Interactive comment on “Uncertainties and assessments of chemistry-climate models of the stratosphere” by J. Austin et al.

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This paper presents a very important and good investigation of the possible future development of the ozone layer. The minimum ozone is used as a yardstick for the development. However, the minimum ozone in the Arctic is often caused by high-pressure systems and not ozone depletion. The March trend 1979-1999 in the 63-90N averaged ozone is much larger and more significant (-32+/−20 DU/decade, 2 sigma) than the March/April minimum ozone (-21+/−16 DU/decade according to Table 3). In the period 1979-2000 the trend is even more significant (-32+/−18 DU/decade). Maybe the 63-90N average ozone would be a better yardstick? In the mid-latitudes the averaged ozone might also be a better yardstick, than the minimum ozone, which does not at all show a significant trend in the NH.
Interactive comment on Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., 2, 1035, 2002.