

# Unique Transport Diagnostics from Airborne *In Situ* Trace Gas Measurements

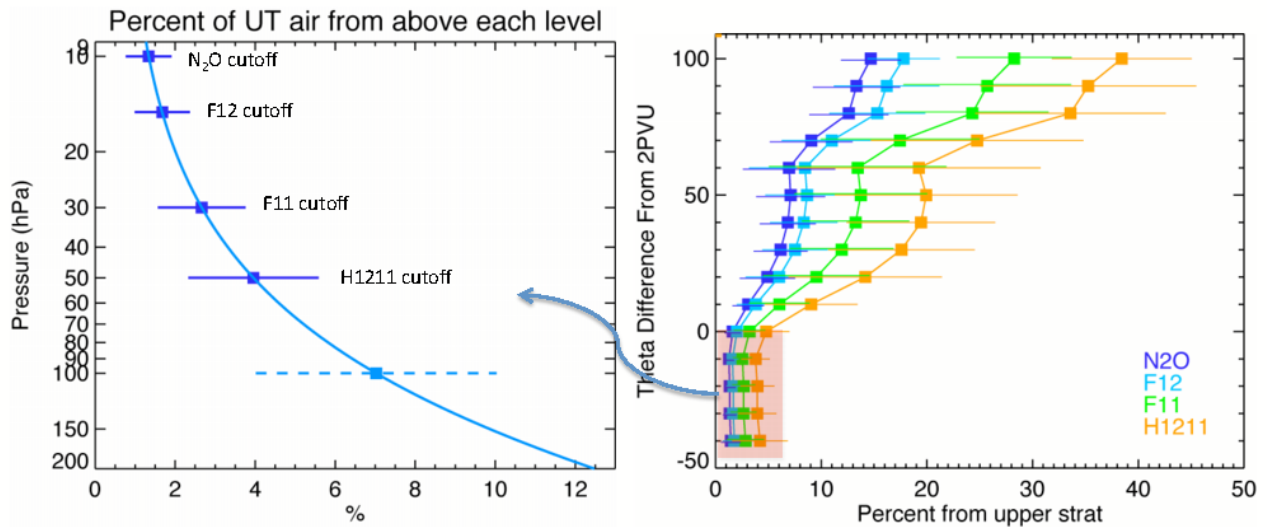
E. Ray<sup>1</sup>, F. Moore<sup>1</sup>, K. Rosenlof<sup>1</sup> and J. Elkins<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309; 303-497-7628, E-mail: eric.ray@noaa.gov

<sup>2</sup>NOAA Earth System Research Laboratory, Boulder, CO 80305

We describe several unique transport diagnostics based on *in situ* trace gas measurements from aircraft and balloon platforms. These transport diagnostics include quantifying the fraction of air in the upper troposphere and lowermost stratosphere (UT/LS) that has come from the stratospheric ‘overworld’, calculating transport time scales and surface origins of air in the UT/LS and estimating multi-year to multi-decadal changes in the stratospheric mean meridional circulation and horizontal mixing. These diagnostics have relevance for understanding a number of important processes in the atmosphere and are particularly important to compare to global chemistry-climate model output.

## Stratospheric Fraction Profiles



Extratropical UT air contains a mixture of 4-10% air from above 100 hPa and 0.5-2% from above 10 hPa.

**Figure 1.** Fractions of air in the lowermost stratosphere and upper troposphere that have come from above various levels in the stratosphere calculated from photolytic tracer correlations.