$\qquad$








## Methodology

One control model: 'standard' parameters
Run one model at the extremes of each reaction rate coefficient's tabulated uncertainty

Compute the difference between the results so obtained as a percentage of the control value ( $=p$ ), on a species by species basis.
e.g. if $p=0$, there was no effect on the species abundance by varying the reaction rate coefficient.

The bigger $p$ is, the more significant the reaction is for $\square$ that species

Summing p over all species, we can work out the 'most important reaction' * caveat caveat etc etc
(A)

(Q)
(Q)

Or. What single reaction rate coefficient can we measure that will improve the overall accuracy of the model the most?

$$
\mathrm{H}_{3}^{+}+\mathrm{O} \rightarrow \mathrm{OH}^{+}+\mathrm{H}_{2}
$$

measured by Fehsenfeld (1976)
$k=8 \times 10^{-10} \mathrm{~cm}^{3} \mathrm{~s}^{-1}$
quoted error < ${ }^{\prime}$ 50\%'
(a)

(Q)

There is no single reaction for which $p>1.2$ for CO, or $p>16.5$ for SO. For water, $p_{\max }=48.0$ for dissociative recombination of $\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{O}^{+}$.
(Q)
it's 19580, for $\mathrm{C}_{9} \mathrm{H}_{5}{ }^{+}$and the reaction $\mathrm{He}+\boldsymbol{\zeta} \rightarrow \mathrm{He}^{+}+\mathrm{e}^{-}$
'end chain' species

## What about other times in the model, for example at 'early time'?

The results are similar.
The uncertainties are always less than at steady state.

The cri reactions for $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ and He switch places.
The top non cr reactions are still

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \mathrm{H}_{3}^{+}+\mathrm{O} \rightarrow \mathrm{OH}^{+}+\mathrm{H}_{2} \\
& \text { and } \\
& \mathrm{C}^{+}+\mathrm{H}_{2} \xrightarrow{\rightarrow} \mathrm{CH}_{2}^{+}+\mathrm{hv}
\end{aligned}
$$

(Q)
(Q)

## Simple species are OK

but bigger molecules are definitely not
e.g. $H C_{7} \mathrm{~N}$ abundance uncertain to an order of magnitude because of a single rate!

$$
\text { For } \mathrm{HC}_{9} N, p_{\max }=5521!
$$

For most species with $n_{c}>2, p_{\max } \sim 500$

How many reactions were found to be totally unimportant by this method?
$p_{\text {total }}=0$ for about a third of them.
But that doesn't mean those reactions will never be important

## under any conditions

(A)



## Some random thoughts in conclusion

Sensitivity analysis squared:
how sensitive is a sensitivity analysis?
Not clear that any results are transferrable
What IS an important reaction / species ?
Matching observations?


