

This discussion paper is/has been under review for the journal Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics (ACP). Please refer to the corresponding final paper in ACP if available.

# Stratospheric ozone depletion from future nitrous oxide increases

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Received: 8 August 2013 – Accepted: 29 October 2013 – Published: 12 November 2013

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Published by Copernicus Publications on behalf of the European Geosciences Union.

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## Abstract

We have investigated the impact of assumed nitrous oxide ( $N_2O$ ) increases on stratospheric chemistry and dynamics by a series of idealized simulations. In a future cooler stratosphere the net yield of  $NO_y$  from a changed  $N_2O$  is known to decrease, but  $NO_y$  can still be significantly increased by the increase of  $N_2O$ . Results with a coupled chemistry-climate model (CCM) show that increases in  $N_2O$  of 50%/100% between 2001 and 2050 result in more ozone destruction, causing a reduction in ozone mixing ratios of maximally 6%/10% in the middle stratosphere at around 10 hPa. This enhanced destruction could cause an ozone decline in the second half of this century in the middle stratosphere. However, the total ozone column still shows an increase in future decades, though the increase of 50%/100% in  $N_2O$  caused a 2%/6% decrease in TCO compared with the reference simulation.  $N_2O$  increases have significant effects on ozone trends at 20–10 hPa in the tropics and at northern high latitude, but have no significant effect on ozone trends in the Antarctic stratosphere. The ozone depletion potential for  $N_2O$  in a future climate depends both on stratospheric temperature changes and tropospheric  $N_2O$  changes, which have reversed effects on ozone in the middle and upper stratosphere. A 50%  $CO_2$  increase in conjunction with a 50%  $N_2O$  increase cause significant ozone depletion in the middle stratosphere and lead to an increase of ozone in the upper stratosphere. Based on the multiple linear regression analysis and a series of sensitivity simulations, we find that the chemical effect of  $N_2O$  increases dominates the ozone changes in the stratosphere while the dynamical and radiative effects of  $N_2O$  increases are insignificant on average. However, the dynamical effect of  $N_2O$  increases may cause large local changes in ozone mixing ratios, particularly, in the Southern Hemisphere lower stratosphere.

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## 1 Introduction

Stratospheric ozone destruction involves complex chemical reactions and a range of chemical species. The catalytic destruction by reactive chlorine and bromine has accounted for a large part of the ozone loss in the stratosphere over the past few decades (WMO, 2007). However, the stratospheric chlorine and bromine loading is now decreasing due to reductions of emissions of anthropogenic chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and other halogen-containing chemicals mandated by the Montreal Protocol. Therefore, the effects of other ozone-depleting substances (ODSs) have become a subject of renewed concern in recent years (Wuebbles and Hayhoe, 2002; Chipperfield, 2003; Dentener et al., 2005; Stenke and Grewe, 2005; Ravishankara et al., 2009; Tian et al., 2009). Among these other chemical species, nitrous oxide has been recognized as an important substance affecting stratospheric ozone, and the effect of N<sub>2</sub>O on ozone depletion has been discussed in a number of studies (e.g. Crutzen, 1976; Crutzen and Ehhalt, 1977; Kinnison et al., 1988; Randeniya et al., 2002; Chipperfield, 2003). Crutzen and Ehhalt (1977) first pointed out that the increasing use of fixed nitrogen as fertilizer might result in a reduction of the Earth's ozone layer of a few percent at the beginning of the 21st century. Portmann and Solomon (2007) found that increasing N<sub>2</sub>O could lead to 2–4% decline of total column ozone (TCO) by the end of this century under the IPCC A2 scenario. Ravishankara et al. (2009) re-opened the debate on the importance of nitrous oxide for ozone depletion when they argued that N<sub>2</sub>O is now the single most important anthropogenic ODSs compared with those regulated by the Montreal Protocol and its amendments.

On the other hand, since the loss of ozone is inversely related to local temperature changes throughout most of the stratosphere, increases in other GHGs such as CO<sub>2</sub> in the future climate also have a large impact on chemical processes in the stratosphere. The effect of N<sub>2</sub>O on the ozone layer is not only related to N<sub>2</sub>O emission changes but is also modulated by the radiative cooling caused by other GHG emission changes (Rosenfield et al., 2002; Chipperfield, 2009; Wuebbles, 2009; Dameris, 2010). The ef-

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iciency of N<sub>2</sub>O for global ozone depletion is expected to decrease in the stratosphere due to projected increases in CO<sub>2</sub> (Rosenfield and Douglass, 1998). Some other studies argued that CO<sub>2</sub>-induced cooling could cause stratospheric ozone to recover to values greater than 1980 levels during this century (Chipperfield, 2009; Wuebbles, 2009) and lead to a so-called “super recovery”. Fleming et al. (2011) further carried out a comprehensive study of long-term stratospheric effects of some source gases including N<sub>2</sub>O and CO<sub>2</sub> through series of two-dimensional (2-D) chemistry-climate model simulations. They predicted that in the latter half of the 21st century CO<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O, and CH<sub>4</sub> loading will all have significant impacts on global total ozone while the effect of CO<sub>2</sub> loading on global total ozone has twice the magnitude of the effect of N<sub>2</sub>O.

Although previous studies have investigated the impact of N<sub>2</sub>O on ozone depletion, the relative importance of the radiative and chemical effect of N<sub>2</sub>O remains unclear and the net effect of increased N<sub>2</sub>O on the ozone layer in the changing climate is still under debate. Previous studies have mostly been based on mechanistic analysis, with the main focus being the chemical effect of N<sub>2</sub>O (Ravishankara et al., 2009), or have used relatively simple two-dimensional chemical-dynamical models (e.g. Portmann and Solomon, 2007; Chipperfield, 2009; Fleming et al., 2011) to diagnose the effect of N<sub>2</sub>O changes on the ozone layer. In this study, we re-examine the effect of N<sub>2</sub>O increases on ozone using a fully coupled 3-D chemistry-climate model (CCM). We attempt to clarify quantitatively the radiative and chemical effects of N<sub>2</sub>O increases on the ozone layer and to diagnose the ozone changes in a changing climate when CO<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O are both increasing. The details of the model and numerical experiments are given in Sect. 2. The effect of N<sub>2</sub>O increases on ozone depletion under different scenarios is addressed in Sect. 3. In Sect. 4, we analyze contributions of various factors associated with N<sub>2</sub>O increases in modulating ozone depletion. Conclusions and a discussion are presented in Sect. 5.

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## 2 Models and numerical experiments

We have used a fully coupled chemistry-climate model, the Whole Atmosphere Community Climate Model 3 (WACCM3) to investigate the chemical and thermal-dynamical responses to a linear future increase in N<sub>2</sub>O. WACCM3 has 66 vertical levels from the ground to  $4.5 \times 10^{-6}$  hPa (approximately 145 km geometric altitude) with detailed interactive chemistry (Garcia et al., 2007) and a finite volume dynamical core (Lin, 2004). For this study simulations were carried out at  $4^\circ \times 5^\circ$  horizontal resolution. The WACCM3 chemistry module is derived from the three-dimensional (3-D) chemical transport Model for Ozone and Related chemical Tracers (MOZART) (Brasseur and Hitchman, 1988; Hauglustaine et al., 1998; Horowitz et al., 2003). More details of WACCM3 model can be found in Garcia et al. (2007).

Four long-term WACCM simulations were performed in this study and detailed configurations of those simulations are listed in Table 1. The surface volume mixing ratios (vmrs) of GHGs in the control run (E0) are taken from IPCC A1b scenario. In runs E1 and E2, the surface vmrs of N<sub>2</sub>O were increased linearly with time from 2001 to 2050 at a rate of  $1\% \text{ yr}^{-1}$  in run E1 and  $2\% \text{ yr}^{-1}$  in run E2. More specifically, N<sub>2</sub>O values in E1 are increased by 1% in 2001, 2% in 2002, and 50% in 2050. It should be pointed out that the percentage increases of N<sub>2</sub>O in each year are based on N<sub>2</sub>O values of A1B scenario. For instance, in year 2050, N<sub>2</sub>O value of A1B scenario is 344 ppbv in run E0, therefore, it is 517 ppbv in run E1 and 688 ppbv in run E2. This increasing approach makes the N<sub>2</sub>O variation in our simulations close to A1B scenario during the first half of the simulations with small additional increases in each year compared to A1B scenario, but far off A1B scenario with much larger N<sub>2</sub>O increases during the later half of the simulations for the purpose of amplifying response signals of the atmosphere. In run E3, both N<sub>2</sub>O and CO<sub>2</sub> are increased linearly with time from 2001 and increased by 50% in 2050 with an increasing rate of  $1\% \text{ yr}^{-1}$ . The sea surface temperature (SST) and sea ice fields used in four runs are the same (HadGEM1) and derived from the SST and sea ice fields prepared for the Chemistry-Climate Model Validation activity 2

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(CCMVal-2) REF2 simulations (Eyring et al., 2008; Morgenstern et al., 2010) for the period 2001 to 2050.

To separate the radiative and chemical effects of increasing N<sub>2</sub>O on stratospheric ozone, 4 extra WACCM time-slice simulations were performed. In the first simulation (S0), GHG loadings were based on the IPCC A1b scenario and fixed at the year 2050 in both the chemistry and radiation scheme. In simulations S1 and S2, N<sub>2</sub>O mixing ratios were increased by 50% relative to that in simulation S0 in the model's chemistry and radiation schemes, respectively. In the last simulation S3, N<sub>2</sub>O was increased by 50% relative to that in simulation S0 in both the chemistry and radiation schemes. All of these sensitivity simulations used 12 month SST and sea ice climatology derived from observed monthly mean values for the time period from 1996 to 2000 (Rayner et al., 2003).

## 3 Results

### 3.1 Ozone responses to N<sub>2</sub>O changes in a CCM

Figure 1 shows percentage changes of ozone mixing ratio and total column ozone (TCO) caused by N<sub>2</sub>O increases. These ozone changes are calculated from the climatology of the final 10 yr (2041–2050) of the four WACCM runs listed in Table 1. It is apparent from Fig. 1 that the ozone changes have large spatial and temporal variations. In the middle and upper stratosphere, a decrease of 6–10% ozone occurs when N<sub>2</sub>O increases by 50%/100% (Fig. 1a and b).

In the middle and upper stratosphere, N<sub>2</sub>O decomposes by photolysis or by reactions with O(<sup>1</sup>D):



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Dobson (BD) circulation in the future climate could lead to ozone decreases in the tropical lower stratosphere as a result of intensified upward transport of ozone-poor air from below. Table 3 lists the tropical (25° N–25° S) upwelling ( $w^*$ ) at 70–20 hPa averaged over the last 10 yr of the 4 WACCM experiments, and its change ( $\delta w^*$ ) relative to the first 10 yr of simulations. It is apparent that the tropical upwelling increases with increased GHGs. However, one can see that relative changes of  $w^*$  between the first and last decade of the simulations do not vary simply with GHG loading. In the experiment with both N<sub>2</sub>O and CO<sub>2</sub> increases (run E3),  $\delta w^*$  is not even the largest. This is consistent with the result in Xie et al. (2008) who showed that without SST increases associated with GHGs increases, the change in the tropical upwelling is not significant. Note that there is only very small value for  $\delta w^*$  in our reference run (E0), which is a possible reason for the small ozone declining trend in the tropical lower stratosphere. It is known that the tropical upwelling is increasing in a warming climate. It is interesting that the trend in the tropical upwelling in our reference run is insignificant. A careful examination of the trends of the SSTs used in our simulation reveals that the SST trends are relatively weak compared with those of CCSM3 SST data which are widely used in CCM simulations in previous studies (SPARC-CCMVal, 2010). This may be the possible reason for the short of significant increases in the tropical upwelling in our reference run (E0).

As a greenhouse gas, N<sub>2</sub>O increases can directly warm the troposphere and can also influence stratospheric temperature, by the direct radiative effect and by the indirect radiative effect associated with ozone feedbacks. Figure 5 shows the modeled temperature changes caused by different N<sub>2</sub>O increases. A 50 % increase of N<sub>2</sub>O causes a 1 K cooling in the northern middle stratosphere and a 2 K cooling above 1 hPa at southern high latitudes (Fig. 5a). A 100 % increase in N<sub>2</sub>O causes a cooling in most regions of the stratosphere, with a maximum 3 K cooling in the tropical middle stratosphere (Fig. 5b). By comparing Figs. 3 and 5, we can see that the impact of N<sub>2</sub>O on stratospheric temperatures is mainly caused by N<sub>2</sub>O-induced ozone changes, rather than the direct radiative effect of N<sub>2</sub>O. As expected, the cooling of the stratosphere

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becomes much larger when CO<sub>2</sub> is also increased by 50 % together with a 50 % N<sub>2</sub>O increase (Fig. 5c). Also shown in Fig. 5 are the water vapor changes between the WACCM runs. Stratospheric water vapor depends on tropopause temperatures and production from CH<sub>4</sub> oxidation. As temperature changes in the upper troposphere and lower stratosphere (UTLS) region (Fig. 5a–c), a general decrease of water vapor on the order of 0.05 ppmv is simulated in the upper stratosphere and a significant increase of 0.15 ppmv can be noted in the mid-latitude lower stratosphere in the SH if N<sub>2</sub>O is increased by 50 %. When N<sub>2</sub>O is increased by 100 %, water vapor increases in the atmosphere due to warming of the tropopause, as is evident in Fig. 5b. Due to the significant cooling of the stratosphere caused by CO<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O increases, the stratospheric water vapor decreases in run E3 (Fig. 5f).

Stratospheric methane and water vapor are closely related through chemical oxidation and dynamical transport processes. Figure 5g, h, j show the CH<sub>4</sub> changes caused by N<sub>2</sub>O and CO<sub>2</sub> increases. Throughout the stratosphere, water vapor changes are anti-correlated with methane changes. More CH<sub>4</sub>, which is shown as a round 0.05–0.07 ppmv in the middle to upper stratosphere (10 hPa to 1 hPa) and maximises in the tropics, is transported to the middle and upper stratosphere as a result of an enhanced BD circulation in response to N<sub>2</sub>O and CO<sub>2</sub> increases. Compared with CH<sub>4</sub> increases in E1, in which N<sub>2</sub>O is increased by 50 % (Fig. 5g), the CH<sub>4</sub> increases seem to be smaller in magnitude when N<sub>2</sub>O increased by 100 % in run E2 (Fig. 5h). This is partly caused by transport differences in the tropical lower stratosphere between runs E1 and E2, since the BD circulation in E2 is stronger than that in E1. Also, a more significant decrease of CH<sub>4</sub> can be found in E2 in the lower stratosphere compared with in E1. CH<sub>4</sub> is oxidized by reactions involving OH, O(<sup>1</sup>D) and Cl radicals (e.g. Röckmann et al., 2004), which are perturbed by the GHG increases. The non-linear responses of CH<sub>4</sub> to N<sub>2</sub>O increases indicate that the changes in CH<sub>4</sub> are due to the competing effects of transport and chemistry.

As polar stratospheric clouds (PSCs) are closely related to ozone loss in the polar stratosphere (e.g. Rex et al., 2004; Chipperfield et al., 2005; Austin et al., 2010b), it

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is useful to examine the effect of N<sub>2</sub>O increases on the occurrence of PSCs. Figure 6 shows the vertical distribution of the modeled change in the PSC surface area in the Antarctic and Arctic. The modeled PSC area is enlarged by 1–2 × 10<sup>6</sup> km<sup>2</sup> in the Arctic between 200 and 20 hPa, when N<sub>2</sub>O is increased by 50–100 %. In the Antarctic lower stratosphere, however, N<sub>2</sub>O increases cause no significant changes in the modeled PSC area. An exception occurs in the Antarctic mid-stratosphere at about 10 hPa, at the upper limit of PSC occurrence, where additional cooling can cause more PSCs. Figure 6 suggests that the N<sub>2</sub>O increases have a different impact on the modeled PSC area in the Arctic and Antarctic stratosphere. In the Arctic stratosphere, temperatures are close to the threshold for widespread PSC formation and the cooling caused by N<sub>2</sub>O increases can result in more PSCs. In the Antarctic lower stratosphere, temperatures in winter and spring are essentially always low enough for PSC formation, therefore, a small cooling caused by N<sub>2</sub>O increases has no significant impact on PSC formation. This difference in the change in modeled PSC area between the Arctic and Antarctic makes a significant contribution to the hemispheric asymmetry of ozone destruction discussed in Fig. 3. However, previous studies (SPARC-CCMVal, 2010) showed that the potential for chlorine activation (PACI) in the Arctic simulated by WACCM is overall larger than expected, though it performs well for polar ozone depletion processes. This may lead to an overestimate for the ozone depleting effects of N<sub>2</sub>O increases in the Arctic. Also noticeable is that compared to run E1, the impact of an additional 50 % N<sub>2</sub>O increase (run E2) causes a larger increase in PSC area in the Arctic than an additional 50 % CO<sub>2</sub> increase. Here the increased NO<sub>y</sub> from N<sub>2</sub>O promotes the formation of nitric acid trihydrate.

#### 4 Contributions to ozone depletion from different factors due to N<sub>2</sub>O changes

The attribution of ozone variations to dynamical, radiative, and chemical effects resulting from changes in GHGs and ODSs is an important problem in stratospheric climate. Multiple linear regression (MLR) is typically used to estimate statistical model parame-

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ters (e.g. WMO, 2007; Shepherd, 2008; Stolarski et al., 2010; Oman et al., 2010b). For a given location and time, an ozone change ( $\Delta O_3$ ) can be expressed as follows:

$$\Delta O_3(t) = \sum_j c_j \Delta X_j(t) + \varepsilon(t) \quad (1)$$

where the variables  $X_j$  are the factors that can affect ozone, the coefficients  $c_j$  are the sensitivity of ozone to the factor  $X_j$ , and  $\varepsilon$  is the error in the fit. Here,  $\Delta O_3$  and  $\Delta X_j$  are the changes in ozone and other quantities between different model experiments with respect to the control experiment (E0) (i.e.,  $\Delta O_3 = O_{3,E1} - O_{3,E0}$ , where  $O_{3,E1}$  and  $O_{3,E0}$  represent modeled ozone data from runs E0 and E1, respectively).

We select NO<sub>x</sub>, ClO<sub>x</sub>, as well as temperature ( $T$ ) as proxies to represent the direct chemical effect, indirect chemical effect and radiative effect result from N<sub>2</sub>O increases, respectively. Reactive hydrogen (HO<sub>x</sub>) and transport parameters are not included, since their effects are relatively small (not shown). The MLR analysis described above is performed on the modeled data from the control run E0 and run E1, in which N<sub>2</sub>O is increased by 50 % by 2050. Ozone changes ( $\Delta O_3$ ) caused by the selected regression factors are examined over different latitude bands (i.e., 90° N–70° N, 22° N–22° S, and 70° S–90° S) on all the model levels from surface to 1 hPa, and the results are shown in Fig. 7.

The contributions of different factors to ozone changes are strongly latitude and altitude dependent. In the Arctic, NO<sub>x</sub> and temperature changes cause ozone decreases in the lower and middle stratosphere. NO<sub>x</sub> changes, which represent the direct chemical effect of N<sub>2</sub>O increases, contribute over 80 % or even higher to the 0.5 ppmv ozone decrease from 70 to 10 hPa (Fig. 7a). Figure 7a also shows that in the upper stratosphere, ClO<sub>x</sub> changes result in more ozone. In the tropics (Fig. 7b) both temperature and ClO<sub>x</sub> changes tend to result in more ozone in the mid-upper stratosphere. NO<sub>x</sub> changes lead to large ozone depletion (about 150 % of total ozone changes) which are partly offset (about 50 %) by the  $T$  and ClO<sub>x</sub> contributions. NO<sub>x</sub> changes in the lower stratosphere cause more ozone on the order of 0.2 ppmv, while ClO<sub>x</sub> and  $T$  have no

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significant effects on ozone there. The contribution of  $\text{NO}_x$  to ozone changes, which peaks at 10–3 hPa, is consistent with earlier studies (Oman et al., 2010b; Eyring et al., 2010b). In the Antarctic (Fig. 7c) the ozone changes caused by  $\text{NO}_x$  changes are still negative but relatively small compared to those in the tropical and Arctic stratosphere. In contrast to those in the Arctic stratosphere, ozone changes associated with  $\text{ClO}_x$  are negative in the Antarctic stratosphere. Note also that temperature has a more significant contribution on ozone changes than  $\text{NO}_x$  in the Antarctic stratosphere. Similar features can be obtained when MLR analysis is performed on the modeled data from control run E0 and run E2 in which  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  is increased by 100 % by 2050 (not shown).

This multiple regression analysis suggests that the direct chemical effect (indicated by  $\text{NO}_x$ ) of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  on ozone changes contributes to the largest part of ozone changes in the lower stratosphere, while the indirect chemical effect (indicated by  $\text{ClO}_x$ ) of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$ , which is associated with enhanced chlorine-catalyzed ozone destruction, is more important in the upper stratosphere. The effect of temperature changes (indicated as  $T$ ) is more pronounced in the tropical upper stratosphere but relatively less significant in the polar stratosphere. It should be pointed out that some non-linear or interdependent effects of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  increase on ozone, such as ozone depletion associated with PSCs, may not be well separated by the MLR analysis. Nevertheless, it provides us with some useful information on the contributions of different processes associated with  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  increases to ozone changes.

We now discuss the results of the WACCM sensitivity runs which applied  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  increases separately to the model's radiation and chemistry schemes. The changes in ozone and temperature caused by chemical and radiative effects of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  increases are shown in Fig. 8. Ozone decreases up to 10 % (1 ppmv) (Fig. 8a) when the 50 %  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  increase is applied to the chemistry routine, while the same increase of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  in the radiation scheme causes no more than 1 % (0.1 ppmv) ozone decrease (Fig. 8b). When  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  is increased in both the chemistry and radiation schemes, the ozone changes show no significant differences from those caused by the chemical effect of a 50 %  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  alone (not shown). It is clear that the chemical effect contributes most to the ozone changes

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caused by  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  increase, which is consistent with the MLR analysis. The ozone depletion causes significant subsequent stratospheric cooling, with a maximum of  $-1.7$  K in the middle stratosphere (around 10 hPa) in the tropics (Fig. 8c). The direct radiative effect of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  is much smaller (below 1 K) than the indirect radiative effects (Fig. 8c and d) without a clear pattern in the spatial distribution.

Another factor which should also be considered is the dynamical effect of increasing  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$ . As shown in Table 3, the increase in  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  is likely to strengthen the BD circulation. Meanwhile, this strengthened circulation influences the distribution and also contributes to the variability of  $\text{O}_3$ . Figure 9 shows the vertical ozone flux in the reference experiment E0 (Fig. 9a) as well as the corresponding changes in E1 relative to that in control run E0 (Fig. 9b). For a given grid cell  $A[\text{lat}_i, \text{lev}_k]$  located at the latitude of  $\text{lat}_i$  and the pressure levels of  $\text{lev}_k$ , the vertical ozone flux is defined as the incoming ozone at the lower level  $\text{lev}_{k-1}$  ( $\text{O}_3[\text{lat}_i, \text{lev}_{k-1}] \times w^*[\text{lat}_i, \text{lev}_{k-1}]$ ) minus the ozone coming out at higher level  $\text{lev}_{k+1}$  ( $\text{O}_3[\text{lat}_i, \text{lev}_{k+1}] \times w^*[\text{lat}_i, \text{lev}_{k+1}]$ ). Consistent with the overall picture of the BD circulation, the ozone in the tropical lower stratosphere is transported to the upper stratosphere and ozone in the mid-latitude upper stratosphere is transported downward to the lower stratosphere (Fig. 9a). It is evident from Fig. 9b that the strengthened BD circulation caused by the increased  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  leads to a net decrease of ozone in the tropical lower stratosphere and a net ozone increase at around 100 hPa at southern mid-to-high latitudes. The large ozone increases around 100 hPa at southern mid-latitudes exhibited in Fig. 1a–c may be mainly caused by this transport effect. The MLR analysis with  $w^*$  as an additional regression factor suggests that the dynamic effect of a  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  increase on ozone changes is much less significant than its chemical and radiative effects in most of the areas (not shown). The result here implies that the dynamical effect of increasing  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  on ozone is small on average, but may have a significant contribution to local ozone changes in the mid-latitude stratosphere.

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## 5 Discussion and conclusions

The distribution of ozone changes resulting from  $N_2O$  increases in a 3-D CCM shown as function of latitude and altitude and the chemical mechanism was discussed by examining various chemical species related to ozone destruction. Subsequent climate changes induced by these  $N_2O$  increases, such as changes in stratospheric temperatures and water vapor, BD circulation and area of PSCs, were also examined, helping us to understand the  $N_2O$  and ozone interactions with climate changes. A series of sensitivity simulations and MLR were performed to detect the dominant factors controlling the ozone changes caused by  $N_2O$  increases.

The CCM results suggest that  $N_2O$  increases by 50%/100% between 2001 and 2050 result in more ozone destruction, reducing in ozone mixing ratios of maximally 6%/10% in the middle stratosphere at around 10 hPa. However, the total ozone column still shows an increase in future decades. The increase of  $N_2O$  also results in significant temperature and  $H_2O$  changes, which are seen in a slight cooling in the stratosphere and an evident increase of stratospheric  $H_2O$ . In a future cooler stratosphere the net yield of  $NO_y$  is known to decrease, and our simulations indicate that the ozone-depleting impact of  $N_2O$  becomes smaller due to the cooling and fewer halogens in the stratosphere. The ozone depletion potential for  $N_2O$  in a future climate depends on whether the stratospheric cooling effect is larger than the effect of tropospheric  $N_2O$  changes. The increase of  $N_2O$  has only a small influence on chemical processes associated with Antarctic ozone destruction. However, increased emissions of  $N_2O$  are likely to delay recovery of the ozone in the Arctic stratosphere.

The depletion of ozone caused by nitrous oxide involves complex dynamical, chemical and radiative processes. The analyses based on a series of sensitivity simulations and MLR suggests that  $N_2O$  increases cause ozone changes mainly through chemical processes. The direct chemical effect of  $N_2O$  increases (via  $NO_x$  chemistry) contributes the majority of ozone changes in the lower and middle stratosphere, while the indirect chemical effect of  $N_2O$  increases (via halogen chemistry) is simulated as the dominant

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factor in ozone depletion in the upper stratosphere. The direct radiative effect of  $N_2O$  increases on ozone is very small, but the indirect radiative effect associated with ozone changes is evident and coupled with chemical and dynamical processes. The dynamical effect of increasing  $N_2O$  is also small on average, but can cause large local ozone changes in the mid-latitude stratosphere. The ozone depleting effect of  $N_2O$  increases can be significantly reduced in the middle stratosphere when  $CO_2$  is also increased, implying that the depletion of ozone caused by  $N_2O$  increases depends strongly on stratospheric temperature changes.

*Acknowledgements.* This work was supported by the National Science Foundation of China (41175042, 41225018) and National Basic Research Program of China (2010CB428604). We also thank the Fundamental Research Funds for the Central Universities of China and the computing resources from Supercomputing Center of Cold and Arid Region Environment and Engineering Research Institute of Chinese Academy of Sciences. We thank John Austin for advice on WACCM experiments, Martyn Chipperfield from the University of Leeds for comments on the manuscript, Lisa Neef from GEOMAR for grammar checking and Shaojie Ma and Guohui Zhao for help in data processing.

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**Table 1.** The configurations of four CCM transient simulations.

Experiments	GHGs Scenario
E0	IPCC A1B scenario
E1	Linear 50 % increase in N <sub>2</sub> O surface vmr from 2001–2050
E2	As E1 but with 100 % increase in N <sub>2</sub> O 2001–2050
E3	As E1 with additional 50 % linear increase in CO <sub>2</sub> vmr from 2001–2050

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**Table 2.** The configurations of four CCM sensitive simulations.

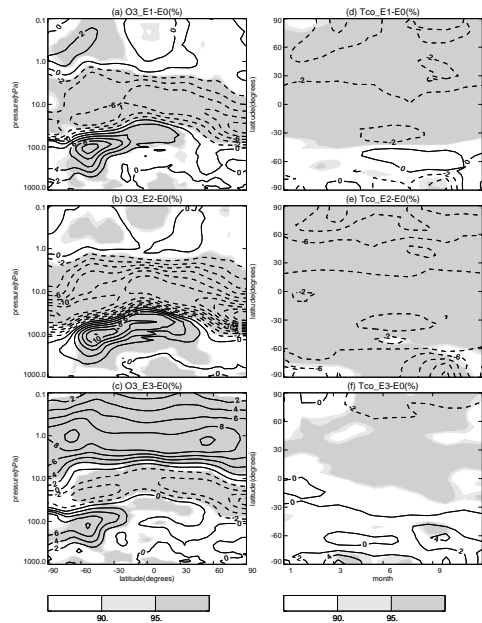
Simulations	GHGs Settings
S0	Fix N <sub>2</sub> O as 2050 climatology in IPCC A1B scenario
S1	Increase N <sub>2</sub> O by 50 % on S0 only in chemistry
S2	Increase N <sub>2</sub> O by 50 % on S0 only in radiation
S3	Increase N <sub>2</sub> O by 50 % on S0 interactively

29471

**Table 3.** The tropical (25° N–25° S) upwelling ( $w^*$ ) averaged between 70–20 hPa over the last 10 yr of the four simulations and changes in  $w^*$  ( $\Delta w^*$ ) relative to the first 10 yr of the corresponding simulations.

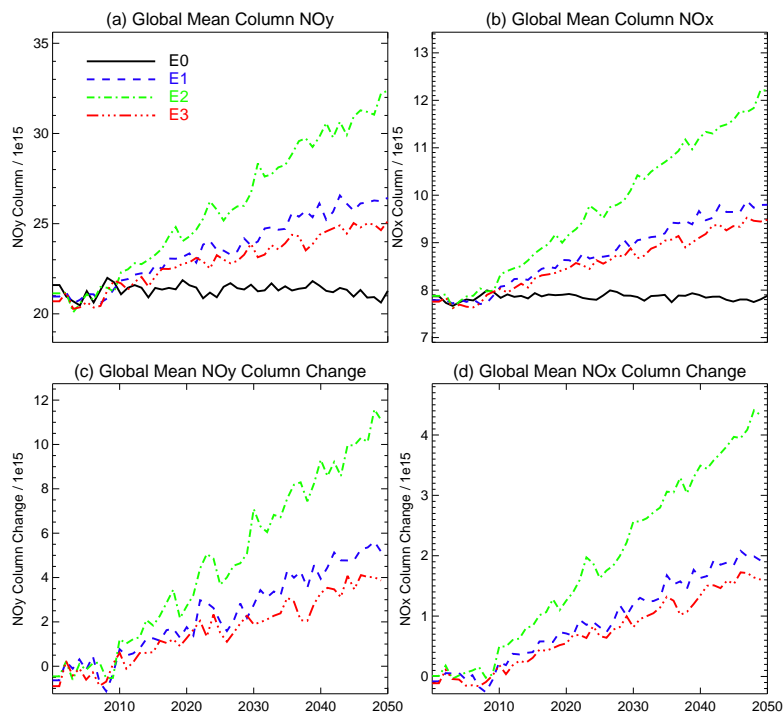
Experiments	$w^*(10^{-3} \text{ m s}^{-1})$	$\Delta w^*(\%)$
E0	0.029	5.5
E1	0.032	28.4
E2	0.037	37.3
E3	0.033	21.9

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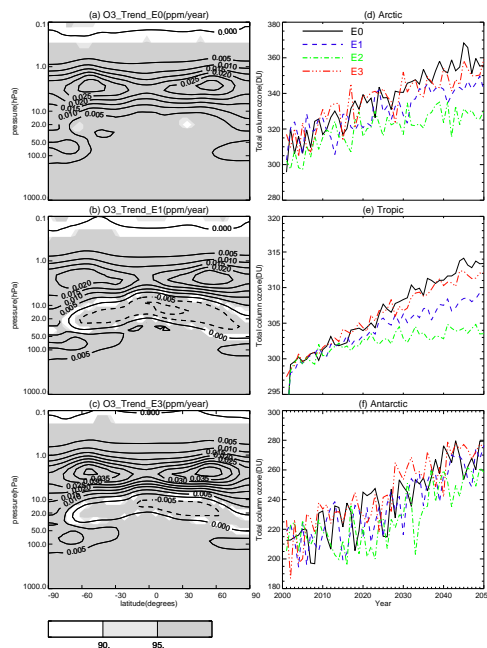
**Fig. 1.** Latitude-pressure cross sections of differences (%) in zonal mean ozone mixing ratios (2041–2050) between WACCM experiments **(a)** E1 and E0, **(b)** E2 and E0, and **(c)** E3 and E0. Time-latitude cross sections of differences (%) in zonal mean total column ozone climatology (2041–2050) between experiments **(d)** E1 and E0, and **(e)** E2 and E0, **(f)** E3 and E0. The contour interval is 2% for percentage ozone changes. The grey colors represent significance levels for the mean state differences between different experiments by the Student's *T* test.

29473



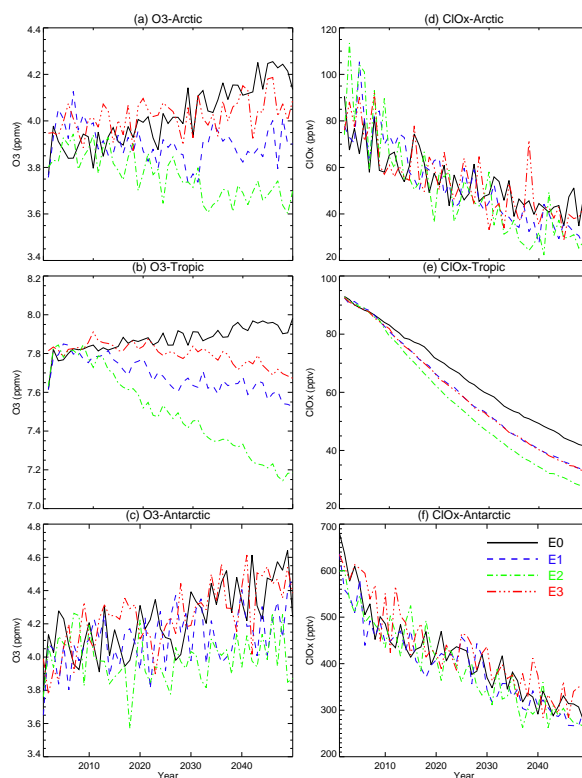
**Fig. 2.** Time series of global mean **(a)** column  $\text{NO}_y$  ( $\text{molecules cm}^{-2}$ ) and **(b)** column  $\text{NO}_x$  ( $\text{molecules cm}^{-2}$ ) in E0 (black line), E1 (blue line), E2 (green line) and E3 (red line). Difference in **(c)** column  $\text{NO}_y$  and **(d)** column  $\text{NO}_x$  between E1 and E0 (blue line), E2 and E0 (green line), E3 and E0 (red line).

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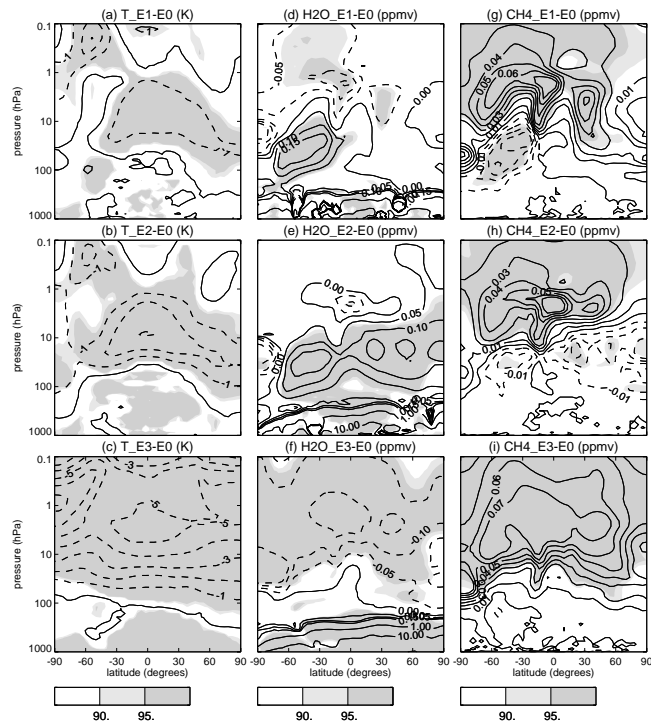
**Fig. 3.** (a, b, c) Latitude-pressure cross sections of the long-term (2001–2050) trends of zonal mean ozone mixing ratios ( $\text{ppmv yr}^{-1}$ ) in WACCM experiments E0, E1 and E3. The contour interval is  $0.005 \text{ ppmv yr}^{-1}$ . Grey colors represent statistic significance levels of the trends. (d, e, f) Time series of total column ozone (DU) in different regions (Arctic, Tropics, Antarctic) in experiments E0 (black line), E1 (blue dashed line), E2 (green dashed-dotted line) and E3 (red dashed-dotted line).

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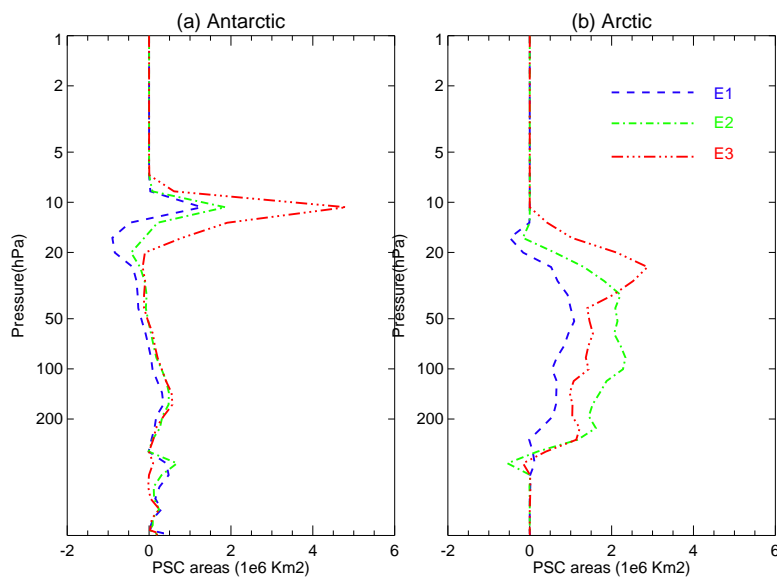
**Fig. 4.** Time series of mean (a, b, c) ozone and (d, e, f)  $\text{Cl}_x$  ( $\text{Cl}_x = \text{Cl} + \text{ClO} + 2 \text{Cl}_2\text{O}_2$ ) between 20–10 hPa averaged over (a) Arctic ( $60^\circ \text{N}–90^\circ \text{N}$ ), (b) Tropics ( $22^\circ \text{N}–22^\circ \text{S}$ ) and (c) Antarctic ( $60^\circ \text{S}–90^\circ \text{S}$ ) in E0 (black line), E1 (blue line), E2 (green line) and E3 (red line).

29476



**Fig. 5.** Latitude-pressure cross sections of differences in (a, b, c) zonal mean temperature, (d, e, f) H<sub>2</sub>O and (g, h, i) CH<sub>4</sub> climatology (2041–2050) between WACCM experiments. The contour intervals are 1 K for temperature, 0.01 ppmv for CH<sub>4</sub> and 0.05 ppmv for H<sub>2</sub>O in the stratosphere where H<sub>2</sub>O mixing ratios low. Grey colors represent statistical significance levels for the mean state differences between different experiments by the Student's *T* test.

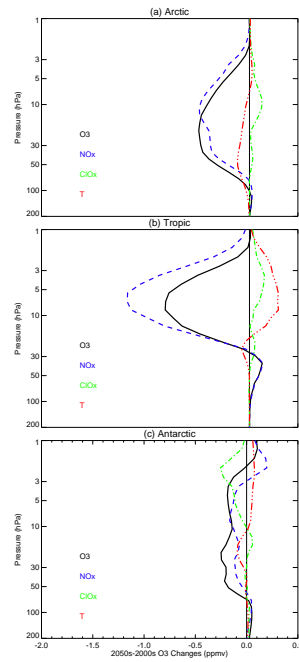
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**Fig. 6.** Profiles of differences in annual mean PSCs area ( $\times 10^6 \text{ km}^2$ ) between WACCM experiments E1 and E0 (blue dashed line), E2 and E0 (green dashed dotted line), and E3 and E0 (red dashed dotted line) in (a) Antarctic and (b) Arctic.

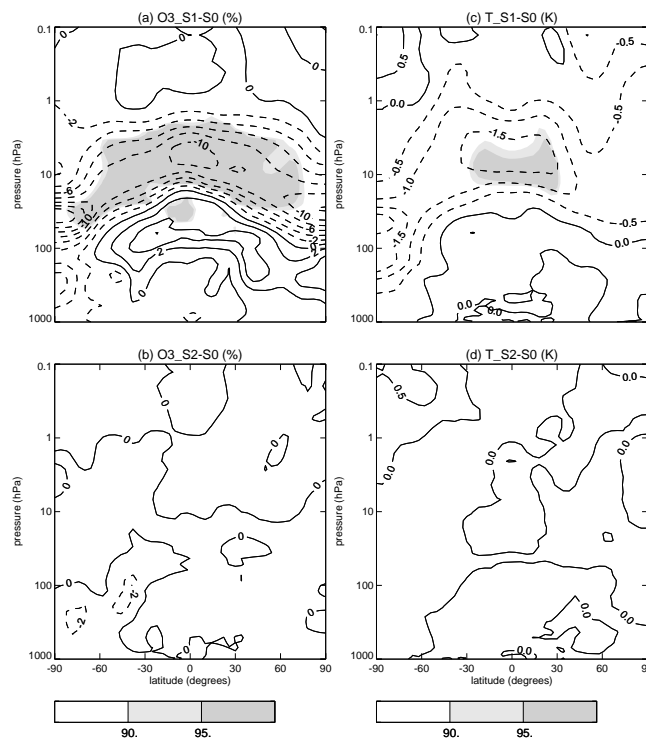
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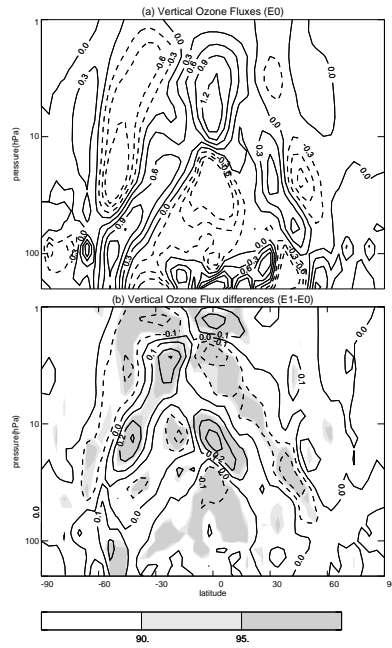
**Fig. 7.** Results of multiple regressions for spatially-averaged ozone change ( $\Delta O_3 = O_3$  (E1)  $- O_3$  (E0)) with spatially-averaged  $NO_x$ ,  $ClO_x$  and  $T$  change. The averaging domains are  $90^\circ N-70^\circ N$ ,  $22^\circ N-22^\circ S$ , and  $70^\circ S-90^\circ S$ . The black thick line shows the changes of  $\Delta O_3$  from 2001 to 2050 ( $d\Delta O_3$ ), calculated by a simple linear regression of  $\Delta O_3$  with year ( $\Delta O_3 = a_0 + a_1 \times \text{year}$ ,  $d\Delta O_3 = a_1 \times 50$ ). The blue dashed line, green dashed-dotted line and red dashed double point line show the  $NO_x$ , EESC and  $T$  contributions to  $\Delta O_3$  (i.e.  $d\Delta O_{3,NO_x} = \Delta NO_x \times \text{Coefs}_{NO_x}$ ), respectively.

29479



**Fig. 8.** Latitude-pressure cross sections of zonal mean ozone differences (%) between WACCM sensitivity experiments (a) S1 and S0, and (b) S2 and S0, and temperature differences (K) between sensitivity experiments (c) S1 and S0, and (d) S2 and S0. The contour interval for ozone is 2% and for temperature is 0.5 K. Grey colors represent statistical significance levels for the mean state differences between different simulations by the Student's  $T$  test.

29480



**Fig. 9.** Vertical ozone fluxes associated with the BD circulation ( $w^*$ ) calculated from **(a)** reference experiment (E0) and **(b)** the differences between E1 and E0 (for more details of the definition of ozone flux see text). The contour intervals are  $0.3 \times 10^3 \text{ kg s}^{-1}$  and  $0.1 \times 10^3 \text{ kg s}^{-1}$  in **(a)** and **(b)**, respectively. Grey colors **(b)** represent the statistical significance levels for the mean state differences between different experiments by the Student's  $T$  test.