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Simultaneous aircraft measurements of NO, NO₂, HONO, and \mathbf{j}_{NO_2} to test the HO_x/NO_x photo-chemical budget and the HONO steady state in the middle troposphere

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Middle and long-term photo-chemical effects of local and regional pollution are not well quantified and are an area of active study. NO_x (here defined as NO, NO_2 , and HONO) is a regional pollutant, which influences atmospheric oxidation capacity and thus ozone formation. Airborne measurements in the boundary layer and free troposphere of atmospheric trace gases from the HALO (High Altitude Long Range) aircraft, particularly of NO, NO_2 , and HONO were performed as part of the EMeRGe (Effect of Megacities on the Transport and Transformation of Pollutants on the Regional to Global Scales) campaign over continental Europe and southeast Asia in July 2017 and April 2018, respectively. NO (and NO_y), O_3 , and the photolysis frequencies of NO_2 and HONO were measured in-situ. NO_2 and HONO were inferred from Limb measurements of the mini-DOAS (Differential Optical Absorption Spectroscopy) instrument, using the novel scaling method (Hüneke et al., 2017). The combination of these measurements allows us to study the oxidation capacity via the Leighton ratio (which indicates ozone formation) and the HO_x/NO_x coupling by quantifying the formation/destruction of HONO. The differences between these two studied regions are discussed along with the relevant processes which characterize the different air masses and photo-chemical regimes.