

# 1 On the changing role of the stratosphere on the tropospheric ozone budget: 1979- 2 2010 3

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10

## 11 Abstract

12 We study the evolution of tropospheric ozone over the period 1979-2010 using a chemistry-climate model  
13 employing a stratosphere-troposphere chemistry scheme. By running with specified dynamics, the key feedback  
14 of composition on meteorology is suppressed, isolating the chemical response. By using historical forcings and  
15 emissions, interactions between processes are realistically represented. We use the model to assess how the  
16 ozone responds over time and to investigate model responses and trends. We find that the CFC-driven decrease  
17 in stratospheric ozone plays a significant role in the tropospheric ozone burden. Over the period 1979-1994, the  
18 decline in transport of ozone from the stratosphere, partially offsets an emissions-driven increase in tropospheric  
19 ozone production. From 1994-2010, despite a levelling off in emissions increased stratosphere-to-troposphere  
20 transport of ozone drives a small increase in the tropospheric ozone burden. These results have implications for  
21 the impact of future stratospheric ozone recovery on air quality and radiative forcing.  
22

## 23 Plain language summary

24 We use a modelling approach to study the effect of stratospheric ozone depletion on the composition of the  
25 troposphere. We focus on the period 1979-2010 and use a chemistry-climate model employing historical  
26 emissions, climate forcing and meteorology. Our model has a good description of both stratospheric and  
27 tropospheric ozone chemistry and allows us to calculate the effect of exchange between stratosphere and  
28 troposphere. We show that stratospheric ozone depletion over the period 1979-2010 has a critical effect on  
29 tropospheric composition – with less ozone in the lower stratosphere, there is less transport to the troposphere,  
30 and this offsets an emissions-driven increase in ozone production in the troposphere. Such combined studies are  
31 important to quantify the future effects of stratospheric ozone recovery on the evolution of tropospheric  
32 composition.  
33

## 34 Introduction

35

36 The changes in tropospheric ozone since the pre-industrial era are estimated to have resulted in an increase in  
37 radiative forcing of  $0.4 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  (Stevenson et al., 2013, Myhre et al., 2013), making tropospheric ozone the third  
38 most important anthropogenic greenhouse gas. Unlike the major greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide ( $\text{CO}_2$ ) and  
39 methane ( $\text{CH}_4$ ), ozone is not emitted directly, but is the result of the oxidation of VOCs in the presence of  $\text{NO}_x$   
40 (Monks et al., 2015). The tropospheric ozone abundance is controlled by a balance of sources, including  
41 photochemical production ( $\text{P}_{\text{O}_3}$ ) and downward transport of ozone-rich air from the stratosphere ( $\text{S}_{\text{O}_3}$ ), and sinks,  
42 principally physical losses at the surface (deposition,  $\text{D}_{\text{O}_3}$ ) and chemical loss throughout the free troposphere  
43 ( $\text{L}_{\text{O}_3}$ ).  
44

45 Ozone has important impacts on vegetation and human health. In addition, ozone is important since it  
46 indirectly affects the lifetime of other greenhouse gases, particularly methane, through its role in the formation  
47 of the hydroxyl radical (OH) (Voulgarakis et al., 2013). OH and ozone also have an impact on aerosol radiative  
48 forcing, a major source of uncertainty in the climate system, as secondary aerosols such as sulfate, nitrate and  
49 secondary organic aerosol are mediated by tropospheric oxidants and play a major role in the aerosol budget and  
50 burden (Karset et al., 2018). Therefore, ozone is linked throughout the Earth system, as changes in ozone can  
51 have knock on impacts on emissions of ozone precursors through feedbacks induced by changes in temperature  
52 and the hydrological cycle (driven by the changes in aerosols and clouds and radiative forcing), which  
53 themselves will modify ozone.  
54

55 Measurements of ozone on a global scale are challenging, making modelling of atmospheric composition, and  
56 accurate model treatment of ozone production and loss, critical to our understanding of this important species.  
57 The International Global Atmospheric Chemistry (IGAC) Chemistry Climate Model Initiative (Eyring et al.,  
58 2016; Morgenstern et al., 2017) provided a mechanism to coordinate multi-model simulations of the historic  
59 evolution of ozone in the troposphere and stratosphere and their future evolution out to the end of the 21st  
60 Century. Results from CCMI indicate that global mean stratospheric ozone is projected to return to 1980s levels  
61 between 2045-2059 (Dhomse et al., 2018) but that the timing of this return depends on the extent of greenhouse  
62 gas emissions. As a result of increased greenhouse gas abundances, tropical total column ozone is likely to  
63 decrease by the end of the century (Oman et al., 2010; Eyring et al., 2013; Keeble et al., 2017). Revell et al.  
64 (2018) highlight a large spread in the CCMI models tropospheric ozone columns, with a bias compared to OMI-  
65 MLS data for the year 2005 of  $\pm 14$  Dobson Units ( $\sim 50\%$ ). They go on to explore the causes of bias in  
66 tropospheric ozone in the SOCOL model through performing an extensive series of sensitivity studies  
67 highlighting a large sensitivity of the SOCOL model tropospheric column ozone to emissions of ozone  
68 precursors in the year 2000. Abalos et al. (2019) focus on the role of changes in the stratospheric influx of  
69 ozone into the troposphere over the coming century and show that models agree that an acceleration of the  
70 stratospheric circulation driven by increases in greenhouse gas emissions will result in increased stratosphere-to-  
71 troposphere transport (STT).  
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73 While we have a good understanding of the current distribution of tropospheric ozone, owing to a large number  
74 of different measurements, our understanding of changes to the historic ozone burden and budget is less  
75 complete. The Tropospheric Ozone Assessment Report (TOAR) estimates that the tropospheric ozone burden  
76 averaged over 2010-2014 is  $302 (281-318) \text{ Tg}$  (Gaudel et al., 2018). This compares well with multi-model  
77 means (MMM) from model intercomparisons of  $337 \pm 23 \text{ Tg}$  (ACCMIP, (Young et al., 2013)) and  $336 \pm 27 (+16 -$   
78  $21) \text{ Tg}$  (ACCENT, (Stevenson et al., 2006) (although we note the TOAR burden is restricted to the latitude  
79  $\pm 60^\circ$ ). What controls this burden is still under debate. The recent literature on the chemical production ( $\text{P}_{\text{O}_3}$ ) and  
80 loss ( $\text{L}_{\text{O}_3}$ ) of tropospheric ozone highlights a lack of data on the topic to make reliable assessments.  $\text{P}_{\text{O}_3}$  is  
81 estimated to be much larger than the source from the stratosphere ( $\text{S}_{\text{O}_3}$ ) in all model simulations which have  
82 calculated this (Young et al., 2018) however there is wide-spread in the magnitude of  $\text{P}_{\text{O}_3}$ . Young et al. (2018)  
83 review the spread in the tropospheric ozone budget terms for the year 2000 and highlight a factor of  $\sim 2$  spread  
84 across each term ( $\text{P}_{\text{O}_3}$ ,  $\text{L}_{\text{O}_3}$ ,  $\text{S}_{\text{O}_3}$  and  $\text{D}_{\text{O}_3}$ ) with  $\text{S}_{\text{O}_3}$  and  $\text{D}_{\text{O}_3}$  having the highest spread between models. Whilst  
85 models agree that  $\text{P}_{\text{O}_3} > \text{S}_{\text{O}_3}$  there is less agreement historically on the sign of  $\text{P}_{\text{O}_3} - \text{L}_{\text{O}_3}$ , with some models  
86 suggesting the troposphere is a net sink for ozone.  
87

88 In this study we aim to understand how the budget of tropospheric ozone has evolved over the recent historical  
89 period. Our focus is 1979-2010 and our assessment is based on the results from an updated run from the CCMI  
90 nudged dynamics refC1SD simulation (Morgenstern et al., 2017). Our aim is to quantify the impact of changes  
91 in emissions of ozone precursors (and so the chemical source of tropospheric ozone) relative to the change in  
92 influx of ozone from the stratosphere over this time period. Our paper is arranged with a description of the

93 model and simulation set up (Section 2), a summary of the results of our analysis and a discussion of their  
 94 impacts on our understanding (Section 3). We finish with some conclusions on how future observations may  
 95 enable improved understanding of the role of stratospheric ozone trends on the troposphere.

## 96 Method

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 98 Here we assess recent changes to the tropospheric ozone budget using version 7.3 of the Met Office Unified  
 99 Model, based on the science version HadGEM3-A configuration (Hewitt et al., 2011) coupled with the United  
 100 Kingdom Chemistry and Aerosol scheme, hereafter UKCA-StratTrop. The simulation follows the experimental  
 101 design of the IGAC/Stratosphere-troposphere Processes And their Role in Climate (SPARC) Chemistry-Climate  
 102 Model Initiative (CCMI) refC1SD experiment. This simulation spans 1979-2010, with emissions taken from  
 103 MACCity (Granier et al., 2011), and uses prescribed sea surface temperatures and sea ice from HadISST  
 104 (Rayner et al., 2003). Horizontal wind components (u and v) and potential temperature ( $\theta$ ) are nudged  
 105 (following (Telford et al., 2008)) to ERA-Interim Reanalysis data (Dee et al., 2011). The meteorological  
 106 reanalysis includes dynamical effects of stratospheric ozone depletion and increased greenhouse gas  
 107 concentration, both of which enhance the speed of the Brewer-Dobson circulation (Abalos et al., 2019).  
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109 The chemical scheme used in UKCA-StratTrop is a combination of the tropospheric (O'Connor et al., 2014) and  
 110 stratospheric (Morgenstern et al., 2009) schemes. By using historical emissions, sea surface temperatures and  
 111 meteorology we are able to accurately capture both the long-term tropospheric ozone changes (driven  
 112 predominantly by anthropogenic emissions) and short-term changes (e.g. those driven by ENSO, etc). Further,  
 113 by using a combined stratosphere-troposphere chemistry scheme, the influence of stratospheric ozone changes  
 114 on the tropospheric ozone budget are more accurately represented.  
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116 A full understanding of recent changes to the tropospheric ozone burden requires detailed analysis of the  
 117 tropospheric ozone budget, including quantification of the chemical production and loss fluxes, stratosphere-  
 118 troposphere exchange and the deposition of ozone at the surface. UKCA-StratTrop includes 85 tracers, with 83  
 119 involved in chemistry, 59 photolytic reactions, 199 bimolecular reactions and 25 uni- and ter-molecular  
 120 reactions. The chemistry employs primary emissions of 12 species and dry and wet deposition of 39 and 14  
 121 species. Heterogeneous reactions occurring in the troposphere on sulfate aerosols are included. As a result, the  
 122 model includes state-of-the-art tropospheric ozone chemistry. Dry deposition is parameterised employing a  
 123 resistance type model (Wesely, 1989) using the implementation described in Archibald et al. (2019), while STE  
 124 is calculated using an online method every chemical timestep.  
 125

126 For the monthly mean data, the tropopause height was diagnosed using the WMO thermal tropopause, and a  
 127 mask applied to the reaction fluxes. For this study we calculate ozone production and loss terms using sums of  
 128 reaction fluxes, similar to the methods used by Tilmes et al. (2016). Ozone production is calculated as the  
 129 reaction flux through the rate-determining reactions, namely  $\text{HO}_2 + \text{NO}$ , the sum of the various  $\text{RO}_2 + \text{NO}$   
 130 reactions involving peroxy radicals derived from methane, ethane, propane and isoprene, and the release of  
 131 peroxy radicals from organic nitrate photolysis, the reactions of OH with  $\text{RCO}_2\text{H}$ , organic nitrates and PAN.  
 132 Ozone chemical destruction is derived from  $\text{O}^1\text{D} + \text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{HO}_2 + \text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{OH} + \text{O}_3$ , ozonolysis of alkenes, as well as  
 133 indirect terms including loss of the Ox reservoirs,  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$ , and reaction of  $\text{NO}_3$  with VOCs. Dry deposition of  $\text{O}_3$   
 134 and  $\text{NO}_y$  species, as well as wet deposition of  $\text{NO}_y$ , are also included as ozone loss.

135 Table 1: tropospheric ozone budget terms, broken down into annual mean sum fluxes. All quantities are given  
 136 in units of  $\text{Tg}(\text{O}_3)$  per year for UKCA-StratTrop integrations for year 2000.  
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Chemical O3 production / Tg per year	4751	Chemical destruction / Tg per year	4193
P1: $\text{HO}_2 + \text{NO}$	3185	L1: $\text{O}^1\text{D} + \text{H}_2\text{O}$	2205
P2: $\text{CH}_3\text{O}_2 + \text{NO}$	1092	L2: $\text{HO}_2 + \text{O}_3$	1356
P3: $\text{RO}_2 + \text{NO}$	345	L3: $\text{OH} + \text{O}_3$	518
P4: $\text{OH} + \text{RCO}_2\text{H}$	18.9	L4: $\text{O}_3 + \text{ALKENE}$	58.2
P5: $\text{OH} + \text{RONO}_2$	7.8	L5: $\text{NO}_3$ Loss	50.0

P6: OH + PAN	45.9	L6: N2O5 Loss	6.6
P7: RONO2 + hv	1.8	D1: Dry deposition O3	852
P8: JO2	55.0	D2+D3: Wet + dry deposition NOy	147
STE	451 Tg	Residual (STE)	441

138  
139 From the table above, it can be seen that the residual STE of ozone, calculated from the budget as  $STE = L_{O_3} + D_{O_3} - P_{O_3}$  agrees with the diagnosed online STE of ozone to within 2%. When making budget calculations,  
140 the table shows that it is important to include the contribution from photolysis of molecular oxygen in the upper  
141 tropical troposphere, which is of the order of 10% of this residual contribution, with its inclusion closing the  
142 budget to within 2%, consistent with the findings of (Prather, 2009). The model terms compare well with  
143 (Tilmes et al., 2016) for similar CCM1 refC1SD experiments of  $P_{O_3}=4693$ ,  $L_{O_3}=4256$  and  $D_{O_3}=871$  Tg yr<sup>-1</sup> and  
144 slightly lower but within the range of the ACCMIP mean values of  $4937 \pm 656$ ,  $4442 \pm 570$  and  $996 \pm 203$  Tg yr<sup>-1</sup>  
145 (Young et al., 2018). The residual STT of 441 Tg yr<sup>-1</sup> is within the ACCMIP range of  $535 \pm 161$  Tg yr<sup>-1</sup> (Young  
146 et al., 2013).  
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149 In order to assess the role of recent changes to the stratospheric ozone burden on the tropospheric ozone budget,  
150 a second integration (fODS\_LBC) was performed in which the lower boundary condition of all halogenated  
151 ODS was kept constant at 1979 values, but all other forcings and emissions were allowed to evolve as in the  
152 HIST experiment. Comparing fODS\_LBC with the HIST simulations allows us to quantify the impacts of  
153 stratospheric ozone decreases arising from the emission of halogenated ODS on tropospheric ozone. Both  
154 simulations were nudged to the same meteorology, as this isolates the chemical effects of halogenated ODS, and  
155 keeps the mass flux between the troposphere and stratosphere constant between the two experiments, ensuring  
156 that any changes to STE are the result of stratospheric ozone burden changes.

## 157 Results and Discussion

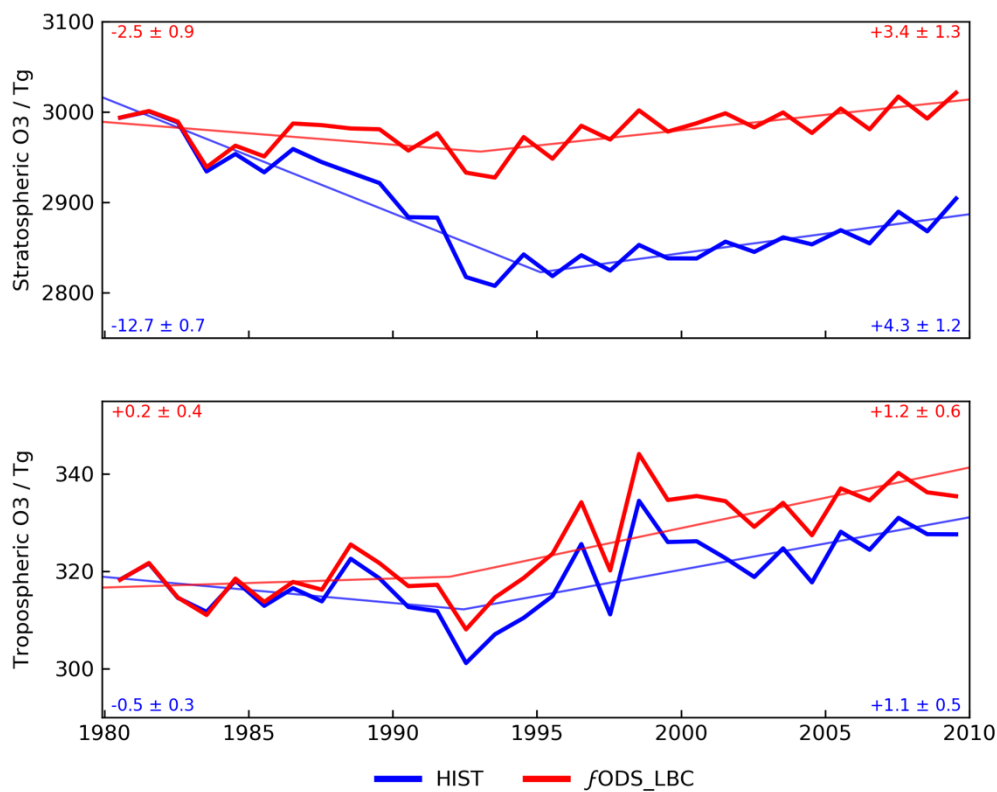
### 158 Model performance for year 2000

159 Figure S1 shows a comparison of the tropospheric ozone column with OMI-MLS data, generated by applying a  
160 tropospheric mask generated from a 125 ppbv ozonopause (Gaudel et al., 2018). The UKCA-StratTrop model  
161 accurately captures the observed seasonality, albeit with a slightly late onset of ozone in the NH and a slightly  
162 early onset in the SH. The spatial structure compares well with the satellite observations, with the largest  
163 differences occurring in the boreal summer in the extratropics. The area weighted mean TCO in UKCA-  
164 StratTrop is 28.4 DU vs the OMI mean of 35.2DU. The mean ozone value is significantly closer to the  
165 OMI/MLS mean than the configuration of the models employing UKCA used in the CCM1 refC1 integrations,  
166 analysed in (Revell et al., 2018), which, in contrast to the scheme used here, used a reduced complexity  
167 tropospheric chemistry scheme that does not treat NMVOC. In that configuration, UM-UKCA showed the  
168 lowest tropospheric ozone burden of the various models, with a low bias with respect to OMI/MLS of 14.1 DU  
169 for 2005 (Figure 6 of Revell et al., 2018). For these experiments, the model bias is around 7 DU low,  
170 highlighting the importance of the chemical scheme and the role of NMVOC in tropospheric ozone production.  
171 It should be noted that the exact value of the bias also depends strongly on tropopause definition, with a lower  
172 bias generally observed when using the WMO tropopause definition. The tropospheric O<sub>3</sub> burden averaged  
173 from 60°S to 60°N (using 125 ppbv ozonopause) is 295 Tg for year 2000, which compares well with  
174 observational estimates of between 280 Tg and 320 Tg (Gaudel et al., 2018), over the same latitude range. The  
175 model whole troposphere burden for year 2000 is 320 Tg, which is in agreement with estimates from Young et  
176 al. (2013) of  $337 \pm 23$  Tg. Methane is forced by a lower boundary condition that follows CCM1 historical  
177 concentrations at the surface, from which we derive a tropospheric CH<sub>4</sub> burden of 5000 Tg and a lifetime with  
178 respect to oxidation by tropospheric OH of 9.0 years, in good agreement with the ACCMIP mean CH<sub>4</sub> lifetime  
179 of  $9.3 \pm 0.9$  years (Voulgarakis et al., 2013). The airmass-weighted tropospheric mean OH is  $10.6 \times 10^5$  cm<sup>-3</sup>  
180 which agrees well with ACCMIP MMM of  $(11.7 \pm 1.0) \times 10^5$  cm<sup>-3</sup> (Naik et al., 2013).  
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## Evolution of tropospheric ozone burden and budget 1979-2005

Figure 1 shows the evolution of the stratospheric and tropospheric burden for both the HIST and fODS\_LBC integrations. It can be seen that in HIST there is a strong decrease in modelled stratospheric ozone over the period 1980-1995 as a result of the increased CFC concentrations in the stratosphere and accompanying ozone destruction via chlorine species. Stratospheric chlorine reaches a maximum in 1997 [Maeder et al., 2010], and in the mid 1990s the decline in stratospheric ozone burden ceases, and signs of recovery emerge over the next 10 years. Over this period, the trend in tropospheric ozone burden follows the behaviour in stratospheric ozone although less strongly and with a greater effect of interannual variability. In the fODS\_LBC experiment, significantly less ozone depletion is calculated, although there is some decline as the stratospheric chlorine loading adjusts to the imposed 1979 constant lower boundary condition. This adjustment requires a period of around five years for the chlorine to be transported to high latitudes by the Brewer-Dobson circulation [Butchart, 2014]. In the HIST experiment, the trend in tropospheric ozone burden is slightly negative over the period 1980-1993, and is thereafter positive. In fODS\_LBC, a different behavior is calculated, with no significant trend from 1980-1993, and a positive trend thereafter.



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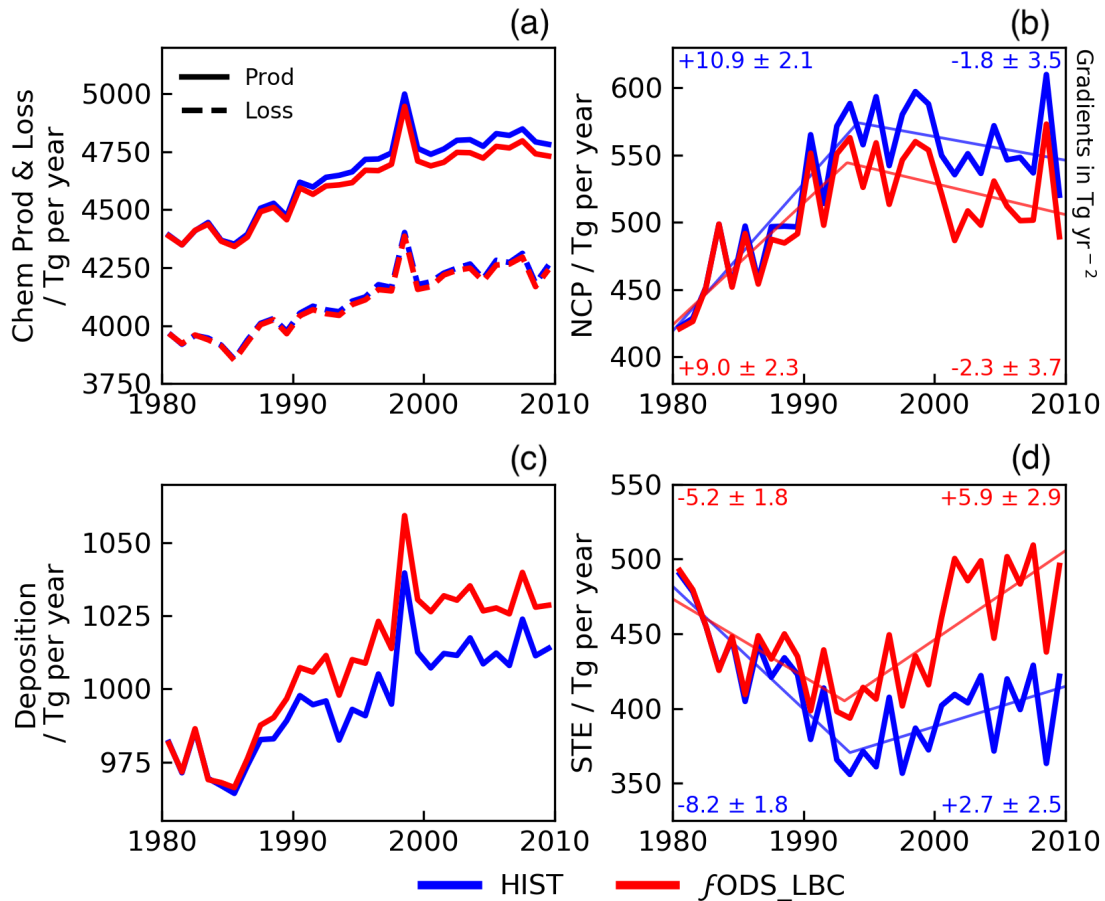
Figure 1 - Transient behaviour of annual mean stratospheric (a, upper) and tropospheric (b, lower) ozone burden.

Piecewise linear regression was used to determine the linear trends in burdens and fluxes, and these are shown in Figure 1. To fit the trends, least squares regression was used, with initial parameters determined by latin hypercube sampling, optimising using root mean square error. We find inflection points in the stratospheric burden at 1995 ( $\pm 1$  year) for the HIST run, and 1993  $\pm 1$  at for fODS\_LBC. For the troposphere, these inflection points are 1992  $\pm 2$  for the HIST run, and 1992  $\pm 3$  for fODS\_LBC.

213 **Discussion**

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The MACCity emission data (Granier et al., 2011) used for these simulations describe an increase in emissions of tropospheric ozone precursors over the period 1979-2009 which leads to enhanced chemical production, particularly at the surface in the vicinity of key emissions hotspots. Deposition, which occurs via various processes close to the surface, also increases over this period, reflecting more closely the increase in ozone production, rather than the tropospheric burden. Increases in the ozone burden do lead to an increase in OH and HO<sub>2</sub>, particularly in the free troposphere, with concomitant increase in chemical destruction via reactions L2 and L3.



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223 Figure 2: behavior of the fluxes controlling the tropospheric ozone burden. a: Chemical production and loss.  
224 (b): Net ( $P_{Ox}-L_{Ox}$ ) chemical production. (c): Deposition of Ox and NO<sub>y</sub>. (d): Net STT of ozone. Heavy lines  
225 show the annual means, and light lines show the piecewise linear fit. In (a), the solid line shows Ox chemical  
226 production, and the dashed line shows Ox chemical loss. Captions show gradient in Tg per year<sup>2</sup>.

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228 Figures 2a shows the behaviour in the gross global fluxes controlling the ozone burden in both HIST and  
229 fODS\_LBC. Chemical production and loss were calculated as using reactions P1-P8 and L1-L6 respectively.  
230 Figure 2b shows the difference between these terms, Net Chemical Production (NCP), while Figures 2c and 2d  
231 show deposition and STE of ozone. The deposition describes the amount of Ox deposited in wet and dry  
232 deposition, and the STE encapsulates the net transport of ozone from the stratosphere into the troposphere.

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234 In both simulations, there is some interannual variability, with other transient features also apparent. These are  
235 associated with modes of unforced climate variability, such as ENSO, with peak and trough in ozone production  
236 occurring around strong events in the mid 1980s and in 1997. These climate events are also present in the NO<sub>x</sub>  
237 and CO emissions used in CCM1 refC1SD which represent the fire emissions from these events. Spikes in  
238 ozone chemical production, loss and deposition can be seen around 1997 which reflect the strong transient  
239 increase in emissions of ozone precursors in the MACCity emissions used for these simulations, and which

240 represent the increase in biomass burning that year, particularly around SE Asia. We examined the effect of  
 241 these events on the trends and find no statistically significant difference in trends when calculated when the El  
 242 Nino years are ignored in the analysis. Removing 1997 and 1998 from our data, resulted in the early trend  
 243 changing from  $-0.53 \pm 0.34$  Tg per year to  $-0.59 \pm 0.31$  Tg per year, and the later trend changing from  $+1.07 \pm$   
 244  $0.52$  Tg per year to  $+1.10 \pm 0.48$ , identical within mutual uncertainty and showing that El Nino has no effect on  
 245 the retrieved values for the tropospheric ozone burden trend over 1979-2010. Although dynamical effects may  
 246 also play a part (Voulgarakis et al., 2011), there is little evidence of a transient increase in STE in these  
 247 integrations around this time.

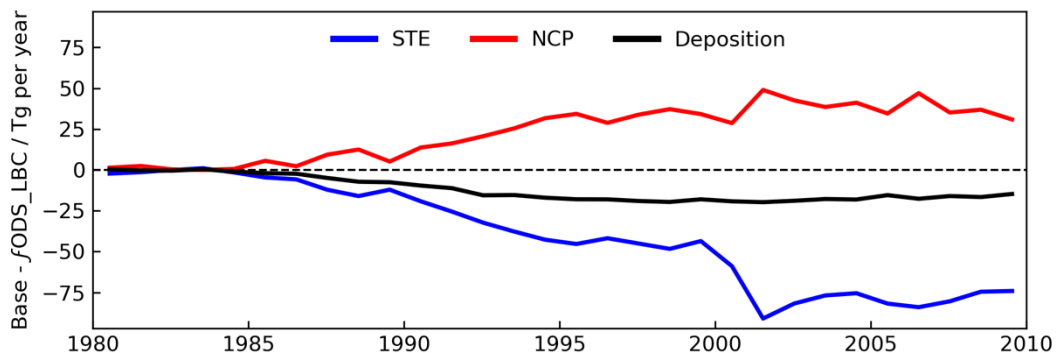
248  
 249 Chemical production and loss of tropospheric ozone increase over the entire experiment. In HIST, over the  
 250 period 1979-1996, ozone production increases at a slightly faster rate than loss resulting in an increase in NCP  
 251 over this period. After 1996, losses increase slightly faster than production, leading to a smaller and slightly net  
 252 negative trend in NCP. This partially reflects the behaviour of the precursor emissions, which reach a maximum  
 253 around 1995 and then decline after this point. In HIST, photochemical production of ozone due to lower  
 254 overhead ozone and higher photolysis rates [Voulgarakis et al., 2013] than in fODS\_LBC.

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 256 STE of ozone (the transport of ozone from the stratosphere into the troposphere) declines sharply from 1979-  
 257 1994, consistent with the decline in lower stratospheric ozone associated with the use and emission of  
 258 halogenated ODS, particularly the CFCs, throughout this time. From 1994-2006, modelled STE slowly  
 259 increases, driven in part by early signs of stratospheric ozone recovery in the mid-latitudes (e.g. (Keeble et al.,  
 260 2018), and stratospheric dynamical changes resulting from increased GHGs (e.g.(Butchart, 2014)). We note that  
 261 these two effects are not isolated, with stratospheric ozone depletion and stratospheric dynamics closely coupled  
 262 (e.g. Keeble et al. (2014), Polvani et al. (2018)).

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 264 In the fODS\_LBC experiment, the STE term declines to a minimum in 1994, albeit at a slower rate than in  
 265 HIST, before increasing from 1994 to the end of the integration. The greater rate of increase in STE after 1994  
 266 in the fODS\_LBC integration compared with HIST can be attributed to the higher stratospheric ozone burden in  
 267 this experiment, as the stratosphere-to-troposphere mass transport is identical between simulations. In  
 268 fODS\_LBC NCP is lower than in HIST, particularly as the stratospheric ozone burdens in the two experiments  
 269 diverge and the photochemical ozone production in HIST increases.

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 271 Comparing HIST to fODS\_LBC directly quantifies the chemical impacts of stratospheric ozone depletion on the  
 272 tropospheric ozone budget. Figure 3 shows the difference in NCP, STE and DD between the HIST simulation  
 273 with respect to fODS\_LBC. The differences for each in the year 1980 are near zero, as the simulations start  
 274 from the same initial conditions. They diverge after  $\sim 5$  years, consistent with the time it takes for the surface  
 275 ODS mixing ratios prescribed by the LBC to be transported into the polar stratosphere. After 1985, STE is  
 276 lower in the HIST simulation by around  $75 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$  between 2000-2006, reflecting the lower stratospheric ozone  
 277 burden, while NCP is up to  $50 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$  higher, reflecting the increased photochemical production of ozone.  
 278 Deposition of ozone follows the tropospheric burden, and so is lower in the HIST simulation by  $\sim 20 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$ .

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 282 Figure 3: summary of HIST and fODS\_LBC counterfactual experiments. The different in budget terms is  
 283 shown over the period of the integrations. Data are shown as HIST-fODS\_LBC.  
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285 In conclusion, the HIST integration represents our best estimate of past tropospheric ozone changes as it follows  
286 historical emissions and meteorology. fODS\_LBC isolates the effect of stratospheric ozone decreases on the  
287 tropospheric ozone budget, but also shows that the effect of circulation changes has been significant. The  
288 behavior of the STE term in fODS\_LBC shows that the faster Brewer-Dobson circulation and increased mass  
289 flux to the troposphere are also important controls on the budget. The two experiments also show that there is  
290 enhanced NCP in HIST, and that this offsets a significant decrease in ozone transport via STE, and thus  
291 moderates the effect of decreased stratospheric ozone on tropospheric ozone burden.  
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## 295 **Summary**

296 Between 1979 and ~1994 there is an increase in NCP of tropospheric ozone in response to increases in  
297 anthropogenic ozone precursors and an indirect decrease in transport to the troposphere which is the result of  
298 stratospheric ozone depletion caused by halogenated ODS. These drivers are in opposition, similar in  
299 magnitude, and are moderated by the change in chemical loss, resulting in a slight decrease in the tropospheric  
300 ozone burden despite increases to ozone precursor emissions. From 1994 to 2006, the tropospheric ozone  
301 burden has been increasing, driven by decreases to NCP again being offset by changes to STE. These drivers of  
302 tropospheric ozone, which are in opposition, turn out to be of similar magnitude, leading to a near-cancelling  
303 behaviour in changes to the budget terms and so a smaller change in ozone than in the  $P_{O_3}$ ,  $L_{O_3}$  or STE terms  
304 that control it.  
305

306 Over the recent historical period, our study demonstrates that stratospheric ozone depletion has had a large  
307 impact on tropospheric ozone. Without the resulting decrease of STE, the large increase in NCP over the period  
308 1979-1994 would have increased the tropospheric ozone burden. After 1994, there is a levelling off in the  
309 growth of emissions, and, coincidentally, a slight increase in STE, which together serve to increase the  
310 tropospheric ozone burden.  
311

312 Our study uses two complementary methods to diagnose the stratospheric input. Our chemical budget  
313 diagnostics allow us to identify a residual term, which we ascribe to STE. Separately, we use dynamical  
314 methods to determine the amount of stratospheric ozone transported to the troposphere. We show that these two  
315 methods agree to within 2%, lending confidence to our analysis of the impact of stratospheric transport on  
316 tropospheric ozone.  
317

318 Our results highlight the role of the stratosphere on tropospheric composition, and the utility of whole-  
319 atmosphere chemistry schemes with interactive stratospheric chemistry. Comparison with other UKCA models  
320 in the CCMI project, highlights the critical role of tropospheric NMVOC chemistry in model skill. Finally, our  
321 results demonstrate the importance of STT on present (Neu et al., 2014) and future tropospheric ozone (Sekiya  
322 & Sudo, 2014), particularly as stratospheric ozone recovers over this century. This will be particularly  
323 important in regions affected by downward transport, e.g. NH midlatitudes in springtime (Lin et al., 2015). The  
324 complicating effects of circulation changes (see Polvani et al. (2018) necessitate further study at the regional  
325 scale using a dynamical model with interactive chemistry to fully understand the implications of stratospheric  
326 ozone recovery on tropospheric composition, radiative forcing and air quality.  
327

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334 references: Griffiths et al. (2020), with a license detailed on the accompanying website.  
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