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Vertical redistribution of \mathbf{NO}_y in the polar stratosphere in winter 2009/2010

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Polar stratospheric temperatures in winter 2009/2010 were low enough that even ice particles were found to be present. Large particles with a major content of reactive nitrogen (NO_y) have been observed in about 20 km altitude, most likely composed of solid nitric acid trihydrate (NAT). The sedimentation of these particles yields a vertical redistribution of NO_y with consequences for chemical ozone depletion.

Simulations with the Chemical Lagrangian Model of the Stratophere (CLaMS) show this effect. The results of the simulations are confirmed by in-situ observations of NO_y (SIOUX) and N_2O (HAGAR) taken onboard the Geophysica aircraft for the flight altitudes up to 20 km. Above 20 km, the NO_y redistribution is compared with NO_y derived from satellite observations by the ACE-FTS experiment.

The comparison of the simulation and observations will be shown, especially regarding the sensitivity to significant parameters as the NAT nucleation rate. The impact of denitrification on ozone loss will be determined.