

A major regional air pollution event in the northeastern United States caused by extensive forest fires in Quebec, Canada

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[1] During early July 2002, wildfires burned $\sim 1 \times 10^6$ ha of forest in Quebec, Canada. The resultant smoke plume was seen in satellite images blanketing the U.S. east coast. Concurrently, extremely high CO mixing ratios were observed at the Atmospheric Investigation, Regional Modeling, Analysis and Prediction (AIRMAP) network sites in New Hampshire and at the Harvard Forest Environmental Measurement Site (HFEMS) in Massachusetts. The CO enhancements were on the order of 525–1025 ppbv above low mixing ratio conditions on surrounding days. A biomass burning source for the event was confirmed by concomitant enhancements in aerosol K^+ , NH_4^+ , NO_3^- , and $C_2O_4^{2-}$ mixing ratios at the AIRMAP sites. Additional data for aerosol K, organic carbon, and elemental carbon from the Interagency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments network and CO data from Environmental Protection Agency sites indicated that the smoke plume impacted much of the U.S. east coast, from Maine to Virginia. CO mixing ratios and K concentrations at stations with 10-year or longer records suggested that this was the largest biomass burning plume to impact the U.S. east coast in over a decade. Furthermore, CO mixing ratios and aerosol particles with diameters $< 2.5 \mu m$ ($PM_{2.5}$) mass and scattering coefficients from the AIRMAP network and HFEMS indicated that this event was comparable to the large anthropogenic combustion and haze events which intermittently impact rural New England. The degree of enhancement of O_3 , NO_y , NO_3^- , NH_4^+ , and SO_4^{2-} in the biomass plume showed significant variation with elevation and latitude that is attributed to variations in transport and surface depositional processes.

INDEX TERMS: 0305 Atmospheric Composition and Structure: Aerosols and particles (0345, 4801); 0315 Atmospheric Composition and Structure: Biosphere/atmosphere interactions; 0322 Atmospheric Composition and Structure: Constituent sources and sinks; 0345 Atmospheric Composition and Structure: Pollution—urban and regional (0305); 0368 Atmospheric Composition and Structure: Troposphere—constituent transport and chemistry; **KEYWORDS:** biomass burning, aerosols

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1. Introduction

[2] Biomass burning has significant regional and global impacts on tropospheric chemistry [Andreae and Merlet,

2001]. Models indicate that biomass burning contributes 15–30% of the CO [Galanter *et al.*, 2000; Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), 2001], ~9% of the O_3 [Marufu *et al.*, 2000], and 14–18% of the NO_x [IPCC, 2001] to the global tropospheric source of these species. On a global basis, biomass burning is the dominant source of organic carbon (OC) aerosol, being approximately twice the emissions from fossil fuel. It is also a source of black carbon (BC) aerosol that is comparable to that from the burning of fossil fuels

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[IPCC, 2001]. Biomass burning also impacts the global radiation budget through the release of important greenhouse gases and, regionally, through the emission of both scattering and absorbing aerosols [IPCC, 2001].

[3] The large amount of primary and secondary aerosols, O_3 , and O_3 precursors present in forest fire smoke plumes impacts background levels of those species and can also result in significant haze events locally, or more rarely, on a regional scale [Crutzen and Andreae, 1990; Conard and Ivanova, 1997; Nichol, 1998; Forster et al., 2001; Khalil and Rasmussen, 2003; Cooper et al., 2001]. On a regional scale, models indicate that biomass burning in Canada, primarily forest fires in summer, can contribute up to 60% of the CO, 45% of the NO_x , and 20% of the O_3 background tropospheric burden in this area of North America [Galanter et al., 2000]. A detailed study on the origin of tropospheric O_3 in Canada indicated that photochemical O_3 production within biomass smoke plumes makes a negligible direct contribution to the O_3 budget ($\sim 2\%$). However, biomass fires can increase regional O_3 levels through increased background levels of NO_x [Mauzerall et al., 1996]. Modeling studies of a Canadian forest fire event indicate that they can also affect CO and O_3 mixing ratios on the U.S. east coast with local enhancements of up to ~ 250 and ~ 30 ppbv, respectively [McKeen et al., 2002; Wotawa and Trainer, 2000].

[4] During the first week of July, there was widespread fire in northern Quebec, Canada (Figure 1) (T. Johnston, Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC), CIFFC Canada Report 2002, report available by request, <http://www.cifff.ca/>). This fire outbreak ultimately burned 1,012,785 ha, the largest reported burn area in Quebec since 1989. To put this event in perspective, over the 10 years prior to this event, reported annual totals for burn area in Quebec have ranged from 27,112 to 727,727 ha with an average value of 267,212 ha. The smoke plume produced from these fires resulted in a regional-scale haze event, impacting both Canada and much of the U.S. east coast. The smoke plume was captured by air quality monitoring sites operated by the Atmospheric Investigation, Regional Modeling, Analysis and Prediction (AIRMAP) network, the Harvard Forest Environmental Measurement Site (HFEMS), the Interagency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments (IMPROVE) network, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Here we present a chemical characterization of the smoke plume and document its geographical extent and impact on atmospheric chemistry in the northeastern United States.

2. Methods

2.1. AIRMAP Network

[5] The AIRMAP program operates several atmospheric chemistry monitoring sites in New Hampshire, including Thompson Farm (TF), Castle Springs (CS), and Mount Washington (MWO) (Figure 1). Each site is equipped for continuous measurements of an extensive suite of gas phase species, aerosol chemical, physical, and optical properties, and meteorological parameters. All sites are equipped with Teflon lined sampling manifolds with inlet

heights varying from 12 to 15 m above ground level. In addition, 24-hour aerosol samples are collected on Teflon filters for chemical analysis [DeBell et al., 2004]. Measurements included CO, O_3 , NO_y , aerosol scattering, aerosol mass, aerosol condensation nuclei, and aerosol soluble ions. See Appendix A for detailed methods information for the AIRMAP network.

2.2. Harvard Forest Environmental Measurement Site

[6] HFEMS is located at Harvard Forest in Petersham, Massachusetts (Figure 1). Various gas concentrations are measured from a 30-m tower ~ 6 m above the surrounding forest canopy. Carbon monoxide is measured using a modified infrared absorbance gas filter correlation analyzer. The sample stream is dried to a dewpoint of less than -20°C in a cold trap to eliminate water vapor interference. The instrument zero is determined by removal of CO from the ambient air using Sofnocat (Molecular Products Limited, Essex, United Kingdom). The analyzer is calibrated using 500-ppbv absolute standards (Scott Marrin, Inc.) that are referenced to a set of archival standards that are traceable to Climate Monitoring and Diagnostics Laboratory standards [Novelli et al., 1998]. Ozone mixing ratios are measured using a UV absorbance photometer (Thermo Environmental Instruments, Franklin, Massachusetts) configured to sequentially sample from eight inlet heights through the forest canopy and a fast-response C_2H_4 chemiluminescence analyzer that only samples from 29 m. Calibration of the fast-response instrument is made by comparison to measurements made by the profile instrument at the same inlet height. The UV absorbance instrument is calibrated against a dedicated O_3 calibration source (Dasibi 1008PC). NO_y is determined by catalytic conversion on a hot gold catalyst situated at the inlet, coupled with a fast response chemiluminescence analyzer. The analyzer is calibrated by addition of NO and NO_2 standards at the catalyst inlet [Munger et al., 1996].

2.3. EPA Monitoring Stations

[7] Hourly O_3 and CO data from state or local air monitoring stations were retrieved from the Atmospheric Infrared Sounder database. Sites were chosen for inclusion in this paper on the basis of geographical location and the presence of both CO and O_3 monitors (Figure 1), and they are not exclusively rural. It should be noted that these monitoring stations are operated for compliance rather than research reasons, so the precision and accuracy of the data, particularly at lower mixing ratios, vary from site to site. We thus limit use of these data to documenting the geographic extent and timing of the plume as it moved across the eastern United States.

2.4. IMPROVE Network

[8] Data were taken from 23 IMPROVE network aerosol samplers operated on the east coast of the United States during the summer of 2002 (Figure 1). Unlike the AIRMAP stations which collect bulk samples the IMPROVE network aerosol collectors have cyclone separators in front of the filters which only allow particles with diameters $<2.5\ \mu\text{m}$ to pass through, referred to as $PM_{2.5}$ aerosol. Details of the standard IMPROVE

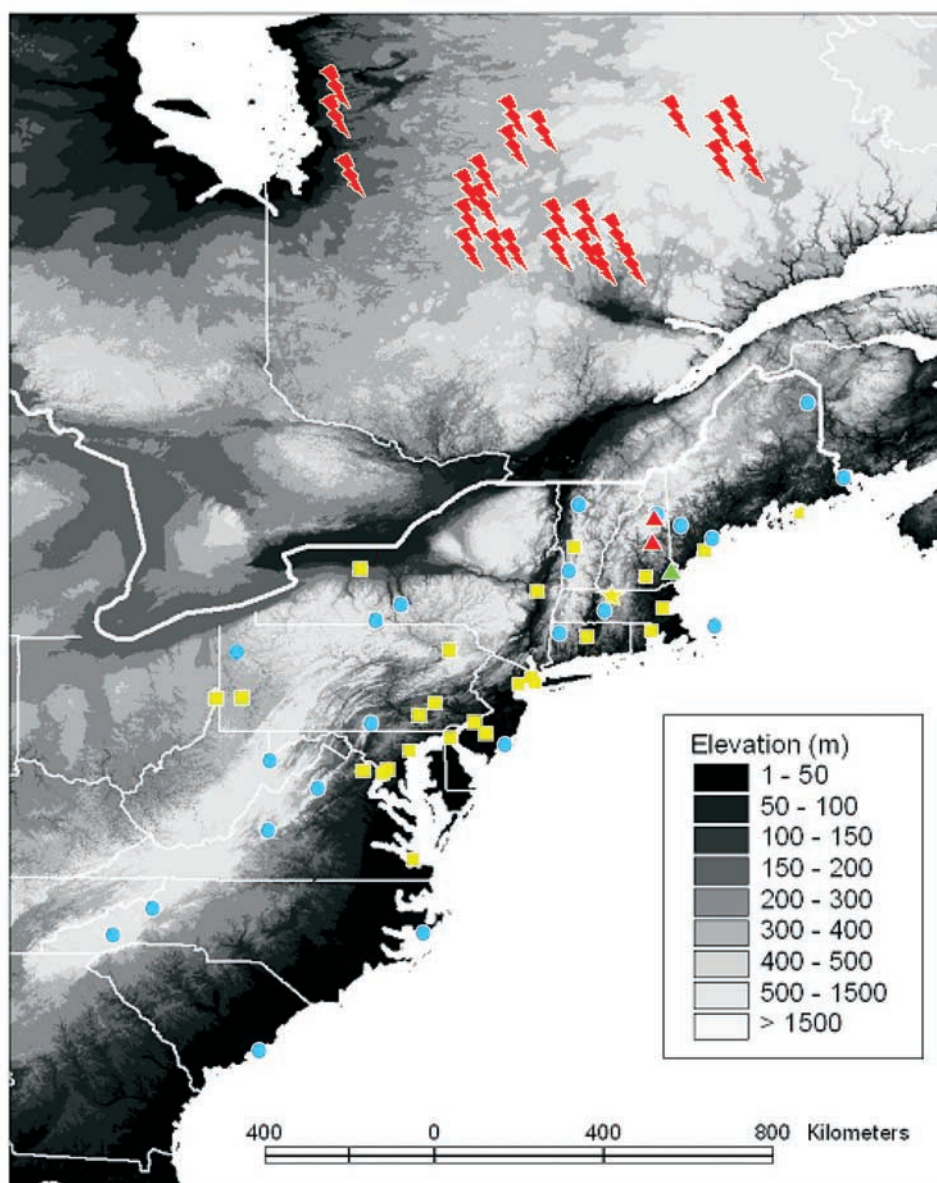


Figure 1. The approximate fire locations on 6 July 2002 for Canada are shown by red flags (locations are taken from Canadian Forest Service, Canadian Wildland Fire Information System at http://cwfis.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/en/index_e.php). Quebec was the only region experiencing significant biomass burning. The monitoring sites from all four networks are shown: AIRMAP, triangles; HFEMS, star; IMPROVE, circles; and the EPA, squares. The color coding represents the types of measurements conducted at that site which are used in this study. Blue indicates aerosol chemical and physical measurements, yellow indicates gas phase measurements, red indicates gas phase and aerosol chemical and physical measurements, and green indicates gas phase and aerosol physical and optical measurements. The digital elevation source is GTOPO30 (<http://edcdaac.usgs.gov/gtopo30/gtopo30.asp>).

aerosol sampling system, protocols, and analysis techniques are provided by *Eldred et al.* [1990] and *Malm et al.* [1994, 1996]. Briefly, the aerosol samplers were operated every 3 days for a 24-hour period from midnight to midnight local time. $PM_{2.5}$ samples were collected on 25-mm stretched Teflon mesh filters with 3.0- μ m pore size and a rigid olefin ring support. Filters were measured gravimetrically and analyzed by X-ray fluorescence to provide measurements of particle mass and elemental composition. PM_{10} filters were also collected for gravi-

metric determination of the mass of particles $<10 \mu$ in diameter.

3. July 2002 Smoke Plume Event

3.1. July Fires in Quebec

[9] Of the over 1×10^6 ha burned, 780,745 were north of $52^\circ N$ in the relatively unprotected extensive zone (Figure 1) (T. Johnston, Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre, CIFFC Canada Report 2002, report available by request,

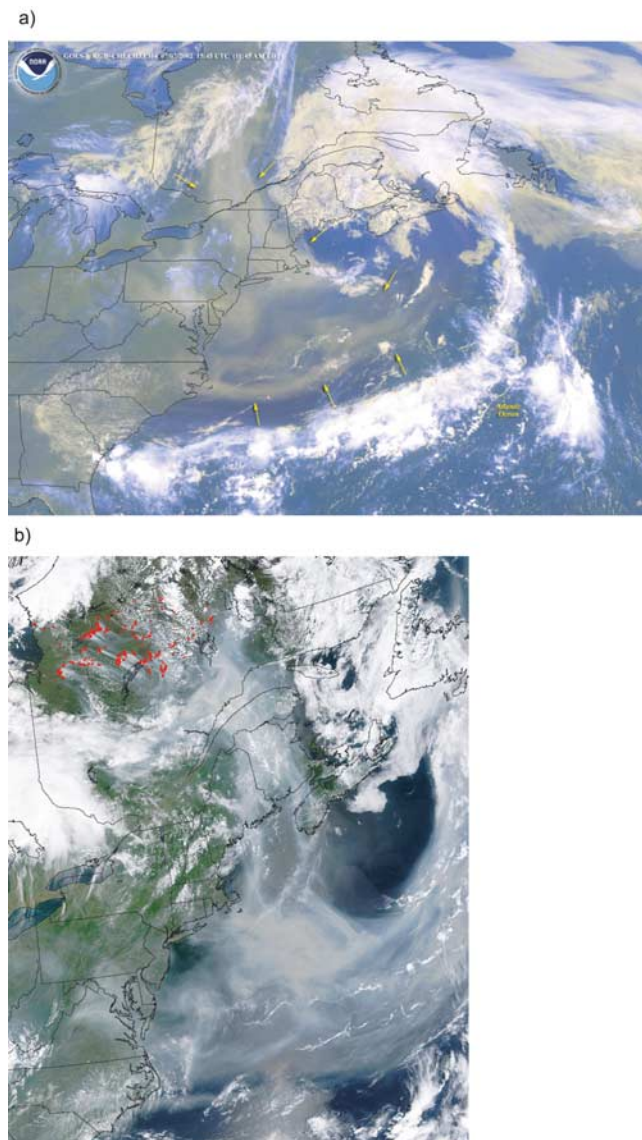


Figure 2. The dramatic shift in the plumes transport path from 7 July to 8 July reflects a shift in geostrophic flow. (a) The Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES) image was retrieved from the Operational Significant Event Imagery (OSEI) archive (<http://www.osei.noaa.gov>) and is credited to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). (b) The Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) image was retrieved from the NASA Visible Earth directory (<http://visibleearth.nasa.gov/>) and is credited to Jacques Descloitres, MODIS Land Rapid Response Team, NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center.

<http://www.cifrc.ca/>). The area burned consisted of continuous (50–100% forest covered) and discontinuous (<50% forest covered) softwood forest classified as being either in the Taiga or Boreal Shield ecozones (Natural Resources Canada, http://www.cfl.scf.rncan.gc.ca/ecosys/classif/intro_eco_e.htm). The areas burned may also have had significant soil carbon content, in some cases up to those levels defined as being peatlands (Climate Change Impacts and Adapta-

tion, Sensitivities to Climate Change in Canada, available at <http://adaptation.nrcan.gc.ca/app/imagerepository/73F994F92D004001ADD18A9F11F2E3B3.gif>).

[10] The area of smoke recorded nationally in Canada peaked on 6 July at over 213,000 km², its highest level for 2002 (Canadian Forest Service, National Forest Fire Situation Report, http://www.nrcan-rncan.gc.ca/cfs-scf/science/prodserv/firereport/archives_e.php?year=2002&month=07&day=10). On 7–8 July 2002, a huge smoke plume was seen blanketing much of the U.S. east coast in Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES) and Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer images (Figure 2). This plume was clearly the same smoke plume seen on 6 July in Canada from the large forest fires burning in the Quebec region.

3.2. Plume Transport to New England

[11] The smoke plume was transported from the north in a subsiding air mass along the western edge of a low-pressure system. Hybrid Single-Particle Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory (HY-SPLIT) backward trajectories were calculated with end points at MWO; TF; Acadia, Maine; and Washington, D. C., using Eta Data Assimilation System meteorological data and both model vertical velocity and isentropic versions of vertical motion calculations (R. R. Draxler and G. D. Rolph, HY-SPLIT model is available at the NOAA ARL READY Web site at <http://www.arl.noaa.gov/ready/hysplit4.html>; G. D. Rolph, data is available at Real-time Environmental Applications and Display System (READY) Web site at <http://www.arl.noaa.gov/ready/hysplit4.html>). Trajectories with start times corresponding to peak CO mixing ratios were run for 500, 800, and 1000 m above ground level for all sites except MWO, where they were run at 1800, 2000, and 2500 m above sea level. Trajectories indicated that transport times from northern Quebec ranged from ~1 day to MWO to ~3 days to Washington, D. C. (not shown).

[12] The upper level low-pressure system, which was present at 500 hPa on 7 July 0000 UT over New Brunswick (not shown), controlled the transport path of the smoke plume. North winds associated with the western side of the cyclone transported the smoke plume directly southward from Quebec (Figure 3). On 7 July the plume can be seen in GOES images in a fairly concentrated band covering parts of New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York (Figure 2a). The plume was diffuse, but patchy, over most of the eastern seaboard down to the Washington, D. C., area. By 8 July 0000 UT the low had moved further northeast, changing the transport direction of the smoke plume out of Quebec (Figure 3). On 8 July the smoke plume was moving more southeasterly and was being transported over Maine and out over the Atlantic (Figure 3). The plume also appeared to be pulled back inland near Virginia (Figure 2b). By 9 July 0000 UT the pressure system was no longer impacting the U.S. east coast, and the 850-hPa streamlines indicated westerly winds with no direct transport from the Quebec region (Figure 3). Below we show that surface chemical observations provide strong support for the variation of transport paths inferred from satellite imagery and synoptic analyses.

[13] The transport path of an air mass is often highly dependent on the transport altitude, so an estimate of the

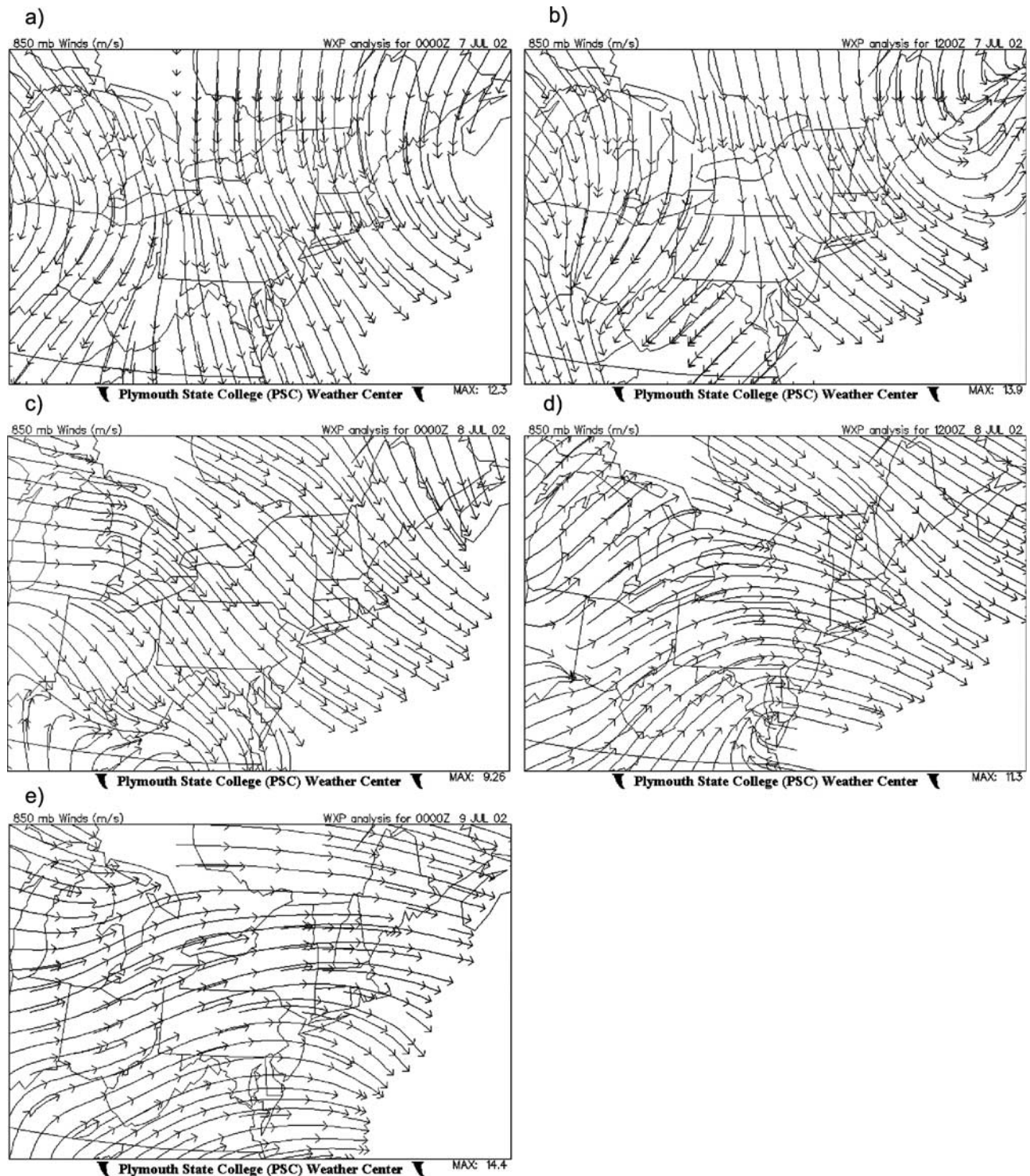
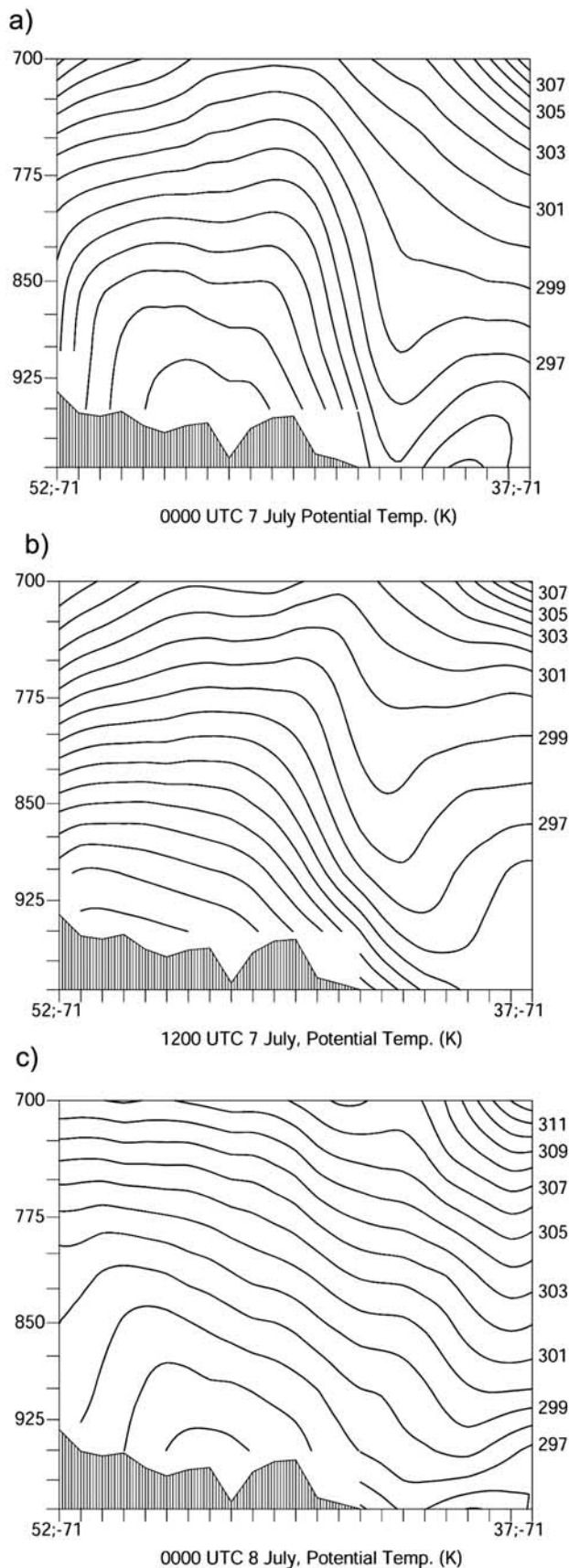


Figure 3. The 850-hPa streamlines show the transport path of the smoke plume from Quebec from 0000 UT 7 July to 0000 UT 9 July.

emission height of the smoke plume is critical for understanding the transport history of the smoke plume. Large fires that burn up into the forest canopy are often intense enough to generate smoke/convection plumes that routinely reach well up into the troposphere and, on occasion, penetrate the tropopause [Cofer *et al.*, 1996]. Ground fires or smoldering peatlands are cooler and do not generate

convective lifting that is as intense. Previous modeling efforts have assumed emissions occurred throughout the lower to middle troposphere either in the first 1.5–4.5 [McKeen *et al.*, 2002] or in the first 0.5–3 km [Wotawa and Trainer, 2000] of the atmosphere. McKeen *et al.* [2002] found that their modeled smoke plume transport from Canadian fires in 1995 to the east coast of the United States



was fairly insensitive to height, within the 1.5–4.5 km range, owing to the relatively strong subsidence associated with the event. On the basis of these prior studies and the magnitude of the July 2002 fires in Quebec we assume that the plume probably had several effective emission heights leading to southerly advection out of the region between the surface and the 3- to 5-km altitude range.

[14] The air mass containing the plume was relatively free of precipitation, based on surface observations reporting mainly clear skies (<http://vortex.plymouth.edu/>). Therefore, aside from turbulent near-surface flow resulting from the underlying terrain and thermal convection, we can assume an approximately adiabatic atmosphere, with air parcels following isentropic surfaces. North-to-south cross sections of isentropic surfaces taken along the approximate longitude of MWO show that transport height in the lower troposphere (<3 km) decreased with increased transport time during the period of this event (Figures 4a, 4b, and 4c). This effect weakened between 7 July 0000 and 8 July 0000 UT as the cold front moved further offshore. On the basis of the isentropic surfaces, all smoke injected into the bottom 1500 m of the atmosphere would have had significant interaction with the surface by the time it reached 42°N latitude. In addition, all isentropic surfaces below 3 km exhibited strong subsidence, suggesting that much of the smoke emitted into the lower troposphere was eventually transported into the boundary layer. Both isentropic and model vertical velocity trajectories support transport in the surface layer as the Quebec smoke plume traveled to TF and Washington, D. C. (not shown).

4. New England Air Chemistry Observations

4.1. Gas Phase Observations

[15] Extremely high CO mixing ratios were measured at all three AIRMAP network sites and the HFEMS at the same time that the smoke plume was seen on satellite images of the U.S. east coast. At MWO, CS, and TF, 1-min-averaged CO levels peaked at 1437, 830, and 758 ppbv at 0030, 0238, and 0654 LT on 8 July, respectively (Figure 5). The AIRMAP sites are arranged along both a latitudinal and an altitudinal gradient (Figure 1), and CO mixing ratios clearly decreased with decreasing altitude and latitude. These mixing ratios were significantly elevated for these rural New England sites, and the maximum values observed at MWO and TF were above the 99th percentile of the site-specific, multiyear data sets. At CS this event produced the largest CO mixing ratios observed to date.

[16] At HFEMS, where CO has been measured nearly continuously since 1992, this event stands out as one of the most significant events during this time period, with the exception of nocturnal events with nearby domestic heating emissions trapped by shallow inversions. Hourly averaged

Figure 4. Cross sections of the isentropic surfaces were taken from the Eta model forecasts along a north-south cross section from the approximate region of the fires in Quebec down to approximately Washington, D. C., along the approximate longitude of MWO. The surfaces show decreasing transport height with increasing transport time in the first 3 km of the atmosphere.

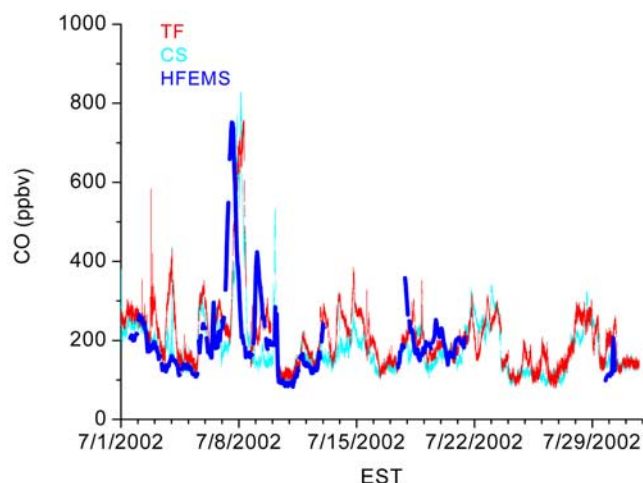


Figure 5. Elevated CO mixing ratios on 7–8 July 2002 clearly stand out compared to the rest of the month. Data from MWO are not shown, as elevated CO levels from the Cog railway disguise the similarities in regional CO levels on days surrounding the event. The three sites clearly capture a regional signal on most days.

CO mixing ratios peaked at 752 ppbv on 7 July at 1400 LT (Figure 5). The peak hours of the event were all well above the 95th percentile (323 ppbv) and included the maximum value for summertime observations over the entire 12-year data set. The high CO mixing ratios observed during this event are on the order of 150 ppbv above peak values observed during the previous 12 summers (Figure 6).

[17] Ozone was elevated and positively correlated with CO at MWO and CS (Figures 7a and 7b). At MWO and CS, O_3 peaked at 92 and 44 ppbv, respectively. These mixing ratios represent O_3 enhancements of approximately 60 and 14 ppbv above low mixing ratios of 35 and 30 ppbv on days surrounding the fire event at MWO and CS, respectively. The enhancement at CS was minimal but significant for showing the transition in plume characteristics with both site elevation and latitude. Standard least squares linear regression of O_3 versus CO yielded an R^2 of 0.52 (slope = 0.028 ppbv ppbv $^{-1}$) at MWO and 0.44 (slope = 0.014 ppbv ppbv $^{-1}$) at CS. In contrast, O_3 was not significantly elevated during the event at HFEMS or TF, the lower elevation and more southern sites (Figures 7c and 7d). CO is a good tracer of combustion because it is a primary product of this process, whereas O_3 is a secondary product from the precursor species, reactive nitrogen and hydrocarbons, released during the combustion process. The similarity in timing between the O_3 and CO enhancements, shown by the O_3 :CO correlation, suggests that the O_3 enhancement is associated with the combustion products.

[18] During the time period of enhanced CO, NO_y mixing ratios at CS were elevated, reaching 7.9 ppbv, and significantly correlated with CO ($R^2 = 0.86$, slope = 0.0074 ppbv ppbv $^{-1}$) (Figure 7b). While NO_y mixing ratios were quite low at HFEMS, peaking at only 3.2 ppbv, a positive correlation with CO was again quite strong ($R^2 = 0.88$, slope = 0.0025 ppbv ppbv $^{-1}$) (Figure 7c). NO_y mixing ratios were comparable at TF (~ 3 ppbv) and reasonably correlated with CO ($R^2 = 0.51$, slope = 0.0024 ppbv ppbv $^{-1}$

excluding the last hours of the event after 8 July at 0700 LT) (Figure 7d). The lower correlation at TF is due in part to the strong nocturnal inversion at the site, during which O_3 and NO_y (i.e., HNO_3) are depleted by surface deposition. As the forest fire plume was passing (as evidenced by rapidly decreasing CO mixing ratios), a local pollution plume influenced the TF site with mixing ratios of CO, NO_y , and condensation nuclei (CN) jumping up significantly, obscuring the latter portion of the forest fire event at TF. The NO_y :CO slopes observed during the fire are distinctly lower than those observed in the overall data sets. For comparison, at TF the correlation of NO_y versus CO for the overall 2002 data set yielded a slope of 0.12. NO_y measurements were not conducted at MWO during this event.

4.2. Aerosol, Chemical, Optical, and Physical Observations

[19] At all three AIRMAP stations, CN levels were elevated and positively correlated with CO (Figure 8). At MWO, CS, and TF, CN levels reached 8400, 7000, and 7150 particles cm^{-3} , respectively. Linear regression of CN versus CO yielded an $R^2 = 0.74$ and slope = 5.69 (counts cm^{-3}) ppbv $^{-1}$ at MWO, an $R^2 = 0.91$ and slope = 5.59 (counts cm^{-3}) ppbv $^{-1}$ at CS, and an $R^2 = 0.61$ and slope = 3.63 (counts cm^{-3}) ppbv $^{-1}$ at TF (excluding the last hours of the event). CN levels were above the 2-year 95th, 85th, and 50th percentile at MWO, CS, and TF, respectively.

[20] Aerosol scattering and hourly $PM_{2.5}$ mass were measured only at TF (Figure 8c). The aerosol scattering coefficient was significantly elevated; the maximum value of this event, at 405 Mm^{-1} , exceeded the 99th percentile of the TF continuous 1.5-year data set for this site. Scattering was positively correlated with CO, with $R^2 = 0.99$ and slope = 0.68 Mm^{-1} ppbv $^{-1}$. $PM_{2.5}$ mass was also extremely high, reaching the largest value observed to date at TF, 338 $\mu g m^{-3}$. Hourly averaged $PM_{2.5}$ mass and CO were positively correlated ($R^2 = 0.77$ and slope = 0.013 ($\mu g m^{-3}$) ppbv $^{-1}$). The similarity in timing of the enhancements in the continuous measurements of aerosol scattering and mass and CO, described by the strong positive correlations, lends

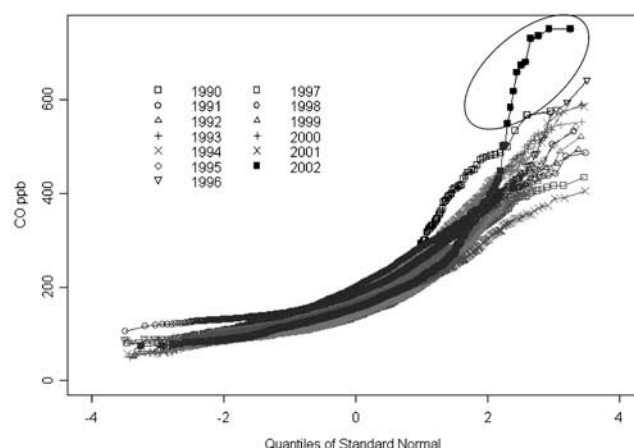


Figure 6. Standard normal quantile plot of summer daytime data for HFEMS is shown. The samples from the Quebec 2002 fires (shown inside the circle) clearly stand out as extreme compared to the past 12 summers.

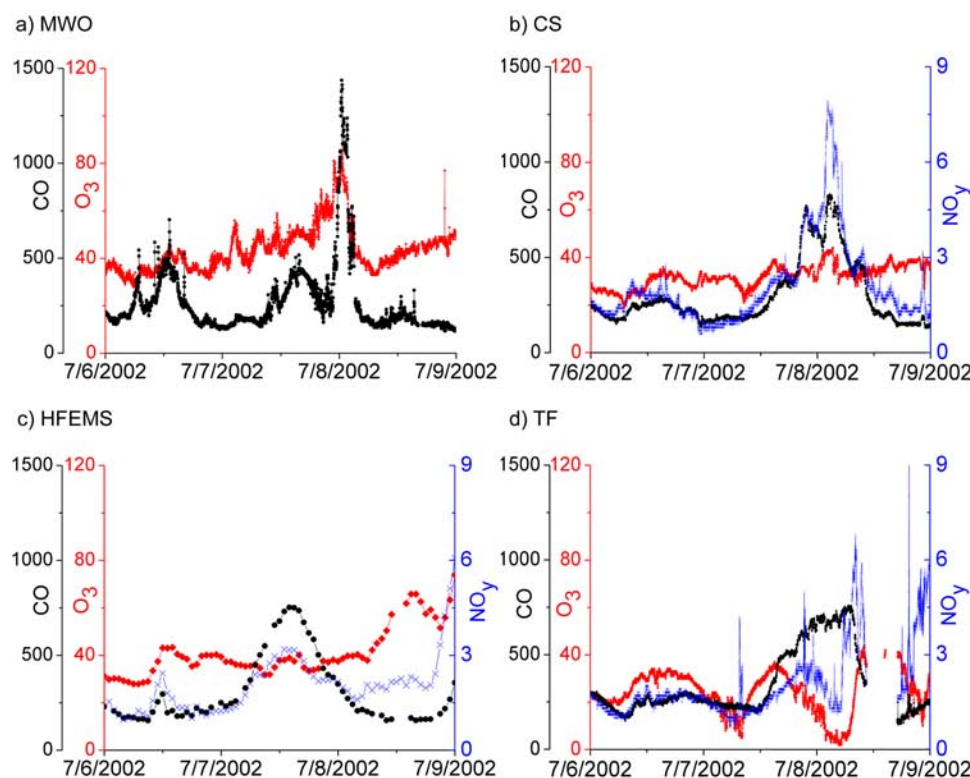


Figure 7. Enhancements in O_3 and NO_y showed a clear altitudinal and latitudinal gradient. Both mixing ratios and R^2 values were greatest at MWO and lowest at TF. CO , O_3 , and NO_y are all displayed in units of ppbv, and dates are given in LT with ticks at 0000.

credence to the assumption that both the high aerosol loadings and the CO were associated with the smoke plume.

[21] Excess aerosol K (that fraction of total K not attributable to dust or salt) is a good tracer of biomass burning [Andreae, 1983]. Volatilization and reactions of K and Cl in vegetation [Liu *et al.*, 2000] during burning leads to nucleation and condensation of potassium salt particles [Gaudichet *et al.*, 1995]. Bulk water-soluble K^+ was elevated on the aerosol filter samples collected at CS between 7 July 1300 and 8 July 1200 LT and at MWO between 7 July 0900 and 8 July 0900 LT. The samples from both sites had the highest K^+ mixing ratios observed since AIRMAP began making measurements. Peak K^+ mixing ratios were comparable with 24-hour averages of 187 pptv at CS and 211 pptv at MWO (Table 1). A sample was not available from TF.

[22] With the exception of SO_4^{2-} , all the aerosol-associated ions were significantly elevated at one or both sites (Table 1). In addition, there were significant differences between the two sites. At MWO, NO_3^- mixing ratios were twofold, and NH_4^+ mixing ratios were nearly 1.5-fold higher than those observed at CS. Ca^{2+} was 3 times higher, and Mg^{2+} was twice as high at CS compared to MWO. CS also had slightly higher SO_4^{2-} mixing ratios compared to MWO. Oxalate ($\text{C}_2\text{O}_4^{2-}$) mixing ratios were quite high at both stations and were comparable. The presence of high mixing ratios of oxalate indicates that at least a portion of the organic aerosol in the smoke plume was water-soluble.

[23] Charge balance was not achieved for the ionic species measured, with cations significantly more abundant than anions (excess positive charge was 422 nanoequiva-

lents at CS and 124 at MWO). This result indicates that unmeasured anions, such as CO_3^{2-} , PO_4^{3-} , or other organics, were probably present in significant quantities in the aerosol. The presence of organic anions would be consistent with previous studies of biomass burning plumes [Li *et al.*, 2003]. While our ion chromatography (IC) system was not configured to quantify carboxylates in these samples, it is worth noting that the monocarboxylates peak in the chromatograms were significantly higher than in samples from surrounding days. We previously have found high mixing ratios of formic and acetic acids in Canadian biomass burning plumes [Lefer *et al.*, 1994; Dibb *et al.*, 1996].

5. Discussion

5.1. Regional Picture

5.1.1. Carbon Monoxide

[24] Enhanced CO mixing ratios were seen in the United States from Maine down to northern Virginia on 7–8 July 2002. The timing of the event, in terms of the maximum CO value, showed distinct regional patterns consistent with the observed presence of the plume (Figure 2). Maximum values at all stations occurred between 1400 LT 7 July (at HFEMS) and 1200 LT 8 July (at Acadia, Maine). Both the timing and the magnitude of the maximum value were impacted by whether or not the site was located in an urban area. Maximum hourly CO mixing ratios ranged from 738 ppbv at TF to 3600 ppbv in Washington, D. C. (Figure 9).

[25] Most sites can be sorted into one of three groups on the basis of the timing of the maximum CO value: group 1 with a maximum between 2000 and 2200 on 7 July, group 2

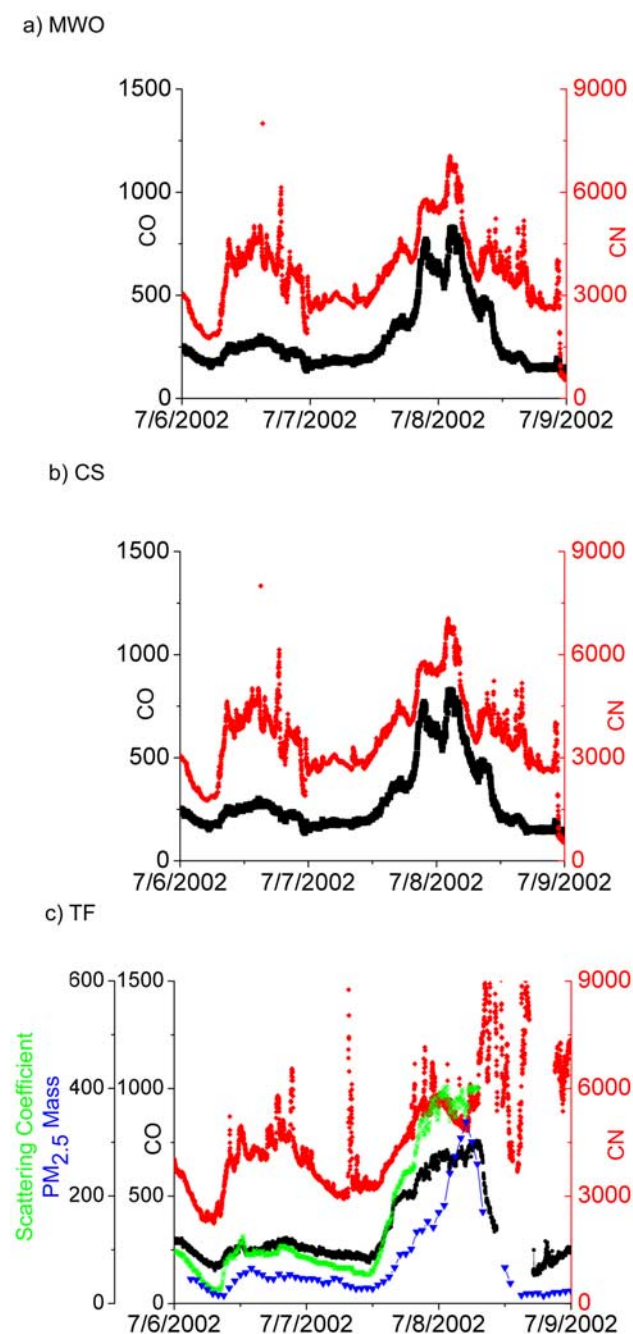


Figure 8. CN counts, $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ mass, and aerosol scattering coefficients were all significantly enhanced and correlated with CO during the event. CO is shown in ppbv, CN is in counts cm^{-3} , scattering coefficients are in Mm^{-1} , and $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ mass is in $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$; dates are given in LT with ticks at 0000.

with a maximum of 0500–0800 on 8 July, and group 3 with a maximum of 1100–1200 on 8 July (Figure 9). The similarity in timing of the CO peaks amongst these groups more firmly establishes the geographical extent of the plume in the absence of more precise biomass burning tracers at the majority of the monitoring stations. The sites in Maine saw the latest maximum CO values and fell into group 3. Most of the low-altitude New England sites and the more

western sites fell into group 1. Most of the sites in the urbanized eastern seaboard (New York City to Washington, D. C.) were in group 2. All the sites, except TF and the higher elevation sites HFEMS, MWO, and CS, clearly fell into one of these three groups.

[26] The timing of the event at the group 3 sites is explained by the south-to-southeastward shifts in the transport path of the smoke plume from 7 July to 9 July (Figure 3). The time series of several representative sites from each group helps to explain the variation in timing between sites in groups 1 and 2 (Figure 10). All sites in groups 1 and 2 exhibited a double peak structure in their time series, with the first peak occurring between 2000 and 2200 LT 7 July and the second one occurring between 0500 and 0800 LT 8 July. In the cases where the maximum value occurred during the first peak (see the group 1 site, western Pennsylvania, in Figure 10), the mixing ratios in the second peak were only a little lower. When the maximum mixing ratios occurred in the morning of 8 July (see the group 2 site, Washington, D. C., in Figure 10), it was always significantly higher than the preceding nighttime peak. It is presumed that this was due to the Quebec plume mixing with local traffic emissions associated with Monday morning rush hour, resulting in very enhanced CO mixing ratios at the group 2 sites. TF was somewhat anomalous compared to other low-elevation rural sites in that the maximum occurred Monday morning as in group 2. Since the peak mixing ratio was not notably higher than the late 7 July enhancement, TF was determined to be more consistent with group 1 and is included in that group.

5.1.2. Aerosol Chemistry

[27] Elevated levels of fine ($<2.5\text{-}\mu\text{m}$) aerosol elemental K, BC, and OC were present at IMPROVE stations across much of the east coast on 7 July. A distinct regional pattern was present (Figures 11a, 11b, and 11c) with the highest concentrations occurring directly under the plume as pictured in the GOES image (Figure 2a). Fine elemental K ranged from 0.013 to $0.91\text{ }\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$, BC ranged from 0.062 to $4.7\text{ }\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$, and OC ranged from 0.47 to $56.0\text{ }\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ across the eastern seaboard. Lye Brook, Vermont; Brigan-tine, New York; and Washington, D. C., were the three long-term ($>10\text{-year}$ records) sites most affected by the plume. The samples from 7 July at Lye Brook and Brigan-tine both had the maximum K, BC, and OC concentrations ever observed at those sites. The sample from Washington,

Table 1. Mixing Ratios and Station-Specific Summary Statistics for MWO and CS Aerosol Samples^a

Sample or Statistic	K^+	NO_3^-	NH_4^+	SO_4^{2-}	Ca^{2+}	Mg^{2+}	$\text{C}_2\text{O}_4^{2-}$
CS 7 July	187	292	903	264	201	40	165
CS 50th	19	71	580	352	30	14	
CS 75th	28	180	1,095	638	58	27	
CS 85th	35	289	1,613	956	81	39	
CS 95th	47	571	2,761	1,776	129	74	
CS maximum	187	1,834	6,109	4,754	494	203	
MWO 7 July	211	665	1,217	227	67	21	180
MWO 50th	3.4	12	169	88	5	2	
MWO 75th	8	55	461	228	16	5	
MWO 85th	12	100	714	384	30	9	
MWO 95th	22	256	1,387	870	60	20	
MWO maximum	211	1,767	12,680	9,682	390	98	

^aAll values given in pptv. Statistics based on 1429 and 681 samples at MWO and CS, respectively.

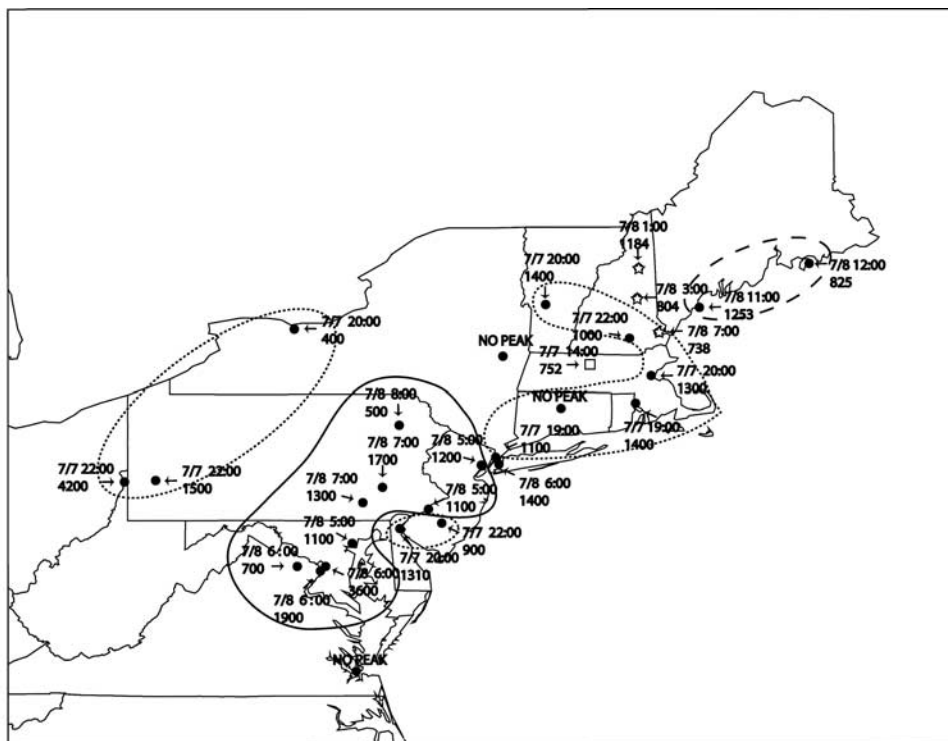


Figure 9. Map shows the timing and magnitude of the maximum CO mixing ratios. Group 1 is shown with a dotted line, group 2 is shown with a solid line, and group 3 is shown with a dashed line. Group 1 has a maximum between 2000 and 2200 UT at 7 July, group 2 has a maximum between 0500 and 0800 UT 8 July, and group 3 has a maximum between 1100 and 1200 UT 8 July. All times are given in LT.

D. C., had K concentrations above the 99th percentile (99th percentile = $0.30 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$), BC levels below the median (median = $1.08 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$), and the maximum OC concentration ($17.5 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$) observed at the site to date. At the most affected sites (total aerosol mass $> 50 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$, corresponding to those shown in red and orange on Figure 11a), comparison of the PM_{10} to the $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ mass measurements suggested that $<5\%$ of the total mass was in the coarse mode.

5.1.3. Event Magnitude

[28] The CO mixing ratios observed during this event at HFEMS confirmed that this was the most intense combustion plume, natural or anthropogenic, to affect this site during the summer in over a decade (Figure 6). At the four rural research sites, maximum CO mixing ratios represented 525–1025 ppbv enhancements above low mixing ratio conditions on surrounding days (Figure 7). In addition, aerosol K concentrations suggested that this was the most intense biomass burning plume sampled by the IMPROVE network on the east coast in at least the last decade. The magnitude of the impacts on atmospheric composition in the eastern United States is consistent with the anomalously large area burned in Quebec and the geographical extent of the plume observed from spaceborne instruments.

[29] Perhaps the most significant impact of this event was the reduced visibility due to the extremely high aerosol mass loadings and associated scattering effects (Figure 8). A reddish brown haze was clearly visible to the human eye throughout the New England region. Fine mass loadings exceeded the national ambient air quality standard

(NAAQS) at the four most impacted IMPROVE sites (sites shown in red in Figure 11c), indicating unhealthy conditions for all people. Neither O_3 nor CO levels exceeded NAAQS standards at any sites and were considered healthy for all people.

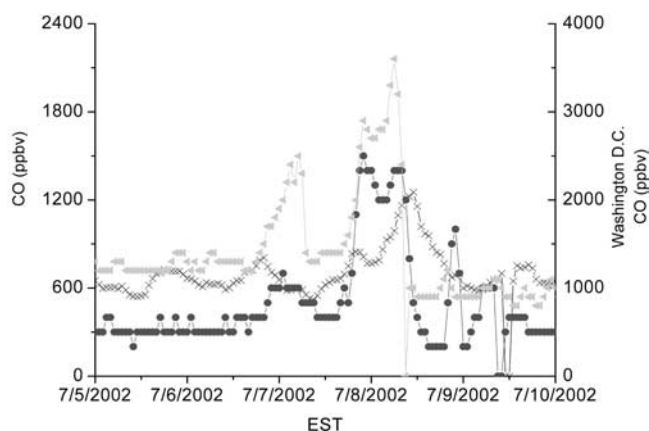


Figure 10. Time series of CO mixing ratios at EPA stations representative of groups 1–3 shows the differences in the event in terms of timing and magnitude. The site in western Pennsylvania (dots) is representative of group 1; Washington, D. C., (sideways triangles) is representative of group 2; and Cape Elizabeth, Maine, (crosses) is representative of group 3.

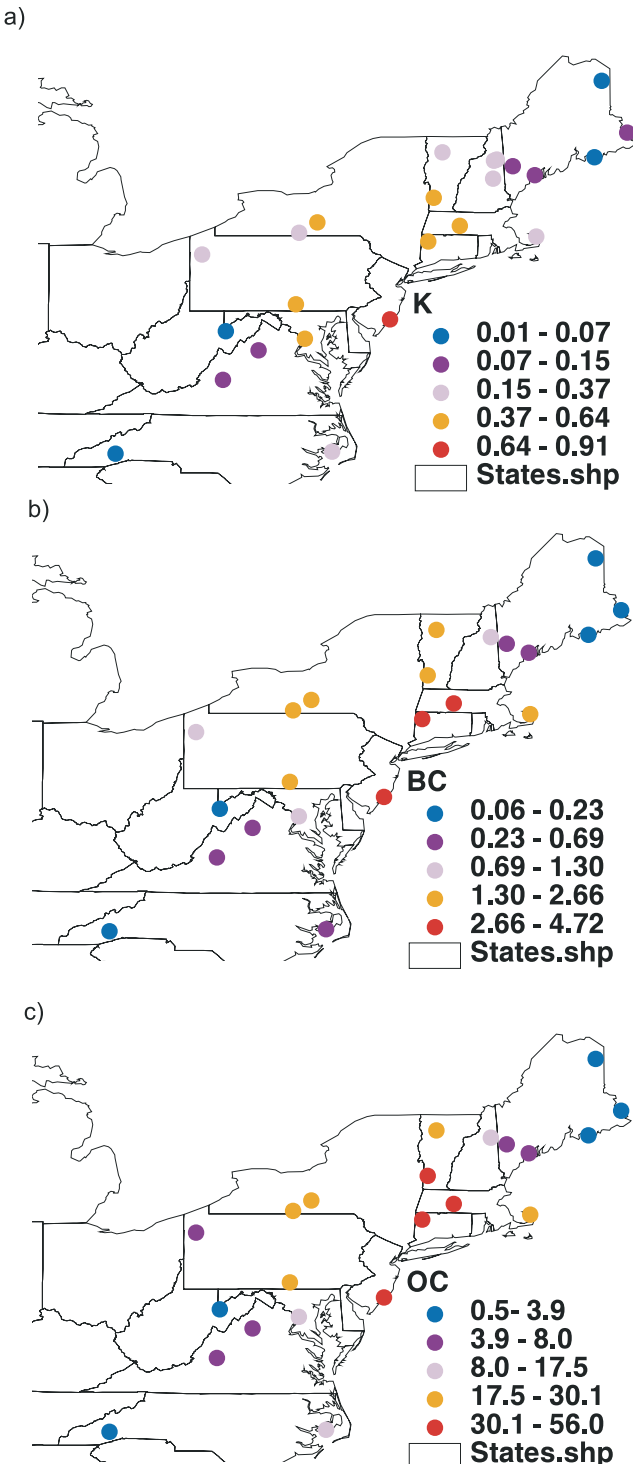


Figure 11. Fine aerosol at IMPROVE stations on 7 July for (a) elemental K, (b) black carbon, and (c) organic carbon is shown. Bulk K^+ concentrations at the AIRMAP stations MWO and CS are also displayed. The distinct regional pattern in all three aerosol types is indicative of the transport path of the smoke plume and consistent with remote sensing images from the same day. The shapes of the states are outlined (States.shp).

[30] The scattering coefficients at TF were extremely high for a rural New England site. All observations suggest that OC and/or nitrate aerosol likely dominated the scattering of light during this event, which is unusual for the northeast, where sulfate aerosol is typically dominant [Malm *et al.*, 1994]. CN levels were also high and represented significant enhancements compared to conditions typical for CS and MWO (8400 and 7000 cm^{-3} versus median values of 1210 and 3350 cm^{-3}). In addition, the fine aerosol mass loadings at TF during this event were even higher than the pollution haze events that intermittently impact the site; the peak hourly $PM_{2.5}$ mass concentration during this event, 338 $\mu g m^{-3}$, was over sixfold higher than the 95th percentile of 55 $\mu g m^{-3}$.

[31] The peak $PM_{2.5}$ mass concentrations in the Quebec plume were comparable to the airborne bulk mass particle concentrations measured in Brazil during the local biomass burning season (Table 2) [Artaxo *et al.*, 1993]. The samples in Brazil were collected to be representative of the regional impact of biomass burning plumes. Additionally, CN levels at all AIRMAP stations were higher than the range observed during the Experiment for Regional Sources and Sinks of Oxidants in the heavily biomass burning impacted savanna region of central Africa (Table 2) [Ruellan *et al.*, 1999]. These comparisons suggest that the regional aerosol loadings from this boreal forest fire were at least comparable to those observed in tropical regions during the local biomass burning season.

5.2. Effects of Transport on Chemical Composition

[32] Three key transport processes, transport height, dilution, and effective emission height, had significant impacts on the observed chemical characteristics of the smoke plume. The fire event consisted of numerous individual fires that likely had different emission ratios and effective emission heights depending on specific fire conditions. Individual fire characteristics were muted as the plumes converged and coalesced into a large regional plume. The only observation to point toward the preservation of different emission ratios between the sampled plumes was the disparity in absolute and relative Ca^{2+} and Mg^{2+} mixing ratios between MWO and CS. While the increased absolute and relative mixing ratios of the soil tracers at CS could indicate differences in emission ratios, they may also simply indicate the presence of local dust at CS. All other observed site-to-site variation, including the observed altitudinal and latitudinal gradients in relative and absolute mixing ratios of CO , O_3 , NO_y , NO_3^- , NH_4^+ , and SO_4^{2-} , can largely be attributed to dilution and the

Table 2. Aerosol Physical and Optical Properties of Biomass Burning Plumes

Location	CN, counts cm^{-3}	Mass, $\mu g m^{-3}$	Reference
AIRMAP MWO	8400		this work
AIRMAP CS	7000		this work
AIRMAP TF ^a	7150	338	this work
Africa	500–6000		Ruellan <i>et al.</i> [1999]
Brazil ^b		300	Artaxo <i>et al.</i> [1993]

^aAerosol particles with diameters $<2.5 \mu m$.

^bBulk (aerosol collected with no size cut).

differential transformation processes related to sampling station altitude and corresponding transport height. The observed effects of dilution and transport height included changes in intensity, surface losses, and entrainment of polluted air masses, which will be discussed individually in sections 5.2.1, 5.2.2, and 5.2.3.

5.2.1. Dilution

[33] The intensity of the smoke plume diminished as it traveled farther south, at least at the New England sites. Carbon monoxide mixing ratios showed clear decreases from north to south, with a difference in peak mixing ratios of ~ 680 ppbv between MWO and TF. Comparing HFEMS and CS, which are at comparable altitudes, CS had higher CO mixing ratios with a difference in peak hourly averaged mixing ratios of ~ 50 ppbv. As CO does not experience significant surface losses and is long-lived relative to plume transport time (~ 2 months in the summer at this latitude), the gradients in its mixing ratios clearly reflect changes in the intensity of the plume due to dilution with surrounding air.

5.2.2. Effects of Surface Losses on Plume Chemistry

[34] Studies of urban plumes have demonstrated that in photochemically aged plumes, O_3 enhancements are positively correlated with CO, indicating that the combustion products traced by CO are converted to O_3 in the presence of photochemistry [Chin *et al.*, 1994; Parrish *et al.*, 1998]. Biomass burning plumes are subject to the same photochemical processes but often contain less reactive nitrogen and therefore exhibit a lower relative degree of enhancement in O_3 as compared to anthropogenic combustion sources [Jacob *et al.*, 1992; Mauzerall *et al.*, 1996; Goode *et al.*, 2000; Wotawa and Trainer, 2000]. Given that this event occurred during summer and given the estimated travel times, photochemical activity was likely. The correlation between O_3 and CO can be used to examine the degree of O_3 enhancement in the plume.

[35] During this event, there was a noticeable relationship between sampling station altitude and O_3 enhancements (Figure 7). The reduced or absent O_3 enhancements at the lower altitude sites could be due to either enhanced depositional loss of O_3 during transport or to lower NO/CO emission ratios with associated reduction in the production of O_3 . Analysis of the EPA data included in this study supports the altitudinal and latitudinal gradients in O_3 enhancement observed at the research sites. A positive correlation between O_3 and CO was absent at all of the EPA stations (with the exception of Cadillac Mountain at 466 m in Acadia, Maine), even during the daylight hours of the event, suggesting little O_3 enhancement in the plume. At Acadia, the only high-elevation EPA station included in this study, O_3 reached 70 ppbv and was positively correlated with CO ($R^2 = 0.57$, slope = 0.096 ppbv ppbv $^{-1}$).

[36] Instrumented aircraft sampled the plume over Maryland as part of the Regional Atmospheric Measurement, Modeling, and Prediction Program on 8 July around 1500 LT at ~ 2.5 -km altitude [Taubman *et al.*, 2004]. The plume observations above the inversion layer over Maryland on 8 July further strengthen and extend the observed gradient. The airborne samples showed O_3 to be quite elevated and highly correlated with CO. Ozone and CO mixing ratios peaked at ~ 2.5 km above sea level, reaching 160 and 1555 ppbv, respectively. The correlation between

O_3 and CO in the plume was quite remarkable, with an R^2 value of 0.92 and a slope of 0.062. The O_3 and CO enhancements were approximately 90 and 1350 ppbv above mixing ratios in surrounding air masses above and below the plume of approximately 70 and 200 ppbv, respectively.

[37] The O_3 enhancements at CS, at MWO, and aloft were in the range of previously reported values, 10–132 ppbv, for boreal forest fire plumes [Browell *et al.*, 1994; Wotawa and Trainer, 2000; Goode *et al.*, 2000]. However, the $\Delta O_3/\Delta CO$ ratio of 0.062 of this plume at 2.5 km, determined by the slope of the linear correlation, was on the low end of those previously observed, and values at the New England research sites (0.014–0.028) were significantly lower than those previously observed. Reported $\Delta O_3/\Delta CO$ ratios for photochemically active boreal forest fire plumes encountered above the boundary layer over Alaska, eastern Canada, and the Midwest ranged from 0.04 to 0.2 [Jacob *et al.*, 1992; Mauzerall *et al.*, 1996; Goode *et al.*, 2000; Wotawa and Trainer, 2000].

[38] In contrast, the $\Delta NO_y/\Delta CO$ ratios at HFEMS and TF (2.5 and 2.4 pptv ppbv $^{-1}$), were nearly comparable to, and those at CS were significantly higher (7.4 pptv ppbv $^{-1}$) than, plumes sampled during Arctic Boundary Layer Expedition (ABLE 3A), which had enhanced O_3 and $\Delta O_3/\Delta CO$ ratios consistent with other boreal biomass burning plumes. The $\Delta NO_y/\Delta CO$ ratio for biomass burning plumes during ABLE 3A over Alaska ranged from 3.2 to 3.6 pptv ppbv $^{-1}$ [Wofsy *et al.*, 1992]. The presence of reactive nitrogen suggests that O_3 production was likely unless light was unable to penetrate to the lower levels of the plume. It is unlikely that light was unable to penetrate the plume across the entire region sampled by the EPA network, so O_3 production should have been observed minimally along the edges of the plume.

[39] Expected O_3 mixing ratios at the maximum observed CO mixing ratios can be estimated from the simple linear relationship $O_3 = CO(O_3/CO) + b$, where the ratio is in the typical range of boreal forest fire plumes, 0.4–0.6, and the intercept is from the least squares fit to observations (41 and 30, at MWO and CS, respectively). At MWO the predicted values are 101 and 130 ppbv O_3 (using 0.4 and 0.6, respectively), while at CS they are 63 and 80 ppbv O_3 . These predicted mixing ratios would represent O_3 enhancements in the range of 10–40 ppbv above those actually observed. The e -folding lifetime of O_3 in the plume would have been 1 week assuming only depositional loss, a mixing height of 3 km for the plume, and a 24-hour average dry deposition velocity of 0.5 cm s $^{-1}$. Thus, on the conservative side, O_3 deposition during the two days of transport can explain a loss on the order of 15–30 ppbv. Assuming a lower mixing height of 1 km would put the e -folding lifetime on the order of 2 days and predict losses on the order of 25–50 ppbv. The combined calculations support a $\Delta O_3/\Delta CO$ ratio of 0.04–0.06 for the plumes sampled at the surface sites, depending on the assumptions made. No one set of assumptions accurately supports the observations at both MWO and CS.

[40] Thus the plumes sampled at lower elevation likely experienced some combination of decreased O_3 production as well as increased depositional loss of O_3 compared to the plumes sampled at higher altitudes. Significant interaction with the surface layer is also suggested by CO_2 measure-

Table 3. Ratios of Enhanced Ions to K^+ Indicating Distinct Differences in Aerosol Chemical Composition Between MWO and CS

	NH_4^+/K^+	Mg^{2+}/K^+	Ca^{2+}/K^+	NO_3^-/K^+	SO_4^{2-}/K^+	$C_2O_4^{2-}/K^+$
CS	4.83	0.21	1.07	1.56	1.41	0.88
MWO	5.76	0.10	0.32	3.14	1.08	0.85

ments made at TF and HFEMS. Carbon dioxide was neither enhanced nor correlated with CO at either site (data not shown). Because CO_2 is the dominant gas emitted by fire, these results imply that the air mass has had sufficient contact with the surface layer for photosynthesis and respiration to obscure the $\Delta CO_2/\Delta CO$ correlation and CO_2 enhancement introduced at the source.

[41] The distinct changes in aerosol composition between MWO and CS provide further evidence for surface losses, in this case, of NO_3^- . The ratios of the other enhanced ions to K^+ indicate distinct differences in aerosol chemical composition between MWO and CS. MWO had significantly higher NH_4^+/K^+ and NO_3^-/K^+ ratios, significantly lower Ca^{2+}/K^+ and Mg^{2+}/K^+ , and slightly lower SO_4^{2-}/K^+ ratios, compared to CS (Table 3). While K does not seem to be emitted in a constant ratio to other aerosol constituents [Artaxo *et al.*, 1993; Gorzelska *et al.*, 1994], the similarity in K and oxalate ratios between the sites would seem to indicate that the ratios are revealing differences related primarily to chemical evolution and depositional losses during transport rather than emission ratios.

[42] The increased absolute and relative mixing ratios of NO_3^- and NH_4^+ observed at MWO indicate that this portion of the smoke plume likely experienced reduced depositional loss of those species or their precursors. NO_x and NH_3 are both released from biomass burning [Lobert and Warnatz, 1993] and are then converted to aerosol NO_3^- and NH_4^+ through heterogeneous chemical reactions [Li *et al.*, 2003; Goode *et al.*, 2000; Nance *et al.*, 1993]. It is unlikely that both NO_x and NH_3 emissions were reduced, as they are the dominant products of flaming and smoldering combustion, respectively [Goode *et al.*, 2000, and references therein; Lobert and Warnatz, 1993]. Thus the reduced NO_3^- and NH_4^+ observed at CS must be due to enhanced depositional loss of HNO_3 and NH_3 and the resultant reduced production of NO_3^- and NH_4^+ .

5.2.3. Effects of Entrainment of Polluted Air Masses on Plume Aerosol Chemistry

[43] Comparison of the chemical characteristics of the aerosol in this plume to those in prior events suggests that the long-range transport associated with this event resulted in significant alteration of the biomass burning aerosol through the incorporation of polluted air masses and the continued chemical evolution of the biomass burning emissions. The higher absolute and relative SO_4^{2-} mixing ratios at CS suggest entrainment of more polluted air masses compared to MWO, presumably due to enhanced interaction with the polluted boundary layer. The absence of detectable Cl^- in our samples indicates nearly complete or complete conversion of KCl, the dominant type of K salt in very young smoke, to potassium sulfate or nitrate, which is consistent with the suspected age of the plume of 1–2 days [Li *et al.*, 2003]. This conversion process likely

incorporated reactive gases from the biomass burning plume as well as the surrounding air mass, in particular, anthropogenic SO_2 emissions.

[44] The significant entrainment of non-biomass burning inorganic aerosol is further supported by data from the IMPROVE network. At the most heavily influenced IMPROVE sites (total aerosol mass $>50 \mu g m^{-3}$, shown in red and orange on Figure 11a), OC, BC, and inorganic aerosol made up between 44 and 55, 3 and 6, and 42 and 53% of the total mass, respectively. Previous results from Africa and Brazil indicated that inorganic aerosol made up between 10 and 25% of the total mass [Ferek *et al.*, 1998; Haywood *et al.*, 2003]. The biomass burning emissions in those cases were released into a comparatively unpolluted atmosphere, whereas here they are superimposed upon highly polluted east coast air masses. It is only because of the unique signature of the biomass burning emissions that they were distinguishable from anthropogenic pollution loadings.

5.3. Aerosol Mass Ratio Consistency for Biomass Burning Plumes From Various Sources

[45] The BC/OC mass ratio at the most heavily influenced sites ranged from 0.07 to 0.14 with an average value of 0.08. The data from the IMPROVE sites were comparable to those obtained from prescribed burns in the northwest United States, from African savanna fires and Brazilian cerrado, and from grass and forest fires, where BC/OC ratios ranged from 0.05 to 0.15 [Haywood *et al.*, 2003; Ferek *et al.*, 1998; Ruellan *et al.*, 1999; Martins *et al.*, 1996], but lower than the 0.17–0.20 BC/OC observed in a very young smoke plume from a savanna fire in South Africa [Hobbs *et al.*, 2003]. In the prior studies the lower ratios, near 0.08, were found to be indicative of smoldering combustion, and higher values, near 0.12, were indicative of flaming combustion [Ferek *et al.*, 1998; Ruellan *et al.*, 1999]. The similarity in BC/OC ratios between southern Africa and Brazil led Haywood *et al.* [2003] to conclude that this ratio is fairly invariant between regions; our results strengthen this conclusion and broaden the generalization to include boreal regions.

[46] The K/BC mass ratio in samples of the July 2002 plume at IMPROVE stations varied from 0.13 to 0.68 with an average of 0.26. These data cover approximately the same range, 0.11–0.64, observed in biomass burning plumes in Africa and Brazil [Hobbs *et al.*, 2003; Ruellan *et al.*, 1999; Yamasoe *et al.*, 2000; Ferek *et al.*, 1998; Maenhaut *et al.*, 1996; Andreae *et al.*, 1998]. These results suggest that while the relative amounts of BC, OC, and K were determined by emission ratios, the inorganic mass increased to a greater extent with long-range transport because of the incorporation of polluted air masses with higher inorganic aerosol loadings and possibly also to continued gas-to-particle conversion of inorganic gases in the smoke plume. However, this observation must be taken with caution, as the 24-hour samples might have captured aerosol not associated with the smoke plume.

[47] In summary, while transport height was probably the dominant factor controlling the chemical characterization of the plume, transport distance also may have played an important role in determining the observed mixing ratios. Therefore it would seem likely that during this event, transport height and the resultant degree of surface layer interaction was the dominant factor controlling more reac-

tive species such as NO_y , O_3 , NO_3^- , NH_4^+ , and SO_4^{2-} , and transport distance (i.e., dilution and mixing) was the dominant factor controlling more stable species such as CO.

6. Conclusions

[48] The smoke plume generated from the severe burning in Quebec in early July 2002 clearly had major impacts on air quality across the east coast of the United States, in both urban and rural areas. The combined data from the four networks all suggest that this was the largest and most intense biomass burning plume to impact the east coast in over a decade. The event was marked by significant enhancements in CO, $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ aerosol mass, organic and black carbon aerosols, and the soluble aerosol species NO_3^- , Ca^{2+} , oxalate, and the biomass burning tracer K^+ . In addition to the pollutants discussed here, significant gaseous mercury loadings were also found to be present in the smoke plume in samples collected at HFEMS [Sigler *et al.*, 2003]. The CO mixing ratios and aerosol mass loadings in the smoke plume were comparable to the most intense combustion pollution plumes and anthropogenic haze events to have ever impacted these rural New England sites.

[49] The degree of enhancement in O_3 , NO_y , NO_3^- , NH_4^+ , and SO_4^{2-} mixing ratios showed significant variation with sampling station elevation and latitude. The variation was likely due to a combination of factors related to the altitude of transport, which was shown to vary with sampling station elevation. The smoke plume reaching lower elevation sites clearly experienced enhanced interaction with the surface layer compared to higher sites because of subsiding transport along isentropic surfaces. Transport in the boundary layer likely resulted in increased depositional loss and increased incorporation of polluted air masses compared to transport in the free troposphere. The impact of varied emission ratios on the observed plume heterogeneity can not be assessed with the available data, but the emission ratios do not appear to be the dominant controlling factor. Decreased mixing ratios at more southerly sampling sites likely reflected increased dilution of the smoke plume as it dispersed over time and transport distance.

[50] While fires and the resultant smoke plumes of this magnitude are uncommon in the eastern United States, biomass burning can at times have a larger impact than anthropogenic sources on air quality in the heavily polluted east coast. Measurements indicated significant enhancements of many gas phase species; however, the most notable effect was the haze created by the very high aerosol loadings. This was one of the most intense haze events to impact TF, which is only ~ 100 km downwind of Boston, in nearly 2 years of monitoring. Short-term regional haze from this plume was comparable to that observed in the tropics during the biomass burning season. Organic carbon aerosol likely dominated the very high scattering coefficients observed during this event.

[51] The chemical composition of the aerosol showed significant perturbation due to the long-range transport of the smoke plume. The significant increase in the inorganic fraction of the aerosol mass, compared to much younger smoke plumes, clearly pointed to additional gas to particle conversion of inorganic gases and/or the entrainment of polluted air masses, dominated by inorganic aerosol, during

transport. The BC/OC ratio in biomass burning aerosol appears to be fairly invariant between regions and fuel type and to be unaffected by long-range transport.

Appendix A: AIRMAP Measurements

A1. Gas Phase Measurements

[52] Ozone was measured using Thermo Environmental Instruments (Franklin, Massachusetts) model 49C-PS, which is based on UV photometric detection at 254 nm. The limit of detection was ~ 1.0 ppbv. Carbon monoxide was measured with extensively modified Thermo Environmental Instruments model 48CTL [Parrish *et al.*, 1994]. The technique uses a filter correlation method based on absorption of infrared radiation at $4.6 \mu\text{m}$. Modifications to the instruments have improved stability significantly and added the capability to conduct frequent zeroing and standard addition calibrations. Zeroing was accomplished every 10 min by first passing ambient air through a catalyst of palladium on alumina heated to 250°C . Calibration was conducted in ambient air by dynamically diluting a ~ 5 -ppmv CO primary standard (Scott Marrin, Inc., $\pm 2\%$ National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) certified) so as to add a spike of ~ 300 ppbv. The limit of detection was ~ 20 ppbv and the precision $\pm 12\%$.

[53] Total reactive nitrogen ($\text{NO}_y = \text{NO} + \text{NO}_2 + \text{HNO}_3 + \text{PAN} + \text{alkyl nitrates} + \text{aerosol } \text{NO}_3^- + \dots$) was measured using a custom-modified Thermo Environmental Instruments model 42C. We used a molybdenum converter heated to $350 \pm 0.5^\circ\text{C}$ to reduce NO_y compounds to NO, which was subsequently measured by NO_2 chemiluminescence. The inlet to the converter was a 10-cm length of perfluoroalkoxy Teflon tubing heated to 50°C . A test of the conversion efficiency of both HNO_3 and NH_3 was performed and found to be satisfactory. We found for 50 ppbv HNO_3 , 100% conversion and for 1 ppmv NH_3 a positive signal of only ~ 100 pptv NO_y . In the field, conversion efficiency was checked daily by passing ~ 25 ppbv of isopropyl nitrate through the converter; during the period of this study, conversion efficiency was $104 \pm 6\%$. This NO_y compound is relatively difficult to convert and is a good overall check on converter performance [Bradshaw *et al.*, 1998]. An Aadco purifier provided air for zeroing and dilution of a ~ 50 -ppbv NO standard (Scott Marrin, Inc., $\pm 2\%$ NIST certified) to ~ 10 ppbv for calibration. Zeroing and calibration procedures were conducted every 12 hours.

[54] All instrument operations and data acquisition protocols are controlled automatically using National Instruments hardware and software. One-minute-averaged data are obtained from each site over the Internet every 15 min and displayed in near-real time on the AIRMAP web page (<http://www.airmap.unh.edu>). We used the 1-min data in our analysis except when 1-hour averages were required for comparison to data from other sites or instruments. All standard gases used by the AIRMAP network are NIST traceable. All duplicate instruments in the AIRMAP network are run side by side and determined to be comparable when initially deployed to the field and after major maintenance and repair.

A2. Aerosol Collection and Analysis

[55] Bulk 24-hour (1200–1200 UT) aerosol samples were collected daily at CS and MWO, and field blanks were

collected every 7 days. Bulk aerosols were collected on 90-mm Teflon filters (Fluoropore filters, Millipore, Bedford, Massachusetts) using a custom manufactured sampling device mounted near the manifold inlet. The soluble ions in bulk aerosol samples were extracted from Teflon filters and analyzed by IC as described by DeBell *et al.* [2004]. PM_{2.5} (particle diameter <2.5 μm) mass measurements were made using a Continuous Ambient Mass Monitor instrument (Thermo Anderson, Franklin, Massachusetts). CN measurements were made with a Thermo Systems Inc. (TSI) model 3022A (TSI Incorporated, St. Paul, Minnesota). Aerosol scattering coefficient measurements were made at 530 nm with a Radiance Research model M903 nephelometer (Radiance Research, Seattle, Washington). Details of the operation and maintenance of all continuous aerosol instruments are presented by Slater and Dibb [2004].

[56] **Acknowledgments.** We appreciate the efforts of those involved in the IMPROVE network for making such a valuable data set available to the research community. The authors gratefully acknowledge the NOAA Air Resources Laboratory (ARL) for the provision of the HY-SPLIT transport and dispersion model and/or READY Web site (<http://www.arl.noaa.gov/ready.html>) used in this publication. We would also like to thank Eric Hoffman and Jim Koermer of Plymouth State for providing meteorological figures. We would like to thank Steve Boles for generously offering his GIS capabilities. We also would like to thank Kevan Carpenter, Pieter Beckman, Sallie Whitlow, Karen Garrison, Don Troop, and Sean Wadsworth for their help in generating the data used in this work. This work was supported by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration under grants NA17RP1488 and NA17RP2632. Measurements at Harvard Forest are supported by the Office of Science (BER), U.S. Department of Energy, through the Northeast Regional Center of the National Institute for Global Environmental Change under cooperative agreement DE-FC02-03ER63613, and the National Science Foundation Long-Term Ecological Research program.

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