



**Nonlinear ozone
response**

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Nonlinear response of modeled stratospheric ozone to changes in greenhouse gases and ozone depleting substances in the recent past

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Abstract

In the recent past, the evolution of stratospheric ozone (O_3) was affected by both increasing ozone depleting substances (ODSs) and greenhouse gases (GHGs). The impact of the single forcings on O_3 is well known. Interactions between the simultaneously increased GHG and ODS concentrations, however, can occur and lead to nonlinear O_3 changes. In this study, we investigate if nonlinear processes have affected O_3 changes between 1960 and 2000. This is done with an idealized set of timeslice simulations with the chemistry–climate model (CCM) EMAC. Nonlinearity leads to a net reduction of ozone decrease throughout the stratosphere, with a maximum of 1.2% at 3 hPa. The total ozone column loss between 1960 and 2000 that is mainly attributed to the ODS increase is mitigated in the extra-polar regions by up to 1.1% due to nonlinear processes. A separation of the O_3 changes into the contribution from chemistry and transport shows that nonlinear interactions occur in both. In the upper stratosphere a reduced efficiency of the ClO_x -catalysed O_3 loss chiefly causes the nonlinear O_3 increase. An enhanced formation of halogen reservoir species through the reaction with methane (CH_4) reduces the abundance of halogen radicals significantly. The temperature induced deceleration of the O_3 loss reaction rate in the Chapman cycle is reduced, which leads to a nonlinear O_3 decrease and counteracts the increase due to ClO_x . Nonlinear effects on the NO_x abundance cause hemispheric asymmetric nonlinear changes of the O_3 loss. Nonlinear changes in O_3 transport occur in particular in the Southern Hemisphere (SH) during the months September to November. Here, the residual circulation is weakened in the lower stratosphere, which goes along with a reduced O_3 transport from the tropics to high latitudes. Thus, O_3 decreases in the SH polar region, but increases in the SH midlatitudes.

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1 Introduction

During the 20th century both the emissions of ozone depleting substances (ODSs) and greenhouse gases (GHGs) increased, which had a large effect on stratospheric ozone (O_3) (e.g., WMO, 2007). Observations show that between 1979 and 2000 the total column ozone decreased by 2–3 % decade⁻¹ at midlatitudes in the annual mean and by up to 12 % decade⁻¹ in the Southern Hemisphere (SH) polar region in spring (e.g., Fioletov et al., 2002). This development is mainly caused by increasing concentrations of ODSs (e.g., WMO, 2007). As these compounds are relatively chemically inert in the troposphere, they are transported into the stratosphere where they are decomposed, releasing reactive chlorine and bromine compounds at levels well above the natural background concentrations. The chlorine and bromine radicals can then initiate catalytic reaction cycles which destroy ozone (e.g., Molina and Rowland, 1974). In the polar regions in spring, this catalytic ozone loss is especially effective since the occurrence of polar stratospheric clouds in winter leads to an enhanced conversion of halogen reservoir species to radicals (e.g., Solomon et al., 1986).

Increasing concentrations of the well-mixed GHGs carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4) and nitrous oxide (N_2O) affect the ozone evolution in addition to the ODS induced changes by different mechanisms. They change the radiative budget of the atmosphere and therefore cool the stratosphere (e.g., IPCC, 1996). This decelerates the O_3 loss reaction, $O_3 + O$, and accelerates the reaction $O_2 + O + M$, which controls the partitioning of O_x ($= O + O_3$), and hence increases ozone (e.g., Rosenfield et al., 2002; Jonsson et al., 2004). At the same time, the temperatures of the troposphere and of the oceans increase, which alter the stratospheric meridional residual circulation (Brewer–Dobson circulation, BDC) (e.g., Garny et al., 2011a) and therefore the transport of ozone and other chemical species such as chlorine source gases (e.g., Butchart and Scaife, 2001; Cook and Roscoe, 2012). Increased emissions of CO_2 , CH_4 and N_2O lead to changes in the stratospheric NO_x ($= NO + NO_2$) (e.g., Rosenfield and Douglass, 1998) and HO_x ($= OH + HO_2$) abundances (e.g., LeTexier et al., 1988) and also modify chemical ozone

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loss (e.g., Portmann et al., 2007; Revell et al., 2012). Furthermore, the chemical production via CH_4 oxidation is increased in the lower stratosphere (e.g., Johnston and Podolske, 1978; Nevison et al., 1999), while the chemical production through photolysis is decreased due to the reversed “self-healing” effect (e.g., Portmann et al., 2007).

Former studies have analysed the contributions from increasing GHG and ODS concentrations to the past ozone change. So far, observational timeseries have been too short to clearly separate the effects using multiple linear regression (Stolarski et al., 2010). Therefore, simulations with CCMs are used for attribution studies. Different strategies for the attribution are discussed in McLandress et al. (2010), ranging from the multiple linear regression analysis of a single transient simulation including all forcings (e.g., Oman et al., 2010) to the comparison of a set of simulations with different forcings (e.g., Waugh et al., 2009). Differences among the studies arise also from the explanatory variables that are used as proxy for the GHG effect (e.g., temperature or CO_2), and the processes that are considered (e.g., including composition changes by CH_4 and N_2O increases). However, qualitatively all studies agree and consistently show that increasing ODSs are the dominant driver of past ozone loss, while the GHG increase has led to an ozone increase in the upper stratosphere (e.g., Waugh et al., 2009; Oman et al., 2010; Shepherd and Jonsson, 2008; Jonsson et al., 2009).

Since both GHG and ODS abundances have increased simultaneously in the atmosphere, interactions between the forcings may occur (e.g., Cicerone et al., 1983; Yang and Brasseur, 2001). In most attribution studies, however, those nonlinear interactions, or buffering effects, are not considered, either by simply assuming linearity (e.g., Jonsson et al., 2009) or by using explanatory variables that can be affected by nonlinear processes themselves (e.g. the temperature or the abundance of stratospheric halogen radicals; Jonsson et al., 2009; Nevison et al., 1999, respectively).

The effect of nonlinearities on ozone were analysed by Haigh and Pyle (1982) by simultaneously changing ODS and GHG concentrations. They used four experiments with a two-dimensional circulation model: a control run with low CO_2 concentrations and without chlorine chemistry, a run with increasing levels of CO_2 and without chlo-

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rine chemistry, a run with low CO₂ concentrations and high ODS concentrations and a run with increasing levels of CO₂ and high ODS levels. With this set of simulations it is possible to detect nonlinear effects. Haigh and Pyle (1982) found that the ozone changes in the upper stratosphere caused by the coupled perturbation are not equal to the sum of the individual changes. The ozone decrease due to the combined forcing is larger than the ozone decrease expected from the sum of the ODS and the GHG effect. For total column ozone, they reported a decrease from 1960 values by 3.2% due to an ODS increase to predicted 2000 levels. Total column ozone is increased by 3% due to an increase of the CO₂ content from 320 to 400 ppm, a value slightly higher than actually observed in the year 2000. The combined forcing results in a change of -0.6% (compared to -0.2% in the sum). They explained the nonlinearity with a reduced temperature dependency of ozone, and therefore a reduced positive effect of the GHGs if chlorine chemistry is considered.

A detailed analysis of nonlinear buffering effects between increasing halogen and GHG concentrations is reported in Nevison et al. (1999). They analysed the effect of simultaneously increased concentrations of halogens, CH₄ and N₂O on the NO_x, HO_x and halogen-catalysed ozone loss in model simulations. They found that increasing CH₄ together with the halogen concentrations mitigates the halogen-catalysed O₃ loss, since the reaction CH₄+Cl leads to the formation of the reservoir species HCl and thus to a reduced ClO_x/Cl_y ratio. Furthermore, increasing N₂O and hence NO_x causes a buffering of the HO_x and halogen-catalysed O₃ loss through the formation of the reservoir species HNO₃, ClONO₂ and BrONO₂.

Since both GHGs and ODSs affect the temperature of the stratosphere, nonlinear changes in the temperature structure can have an impact on wave propagation and hence on the residual mean circulation. This is analysed in detail in McLandress et al. (2010). The study is based on a set of transient simulations with the CCM CMAM, which allows the identification of a nonlinear response to ODS and GHG changes. The additivity is tested by comparing the long-term trends from the sum of the experiments with either ODSs or GHGs fixed with the trends from the simulation with both chang-

ing GHGs and ODSs. They state that the response in the zonal mean temperature, zonal mean zonal wind and the mass flux in SH spring and summer is linear within the statistical uncertainty.

For future ozone changes, the issue of additivity is briefly addressed in the study by Zubov et al. (2013) who analysed a set of timeslice simulations with the CCM SOCOL focusing on the future role of GHG, ODS and SST/SIC forcing. They find positive nonlinear annual mean ozone changes in the tropical upper stratosphere and the SH polar lower stratosphere. However, the underlying processes are not discussed.

In this study we want to address the question of the relevance of nonlinear processes in ozone chemistry and transport in the recent past. We aim to clarify if ozone evolution was affected by nonlinear interactions between the increasing concentrations of well-mixed GHGs and ODSs. Therefore, we want to consider the effects of both changing temperature and chemical composition, and account for nonlinear changes in all processes. This is realized with the help of an idealized set of multi-year equilibrium simulations with a state-of-the-art CCM following the strategy by Zubov et al. (2013). The advantage of timeslice simulations compared to transient experiments is the improved statistical basis, which allows the detection of small signals. In these simulations we detect and quantify the contribution of nonlinearities to the ozone change between 1960 and 2000 and analyse the processes leading to the nonlinearities.

The study is composed as follows. In Sect. 2 the model and the experiments used in this study are described. The results are discussed in Sect. 3, followed by a summary and conclusion in Sect. 4.

2 Model and experimental setup

A set of equilibrium simulations has been performed with the ECHAM/MESSy Atmospheric Chemistry (EMAC) CCM version 1.7 (Jöckel et al., 2006). The core atmospheric model is ECHAM5 (the 5th generation European Centre Hamburg general circulation model (GCM); Roeckner et al., 2006). Via the Modular Earth Submodel

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System (MESSy1) the core model is coupled to the atmospheric chemistry module MECCA1 (Module Efficiently Calculating the Chemistry of the Atmosphere; Sander et al., 2005) and to a standard set of submodels describing tropospheric and middle atmosphere processes. Additionally, the highly resolved short-wave radiation parameterisation FUBRad (Nissen et al., 2007) is used. The model is run with horizontal resolution T42 (corresponding to a quadratic Gaussian grid of approx. $2.8^\circ \times 2.8^\circ$) and 39 hybrid model layers between the surface and 0.01 hPa (~ 80 km). Since this model version is not coupled to an ocean model, the sea surface temperatures (SSTs) and sea ice concentrations (SICs) are prescribed. After a spin-up period, each experiment has been integrated for 40 years.

The performance of the EMAC model in this configuration has been evaluated in different model intercomparison studies (e.g., Austin et al., 2010; Eyring et al., 2010) with respect to the ozone evolution. EMAC is within the range of other CCMs, but the observed ozone depletion in the Antarctic spring is not fully captured by simulations with EMAC.

To analyse the additivity of the ozone response to the GHG and ODS forcing between 1960 and 2000, four timeslice simulations are required, analogous to Haigh and Pyle (1982) and Zubov et al. (2013): Two simulations that represent the reference states of the atmosphere for the year 1960 (R1960) and the year 2000 (R2000) with observed mixing ratios of well-mixed GHGs (CO_2 , CH_4 , N_2O) from the IPCC (2001) and the ODSs from the WMO (2007) for the corresponding years, and two simulations in which just the GHG (GHG2000) or the ODS (ODS2000) boundary conditions are set to present day conditions while the other is kept at 1960 levels. The RETRO (RE-analysis of the TROpospheric chemical composition) data set (Schultz et al., 2007) is used for the emissions of tropospheric ozone precursors. The SSTs and SICs from a transient simulation with the coupled atmosphere ocean model ECHAM5/MPIOM (Max-Planck-Institute Ocean Model; Jungclaus et al., 2006) are prescribed as 10 year averages for the period 1955–1964 in the R1960 and ODS2000 simulations and for the period 1995–2004 for the R2000 and the GHG2000 simulations. Therefore, there

change is interpreted as the difference in the seasonal imbalance between chemistry and transport between the climate states. In the following analysis, the tendency term is not shown, but it is considered (together with the residual term) when adding up the single contributions to the total.

To separate the chemical ozone loss into the different loss cycles, the tool StratO3Bud (for details see Meul et al., 2014) is applied to the model data. As discussed in Meul et al. (2014) a lower temporal resolution of the input data and a reduced set of reactions used in StratO3Bud lead, in some regions, to differences of the total ozone production and loss compared to the online integrated terms that are used for the separation into chemistry and transport. Therefore both loss quantities are shown in Sect. 3 for comparison.

The uncertainty of the nonlinear signals is calculated from the joint standard deviations (SDs), based on the concept of error propagation. Significant changes on the 95%/99% confidence level are then estimated by the exceedance of two/three times the SD ($2/3\sigma$).

3 Results

3.1 Ozone change and its drivers

The annual mean, global mean ozone change between the years 1960 and 2000 is shown in Fig. 1 (top). Ozone mixing ratios are reduced throughout the stratosphere, with a maximum change of -12% ($= -3\% \text{ decade}^{-1}$) in the upper stratosphere (black line). This decrease is slightly smaller than that described in Jonsson et al. (2009) for the period 1975–1995. However, since the ozone decline was slower before 1975, the results are comparable. Consistent with the literature, the ozone decrease is mainly due to the increase in ODSs (green). Rising levels of GHGs lead to an ozone increase in the middle and upper stratosphere (by up to 2.5%) and below 100 hPa (blue) and hence counteract the ODS-induced ozone loss. The GHG-induced ozone increase in

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the upper stratosphere is related to GHG-induced radiative cooling, which decelerates the temperature dependant ozone loss reactions (e.g., Rosenfield et al., 2002). The negative GHG-signal in the lower stratosphere, which is also found by Jonsson et al. (2009), originates from the tropics where a slightly strengthened upwelling (not shown) reduces the local abundance of ozone. In the lower mesosphere, the overall ozone loss is enhanced by the GHG effect. This is caused by an increase of the HO_x mixing ratio which is related to the higher CH₄ emissions (e.g., Wuebbles and Hayhoe, 2002). A slightly negative ozone change attributed to HO_x in the lower mesosphere is also reported by Oman et al. (2010) for the period 1960 to 1999.

The annual mean change in the total ozone column between 1960 and 2000 is shown in Fig. 1 (bottom) for all latitudes. Total column ozone is decreased globally with the largest changes, –15 %, occuring in the SH polar region. The pattern of the changes in the SH is qualitatively comparable to the trends derived from observations (Fig. 3-22 from WMO, 2007) for the period 1980–2004. In the tropics, however, the total ozone column change in the simulations is larger than in the observations. Furthermore, the gradient in the change from the tropics to the northern high latitudes in the observations is not captured by the model. Here, the different periods considered for the calculation may play a role. However, regarding the contribution from the ODSs, the ozone changes show this latitudinal gradient. This indicates that the change induced by the GHGs is too small in the tropics and too large in the Northern Hemisphere (NH), which suggests a slightly stronger increase in the transport of ozone from the tropics to the high latitudes in the timeslice simulations compared to the observations.

3.2 Nonlinear processes

3.2.1 Annual mean

In the atmosphere, GHG and ODS abundances have increased simultaneously and nonlinear interactions can occur. The difference between the sum of the single forcings (grey) and the change of simultaneously increased GHG and ODS mixing ratios

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(black) is shown by the red line in Fig. 1. Throughout the stratosphere the nonlinear contribution to the annual mean global mean ozone change is positive (Fig. 1, top). The largest nonlinear effect is found in the upper stratosphere, where it is as large as 1.2%. Here, the ozone change due to nonlinearity is about half as large as the ozone change induced by GHG changes. Statistically significant nonlinear contributions are found above 100 hPa.

The vertically integrated nonlinear contribution for the different latitudes is shown in red in Fig. 1 (bottom). Significant positive changes are found in the extrapolar regions. At SH midlatitudes the nonlinear term causes up to 1.1% increase. Nonlinearity has a slightly negative (not significant) contribution in the SH polar region in the annual mean, but a slightly positive contribution (not significant) in the NH polar region. All in all, due to nonlinear interactions between changing GHG and ODS concentrations, the resulting ozone loss in the recent past is slightly smaller than expected from the single forcings.

To analyse the processes that underlie the nonlinear ozone changes, the regions with significant nonlinear changes have to be identified. In Fig. 2a, showing the vertically and latitudinally resolved annual mean nonlinear ozone change, two stratospheric regions are found: the extrapolar upper stratosphere and the SH midlatitude lower stratosphere. Both regions exhibit positive nonlinear contributions to the overall ozone change of 1–2%. These regions of statistically significant nonlinear changes are in relatively good agreement with the regions identified by Zubov et al. (2013) for the future.

In the following we investigate which processes exhibit nonlinear interactions in the different regions. For this purpose the annual mean nonlinear ozone change is separated into the contributions from chemical ozone loss, chemical ozone production and ozone transport, shown in Fig. 2b–d, respectively. For the interpretation, it should be noted that not the changes in the processes are shown, but the changes in ozone that are attributed to the changed processes. Since the ozone tendency is inversely proportional to the (positive definite) chemical ozone loss, a positive ozone change attributed to chemical loss implies slowed ozone loss. It is found that in the upper stratosphere,

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the nonlinear ozone changes are caused by nonlinearities in the ozone chemistry, with a positive effect from ozone loss and a smaller negative from ozone production (Fig. 2b and c). In the tropical lower stratosphere and at NH midlatitudes the significant nonlinear effects from ozone loss and production nearly compensate each other, leading to insignificant changes in ozone. The positive nonlinear signal in the lower stratosphere at SH midlatitudes results from the contribution from both ozone chemistry and ozone transport. Nonlinear processes affecting the ozone transport cause an ozone increase in the tropical and SH midlatitudinal lower stratosphere and a decrease in the SH polar region (Fig. 2d). This indicates a reduced ozone transport into the SH polar stratosphere. However, to identify the involved processes it is necessary to analyse the seasonal changes in detail, since the BDC exhibits strong seasonal variability (see Sect. 3.2.2).

The next step is to understand how the nonlinear interactions are caused and which processes are responsible. First we analyse the reasons for the nonlinearity of the chemical ozone loss by separating the contributions from the different ozone loss cycles, applying the tool StratO3bud. For illustration, we show the attribution of the ozone changes due to ozone loss at 30° N and at 60° S (Fig. 3). Note that the use of StratO3bud can lead to quantitatively different results compared to Fig. 2b, which is indicated by the additional contour line (black with circles) in the top panel. In the upper stratosphere at NH midlatitudes (Fig. 3a), the nonlinear processes are acting in the same direction as the increasing GHG concentrations and are reducing the efficiency of the ozone loss, whereas the increase of the halogen loading causes an ozone decrease due to enhanced ozone loss. In the lower stratosphere both the GHG and ODS increase enhance the ozone loss. The nonlinear contribution, however, remains positive. At 60° S (Fig. 3b) the sign of the ozone changes attributed to increasing GHG and ODS concentrations is the same as at NH midlatitudes, but the ozone loss due to ODSs is clearly larger in the lower stratosphere, which is linked to the evolution of the ozone hole. The nonlinear contribution to the ozone change is very small and not significant between 50 and 10 hPa, and even slightly negative at 5 hPa, but in the lower

stratosphere 8 % of the overall annual mean ozone change are explained by nonlinear interactions.

By analysing the nonlinear contributions from different loss cycles (Fig. 3c and d), we find that at NH midlatitudes the nonlinear ozone increase is determined by a reduced ozone loss in the catalytic chlorine loss cycle (orange) above 70 hPa. In the upper stratosphere this increase is slightly counteracted by an enhanced ozone loss in the Chapman cycle (purple). In the middle stratosphere nonlinear interactions modify the NO_x -catalysed O_3 loss, while in the lower stratosphere the HO_x and BrO_x -catalysed O_3 loss are affected. In contrast to the nonlinear effect on the ClO_x and Chapman cycles in the upper stratosphere, which varies only quantitatively but not qualitatively with latitude, the sign of the nonlinear ozone change due to the NO_x cycle depends on the geographical region. In the NH the nonlinear ozone change related to the NO_x cycle is relatively small and not statistically significant. In the SH, however, ozone is significantly decreased by up to 2 % in the upper stratosphere at midlatitudes (Fig. 3d) and increased in the middle stratosphere in the polar region due to a nonlinearly modified NO_x -catalysed ozone loss (not shown). This causes the hemispheric asymmetries in the nonlinear ozone change attributed to chemical loss in Fig. 2b. In the lower stratosphere the nonlinear ozone change due to HO_x is positive at all latitudes, but statistically significant increases occur only at high latitudes. In the annual mean the total nonlinear decrease of the chemical O_3 loss in the Antarctic lower stratosphere is caused by a reduced HO_x -, ClO_x - and BrO_x -catalysed O_3 loss (Fig. 3d).

Which nonlinear processes are affecting the ozone loss cycles? Since the loss rate of a specific reaction is determined by the (temperature dependant) rate coefficient and the concentration of the involved species, nonlinear effects can occur either because of nonlinear temperature changes or/and nonlinear changes of the radical and ozone abundances. We find that the nonlinearity in the ClO_x induced ozone loss is primarily caused by a reduced concentration of ClO_x radicals if ODSs and GHGs are changed simultaneously, as compared to the sum of the single forcings (Fig. 4a). In the upper stratosphere the ClO_x increase between 1960 and 2000 is about 300 %, while

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the changes due to ODSs ($\approx +350\%$) and GHGs ($\approx -10\%$) add up to $\approx +340\%$ (not shown). This is explained by a nonlinear effect on the partitioning of inorganic chlorine, consistent with the study by Nevison et al. (1999). From 1960 to 2000 the ratio between reactive (ClO_x) and inorganic chlorine is reduced more than expected from the single forcings. This is caused by the interaction between the chlorine species and the GHGs CH_4 and N_2O . While CO_2 is chemically quasi inert in the atmosphere and primarily influences the radiative budget of the system, CH_4 and NO_2 , a product species from N_2O , can react with chlorine compounds and form HCl and ClONO_2 , respectively, which are the most abundant chlorine reservoir species in the stratosphere. Thus, the formation of chlorine reservoir species is enhanced if the GHG concentrations are increased simultaneously with the chlorine loading. This is also valid for the BrO_x -catalysed O_3 loss in the lower stratosphere through the formation of BrONO_2 . In addition, nonlinear processes lead to a reduced abundance not only of chlorine radicals, but also of the total amount of inorganic chlorine in the stratosphere (not shown). This is related to a reduced conversion of the chlorine source gases to inorganic compounds in the tropical stratosphere. Here, the reduced shortwave radiation reaching the lower stratosphere due to the O_3 increase above lowers the photolysis rate of organic chlorine. Furthermore, circulation changes can play a role for the chlorine release as discussed in Waugh et al. (2007).

The positive nonlinear effect on ozone shown here is contrary to the findings in Haigh and Pyle (1982), who found a larger ozone decrease for the combined change of ODSs and CO_2 . The main difference to the study by Haigh and Pyle (1982) is that not only CO_2 concentrations are increased, but also the CH_4 and N_2O abundances. This means that the nonlinear effect due to a reduced temperature sensitivity of ozone is smaller than the nonlinearity that originates from changing atmospheric abundances of CH_4 and N_2O and their interactions with chlorine species.

The rate limiting reaction of the Chapman loss cycle ($\text{O}_3 + \text{O}$) exhibits a strong temperature dependency resulting in reduced ozone loss if temperatures decrease and enhanced loss if temperatures increase. The annual mean nonlinear temperature change

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between 1960 and 2000 (Fig. 5) is positive and statistically significant in the tropical upper stratosphere and lower stratosphere at SH midlatitudes. Thus, the stratospheric cooling in the tropical upper stratosphere is weaker by up to 0.4 K if ODSs and GHGs are changed simultaneously, with the consequence that the ozone loss via the Chapman cycle is slightly increased. The temperature change pattern is linked to the nonlinear ozone increase due to the ClO_x cycle and the concomitant increase in ozone heating rates, but it is modulated by dynamical processes, especially in the polar regions. The warming in the SH polar upper stratosphere is related to a dynamically induced adiabatic descent that is probably caused by the cooling in the lower stratosphere. The cooling can partly be explained by a reduced downwelling (see Sect. 3.2.2 and Fig. 8d).

The hemispheric asymmetry in the nonlinear ozone change in the lower and middle stratosphere is attributed to a larger nonlinear effect on the NO_x loss cycle in the SH that leads to a compensation of the ClO_x induced ozone increase at SH midlatitudes and to a larger nonlinear ozone increase in the polar region. This is mainly caused by processes in the SH spring season and will be discussed in Sect. 3.2.2.

The significant nonlinear annual mean ozone increase due to chemical loss in the lowermost stratosphere at SH high latitudes (Fig. 2b) is mainly caused by a reduced efficiency of HO_x -catalysed O_3 loss (see Fig. 3d for 60°S). At this altitude, the HO_x cycle is primarily determined by the reaction of OH with O_3 . Although the absolute abundance of HO_x is increased due to nonlinear processes, the partitioning between OH and HO_2 is shifted in favour of HO_2 in this region (not shown). Thus, the loss efficiency is reduced.

In addition to chemical ozone loss, chemical ozone production contributes to the nonlinear ozone signal. Figure 2c shows that ozone production is reduced if interactions between increasing GHGs and ODSs occur. It is mainly caused by a decrease of the photolysis rate due to the ozone increase in the levels above (i.e. a reversed self-healing effect). The nonlinear ozone increase attributed to production changes in the

NH upper troposphere, however, is found to be due to increased production via the reaction path $\text{HO}_2 + \text{NO}$ (not shown).

The processes that are responsible for the nonlinear change in the ozone transport are analysed in more detail from the seasonal point of view in the next section. To investigate the seasonality of the nonlinear ozone changes, the attribution method is applied to seasonal means as discussed in Sect. 2. The largest nonlinear contributions are found in the September to November (SON) season. Therefore we focus on the SON mean in the following analyses.

3.2.2 Southern Hemisphere Spring (SON)

Figure 6 shows the nonlinear ozone change between 1960 and 2000 for the SH spring season (SON) and the attributions to chemical ozone loss, production and transport analogous to Fig. 2. Figure 6a shows that the nonlinear ozone increase in the extrapolar upper stratosphere that was found for the annual mean is a robust signal in austral spring (and in fact all seasons, not shown). In the lower stratosphere, however, the nonlinear ozone change in the SON mean exhibits a clear dipole pattern in the SH, with a positive signal at midlatitudes and a negative signal in the polar region. Furthermore, a statistically significant ozone increase due to nonlinear interactions is found in the NH polar lower stratosphere.

The nonlinear ozone changes due to loss in the SON mean (Fig. 6b) are qualitatively similar to the annual mean, but in the SH polar region the changes are more pronounced. The nonlinear contribution is positive in the upper and lower extra-polar stratosphere, as in the annual mean, but an ozone decrease is attributed to nonlinear processes at SH midlatitudes in the middle stratosphere and in the polar region in the upper stratosphere and lower mesosphere. This decrease is caused by significantly enhanced ozone loss through the NO_x cycle – by more than 2% (Fig. 7b) – which slightly exceeds the ozone increase due to reduced ClO_x -catalysed O_3 loss (Fig. 7a). In the SH polar region, however, the nonlinear NO_x -catalysed O_3 loss is decreased and thus ozone is increased in the middle stratosphere between 50 and 5 hPa (Fig. 7b). In

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the NH, no comparable nonlinear change pattern is found in the spring season (March to May; not shown).

The nonlinearity in NO_x -catalysed O_3 loss originates from a nonlinear change of the NO_x mixing ratios in the atmosphere: it is positive at SH midlatitudes and negative in the polar region (Fig. 4b). To understand this nonlinear behavior, we first explain the effect of the single forcings, since the NO_x mixing ratios are affected by both increasing GHGs and ODSs. Increasing halogen loading leads to a reduction of stratospheric NO_x above the 50 hPa level by increasing the photolysis rate of N_2O and hence reducing the NO_x production, and by increasing the formation of reservoir species (not shown). In contrast, increasing GHG concentrations cause a significantly larger abundance of nitrogen radicals in the extrapolar stratosphere (not shown) which is linked to increased N_2O input into the stratosphere. In the upper stratosphere and mesosphere GHG induced stratospheric cooling increases the NO_y loss reaction rate (Rosenfield and Douglass, 1998) and therefore causes a NO_x decrease. The combined NO_x change is dominated by the positive GHG effect in the tropical middle stratosphere and by the negative ODS effect in the polar regions and lower stratosphere. In the upper stratosphere and lower mesosphere the total NO_x change between 1960 and 2000 is negative.

This means that in the SH, the combined change of ODSs and GHGs leads to a larger NO_x decrease in the polar region than expected from the sum of the single forcings (shown in Fig. 4b). At midlatitudes, the NO_x decrease is mitigated by nonlinear processes. Since this pattern dominates also the annual mean change (not shown), seasonally asymmetric processes must be involved. In the lower stratosphere the distribution of NO_x is determined by the release from reservoir species which are produced from N_2O and transported via the residual circulation. Thus, nonlinear NO_x changes in the lower stratosphere can be caused by changes in the NO_y production, in the circulation, and/or in the NO_x/NO_y ratio. In the upper stratosphere the dominant form of odd nitrogen is NO_x . Due to the chemical loss through the reaction $\text{NO}+\text{N}$ in the upper stratosphere and mesosphere, a maximum mixing ratio of NO_x occurs at 3 hPa. Thus,

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air masses that are transported downward from the mesosphere are characterized by lower NO_x values.

In the lower stratosphere we find qualitatively the same nonlinear change pattern for NO_y as for NO_x , with only slightly masked absolute values due to a modified partitioning of radicals and reservoir species. Since the release from N_2O shows no significant nonlinear change in the tropics (not shown), a possible explanation for the nonlinear NO_y change is an effect of transport. In the upper stratosphere the larger ozone abundance due to nonlinear processes can reduce the photolysis of NO which reduces the efficiency of the NO_x loss reaction (Rosenfield and Douglass, 1998). Furthermore, the reduced cooling in the tropical upper stratosphere (Fig. 5) tends to decrease the loss. This leads to an increase of NO_x . However, the dipole pattern cannot be explained by these processes. Therefore, transport changes must be involved. The circulation changes due to nonlinear processes are discussed later in more detail.

The significant ozone decrease attributed to chemical loss in the SH polar upper stratosphere in the SON mean (Fig. 6b) is caused by increased O_3 loss in the Chapman and the HO_x cycle, which together exceed the effect of the ClO_x decrease (not shown). The enhanced O_3 loss in the Chapman cycle is explained by nonlinear warming (see Fig. 5 since the SON nonlinear temperature change is comparable to the annual mean), while the increased O_3 loss due to HO_x is related to a nonlinear increase of the HO_x mixing ratio in the upper stratosphere (not shown).

While the ClO_x -catalysed O_3 loss is significantly reduced at all latitudes and all seasons in the upper stratosphere due to nonlinear processes, a significant nonlinear ozone decrease occurs in the SH polar region between 20 and 5 hPa in the SON mean (Fig. 7a). This is not explained by a nonlinear change of the ClO_x mixing ratio, but is probably related to the reduced ozone loss in the NO_x cycle that leads to more O_x available for the catalytic ClO_x cycle. However, the overall nonlinear ozone change attributed to loss in this region is dominated by the ozone increase due to NO_x .

The nonlinear ozone change attributed to chemical production (Fig. 6c) depends on the seasonality of the incoming solar radiation and is therefore slightly different from

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the annual mean. The contribution to the nonlinear ozone change, however, remains negative.

All in all, we find that ozone chemistry is affected by nonlinear changes, but it cannot fully explain the nonlinear ozone changes, in particular the ozone decrease in the Antarctic lower stratosphere in spring. Figure 6d shows the nonlinear ozone change due to ozone transport in the Antarctic spring season. The pattern is qualitatively similar to that for the annual mean (Fig. 2d) which indicates that the effect of nonlinear interactions on ozone transport is largest in the SH spring season. We find a strong dipole signal in each hemisphere: in the SH a significant decrease in ozone due to transport in the polar stratosphere and an increase in the tropics and midlatitudes, and vice versa in the NH. Hence, the nonlinear ozone change pattern in the SH is primarily determined by the nonlinear changes in the ozone transport.

To understand why this dynamically driven nonlinearity is generated, we analyse the changes in the residual mean mass streamfunction (Ψ). Figure 8a shows the change in the mass streamfunction between 1960 and 2000 for the SON mean. The contributions from GHGs, ODSs and the nonlinear term are illustrated in the panels 8b–d, respectively. The absolute field of the streamfunction is positive for clockwise transport from the equator to north pole. The zero- Ψ -line of the 1960 reference simulation is shown in green.

The residual mean circulation is strengthened throughout the stratosphere in the NH between 1960 and 2000 in the SON mean. In the SH the circulation is enhanced in the upper stratosphere and weakened in the lower stratosphere. This is consistent with the results by Li et al. (2008) who analysed simulations with a CCM and reported a weakening of the downward motion in the Antarctic lower stratosphere in SON for the 1960 to 2004 period and an enhancement of the downwelling in the upper stratosphere.

The change in the SH and NH upper stratosphere in the EMAC simulations can be explained by the ODS and GHG forcings, respectively, but the weakening in the SH lower stratosphere occurs only if ODSs and GHGs are changed simultaneously. This

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result shows that in contrast to the findings by McLandress et al. (2010), we detect a small, but significant nonlinear response in our timeslice simulations.

Due to increasing GHG concentrations, the residual circulation is enhanced in the NH upper stratosphere and in the lower stratosphere at low latitudes, as well as in the SH lower stratosphere (Fig. 8b). A reduced wave dissipation in the upper troposphere (seen in the reduced Eliassen–Palm flux (EPF) convergence; Fig. S1b in the Supplement) leads to enhanced wave propagation into the lower stratosphere at mid-latitudes in both hemispheres. In the SH the wave dissipation is enhanced between 100 and 10 hPa leading to a strengthening of the circulation, particularly in the lower stratosphere, but for the NH midlatitudes, the atmospheric structure favours wave propagation (indicated by the change in the refractive properties; see Fig. S2b) into the upper stratosphere, where the waves dissipate and drive the change of the mean mass streamfunction in the upper part (Fig. 8b and Fig. S1b).

In contrast, ODS increase leads to an enhancement of the mass transport in the SH and a reduction in the NH (Fig. 8c), which is also reported by Rind et al. (2009). In the SH the source region of wave energy (EPF divergence) in the UTLS between 30 and 60° S is shifted poleward and intensified (see Fig. S1c). This is probably related to a slight poleward shift of the SH subtropical jet, which is caused by the cooling trend in the Antarctic lower stratosphere and an increase of the latitudinal temperature gradient. The shift of the SH subtropical jet is a known feature in summer months (e.g. Wilcox et al., 2012), but it already starts to develop in SON in the timeslice simulations. In addition, wave dissipation is reduced in the lower stratosphere at midlatitudes, i.e. the atmosphere is more permeable, which leads to increased EPF convergence in the middle and upper SH stratosphere (Figs. S2c and S1c, respectively) and to a strengthening of the SH residual circulation (Fig. 8c). The improved conditions for wave propagation are linked to the positive change of the zonal mean zonal wind (Fig. S3c), that goes along with a later breakdown of the polar vortex (not shown). The NH weakening is explained by Rind et al. (2009), with an extension of the SH circulation change into the NH leading to reduced downwelling at high NH latitudes.

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Finally, nonlinear changes occur, for example, if changes in the atmospheric conditions due to ODSs favour or mitigate the propagation of waves, which in turn are caused by increasing GHGs. In our simulations we find that the strengthening of the residual circulation in the SH lower stratosphere, which arises from both GHG and ODS changes, is weaker for the combined forcing (Fig. 8d). Here, different processes play a role. On the one hand, the wave activity from below is decreased due to less reduced (= increased) wave dissipation in the troposphere. This is linked to a weaker increase of the zonal wind around 60° S (Figs. S1 and S3), which is associated with a weaker meridional temperature gradient in the UTLS and a reduced poleward shift of the SH subtropical jet (compared to the sum of the single forcings). This shift also induces a weakening of the EPF divergence in the lowermost stratosphere (Figs. S1d and S3d). On the other hand, the middle stratosphere is more permeable for waves (Figs. S1d and S2d), which is related to the greater persistence of the polar vortex in SH spring for the combined forcings compared to the sum of the single forcings (not shown), meaning a longer period of westerly winds in spring (Fig. S3d). Thus, while wave dissipation is reduced in the middle stratosphere, it is enhanced in the upper stratosphere, driving the positive circulation change there (Fig. 8d).

In the NH the weakening of the residual circulation which is caused by ODSs and, in the polar lower stratosphere, by GHGs, is compensated by nonlinear interactions. The wave dissipation in the troposphere is decreased at midlatitudes allowing more waves to propagate into the stratosphere. As a consequence the wave dissipation in the middle and upper stratosphere is increased, driving the positive change of the residual circulation (Fig. 8 and Fig. S1d).

This nonlinear behavior of the mass streamfunction is consistent with the changes of the ozone transport, since reduced transport from the tropics to the polar regions causes ozone increase at midlatitudes and decrease at high latitudes. On the other hand, a strengthening of the mass streamfunction in the NH lower stratosphere occurs, which causes an increased transport of ozone to the higher latitudes. Moreover, the changes of the residual circulation provide a possible explanation for the nonlinear

NO_x change pattern in the lower stratosphere (Fig. 4b). A slower mass transport from the tropics to the mid- and high latitudes goes along with a longer transport time, which means that more time is available for the chemical conversion of N₂O. The reduced NO_x values south of 70° S are probably linked to the transport barrier at the edge of the polar vortex, which is more persistent if ODSs and GHGs are increased simultaneously (not shown). In the upper stratosphere, the increased downward motion transports air with low NO_x to the polar region and explains the NO_x decrease.

4 Conclusions

In this study we have performed an attribution of ozone changes between 1960 and 2000 to increasing GHGs and ODSs, explicitly accounting for nonlinearities. A set of idealized simulations with the CCM EMAC allows us to detect nonlinear contributions to changes and to analyse the underlying processes. In contrast to attribution studies using the stratospheric halogen loading as explanatory variable, this method includes all preceding processes like transport and chemical conversion of the halogen source gases. GHG induced changes in the processing of ODSs and the resulting ozone changes are therefore not attributed to ODS changes, but to the nonlinear interaction term. Furthermore, by attributing the ozone changes to increasing mixing ratios of well-mixed GHGs, both temperature and chemical modifications are considered, as opposed to only temperature or CO₂ changes. Thus, ODS induced changes in the abundance of HO_x and NO_x and the resulting ozone changes are attributed to nonlinear processes.

We identified a positive nonlinear contribution to the annual mean global mean ozone change throughout the stratosphere. The largest nonlinear change of 1.2% occurs in the upper stratosphere, where it is half as large as the GHG induced ozone change. This signal is robust in the extra-polar region in all seasons. The main processes that we found driving the nonlinear ozone changes are summarised in the schematic overview in Fig. 9. In the extra-polar upper stratosphere, the nonlinear ozone increase

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is mainly attributed to nonlinearities in chemical ozone loss. We showed that reduced ozone loss is mainly caused by nonlinear processes affecting the ClO_x loss cycle. Interactions between the chlorine species and CH_4 or N_2O products lead to an enhanced formation of chlorine reservoir species, which decrease chemical ozone loss and increase ozone abundance by up to 2.5 %. This is consistent with the results of Nevison et al. (1999). The ClO_x effect is counteracted by more effective ozone loss via the Chapman cycle, which means that the temperature induced decrease of the Chapman loss reaction rate is smaller if GHGs and ODSs are changed at the same time. This is consistent with the findings of Haigh and Pyle (1982), who showed that the sensitivity of ozone to temperature changes decreases with increasing chlorine loading. In the middle stratosphere, nonlinear ozone change due to the NO_x cycle is slightly positive at NH midlatitudes, but larger and negative at SH midlatitudes, which leads to hemispheric asymmetries in the nonlinear ozone loss signal.

Besides the significant nonlinear ozone change in the extra-tropical upper stratosphere, a second region with significant nonlinear annual mean changes is identified in the lower stratosphere SH midlatitudes. Here, reduced ClO_x -catalysed ozone loss together with positive changes in ozone transport are found to be the main drivers of a nonlinear ozone increase. A nonlinear contribution is also found in ozone production, which is significantly reduced globally except for the lower polar stratosphere. The reduced production is related to a reduced photolysis rate of molecular oxygen, which is the consequence of the ozone increase above.

In the SH in spring (SON), a pronounced dipole pattern in the nonlinear ozone change is evident below 10 hPa, with ozone decrease in the polar region and increase at midlatitudes. This is mainly attributed to nonlinear processes affecting ozone transport, but also modulated by nonlinear changes in the ozone chemistry. Due to a nonlinearly weakened meridional mass transport from the tropics and midlatitudes to the SH polar region, less ozone is transported to the high latitudes in the lower stratosphere. In the NH, however, nonlinear interactions lead to an enhanced mass transport and hence to a positive ozone change attributed to transport in the high latitudes and

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a negative ozone change at midlatitudes. Here, the reduced ozone loss in the ClO_x cycle balances the negative signal at midlatitudes and enhances the positive signal at high latitudes. In contrast, at SH midlatitudes the nonlinearly enhanced ozone loss in the NO_x cycle exceeds the positive signal from the ClO_x cycle in the middle stratosphere. No enhancement of the heterogeneous ozone loss due to nonlinear processes is detected in the ozone hole area in spring, but rather a (not significant) mitigation of the chemical ozone depletion.

The integrated effect of the nonlinear processes is evident in the change of the total ozone column. The ODS induced decrease is significantly mitigated in the extra-polar regions by up to 1.1 % in the annual mean.

All in all, we showed that in simulations with the CCM EMAC, simultaneously increased GHG and ODS concentrations leads to nonlinear interactions affecting both ozone chemistry and ozone transport between 1960 and 2000. The nonlinear effect on ozone is small compared to the ODS effect, but for the recent past it is about half as large as the GHG effect. It has to be noted that these results are based on a single model study. Douglass et al. (2012) showed that differences in the balance of loss processes between different CCMs leads to different sensitivity of ozone to temperature and chlorine changes in the upper stratosphere. Analyses of the nonlinear processes with different models are thus needed to confirm the conclusions shown here.

For attribution studies with multiple linear regression analysis, however, one has to be aware of the fact that the basis functions may already be modified by nonlinear interactions. Therefore some processes are not included in the attribution. The appearance of nonlinearities means that the effect of ODS emission changes is to a small percentage dependant on the prevailing GHG concentrations. Thus the future evolution of stratospheric ozone due to the decline of ODSs will not simply be a reversal of the past.

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Table 1. Boundary conditions for the four timeslice simulations indicated by the year of the input timeseries.

	R1960	R2000	GHG2000	ODS2000
GHGs	1960	2000	2000	1960
SSTs/SICs	1955–1964 mean	1995–2004 mean	1995–2004 mean	1955–1964 mean
ODSs	1960	2000	1960	2000
Ozone precursors	1960	2000	2000	1960

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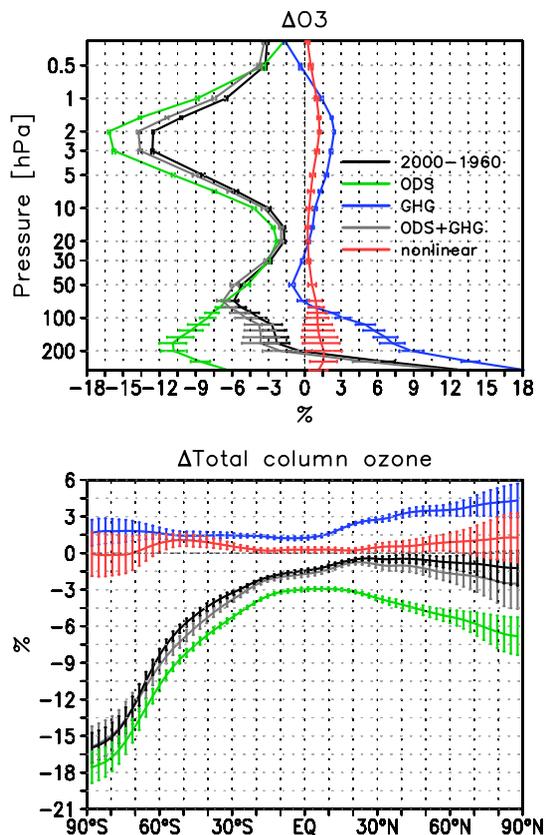


Figure 1. Top: Vertical profile of the annual mean global mean change in ozone mixing ratio (in %) between 1960 and 2000 (black) and the contributions from GHGs (blue) and ODSs (green) and the nonlinear term (red). The sum of the single forcings (GHG + ODS) is shown in grey. The bars denote the 95 % confidence level of the changes. Bottom: Same as the top panel, but for the latitude dependant annual mean change in total column ozone (in %) between 1960 and 2000.

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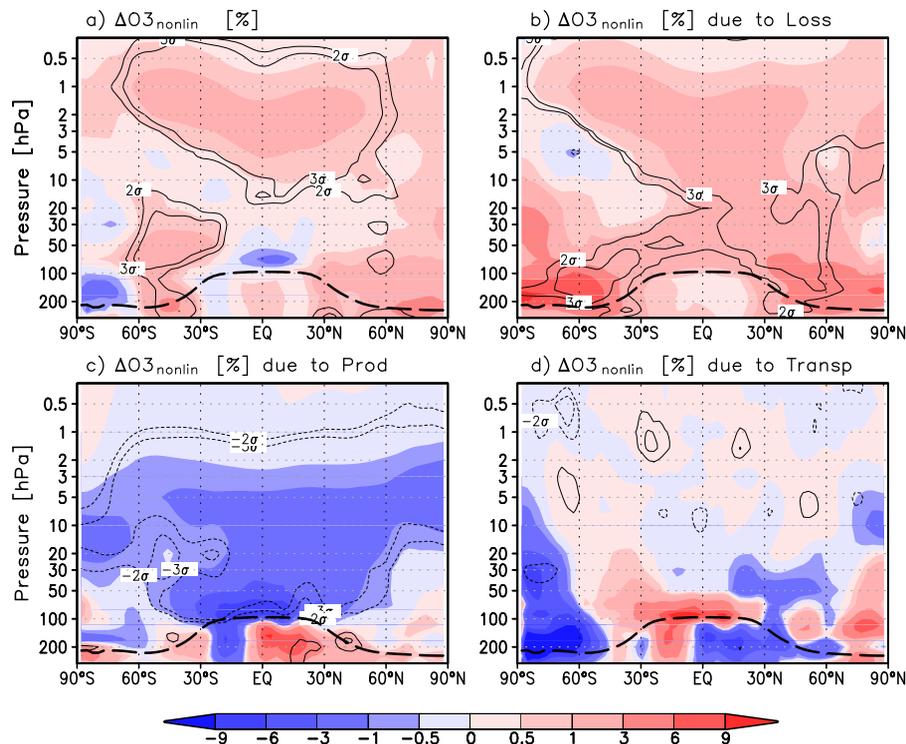


Figure 2. Latitude-height section of the nonlinear contribution to the annual mean ozone change **(a)** between 1960 and 2000 in % and the separation into the contributions from ozone loss **(b)**, ozone production **(c)** and ozone transport **(d)**. Red/blue shading indicates positive/negative changes. The contour lines indicate the regions where the changes are larger than $\pm 2\sigma$ and $\pm 3\sigma$. The bold dashed line shows the mean tropopause location of the R1960 simulation for the annual mean. Note that the contributions from chemistry **(b and c)** and transport **(d)** do not exactly add up to the total **(a)** because of the residual term.

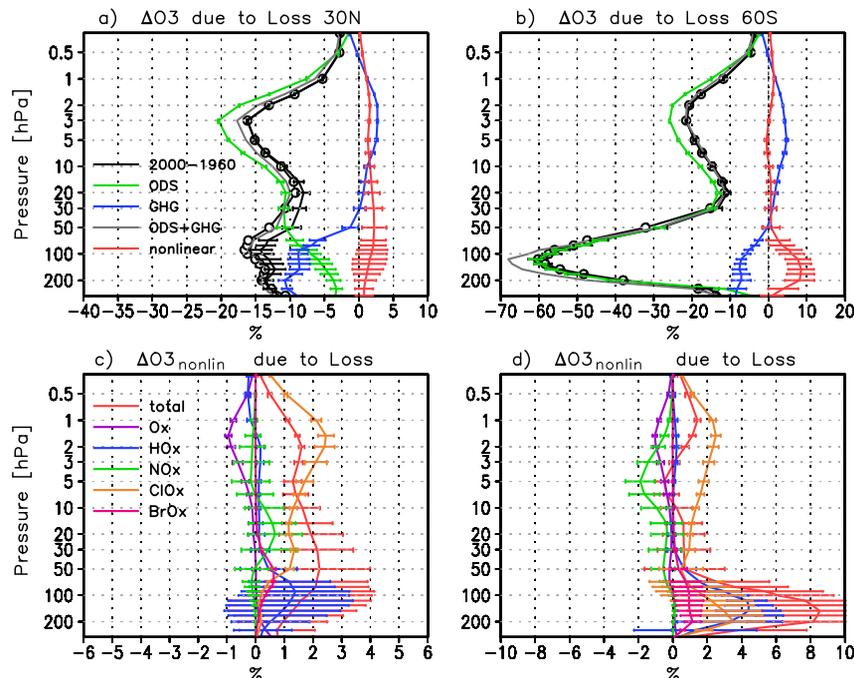


Figure 3. Top: Vertical profile of the relative ozone change due to chemical ozone destruction (black) and its attribution to GHGs (blue), ODSs (green) and nonlinear interactions (red) for the annual mean at 30° N **(a)** and at 60° S **(b)**. The results based on the calculation with the tool *StratO3Bud* are shown as solid lines. For comparison the result of the total change calculated accordingly to Fig. 2b is shown as black line with circles. Bottom: Vertical profile of the nonlinear contribution to the loss induced ozone change (red; see top panel) and the separation into the contributions from the different ozone loss cycles, i.e. the O_x (purple), HO_x (blue), NO_x (green), ClO_x (orange) and BrO_x (magenta) loss cycles for the annual mean at 30° N **(c)** and at 60° S **(d)**. The bars denote the 95 % confidence level of the changes. The contributions from the single loss cycles add up to the total loss change. Note the different scales of the subfigures.

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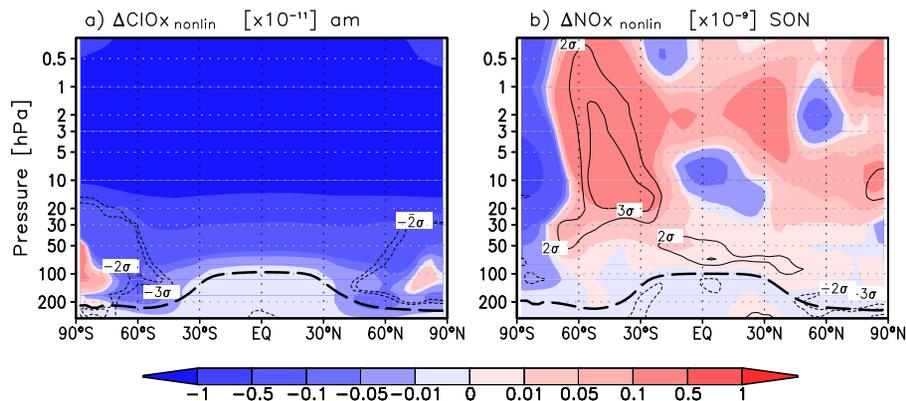


Figure 4. Latitude-height section of the nonlinear change of the annual mean ClO_x mixing ratio **(a)** and the September to November mean NO_x mixing ratio **(b)** between 1960 and 2000. The contour lines indicate the regions where the changes are larger than $\pm 2\sigma$ and $\pm 3\sigma$. The bold dashed line shows the mean tropopause location of the R1960 simulation for the annual mean and the SON mean, respectively.

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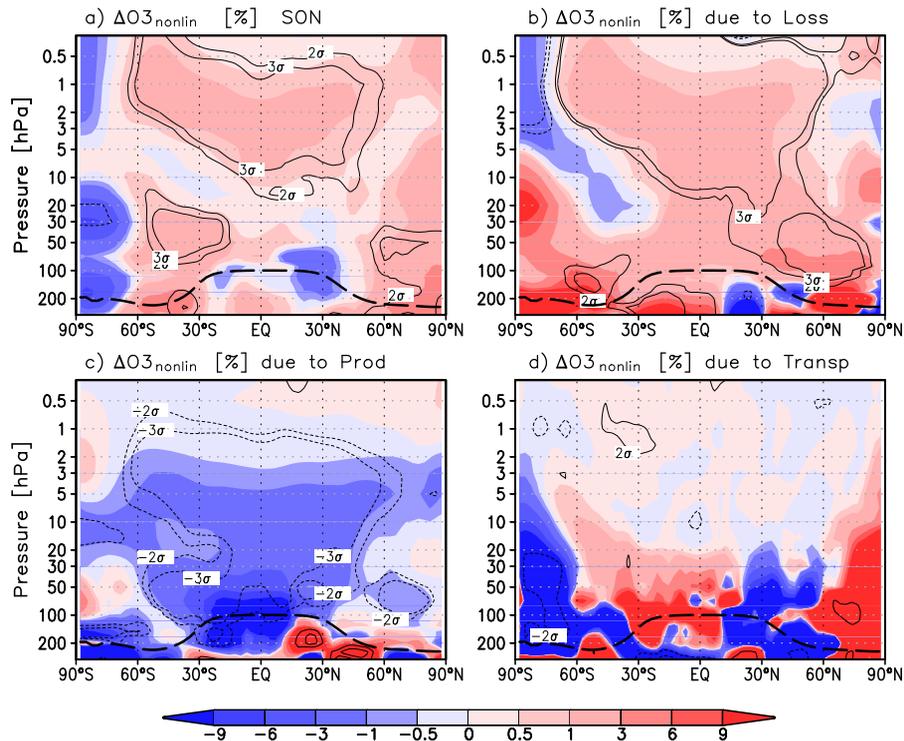


Figure 6. Same as Fig. 2, but for the SON (September, October, November) mean. See text for details.

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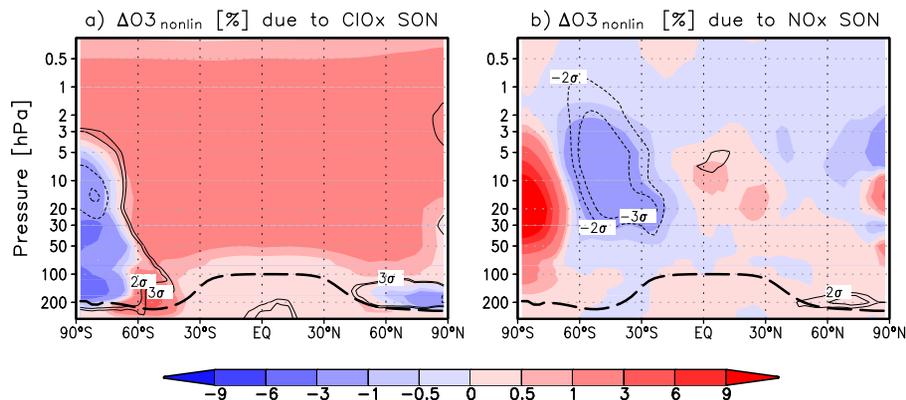


Figure 7. Latitude-height section of the SON mean nonlinear O_3 changes due to the ClO_x (**a**) and the NO_x cycle (**b**) derived from StratO3Bud.

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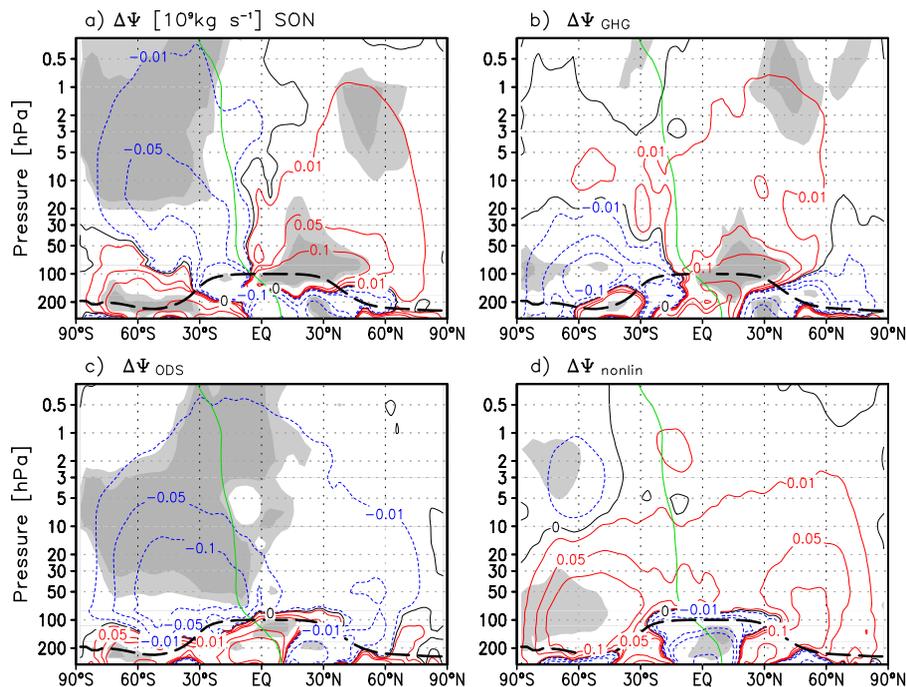


Figure 8. Latitude-height section of the changes in the residual mean mass streamfunction (Ψ) in 10^9 kg s^{-1} between 1960 and 2000 for the SON mean (**a**) and the changes due to GHGs (**b**) and ODSs (**c**) as well as the nonlinear contribution (**d**). The light/dark grey shading indicates statistically significant changes on the 95%/99% confidence level, respectively. The green contour line shows the zero-line of the absolute residual mean mass streamfunction of the 1960 reference simulation (R1960).

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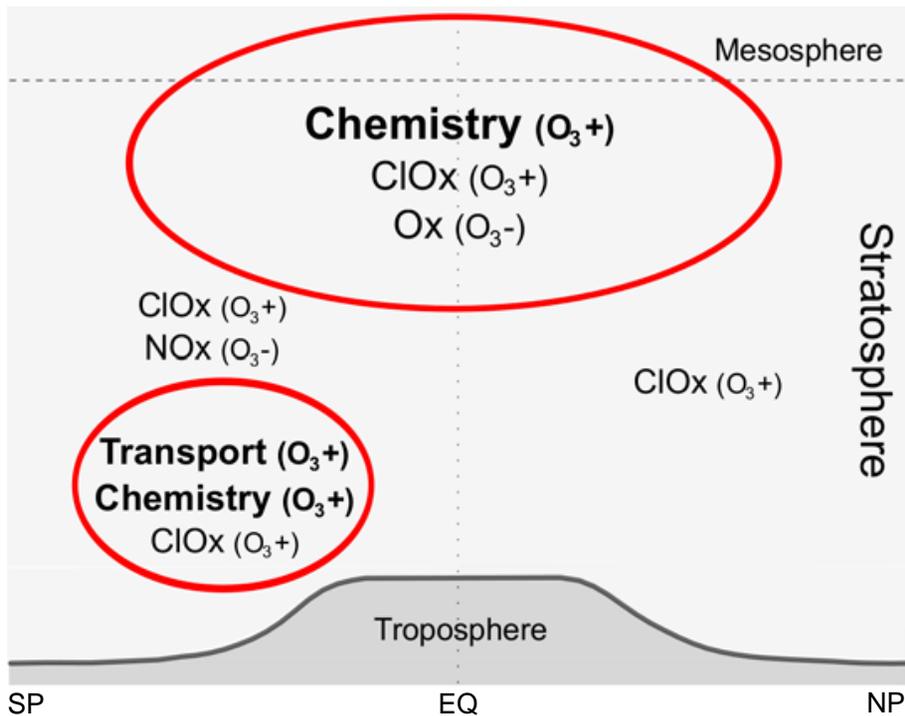


Figure 9. Schematic figure of the annual mean nonlinear ozone change between 1960 and 2000 and the main processes we have identified. (O₃+)/(O₃-) means positive/negative change of ozone due to the indicated process.

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