

Attribution of stratospheric and tropospheric ozone changes between 1850 and 2014 in CMIP6 models

Guang Zeng¹, Nathan Luke Abraham², Alexander Thomas Archibald³, Susanne E. Bauer⁴, Makoto Deushi⁵, Louisa K. Emmons⁶, Paul Thomas Griffiths³, Birgit Hassler⁷, Larry Wayne Horowitz⁸, James Keeble³, Michael James Mills⁶, Olaf Morgenstern⁹, Lee Thomas Murray¹⁰, Vaishali Naik¹¹, Fiona M. O'Connor¹², Naga Oshima⁵, Lori T. Sentman¹³, Simone Tilmes⁶, Kostas Tsigaridis¹⁴, Jonny Williams⁹, and Paul J Young¹⁵

¹National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research

²NCAS, University of Cambridge

³University of Cambridge

⁴NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, New York, NY, USA

⁵Meteorological Research Institute

⁶National Center for Atmospheric Research (UCAR)

⁷Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt (DLR), Institut für Physik der Atmosphäre

⁸GFDL/NOAA

⁹NIWA

¹⁰University of Rochester

¹¹NOAA GFDL

¹²Met Office Hadley Centre

¹³National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory

¹⁴Center for Climate Systems Research, Columbia University, and NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies

¹⁵Lancaster University

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Abstract

We quantify the impacts of halogenated ozone-depleting substances (ODSs), methane, N₂O, CO₂, and short-lived ozone precursors on total and partial ozone column changes between 1850 and 2014 using CMIP6 Aerosol and Chemistry Model Intercomparison Project (AerChemMIP) simulations. We find that whilst substantial ODS-induced ozone loss dominates the stratospheric ozone changes since the 1970s, the increases in short-lived ozone precursors and methane lead to increases in tropospheric ozone since the 1950s that make increasingly important contributions to total column ozone (TCO) changes. Our results show that methane impacts stratospheric ozone changes through its reaction with atomic chlorine leading to ozone increases, but this impact will decrease with declining ODSs. The N₂O increases mainly impact ozone through NO_x-induced ozone destruction in the stratosphere, having an overall small negative impact on TCO. CO₂ increases lead to increased global stratospheric ozone due to stratospheric cooling. However, importantly CO₂ increases cause TCO to decrease in the tropics. Large interannual variability obscures the responses of stratospheric ozone to N₂O and CO₂ changes. Substantial inter-model differences originate in the models' representations of ODS-induced ozone depletion. We find that, although the tropospheric ozone trend is driven by the increase in its precursors, the stratospheric changes significantly impact the upper tropospheric ozone trend

through modified stratospheric circulation and stratospheric ozone depletion. The speed-up of stratospheric overturning (i.e. decreasing age of air) is driven mainly by ODS and CO₂; increases. Changes in methane and ozone precursors also modulate the cross-tropopause ozone flux.

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Guang Zeng¹, N. Luke Abraham^{2,3}, Alexander T. Archibald^{2,3}, Susanne E. Bauer^{4,5}, Makoto Deushi⁶, Louisa K. Emmons⁷, Paul T. Griffiths^{2,3}, Birgit Hassler⁸, Larry W. Horowitz⁹, James Keeble^{2,3}, Michael J. Mills⁷, Olaf Morgenstern¹, Lee T. Murray¹⁰, Vaishali Naik⁹, Fiona M. O'Connor¹¹, Naga Oshima⁶, Lori T. Sentman⁹, Simone Tilmes⁷, Kostas Tsigaridis^{4,5}, Jonny H. T. Williams¹, and Paul J. Young^{12,13}

¹National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA), Wellington, New Zealand

²National Centre for Atmospheric Science, U.K.

³Department of Chemistry, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, U.K.

⁴NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS), New York, NY, USA

⁵Center for Climate Systems Research, Columbia University, New York, NY, USA

⁶Meteorological Research Institute (MRI), Tsukuba, Japan

⁷National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), Boulder, CO, USA

⁸Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt (DLR), Institut für Physik der Atmosphäre, Oberpfaffenhofen, Germany

⁹Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory (GFDL), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Princeton, NJ, USA

¹⁰University of Rochester, Rochester, NY, USA

¹¹Hadley Centre, Met Office, Exeter, UK

¹²Lancaster Environment Centre, Lancaster University, Lancaster, UK

¹³Centre of Excellence in Environmental Data Science, Lancaster University, Lancaster, UK

Key Points:

- Changes in ozone-depleting substances, greenhouse gases, and ozone precursors significantly impact stratospheric and tropospheric ozone.
- Tropospheric ozone contributes increasingly importantly to total column ozone changes.

Corresponding author: Guang Zeng, guang.zeng@niwa.co.nz

- 29 • Changes in stratospheric ozone and circulation significantly impact tropospheric
30 ozone through stratosphere-troposphere exchange.

Abstract

We quantify the impacts of halogenated ozone-depleting substances (ODSs), methane, N₂O, CO₂, and short-lived ozone precursors on total and partial ozone column changes between 1850 and 2014 using CMIP6 Aerosol and Chemistry Model Intercomparison Project (AerChemMIP) simulations. We find that whilst substantial ODS-induced ozone loss dominates the stratospheric ozone changes since the 1970s, the increases in short-lived ozone precursors and methane lead to increases in tropospheric ozone since the 1950s that make increasingly important contributions to total column ozone (TCO) changes. Our results show that methane impacts stratospheric ozone changes through its reaction with atomic chlorine leading to ozone increases, but this impact will decrease with declining ODSs. The N₂O increases mainly impact ozone through NO_x-induced ozone destruction in the stratosphere, having an overall small negative impact on TCO. CO₂ increases lead to increased global stratospheric ozone due to stratospheric cooling. However, importantly CO₂ increases cause TCO to decrease in the tropics. Large interannual variability obscures the responses of stratospheric ozone to N₂O and CO₂ changes. Substantial inter-model differences originate in the models' representations of ODS-induced ozone depletion. We find that, although the tropospheric ozone trend is driven by the increase in its precursors, the stratospheric changes significantly impact the upper tropospheric ozone trend through modified stratospheric circulation and stratospheric ozone depletion. The speed-up of stratospheric overturning (i.e. decreasing age of air) is driven mainly by ODS and CO₂ increases. Changes in methane and ozone precursors also modulate the cross-tropopause ozone flux.

Plain Language Summary

Overhead ozone absorbs harmful sunlight, protecting life on Earth. Due to human activities since the 19th century, emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) and ozone-depleting substances (ODSs) containing chlorine and bromine have profoundly affected stratospheric ozone. Near the Earth's surface, ozone has increased substantially leading to worsened air quality. In this study, we use Earth System models to interactively assess the roles of ODSs, ozone-forming pollutants, and GHGs including methane, carbon dioxide, and nitrous oxide on ozone changes from the surface to the upper stratosphere. While substantial reductions in stratospheric ozone due to ODSs occurred since the 1970s, the lower-atmospheric ozone increases due to industrial pollution have countered this decrease. In-

63 creases in GHGs impact stratospheric ozone with various positive and negative effects,
64 and complicating this, their impacts vary with ODS levels in the atmosphere. We have
65 also assessed the impact of changes in stratospheric ozone and circulation on lower-atmospheric
66 ozone through stratosphere-troposphere exchange, and find that ODS increases produce
67 a decrease in net downward transport of ozone, offset by increases in methane causing
68 an increased net flux of ozone, and compounded by industrial pollution with ozone pre-
69 cursors driving a decreasing net flux of ozone from the stratosphere.

70 1 Introduction

71 Since preindustrial (PI) times, anthropogenic forcing has driven considerable ozone
72 changes, both in the stratosphere and the troposphere. Stratospheric ozone prevents harm-
73 ful ultraviolet radiation from reaching the Earth's surface. Ozone results from natural
74 photochemical production and destruction cycles in the stratosphere. Stratospheric ozone
75 can be transported into the troposphere, contributing to background tropospheric ozone
76 that is in balance with chemical destruction and deposition to the surface. However, both
77 stratospheric and tropospheric ozone have been perturbed by anthropogenic influences.
78 The most significant impact on stratospheric ozone is from halogenated ozone-depleting
79 substances (ODSs) that have damaged the ozone layer since the 1970s (Farman & Shanklin,
80 1985; Solomon, 1999). In the troposphere, emissions of ozone precursors, including ni-
81 trogen oxides ($\text{NO}_x = \text{NO} + \text{NO}_2$), methane, and non-methane volatile organic compounds,
82 have led to substantial ozone increases since PI times (Volz & Kley, 1988; Gaudel et al.,
83 2018). Tropospheric ozone is a greenhouse gas (GHGs) and air pollutant harmful to hu-
84 man health and vegetation.

85 In addition to ODSs, increases in long-lived GHGs (especially CO_2 , N_2O , and CH_4)
86 also impact stratospheric ozone chemically and dynamically (Fleming et al., 2011; Reader
87 et al., 2013; Revell et al., 2015; Butler et al., 2016). Methane is an ozone precursor in
88 the troposphere promoting ozone production in the presence of NO_x . In the stratosphere,
89 methane affects ozone in several ways (Brasseur & Solomon, 1984): (1) Increasing methane
90 leads to water vapor production in the stratosphere which enhances the ozone loss through
91 HO_x -cycle. This process is more important in the upper stratosphere and the mesosphere.
92 (2) Increasing H_2O leads to cooling in the stratosphere that slows down ozone loss; this
93 process is more pronounced in the middle stratosphere (Fleming et al., 2011). (3) Methane
94 reacts with free chlorine (Cl) to produce HCl, and this deactivation of Cl leads to reduced

95 ozone depletion, which can result in a significant impact on stratospheric ozone whilst
96 the ODS loading is high (Fleming et al., 2011; Revell et al., 2012; Reader et al., 2013).

97 The increase of N_2O mainly impacts ozone through NO_x -induced ozone destruc-
98 tion in the stratosphere (Crutzen, 1970). However, in a high Cl loading environment, the
99 available NO_2 will be reduced by forming ClONO_2 , therefore reducing the ozone-destruction
100 efficiency (Portmann et al., 2012; Stolarski & Waugh, 2015; Revell et al., 2015). CO_2 -
101 induced stratospheric cooling can slow down the ozone destruction rate there (e.g. Haigh
102 & Pyle, 1979; Chipperfield & Feng, 2003; Oman et al., 2010), therefore leading to an ozone
103 increase. CO_2 increases also result in changes in stratospheric circulation and a speedup
104 of the Brewer-Dobson circulation (Butchart & Scaife, 2001; Butchart, 2014) that enhances
105 the stratosphere-troposphere exchange. The dynamical changes in the lower stratosphere
106 and the upper troposphere, e.g., the rise of the tropopause, could modify the vertical ozone
107 distribution in that region (Oberländer-Hayn et al., 2016). Changes in stratospheric ozone
108 and circulation can also affect tropospheric ozone through stratosphere-troposphere ex-
109 change (STE) (Hegglin, 2009; Zeng et al., 2010).

110 Past studies have usually assessed the impact of anthropogenic forcing on ozone
111 changes with a focus on either the stratosphere or the troposphere, using a variety of chemistry-
112 climate models. This is partly due to the only recent availability of fully coupled stratosphere-
113 troposphere chemistry-climate models. Fleming et al. (2011) use a 2-dimensional model
114 to study the impact of ODSs, CO_2 , N_2O , and methane on changes in the stratosphere
115 between 1850 and 2100. Morgenstern et al. (2018) assess the sensitivity of ozone changes
116 to changes in ODS, N_2O , and methane in Chemistry-Climate Model Initiative Phase 1
117 (CCMI-1) models using perturbation simulations that cover 1960-2100. They find that
118 while the models agree well in simulating the response of ozone changes to anthropogenic
119 forcings in the middle and upper stratosphere, the agreement is less good in the lower
120 stratosphere and troposphere as some models do not include detailed tropospheric chem-
121 istry and dynamical feedbacks challenge this group of models. However, Reader et al.
122 (2013) investigate ozone changes from preindustrial times to the present using a chemistry-
123 climate model, and assessed the influence of changes in ODSs, N_2O , and tropospheric
124 ozone precursors. They find that the increase in lower stratospheric ozone associated with
125 the increase in ozone precursors contribute significantly to the total column ozone. Pre-
126 viously, models used in multi-model simulations of tropospheric ozone changes often did
127 not include an interactive stratosphere (Stevenson et al., 2006), or included models with

128 variably comprehensive tropospheric and stratospheric chemistry (Young et al., 2013;
129 Iglesias-Suarez et al., 2016). Eyring et al. (2013) document ozone changes and associ-
130 ated climate impacts in the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 5 (CMIP5)
131 simulations and point out that some large ozone biases exist for individual models with
132 interactive chemistry.

133 The emergence of fully coupled stratosphere-troposphere chemistry-climate mod-
134 els makes it possible to explore the coupling between stratospheric and tropospheric ozone
135 changes and their responses to anthropogenic forcing more comprehensively. The recently
136 available model simulations from the 6th Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP6)
137 (Eyring et al., 2016), and specifically from the Aerosol and Chemistry Model Intercom-
138 parison Project (AerChemMIP) (Collins et al., 2017), allow us to assess stratospheric
139 and tropospheric ozone changes in response to changes in ODSs, CO₂, N₂O, methane,
140 and ozone precursors between 1850 to 2014. All AerChemMIP models included in this
141 study have interactive stratospheric and tropospheric chemistry. In particular, the con-
142 tributions of ozone precursors to total column ozone can be assessed in these models.

143 The subsequent sections are organised as follows: In Section 2, we describe the AerChem-
144 MIP model simulations used in this study. In Section 3, we present the impacts of in-
145 dividual forcings on total and partial ozone columns, the responses of global ozone to
146 the forcings, and an attribution of the vertically resolved ozone changes for the periods
147 of 1979-1999 and 2000-2014, respectively. We also examine the impact of stratospheric
148 changes on tropospheric ozone. A summary and conclusions are in Section 4.

149 **2 CMIP6 AerChemMIP simulations, models, and methods**

150 The AerChemMIP is a constituent model intercomparison project of CMIP6. Its
151 purpose is to quantify the impact of aerosols and chemically reactive gases on climate
152 and vice versa (Collins et al., 2017). The reference experiment “histSST” is an atmosphere-
153 only single member experiment with sea-surface temperatures (SSTs) and sea ice con-
154 centrations (SIC) taken from a corresponding fully coupled atmosphere-ocean CMIP6
155 “historical” simulation with anthropogenic forcing covering 1850-2014 (Eyring et al., 2016).
156 Complementing the histSST experiment, a set of perturbation experiments is used to dis-
157 cern the impacts of individual forcings on atmospheric composition. The “historical” sim-
158 ulations have been used in several CMIP6 model comparison studies on past changes in

159 tropospheric and stratospheric ozone, methane lifetime, and OH (Morgenstern et al., 2020;
160 Stevenson et al., 2020; Griffiths et al., 2021; Keeble et al., 2021). Here, we analyse the
161 AerChemMIP perturbation simulations to assess impacts of ODS, methane, N₂O, CO₂,
162 and ozone precursors (the “near-term climate forcers” (NTCFs) in AerChemMIP) on
163 stratospheric and tropospheric ozone between 1850 and 2014. The models and the AerChem-
164 MIP simulations used in this study are listed in Table 1.

165 In all perturbation simulations, the concentrations or emissions of individual forcers
166 are fixed at their preindustrial levels, except for ODSs that are fixed at their 1950 lev-
167 els (from 1850 to 1950 the ODSs are invariant in the “historical” scenario). The impact
168 of each forcing on ozone changes is expressed as the difference between the “all forcing”
169 histSST simulation and a corresponding perturbation simulation (Table 2). The time evo-
170 lution of ozone in each simulation is expressed as a deviation from its average over the
171 period 1850-1900. This experimental design captures only the “fast” atmospheric response
172 to forcing changes, but not any responses involving SST changes due to the individual
173 forcings. As simulations aiming to directly quantify the impact of CO₂ increases are not
174 available in AerChemMIP, we derive the impact of CO₂ as the difference between the
175 histSST simulation and the sum of all single-forcing perturbations assuming that any
176 coupling effects are small (Table 2). The impacts of combined GHGs (methane, CO₂,
177 and N₂O) and long-lived GHGs (LLGHGs: CO₂ and N₂O) can also be derived from avail-
178 able perturbation simulations (Table 2). The effects of other minor GHGs are assumed
179 to be small in this.

180 We use data from five CMIP6 models (CESM2-WACCM, GFDL-ESM4, MRI-ESM2-
181 0, UKESM1-0-LL, and GISS-E2-1-G), available at the ESGF data archive ([https://esgf-
182 node.llnl.gov/search/cmip6/](https://esgf-node.llnl.gov/search/cmip6/)). In “historical” simulations all are fully coupled ocean-atmosphere
183 Earth System models with interactive stratospheric and tropospheric chemistry schemes.
184 More detailed description of the models have been given by Griffiths et al. (2021) and
185 the references therein (cf. Table 1). These models have been evaluated for their suitabil-
186 ity for simulating past ozone changes in both the stratosphere and the troposphere (Morgenstern
187 et al., 2020; Morgenstern, 2021; Griffiths et al., 2021; Keeble et al., 2021). All five mod-
188 els have performed histSST, ODS, and ozone precursor perturbation simulations, all mod-
189 els but CESM2-WACCM have also performed methane perturbation simulations, and
190 three models (MRI-ESM2-0, UKESM1-0-LL, and GISS-E2-1-G) have performed all per-
191 turbation simulations (Table 1). Among the five models, GISS-E2-1-G exhibits a much

192 bigger response to volcanic eruptions than the other models (Morgenstern et al., 2020),
193 which leads to an abnormally strong ozone response in the “all forcing” historical sim-
194 ulation. Therefore, we do not include this model in the multi-model ensemble means.
195 However, for completeness we do show the results of its response to individual forcing
196 in the supplement, because the strong response to volcanic eruptions is largely cancelled
197 in comparisons of paired simulations.

198 In the historical scenario, the greenhouse gases (CO_2 , N_2O , and methane) (Meinshausen
199 et al., 2017) all show monotonic increases since 1850 with steeper increases from the 1970s
200 (Figure 1). An exception is CH_4 which plateaued around 2000. The ODSs are represented
201 by equivalent chlorine (Cl_{eq}), i.e. the sum of ODSs weighted with their per-molecule chlo-
202 rine and bromine contents (where the bromine contribution is scaled by a factor of 60)
203 and shifted by 4 years, to account for transport (Newman et al., 2007). Cl_{eq} shows a sharp
204 rise from the 1950s before declining from the late 1990s. Near-term climate forcers (NTCFs)
205 comprise ozone and aerosol precursors (we also refer to “NTCFs” as “ozone precursors”
206 herein), with emissions of carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), and biogenic
207 volatile organic compounds all increasing since the pre-industrial period (as shown in Fig-
208 ure 1 of Griffiths et al., 2021). For regression purposes we use the global mean surface
209 ozone value averaged between all five models as a single metric for the overall effect of
210 ozone precursors. Although the GISS-E2-1-G model results are not included in any of
211 the multimodel means, we show the response of ozone changes to forcings in this model
212 for the reason stated above. The global mean surface ozone values are very similar among
213 the five models.

214 We calculate the total and partial ozone columns using monthly-mean ozone and
215 related fields on the models’ native grids. The tropopause is defined using the tropopause
216 pressure output from each model based on the WMO lapse rate definition (REFERENCE),
217 and the tropospheric columns are the integrals of the ozone concentrations below the thus
218 defined tropopause. The changes in vertically resolved distributions of ozone are calcu-
219 lated using the monthly-mean ozone fields interpolated onto a common grid of 39 lev-
220 els from 1000 to 0.03 hPa.

We use a linear regression approach to assess the response of global ozone changes
to the forcings. Following Morgenstern et al. (2018) we express ozone sensitivities to the

various forcing agents as coefficients in least-squares regression fits, e.g.

$$[O_3]_{histSST} = [O_3]_{histSST-1950HC} + A_0 \Delta Cl_{eq} + \epsilon \quad (1)$$

where $[O_3]_{histSST}$ and $[O_3]_{histSST-1950HC}$ are timeseries of ozone concentrations from the “all forcing” histSST and the fixed 1950HC perturbation experiments (Table 1), ΔCl_{eq} is the difference in equivalent chlorine between the two experiments, A_0 is the regression fit describing the sensitivity of ozone to ODSs, and ϵ is the error minimized in the fitting process. Analogous formulae hold for the other forcing agents.

3 Results

3.1 Evolution of ozone columns between 1850 and 2014

We compare stratospheric, tropospheric and total-column ozone changes in the histSST simulations (figure 2). Despite some large inter-model differences in TCO (red shading), the MMM TCO is in very good agreement with the observations in all regions and captures the observed interannual variability. Until the 1970s, the MMM TCO gradually increases in the tropics (20S-20N), driven by the increase in the tropospheric columns, and in the NH mid-latitudes (35N-60N) where the tropospheric and stratospheric columns both increase (figure 2). Between the 1970s and the late 1990s, stratospheric ozone depletion leads to large TCO reductions in all regions and completely dominates the October TCO changes at southern high latitudes (60S-90S). There is also considerable ozone depletion at northern high latitudes (60N-90N) in boreal spring (March) between 1980s to the late 1990s. In the tropics and the NH mid-latitudes, the tropospheric columns continuously increase, which results in the TCO not dropping to below PI values. From the late 1990s, TCO starts to increase in all regions; this is largely driven by the change in the stratospheric columns. In the NH mid-latitudes and the Arctic polar region, the stratospheric ozone recovery is faster than in the respective regions in the SH, and in the tropics. The continuous increase of the tropospheric columns contributes substantially to the long-term TCO changes in the tropics and in the NH mid-latitudes. The models are much more consistent in simulating changes in the tropospheric columns, and the large model spread in TCO is dominated by the spread in the stratospheric columns (not shown). The model spread in TCO before 1970s is mainly governed by interannual variations but becomes much larger since the 1970s which is dominated by inter-model differences in the stratospheric column changes in response to the ODS changes (see Section 3.2.1).

250 **3.2 Attribution of total and partial ozone column changes**

251 Figure 3 shows the changes in MMM TCO due to the individual forcings, as de-
 252 viations from 1850-1900 values. The ODSs contribute to the continuous substantial TCO
 253 reductions since the 1970s in all regions, with a reduction of over 150 DU in the spring-
 254 time SH polar region, up to 60 DU in the NH polar region, 20–35 DU in both mid-latitude
 255 regions, and ~ 10 DU in the tropics in the year 2000. The ozone increase since the late
 256 1990s is more evident in the SH mid- and high latitudes, consistent with Antarctic ozone
 257 recovery. The increase in NTCFs leads to a gradual increase in TCO in all regions but
 258 has the largest impact in the NH mid-latitudes and the tropics, increasing by up to 15 DU
 259 and 9 DU respectively in 2014 compared to the PI period. The impact of NTCFs on po-
 260 lar ozone changes is relatively small. The methane increase results in TCO increases in
 261 all regions, ranging from 7 DU in the tropics, 15 DU in both mid-latitude regions, and
 262 up to 30 DU in both polar regions by the end of the simulation period. The combined
 263 impact from NTCFs and methane outweighs the impact from ODS in the near-global
 264 TCO changes. The increase of N_2O results in a steady, relatively small decrease in the
 265 near-global TCO since the period of 1850-1900 which however emerges in the SH only
 266 since the 1970s. The overall effect of N_2O on TCO changes amounts to ~ 2 DU in the
 267 tropics and up to ~ 10 DU reductions in the polar regions. The increasing CO_2 gener-
 268 ally leads to a modest net reduction in TCO at the end of 2014 compared to its PI lev-
 269 els in all regions. The most significant reduction in TCO due to CO_2 occurred in the trop-
 270 ics since the 1970s, where TCO gradually decreased to ~ 5 DU below its PI value in 2014.
 271 Note that there are some TCO increases in the NH mid- and high latitudes until the 1970s
 272 before values are declining, but there is a large interannual variation, especially in the
 273 NH polar region. The results from GISS-E2-1-G are not included in the MMM TCO changes
 274 but are shown in the supplement (Figure S1).

275 In the following we discuss the contribution of stratospheric and tropospheric par-
 276 tial columns to TCOs and the inter-model differences due to each forcing.

277 **3.2.1 ODS**

278 Figure 4 shows that the stratospheric column changes dominate the changes in TCO
 279 in all regions due to ODS. The model spread in TCO (expressed as the mean absolute
 280 deviation of annual mean values) is larger than the multi-model mean signal. Two mod-

281 els (CESM2-WACCM and GFDL-ESM4) are in good agreement and are much closer to
282 the mean model values than the other two models. UKESM1-0-LL significantly overes-
283 timates ozone depletion in all regions relative to the MMM, and MRI-ESM2-0 generally
284 underestimates ozone depletion, especially in the SH. The models show mostly a zero
285 or slight positive trend in TCO after 2000, due to stratospheric ozone no longer declin-
286 ing in most regions.

287 **3.2.2 NTCFs**

288 Due to growing emissions of NTCFs, increases in tropospheric ozone columns dom-
289 inate the TCO increase in the tropics and the NH mid-latitudes (Figure 5). In the SH
290 mid-latitudes, the increase in stratospheric columns and the tropospheric columns are
291 comparable. There are also moderate increases in TCO in the NH polar region, but the
292 increase is not significant due to the large model spread there. The NTCFs have little
293 impact on TCO in the SH high latitudes. The four models are in better agreement in
294 simulating the TCO changes in the tropics and mid-latitudes than in high latitudes. Un-
295 like the other models, UKESM1-0-LL shows a decrease, instead of an increase, in TCO
296 since the late 1990s in the SH mid- and high latitudes. MRI-ESM2-0 shows a much larger
297 increase in TCO in the polar regions than in the other models however with large inter-
298 annual variation.

299 **3.2.3 Methane**

300 Methane causes TCO to increase in the extra-tropics since the 1970s (Figure 6).
301 This increase is largely due to increases in extra-tropical stratospheric ozone. We dis-
302 cuss possible causes for this behaviour in section 3.3.3. In the tropics, the methane in-
303 crease leads to a modest increase in TCO with comparable contributions from the strato-
304 sphere and the troposphere. The increase in tropospheric ozone columns also contributes
305 to TCO increases, as CH₄ is an ozone precursor; the tropospheric increase has a propor-
306 tionally larger impact on TCO in the tropics. The impact of methane increase on TCO
307 in the polar regions is almost exclusively through the increase in the stratospheric columns,
308 and is associated with a larger interannual variability than in the extra-polar regions.
309 The three models that provided the data for assessing the methane impact on ozone are
310 in good agreement, but the model spread becomes larger in the later decades of the sim-
311 ulation period and is particularly large in the SH polar region after the 1970s, likely as-

sociated with the large model differences in simulating polar ozone depletion (Figure 4)

.

3.2.4 N_2O

The overall effect on global TCO from N_2O is small and mostly negative throughout the simulation period. It is dominated by changes in the stratospheric contribution (Figure 7). Two models (MRI-ESM2-0 and UKESM1-0-LL) provide the necessary data for assessing the impact of N_2O on ozone. The models are in good agreement before the later part of the 20th century in all regions, but their results diverge towards the end of the simulation period (2014) in the extra-polar regions. In the tropics, the model difference becomes larger in the 1980s, but becomes smaller again after the year 2020. In the NH mid-latitudes, the model difference maximizes after year 2000 with MRI-ESM2-0 dropping to ~ 7 DU below the PI value and UKESM1-0-LL gaining ~ 5 DU above the PI value. In the SH mid-latitudes, the models also diverge after the year 2000 but the values at the end of the simulation period are still both negative compared to the PI times. The two models are in better agreement in the polar regions. Overall, the interannual variation seems larger than the model difference.

3.2.5 CO_2

Likewise, the impact of CO_2 on TCO as simulated by the same two models (MRI-ESM2-0 and UKESM1-0-LL) (Table 2) is dominated by changes in the stratospheric ozone columns (Figure 8). Both models show a steady decrease in TCO since the 1970s in the tropics, likely as a result of the change in the stratospheric circulation due to the CO_2 increase since the PI times (e.g. Butchart, 2014). The slight increase in near-global mean TCO (mainly driven by the increase in the NH) from 1850 to the 1970s is likely due to stratospheric cooling that reduces stratospheric ozone loss (Stolarski & Waugh, 2015). The sharp decrease in the stratospheric ozone columns after the 1970s coincides with the high loading of ODS, which, however, seems to enhance the stratospheric ozone depletion in a cooler stratosphere (see Section 3.3.5). In the high latitudes, the patterns of TCO changes are similar to the changes in the corresponding mid-latitudes, both with a large year-to-year variation. The two models agree reasonably well in simulating the impact of CO_2 on TCO but the model difference becomes larger after the 1990s in both the NH mid-latitudes and the SH polar region.

3.3 Response of global ozone changes to forcing

The response of changes in annual and zonal mean ozone concentrations in response to changes due to ODSs, NTCFs, methane, N₂O, and CO₂ are assessed using linear regression (Eqn. 1) over the whole simulation period of 1850-2014 (except for assessing ozone changes due to ODS which covers 1950-2014). With the exception of the ODSs, which peak in the late 1990s, the evolution of all other forcings is monotonic (Figure 1). Due to the short lifetime and the non-linearity of ozone and aerosol precursors, we use the multi-model and global mean surface ozone mixing ratios changes between 1850 to 2014 in the histSST simulation to represent the evolution of NTCFs in the linear regression. As expected, surface ozone increases monotonically between 1850 and 2014. All regressed variables, i.e., the forcing data, are normalised to range between 0 and 1. The purpose of expressing the ozone changes in concentration units is to demonstrate more directly how the vertically resolved ozone changes contribute to the column changes. Equivalent plots showing the response of ozone changes in volume mixing ratio to each forcing are displayed in the supplement (Figure S2-S6).

3.3.1 Response to ODS changes

The halogenated ODSs have increased sharply since the 1950s, peaking before the year 2000 and then decreasing (Figure 1). The response of ozone to these ODS changes, expressed as the linear regression coefficient, A_0 , are shown in Figure 9 for the four models (CESM2-WACCM, GFDL-ESM4, MRI-ESM2-0, and UKESM1-0-LL). All models show an overwhelmingly negative ozone response with the largest ozone reductions in the high latitudes. Among the four models, UKESM1-0-LL displays the strongest Antarctic and Arctic ozone depletion, whereas MRI-ESM2-0 shows the weakest polar ozone depletion. The small increases in ozone in the tropics and the NH in MRI-ESM2-0 are insignificant at the 95% confidence level. The intermodel difference in the response to ODSs drives the large diversity in TCO changes (Figure 4).

3.3.2 Response to NTCFs changes

The ozone response to the increase in NTCFs is expressed as the linear regression coefficient, A_0 , in Figure 10. The response is broadly consistent among the four models, and the main feature is the substantial increase in tropospheric ozone concentrations,

373 especially in the NH. All models show some increases in stratospheric ozone, although
374 in CESM2-WACCM and GFDL-ESM4 such an increase is largely insignificant. The sig-
375 nificant ozone increase in the lower to middle stratosphere in UKESM1-0-LL and MRI-
376 ESM2-0 is likely due to these models' reduction in lower-stratospheric NO_y (not shown)
377 that causes ozone to increase; this overestimation of stratospheric ozone changes will lead
378 to a small overestimation in TCO in the MMM TCO. The UKESM1-0-LL also shows
379 a significant ozone reduction in the SH lower stratosphere. The cause of this feature is
380 unclear. We do not have sufficient diagnostics to ascertain if this is due to ozone-induced
381 dynamical changes in that model.

382 *3.3.3 Response to methane changes*

383 Methane impacts ozone via a few positive feedback mechanisms. Methane is an ozone
384 precursor which promotes ozone chemical production in the troposphere in the presence
385 of NO_x . Through its reaction with OH, methane reduces the amount of HO_x -induced
386 ozone loss in the stratosphere. It also reacts with free chlorine atoms (Cl), which are dom-
387 inant ozone destructing compounds in the stratosphere, reducing ozone loss.

388 Three models (MRI-ESM2-0, GFDL-ESM4, and UKESM1-0-LL) have performed
389 the methane perturbation simulation (histSST-piCH4). A linear regression function was
390 constructed to assess the sensitivity of ozone to methane changes between 1850 and 2014
391 (Figure 11). It shows that the response of ozone to the methane increase is positive in
392 the troposphere in all models. In the stratosphere, the ozone response is also largely pos-
393 itive primarily through its reaction with free Cl to produce HCl which reduces the amount
394 of reactive chlorine available to destroy ozone. This effect is particularly strong in the
395 lower stratosphere polar regions where Cl-induced ozone depletion is most abundant and
396 the strongest. Reader et al. (2013) calculated a reduction of 15-35% in reactive chlorine
397 throughout the stratosphere due to methane increase from the PI to present-day under
398 high chlorine load conditions. There is a reduction in ozone in the upper stratosphere
399 and mesosphere where the dissociation of H_2O becomes more important, which promotes
400 ozone reduction through increased HO_x there (Morgenstern et al., 2018). This negative
401 effect of methane on mesospheric ozone is simulated by all four models (figure S4). There
402 are also some reductions of ozone in the tropical middle stratosphere, most pronounced
403 in MRI-ESM2-0 and GFDL-ESM4, which could be caused by the HO_x -induced ozone
404 loss through the dissociation of water vapour that outweighs the other processes.

405 Although the models agree well on the largely positive feedback from the methane
406 increase, there are some inter-model differences, in particular the stronger ozone increases
407 in the polar regions in MRI-ESM2-0 and UKESM1-0-LL than that in GFDL-ESM4. There
408 are small decreases in ozone in the tropical lower stratosphere in both MRI-ESM2-0 and
409 GFDL-ESM4, but not in UKESM1-0-LL.

410 **3.3.4 Response to N₂O changes**

411 Two models (MRI-ESM2-0 and UKESM1-0-LL) have performed N₂O perturba-
412 tion simulations (histSST-piN₂O). The ozone change in response to the N₂O increase,
413 shown in Figure 12, is characterised by the reduction in ozone in the middle and upper
414 stratosphere and an increase in ozone in the upper troposphere and lower stratosphere
415 (UTLS) in both models. The increase in N₂O increases the availability of odd-nitrogen
416 causing ozone destruction in the stratosphere. The increase in ozone concentrations in
417 the UTLS region is likely due to a “self-healing” process as reduced overhead ozone columns
418 allow more ultraviolet light to penetrate to lower levels, producing more ozone there. In
419 the presence of ODSs, the increasing N₂O has a positive impact on ozone changes in the
420 stratosphere, mainly due to the reaction between NO₂ and chlorine monoxide (ClO) form-
421 ing ClONO₂ which reduces the efficacy of chlorine-catalysed ozone depletion. The re-
422 duction in ozone in the SH polar region is likely due to the self-healing process mentioned
423 above.

424 The ozone responses to increasing N₂O over this historical period are consistent
425 in the two models, however with a stronger ozone reduction occurring in the NH high
426 latitudes in MRI-ESM2-0 and in the SH high latitudes in UKESM1-0-LL, respectively.
427 Although the overall impact on TCO from increasing N₂O is rather small (Fig 7) over
428 this historical period, the negative impact from increasing N₂O on ozone could become
429 more significant with halogenated ODSs declining in the future (Ravishankara et al., 2009;
430 Revell et al., 2012).

431 **3.3.5 Response to CO₂ changes**

432 Ozone changes in response to the CO₂ increase are assessed in two models (MRI-
433 ESM2-0 and UKESM1-0-LL), and are calculated by subtracting all other single-forcing
434 responses from the all-forcing simulation (Table 2). Again, a linear regression function

435 is applied to regress ozone changes on the normalised changes in CO₂. The resulting lin-
436 ear regression coefficient (Figure 13) shows that, in both models, the increase in CO₂ leads
437 to a significant ozone increase in the middle and upper stratosphere and a decrease in
438 the UTLS region. This is consistent with previous findings that increasing CO₂ can mod-
439 ify ozone concentrations through chemical and dynamical changes in the stratosphere
440 which we elaborate on below: The slowdown of ozone destruction due to cooling caused
441 by the CO₂ increase (e.g. Haigh & Pyle, 1979; Portmann et al., 2012) will lead to ozone
442 increases. In the SH polar region, however, the major reduction in ozone concentrations
443 in the lower stratosphere is due to stratospheric cooling which promotes the formation
444 of polar stratospheric cloud, causing ozone depletion. The rise of the tropopause due to
445 the speedup of the Brewer-Dobson circulation (BDC; Oberländer-Hayn et al., 2016) mod-
446 ifies the distribution of ozone leading to ozone reductions in the lower stratosphere and
447 the upper troposphere. The speedup of the BDC also leads to faster poleward transport
448 of stratospheric ozone that results in decreased ozone in the tropical lower stratosphere
449 but increased ozone in the extra-tropics (Shepherd, 2008; Li et al., 2009). The ozone loss
450 in the troposphere is also linked to enhanced photochemical destruction in a wetter and
451 warmer climate due to CO₂ increase (e.g. Johnson et al., 1999).

452 **3.4 Attribution of recent vertically resolved regional ozone trends**

453 We assess regionally averaged multi-model mean vertically resolved ozone trends
454 in the “histSST” simulation and the attribution of those trends in ozone to ODS, NTCFs,
455 and GHGs for both the ozone depletion period (1979-1999) and the ozone recovery pe-
456 riod (2000-2014). The impacts of ODS and NTCFs can be assessed directly from the re-
457 spective perturbation simulations. The impact of the combined GHGs on ozone was de-
458 rived as a residual from the perturbation simulations of ODSs and NTCFs (table 2) for
459 a more direct comparison with the CCMI-1 models (WMO, 2018). In addition, we also
460 show separately the impacts of methane and the combined CO₂ and N₂O (namely “LL-
461 GHGs”) on ozone trends from the available three model results, as only two models pro-
462 vided the perturbations for assessing the impact of CO₂ and N₂O separately. We focus
463 on analysing the ozone changes in three regions including the NH mid-latitudes (60N-
464 35N), the tropics (20N-20S), and the SH mid-latitudes (35S-60S). The trends and their
465 contributions are shown separately for the stratosphere and the troposphere.

466 **3.4.1 Stratosphere 1979-1999**

467 Figure 14 shows the percentage change in vertically resolved ozone concentrations
468 and the contribution of each forcing to the overall ozone trend in the stratosphere for
469 the ozone depletion period (1979-1999). The resulting ozone trend is statistically signif-
470 icant negative throughout the stratosphere, predominantly driven by ODS increases. In
471 the upper stratosphere, a negative trend of $\sim 4\text{-}6\%$ per decade occurs in the mid-latitudes
472 and $\sim -2\text{-}4\%$ per decade in the tropics, caused by halogen-induced ozone depletion. In
473 the middle stratosphere (30-10 hPa), the trend becomes smaller. The most pronounced
474 ozone reduction (up to $\sim 8\%$ per decade) is in the SH mid-latitudes which is impacted
475 by Antarctic ozone depletion. Arctic ozone depletion also results in a $\sim 3\text{-}4\%$ per decade
476 decrease of ozone in the NH mid-latitude lower stratosphere. In the tropical lower strato-
477 sphere, the negative trend in ozone becomes insignificant due to large uncertainty (a com-
478 bination of model and statistical uncertainties) in this region.

479 Contributions from other forcing agents to the ozone trend are relatively small dur-
480 ing this period. The NTCFs have no significant impact on stratospheric ozone. The com-
481 bined GHGs (methane, CO_2 , and N_2O) lead to a small but significant positive ozone trend
482 in the extra-tropical upper stratosphere, a negative trend in the middle stratosphere in
483 the NH mid-latitudes, and a negative trend between the middle and upper tropical strato-
484 sphere. Among the individual GHGs, the increase in methane generally leads to a posi-
485 tive trend in ozone in the stratosphere whereas the impact from the combined CO_2 and
486 N_2O leads to a small negative trend in ozone. Note that the impacts from methane and
487 LLGHGs are based on three models. In the lower stratosphere, the ozone trend is as-
488 sociated with a larger uncertainty than in the upper and middle stratosphere, especially
489 in the tropics where the ozone trend is insignificant at the 95% confidence level.

490 **3.4.2 Stratosphere 2000-2014**

491 Over the 2000-2014 period, the ozone trends, although largely positive, are mostly
492 insignificant, except in the upper stratosphere where the ozone concentration shows a
493 significant increase of up to 3% per decade (Figure 14). The contrast in stratospheric
494 trends between the two periods is the consequence of the declining ODS concentrations
495 since the late 1990s. During this period (2000-2014), ODSs are in a slow decline. Ozone

496 trends due to ODSs are comparable to the impacts of the combined GHGs; both con-
497 tribute to a positive trend in the upper stratosphere.

498 The impact of methane on the ozone trend is mainly negative in the upper strato-
499 sphere, emphasising that its impact on stratospheric ozone depends on the background
500 ODS levels. As ODS concentrations decline, the positive impact of methane on strato-
501 spheric ozone becomes smaller. In the lower stratosphere, the methane increase leads to
502 ozone increases in the NH mid-latitudes and in the tropics, through chemical ozone pro-
503 duction, also shown in the period 1979-1999.

504 The increase of LLGHGs (CO_2 and N_2O) leads to positive ozone trends in the up-
505 per stratosphere as the result of the slowdown of ozone chemical destruction in a cooler
506 stratosphere caused by the CO_2 increase. As ODS concentrations decline, CO_2 plays an
507 increasingly important role in driving stratospheric ozone trends. It shows that the in-
508 creasing LLGHGs lead to a positive ozone trend in the upper stratosphere due to con-
509 tinuous cooling. The negative contribution from the LLGHGs to the ozone trend in the
510 lower stratosphere is the consequence of the dynamical change due to CO_2 increase. The
511 increases in N_2O and CO_2 have a conflicting influence on ozone changes, but the influ-
512 ence from CO_2 outweighs that from N_2O . Although CO_2 dominates the impact from LL-
513 GHGs, N_2O could also have a significant impact on the future trend in stratospheric ozone.
514 Increasing N_2O generally causes stratospheric ozone loss by nitrogen-induced ozone de-
515 struction, but such a negative feedback is dampened in the presence of ODSs due to the
516 formation of ClONO_2 which reduces both NO_x - and Cl-induced ozone depletion. There-
517 fore, the impact on stratospheric ozone from increasing N_2O is expected to be more pro-
518 nounced in the future when ODSs decline. However, we cannot diagnose a significant trend
519 here due to a large discrepancy existing between the two available model's estimation
520 of the N_2O impact after the 1990s (Figure 7).

521 Overall, the response of stratospheric ozone trends to changes in ODSs and GHGs
522 in these models is consistent with those found previously in CCMI-1 models (WMO, 2018).
523 A common feature is the large variability in the modelled lower stratospheric ozone trends.
524 In the CMIP6 models included in this study, the largely insignificant lower stratospheric
525 ozone trends over the period of 2000-2014 also reflect the relatively short period and the
526 resulting small changes in forcing. However, the trend reversal in stratospheric ozone due
527 to ODS reductions is clearly simulated in these CMIP6 models. The limited number of

528 models also increases the uncertainty in estimating the ozone trends over this short pe-
529 riod.

530 **3.4.3 Troposphere**

531 Over the 1979-1999 period, Figure 15 indicates that there is an insignificant neg-
532 ative ozone trend of $\sim 3\%$ /decade in the NH mid-latitudes upper troposphere and a sig-
533 nificant negative trend of $\sim 8\%$ /decade in the SH mid-latitudes upper troposphere. These
534 negative trends in the mid-latitudes become positive in the free and lower troposphere.
535 In the tropics, a significant positive trend of $\sim 5\%$ per decade occurs throughout the tro-
536 posphere over this period. Over the 2000-2014 period, the ozone trend in the extra-tropical
537 upper troposphere has shifted from negative to small though insignificant positive. In
538 the tropical and extratropical free and lower troposphere, there are no significant changes
539 in ozone trend in these regions compared to the previous period.

540 Although the increase of ozone precursors (i.e., NTCFs) largely dominates the ozone
541 trend in the free and lower troposphere, the stratospheric ozone change due to ODS has
542 a large significant impact on the extra-tropical ozone trend in the upper troposphere,
543 especially in the SH over the period of 1979-1999. This impact is much reduced over the
544 period 2000-2014, emphasising the impact of stratospheric changes on tropospheric ozone.

545 The impact of GHGs on the tropospheric ozone trend is a combined effect from the
546 changes in methane and the LLGHGs. The increase in methane contributes positively
547 ($\sim 2\text{-}3\%$ /decade) throughout the troposphere during the 1979-1999 period, but this con-
548 tribution is much reduced in the free and lower troposphere over the period 2000-2014;
549 this is more evident in the SH mid-latitudes where the ozone trend has changed from pos-
550 itive to negative due to methane which may be due to the reduced positive feedback from
551 increasing methane to ozone with the lower ODS loading during this period. The im-
552 pact from the LLGHGs (i.e., a combination of CO_2 and N_2O) on tropospheric ozone is
553 predominantly negative with generally a larger impact in the upper than in the lower
554 troposphere, especially in the extra-tropics. The changes in upper tropospheric ozone
555 due to LLGHGs is associated with a large uncertainty reflecting dynamical variability.
556 A warmer troposphere due to the CO_2 increase leads to the increase in water vapour which
557 promotes ozone chemical destruction. (e.g. Stevenson et al., 2006). Overall, the com-
558 bined change in GHGs leads to a small and mostly positive ozone trend of less than $\sim 2\%$

559 3% per decade in the period 1979-1999 and a close to zero trend in the period 2000-2014
560 which is largely due to the decreasing impact of methane on lower tropospheric ozone.

561 **3.5 Impact of stratospheric changes on tropospheric ozone**

562 ***3.5.1 Mean stratospheric age of air***

563 A change in stratospheric circulation affects tropospheric ozone through stratosphere-
564 troposphere exchange (STE); it is often characterized in terms of stratospheric age of
565 air (AoA). Here we quantify the change in AoA and its attribution to individual forc-
566 ings in two models (UKESM1-0-LL and MRI-ESM2-0) that have provided the diagnos-
567 tics of the mean AoA. Figure 16 shows the AoA changes averaged over 1-70 hPa from
568 1870 to 2014 in the “all forcings” histSST simulation and the impact of forcing based
569 on their perturbations simulations from the two available models. In both models, the
570 AoA decreases substantially after the 1960s, reaching a reduction of 0.7 years in MRI-
571 ESM2-0 and 0.8 years in UKESM1-0-LL in the late 1990s before leveling off, albeit with
572 considerable interannual variability. The reduction in the AoA in both models reflects
573 an acceleration of stratospheric overturning, i.e., the Brewer-Dobson circulation (BDC).
574 The reductions in AoA in both models are clearly driven by ODS and CO₂ increases.
575 In UKESM1-0-LL, the impact of ODS and CO₂ on AoA are similar in magnitude; each
576 contributes ~0.5-0.6 years to the AoA decrease over the ozone depletion period (Polvani
577 et al., 2019). The impacts from other forcings (methane, N₂O, and NTCFs) on AoA are
578 small in UKESM1-0-LL. In MRI-ESM2-0, the impact of ODS on AoA (~0.2 years of re-
579 duction) is smaller than in UKESM1-0-LL, in agreement with the weak ozone depletion
580 exhibited by this model. In this model, the diagnostic of the AoA change due to NTCFs
581 is not available, hence we show the combined CO₂ and NTCFs effect which is ~0.4 years
582 in AoA reduction. The impacts from methane and N₂O on AoA are also small in MRI-
583 ESM2-0.

584 ***3.5.2 Stratosphere-troposphere exchange***

585 We now examine the impact of anthropogenic forcings on STE in the models. Due
586 to a lack of available diagnostics to directly evaluate STE, we use an indirect approach,
587 i.e. we calculate the residual of the ozone flux in the troposphere assuming it is balanced
588 by net photochemical production and dry deposition of ozone (Griffiths et al., 2021). Fig-

589 ure 17 shows the evolution of STE anomalies in histSST and due to the respective forc-
 590 ings relative to their PI values in four models. All models show various degrees of de-
 591 creases in STE since the 1950s, with the largest decrease occurring in UKESM1-0-LL
 592 reaching to the lowest point in around 2000 (~ -370 Tg(O₃)/year), followed by CESM2-
 593 WACCM (-150 Tg(O₃)/year), GFDL-ESM4 (-50 Tg(O₃)/year), and MRI-ESM2-0 (-25
 594 Tg(O₃)/year). The impact of ODS increases lead to large STE decreases in all models
 595 except in MRI-ESM2-0. Roughly half of the net decreases in STE are due to ODSs in
 596 UKESM1-0-LL and CESM2-WACCM. In GFDL-ESM4, there is a reduction of ~ 60 Tg(O₃)/year
 597 due to ODSs, which is larger than the STE reduction due to all forcings combined. The
 598 substantial reduction in STE due to stratospheric ozone depletion is consistent with the
 599 finding by Hegglin (2009).

600 Another significant driver for reductions in STE is NTCFs (Figure 17), whereby
 601 the increase in NTCFs produces a decrease in STE in three of the four models. This sug-
 602 gest that tropospheric ozone increases reduce the net downward transport of ozone from
 603 the stratosphere. By contrast, the methane increase causes a consistent increase in STE
 604 among the three models which performed methane perturbation simulations. The increase
 605 is a consequence of the stratospheric ozone increases caused by growing methane con-
 606 centrations.

607 Of the two models in which the impact of CO₂ can be assessed separately, the in-
 608 crease in CO₂ leads to a reduction in STE in UKESM1-0-LL but such an impact is less
 609 clear in MRI-ESM2-0. The combined impact from CO₂ and N₂O also shows a reduction
 610 in STE in GFDL-ESM4. As N₂O changes do not show any clear impact on STE in UKESM1-
 611 0-LL and MRI-ESM2-0, we assume that its impact on STE is also minor. Therefore the
 612 reduction in STE due to combined NO₂ and CO₂ in GFDL-ESM4 is mostly caused by
 613 the increase in CO₂. This reduction in STE due to CO₂ increase is likely the result of
 614 the decreased ozone in the lower stratosphere (cf. Figure 13).

615 *3.5.3 Impact on surface ozone*

616 Finally, we examine the impact of different forcings on global-mean surface ozone.
 617 Figure 18 shows the evolution of mean surface ozone anomalies since 1850 in histSST
 618 and the anomalies due to individual forcings. As expected, the monotonic increase in sur-
 619 face ozone since 1850 is largely driven by the increase of NTCFs, followed by the increase

620 in methane. The change in ODS loading leads to continuous surface ozone reduction since
621 the 1970s and reached the maximum reduction of ~ 3 ppbv in 2000 in all models except
622 in MRI-ESM2-0. This is the result of reduced downward transport of stratospheric ozone
623 (cf. Section 3.5.2). The increase of N_2O has no discernible impact on global-mean sur-
624 face ozone from the two available model results. CO_2 increases lead to a continuous de-
625 crease in surface ozone with a reduction of ~ 3 ppbv in all models, which is consistent
626 with the negative feedback from CO_2 to tropospheric ozone. Note that in GFDL-ESM4,
627 this impact also includes that from N_2O , although small, as there is no separate fixed
628 N_2O simulation available from this model. Here, the results corroborate with the find-
629 ing by Tarasick et al. (2019) that the stratospheric changes not only impact significantly
630 on ozone in the upper and free troposphere, they also significantly impact the lower tro-
631 pospheric ozone.

632 **4 Summary and conclusions**

633 We have assessed the response of historical ozone changes to the anthropogenic forc-
634 ings of ODSs, NTCFs, methane, N_2O , and CO_2 using the CMIP6 AerChemMIP pertur-
635 bation simulations, and have quantified the contributions of each individual forcing to
636 the changes in total, stratospheric, and tropospheric ozone columns. Consistent with pre-
637 vious studies, ODS-induced ozone depletion dominates the stratospheric ozone changes
638 from the 1970s until the late 1990s, followed by a stable or a slightly upward trend be-
639 tween 2000 and 2014 when the ODS forcing declines. Methane increases, during peri-
640 ods of high Cl loading, significantly contribute to stratospheric column ozone increase.
641 N_2O increases impact TCO by reducing the stratospheric ozone columns, but the over-
642 all effect is relatively small. CO_2 increases lead to an increase in the stratospheric ozone
643 columns in the NH and the tropics before the 1970s, then followed by a decrease in the
644 stratospheric ozone column coinciding with the ODS increase. We find that increases in
645 the short-lived ozone precursors and methane lead to a substantial increase in tropospheric
646 ozone since the 1950s that is increasingly important to the total column ozone. All mod-
647 els agree qualitatively on the response of ozone changes to the individual forcings but
648 differ substantially in their simulations of ODS-induced ozone depletion - the largest source
649 of inter-model differences. There is also a large interannual variation in stratospheric ozone
650 columns due to changes in N_2O and CO_2 .

651 We have examined the contributions of these forcings to recent regional ozone trends
652 (NH and SH mid-latitudes and the tropics) for the periods 1979-1999 and 2000-2014. The
653 results confirm that ODSs are the dominant forcing for the significant negative strato-
654 spheric ozone trends over the 1979-1999 period. Methane increases contribute to the strato-
655 spheric ozone increase in all regions, whereas the combined N₂O and CO₂ forcing drives
656 an ozone decrease. Consequently, the combined GHGs produce a small positive contri-
657 bution to the upper stratospheric ozone trend. The post-2000 stratospheric ozone change
658 shows a weak positive trend driven by the reduction in ODS since the late 1990s. The
659 trend is only statistically significant at the 95% confidence level in the upper stratosphere,
660 if both model and statistical uncertainties are accounted for. Due to the ODS declines,
661 the impact of methane on stratospheric ozone has also reduced. The combined CO₂ and
662 N₂O impacts lead to a positive ozone trend in the upper stratosphere, in response to the
663 declining ODS during this period. However, the short period of declining ODS loading
664 (2000-2014) available for this analysis and small changes in forcing lead to a larger un-
665 certainty in modelled ozone trends in this period, especially in the lower stratosphere where
666 ozone changes are typically associated with large dynamical variability.

667 The ozone trends in the troposphere are predominantly positive throughout the pe-
668 riods 1979-1999 and 2000-2014, mainly driven by increases in short-lived ozone precur-
669 sors and methane. However, stratospheric ozone depletion causes a significant negative
670 ozone trend in the upper troposphere extra-tropics for 1979-1999. There is a trend re-
671 versal between 2000 and 2014 which coincides with the decline in ODSs. The impact of
672 GHGs on the tropospheric ozone trend is relatively small and is a balance between a pos-
673 itive effect from methane increases and a negative effect from the LLGHGs (CO₂ and
674 N₂O) increases. The mean AoA shows reductions of 0.7-0.8 years compared to PI con-
675 ditions in two models, reflecting an acceleration of stratospheric overturning since the
676 1950s, mainly due to increases in ODS and CO₂. We have also derived STE of ozone from
677 the models' tropospheric ozone budget, assuming that the production and loss terms are
678 in balance: The changes in ODS, CO₂, methane, and the ozone precursors are respon-
679 sible for trends in the STE. The reduction in stratospheric ozone combined with the ac-
680 celeration of the BDC leads to a reduced residual of the stratospheric ozone in the tro-
681 posphere, while the increase in tropospheric ozone production due to the short-lived ozone
682 precursors reduces STE. Methane increases cause increases in stratospheric ozone, which
683 promotes downward transport of ozone leading to an increased STE. Whilst the major

684 contribution to the surface ozone increase is due to ozone precursors, the increase in ODSs
685 and in CO₂ nevertheless each leads to a 2-4 ppbv reduction in global mean surface ozone.

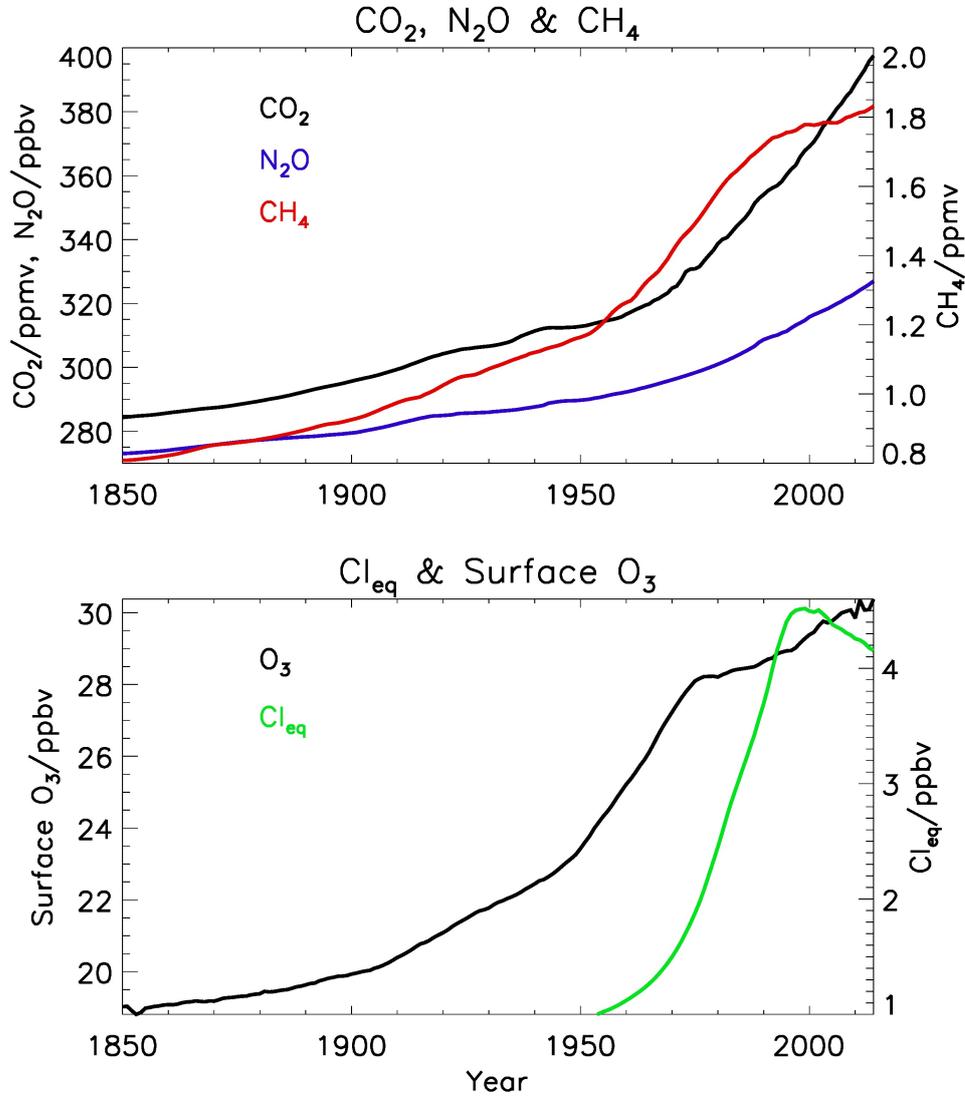


Figure 1. Annual-mean CO₂, N₂O, CH₄, equivalent chlorine (Cl_{eq}), and global- and multi-model mean surface ozone between 1850 and 2014 used as regressors in this study. Apart from surface ozone, the data are taken or derived from the CMIP6 “historical” scenario (Meinshausen et al., 2017). Surface ozone represents the evolution of ozone precursors.

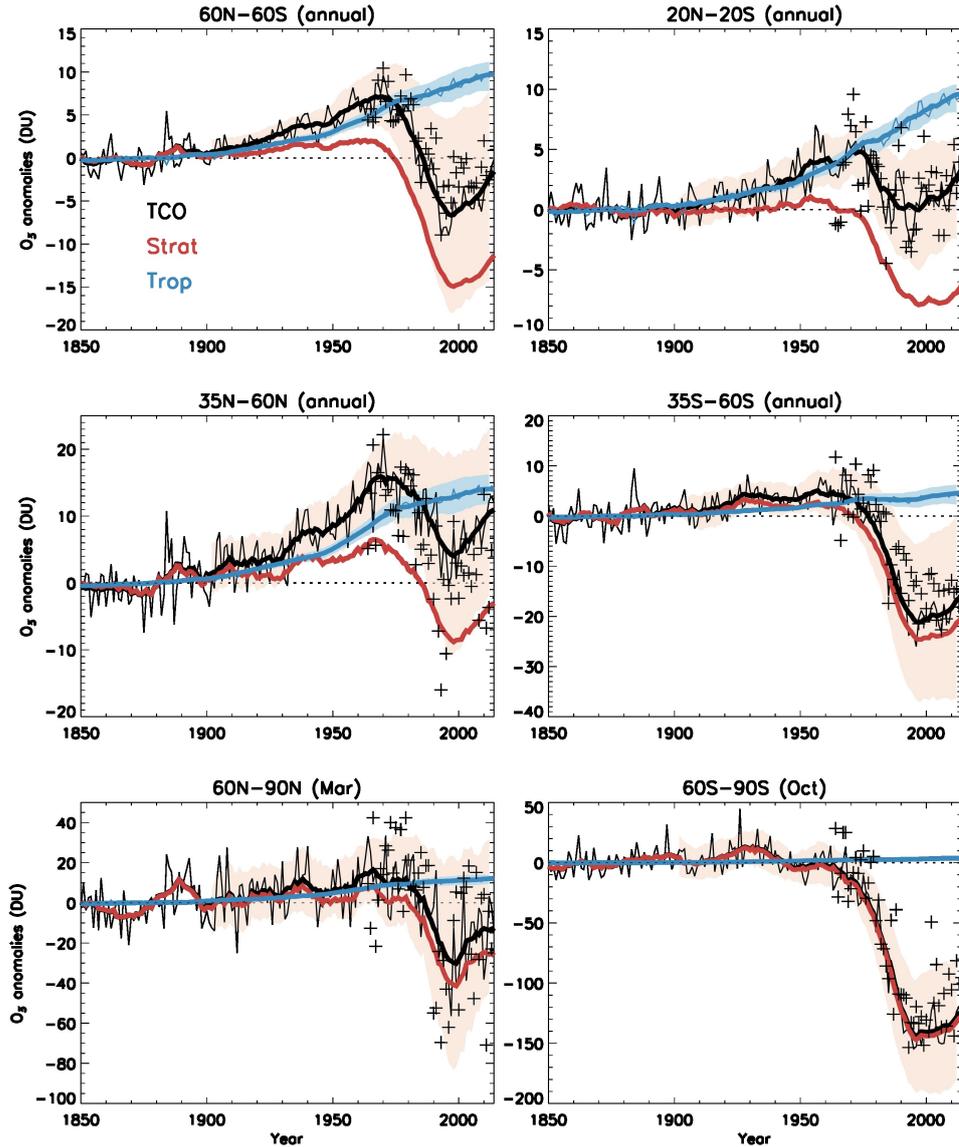


Figure 2. Multi-model mean (MMM) deviations of total, stratospheric, and tropospheric column ozone from the mean values of 1850-1900 regionally averaged for six regions. (colored thick lines) Smoothed MMM deviations using a 20-year boxcar filter. (grey thin lines) Annually resolved unfiltered MMM TCO. (haded areas) Annually resolved model deviations (expressed as the mean absolute deviations (MAD)) for TCO and tropospheric columns (the MAD for the stratospheric columns are not shown here but is similar to that of the TCO). The tropopause is defined using the WMO lapse rate definition in each model. Four models (CESM2-WACCM, MRI-ESM2-0, UKESM1-0-LL, and GFDL-ESM4) are included in the ensemble mean. Observations (“+”) are from the World Ozone and UV Data Center’s ground-based climatology (Fioletov et al., 1999) (<https://woudc.org/archive/Projects-Campaigns/ZonalMeans/>).

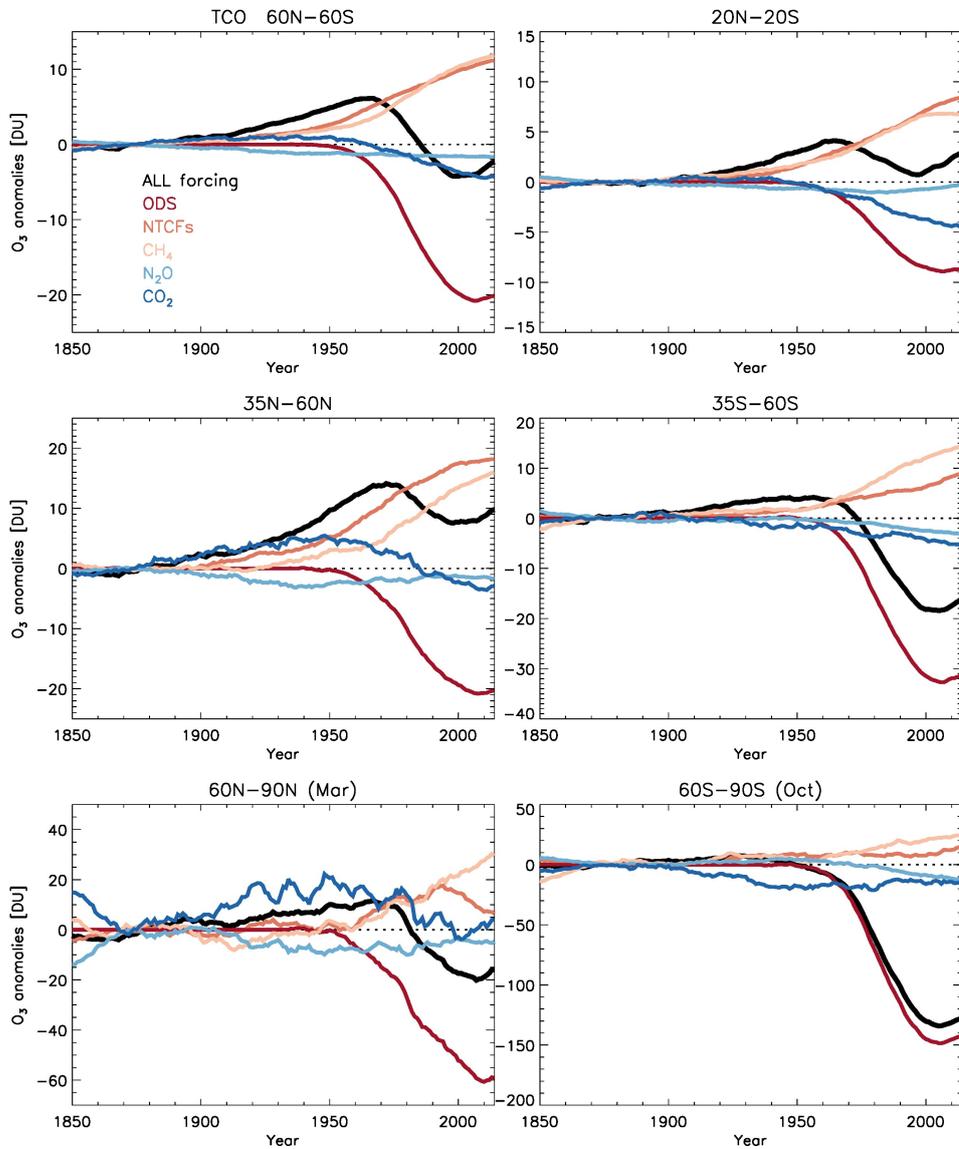


Figure 3. Multi-model mean TCO differences due to changes in individual forcings from 1850 to 2014. Displayed are annual mean data (for the near-global, tropics, and mid-latitude regions) and monthly mean March and October data (for the polar regions) smoothed using a 20-year boxcar filter. Black: all forcings. Red: ODSs. Dark orange: NTCFs. Light orange: CH_4 . Light blue: N_2O . Dark blue: CO_2 .

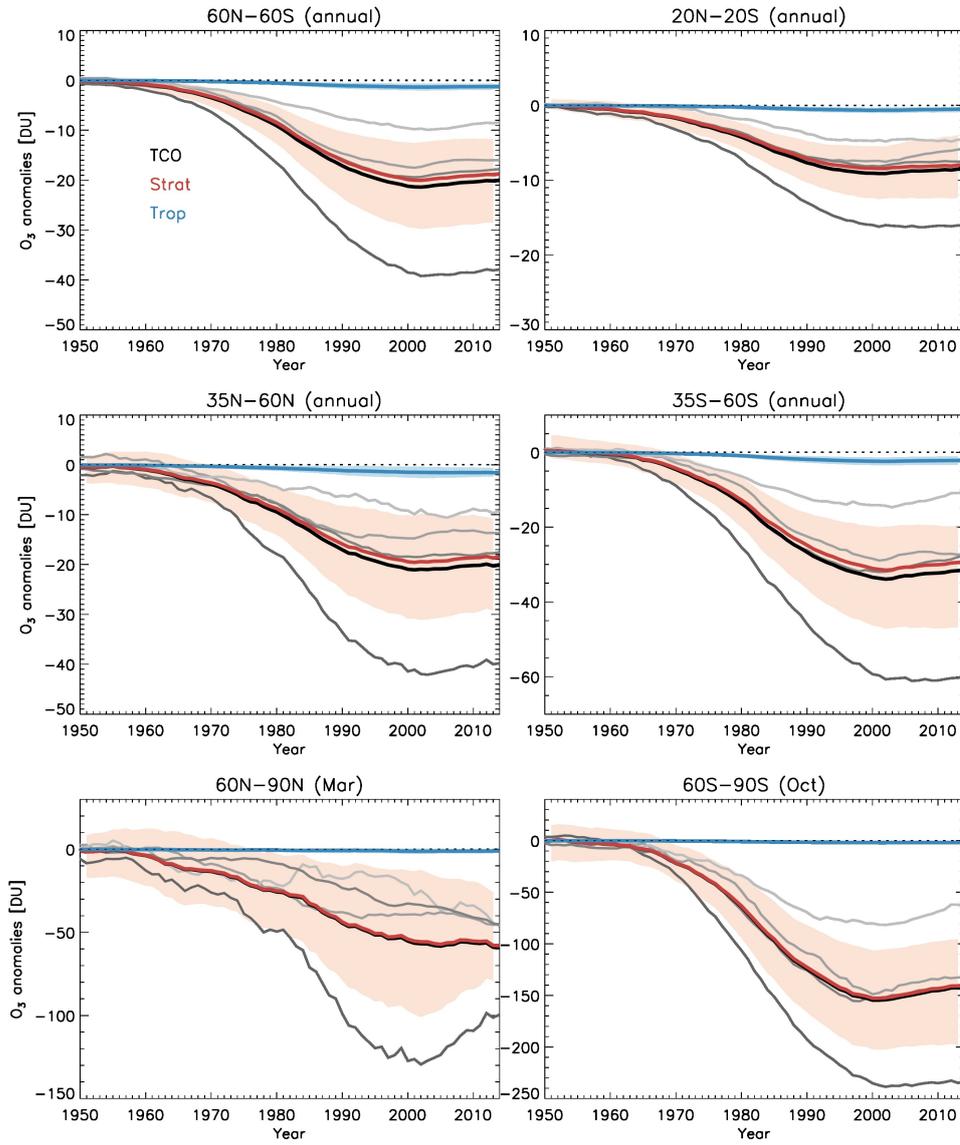


Figure 4. Changes in TCO and in the stratospheric and tropospheric ozone columns due to changes in ODSs from 1950 to 2014. Multi-model mean of TCO (black), stratospheric columns (red), and tropospheric columns (blue) are shown in thick lines, and are smoothed using a 20-year boxcar filter. Shaded areas are the mean absolute deviations (MAD) of unfiltered annual mean values in MMM TCO. Grey lines are TCO (smoothed with a 20-year boxcar filter) from the individual models; in the order of light to dark grey for MRI-ESM2-0, CESM2-WACCM, GFDL-ESM4, and UKESM1-0-LL.

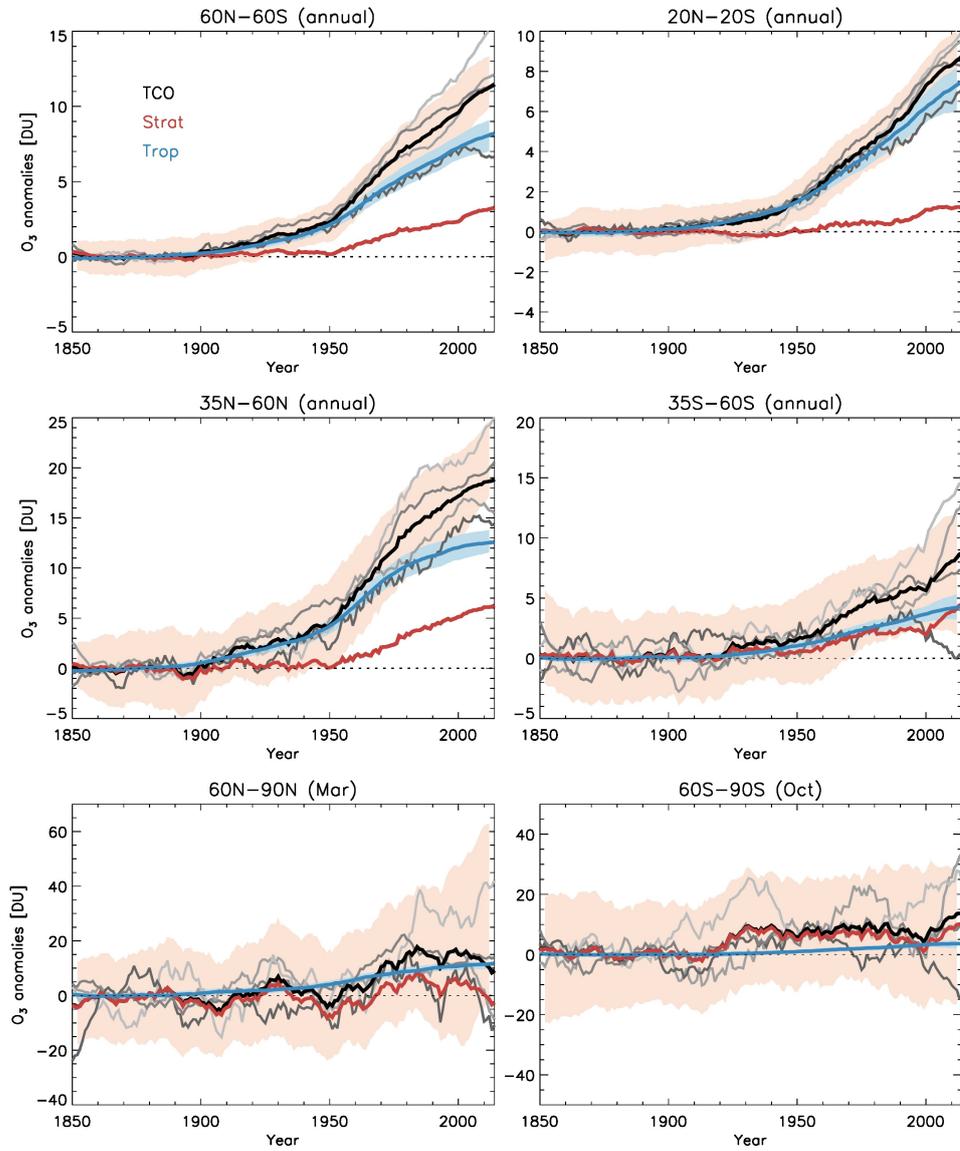


Figure 5. Same as Figure 4, but for NTCFs (1850-2014).

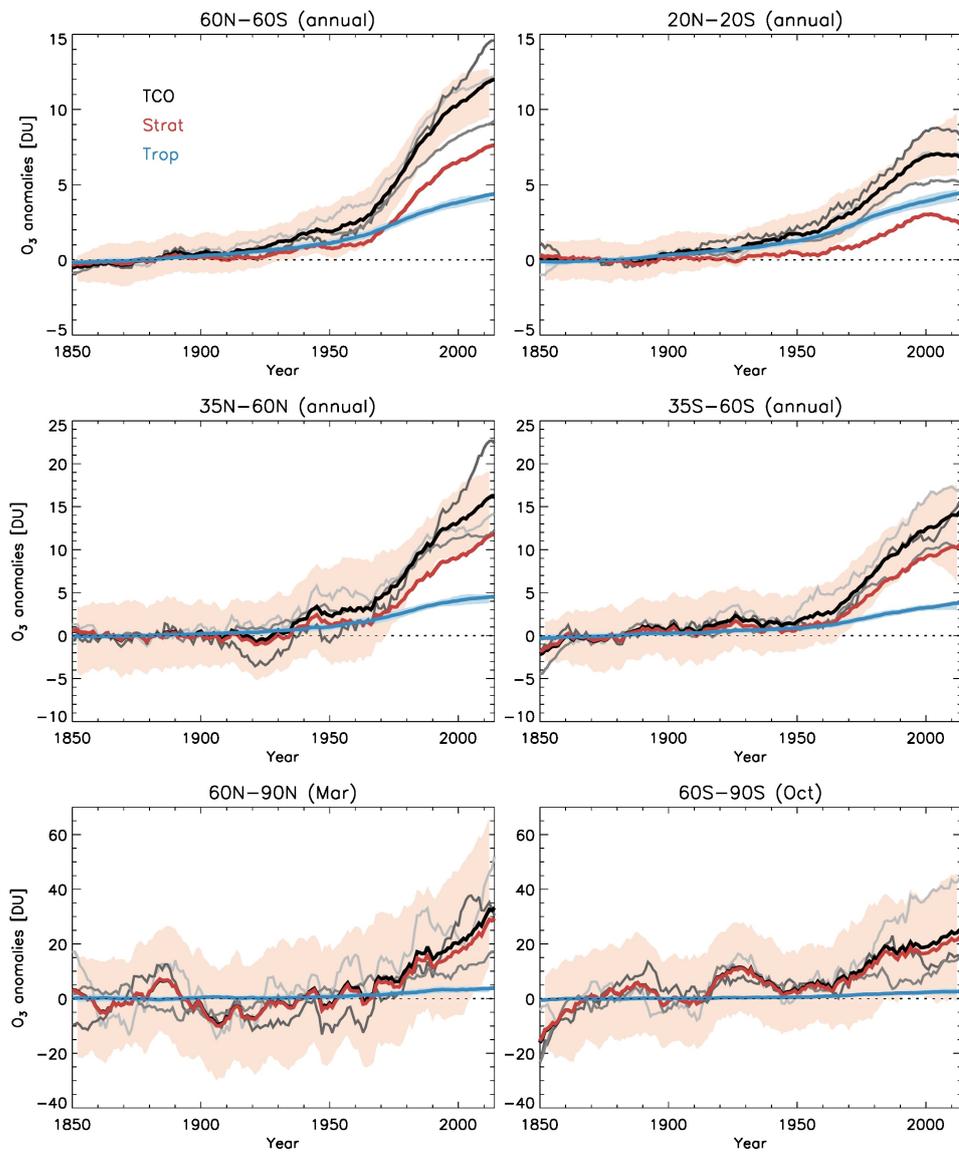


Figure 6. Same as Figure 4, but for methane (1850-2014). Results are from three models (MRI-ESM2-0, GFDL-ESM4, and UKESM-0-LL).

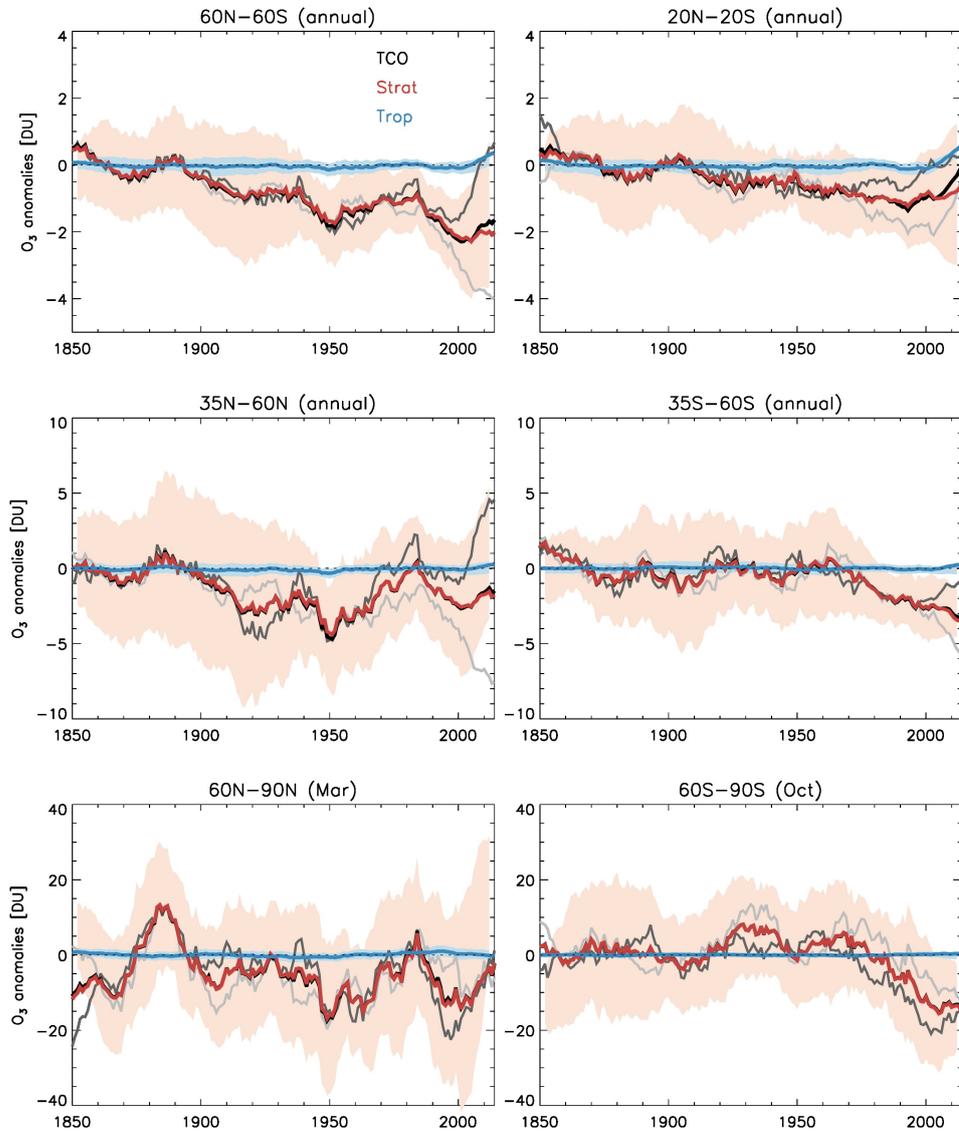


Figure 7. Same as Figure 4, but for N₂O (1850-2014). Results are from two models (MRI-ESM2-0 and UKESM1-0-LL).

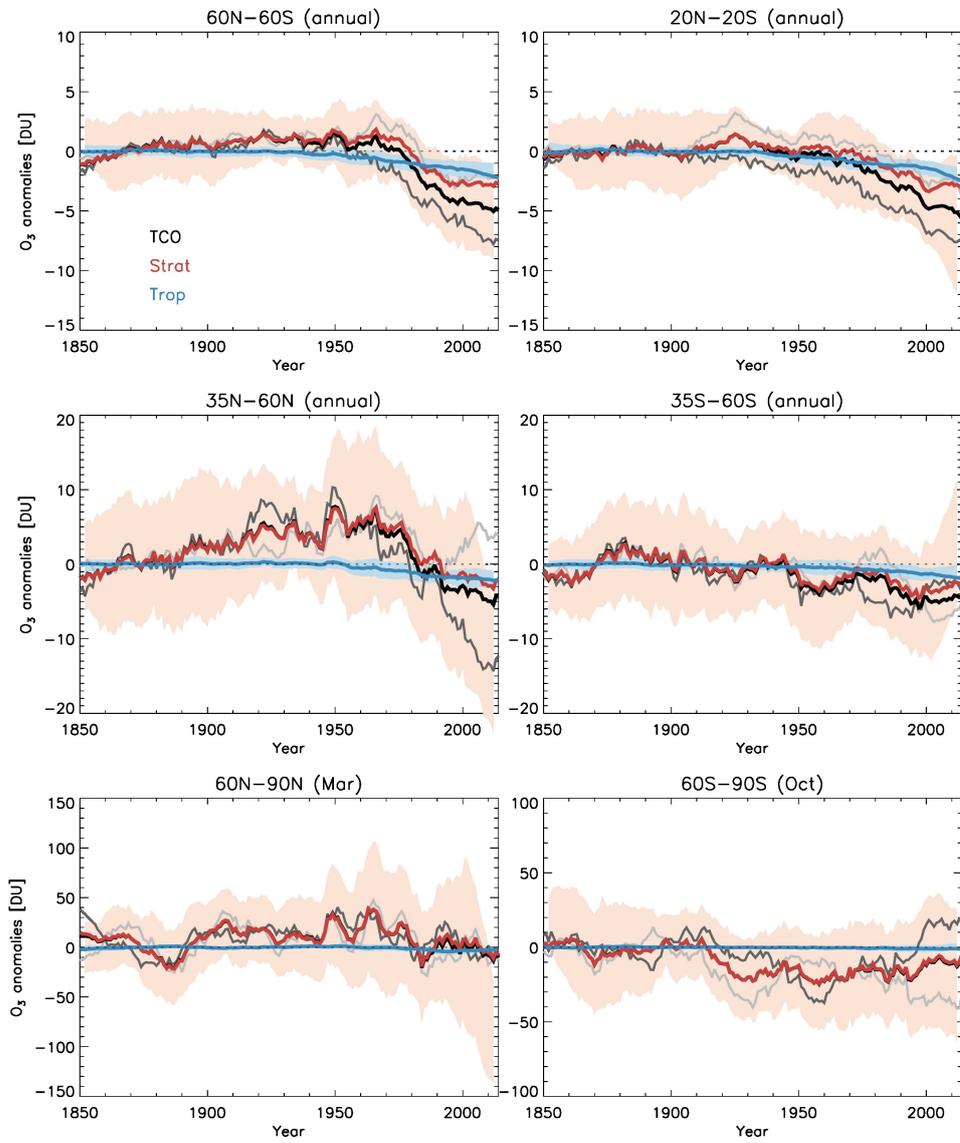


Figure 8. Same as Figure 4, but for CO₂ (1850-2014). Results are from two models (MRI-ESM2-0 and UKESM1-0-LL).

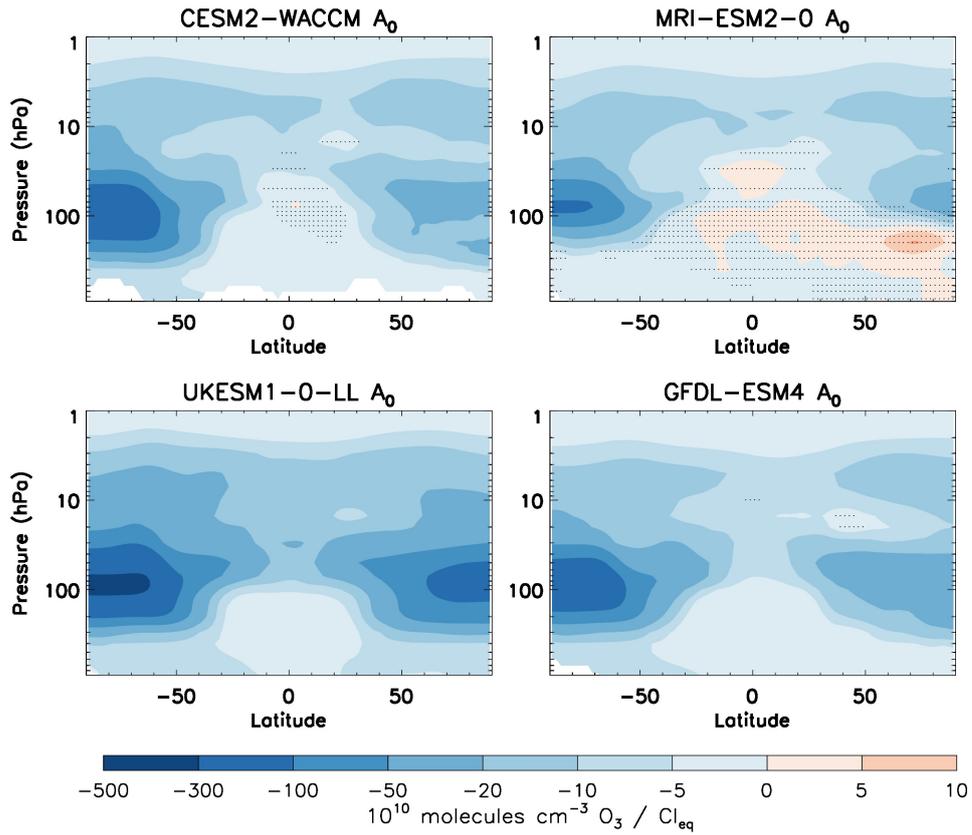


Figure 9. Ozone concentration changes (molecules cm^{-3}) in response to changes in Cl_{eq} (normalised to the range of 0 to 1) between 1850 and 2014. Stippled regions exhibit statistically insignificant responses at the 95% confidence level.

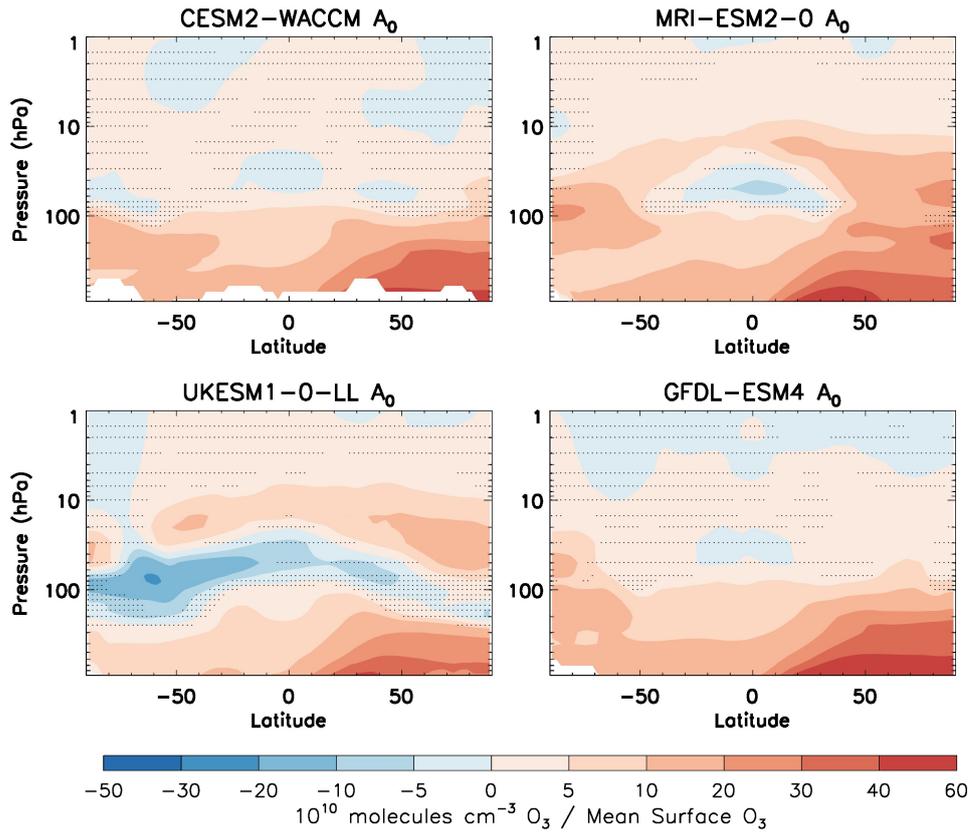


Figure 10. Ozone concentration changes (molecules cm^{-3}) in response to changes in ozone precursors (NTCFs) expressed as the mean surface ozone (normalised to the range of 0 to 1) in models. Stippled regions exhibit statistically insignificant responses at the 95% confidence level.

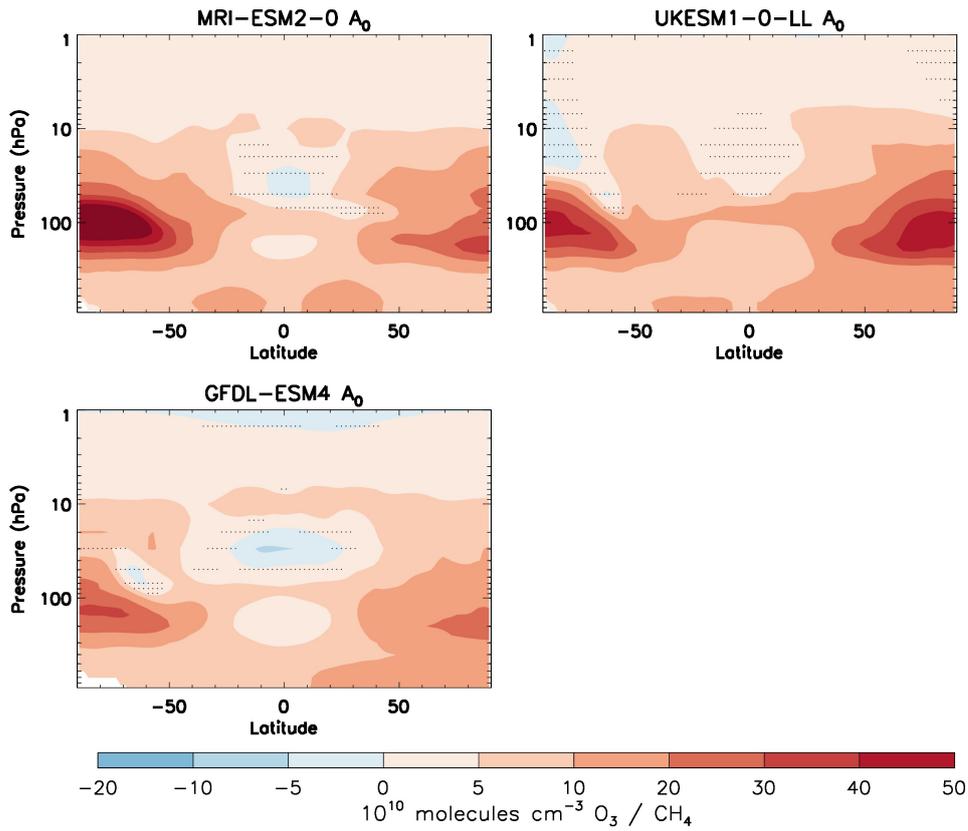


Figure 11. Ozone concentration changes (molecules cm^{-3}) in response to changes in methane (normalised to the range of 0 to 1) in models. Stippled regions exhibit statistically insignificant responses at the 95% confidence level.

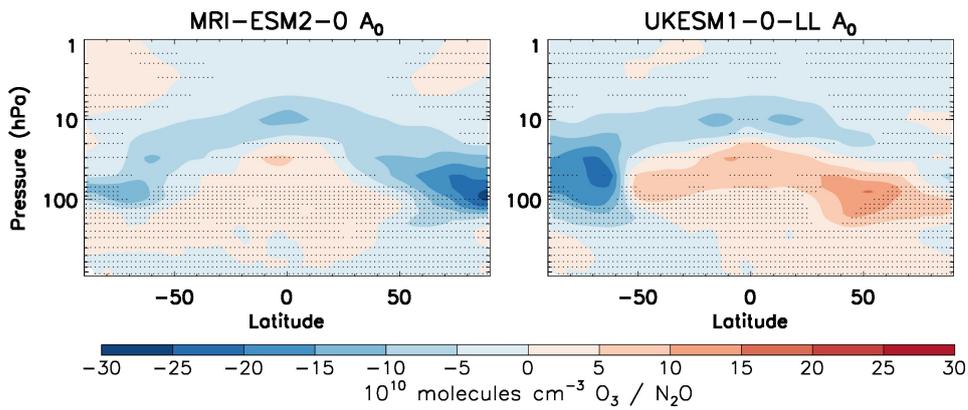


Figure 12. As Figure 11, but for N₂O.

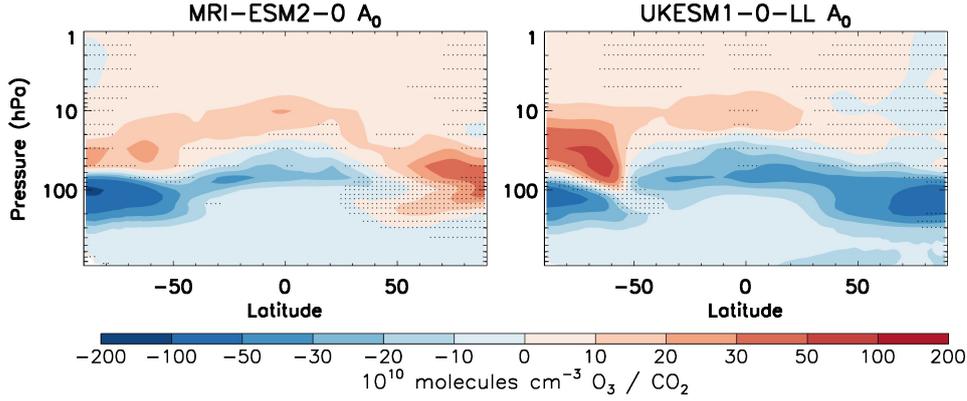


Figure 13. As Figure 11, but for CO₂.

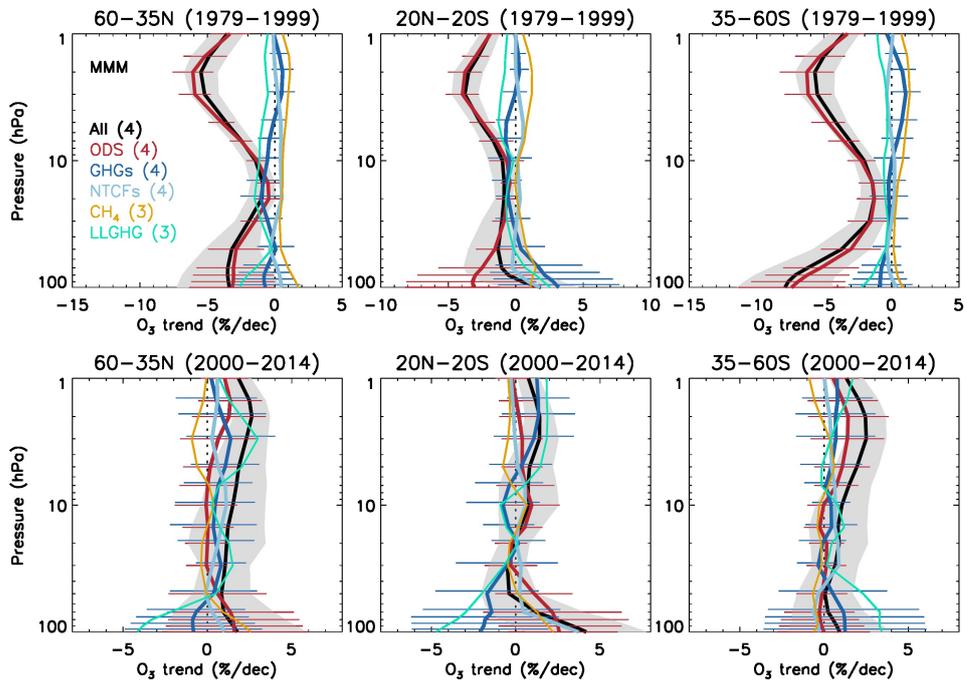


Figure 14. Multi-model mean vertically resolved stratospheric ozone trends (in %/decade) in the “all forcings” histSST simulation, and contributions from ODS, NTCFs, and GHGs (methane, N₂O and CO₂) for the periods of 1979-1999 (top panels) and 2000-2014 (bottom panels). Contributions from methane and LLGHGs (N₂O & CO₂) are also individually displayed in thinner lines. Numbers in brackets indicate the number of models included in the ensemble means. The Colour keys for each curve are displayed in the top left panel (black: all forcing; red: due to ODSs; dark blue: due to GHGs; light blue: due to NTCFs; orange: due to methane; cyan: due to LLGHGs). The grey filled region and horizontal lines are the uncertainty range in trends for all forcing, due to ODSs (red), and due to GHGs (dark blue), respectively. The 2 σ uncertainty range accounts for a combination of model and statistical uncertainties.

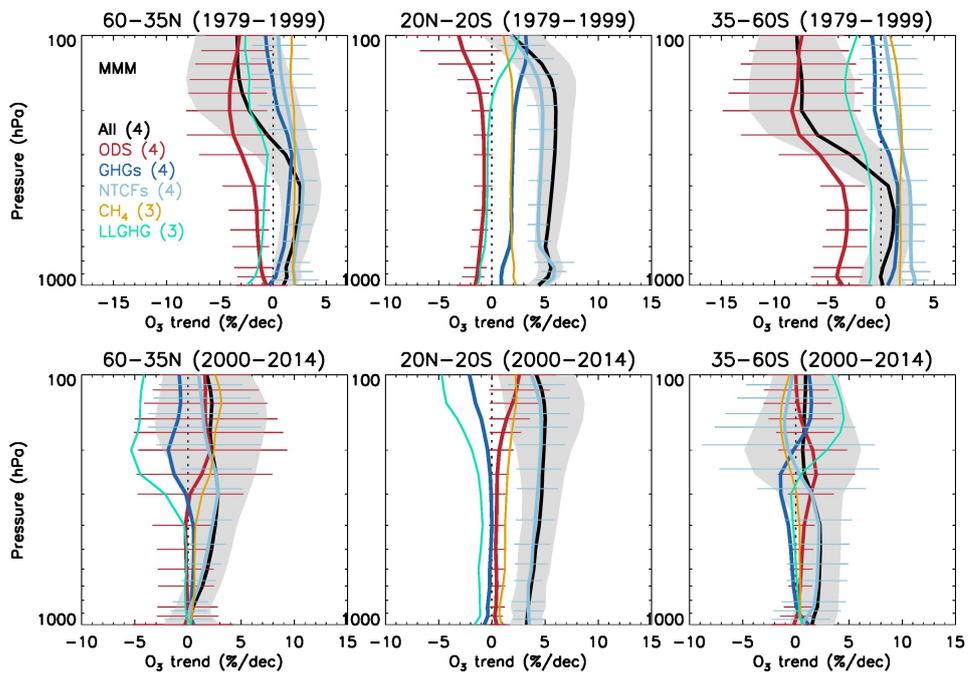


Figure 15. Same as Figure 14, but for the troposphere (1000 hPa - 100 hPa).

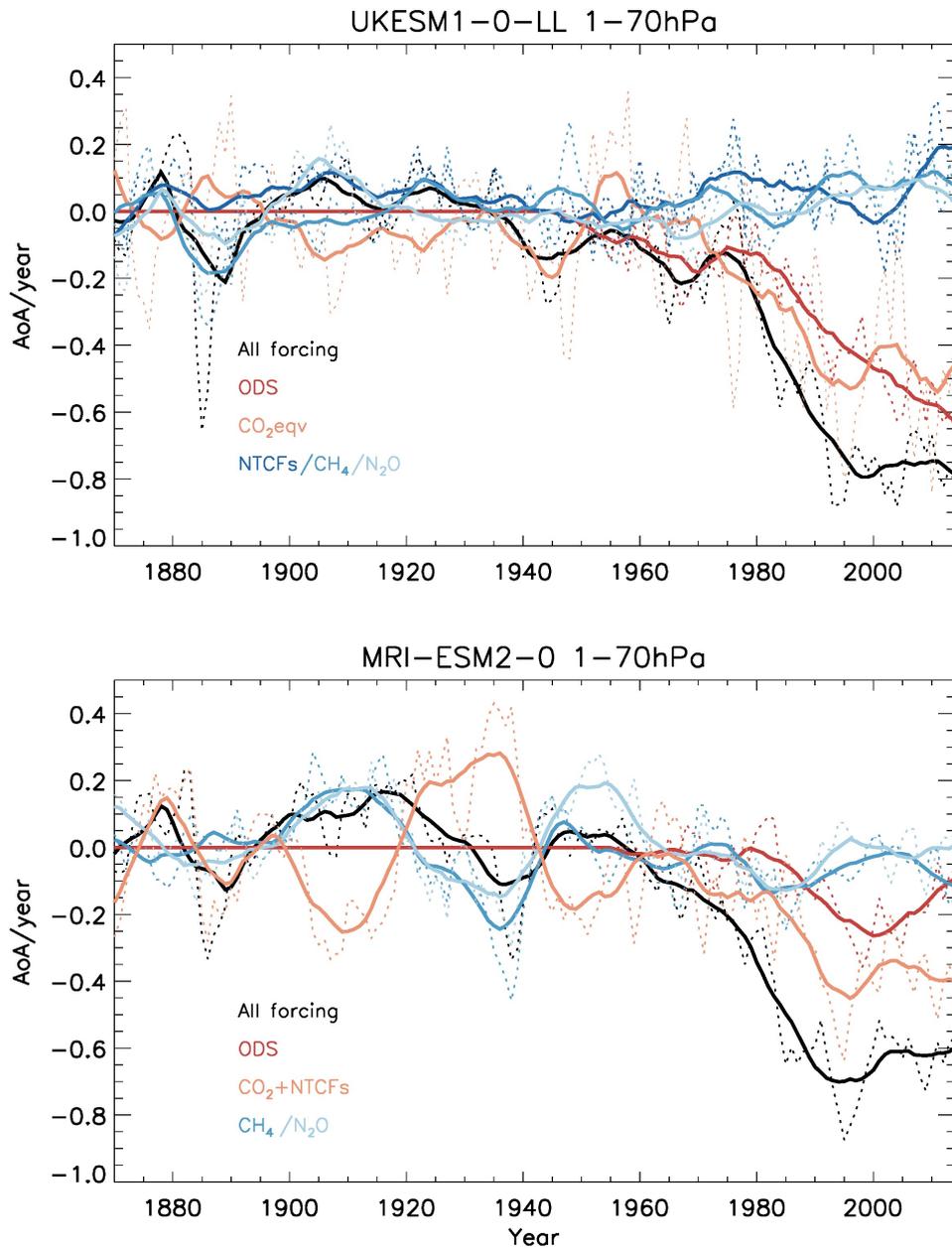


Figure 16. Changes in mean stratospheric age of air (in years, averaged between 70 and 1 hPa) from 1870 to 2014 from the “all forcings” histSST simulations and due to individual forcings in UKESM1-0-LL and MRI-ESM2-0. Solid thick lines are the annual mean data smoothed using a 20-year boxcar filter. Dashed lines are the corresponding unfiltered annual mean data.

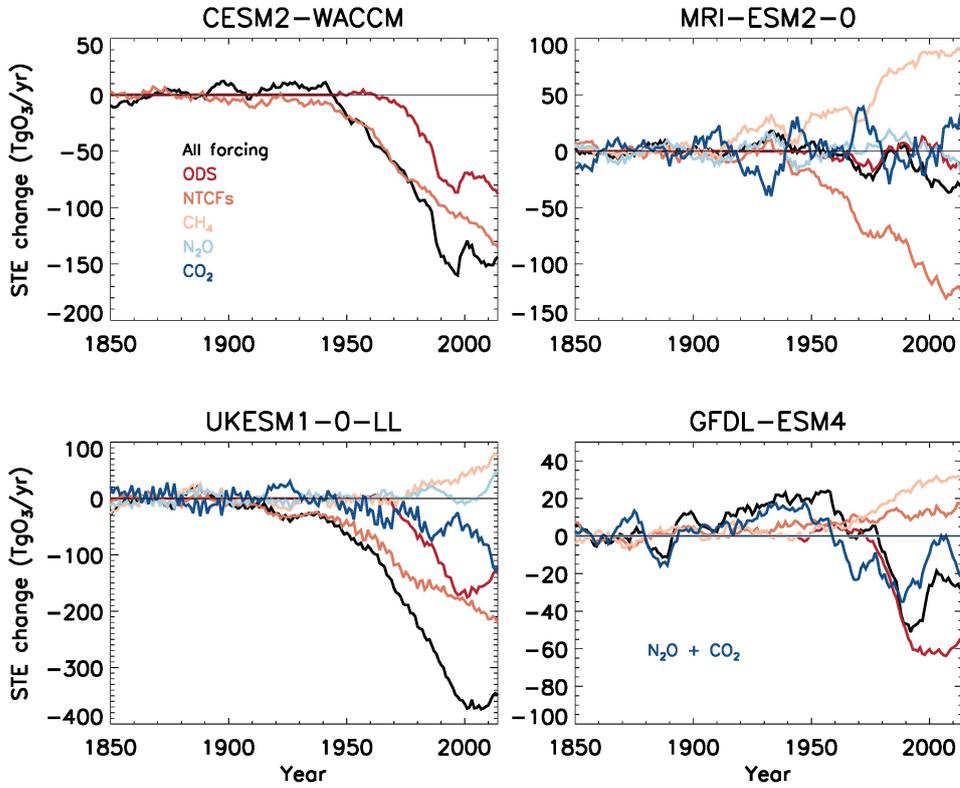


Figure 17. Changes in stratosphere-troposphere exchange (STE) of ozone in the “all forcings” histSST simulations and contributions due to individual forcings in four models (CESM2-WACCM, GFDL-ESM4, MRI-ESM2-0, and UKESM1-0-LL) over the period 1850-2014. Color keys are displayed in the top left panel (Black: all forcing; Colored lines are due to individual forcings: Red: ODSs; Dark orange: NTCFs; Light orange: methane; Light blue: N_2O ; Dark blue: CO_2). STE is calculated as a residual between ozone production and loss in the troposphere. The tropopause is defined by the tropopause pressure calculated in each model using the WMO lapse rate definition as used by Griffiths et al. (2021). Annual mean data are smoothed using a 10-year boxcar filter.

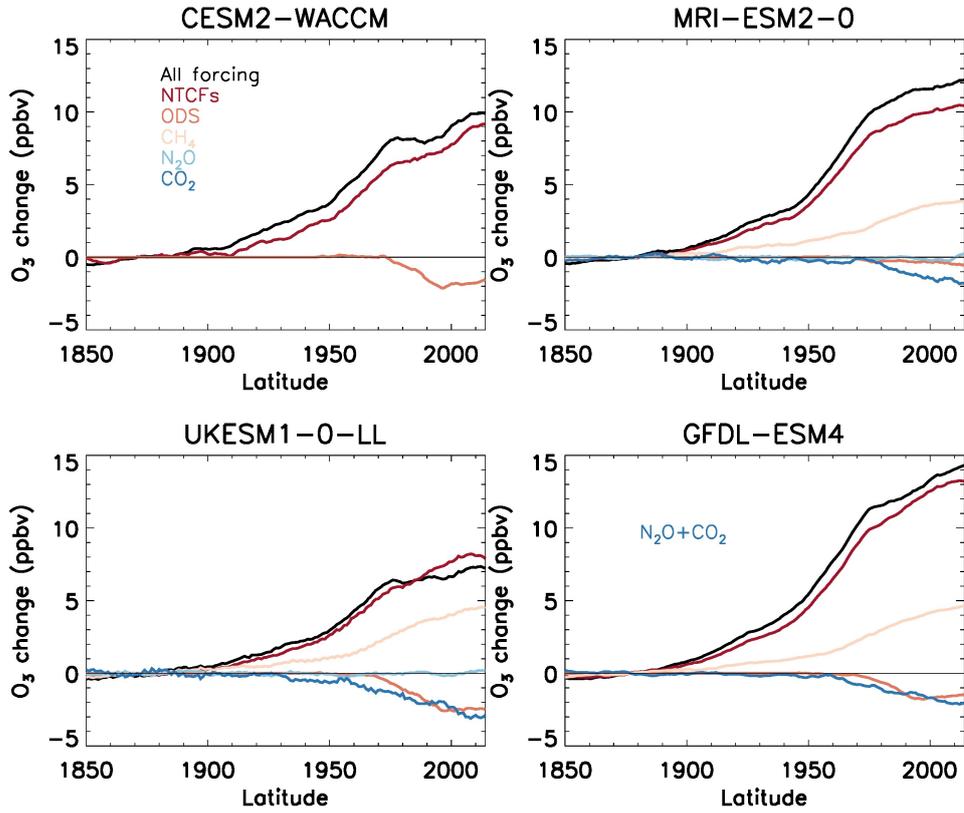


Figure 18. Changes in global mean near-surface ozone (ppbv) in “all forcings” histSST simulations and contributions to individual forcings over the period 1850-2014. Color keys are displayed in the top left panel (Black: all forcing; Colored lines are due to individual forcings: Red: ODSs; Dark orange: NTCFs; Light orange: methane; Light blue: N₂O; Dark blue: CO₂). In GFDL-ESM4, the impact of CO₂ includes N₂O as there is no separate N₂O perturbation simulation available. Annual mean data are smoothed using a 10-year boxcar filter.

Table 1. Models and simulations used in this study

Models	histSST	histSST- 1950HC	histSST- piNTCF	histSST- piCH ₄	histSST- piN ₂ O
CESM2-WACCM	x	x	x		
GFDL-ESM4	x	x	x	x	
MRI-ESM2-0	x	x	x	x	x
UKESM1-0-LL	x	x	x	x	x
GISS-E2-1-G	x	x	x	x	x

Model references	
CESM2-WACCM	Gettelman et al. (2019), Tilmes et al. (2019), Emmons et al. (2020), Danabasoglu et al. (2020)
GFDL-ESM4	Horowitz et al. (2020), Dunne et al. (2020)
MRI-ESM2-0	Deushi and Shibata (2011), Yukimoto et al. (2019)
UKESM1-0-LL	Sellar et al. (2019), Archibald et al. (2020), Mulcahy et al. (2020)
GISS-E2-1-G	Bauer et al. (2020), Kelley et al. (2020), Miller et al. (2021)

Table 2. Derived ozone changes due to individual forcings

Models	ODS	NTCFs	CH ₄	N ₂ O	CO ₂	GHGs (CH ₄ , N ₂ O, CO ₂)	LLGHGs (N ₂ O, CO ₂)
CESM2-WACCM	x	x	x			x	
GFDL-ESM4	x	x	x			x	x
MRI-ESM2-0	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
UKESM1-0-LL	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
GISS-E2-1-G	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

$$\Delta[O_3]_{ODS} = [O_3]_{histSST} - [O_3]_{histSST-1950HC}$$

$$\Delta[O_3]_{NTCF} = [O_3]_{histSST} - [O_3]_{histSST-piNTCF}$$

$$\Delta[O_3]_{CH_4} = [O_3]_{histSST} - [O_3]_{histSST-piCH_4}$$

$$\Delta[O_3]_{N_2O} = [O_3]_{histSST} - [O_3]_{histSST-piN_2O}$$

$$\Delta[O_3]_{CO_2} = [O_3]_{histSST} - \Delta[O_3]_{ODS} - \Delta[O_3]_{NTCF} - \Delta[O_3]_{CH_4} - \Delta[O_3]_{N_2O}$$

$$\Delta[O_3]_{GHGs} = [O_3]_{histSST} - \Delta[O_3]_{ODS} - \Delta[O_3]_{NTCF}$$

$$\Delta[O_3]_{LLGHGs} = \Delta[O_3]_{GHGs} - \Delta[O_3]_{CH_4}$$

$[O_3]$ are timeseries of ozone concentrations, total- or partial columns from 1850 to 2014 in models expressed as deviations from the 1850-1900 average.

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 724 and ESGF. All of the data from the CMIP and AerChemMIP simulations analysed in
 725 this study have been published on the Earth System Grid Federation ([https://esgf-node](https://esgf-node.llnl.gov/search/cmip6/)
 726 [.llnl.gov/search/cmip6/](https://esgf-node.llnl.gov/search/cmip6/)). We thank WOUDC for providing the groundbased total-
 727 column ozone data ([https://woudc.org/archive/Projects-Campaigns/ZonalMeans/](https://woudc.org/archive/Projects-Campaigns/ZonalMeans/gb_1964-2017_zs.txt)
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Supporting Information for ”Attribution of stratospheric and tropospheric ozone changes between 1850 and 2014 in CMIP6 models”

Guang Zeng¹, N. Luke Abraham^{2,3}, Alexander T. Archibald^{2,3}, Susanne E. Bauer^{4,5}, Makoto Deushi⁶, Louisa K. Emmons⁷, Paul T. Griffiths^{2,3}, Birgit Hassler⁸, Larry W. Horowitz⁹, James Keeble^{2,3}, Michael J. Mills⁷, Olaf Morgenstern¹, Larry T. Murray¹⁰, Vaishali Naik⁹, Fiona M. O’Connor¹¹, Naga Oshima⁶, Lori T. Sentman⁹, Simone Tilmes⁷, Kostas Tsigaridis^{4,5}, Jonny H. T. Williams¹, and Paul J. Young^{12,13}

¹National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA), Wellington, New Zealand

²National Centre for Atmospheric Science, U.K.

³Department of Chemistry, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, U.K.

⁴NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS), New York, NY, USA

⁵Center for Climate Systems Research, Columbia University, New York, NY, USA

⁶Meteorological Research Institute (MRI), Tsukuba, Japan

⁷National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), Boulder, CO, USA

⁸Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt (DLR), Institut für Physik der Atmosphäre, Oberpfaffenhofen, Germany

⁹Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory (GFDL), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Princeton, NJ, USA

¹⁰University of Rochester, Rochester, NY, USA

¹¹Hadley Centre, Met Office, Exeter, UK

¹²Lancaster Environment Centre, Lancaster University, Lancaster, UK

¹³Centre of Excellence in Environmental Data Science, Lancaster University, Lancaster, UK

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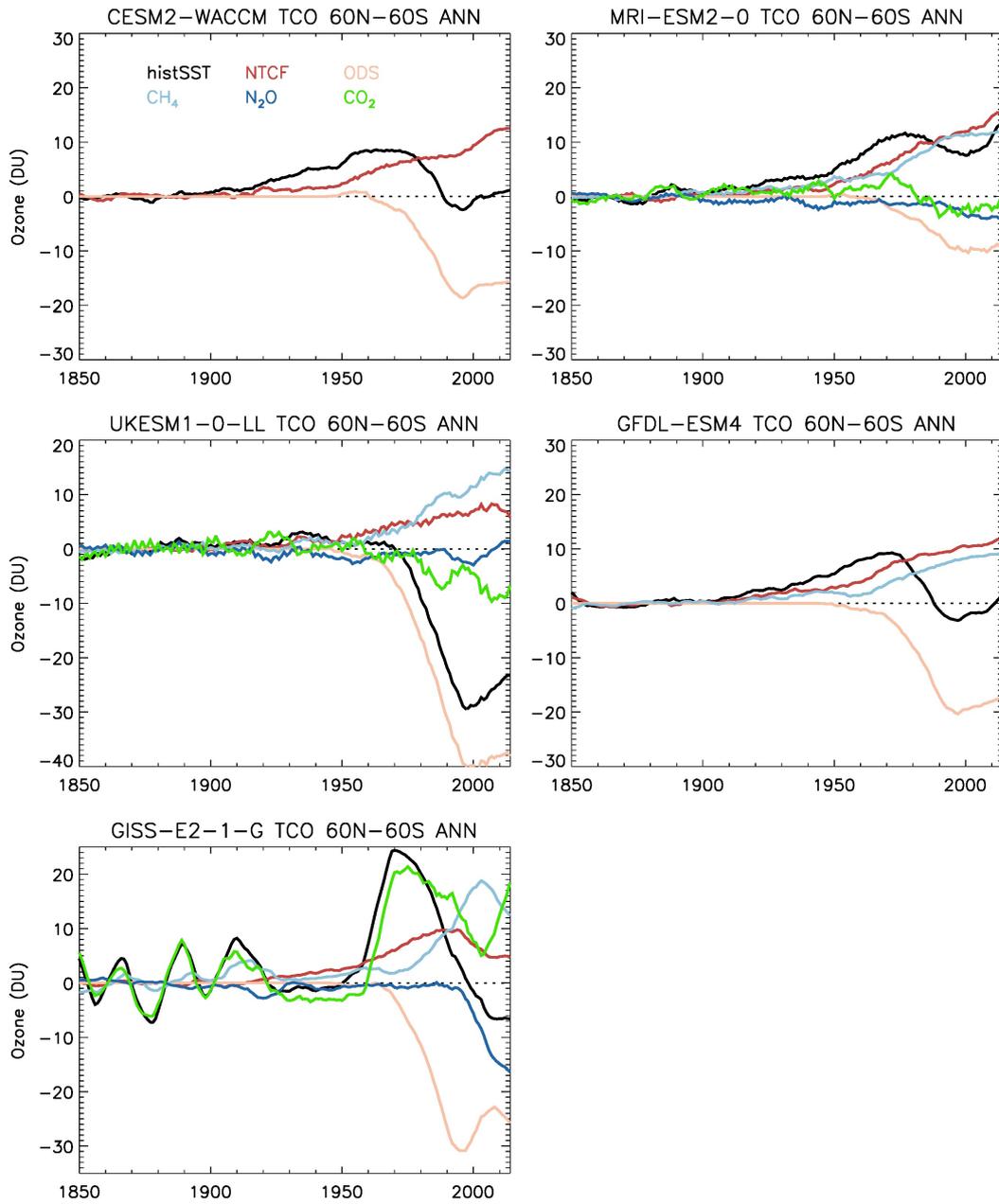


Figure S1. Near-global (60N-60S) total column ozone changes between 1850 and 2014, and the contributions from ODSs, ozone precursors (NTCFs), methane, N₂O, and CO₂ in individual models.

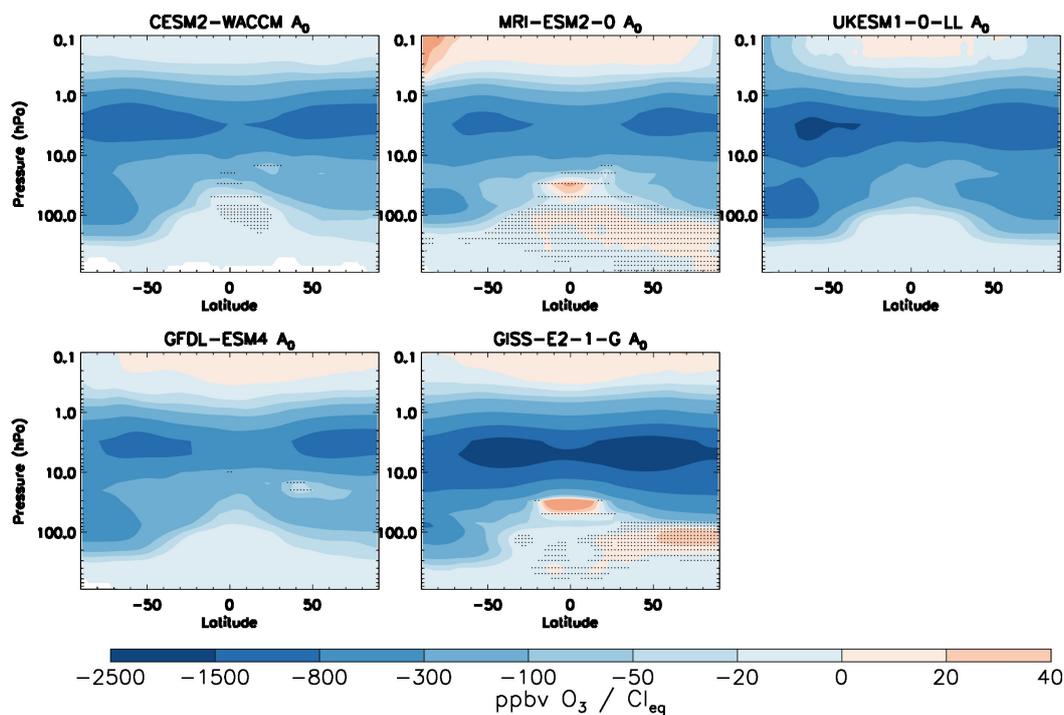


Figure S2. Response of ozone changes (ppbv) to changes in Cl_{eq} (normalised to the range of 0 to 1) between 1850 and 2014.

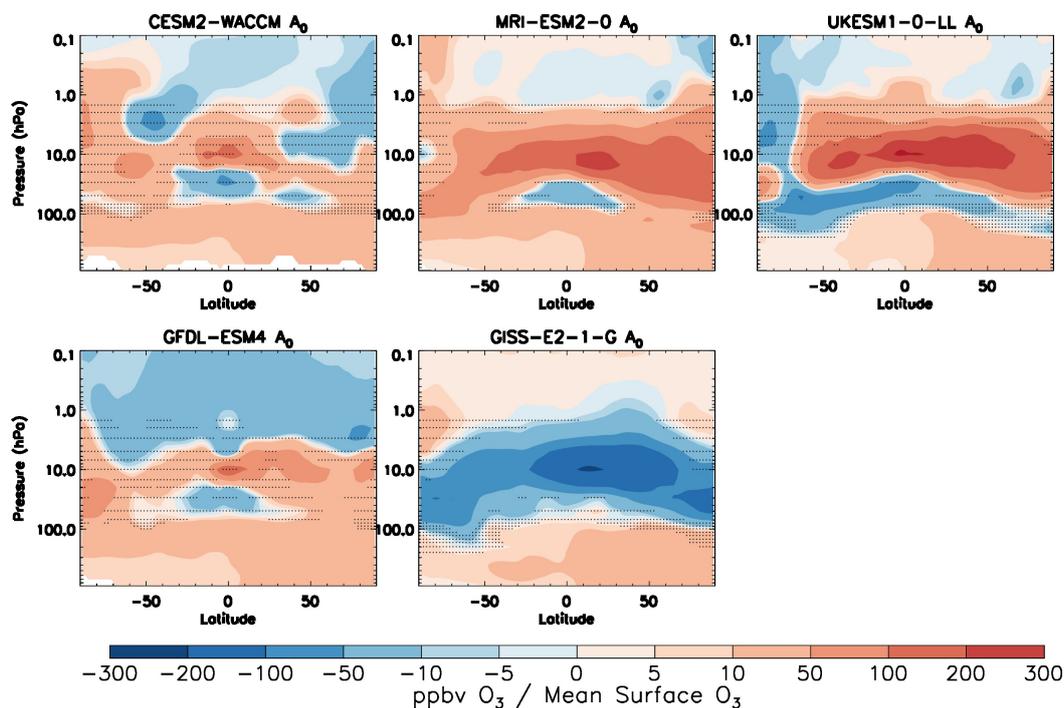


Figure S3. Response of ozone changes (ppbv) to changes in ozone precursors (expressed as mean surface ozone changes normalised to the range of 0 to 1) between 1850 and 2014.

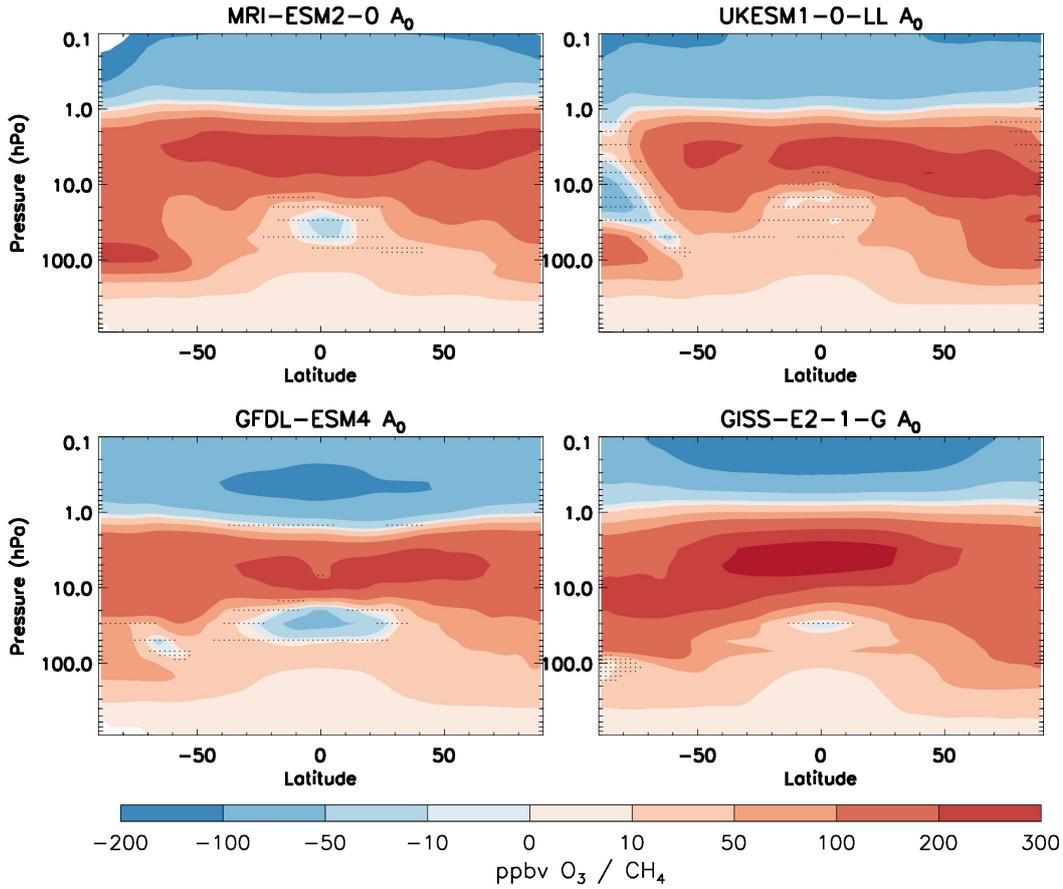


Figure S4. Response of ozone changes (ppbv) to changes in methane (normalised to the range of 0 to 1) between 1850 and 2014.

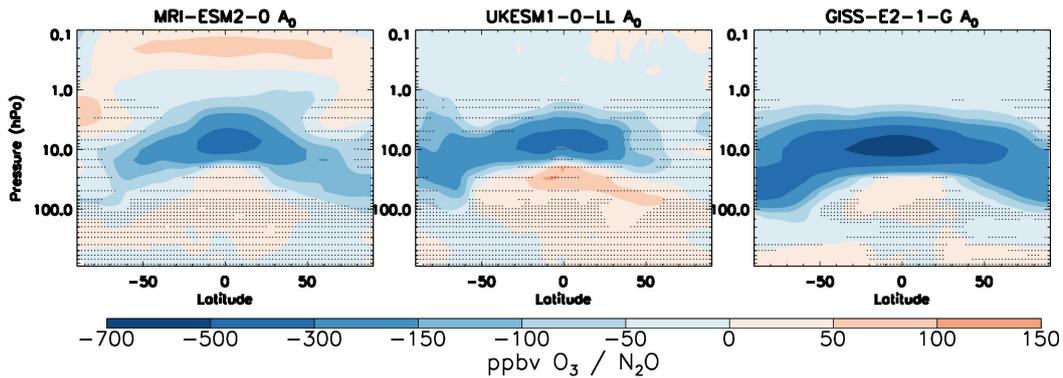


Figure S5. Response of ozone changes (ppbv) to changes in N₂O (normalised to the range of 0 to 1) between 1850 and 2014.

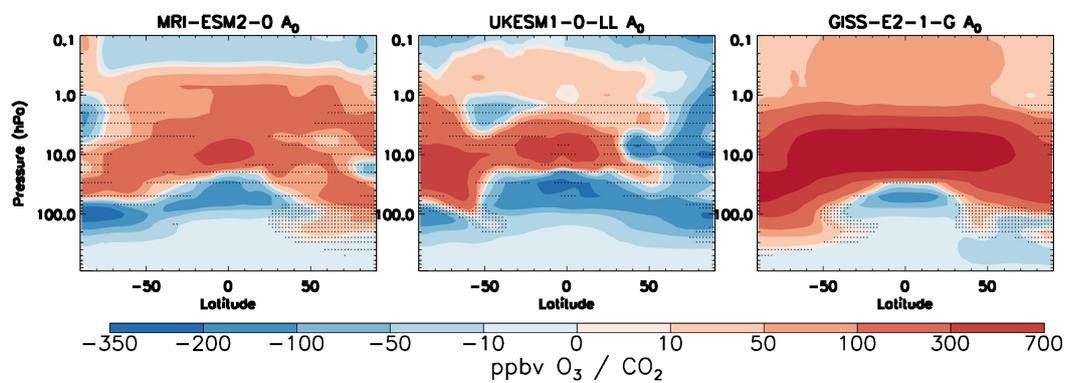


Figure S6. Response of ozone changes (ppbv) to changes in CO₂ (normalised to the range of 0 to 1) between 1850 and 2014.