0.4\text{--}2.8 \times 10^7 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$ , respectively, consistent with Bertram and Thornton.<sup>54</sup> In this work,  $k_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  and  $k_{\text{Cl}^-}$  are assumed to be  $3.9 \times 10^4$  and  $2.8 \times 10^7 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$ , respectively. From this, the yield of  $\text{ClNO}_2$  in snow is given by<sup>54</sup>

$$Y_{\text{ClNO}_2, \text{snow}} = \frac{k_{\text{Cl}^-}[\text{Cl}^-]}{k_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}[\text{H}_2\text{O}] + k_{\text{Cl}^-}[\text{Cl}^-]} \quad (5)$$

## 2. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**2.1. Impacts of Temperature on Calculated  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  Uptake and  $\text{ClNO}_2$  Yield on Snow.** To examine the influence of ambient temperature on snowpack  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  uptake and  $\text{ClNO}_2$  production, the 17–19 February 2016 case study was divided into three periods based on air temperature (Figure 1). Period I corresponds to 17 February 20:00 to 18 February 10:00 (all times are in EST (Eastern Standard Time)

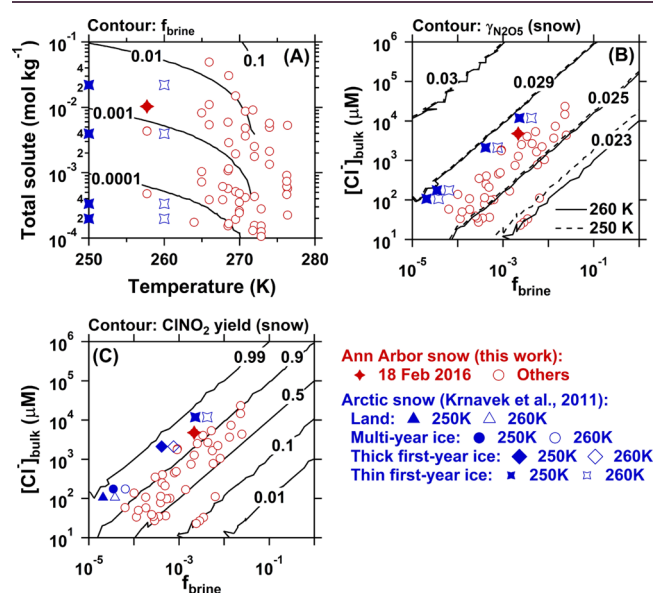


**Figure 1.** (A) Time series of measured ambient air temperature at 12 m above the surface, (B) calculated snow brine volume fraction ( $f_{\text{brine}}$ ), and (C) calculated snowpack  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  uptake coefficients ( $\gamma_{\text{N}_2\text{O}_5, \text{snow}}$ ) and  $\text{ClNO}_2$  yields on snow, for 17–19 February 2016 in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Horizontal arrows indicate the three periods with different ambient temperatures, and grey shading highlights Period III, when the ambient air temperature was  $>273$  K.



unless otherwise noted), when the minimum ambient temperature reached 257 K with a calculated  $f_{\text{brine}}$  near 0.002. During Period II, 18 February 20:00 to 19 February 02:00, the ambient temperature decreased from 272 K to a minimum of 270 K, then rose again to 273 K (close to the snow melting point), with the calculated  $f_{\text{brine}}$  ranging from 0.016 to 1. Finally, Period III corresponds to 19 February 2:00 to 19 February 10:00, when the ambient temperature further increased to above 273 K ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  freezing point), resulting in a calculated  $f_{\text{brine}}$  of 1. However, it is important to note that snow was still visible on the ground (meaning  $f_{\text{brine}} < 1$ ), illustrating the need to measure and use surface snow temperature in the future. Therefore, while the Period III model results are biased toward a higher temperature, they present an important comparison to the lower temperatures.

Despite the wide range of temperature in this case study (257–279 K), the calculated reactive uptake coefficient of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  on snow ( $\gamma_{\text{N}_2\text{O}_5, \text{snow}}$ ) spans a relatively narrow range, 0.023–0.028 (Figure 1). These data are consistent with  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  uptake experiments on NaCl aerosol particles showing  $\gamma_{\text{N}_2\text{O}_5, \text{snow}}$  in the range of 0.02–0.04,<sup>10,32,56,59–61</sup> likely due to the short reacto-diffusive length of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  on NaCl particles (<5 nm),<sup>55</sup> limiting the  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$ -chloride reaction to the surface. A previous study also showed that nitrate content in the condensed-phase can suppress the uptake of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$ .<sup>54</sup> In the present work, the surface snow nitrate content was consistently low (median: 40  $\mu\text{M}$ ) compared to other ions, while the chloride content was much higher (median: 234  $\mu\text{M}$ ) than nitrate (Figure 2). Therefore, the impact of nitrate on the  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  uptake on snow is expected to be minimal during this study.



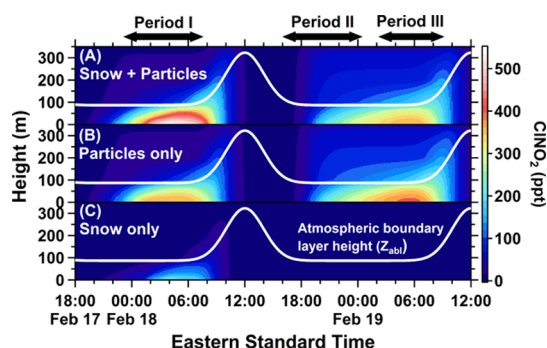
**Figure 2.** (A) Calculated  $f_{\text{brine}}$  as a function of total measured inorganic ion solute molality and ambient temperature. (B) Calculated  $\gamma_{\text{N}_2\text{O}_5, \text{snow}}$  and (C)  $\text{ClNO}_2$  yield on snow as a function of measured bulk snow chloride concentration and calculated  $f_{\text{brine}}$ . Red symbols show daily Ann Arbor bulk snow samples collected on 18 February (case study period) and other dates during the same study. Blue symbols represent Arctic snow measurements from Krnavek et al.<sup>62</sup>

The calculated snowpack  $\text{ClNO}_2$  yield is sensitive to  $f_{\text{brine}}$  and hence to temperature. As shown in Figure 1, when ambient temperature and  $f_{\text{brine}}$  were low during Period I (~257 K and  $f_{\text{brine}} \sim 0.002$ , respectively), the snow  $\text{ClNO}_2$  yield is calculated to be above 0.9, consistent with previous  $\text{ClNO}_2$  yield measurements on halide-doped ice at 220–258 K ( $\text{ClNO}_2$  yield near unity with high chloride/bromide ratio).<sup>11</sup> During Period II, when the ambient temperature increased (270–272 K) and  $f_{\text{brine}}$  ranged from 0.016 to 0.072, the  $\text{ClNO}_2$  yield on snow is calculated to range from 0.5 to 0.75. Finally, during Period III, when the ambient temperature is above 273 K, the calculated  $f_{\text{brine}}$  was 1.0 (an overestimate, because snow was still present, as previously discussed), and the snow  $\text{ClNO}_2$  yield was calculated to be only 0.05. The decreasing snow  $\text{ClNO}_2$  yield with increasing temperature and water content ( $f_{\text{brine}}$ ) is consistent with previous laboratory experiments that reported  $\text{ClNO}_2$  yield increases with increasing chloride/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ratio.<sup>54</sup>

Comprehensive sensitivity tests of temperature and  $f_{\text{brine}}$  on  $\gamma_{\text{N}_2\text{O}_5, \text{snow}}$  and  $\text{ClNO}_2$  yield (snow) are provided in Figure 2. Conditions of this sensitivity test (temperature: 250–280 K, salt content:  $10^1$ – $10^6$   $\mu\text{M}$ ) cover a wide range, from warm and salty mid-latitude snow (measured in this study) to cold and pristine snow, more relevant to remote or polar regions.<sup>62</sup> As shown,  $f_{\text{brine}}$  increases with increasing temperature, but it is more sensitive to temperatures above 260 K. For temperatures below 260 K,  $f_{\text{brine}}$  is more dependent on the solute concentration. In this sensitivity test,  $\gamma_{\text{N}_2\text{O}_5, \text{snow}}$  is calculated to span a fairly narrow range (0.023–0.030). In contrast, the  $\text{ClNO}_2$  yield on snow ranges from ~0.1 to above 0.9 and is sensitive to both chloride concentration and  $f_{\text{brine}}$  (and hence temperature). In general, higher chloride concentrations lead to higher calculated  $\text{ClNO}_2$  yields, while increasing  $f_{\text{brine}}$  lowers the  $\text{ClNO}_2$  yield because of the higher water content competing with  $\text{ClNO}_2$  formation (eq 4).

**2.2. Modeled  $\text{ClNO}_2$  from the Snowpack.** The 1-D model reveals unique insights into the multiphase chemistry and transport of trace gases, such as  $\text{NO}_x$ ,  $\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$ , and  $\text{ClNO}_2$ , as well as the surface–atmosphere interactions (Figure S5 and Section S8 in the Supporting Information). In this section, we explore the potential of urban salty snowpack being a source of ambient  $\text{ClNO}_2$  using the multiphase 1-D model, based on the estimated  $\gamma_{\text{N}_2\text{O}_5, \text{snow}}$  and  $\text{ClNO}_2$  yield in Figure 1. In addition to simulating  $\text{ClNO}_2$  snowpack production, we include simulations of particle-phase  $\text{ClNO}_2$  production for comparison. A number of studies have discussed the overestimation of the  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  uptake and  $\text{ClNO}_2$  yield on particles when calculated using the bulk approach, resulting in an overestimation of  $\text{ClNO}_2$  production.<sup>2,63–68</sup> This has previously been attributed to the presence of particulate organics, nitrate, and other components.<sup>54,69–73</sup> McNamara et al.<sup>40</sup> discussed the impacts of the aerosol mixing state (distribution of chemical components across the population of individual particles) on the simulation of  $\text{ClNO}_2$  production on particles for the same period of measurements discussed here. In this work, our goal is to focus on the potential role of the salty urban snowpack on ambient  $\text{ClNO}_2$ .

Three sets of model configurations are run, with the results shown in Figure 3: (a) Snow + Particles ( $\text{ClNO}_2$  formation from both snowpack and atmospheric particles); (b) Particles only ( $\text{ClNO}_2$  formation from atmospheric particles only); and (c) Snow only ( $\text{ClNO}_2$  formation from snowpack only). All



**Figure 3.** Modeled  $\text{ClNO}_2$  as a function of height and time, in different scenarios:  $\text{ClNO}_2$  production from snow + particles (A), particles only (B), and snow only (C), as well as the modeled atmospheric boundary layer height ( $Z_{\text{abl}}$ ) represented by the white lines.

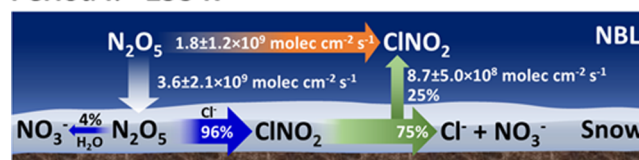
three cases predict strong  $\text{ClNO}_2$  production within the nocturnal boundary layer (NBL) during Period I.  $\text{ClNO}_2$  production from atmospheric particles dominates (68–100%) in the NBL, possibly due to the stable conditions in the NBL limiting  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  deposition. The snowpack contributes  $\sim 32\%$  of  $\text{ClNO}_2$  formation (column integral), showing the potential importance of the snowpack in urban air quality. During this period, the calculated  $\gamma_{\text{N}_2\text{O}_5, \text{snow}}$  and snow  $\text{ClNO}_2$  yield are 0.028 and 0.9, respectively, in comparison to the corresponding calculated values for particles:  $0.028 \pm 0.002$  (average  $\pm$  standard deviation) and  $0.7 \pm 0.1$ , respectively. In the early morning of 18 February, the boundary layer height increases from  $\sim 90$  to  $\sim 300$  m, leading to upward transport of  $\text{ClNO}_2$ , which quickly photo-dissociates. During Periods II & III, however, the snow-only simulation predicts virtually no  $\text{ClNO}_2$  from the snowpack (up to 14 ppt). Interestingly, the Snow + Particle case predicts lower  $\text{ClNO}_2$  than the Particles only case within the NBL because the model predicts that the snowpack is a net sink of  $\text{ClNO}_2$  under the conditions of Period III. Below, we explore the mechanisms explaining these trends.

The vertical transport of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  and  $\text{ClNO}_2$  depends largely on atmospheric stability. The model calculated maximum eddy diffusivity at night is  $\sim 0.2 \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ , which is nearly two orders of magnitude lower than the calculated daytime maximum of  $8.7 \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$  (Figure S2). As shown in Figure 3, the model predicts a strong vertical gradient of  $\text{ClNO}_2$  within the NBL. At 02:00 h on 18 February, the Particles only case predicts that 21% of  $\text{ClNO}_2$  remains in the lowest 20 m, with 72% in the NBL. The Snow only case, however, predicts that 76% of  $\text{ClNO}_2$  is confined in the lowest 20 m, with 98% in the NBL. The combined case with  $\text{ClNO}_2$  production both on snow and lofted particles predicts that 39% of  $\text{ClNO}_2$  remains in the lowest 20 m, with 80% in the NBL. All three cases predict a certain amount of  $\text{ClNO}_2$  produced in the residual layer (2% in the Snow only case, 28% in the Particles only case, and 20% in the Snow + Particles case). Note that in this work horizontal advection is not included in the model. Therefore, in this work,  $\text{ClNO}_2$  in the residual layer is produced from the multiphase chemistry involving precursors ( $\text{NO}_x$ ,  $\text{O}_3$ , and particulate chloride) lofted during daytime (with 1 day spin-up), reflecting the localized influence on the residual layer. Previous studies have reported  $\text{ClNO}_2$  production in the residual layer,<sup>74,75</sup> where the chemical composition in the residual layer may be affected by advection. Because of the lack of vertically resolved

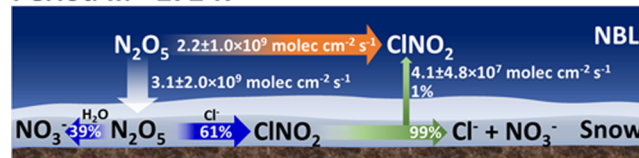
aerosol measurements, the aerosol surface area used in the model is constant vertically. The impact of the residual layer is beyond the scope of this work, as our focus is on surface production.

The modeled  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  and  $\text{ClNO}_2$  budgets in the NBL and surface snowpack for the Snow + Particles model scenario are shown in Figure 4 for Periods I, II, and III.  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  deposition

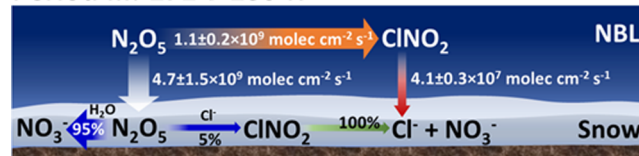
#### Period I: $\sim 258 \text{ K}$



#### Period II: $\sim 272 \text{ K}$



#### Period III: $272 \rightarrow 280 \text{ K}$



**Figure 4.** Modeled  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  and  $\text{ClNO}_2$  budgets in the surface snowpack and NBL during Periods I, II, and III, for the Snow + Particle model scenario. Production and removal are shown as column rates (molecules  $\text{cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ) integrated through the NBL ( $\sim 100$  m). Numbers represent average ( $\pm$  standard deviation) column rates during each period. Percentages denote the fractional contribution of each pathway to the total removal of snowpack  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  or  $\text{ClNO}_2$ .

onto the snowpack occurs during all three periods. The modeled average downward flux of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  ranges from  $2.9 \times 10^8$  to  $4.7 \times 10^8$  molecules  $\text{cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , corresponding to a  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  deposition velocity of  $0.23$ – $1.9 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$ , which is comparable to the previous observations over the snowpack in Fairbanks, AK ( $0.12$ – $1.06 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$ ).<sup>20,30</sup> The variation of the modeled  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  deposition velocity in this work is driven by the  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  reactivity on the surface snowpack, as well as by the boundary layer stability. During Period I, the snowpack serves as a  $\text{ClNO}_2$  source because of the high snow  $\text{ClNO}_2$  yield (0.96, Figure 4) when the ambient temperature was low ( $\sim 258 \text{ K}$ , Figure 4). In Period I, 75% of the  $\text{ClNO}_2$  produced in the snowpack undergoes hydrolysis, and only 25% is emitted out of the snowpack, leading to an upward net flux of  $9 \pm 5 \times 10^8$  molecules  $\text{cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  (average  $\pm$  standard deviation) of  $\text{ClNO}_2$  into the near-surface atmosphere.  $\text{ClNO}_2$  hydrolysis and its impact on the fate of snowpack  $\text{ClNO}_2$  are discussed in Section 2.3.  $\text{ClNO}_2$  production on atmospheric particles (within the NBL) is a factor of  $\sim 3$  higher than that from the snowpack during Period I. During Period II, the ambient temperature was higher ( $\sim 272 \text{ K}$ ), and hence the snowpack  $\text{ClNO}_2$  yield reduced to 0.56 (Figure 4). In this case, with a higher  $f_{\text{brine}}$ , 99% of the  $\text{ClNO}_2$  produced in the snowpack undergoes hydrolysis in the snowpack. Still, the model predicts a weak upward net flux of  $\text{ClNO}_2$  during this period [ $(4 \pm 5) \times 10^7$  molecules  $\text{cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ]. During Period III, however, the ambient air temperature increased above freezing ( $>273 \text{ K}$ ), which in

turn, decreased the modeled snowpack  $\text{ClNO}_2$  yield to 0.05. Further, 100% of the snow-produced  $\text{ClNO}_2$  undergoes hydrolysis within the snowpack, leading to a downward flux of  $(4.1 \pm 0.3) \times 10^7$  molecules  $\text{cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ .

In summary, our modeling analysis demonstrates that under all of the temperature conditions tested,  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  reactions on the snowpack are a strong sink for  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$ , consistent with previous studies.<sup>20,61</sup> In the NBL,  $\text{ClNO}_2$  production from particles is predicted to be the dominant pathway at 68–100%. The snowpack can be a net source or sink for  $\text{ClNO}_2$ , depending on the snow grain brine volume fraction, which is controlled by temperature and salt content. In this way, the snowpack influences urban air quality.

**2.3.  $\text{ClNO}_2$  Hydrolysis.** Whether the snow is a source or sink for  $\text{ClNO}_2$  (Section 2.2) is largely controlled by the hydrolysis of  $\text{ClNO}_2$  within the snowpack. In this section, the effect of snowpack  $\text{ClNO}_2$  hydrolysis on its fate is examined using the model, with the hydrolysis rate derived from previous laboratory experiments.<sup>32</sup> Using the same resistance analogue employed in the snowpack model (eq 3), the reactive uptake coefficient of  $\text{ClNO}_2$  ( $\gamma_{\text{ClNO}_2}$ ) on the NaCl solution from Behnke et al.<sup>32</sup> can be translated into a pseudo-first-order  $\text{ClNO}_2$  hydrolysis rate ( $k_{\text{ClNO}_2-\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ ,  $\text{s}^{-1}$ ), which ranges from 92  $\text{s}^{-1}$  (in pure water) to 0.3  $\text{s}^{-1}$  ( $[\text{Cl}^-] = 4.7 \text{ M}$ ). Similar to  $\gamma_{\text{ClNO}_2}$ ,  $k_{\text{ClNO}_2-\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  also decreases with increasing chloride concentration, and the chloride concentration dependency appears to be nonlinear.<sup>32</sup> As previously discussed, the estimated snow chloride concentration in the brine phase (calculated from bulk snow chloride and  $f_{\text{brine}}$ ) for the 18 February 2016 case day was  $\sim 2.3 \text{ M}$  (shown as the vertical dashed line in Figure S6). This corresponds to a  $k_{\text{ClNO}_2-\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  of  $\sim 2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ . This constant  $\text{ClNO}_2$  hydrolysis rate was then used in the model, with corrections for kinetic limitations (e.g., gas-diffusion, interfacial transport, bulk diffusion, see Section S4). The model-predicted downward  $\text{ClNO}_2$  flux during Period III (Figure 4) is a result of rapid  $\text{ClNO}_2$  hydrolysis in the snowpack.

The parameters governing the modeled snowpack  $\text{ClNO}_2$  hydrolysis in this work remain uncertain, due in part to the lack of  $\text{ClNO}_2$  hydrolysis studies at low temperatures. To the best of our knowledge, there are no published  $\text{ClNO}_2$  uptake experiments on NaCl-containing aerosols or solutions for temperatures below 274 K that are relevant to wintertime conditions, including in high-latitude regions. The results from Fickert et al.<sup>76</sup> and Frenzel et al.<sup>77</sup> that reported up to 46% lower  $\text{ClNO}_2$  uptake on pure water films when temperatures decreased from 287 to 274 K (Figure S6) demonstrate the importance of refining the parameterization of  $\text{ClNO}_2$  hydrolysis in chloride-containing solutions. Therefore, it remains unclear how temperature may affect  $\text{ClNO}_2$  hydrolysis on the natural snowpack, and thus, the hydrolysis rate used in the model ( $k_{\text{ClNO}_2-\text{H}_2\text{O}} = 2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ ) is likely an upper limit.

### 3. CONCLUSIONS

This modeling study suggests that  $\text{ClNO}_2$  may be produced from the snowpack, providing another source of  $\text{ClNO}_2$  beyond atmospheric particles. Under cold conditions (e.g.,  $< 260 \text{ K}$ ), the saline snowpack is predicted to be a net source of  $\text{ClNO}_2$ . However, a warmer snowpack (at near freezing temperatures) may facilitate  $\text{ClNO}_2$  hydrolysis and serve as a net sink of  $\text{ClNO}_2$ , consistent with a previous study in which

the authors found the ocean is a net sink of  $\text{ClNO}_2$ .<sup>33,78</sup> The results of this modeling study motivates the need to investigate the air–snow interactions controlling the production and removal of  $\text{ClNO}_2$ . For example, the  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  reactive uptake coefficient and  $\text{ClNO}_2$  yield on natural or artificial snow, as well as the  $\text{ClNO}_2$  uptake on chloride-doped ice or artificial snow at a range of wintertime temperatures (e.g., 250–273 K) should be measured. We suggest that  $\text{ClNO}_2$  hydrolysis (as inferred from limited laboratory experiments<sup>32</sup>) may largely determine the fate of snow-produced  $\text{ClNO}_2$ , and therefore, future studies should examine  $\text{ClNO}_2$  hydrolysis on snow–ice. Investigation into the impacts of temperature, acidity, and chemical composition on the  $\text{ClNO}_2$  multiphase chemistry will also provide valuable insights into the fate of  $\text{ClNO}_2$  in snow. Last, but not least, direct flux observations of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  and  $\text{ClNO}_2$  above the snowpack will be useful to test predicted snowpack  $\text{ClNO}_2$  production/removal.

To the best of our knowledge, this is the first study to examine the potential for  $\text{ClNO}_2$  production from the snowpack, which may have broad implications in urban and suburban areas, where chloride-containing road salts are widely used as de-icing agents in winter.<sup>9,79</sup> Snowpack  $\text{ClNO}_2$  production was previously hypothesized to occur in the Arctic as well, where elevated  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  and  $\text{ClNO}_2$  have been recently reported.<sup>31</sup> This model of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  uptake and  $\text{ClNO}_2$  production in the snowpack is subject to potential uncertainties, such as the lack of vertically resolved meteorological measurements in quantifying the eddy diffusivity in an urban winter environment, as well as the poorly understood snowpack microphysics and chemistry. Another limitation of our modeling exercise is the lack of snowpack temperature measurements, with ambient air temperature used as a surrogate instead. Measurements of snow temperature, specific surface area, and density would provide additional insights and key constraints to the multiphase chemistry of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  and  $\text{ClNO}_2$ . In addition, because previous studies have shown reduced  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  uptake on organic-coated ambient particles,<sup>60,69–71</sup> the role of surface snowpack organics on the uptake of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  on snow and subsequent  $\text{ClNO}_2$  chemistry remains unknown and warrants investigation.

### ■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

#### Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge at <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acsearthspacechem.0c00116>.

Schematic diagram of the 1-D multiphase photochemical model; vertical profiles of virtual potential temperature, wind speed, and calculated eddy diffusivity ( $K$ ); calculated eddy diffusivity as a function of height and time for the case study; AIM-IC measured  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  chloride and nitrate concentrations and calculated  $\gamma_{\text{N}_2\text{O}_5}$   $\text{ClNO}_2$  yield for particles; simulated vertical distributions; and  $\text{ClNO}_2$  uptake coefficients for aqueous NaCl solutions at 291 K and various temperatures for pure water (PDF)

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## Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Funding was provided by the University of Michigan and the National Science Foundation Atmospheric Chemistry program (AGS-1738588). K.R.K. was partially funded by a Dow Postdoctoral Fellowship in Sustainability from the University of Michigan. S.M.M. and N.W.M. were partially funded by U.S. Department of Education Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) fellowships. The authors thank David J. Tanner and L. Gregory Huey (Georgia Institute of Technology) for providing the NO analyzer, Thomas B. Ryerson and Chelsea R. Thompson (NOAA) for providing the photolytic NO<sub>2</sub> converter, Alicia Kevelin, Madeline Parks, and Maria Morales (University of Michigan) for snow sampling and IC analysis, and Chelsea R. Thompson (NOAA) for assistance with NO<sub>x</sub> measurements and helpful discussions. The National Center for Atmospheric Research is sponsored by the National Science Foundation; any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation. The authors thank the reviewers for their comments that improved the manuscript and the editor for expeditiously handling the manuscript, especially given the current global challenges.

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