We thank the reviewers for the time and helpful comments on the manuscript. Some comments were common to all reviews and we address these first before addressing more specific comments to each reviewer.

A common note was that the individual station plots lacked units and were difficult to understand. The plots have been redone for the revised manuscript. The conclusion was expanded, and details were added to the revised manuscript.

Reviewer 1 comments

This reviewer has several issues with this paper but all are easily remedied.

1) The primary issue is that the data are not publically available so the reviewer(s) are not able to check any claims made by the authors. The policies of ACPD are a bit vague but many publications will not allow submission of papers citing proprietary data. I suggest putting the new data somewhere where it can be accessed before the release of this paper.

Response. We have an ftp site for the retrieval of the daily values from the WinDobson processing. The actual WinDobson software will be made available on request to the authors.

The following sentence is added to the abstract: “The new WinDobson data is now available from ftp://aftp.cmdl.noaa.gov/data/ozwv/Dobson/WinDobson/. The WOUDC archive is available from http://woudc.org/, and the NDACC archive is available from ftp://ftp.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/ndacc/ The WinDobson Software, Level-0 Dobson data and calibration records are available on request to NOAA.”

2) The second issue is concerning the conclusion section. This section is extremely underwhelming. The reader really wants to know WHY this work was done and to how the Dobson data has changed in a scientific sense. There are large differences in the data at high latitudes (+/- 10 percent!) which should be very easily studied. A couple of paragraphs statistically comparing the new & old datasets to the satellite overpasses for those Dobson stations would be highly useful as would a plot or two, and that added work would make this paper much stronger and more complete.

Response. The conclusion has been rewritten. A formal comparison between these ground stations and the various satellite data records is planned as a separate publication.

3) Can you quantify how much better the new data are? Less noise? Fewer step functions? Less bias? This is the payoff for all that hard work analyzing and revising the old data.

Response. This issue is addressed in the rewritten conclusion section

The overall changes are small (~0.1% offset), but several individual stations have a larger offset (Maximum 0.7%) driven by the changes in the ZC reduction polynomials. With the comparisons with the existing NDACC and WOUDC archives, we were able identify periods with either missing data or incorrectly processed data. The differences between the old and the planned updated archives have overall small offsets and trends (Table 2), but within the long-term record that are
periods with greater differences of which researchers should be aware (see figures 4 through 16, and description of the individual station histories). The paper includes a section that describes individual station histories which provides information on specific to station updates and their effects on the total ozone record. The offsets and trends for differences between the old and the new version of the data are not the same for WOUDC and NDACC archives, as the NDACC set of data is not a perfect match to the one available from the WOUDC archive. For example, Wallops Island NDACC record is 1995-2014, while the WOUDC record is 1967-2014. When the NDACC and WOUDC archives are updated, these archived datasets will be complete and homogenized. Moreover, after all calibrations and the applicable periods were reviewed, the history method of applying calibrations to all of the instruments in the networks has been standardized. The new WinDobson database, available to researchers on request, will allow investigators improving the accuracy of the Dobson retrieval algorithms.

4) Issue 3: When a new calibration or instrument repair was done how were the new calibration values applied? Were they put in as a step function or gradually introduced over time (linearly?) between known calibrations/changes?? Please explain.

Response. We have put a more complete description of the process in the manuscript. “Our investigations of the station and instrument operation history revealed several periods for which different N-tables were used in the archived records as compared to the historical record of NOAA N-tables. Also, when a station instrument is compared to a standard instrument, and the results are within the uncertainty of the measurements (+/-1%), the station instrument’s calibration is considered to be stable and thus is not changed. Otherwise, the instrument’s calibration is changed and the existing data record starting from the time of the last comparison against a standard is reprocessed with the assumption that instrument’s calibration has changed in a linear manner. Using the tools in WinDobson, our studies of the stations’ records allowed comparisons with long term records indicating TOC. These comparisons showed that at certain stations, the calibration change was not linear. Further investigation of stations’ history revealed damage to the instrument at that point (for example, rain entering instrument shelter.) These investigations also identified instances where the comparison against the Dobson standard was not performed correctly, and therefore the calibration should not have been changed.”

5) Specific little changes recommended:

Line 16: remove “for possible changes”
Response. We have fixed the following issues in the revised manuscript.

Line 25: remove comma

I recommend putting lines 36-8 after line 59

Line 57 & 80: you may want to define what the optical wedge is.

Figure 3 is referenced before Figure 2.

Please fix Line 149 is not a sentence

Line 157 selected value of what?

Line 182&235: Change was to were

Line 207: And ‘the’ before Bismarck

Line 236: use “There are data in the archive prior to 1966 but are not connected. . . .

Line 237: change is to are

Line 242: remove commas

Line 247: remove comma

Line 293: “station” appears twice.

All plots are daily averaged Dobson values or individual measurements? Please put units on plots!

Response: The points are daily selected values. Plots have been redone with units, and more information.

Anonymous Referee #2

Received and published: 7 June 2017

General Comments:

This technical note presents the re-evaluation of the total ozone data record derived by Dobson spectroradiometers operating by NOAA. The reprocessed data are compared with the data already deposited to the databases of WOUDC and NDACC. The manuscript includes important information from the history of the different stations and the problems encountered during their long term operation. I think it is a good practice to
publish such information which is usually accessible only from the stations’ personnel.

I see two main weaknesses in this paper. First, the WinDobson software package is not described adequately so that the reader cannot assess the differences in processing of the data compared to the traditional methods. The link provided as reference (end of page 3) does not help because it is a very brief slide presentation. Please, either provide a more suitable reference where the methods are described in detail, or include more details in the text.

Response: This text was added “The new WinDobson data is now available from ftp://aftp.cmdl.noaa.gov/data/ozwv/Dobson/WinDobson/. The WOUDC archive is available from http://woudc.org/, and the NDACC archive is available from ftp://ftp.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/ndacc/. The WinDobson Software as extended by NOAA, Level-0 Dobson data and calibration records are available on request from NOAA Dobson network personnel https://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ozwv/dobson/contact.html”

Also: “Developed by personnel of the Japan Meteorological Agency (Miyagawa, 1996), WinDobson is a software package for operations, data analysis and quality assurance of Dobson spectrophotometer observations. The algorithm for the reduction of ozone from DS observations with the Dobson is the standard method used by the NOAA software, but the ZS observations are reduced with a method described later in this manuscript.

Second, as the authors have long experience and deep knowledge of the Dobson retrieval algorithms and the instrument details, they tend to present their thoughts very briefly assuming that the reader has the same level of knowledge. I suggest to provide some more details so that even people who are not involved directly in the Dobson measurements can follow the paper easily.

Response: We have added more details in a revised manuscript.

Finally there are some rather minor presentation problems that are mentioned explicitly in my specific comments.

I suggest to accept this technical note for publication in ACP after taking into account the following suggestions in the revised manuscript:

Specific comments by line number:

2: Please change to “... intensity of solar radiation between ...”

Response: Updated
Something is missing in this sentence. The importance of the Dobson could not be demonstrated by “using Dobson units”.

Response: This sentence has been removed

This handbook should be included in the References section.

Response: Updated

Please insert here a reference as the meaning of the R and N values is understandable only from scientists experienced in the Dobson.

Response: Addressed by adding more detail in rewording the previous paragraph. This sentence is changed to “The relative intensity of a wavelength pair outside the Earth’s atmosphere is referred to as the extraterrestrial constant (ETC), and the Dobson spectrometer exploits the change in that relationship caused by the passage of UV light through the ozone layer. This is performed by passing a neutral density filter (the optical “wedge”) across the light path of the wavelength less absorbed by ozone--the light passing through slit S-3 (figure 1). The instrument’s output, R-value, indicates the position of the neutral density filter as indicated on an engraved plate, and an N-value is the corresponding attenuation caused by the neutral density filter at that position combined with the instrument’s ETC. The instrument’s ETC is determined either through a Langley Plot method or by direct comparison with a standard Dobson instrument.”

Would “applicability” be a better choice than “usefulness”?

Response: Agreed and Updated.

Although traditionally ozone was archived as single daily values, nowadays individual values within a day are also available. Please revise this sentence accordingly.

Response: Sentence changed. “TOC is normally archived as a single representative value of TOC selected for each day. This not an average value, but the result from the “best” observation during the day. As the exact instrumentation and observational scheduling varies from station to station, the number of observations made daily also vary. The full record of observations is available per request from NOAA Dobson network personnel listed at https://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ozwv/dobson/contact.html”
Anonymous Referee #3

Received and published: 9 June 2017

GENERAL COMMENTS

The authors are to be congratulated for undertaking this major body of work to produce a consistently processed dataset of such long duration stretching back more than fifty years. It is often very difficult to work with such old data and (if it still exists) metadata. The NOAA Dobson record is certainly a crucial dataset for science representing many regions of the globe over these decades, not just the USA. The authors are therefore also to be commended for documenting their reprocessing activity for the ongoing benefit of all users of the data.

However, in its current form I don’t believe the paper is acceptable for ACP, due to its lack of the appropriate level of rigor, and of transparency, for a scientific publication. In too many places the reader unfortunately gets the impression that an old black box has been replaced by a new black box, the operation of both of which is left completely mysterious. At many of the stations shown, the daily values of ozone have very frequently changed by as much as 10-20%, this is a big difference (~ 50 Dobson Units) and needs a proper explanation if the user is to have any confidence in the new dataset, and to meet modern expectations of transparency of data processing.

Comment: This paper is designed to present the new WinDobson dataset to the past Dobson users, to inform them of the changes and improvements in the new datasets. Most of the changes in the new NOAA Dobson total ozone datasets are brought by the conversion from the old processing system to the new, and ACP’s special issue regarding NDACC anniversary seem to be the correct platform to discuss upcoming changes in the reprocessed NOAA Dobson datasets. We acknowledge that the old system had become a “black box” due to changes of personnel and inconsistent methods used through the historical record to create Dobson record. We hope that our revised manuscript meets your requirements for publication.

The revised version of the manuscript should include specific explanation of the old processing as far as possible, but much more importantly, proper explanation of what the current software (WinDobson) is doing. Without this, the current paper cannot serve as any sort of documentation of the re-submitted data in the WOUDC and NDACC databases.

Certainly, the single document referred to with regard to WinDobson is not at all adequate as it contains no information at all about what the software actually does to the data.

The major issues of concern to me in this respect are:
(1) How WinDobson analyses an intercomparison to deduce the calibration – this seems to be different to the old system?

Response: The mathematical analysis of the intercomparison between a standard and “test” instrument in WinDobson is based on the NOAA version. WinDobson adds more visual information to assist with interpretation of the results. In either system, expert human input determines the final calibration, and application of this information to the existing record.

(2) The difference between the "statistical methods" used to calculate zenith corrections in the old and new systems. (The results in some places differ substantially for an unknown reason, for example, refer lines 217-218).

Response: The methods of reducing zenith observations have evolved from empirical hand-drawn charts, to digitized charts converted to table look-up algorithms, and now to multi-variable polynomials. The older methods are difficult to update. The polynomial method can be selectively applied to specific time periods in the record. In regards to the station referred to in lines 217-218, the algorithm designed in 1995 was likely incorrect.

(3) The different methods for selection of a representative daily value. (There is discussion of the complications of time zones but I can’t find a clear statement of how WinDobson does this selection).

Response: Briefly, in both NOAA and WinDobson system, the mostly likely selected observation is an ADDS observation near local noon. WinDobson has some different “weighting” in the selection. A section was added:

“Windobson Selection Rules.

Often there are multiple observations on an individual day. The observations are given an internal numeric code in WinDobson, based on the observation type, and operator input about the observation atmospheric conditions. The representative value is chosen by the software with the priority groups given below, high to lowest. If there are multiple observations of the highest priority on that day, the observation closest in time to local noon is chosen. After the automatic selection, the daily representative values are reviewed by human inspection with possible intervention to select a different value. The WinDobson software also has quality control routines that rates individual observations as good, questionable (flagged yellow) and likely bad (flagged red), based on internal consistencies of the measurements. If an observation is rejected by the human inspector, the observation is not removed from the data record, but flagged as “not included”.

Priority Groups are listed here; Operator inputs as to sky quality are included in determining priority:

1. Direct Sun observations using the AD pair combination with or without Ground Quartz Plate
(diffuser) in the instrument’s inlet window. Observations with diffuser have higher priority.

2. Zenith Sky observations using the AD pair combination, observations on the clear zenith have higher priority over those on cloudy conditions.

3. Direct Sun observations using the CD pair combination with Ground Quartz Plate (diffuser) in the instrument’s inlet window. Observations without diffuser have lower priority.

4. Zenith Sky observations using the CD pair combination, observations on the clear zenith have higher priority over those on cloudy conditions.

5. Zenith Sky observations using the CC’ pair combination, observations on the clear zenith have higher priority over those on cloudy conditions.

6. Observations on light reflected from the moon. Observations using AD pair combination have higher priority. Note these observations are rarely made other than at the South Pole Station during the austral winter.”

Another general comment is that it seems in many cases (for a reason that is obscure to me) the WOUDC archive is missing long periods of data (indeed whole years at many stations eg Mauna Loa, South Pole, Boulder) and at some other stations WOUDC holds an out-of-date version of the data (eg Wallops Island, OHP, Perth, Lauder). Perhaps it would be more pertinent to compare the new dataset with the internal NOAA archive in these cases, which I assume doesn’t contain these long gaps and has the most recent re-processing results? (This is only a suggestion.)

Response: The general portals for the daily Total ozone values are the WOUDC and NDACC archives. It is true that many researchers have requested observations for certain stations and periods directly from NOAA. The historic internal NOAA archive will be retained, but the WinDobson archive will become the operation archive.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS

Line 20: "data quality controls built into the new software" – I am not saying this should be in the abstract but in the body of the paper, the authors should explain it what these tools are, and in particular, is the software identifying or removing bad data (and if so, how?) or are the tools merely GUIs to assist manual QC?

Response: We have added various details throughout the revised manuscript.

Line 29 "either . . . and " should be "either . . . or"

Response: Corrected

Line 29 Does the figure really add anything? It seems to be based heavily on WMO Report GAW 183? The optical arrangement seems to be included just for interest rather than being referred to again in the text.
Response: The revised section “Background” now refers to the details in figure 1.

Line 33: "The importance of the Dobson Spectrophotometer and its measurements are demonstrated by use of Dobson Units . . . " This statement does not follow logically and is not suitable for a scientific publication.

Response: Sentence removed.

Line 33 "KM" should be "km" Line 38 – GAW Report 183 should be listed in the references.

Response: The lines 25-59 have (Section: Background) have been revised with more detail.

Line 40 "The instrument’s readings . . . caused by its passage" – the way this sentence is written the instrument is passing through the ozone layer!!

Response: The lines 25-59 have (Section: Background) have been revised with more detail.

Line 41 "N-value" should be better explained

Response: The lines 25-59 have (Section: Background) have been revised with more detail.

Line 41 I object to the use of the terminology "RtoN tables". The community term is "N tables", I think this paper needs to be consistent with GAW Report 183 and all earlier reports and papers and not introduce different terms for the same thing.

Response: Agreed and Updated

Line 43 "The usefulness" – "usefulness" is not the right word here. The table will always be useful but it might become inaccurate over time.

Response: The lines 25-59 have (Section: Background) have been revised with more detail.

Lines 45-47 The various metrological terms are not being used in the ISO sense as recommended by GCOS (eg GCOS 200 page 293), but I concede many in the scientific community do not follow these either.

Response: The word “uncertainty” has been added

Line 46 – where does the figure of 1% come from? Is there a source for this?

Response: The lines 25-59 have (Section: Background) have been revised with more detail.

Line 47 – “the accuracy is dependent on knowledge of the ozone and temperature profile" – I find this wording misleading because in fact you don’t have any knowledge of the ozone or temperature profile at the time of measurement and have to make assumptions
Response: The lines 25-59 have (Section: Background) have been revised with more detail.

Line 48 "a static value" – I also find this wording misleading because a reader might assume each station has its own (static) value – I suggest re-wording to make it clearer that the same value is used at all locations whatever their geographic position as well as all times of the year. The fact that the height of the ozone layer also is just approximated should also be stated.

Response: The lines 25-59 have (Section: Background) have been revised with more detail.

Line 52 – give a source for the "2-5%"

Response: The lines 25-59 have (Section: Background) have been revised with more detail.

Line 61 – "there are measurements of TOC" – perhaps change to "there are records of measurements .."

Response: Agreed and Updated

Line 65 – "Two stations have been either closed or been transferred .." – wouldn’t it be easier to say one station has been closed and one has been transferred?

Response: Agreed and Updated

Line 77 – "RLA" – I don’t believe this term is commonly used in the Dobson community but I might be wrong – I can’t find it in GAW #183.

Response: Agreed and removed this term.

Line 79 "referencing" -> referencings

Response: Agreed and Updated

Line 82 "calibration tables" – this term needs defining – the reader will not know if it is the same as the N-tables or not.

Response: Agreed and Updated

Line 84 "is to be reprocessed" – I find this expression strange, it sounds like something from a manual, but the paper needs to say what has actually been done in practice.

Response: Sentence changed to “When the calibration N-tables are changed due to a drift (determined from an inspection of the past calibrations, instrument operational history, and, if possible, comparison with other instrumental records), the existing data set from the last calibration change to the new calibration was reprocessed and re-published in the archives.”
Line 85 – "... by the 2010s were difficult to use and maintain" – perhaps this comment is more relevant to the work itself and not so relevant to the paper, but I don’t find it very credible. It couldn’t have been too difficult to recompile the old Fortran code on a modern PC (unless maybe the source code had been lost?) I am sure the old programs couldn’t have been very complicated.

Response: This is a NOAA workforce issue, and the reason for change in the processing software.

Line 89 – the document at the weblink is really just an advertising brochure containing various screen shots. It has no information about what the software actually does in terms of how it treats the data. I see this as the single major weakness of the present manuscript. I don’t believe it is acceptable in the year 2017 to submit data to databases but without disclosing how the data have been processed.

Response: We have removed this sentence and modified the following to read: “Developed by personnel of the Japan Meteorological Agency (Miyagawa, 1996), WinDobson is a software package for operations, data analysis and quality assurance of Dobson spectrophotometer observations. For the NOAA application, new components were developed. These new components are available from NOAA to other users of WinDobson. It is applicable for both TOC and Umkehr (ozone vertical profile) measurements. As this software has a different statistical method for the reduction of the zenith measurements, and set of rules (See section: WinDobson Selection Rules) for determining the representative value of total ozone for each day with observations, the entire data record of each operational station was reprocessed in the WinDobson system to minimize the effect of the change when future data is placed in the archive. In the development of the data files and calibration information for WinDobson processing, the entire record of observations, repair and calibration checks of each station was investigated and re-evaluated. This investigation allows for correction of past errors.

Line 90 – "this software has a different statistical method ... and set of rules ..." - which need to be explained in the next section

Response: This has been changed with the response to previous comment

Line 98 "personnel inspection" – perhaps replace with "human inspection" or "inspection by personnel"?

Response: Agreed and Updated

Line 103 "...comparisons ... could be performed using tools internal to WinDobson ..." – the important thing here which is left unsaid is what was done with the comparison values? Was it just for interest or was it part of the QC process? Does WinDobson automatically exclude outliers? Clearly if you’re deleting different points in a day that will change the daily value unless I am missing something?

Response: The initial comparison with external records was done to identify errors in the selection of
appropriate N-tables, a part of the QC Process. WinDobson does not automatically exclude outliers, but does choose a single observation as the representative daily value. This observation may not be the same as the one chosen in the NOAA processing. This can be changed by inspection by personnel. We have added more details.

Line 106 "fundamental wavelength pairs" – there has been no explanation of why ADDS are being considered "fundamental"?

Response: We added the following sentence: “The ADDS observations are considered the most reliable (fundamental), as the equation derived for conversion to ozone minimizes the Rayleigh scattering term, and the aerosol term can be considered to be zero.”

Line 108 "Time periods with differences greater than this were investigated to determine the source of the problem, and correct any differences" I can’t understand what you were doing here, sorry, were the differences caused by mistakes of some sort? Please clarify.

Response: The sentence was poorly written and will be replaced. “Time periods with differences greater than this +/- 1 DU were investigated to determine the source of the problem, and correct any differences.”

Line 113 "The new method has resulted in ~91% of zenith sky derived total ozone (ADZB) within 2% . . ." Is this comparison based on the same time period that has been used to derive the coefficients for the statistical relationship, or have you used one period to calculate the coefficients and then a second period to test the fit? Otherwise it is possible to over-fit an overly complicated function (eg 6-degree polynomials in multiple variables) which gives excellent results in the training period but not afterwards.

Response: The polynomial coefficients are defined for a particular time periods, using days with both ADDS and ZS observations. The 91% number is based on that same time period.

Line 114 "the 2006 Operations Handbook" – this report should be referenced and referred to by a consistent name.

Response: Agreed and Updated

Line 114 "the 78% value" – but this value comes from a short study conducted in the 1950s!! Surely there is something more recent and thorough you could compare to?

Response: The NOAA processing was derived from the study in the 1950s, so this comparison is appropriate.

Line 128 – "... some adjustments were made in the WinDobson process for some stations" – please explain
what you did – this seems very arbitrary?

**Response:** Changed to “The history of the instrument calibrations was again reviewed, and changes in the N-tables and the periods of the use of N-tables within the WinDobson system were made as needed. The differences stem from a number of reasons.”

Line 133 "The older processing included time periods of special processing . . ." – maybe I am misunderstanding this, but it sounds like previously attempts were made to correct for the two mentioned problems, but now you’re not going to try to correct for them anymore? Why wouldn’t this be a problem?

**Response:** We are changing the text of this section to better explain how the older (1995 and earlier) special processing was imported into WinDobson (extracting the adjustments from the LLF files). The method for applying drift corrections is different in WinDobson processing, and no attempt is made to “correct” for SZA dependency with some instruments, as the dependency is controlled by the internally scattered light within the instrument. This internally scattered light has yet to be measured for individual Dobson instruments.

Line 140 "The older processing modified the reference lamp correction . . ." I just can’t make sense of this sentence sorry, is it possible to make it clearer? Line 149 "For some stations . . ." The paragraph explains why this is tricky, but I can’t see any clear statement of how it should be done, or how the old software used to do it, or how the new software does it? This needs to be explicit.

**Response:** We have updated the text of this section for a clearer explanation.

Line 154 "Data archives sometimes failed to be updated . . ." I also found this statement hard to make sense of. Are you saying NOAA updated your internal records but neglected to pass on the reprocessed data to WOUDC?

**Response:** There are times when either the data was not transmitted to the WOUDC, or the WOUDC did not update the archive. This work will correct those mistakes.

Line 168 "the new R-N tables" – this is inconsistent with the terminology used earlier in the manuscript "RtoN tables" but again I would prefer the community-accepted term "N tables".

**Response:** Agreed and Updated

Line 174 "... probability distributions ..." I agree distributions are the clearest way to show the difference. The fact the curves are symmetric shows there is no systematic bias but I would have thought the most important point was the width of the curves reflecting the uncertainty.

**Response:** Agreed and Updated

Line 183 "... compared to WinDobson record" -> "... compared to the WinDobson record"
Response: Agreed and Updated

Line 189 "The NDACC archive appears to have updates not reflected in the WOUDC Archive." – How is this situation possible? Did NOAA forget to send in the reprocessed data or was it a deliberate decision? Does NOAA retain its own archive which contains all updates?

Response: There are times when either the data was not transmitted to the WOUDC, or the WOUDC did not update the archive. This work will correct those mistakes.

Line 200 "There are several periods missing from the archive, including all of 2015". Again, I don’t really understand this situation? Why would a whole year be missing? Given the large apparent gaps, would this study be more meaningful if it compared NOAA’s internal archive rather than WOUDC?

Response: Many researchers use the WOUDC archive, and need to understand that the time series in the archive has changed.

Line 217 "This station record shows a larger offset . . . . Due to the change in zenith observation results" But why? What exactly has changed? Why would it be bigger at this station than the other? Wouldn’t Nashville be sunny anyway and have a smaller proportion of zenith observations?

Response: Nashville site is the National Weather Office near Old Hickory, TN. The change to the polynomial method for reduction of zenith observations changed the results of these observations enough to create an offset, as 43% days are reported as ZS. Boulder reports 28% ZS.

Line 227 "The selection of observations should be changed . . . ." What does "should be" mean here? Have they actually been changed in the new processing or not?

Response: Sentence is changed. “Researchers are advised that this instrument shows patterns in the comparison with other instrumentation that imply an under estimation of ozone on the ADDS wavelength under conditions of low sun and high ozone.”

Line 237 "The data from July 2013 to July 2014 is missing from the Archive". I assume "the Archive" means WOUDC? Again we have the situation I find very strange that a whole year is simply not present.

Response: The archiving will correct these errors.

Line 246 "Alaska" -> "Alaska, USA"

Response: Fixed.

Figure 2 – I think this is a good plot but: - South Pole seems to be missing. - The blue lines for "others" seem pretty bad to me at some stations, eg BNA, FBK, WAI, BRW, SMO. This does not seem consistent with the earlier
claim of 2-5% for zenith readings.

**Response:** This plot is updated with correct naming. The blue line for others (ZS) is the probability of a change in the zenith result with the change to Figure 3 – I think this is a good plot too.

Figures 4-17 general comments - In the caption, I would prefer the full station name be given rather than the 3-letter code, a reader outside of NOAA would find this cumbersome - Does panel 1 really show daily values? There don’t seem to be enough dots. - It is confusing enough, that panel 1 shows ozone in DU but then panel 2 changes to percentage difference, but made doubly so by the fact that the y-axes aren’t labelled! - In panels 2 and 4, rather than the red line showing the linear trend, which I don’t think is very pertinent, it would be better to show the zero line - Panels 3 and 5 should also show a zero line - Do the labels on the black vertical lines mean the end of each year? Usually "2015" on a tick mark would label the start of 2015, not the end.

**Response:** The plots and captions have been updated with more information. Panel 1 shows each day that has a selected value reported. Not all stations are operated seven days a week.

Figure 5 – There is an abrupt shift in the mid 1980s which looks unphysical – could you comment on this? - Panels 4 and 5 show some very high values for the differences, many months being between 10 and 20%. Can you really account for this?

**Response:** This is the South Pole station. The station history paragraph is changed to “

South Pole Station was established in 1957. The first Dobson instrument failed due to the extreme cold. Observations started again in 1961 and these results are in the NOAA archive, but the calibration record dates from 1963. The normal routine established in 1985 is to change the instrument every four years for calibration checks, but this was not always achieved. This station has the possibility of large changes in reported daily values in the WinDobson, primarily due to the extended daily observation period, and high variation in total ozone during certain periods of the year. The station local day is the same as that of Christchurch, New Zealand for ease of logistics, but the Dobson observations are reported in the WOUDC in UTC date and hour. The date and time combination often is misleading (for example, In the WOUDC archive, 14 November 1994 has a time of 28 hours UTC, which matches the WinDobson and NDACC 15 November 1994 values.) The calculation of the astronomical parameters used in the algorithm for reducing reflected moon observations was incorrect in the NOAA program throughout the period of record. Changes in the method of deriving total ozone from ZS observations improved the average with respect to DS averages, but creates differences between the old and new archives. There are several periods missing from the WOUDC and NDACC archives (for example, July through December 2002.) The difference between the WOUDC and NDACC archives records processed in the NOAA system and WinDobson system are presented graphically in Figure 5. The exclusion of low TOC values in early October in the archived data (small white circles are outside of the plot range) in some years also produces
large percentage differences in the averages (see large deviations in open circles seen in some years in the panel c and e). An example is October 1994, where there are 25 reported days in the WinDobson record but only 18 reported in the WOUDC, and only 10 in the NDACC archive. These inconsistencies can produce large percentage differences, especially during low ozone conditions.

The rules for selection and inclusion of days in the archives appear have been inconsistent in earlier (NOAA) processing and archiving. The NDACC archive prior to 1999 has TOC expressed as Vertical Column Density (molecules/cm**2). These numbers appear to have been calculated from DU, as this archive is derived from the WOUDC archive. There are periods where this calculation was done incorrectly (for example, October 1998, where the NDACC values differ by more than 100 DU when converted back to DU.) While the NDACC archive is supposed to be derived from the same internal NOAA archive as WOUDC, there are is random differences (For example, February 1981 is missing from the NDACC archive.) The change in the yearly cycle of TOC (Panel A) is evident in the austral spring due the depletion related to chlorofluorocarbon release (Farman etal, 1985). Station and observing schedules were changed to accommodate research needs after that 1985.

Figure 11 - In the first ten years or so there are some very low values of total ozone (down to 200 DU) which then disappear after 1979. This looks like bad data to me. - There is a step change in the difference around 2005 but I didn’t see any explanation for the cause.

Response: Thank you for noticing this error. This plot is corrected.

Table 2 I’m not sure the offset and, in particular the linear trend, are worth giving in the table. It would seem very unlikely that a reprocessing such as this would end up resulting in a long-term trend. I would rather see a summary of the distributions shown in figure 2, such as 2 sigma values for, perhaps AD-DS, CD-DS, AD-ZB, AD-ZC.

Response: We are retaining the table, as we think it useful. The summary of figure 2 is given table 3. Note that the figure 3 gives the percent of ADDS results that change within +/-1% in conversion to WinDobson.

Table 3 I think the idea of this table is good but it is slightly misleading because there seems to be a lot of variations between the stations and the table shows combined results. Some of the stations have much greater spread than the overall average figures. However, I wouldn’t object to this if table 2 could be changed to give station-by-station distribution figures as suggested above.

Response: We are retaining the table, as we think it useful.
The US Dobson Station Network Data Record Prior to 2015, Re-evaluation of NDACC and WOUDC archived records with WinDobson processing software

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Abstract. The United States government has operated Dobson Ozone Spectrophotometers at various sites, starting during the International Geophysical Year (July 1, 1957 to December 31, 1958). A network of stations for long-term monitoring of the total column content (thickness of the ozone layer) of the atmosphere was established in the early 1960s, and eventually grew to sixteen stations, fourteen of which are still operational and submit data to the United States of America’s National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Seven of these sites are also part of the Network for the Detection of Atmospheric Composition Change (NDACC), an organization that maintains its own data archive. Due to recent changes in data processing software the entire data set was re-evaluated for possible changes. To evaluate and minimize potential changes caused by the new processing software, the reprocessed data record was compared to the original data record archived in the World Ozone and UV Data Center (WOUDC) in Toronto, Canada. The history of the observations at the individual stations, the instruments used for the NOAA network monitoring at the station, the method for reducing zenith sky observations to total ozone, and calibration procedures were re-evaluated using data quality control tools built into the new software. At the completion of the evaluation, the new data sets are to be published as an update to the WOUDC and NDACC archives, and the entire data set is to be made available to the scientific community. The procedure for reprocessing Dobson data and the results of the re-analysis on the archived record is presented in this paper. A summary of historical changes to fourteen station records is also provided.

The new WinDobson data is now available from ftp://aftp.cmdl.noaa.gov/data/ozwv/Dobson/WinDobson/. The WOUDC archive is available from http://woudc.org/, and the NDACC archive is available from ftp://ftp.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/ndacc/. The WinDobson Software as extended by NOAA, Level-0 Dobson data and calibration records are available on request to NOAA Dobson network personnel https://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ozwv/dobson/contact.html”
The Dobson ozone spectrophotometer was designed in the 1920s and is still in use today. The instrument is fully described elsewhere (Dobson, 1931, 1968), but briefly, it measures the relative intensity of solar radiation between selected wavelength pairs in the range of 300-350 nanometers. These pairs are named A (305.5 and 325.4 nanometers (nm)), C (311.5 and 334.4 nm), C' (334.4 and 453.6 nm) and D (317.5 and 339.8 nm); and are combined in the measurement process either as A and D (AD); C and C' (CC'); or C and D (CD). The optical arrangement of the instrument is presented in Figure 1. Measurements on either direct solar light or scattered from the zenith can be used to calculate the amount of ozone between the instrument and the top of the atmosphere (total ozone column or TOC). Approximately 90% of this TOC resides in the region between 15 and 30 km above the Earth’s surface that is defined as the ozone layer.

The relative intensity of wavelength pairs measured if instrument was outside the Earth’s atmosphere is referred to as the extraterrestrial constant (ETC). The instrument’s ETC is determined either through a Langley Plot method (Langley, 1884) or by direct comparison with a standard Dobson instrument (Komhyr and Evans, 2008). The concept of measurement of Dobson spectrophotometer exploits the change in the ratio of Solar light intensities measured at the respective wavelength pairs as caused by the passage of UV light through the ozone layer. The light enters the instrument (figure 1), and the right side of the optics produce a spectrum projected on a slit arrangement containing slits S_2, S_3 and S_4 (only used for C' measurements). The left side of the optics combines the images of the slits into the Photomultiplier tube. The measurement of the relative intensities is performed by moving a neutral density filter (the optical “wedge”) across the light path of the wavelength less absorbed by ozone, specifically the light passing through slit S_3. The wedge is moved to reduce the light intensity of S_3 to equal the intensity of S_2, the wavelength more absorbed by ozone, as seen by the Photomultiplier tube. The instrument’s output, R-value, indicates the position of the neutral density filter as indicated on an engraved plate, which is the primary measurement and is specific to the Dobson instrument optical properties.

The N-value represents the attenuation by ozone and in the UV light’s passage through the atmosphere between the sun and the instrument. The relationship between R-values and N-values is both wavelength and instrument specific. R-values are converted to N values using tables called R to N tables (N-tables). These tables change during the instruments’ lifespans due to repairs, updates and aging, thus each set has a limited period of application. The applicability of the N-table is monitored by means of intercomparisons with standard Dobson instruments, and with the use of instrument specific reference lamps. The calculation of ozone from observations made on the direct sun (DS) light (or reflected light from the moon) is with a defined algorithm based on Beer’s law. The resolution of the measurement is 1 DU, and the precision (uncertainty) is considered to be ±1% (Grant, W., 1989). Accuracy is another issue. The accuracy is dependent on knowledge of the ozone and temperature profile at the time of the measurement to correctly calculate the ozone absorption cross section. As this information is not available for individual observations, some assumptions must be made. A standard algorithm for the reduction of direct sun observations (Komhyr, et. al., 1993) is used by all organizations reporting daily values to the WOUDC or NDACC archives. The accuracy is also dependent on the knowledge of the ozone cross-section datasets used to determine the absorption coefficients in the reduction algorithm (Redondas, et al, 2014). The reduction of measurements on the zenith sky (ZS) is more complicated, as it is based on statistical analysis of DS and ZS observations close in time. The precision (uncertainty) of ZS empirical model is found to be 2-5% in this work, and is dependent on the wavelength pairs used and the sky conditions. An accepted method of statistical analysis is not defined in the standard operating procedures; different organizations using the instrument employ...
different methods to build the empirical relation between direct sun and zenith sky measurements (Josefsson and Löfvenius, 2008.)

The Dobson instrument has limitations in the accuracy of measurements at certain observing conditions (Basher, 1982). Internal stray light is one such limitation. Moreover, each Dobson instrument has unique optical components that result in an instrument specific level of the stray light. The quality and aging stability of the individual wedge construction has improved over time; especially for instruments within the NOAA network, which had optical components replaced with those of a more robust design during instrument rebuilding in the 1980s.

Data reduction algorithms are fully discussed in the Section 7 of the Operations Handbook – Ozone Observations with a Dobson Spectrophotometer available from the World Meteorological Organization Global Atmosphere Watch.

(http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/arep/gaw/documents/GAW183-Dobson-WEB.pdf) The Dobson-ozone spectrophotometer was designed in the 1920s, and is still in use today. The instrument is fully described (Dobson, 1931, 1968), but briefly, it measures the relative difference of intensity between selected wavelength pairs in the range 300-350 nanometers. These pairs are named A (305.5 and 325.4 nanometers (nm)), C (311.5 and 334.4 nm), C’ (334.4 and 453.6 nm) and D (317.5 and 339.8 nm); and are combined in the measurement process either as A and D (AD); C and C’ (CC’); and C and D (CD). The optical arrangement of the instrument is presented in Figure 1. Measurements on either direct solar light or scattered from the zenith can be used to calculate the amount of ozone between the instrument and the top of the atmosphere (total ozone column or TOC). Approximately 90% of this TOC resides in the region between 15 and 30 KM above the Earth’s surface that is defined as the ozone layer. The importance of the Dobson Spectrophotometer and its measurements are demonstrated by use of Dobson Units (DU) to reference the thickness of the ozone layer. One DU is equivalent to a layer 0.01mm of pure ozone at standard temperature and pressure.

Data reduction is fully discussed in the Section 7 of the Operations Handbook – Ozone Observations with a Dobson Spectrophotometer available from the World Meteorological Organization Global Atmosphere Watch.

(http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/arep/gaw/documents/GAW183-Dobson-WEB.pdf)

The instrument’s readings (R-values) are converted to an indicator of the relative intensity difference caused by its passage through the ozone layer (N-value), including the instrument’s extra-terrestrial constant using a set of RtoN tables. These tables change during the instruments’ lifespan due to repairs, updates and aging, thus each set has a limited period of application. The usefulness of the RtoN table is monitored by means of intercomparisons with standard Dobson instruments, and with the use of instrument specific reference lamps. The calculation of ozone from observations made on the direct sun (DS) light (or reflected light from the moon) is with a defined algorithm based on Beer’s law. The resolution of the measurement is 1 DU, and the precision is considered to be ±1%, based on repeatability. Accuracy is another issue. The accuracy is dependent on knowledge of the ozone and temperature profile at the time of the measurement to correctly calculate the ozone absorption cross section. The accepted method is to use a static value for the station based on a standard
northern mid-latitude ozone and temperature profile in the algorithm. The accuracy is also dependent on the knowledge of the ozone cross-section datasets used to determine the absorption coefficients in the reduction algorithm (Redondas, et al., 2014). The reduction of measurements on the zenith sky (ZS) is more complicated, as it is based on statistical analysis of direct sun and zenith sky observations close in time. The precision of ZS is considered to be 2-5%, and is dependent on the wavelength pairs used and the sky conditions. The actual method of statistical analysis is not defined in the standard operating procedures. Different organizations using the instrument employ different methods. The Dobson instrument has limitations in the accuracy of measurements at certain observing conditions (Basher, 1982). Internal stray light is one such limitation. Moreover, each Dobson instrument has unique optical components that result in an instrument-specific level of the stray light. The quality and aging stability of the individual wedge construction has improved over time; especially for instruments within the NOAA network, which had optical components replaced with those of a more robust design during instrument rebuilding in the 1980s.
Station History

There are measurements of TOC in the USA prior to 1960 made by University and Federal organizations (Brönnimann, S., 2003), but the development of a coherent network of observing sites within the US Weather Service was started in the 1960s under the guidance of Walter Komhyr. The network was transferred to NOAA’s Global Monitoring for Climate Change (GMCC) in the early 1970s, and is currently operated by NOAA’s Earth System Research Laboratory’s Global Monitoring Division (ESRL/GMD). As many as 16 stations comprised the network since its establishment. One station was closed; another was transferred to another parent authority. Two stations have been either closed or been transferred to another parent authority. Table 1 displays the stations reporting at end of 2015. Originally, observations using the Dobson instruments were recorded with pen or pencil on forms designed to assist manual calculations (https://youtu.be/w1rV_96UChk). As computer power increased, the data was transcribed to punched cards for processing, then to direct entry by keyboard. By the mid-1990s, the NOAA instruments were equipped with computers and encoders, and the data was recorded in a “dayfile” at the time of the measurement. Six stations were equipped with fully automated instruments in the 1980s.

Data Processing

TOC is normally archived as a single representative value of TOC selected for each day. This not an average value, but the result from the “best” observation during the day. As the exact instrumentation and observational scheduling varies from station to station, the number of observations made daily also vary. The entire record of observations is available on request from NOAA, The full record of observations is available per request from NOAA Dobson network personnel listed at https://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ozwv/dobson/contact.html. TOC is normally archived as a single representative value selected for each day. In this publication, the term “select” value means the daily value produced in the NOAA processing stream. An earlier reprocessing of the stations’ data was done in the 1990s (Komhyr, et al, 1995); the report also details much of the early history of measurements in the US system of stations.

To convert measurements to TOC values, calibration (RtoN) tables and information (reference lamp adjustment) from monthly instrument tests using reference lamps are required. The N-tables are defined by comparison of the station instrument to a reference standard. These referencings are normally done on four to six year schedule. The calibration of the wedge is normally measured at the same time. The reference lamp tests are an indication of the instrument’s aging, but are only a single point test in the instrument measurement range. The comparison process measures instrument performance over a typical mu range of 1.15 to 3.85 but this is often adjusted with consideration to circumstances such as an instrument’s location. The calibration N-tables are changed when the difference between the station and reference instrument is greater than the equivalent of 1% in TOC. When the calibration N-tables are changed due to a drift (determined from an inspection of the past calibrations, instrument operational history, and, if possible, comparison with other instrumental records), the existing data set from the last calibration change to the new calibration was reprocessed and re-published in the archives. To convert measurements to TOC values, calibration (RtoN) tables and information
(reference lamp adjustment – RLA value) from monthly instrument tests using reference lamps are required. The RtoN tables are defined by comparison of the station instrument to a reference standard. These referencing are normally done on four to six year schedule. The calibration of the wedge is normally measured at the same time. The reference lamp tests are an indication of the instrument’s aging, but are only a single point test in the instrument measurement range. The comparison process measures instrument performance over a wide range. The calibration tables are changed when the difference between the station and reference instrument is greater than the equivalent of 1% in TOC. When the calibration tables are changed due to a drift, the existing data set from the last calibration change to the new calibration is to be reprocessed and re-published in the archives.

The set of computer programs used for the NOAA processing were written in the FORTRAN language, and by the 2010s were difficult to use and maintain due to changes in computer hardware and personnel. The decision was made to convert the NOAA processing to processing using the WinDobson software package, as the fully automated instruments were updated to a modern system based on this software:


Developed by personnel of the Japan Meteorological Agency (Miyagawa, 1996), WinDobson is a software package for operations, data analysis and quality assurance of Dobson spectrophotometer observations. The algorithm for the reduction of ozone from DS observations with the Dobson is the standard method used by the NOAA software, but the ZS observations are reduced with a method described later in this manuscript. For the NOAA application, new components were developed. These new components are available from NOAA to other users of WinDobson. It is applicable for both TOC and Umkehr (ozone vertical profile) measurements. As this software has a different statistical method for the reduction of the zenith measurements, and set of rules (See section: Windobson Selection Rules) for determining the representative value of total ozone for each day with observations, the entire data record of each operational station was reprocessed in the WinDobson system to minimize the effect of the change when future data is placed in the archive. In the development of the data files and calibration information for Windobson processing, the entire record of observations, repair and calibration checks of each station was investigated and re-evaluated. This investigation allows for correction of past errors.

Developed by personnel of the Japan Meteorological Agency, WinDobson is a software package for operations, data analysis and quality assurance of Dobson spectrophotometer observations. For the NOAA application, new components were developed. These new components are available from NOAA to other users of WinDobson. It is applicable for both TOC and Umkehr (ozone vertical profile) measurements. As this software has a different statistical method for the reduction of the zenith measurements, and set of rules for determining the representative value, the entire data record of each operational station was reprocessed in the WinDobson system to minimize the effect of the change.

### Data Format Conversion and Initial Comparison of Data Sets.

The NOAA processed data were converted to “long line format” (LLF) files. These files are actually the image of the information sent to printers in the 1990s version of the data stream. The select values for the WOUDC and NDACC archives were originally produced from these files, using a process of both machine and personnel
inspection. Programs were developed to convert the LLF and dayfiles into formats compatible with the WinDobson data stream. Files with instrument, station and calibration information (parafiles) were also developed to complete the structure of the WinDobson system. Connections to other sources of TOC information (satellite data records, for example) were developed so that comparisons with these values could be performed using tools internal to WinDobson. Reference lamp values were extracted from the LLF records for time periods prior to 1995 and from the dayfiles afterwards. By the end of 2015, all operational stations’ data were being processed in WinDobson.

Initially, the data sets of only ADDS (fundamental wavelength pairs) observations from the two processing streams were compared with the expectation that the results should agree within ±1DU. The ADDS observations are considered the most reliable (fundamental), as the equation derived for conversion to ozone minimizes the Rayleigh scattering term, and the aerosol term can be considered to be zero. Time periods with differences greater than this +/-1 DU were investigated to determine the source of the problem, and correct any differences. When the ADDS differences were reconciled, the ZS observations were compared to the DS observations to define a polynomial method within the WinDobson system for converting the ZS observations to TOC. Separate polynomials were defined for various time periods related to instrument repairs and calibration changes. The change in the methods of reduction of ZS measurements often produced large changes in reported TOC values. The improvement in the ZS results with respect to the ADDS results is displayed in Figure 2 and in Table 3. The new method has resulted in ~91% of zenith sky derived total ozone (ADZB) within 2% of the coincident direct sun ozone column (ADDS). This is an improvement over the 78% value reported in the Operations Handbook (Komhyr and Evans, 2008). Results of observations made on the direct sun using the CD wavelength pairs differ from those made on AD pairs. The differences come primarily from imperfect knowledge of the ozone cross-sections used to determine the absorption coefficients used in the algorithm, and of the optical characteristics of the instrument (Redondas, et al, 2014.). The differences in observational results within a specific solar zenith angle range were analyzed, and a multiplying factor was established to bring the average of the CD results to that of the AD results within the WinDobson system. Time periods with differences greater than this were investigated to determine the source of the problem, and correct any differences. When the differences were reconciled, the ZS observations were compared to the DS observations to define a polynomial method for converting the ZS observations to TOC. Separate polynomials were defined for various time periods related to instrument repairs and calibration changes. The change in the methods of reduction of ZS measurements often produced large changes in reported TOC values. The improvement in the ZS results with respect to the ADDS results is displayed in Figure 3 and in Table 3. The new method has resulted in ~91% of zenith sky derived total ozone (ADZB) within 2% of the coincident direct sun ozone column (ADDS). This is an improvement over the 78% value reported in the 2006 Operations Handbook. Results of observations made on the direct sun using the CD wavelength pairs differ from those made on AD pairs. The differences come primarily from imperfect knowledge of the ozone cross-sections used to determine the absorption coefficients used in the algorithm, and of the optical characteristics of the instrument (Redondas, et al, 2014.). The differences in observational results within a specific solar zenith angle range were analyzed, and a multiplying factor was established to bring the average of the CD results to that of the AD results.
Comparison of WinDobson Representative Values with Archived Daily Values

The individual station records are archived as daily values in the World Ozone and Ultraviolet Radiation Data Centre (WOUDC) in Canada. (http://woudc.org/home.php). The format of reporting is a single value for the local day, but in UTC (Universal Time Coordinated) time with a resolution of an hour. The NDACC (http://www.ndsc.ncep.noaa.gov/data/) archive has the same TOC values for a subset of the WOUDC stations, but in a different format, with date and time in UTC. The reprocessed data sets will be archived in WOUDC and NDACC. For each station, tools in WinDobson were used to make a data set of daily representative TOC values. These data sets were compared to the data sets of select values downloaded from the WOUDC and NDACC, and the differences were investigated. The history of the instrument calibrations was again reviewed, and changes in the N-tables and the periods of the use of N-tables within the WinDobson system were made as needed. The differences stem from a number of reasons:

- There are data in the WOUDC data set for some stations that was reported by earlier organizations. The processing and selection rules for this data are unknown.
- The older (1995) processing included time periods of special processing to attempt to account for specific problems in the older optics of specific instruments. This was accomplished by a modification the reference lamp correction used in the data processing. The lamp corrections for the pre-1995 processing were extracted from the LLF format and applied to the WinDobson data process to introduce the correction applied in the earlier processing. In some cases, the full correction was not possible to reproduce, so special N-tables were reconstructed from the information in the LLF format and applied on an annual basis. These periods are displayed graphically and discussed in the individual station reports. The problems that the special processing were attempting to correct were:
  - So-called Mu-dependency (Komhyr et al, 1995), where DS results are lower at low sun angles. As this effect is dependent on the intensity of the input solar beam, and thus on the TOC; no attempt was made to account for this effect in WinDobson processing. This problem is related to the internal scattered light in the instrument, which is difficult to evaluate.
  - Drifts in the shape of “wedge” calibration. It is unclear how the drift correction this was actually performed in earlier processing; no attempt was made to account for this effect in WinDobson processing. Newer construction of the optical wedges used in the instrument have proved to have a much more stable calibration.
  - Drifts in the “extra-terrestrial constant” as part of the calibration. This was done in the WinDobson processing of later data, but with a different scheme -- multiple N-tables with shorter time periods of applicability.
  - There was a weakness in the NOAA processing in choosing a select value for each day. During the original review of observations, certain observations were rejected for selection; this rejection was not recorded in the LLF files, and thus rejected observations appeared in the WinDobson data set. We scrutinized the record for these discrepancies and amended the results.
- The results of the zenith measurements changed due to updates to the reduction method, and these type of changes affect all stations -- some of the changes are large and are discussed in the individual station reports.
- For some stations, it is common for observations to be made throughout the local day but with later observations being on the next consecutive UTC day. This occurs at Lauder (LDR), Samoa (SMO) and South Pole (SPO), where UTC date changes during normal observing period. For SPO, observations on a
local day can differ by 22 hours; thus choice of the selected/representative ozone in the change from NOAA to WinDobson processing and selection may differ by 22 hours. At certain times of the year, the TOC can change appreciatively during this time period at SPO.

- Data archives sometimes failed to be updated after a calibration drift was detected during an intercomparison with a standard. This is not necessarily a failure of the internal WOUDC archiving process. NDACC appears to capture these periods more correctly.

- The rules for choosing the NOAA selected value for the day were similar to that of WinDobson, but were not consistent throughout the record or across stations, and the documentation of these rules is incomplete. For the WinDobson processing, the same rules are applied throughout the record and stations, and are described in the following section: Windobson Selection Rules.

- Our investigations of the station and instrument operation history revealed several periods for which different N-tables were used in the archived records as compared to the historical record of NOAA N-tables. Also, when a station instrument is compared to a standard instrument, and the results are within the uncertainty of the measurements (+/-1%), the station instrument’s calibration is considered to be stable and thus is not changed. Otherwise, the instrument’s calibration is changed and the existing data record starting from the time of the last comparison against a standard is reprocessed with the assumption that instrument’s calibration has changed in a linear manner. Using the tools in WinDobson, our studies of the stations’ records allowed comparisons with long term records indicating TOC. These comparisons showed that at certain stations, the calibration change was not linear. Further investigation of stations’ history revealed damage to the instrument at that point (for example, rain entering instrument shelter.) These investigations also identified instances where the comparison against the Dobson standard was not performed correctly, and therefore the calibration should not have been changed.

The individual station records are archived as daily values in the World Ozone and Ultraviolet Radiation Data Centre (WOUDC) in Canada. (http://woudc.org/home.php). The format of reporting is a single value for the local day, but in UTC time with a resolution of an hour. The NDACC (http://www.ndsc.ncep.noaa.gov/data/) archive has the same TOC values for a subset of the WOUDC stations, but in a different format. The reprocessed data sets will be archived in WOUDC and NDACC. For each station, tools in WinDobson were used to make a data set of daily representative TOC values. These data sets were compared to the data sets of select values downloaded from the WOUDC and NDACC, and the differences were investigated. The history of the instrument calibrations was again reviewed, and some adjustments were made in the WinDobson process for some stations.

The differences stem from a number of reasons:

- There are data in the WOUDC data set for some stations that was reported by earlier organizations. The processing and selection rules for this data are unknown.

- The older processing included time periods of special processing to attempt to account for specific problems in the older optics of specific instruments:
So-called Mu-dependency (Komhyr et al., 1995), where DS results are lower at low sun angles. As this effect is dependent on the intensity of the input solar beam, and thus on the TOC, no attempt was made to account for this effect in WinDobson processing.

Drifts in the “wedge” calibration. It is unclear how this was actually performed in earlier processing; no attempt was made to account for this effect in WinDobson processing.

Drifts in the “extra-terrestrial constant” as part of the calibration. This was done in the (2016) processing, but with a different scheme. The older processing modified the reference lamp correction, and this was passed into the WinDobson processing as WinDobson used the same values.

There was a weakness in the NOAA processing in choosing a select value for each day. During the original review of observations, certain observations were rejected for selection; this rejection was not recorded in the LLF files, and thus rejected observations appeared in the WinDobson data set. We scrutinized the record for these discrepancies and amended the results.

The results of the zenith measurements changed due to updates to the reduction method, and these type of changes affect all stations.

For some stations, it’s common for observations to be made throughout the local day, but on the next consecutive UTC day. This occurs at Lauder (LDR), Samoa (SMO) and South Pole (SPO), where UTC date changes during normal observing period. For SPO, observations on a local day can differ by 22 hours; thus choice of the selected/representative ozone in the NOAA/WinDobson may differ by 22 hours. At certain times of the year, the TOC can change appreciatively during this time.

Data archives sometime failed to be updated after a calibration drift was detected during an intercomparison with a standard. This is not necessarily a failure of the internal WOUDC archiving process. NDACC appears to capture these periods more correctly.

The rules for choosing the NOAA selected value were not consistent throughout the record, and the record of these rules is incomplete.

Windobson Selection Rules

Often there are multiple observations on an individual day. The observations are given an internal numeric code in WinDobson, based on the observation type, and operator input about the observation. The representative value is chosen by the software with the priority groups given below, high to lowest. If there are multiple observations of the highest priority on that day, the observation closest in time to local noon is chosen. After the automatic selection, the daily representative values are reviewed by human inspection with possible intervention to select a different value. The WinDobson software also has quality control routines that rates individual observations as good, questionable (flagged yellow) and likely bad (flagged red), based on internal consistencies of the measurements. If an observation is rejected by the human inspector, the observation is not removed from the data record, but flagged as “not included”.

Windobson Selection Rules
Priority Groups are listed here; Operator inputs as to sky quality are included in determining priority:

1. Direct Sun observations using the AD pair combination with or without Ground Quartz Plate (diffuser) in the instrument’s inlet window. Observations with diffuser have higher priority.

2. Zenith Sky observations using the AD pair combination, observations on the clear zenith have higher priority over those on cloudy conditions.

3. Direct Sun observations using the CD pair combination with Ground Quartz Plate (diffuser) in the instrument’s inlet window. Observations without diffuser have lower priority.

4. Zenith Sky observations using the CD pair combination, observations on the clear zenith have higher priority over those on cloudy conditions.

5. Zenith Sky observations using the CC’ pair combination, observations on the clear zenith have higher priority over those on cloudy conditions.

6. Observations on light reflected from the moon. Observations using AD pair combination have higher priority. Note these observations are rarely made other than at the South Pole Station during the austral winter.

A discussion of the individual station records and the changes is presented in the following section.

The station discussions are accompanied by a referenced graphic of the time dependent differences, consisting of either three panels (all stations) or five panels (NDACC) Stations. Panel A: The time record of total ozone measured at the station from the start of observations through 2014 (or until station was converted to WinDobson processing). Panel B: percent difference between daily WinDobson total ozone records compared to the WOUDC record, (WinDobson-WOUDC). The red line is a linear fit. Panel C: the same as the second but for monthly and yearly averages (based on all the values in the month in each data set). The small white circles are averages made from DS observations only; the red symbols represent averages using all Dobson total ozone records; the large black open circles are yearly averages of all observations, based on monthly averages. Large triangle symbols indicate major calibration or instrument changes that lead to creating the new N-tables; however, not all calibrations checks of the station record are shown as not all calibration checks revealed problems. For NDACC Stations only: Panel D is the same as the second panel but for comparisons with the data archived at NDACC center (WinDobson-NDACC). The black line is a linear fit. Panel E is the same as the third panel for comparisons with the NDACC archived monthly and yearly averages. NDACC values are not recorded as observation type. Table 2 displays standard statistics of the differences between WinDobson and WOUDC, and WinDobson and NDACC records.

Assessment of changes in the WinDobson representative dataset relative to WOUDC record is analyzed in the form of probability distributions, where percent differences in TOC are plotted (Figure 3) as function of likely change when the archive is updated. The datasets analyses are separated into ADDS and other type of measurements. The ADDS curves are symmetric, and indicate that the vast majority of ADDS values will be unchanged. The “other” curves are less symmetric, and are driven by the updated ZS reduction polynomials. As the overall record average offsets are small (<1.0%), this is an indication of the number of ADDS observations versus other observation types.
Mauna Loa Observatory, Hawai‘i, USA (19°N, 156°W, NDACC Station)

Observations at MLO were started in December 1957. The instrument was damaged in 1961, and thus the calibration is unknown prior to 1963. Before 1984, the primary instrument was D063, with short periods with other instruments. The data in the archive prior to 1984 was not processed in the standard method in an attempt to account for instrument calibration drifts and other instrument problems, which causes larger variation in the comparison of original to the WinDobson record prior to 1984. The automated instrument D076 was installed at the station in 1984 after rebuilding in Boulder. A mirror deteriorated, so the calibration in the period 1990-1995 (indicated by the yearly N-table triangles) is based on comparisons with World Standard Dobson D083 while it was on station for Langley plot campaigns. (The Langley plot method is used to establish an Extra-terrestrial constant for an instrument (Langley, 1884).) This new calibration is not reflected in the WOUDC or NDACC archives. The instrument was rebuilt and the WinDobson automation installed in June, 2010. Data from 2010 through 2014 was processed in the NOAA system after converting WinDobson data files to a format compatible with NOAA system. The NDACC archive appears to have updates not reflected in the WOUDC Archive, but there are periods with data missing from the NDACC archive (July December 2012). The difference between the WOUDC and NDACC archives records processed in the NOAA system and WinDobson system are presented graphically in Figure 4.

South Pole, Antarctica (90°S, 59°E, NDACC Station)

South Pole Station was established in 1957. The first Dobson instrument failed due to the extreme cold. Observations started again in 1961 and these results are in the NOAA archive, but the calibration record dates from 1963. The normal routine established in 1985 is to change the instrument every four years for calibration checks, but this was not always achieved. This station has the possibility of large changes in reported daily values in the WinDobson, primarily due to the extended daily observation period, and high variation in total ozone during certain periods of the year. The station local day is the same as that of Christchurch, New Zealand for ease of logistics, but the Dobson observations are reported in the WOUDC in UTC date and hour. The date and time combination often is misleading (for example, In the WOUDC archive, 14 November 1994 has a time of 28 hours UTC, which matches the WinDobson and NDACC 15 November 1994 values.) The calculation of the astronomical parameters used in the algorithm for reducing reflected moon observations was incorrect in the NOAA program throughout the period of record. Changes in the method of deriving total ozone from ZS observations improved the average with respect to DS averages, but creates differences between the old and new archives. There are several periods missing from the WOUDC and NDACC archives (for example, July through December 2002.). The difference between the WOUDC and NDACC archives records processed in the NOAA system and WinDobson system are presented graphically in Figure 5. The exclusion of low TOC values in early October in the archived data (small white circles are outside of the plot range) in some years also produces large percentage differences in the averages (see large deviations in open circles seen in some years in the panel c and e). An example is October 1994, where there are 25 reported days in the WinDobson record but only 18 reported in the WOUDC, and only 10 in the NDACC archive. These inconsistencies can produce large percentage differences, especially during low ozone conditions.

The rules for selection and inclusion of days in the archives appear have been inconsistent in earlier (NOAA) processing and archiving. The NDACC archive prior to 1999 has TOC expressed as Vertical Column Density
(molecules/cm**2). These numbers appear to have been calculated from DU, as this archive is derived from the WOUDC archive. There are periods where this calculation was done incorrectly (for example, October 1998, where the NDACC values differ by more than 100 DU when converted back to DU.) While the NDACC archive is supposed to be derived from the same internal NOAA archive as WOUDC, there is is random differences (For example, February 1981 is missing from the NDACC archive.) The change in the yearly cycle of TOC (Panel A) is evident in the austral spring due the depletion related to chlorofluorocarbon release (Farman et al, 1985). Station and observing schedules were changed to accommodate research needs after that 1985.

**Bismarck, North Dakota, USA (47°N, 101°W)**

The instrument is operated by the National Weather Service office at Bismarck Airport. There are observations in the archive from the late 1950s, but the documented record starts in December 1962. The difference between the WOUDC and NDACC archives records processed in the NOAA system and WinDobson system are presented graphically in Figure 6. The periods where the N-tables were reconstructed from the results of the special processing in 1995 are indicated by the yearly N-table triangles. The instrument’s calibration has been quite stable since 1995.

**Caribou, Maine, USA (47°N, 68°W)**

The instrument is operated at the National Weather Service office at the Caribou Airport. There are observations in the archive from the late 1950s, but the documented record starts in August 1962. The Weather service office was rebuilt in the early 2000s, with data gaps during that period of the record. The difference between the WOUDC and NDACC archives records processed in the NOAA system and WinDobson system are presented graphically in Figure 7. The periods where the N-tables were reconstructed from the results of the special processing in 1995 are indicated by the yearly N-table triangles. The instrument’s calibration has been quite stable since 1995.

**Nashville, Tennessee, USA (36°N, 87°W)**

The instrument is operated at the National Weather Service office near Old Hickory, Tennessee. There are observations in the archive from the late 1950s, but the documented record starts in July 1962. This station record shows a larger offset (+0.6%) between the WOUDC and WinDobson data sets, due to the change to the zenith observations results. The difference between the WOUDC and NDACC archives records processed in the NOAA system and WinDobson system are presented graphically in Figure 8. The periods where the N-tables were reconstructed from the results of the special processing in 1995 are indicated by the yearly N-table triangles.

**Fairbanks, Alaska, USA (65°N, 148°W)**

Observations were started at the Fairbanks airport in 1964 using instrument D076, but ceased in 1972. The values in the WOUDC archive in the 1964-1972 period do not correspond to the values in the older NOAA internal archive for reasons not determined. Observations were restarted at the Poker Flat Research Range (65°N, 147°W) in 1985. The mission of the Range changed in 1993 and the Dobson shelter was moved to the roof of the Geophysical Institute at University of Fairbanks. Operations restarted in April 1994. This station is at 65 degrees...
north, with observations on low sun with high ozone amounts common, especially in March and April. Researchers are advised that this instrument shows patterns in the comparison with other instrumentation that imply an under estimation of ozone on the ADDS wavelength under conditions of low sun and high ozone. The older NOAA processing and selection of observations was different from other stations, as CD pair combinations were often selected over AD pair combinations, while WinDobson uses the same rules for all stations. This change in selection is reflected in the variability in the comparison with WOUDC archive. The difference between the WOUDC archives records processed in the NOAA system and WinDobson system are presented graphically in Figure 9.

**Boulder, Colorado, USA (40°N, 105°W, NDACC station)**

Dobson observations were started at the University of Colorado east campus in 1966. Earlier observations were made either at the National Center for Atmospheric Research or at the Table mountain facility north of Boulder. The station was moved to the David Skaggs Research Center in 1999. Multiple instruments have been used here in the record, especially prior to the automation of Dobson instrument D061 in 1980. The observations made after 1980 automation do not include CC’ zenith observations. The instrument was rebuilt with the WinDobson automation, but the data was processed in the NOAA system until the beginning of 2015. There is data in the WOUDC archive prior to 1966, but not connected to a calibration. The data for July 2013 to July 2014 are missing from the WOUDC and NDACC archives. The periods 1992-1996, and 1998-2005 were not processed or archived using the correct calibration information. The difference between the WOUDC and NDACC archives records processed in the NOAA system and WinDobson system are presented graphically in Figure 10. The Instrument’s calibration is tracked more closely than at other stations, as the World Standard Dobson D083 is kept in Boulder.

**Wallops Island Flight Center, Virginia, USA (38°N, 76°W, NDACC Station)**

Dobson observations were started at WIFC in 1967 as support for balloon and rocket borne experiments. The station has moved several times to different sites within the facility. Since 1995 only ADDS observations are made to support ozonesonde flights. There are periods in the WOUDC and NDACC archives with either missing data, or archived with incorrect calibration information applied. The difference between the WOUDC and NDACC archives records processed in the NOAA system and WinDobson system are presented graphically in Figure 11.

**NOAA/ESRL/GMD Observatory, Barrow, Alaska, USA (71°N, 157°W)**

Dobson observations at the NOAA observatory began in 1973. The instrument was out of operation between 1983-1986 due to lack of funding. The difference between the WOUDC archive processed in the NOAA system and WinDobson system are presented graphically in Figure 12. The station’s weather is far more cloudy than at other stations, with the station reporting 58% ZS observations. The change in the method for retrieving TOC from these observations is evident in the variability in the differences between the archives.

**NOAA/ESRL/GMD Observatory, American Samoa (14°S, 171°W, NDACC Station)**
Dobson observations were started at the NOAA observatory in 1976. The station is in a warm, humid marine environment which caused instrument degradation in the early part of the record. The original processing pre-1995 was not standard and not repeatable. The periods where the N-tables were reconstructed from the results of the special processing in 1995 are indicated by the yearly N-table triangles. An earthquake and tsunami on the 29 September 2009 damaged the station and instrument and observations were interrupted for several years. The difference between the WOUDC and NDACC archives records processed in the NOAA system and WinDobson system are presented graphically in Figure 13. The period 1999-2001, were not processed or archived using the correct calibration information. The WOUDC and NDACC were not completely updated after observations were restarted, due to perceived instrument problems which since have been resolved.

**Fresno and Hanford, California, USA (36°N, 120°W)**

Dobson observations were started at the Fresno Weather Service Office, California, (37°N, 120°W) in 1982, with observations starting the next year. The Weather Service Office was moved to Hanford in March of 1995. The difference between the WOUDC and NDACC archives records processed in the NOAA system and WinDobson system are presented graphically in Figure 14. There are very few issues with the Fresno and Hanford record.

**Observatoire de Haute-Provence, France (44°N, 6°E, NDACC Station)**

Dobson observations were started at the Observatoire de Haute-Provence (Station Géophysique Gérard Mégie) in 1983, with an automated instrument. This instrument was updated to the WinDobson automation and data processing in 2014. The station and instrument are operated by the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, CNRS. The period of 1990 to 1999 was reprocessed to account for calibration drift, but has not yet been updated in WOUDC and NDACC. The difference between the WOUDC and NDACC archives records processed in the NOAA system and WinDobson system are presented graphically in Figure 15. The instrument was damaged several time in its history; inspection within WinDobson resulted in the removal of days from inclusion in the record. This produced several months of higher differences (February 2013, for example.)

**Perth Airport, Western Australia, Australia (32°S, 116°E)**

Dobson observations were started originally in 1969 at Perth Airport weather radar, Perth Western Australia, then the NOAA automated instrument D081 was installed in 1984. The instrument is operated by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BoM). In the late 1990s, the station was moved to the newly constructed Weather Station. There are periods of missing data in the WOUDC archive. The period after 2012 in the WOUDC archive does not have correct calibration information, as the BoM recalibrated the instrument, and this information was not included in NOAA’s database of calibrations. The difference between the WOUDC and NDACC archives records processed in the NOAA system and WinDobson system are presented graphically in Figure 16.

**Lauder, Central Otago, New Zealand (45°S, 170°E, NDACC Station)**

Dobson observations began in early 1987 at the Research station in Central Otago, South Island, New Zealand. The instrument is operated by New Zealand’s National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA). The station’s time zone is UTC + 12, which means the UTC day changes at Local Standard Time 12
noon. The calculation of the local day and UTC day for reporting the selected value was incorrect prior to 1992, indicated by the higher scatter in the comparison of the old and new archives in that time period. Also, a selected value could be from the afternoon of one local day, and the representative value from the morning of the following local day while still being in the same UTC day. When inspected during the WinDobson processing, the instrument record between 2006 through 2011 revealed rain damage following reinstallation shortly after the 2006 intercomparison in Melbourne. The 2012 calibration information determined before the rebuilding of the instrument was used to process the data in WinDobson during 2006 through 2012. The inspection also determined that the calibration was stable from 1992 to 2006, while the instrument calibration was checked in 1997 and 2001. The WOUDC and NDACC records are not yet updated. The instrument was rebuilt at the beginning of 2012, and has been operated with the data reduction in WinDobson since that time. The difference between the WOUDC and NDACC archives records processed in the NOAA system and WinDobson system are presented graphically in Figure 17.

The station discussions are accompanied by a referenced graphic of the time dependent differences, consisting of either three panels (all stations) or five panels (NDACC) Stations. First panel: The time record of total ozone measured at the station from the start of observations through 2015 (or until station was converted to WinDobson processing). Second Panel: percent difference between daily WinDobson total ozone records compared to the WOUDC record, (WinDobson - WOUDC). The red line is a linear fit. Third panel: the same as the second but for monthly and yearly averages (based on all the values in the month in each data set). The small white circles are averages made from DS observations only; the red symbols represent averages using all Dobson total ozone records; the large black open circles are yearly averages of all observations, based on monthly averages. Large + (plus) symbols indicate major calibration or instrument changes that lead to creating the new R-N tables; however, not all calibrations checks of the station record are shown. For NDACC Stations only: The fourth panel is the same as the second panel but for comparisons with the data archived at NDACC center (WinDobson - NDACC). The black line is a linear fit. The fifth panel is the same as the third panel for comparisons with the NDACC archived monthly and yearly averages. NDACC values are not recorded as observation type. Table 2 displays standard statistics of the differences between WinDobson and WOUDC, and WinDobson and NDACC records.

Assessment of changes in the WinDobson representative dataset relative to WOUDC record is analyzed in the form of probability distributions, where percent differences in TOC are plotted (Figure 2) as function of likely change when the archive is updated. The datasets analyses are separated into ADDS and other type of measurements. The ADDS curves are symmetric, and indicate that the vast majority of ADDS values will be unchanged. The “other” curves are less symmetric, and are driven by the updated ZS reduction polynomials. As the overall record average offsets are small (<1.0%), this is an indication of the number of ADDS observations versus other observation types.

Mauna Loa Observatory, Hawai‘i, USA (19°N, 156°W, NDACC Station)

Observations at MLO were started in December 1957. The instrument was damaged in 1961, and thus the calibration is unknown prior to 1963. Before 1984, the primary instrument was D063, with short periods with
other instruments. The data in the archive prior to 1984 was not processed in the standard method in an attempt to account for instrument calibration drifts, which causes larger variation in reprocessed data, compared to WinDobson record. The automated instrument D076 was installed at the station in 1984 after rebuilding in Boulder. A mirror deteriorated, so the calibration in the period 1990-1995 is based on comparisons with World Standard Dobson D083 while it was on station for Langley plot campaigns (The Langley plot method is used to establish an Extra-terrestrial constant for an instrument (Langley, 1884).) This new calibration is not reflected in the WOUDC or NDACC archives. The instrument was rebuilt and the WinDobson automation installed in June, 2010. Data from 2010 through 2014 was processed in the NOAA system. All of 2015 is missing from the WOUDC archive. The NDACC archive appears to have updates not reflected in the WOUDC Archive. The difference between the WOUDC and NDACC archives records processed in the NOAA system and WinDobson system are presented graphically in Figure 4.

**South Pole, Antarctica (90°S, 59°E, NDACC Station)**

South Pole Station was established in 1957. The first Dobson instrument failed due to the extreme cold. Observations started again in 1961 and these results are in the archive, but the calibration record dates from 1963. The normal routine is to change the instrument every four years for calibration checks. This station has the possibility of large changes in reported daily values, primarily due to the extended daily observation period, and high variation in total ozone during certain periods of the year. The station local day is the same as that of Christchurch, New Zealand for ease of logistics, but the Dobson observations are reported in the WOUDC in UTC date and hour. There is evidence of incorrect UTC hour calculation for a number of dates in the years prior to 1992. The calculation of the astronomical parameters used in the algorithm for reducing reflected moon observations was incorrect in the NOAA program. Changes in the method of deriving total ozone from zenith observations improved the average with respect to direct sun averages. There are several periods missing from the archive, including all of 2015. The exclusion of early October values in the archived data (small white circles are outside of the plot range) in some years also produces differences in the averages (see large deviations in open circles seen in some years in the panel c and e). Differing methods for choosing a “Select” value versus a “Representative” value are the primary reason for differences. The difference between the WOUDC and NDACC archives records processed in the NOAA system and WinDobson system are presented graphically in Figure 5.

**Bismarck, North Dakota, USA (47°n, 101°W)**

The instrument is operated by the National Weather Service office at Bismarck Airport. There are observations in the archive from the late 1950s, but the documented record starts in December 1962. The difference between the WOUDC and NDACC archives records processed in the NOAA system and WinDobson system are presented graphically in Figure 6.

**Caribou, Maine, USA (47°N, 68°W)**

The instrument is operated at the National Weather Service office at the Caribou Airport. There are observations in the archive from the late 1950s, but the documented record starts in August 1962. The Weather service office was rebuilt in the early 2000s, with data gaps during that period of the record. The difference between the WOUDC and NDACC archives records processed in the NOAA system and WinDobson system are presented graphically in Figure 7.

**Nashville, Tennessee, USA (36°N, 87°W)**

The instrument is operated at the National Weather Service office near Old Hickory, Tennessee. There are observations in the archive from the late 1950s, but the documented record starts in July 1962. This station record shows a larger offset (+0.6%) between the WOUDC and WinDobson data sets, due to the change to the zenith observations results. The difference between the WOUDC and NDACC archives records processed in the NOAA system and WinDobson system are presented graphically in Figure 8.

**Fairbanks, Alaska, USA (65°N, 148°W)**

Observations were started at the Fairbanks airport in 1964 using instrument D076, but ceased in 1972. Observations were restarted at the Poker Flat Research Range (65°N, 147°W) in 1985. The mission of the Range changed in 1993 and the Dobson shelter was moved to the roof of the Geophysical Institute at University of Fairbanks. Operations restarted in April 1994. This station is at 65 degrees north, with observations on low sun with high ozone amounts common, especially in March and April. The instrument shows patterns in the comparison with other instrumentation that imply an under estimation of ozone on the ADDS wavelength under conditions of low sun and high ozone. The selection of observations should be changed for this station to favor the CDDS observations during those conditions. The difference between the WOUDC and NDACC archives records processed in the NOAA system and WinDobson system are presented graphically in Figure 9.

**Boulder, Colorado, USA (40°N, 105°W, NDACC station)**

Dobson observations were started at the University of Colorado east campus in 1966. Earlier observations were made either at the National Center for Atmospheric Research or at the Table mountain facility north of Boulder. The station was moved to the David Skaggs Research Center in 1999. Multiple instruments have been used here in the record, especially prior to the automation of Dobson instrument D061 in 1980. The observations made after 1980 automation do not include CC’ zenith observations. The instrument was rebuilt with the WinDobson automation, but the data was processed in the NOAA system until the beginning of 2015. There is data in the archive prior to 1966, but it is not connected to a calibration. The data for July 2013 to July 2014 is missing from the Archive. The periods 1992–1996, and 1998–2005 were not processed or archived using the correct calibration information. The difference between the WOUDC and NDACC archives records processed in the NOAA system and WinDobson system are presented graphically in Figure 10.

**Wallops Island Flight Center, Virginia, USA (38°N, 76°W, NDACC Station)**
Dobson observations were started at WIFC in 1967 as support for balloon and rocket borne experiments. The station has moved several times to different sites within the facility. Since 1995, only ADDS observations are made, to support ozonesonde flights. There are periods in the WOUDC and NDACC archives with either missing data, or archived with incorrect calibration information applied. The difference between the WOUDC and NDACC archives records processed in the NOAA system and WinDobson system are presented graphically in Figure 11.

NOAA/ESRL/GMD Observatory, Barrow, Alaska (71°N, 157°W)

Dobson observations at the NOAA observatory began in 1973. The instrument was out of operation between 1983-1986, due to lack of funding. The station’s weather is far cloudier than at other stations; this means there are more zenith observations than at other stations. The difference between the WOUDC and NDACC archives processed in the NOAA system and WinDobson system are presented graphically in Figure 12.

NOAA/ESRL/GMD Observatory, American Samoa (14°S, 171°W, NDACC Station)

Dobson observations were started at the NOAA observatory in 1976. The station is in a warm, humid marine environment which caused instrument degradation in the early part of the record. The original processing pre-1995 was not standard and not repeatable. Inspection of the record of calibrations revealed that the results were incorrectly applied in the period 1997 to 2001. An earthquake and tsunami on the 29 September 2009 damaged the station and instrument observations were interrupted for several years. The difference between the WOUDC and NDACC archives records processed in the NOAA system and WinDobson system are presented graphically in Figure 13.

Fresno and Hanford, California, USA (36°N, 120°W)

Dobson observations were started at the Fresno Weather Service Office, California, (37°N, 120°W) in 1982, with observations starting the next year. The Weather Service Office was moved to Hanford in March of 1995. The difference between the WOUDC and NDACC archives records processed in the NOAA system and WinDobson system are presented graphically in Figure 14.

Observatoire de Haute-Provence, France (44°N, 6°E, NDACC Station)

Dobson observations were started at the Observatoire de Haute-Provence (Station Géophysique Gérard Mégie) in 1983. The station and instrument are operated by the Centre National de la Recherché Scientifique, CNRS. The period of 1990 to 1999 was reprocessed to account for calibration drift, but has not yet been updated in WOUDC and NDACC. The difference between the WOUDC and NDACC archives records processed in the NOAA system and WinDobson system are presented graphically in Figure 15.

Perth Airport, Western Australia, Australia (32°S, 116°E)
Dobson observations were started originally in 1969 at Perth Airport weather radar, Perth Western Australia, then the NOAA automated instrument D081 was installed in 1984. In the late 1990s, the station was moved to the newly constructed Weather Station. There are periods of missing data in the WOUDC archive. The period after 2012 in the WOUDC archive does not have correct calibration information. The difference between the WOUDC and NDACC archives records processed in the NOAA system and WinDobson system are presented graphically in Figure 16.

Lauder, Central Otago, New Zealand (45°S, 170°E, NDACC Station)

Dobson observations began in early 1987 at the Research station in Central Otago, South Island, New Zealand. The station’s time zone is UTC + 12, which means the UTC day changes at Local Standard Time 12 noon. The calculation of the UTC day for reporting the selected value was incorrect prior to 1992. Also, a selected value could be from the afternoon of one local day, and the representative value from the morning of the following local day while still being in the same UTC day. When inspected during the WinDobson processing, the instrument record between 2006 through 2011 revealed rain damage following reinstallation shortly after the 2006 intercomparison in Melbourne. The 2012 calibration information determined before the rebuilding of the instrument was used to process the data in WinDobson. The WOUDC and NDACC records are not yet updated. The instrument was rebuilt at the beginning of 2012, and has been operated with the data reduction in WinDobson since that time. The difference between the WOUDC and NDACC archives records processed in the NOAA system and WinDobson system are presented graphically in Figure 17.

Conclusions

NOAA has submitted nearly a half century’s data into the WOUDC and NDACC archives. Personnel and data processing protocols changed many times throughout that period, and knowledge of early techniques was slowly being lost. Furthermore NOAA personnel tended to use a larger and more comprehensive data base when performing research, so the accuracy of data within the WOUDC and NDACC archives were seldom questioned. With the advent of Windobson software and its newer technique for calculating TOC from zenith observations and selecting representative observations, we felt it was prudent to reprocess all previous measurements for the sake of homogeneity. It also seemed logical to compare and replace data within the WOUDC and NDACC archives with the newly reprocessed data. The overall changes are small (~0.1% offset), but several individual stations have a larger offset (Maximum 0.7%) driven by the changes in the ZC reduction polynomials. With the comparisons with the existing NDACC and WOUDC archives, we were able identify periods with either missing data or incorrectly processed data. The differences between the old and the planned updated archives have overall small offsets and trends (Table 2), but within the long-term record that are periods with greater differences of which researchers should be aware (see figures 4 through 16, and description of the individual station histories.). The paper includes a section that describes individual station histories which provides information on specific to station updates and their effects on the total ozone record.
The offsets and trends for differences between the old and the new version of the data are not the same for WOUDC and NDACC archives, as the NDACC set of data is not a perfect match to the one available from the WOUDC archive. For example, Wallops Island NDACC record is 1995-2014, while the WOUDC record is 1967-2014. When the NDACC and WOUDC archives are updated, these archived datasets will be complete and homogenized. Moreover, after all calibrations and the applicable periods were reviewed, the history method of applying calibrations to all of the instruments in the networks has been standardized. The new WinDobson database, available to researchers on request, will allow investigators improving the accuracy of the Dobson retrieval algorithms. The new data records in the WOUDC and NDACC archives will be more correct and complete, and the history of calibrations of the instruments networks has been homogenized. The overall changes are small (~0.1% offset), but several individual stations have a larger offset (Maximum 0.7%) driven by the changes in the ZC reduction polynomials. The average difference expressed as trends is also small. The ADDS observations are mostly unchanged from the early values. Larger differences exists within time periods for the individual stations Station (SPO for example), especially on shorter time scales.

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Figure 1: Diagram of Dobson Instrument, with cover omitted from view (some components shown are actually mounted in the cover.)
Figure 2. The Probability of a daily value changing by a particular percentage for each station. The red line is for ADDS type observations; the blue for all other types; the horizontal line is the percent of ADDS in the range ±1% differences.
Figure [RE15]23. Distribution of cumulative differences between results from direct sun (ADDS) compared to zenith measurements on the same day. The frequency of compared zenith and ADDS total ozone (y-axes) is accumulated between 0 to 6 % (X-axes). Results are shown for other types of zenith sky measurements denoted by colors in the legend. Results are the average of 12 stations in the US network except for the CC' results, which is based on the SPO data record.
**Figure 32.** The Probability of a daily value changing by a particular percentage for each station. The red line is for ADDS type observations; the blue for all other types; the horizontal line is the percent of ADDS in the range ±1% differences.
Figure 4: Graphic representation of the changes in the Mauna Loa Observatory, Hawai‘i, USA (19°N, 156°W, NDACC Station) record after the conversion into WinDobson processing. First panel: The time record of total ozone measured at the station from the start of observations through to 2015 (or until station was converted to WinDobson processing. Second Panel: percent difference between daily WinDobson total ozone records compared to the WOUDC record, (WinDobson-WOUDC). The red line is a linear fit. Third panel: the same as the second but for monthly and yearly averages (based on all the values in the month in each data set). The small white circles are averages made from DS observations only; the red symbols represent averages using all
Dobson total ozone records; the large black open circles are yearly averages of all observations, based on monthly averages. Large triangle symbols indicate major calibration or instrument changes that lead to creating the new N-tables; however, not all calibrations checks of the station record are shown. For NDACC Stations only: The fourth panel is the same as the second panel but for comparisons with the data archived at NDACC center (WinDobson-NDACC). The black line is a linear fit. The fifth panel is the same as the third panel for comparisons with the NDACC archived monthly and yearly averages. NDACC values are not recorded as observation type.
Figure 5: Graphic representation of the changes in the South Pole, Antarctica (90°S, 59°E, NDACC Station) record with the conversion into WinDobson processing.
Figure 6: Graphic representation of the changes in the Bismarck, North Dakota, USA (47°N, 101°W) record with the conversion into WinDobson processing.
Figure 7: Graphic representation of the changes in the Caribou, Maine, USA (47°N, 68°W) record with the conversion into WinDobson processing.
Figure 8: Graphic representation of the changes in the Nashville, Tennessee, USA (36°N, 87°W) record with the conversion into WinDobson processing.
Figure 9: Graphic representation of the changes in the Fairbanks, Alaska, USA (65°N, 148°W) record with the conversion into WinDobson processing.
Figure 10: Graphic representation of the changes in the Boulder, Colorado, USA (40°N, 105°W, NDACC station) record with the conversion into WinDobson processing.
Figure 11: Graphic representation of the changes in the Wallops Island Flight Center, Virginia, USA (38°N, 76°W, NDACC Station) record with the conversion into WinDobson processing.
Figure 12: Graphic representation of the changes in the NOAA/ESRL/GMD Observatory, Barrow, Alaska, USA (71°N, 157°W) record with the conversion into WinDobson processing.
Figure 13: Graphic representation of the changes in the NOAA/ESRL/GMD Observatory, American Samoa (14°S, 171°W, NDACC Station) record with the conversion into WinDobson processing.
Figure 14: Graphic representation of the changes in the Fresno and Hanford, California, USA (36°N, 120°W) record with the conversion into WinDobson processing.
Figure 15: Graphic representation of the changes in the Observatoire de Haute-Provence, France (44°N, 6°E, NDACC Station) record with the conversion into WinDobson processing.
Figure 16: Graphic representation of the changes in the Perth Airport, Western Australia, Australia (32°S, 116°E) record with the conversion into WinDobson processing.
Figure 17: Graphic representation of the changes in the Lauder, Central Otago, New Zealand (45°S, 170°E, NDACC Station) record with the conversion into WinDobson processing.
**Figure 4:** Graphic representation of the changes in the MLO record after the conversion into WinDobson processing. First panel: The time record of total ozone measured at the station from the start of observations through 2015 (or until station was converted to WinDobson processing). Second Panel: percent difference between daily WinDobson total ozone records compared to the WOUDC record, (WinDobson-WOUDC). The red line is a linear fit. Third panel: the same as the second but for monthly and yearly averages (based on all the values in the month in each data set). The small white circles are averages made from DS observations only; the red symbols represent averages using all Dobson total ozone records; the large black open circles are yearly averages of all observations, based on monthly averages. Large + (plus) symbols indicate major calibration or instrument changes that lead to creating the new R-N tables; however, not all calibrations checks of the station record are shown. For NDACC Stations only: The fourth panel is the same as the second panel but for comparisons with the data archived at NDACC center (WinDobson-NDACC). The black line is a linear fit. The fifth panel is the same as the third panel for comparisons with the NDACC archived monthly and yearly averages. NDACC values are not recorded as observation type.
Figure 5. Graphic representation of the changes in the SPO record with the conversion into WinDobson
Figure 6. Graphic representation of the changes in the BIS record with the conversion into WinDobson.
Figure 7. Graphic representation of the changes in the CAR record with the conversion into WinDobson processing.
Figure 8. Graphic representation of the changes in the BNA record with the conversion into WinDobson processing.
Figure 9. Graphic representation of the changes in the FBK record with the conversion into WinDobson processing.
Figure 10. Graphic representation of the changes in the BDR record with the conversion into WinDobson processing.
Figure 11. Graphic representation of the changes in the WAI record with the conversion into WinDobson.
Figure 12. Graphic representation of the changes in the BRW record with the conversion into WinDobson processing.
Figure 13. Graphic representation of the changes in the SMO record with the conversion into WinDobson
Figure 14. Graphic representation of the changes in the FAT/HNX record with the conversion into WinDobson processing.
Figure 15. Graphic representation of the changes in the OHP record with the conversion into WinDobson
Figure 16. Graphic representation of the changes in the PTH record with the conversion into WinDobson processing.
Figure 17. Graphic representation of the changes in the LDR record with the conversion into WinDobson
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<td>NOAA (NDACC and WOUDC)</td>
<td>WinDobson Full</td>
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<td>NOAA Semi-Auto</td>
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<td>Lauder, New Zealand</td>
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<td>1987</td>
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Table 1. Current Stations in the NOAA Network using Dobson Ozone Spectrophotometers
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<tr>
<th>Station Code</th>
<th>Offset WinDobson- WOUDC</th>
<th>Linear Trend WinDobson- WOUDC Per Year</th>
<th>Offset WinDobson- NDACC</th>
<th>Linear Trend WinDobson- NDACC Per year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MLO</td>
<td>-0.1% ± 1.6%</td>
<td>+0.014 ± 0.001%</td>
<td>-0.1% ± 1.8%</td>
<td>+0.015 ± 0.001%</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPO</td>
<td>-0.0% ± 4.0%</td>
<td>-0.016 ± 0.003%</td>
<td>-0.5% ± 6.9%</td>
<td>-0.026 ± 0.006%</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIS</td>
<td>+0.1% ± 2.2%</td>
<td>-0.004 ± 0.001%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAR</td>
<td>+0.2% ± 3.2%</td>
<td>+0.022 ± 0.002%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>BNA</td>
<td>+0.6% ± 2.7%</td>
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<td>N/A</td>
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Table 2. Statistics of the overall differences between WOUDC and NDACC records and WinDobson record (WinDobson-WOUDC, NDACC).

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<th>ADZB (%)</th>
<th>ADZC (%)</th>
<th>CDZB (%)</th>
<th>CDZC (%)</th>
<th>CDDS (%)</th>
<th>CC'ZB (%)</th>
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**Table 3.** Displayed is the cumulative agreement in percent for specific ZS and CDDS results compared to ADDS results on the same day. For example, for an agreement of 2% occurs in 91% of the cases for ADZB observations. Displayed are the average of 12 stations in the NOAA network (Barrow, Fairbanks, Caribou, Bismarck, Haute Provence, Boulder, Wallops Island, Mauna Loa, Tutuila, Perth, Lauder and South Pole). Results are the average of 12 stations in the NOAA network (Barrow, Fairbanks, Caribou, Bismarck, Haute Provence, Boulder, Wallops Island, Mauna Loa, Tutuila, Perth, Lauder and South Pole).