

Comparison of Arctic and Antarctic stratospheric dynamics in chemistry versus no-chemistry climate models

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Abstract

Using nine chemistry-climate and eight associated no-chemistry models, we investigate the persistence and timing of cold episodes occurring in the Arctic and Antarctic stratosphere during the period 1980-2014. We find systematic differences in behavior between members of these model pairs. In a first group of chemistry models whose dynamical configurations mirror their no-chemistry counterparts, we find an increased persistence of such cold polar vortices, such that these cold episodes both start earlier and last longer, relative to the times of occurrence of the lowest temperatures. Also the date of occurrence of the lowest temperatures, both in the Arctic and the Antarctic, is delayed by 1-3 weeks in chemistry models, versus their no-chemistry counterparts. This behavior exacerbates a widespread problem occurring in most or all models, a delayed occurrence, in the median, of the most anomalously cold day during such cold winters. In a second group of model pairs there are differences beyond just ozone chemistry. In particular, here the chemistry models feature more levels in the stratosphere, a raised model top, and differences in non-orographic gravity wave drag versus their no-chemistry counterparts. Such additional dynamical differences can completely mask the above influence of ozone chemistry. The results point towards a need to retune chemistry-climate models versus their no-chemistry counterparts.

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Key Points:

- Coupling in ozone chemistry causes an increase in persistence of low temperature anomalies over both poles.
- In the Antarctic, coupling in chemistry amplifies pre-existing stratospheric cold biases.
- These effects can be masked by other dynamical differences present in some models.

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Plain Language Summary

Ozone is a chemical constituent of the atmosphere acting as an absorber of both solar ultraviolet light and infrared radiation emitted by the Earth. It therefore needs to be considered in climate models. Explicit ozone chemistry is a computationally challenging addition to a climate model; hence in most cases ozone is simply prescribed. Especially during relatively cold stratospheric winter/spring seasons, Antarctic and Arctic ozone depletion can be considerable. Such anomalous ozone loss is not reflected in the imposed ozone field, and hence differences in behavior are expected for such situations between chemistry- and no-chemistry models. Indeed for such cold winters/springs, we find an enhanced persistence of such cold spells in a set of chemistry-climate models, versus their no-chemistry counterparts; such enhanced persistence generally makes the chemistry model less realistic than its no-chemistry counterpart. However, if there are substantial further differences between the members of these model pairs, such as regarding their grid configuration or physical processes beyond chemistry, these can more than compensate for the effect of ozone chemistry. We thus claim that adding stratospheric ozone chemistry to a climate model necessitates retuning to counteract a deterioration of dynamics that can otherwise occur.

1 Introduction

Climate feedbacks involving ozone have long been known to be important in large-scale climate change. Most notably, stratospheric ozone depletion has been linked to a strengthening of the Southern Annular Mode (SAM) since roughly the 1970s (Son et al., 2010; Fogt & Marshall, 2020, and references therein). Ozone depletion of the Antarctic polar vortex in spring drives a cooling of this airmass, stabilizing the vortex, delaying the transition to summertime easterlies, and via deep coupling causing a strengthening of the Southern Annular Mode (SAM) during southern summer (Thompson et al., 2011; Morgenstern, 2021). In the Arctic, ozone depletion is usually less pronounced than in the Antarctic (although recent years have seen two Arctic “ozone holes”; Kuttippurath et al., 2021), residual ozone is larger, and consequently ozone depletion has not been implicated in a long-term strengthening of the Northern Annular Mode (NAM; Eyring et al., 2021). However, large ozone depletion does tend to be followed by anomalous tropospheric weather, i.e. an anomalously strong NAM (Ivy et al., 2017; Friedel et al., 2022).

80 The pertinent observed long-term strengthening of the NAM however remains unexplained
 81 (Eyring et al., 2021).

82 Climate models regularly simulate a delayed breakdown of the polar vortex. This
 83 behavior leads to too-strong stratospheric cooling following ozone depletion, driven by
 84 biases in the dynamical responses to ozone depletion (Lin et al., 2017). Also in some individual-
 85 model studies, ozone chemistry has been found to impact timescales of variability of the
 86 polar vortices (Haase & Matthes, 2019; Rieder et al., 2019; Oehrlein et al., 2020). We
 87 will investigate whether these findings apply to present-generation climate models as a
 88 group, and any learnings as these models transition from almost all excluding to in the
 89 future increasing including explicit ozone chemistry. At the time of writing, the portal
 90 of the 6th Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP6) lists 114 models and model
 91 variants. Morgenstern (2021) uses 29 different models in his assessment of the SAM in
 92 CMIP6, essentially sidelining many model variants to reduce redundancy. Of these 29
 93 models, only six have explicit interactive ozone chemistry. A feature of the CMIP6 dataset
 94 is that pairs of models have participated with interactive ozone chemistry constituting
 95 the main or only point of difference between them. Simulations performed by these model
 96 pairs thus offer an opportunity to assess what the impact is of interactive chemistry ver-
 97 sus the alternative approaches, i.e. usually prescribing the pre-computed CMIP6 ozone
 98 climatology (Checa-Garcia et al., 2018). A comparison of such model pairs will of course
 99 not only find impacts due to interactive ozone – or lack thereof – but would also be sen-
 100 sitive to any peculiarities of the precomputed ozone field itself, its implementation (Hardiman
 101 et al., 2019), and any differences versus the interactive ozone. For example, Morgenstern
 102 et al. (2020, 2021) have shown that the recommended CMIP6 ozone climatology (Checa-
 103 Garcia et al., 2018) greatly underestimates Northern-Hemisphere mean ozone loss over
 104 the period 1979-2000. Also in a few cases there are other differences between these pairs
 105 that extend beyond ozone chemistry, which can complicate this comparison. A recent
 106 study (Lin & Ming, 2021) finds substantially enhanced cooling in a model variant with
 107 interactive ozone versus the same model using prescribed ozone, even though the sim-
 108 ulated and prescribed ozone are quite similar. The authors explain this as the effect of
 109 co-variance of ozone and temperature anomalies that does not exist in the no-chemistry
 110 model.

111 In the below we will compare simulations of pairs of CMIP6 models (supplemented
 112 with three non-CMIP6 models) with and without interactive ozone, and will assess dif-
 113 ferences between the two members of the pair regarding polar stratospheric dynamics
 114 and associated stratosphere-troposphere coupling. Where significant, such differences will
 115 be indicative of the role of climate-ozone coupling. We will assess both hemispheres, not-
 116 ing that Morgenstern (2021) has already made the case, using CMIP6 simulations, for
 117 why interactive ozone is important for simulating climate trends of the Southern Hemi-
 118 sphere. Here we will complement his analysis with a focus on timescales of variability
 119 and on anomalously cold stratospheric winters when polar ozone chemistry is particu-
 120 larly impactful.

121 2 Models and observational reference data

122 Models used here are listed in table 1. We use all chemistry-climate models from
 123 CMIP6 for which daily- and zonal-mean temperature and geopotential height (GPH) fields
 124 are available for “historical” simulations, and their no-chemistry CMIP6 equivalents where
 125 such models exist. Furthermore we use the SOCOL (Sukhodolov et al., 2021), ACCESS-
 126 CM2-Chem (Dennison & Woodhouse, 2022), and UKESM1-StratTrop models from the
 127 Chemistry-Climate Model Initiative Phase 2 (CCMI2) set of models (Plummer et al.,
 128 2021), and their no-chemistry CMIP6 equivalents. UKESM1-StratTrop is a further de-
 129 velopment of the UKESM1-0-LL model (Sellar et al., 2019), based on the same no-chemistry
 130 background model (Williams et al., 2018; Kuhlbrodt et al., 2018, HadGEM3-GC31-LL,
 131 but with some updates to photolysis and other reaction rates which reduce a general over-

CCMs		No-chemistry models		Differences	References
CESM2-WACCM	3	CESM2	11	higher top, NOGWD	G19, DA20
CESM2-WACCM-FV2	3	CESM2-FV2	3	higher top, NOGWD	G19, DA20
CNRM-ESM2-1	9	CNRM-CM6-1	28	same settings	S19, V19
GFDL-ESM4	3	GFDL-CM4	1	higher top, NOGWD	D20, H19
MRI-ESM2-0	5				Y19
UKESM1-0-LL	13	HadGEM3-GC31-LL	3	same settings	SE19, K18, W18
<i>UKESM1-StratTrop</i>	3	<i>HadGEM3-GC31-LL</i>	5	same settings	SE19, K18, W18
<i>ACCESS-CM2-Chem</i>	3	<i>ACCESS-CM2</i>	3	same settings	D22, B20, BO20
<i>SOCOL4</i>	3	<i>MPI-ESM1-2-LR</i>	3	same settings	S21, M19

Table 1. CMIP6/CCMI2 chemistry and corresponding CMIP6 no-chemistry models considered here. The 2nd and 4th columns denote the number of “historical”, REF-D1, or AMIP simulations used in the analysis. For the purposes of this paper, models listed in italics are atmosphere-only; we use their CCMI2 REF-D1 and CMIP6 AMIP simulations, respectively. References: B20 = Bi et al. (2020), BO20 = Bodman et al. (2020), D20 = Dunne et al. (2020), D22 = Dennison and Woodhouse (2022), DA20 = Danabasoglu et al. (2020), G19 = Gettelman et al. (2019), H19 = Held et al. (2019), K18 = Kuhlbrodt et al. (2018), M19 = Mauritsen et al. (2019), S19 = S  ferian et al. (2019), S21 = Sukhodolov et al. (2021), SE19 = Sellar et al. (2019), V19 = Voldoire et al. (2019), W18 = Williams et al. (2018), Y19 = Yukimoto, Kawai, et al. (2019).

132 estimation of ozone in the extrapolar stratosphere. (Other CCMI2 models are not used
133 here because they do not have a no-chemistry equivalent in the CMIP6 group of mod-
134 els.) References in table 1 are for the chemistry models (Morgenstern, 2021). In the CCMI2
135 “REF-D1” simulations used here the three CCMI2 models are not coupled to an inter-
136 active ocean; rather they use prescribe observational (HadISST) sea-surface conditions
137 (Rayner et al., 2003). The simulations are therefore more comparable to the Atmosphere
138 Model Intercomparison Project (AMIP) simulations of CMIP6 (although these use a dif-
139 ferent observational climatology for sea surface conditions than the REF-D1 simulations;
140 Taylor et al., 2015). CESM2-FV2 and CESM2-WACCM-FV2 are identical to CESM2
141 and CESM2-WACCM but with the atmospheric resolution degraded from about $\sim 1^\circ$
142 to $\sim 2^\circ$. ACCESS-CM2-Chem and ACCESS-CM2 share an atmosphere model with UKESM1-
143 0-LL and HadGEM3-GC31-LL but use different land models.

144 Previous evaluations have shown that the UKESM1-0-LL and CNRM-ESM2-1 mod-
145 els well simulate 1979-2000 Arctic ozone trends, GFDL-ESM4, CESM2-WACCM, and
146 MRI-ESM2-0 underestimate Arctic ozone depletion (Morgenstern et al., 2020), and SO-
147 COL quite faithfully reproduces extrapolar ozone (Sukhodolov et al., 2021). The ozone
148 field used to drive the no-chemistry models HadGEM3-GC31-LL, MPI-ESM1-2-LR, GFDL-
149 CM4, CESM1, CESM2-FV2, and ACCESS-CM2 however much underestimates these Northern-
150 Hemisphere and especially Arctic ozone trends (Morgenstern et al., 2020), with hemispheric-
151 and annual-mean TCO trends for 1979-2000 in the CMIP6 climatology (Checa-Garcia
152 et al., 2018) only reaching approximately a third of observed trends (Morgenstern, 2021).
153 In the Antarctic, UKESM1-0-LL and MRI-ESM2-0 under- and overestimate, respectively,
154 Antarctic ozone during spring, whereas the other CMIP6 chemistry-climate models sim-
155 ulate more realistic Antarctic ozone depletion (Morgenstern et al., 2020).

156 The results will be compared to version 2 of the National Center for Environmen-
157 tal Prediction (NCEP)/Department of Energy (DOE) / NCEP-DOE2 reanalysis (Kanamitsu
158 et al., 2002) and the Multi-Sensor Reanalysis 2 total-column ozone climatology (van der
159 A et al., 2015a). Replacing NCEP-DOE2 with ERA5 (Hersbach et al., 2020) leads to no
160 discernible difference in figure 3, suggesting that model biases and shortcomings are much
161 bigger factors in our analysis than any observational uncertainty.

3 Method

In a seminal paper Baldwin and Dunkerton (2001) showed how stratospheric circulation anomalies in the Arctic propagate to low altitudes and affect tropospheric circulation for the approximately two months that such features may last. For example, impacts include anomalous states of the NAM, the positions of the northern storm tracks, and mid-latitude storms. Equivalent influences of the stratosphere on the weather of the Southern Hemisphere have also been demonstrated (Thompson et al., 2005). Baldwin and Dunkerton (2001)’s method also lends itself to a comparison of chemistry versus equivalent no-chemistry models presented here. While Baldwin and Dunkerton (2001) present a composite of a stratospheric NAM index for composites of several strong and weak-NAM events, here we modify their method to using polar-cap mean stratospheric temperature as our key metric. The reason for this is that (a) this diagnostic is available for both chemistry- and no-chemistry models, unlike e. g. ozone, and (b) wintertime low temperatures are associated with heterogeneous chlorine activation on polar stratospheric clouds followed by ozone depletion in models with interactive chemistry. Much of the rest of our analysis is inspired by Baldwin and Dunkerton (2001), namely:

1. We use available “historical”, REF-D1, or AMIP daily- and zonal-mean temperature and GPH fields on pressure levels for 1980-2014, for the models listed in table 1.
2. We calculate the polar-cap (75°N-90°N and 90°S-75°S, respectively) average temperatures and GPH fields.
3. We smoothen both fields using 15-day boxcar filters, to reduce the impact of outliers, and subtract off the mean annual cycles of polar-cap temperature and GPH, creating temperature and GPH anomaly timeseries.
4. We determine, for every year starting on 1 September (for the Arctic) and 1 May (for the Antarctic) and for every ensemble member, the lowest value at 70 hPa of the polar-cap average temperature anomaly, and the day of its occurrence. This temperature is then used to rank the years by stratospheric temperature.
5. We form the averages for all 231-day periods, from 130 days before the coldest day to 100 days after the coldest day, for the 20% coldest years.

4 Results

4.1 General model performance for monthly-mean ozone and temperature

Arctic total-column ozone, in the decades before \sim 1995, experienced a decline of nearly 100 DU in March since 1979 but recovered slightly thereafter, see the Multi-Sensor Reanalysis 2 (MSR-2; van der A et al., 2015a, 2015b) panel of figure 1. Losses in other seasons were much smaller. The loss was mainly driven by increasing halogens in a well-understood mechanism involving chlorine activation on polar stratospheric clouds (WMO, 2018). In the nine chemistry-climate models and the CMIP6 climatology (itself derived from model results, Checa-Garcia et al., 2018), this springtime loss is captured but with varying degrees of realism. March trends come close to MSR-2 in UKESM1-0-LL, UKESM1-StratTrop, and ACCESS-CM2-Chem, but in these models, unrealistically, the ozone loss is bigger in April than in March. SOCOL and CNRM-ESM2-1 also both simulate substantial though underestimated ozone loss. CESM2-WACCM, CESM2-WACCM-FV2, GFDL-ESM4, and MRI-ESM2-0 all substantially underestimate the amount of ozone loss, as does the CMIP6 ozone climatology used to force no-chemistry CMIP6 models. A failure to simulate a realistic impact of halogen increases on Arctic ozone can indicate that chlorine activation in these models is not realistic, for example because of a stratospheric warm bias reducing the occurrence of polar stratospheric clouds, or for other reasons.

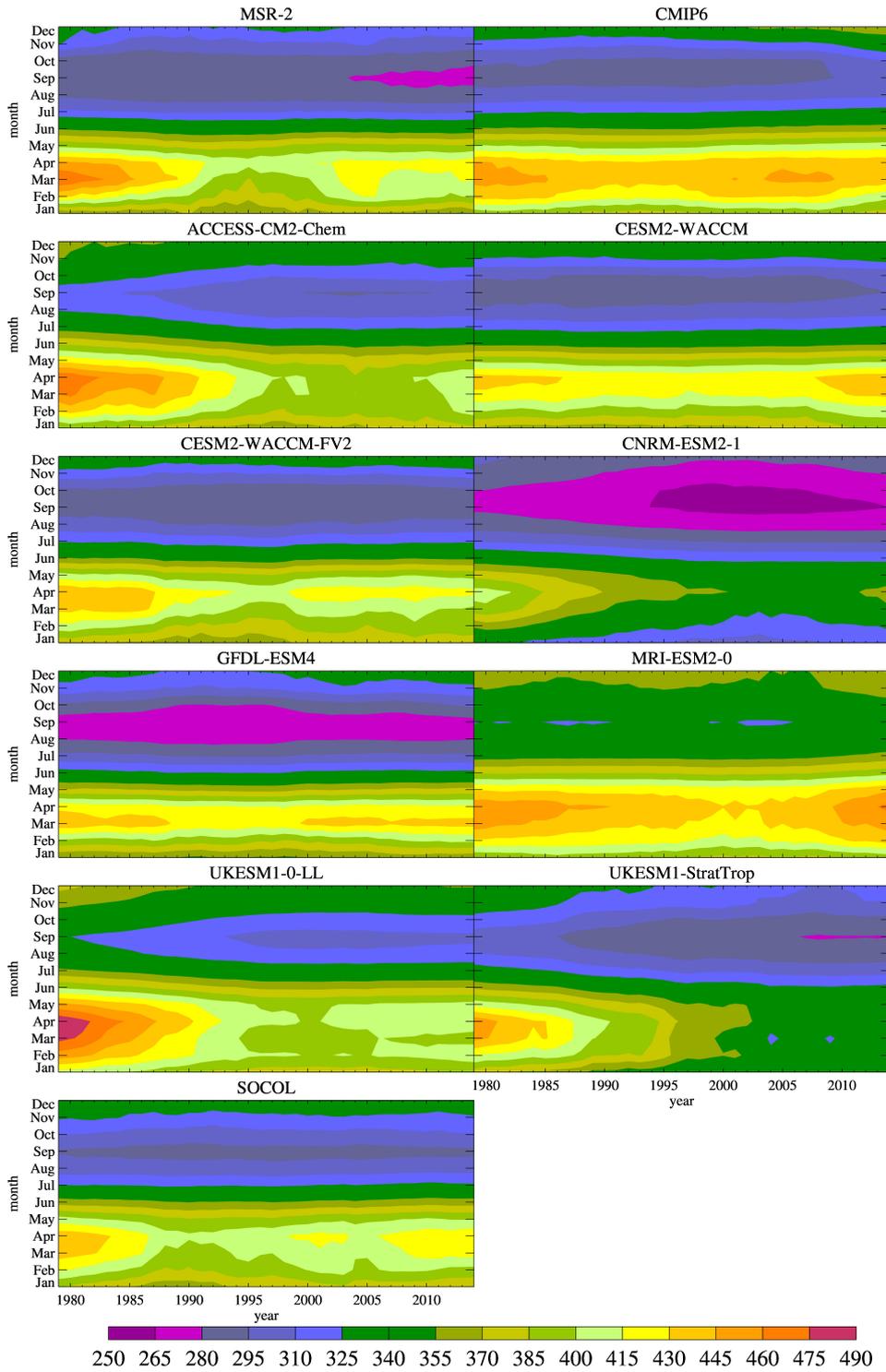


Figure 1. 1979-2014 monthly-mean TCO (DU) averaged over the Arctic polar cap (north of 75°N), expressed as functions of the year and month of the year and smoothed with an 11-year boxcar filter, for the MSR-2 observational reference (van der A et al., 2015a), the CMIP6 ozone forcing dataset (Checa-Garcia et al., 2018), and the single-model ensemble-means of the “historical” and REF-D1 simulations, respectively, by the nine chemistry-climate models.

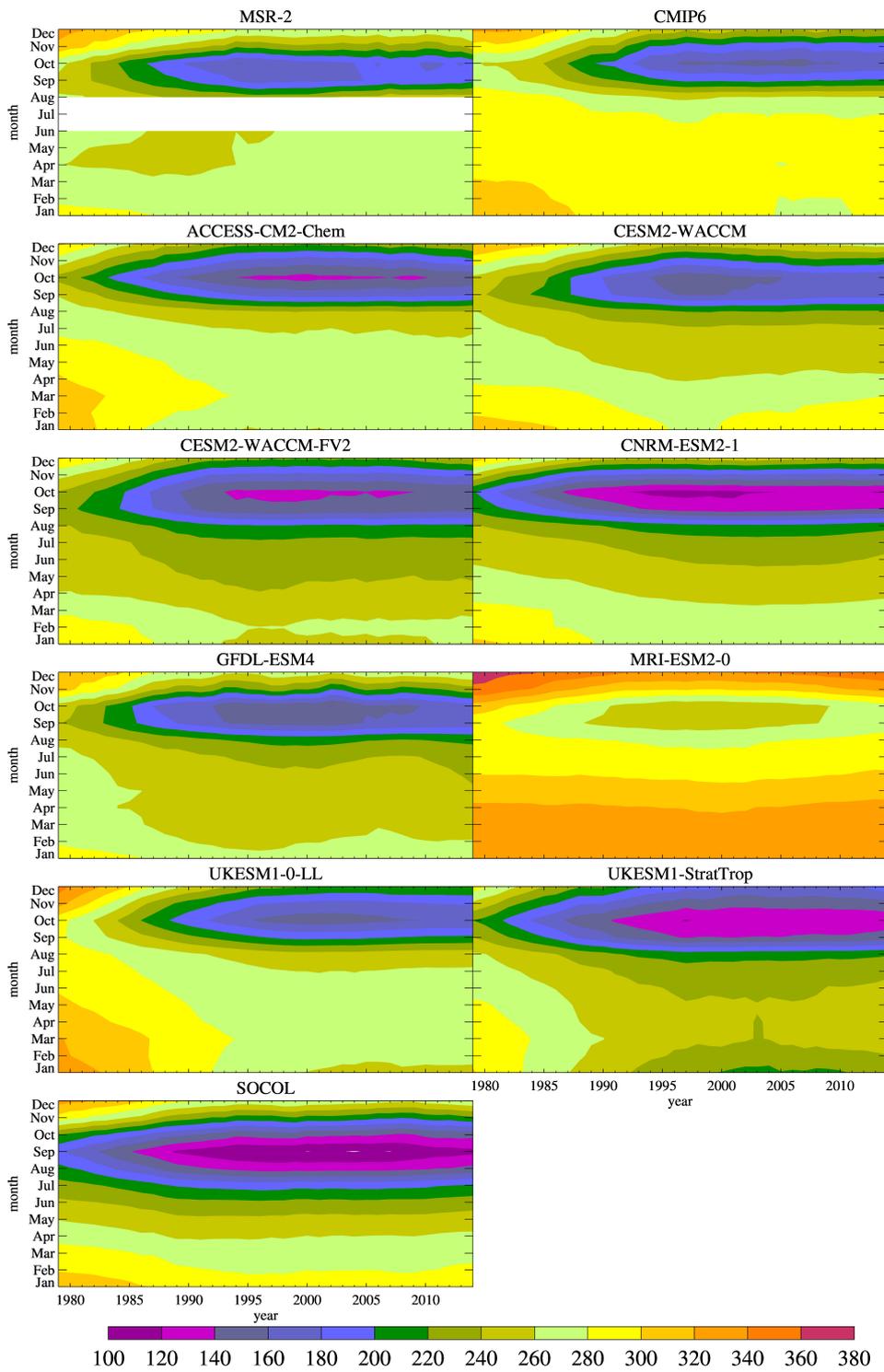


Figure 2. Same as figure 1, but for the Antarctic polar cap (south of 75°S).

211 Similarly, the Antarctic has experienced substantial ozone loss in spring, manifest-
 212 ing as the Antarctic “ozone hole” (figure 2). The models capture this, but again with
 213 various biases. Several models have severe ozone loss persisting for too long into sum-
 214 mer (the UKESM1 models, ACCESS-CM2-Chem, the CESM2-WACCM versions, and
 215 CNRM-ESM2-1). The MRI-ESM2-0 model substantially underestimates ozone loss. The
 216 SOCOL model simulates an early onset of the ozone hole, with lowest polar ozone oc-
 217 ccurring in September not October. The GFDL-ESM4 model overall has the most real-
 218 istic timing and small biases of Antarctic ozone – we note however the much underes-
 219 timated ozone loss in the Arctic in this model.

220 Next we assess the simulation of temperature in these models.

221 An inspection of the mean 1980-2014 temperature bias and standard deviation for
 222 the 70 hPa polar-cap mean temperature (figure 3) indicates that for both polar regions,
 223 there is excellent agreement between the NCEP-DOE2 (Kanamitsu et al., 2002) and the
 224 newer ERA5 reanalyses (Hersbach et al., 2020), with essentially identical standard de-
 225 viations and absolute biases between the two reanalyses of mostly less than 1K, much
 226 smaller than typical model biases. We therefore use NCEP-DOE2 in the following for
 227 ease of handling. A majority of models (chemistry and no-chemistry alike) exhibits cold
 228 biases during spring. In the Antarctic, the cold bias reaches -15 to -20 K in November
 229 in ACCESS-CM2-Chem, CNRM-ESM2-1, UKESM1-0-LL, and UKESM1-StratTrop. These
 230 biases are all worsened versus their no-chemistry counterparts. The cold biases are re-
 231 flected in an increase in stratospheric variability during December and January, indicat-
 232 ing an extension of the lifetime of the Antarctic polar vortex versus their no-chemistry
 233 counterparts. The CESM2-WACCM models exhibit largely unchanged biases and vari-
 234 ability in the Antarctic versus the no-chemistry equivalents, but a decreased cold bias
 235 in the Arctic in the chemistry versions. The GFDL-ESM4 model exhibits only a small
 236 warm bias in the Antarctic but a substantial warm bias (~ 5 K) in the Arctic in spring,
 237 explaining its extremely small Arctic ozone loss. SOCOL simulates relatively small bi-
 238 ases in both polar regions but exaggerated variability in the Antarctic in September and
 239 October, reflecting the early onset of ozone depletion in this model noted above.

240 **4.2 Temperature variability and cold episodes in chemistry- and no-chemistry** 241 **models**

242 Figures 4 and 5 confirm that practically all variability in polar-cap 70 hPa tem-
 243 perature occurs during the cold season – during summer this variability is no more than
 244 a few K but in the daily polar-cap average can reach and exceed ± 20 K during winter
 245 and spring. For both polar regions there is an asymmetry between cold and warm win-
 246 ters: For warm winters, the anomalies occur nearly symmetrically around the middle of
 247 the cold season (in the Arctic, approximately day 30, i.e. 31 January; in the Antarctic,
 248 approximately day -40 , i.e. 22 November), whereas during extremely cold winters the
 249 temperature anomaly builds until the wintertime circulation collapses and temperatures
 250 rapidly return to the average, with the largest cold anomalies occurring in spring or even
 251 summer. Also models with larger ensembles (e.g. CNRM-CM6-1, MPI-ESM1-2-LR) show
 252 that for warm anomalies there is no sharp upper bound for the largest warm anomalies
 253 that can occur, whereas the cold anomalies, until well into spring, are sharply bounded
 254 by a lower envelope function which decreases during the course of the winter. During
 255 spring some rare extremely cold events occur, i.e. long-lasting cold polar vortices, e.g.
 256 in the UKESM1, CNRM-ESM2-1, and ACCESS-CM2-Chem models. This assymmet-
 257 ric nature of variability reflects coupling with mid-latitudes, or lack thereof. During warm
 258 winters, the Arctic and Antarctic receive their heat from mid-latitudes in dynamical dis-
 259 turbances. This mechanism is different from the radiative cooling that dominates dur-
 260 ing cold, dynamically relatively unperturbed winter seasons and causes temperatures to
 261 gradually drop throughout the season, until the final warming marks the end of the pol-
 262 ar vortex.

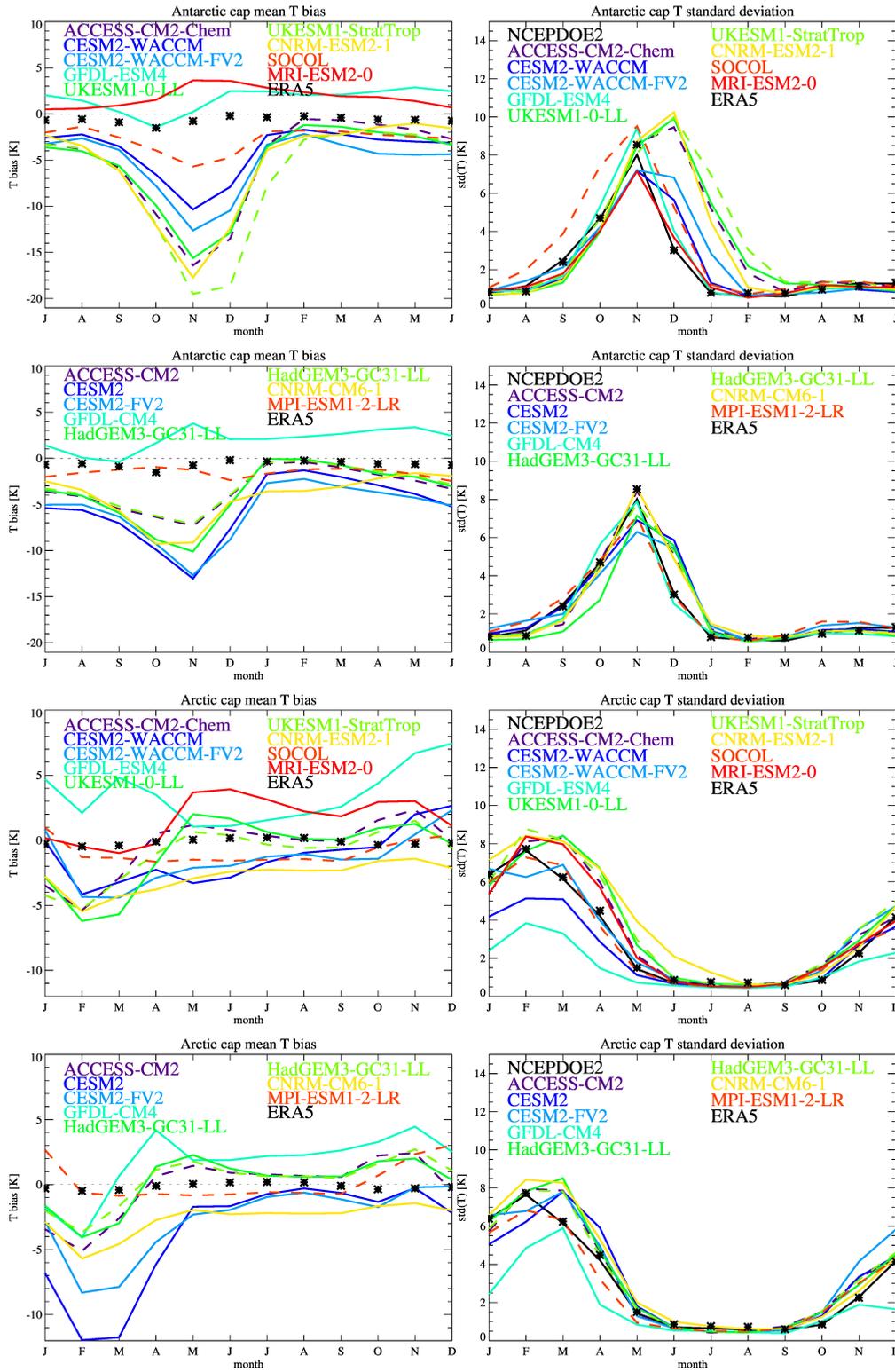


Figure 3. (left) Monthly-mean 70 hPa temperature bias (K) relative to NCEP-DOE2 for the period 1980-2014. (right) Standard deviation of monthly-mean 70 hPa temperature (K). (1st row) Chemistry-climate models, Antarctic polar cap mean. (2nd row) Same for the associated no-chemistry models. (3rd row) Chemistry-climate models, Arctic polar cap mean. (4th row) Same for the associated no-chemistry models. Solid lines represent CMIP6 “historical” ensembles, dashed lines are CMIP6 AMIP (ACCESS-CM2, HadGEM3-GC31-LL, MPI-ESM1-2-LR) and CCMIP2 REF-D1 (ACCESS-CM2-Chem, UKESM1-StratTrop, SOCOL) ensembles. respectively. Black “*” symbols denote the ERA5 reanalysis. _9_

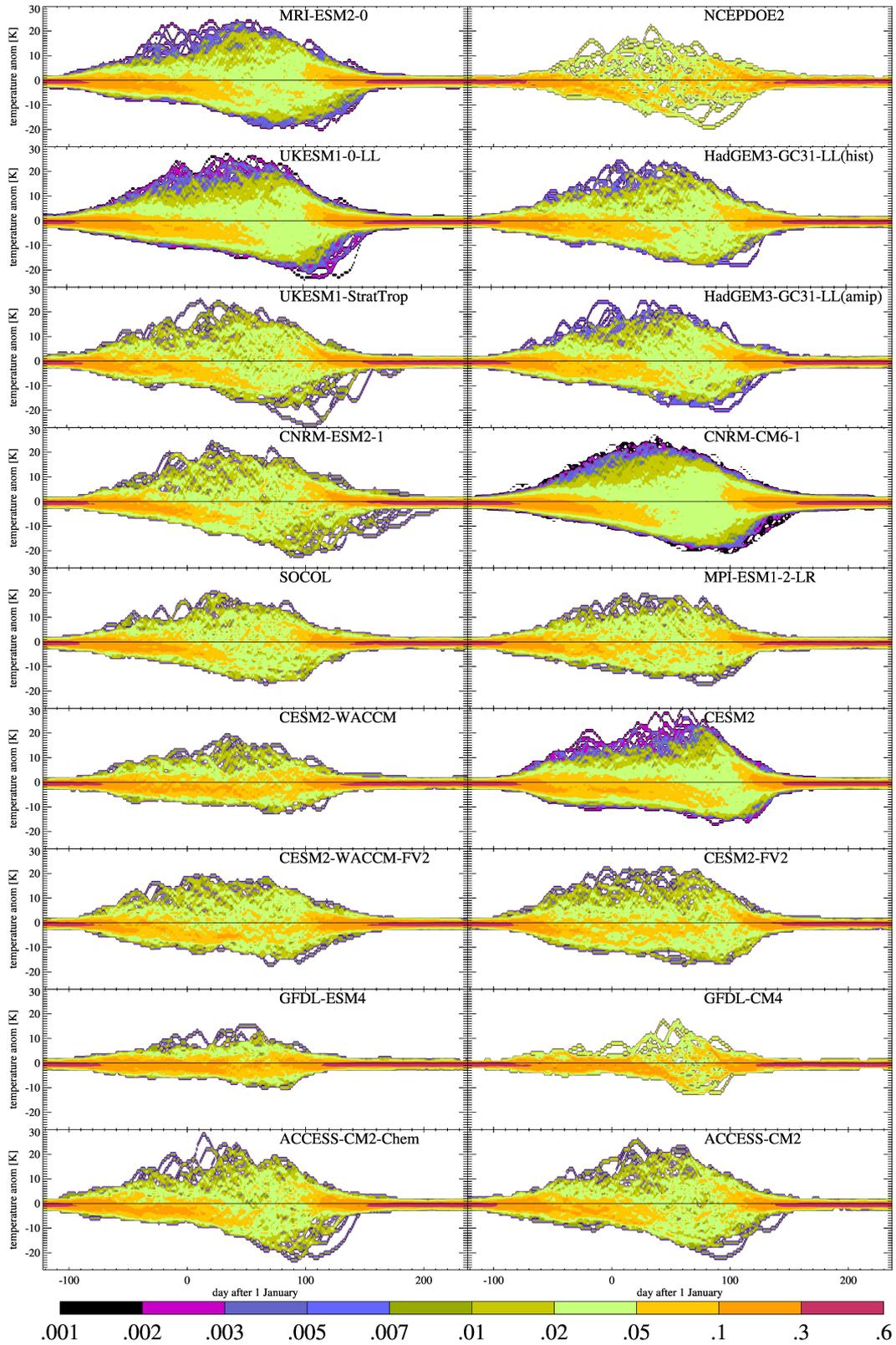


Figure 4. Probability density plot (K^{-1}) of the Arctic-mean (75°N - 90°N) temperature anomaly relative to the 1980-2014 mean seasonal cycle at 70 hPa, in the NCEP-DOE2 reanalysis and the climate models as a function of the day of the year, for September 1980 to August 2014. Models with larger ensembles allow for better sampling of low-probability temperature anomalies (colored in blue and violet); these colors are therefore absent for small-ensemble models and the reanalysis.

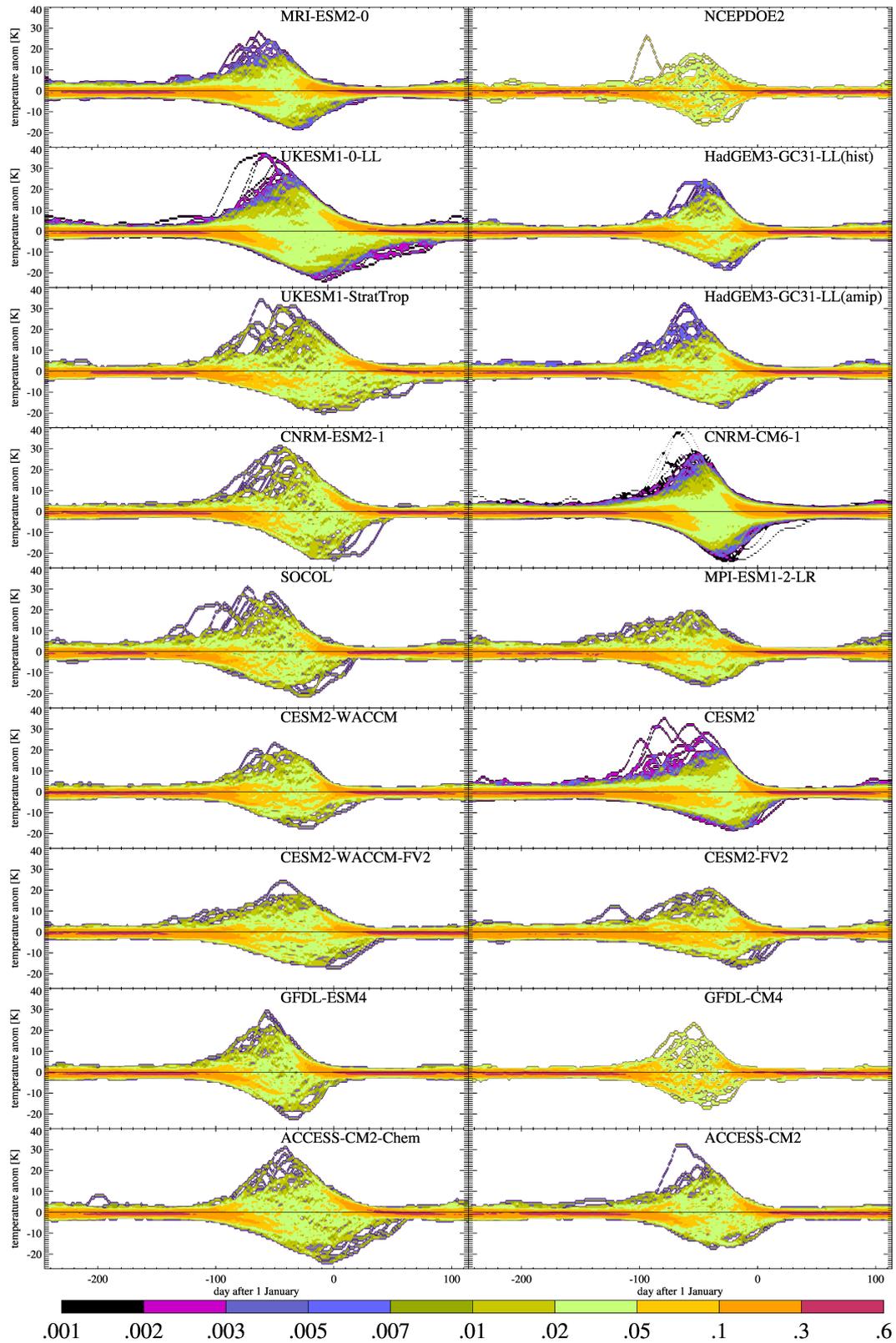


Figure 5. Same as figure 4, but for Antarctic 70 hPa polar-cap mean temperatures.

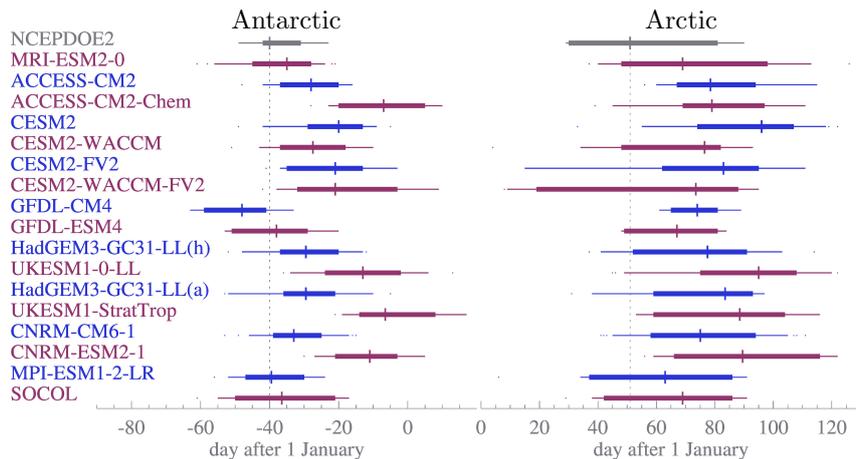


Figure 6. Date of occurrence of lowest temperatures in years with the minimum of the 15-day filtered 70 hPa polar-mean temperature anomaly in the lowest 20%. Left: Antarctica (75-90°S). Right: Arctic (75-90°N). Vertical bars: Median day. Thick lines: 16 to 84-percentile range. Thin lines: 2.5 to 97.5-percentile range. Dots: Outliers outside the 2.5 to 97.5 percentiles. Note that the NCEP-DOE2 reanalysis and the GFDL-CM4 model simulations only have 7 such cold winters each in this 20% category (out of a total of 34, for the period of September 1980 - August 2014). The long dashed vertical lines mark the medians of the coldest days in the NCEP-DOE2 reanalysis. Chemistry models are represented in red, no-chemistry models in blue. ‘h’ stands for the “historical” ensemble of HadGEM3-GC31-LL, ‘a’ for AMIP.

263 A remarkable warm outlier is seen in the NCEP-DOE2 reanalysis around day -100
 264 (i.e. 23 September; figure 5). This is the vortex breakup and major stratospheric warm-
 265 ing of 2002 which at the time was considered very unusual as it had never been seen be-
 266 fore in the observational record (Newman & Nash, 2003). Both chemistry (UKESM1,
 267 SOCOL) and no-chemistry (CNRM-CM6-1, CESM2) models exhibit similar extremely
 268 warm episodes around this time of the year, meaning that some CMIP6/CCMI2 mod-
 269 els can qualitatively simulate such events (Jucker et al., 2021).

270 Restricting our attention to the 20% of years with the lowest 15-day mean temper-
 271 ature anomalies in the Arctic and Antarctic at 70 hPa, figure 6 indicates that the me-
 272 dian of such cold days, in the reanalysis, is around day 51 (21 February) in the Arctic
 273 and day -40 (22 November) in the Antarctic. It is noteworthy that all 17 models con-
 274 sidered here simulate a later median date for the thus defined coldest day in the Ar-
 275 ctic at 70 hPa by 15 days or more. Also in the Antarctic most models simulate a delay
 276 in the coldest day. Both findings may illustrate that climate models struggle with cor-
 277 rectly capturing stratospheric dynamics in the polar regions, although it is impossible
 278 to be sure given that only the seven coldest winters are considered in the reanalysis (out
 279 of 34 in total). In the Arctic, all models have some degree of overlap of the 16 to 84-percentile
 280 interval for this coldest date with the reanalysis, whereas in the Antarctic, where the re-
 281 analysis shows relatively little variation in the date of the coldest day, the models sim-
 282 ulating the most severe ozone depletion (ACCESS-CM2-Chem, UKESM1, and CNRM-
 283 ESM2-1) all have 16 to 84-percentile ranges for this diagnostic that do not overlap with
 284 those of the reanalysis.

285 For these four model pairs (ACCESS, HadGEM3 / UKESM1 – both versions, CNRM)
 286 the chemistry variants simulate a delay in the median occurrence of the coldest day by
 287 around ~10 to 30 days versus their no-chemistry counterparts. This holds in both po-

lar regions. However, for other model pairs this is not the case: The MPI-ESM1-2-LR/SOCOL pair exhibits quite similar behavior for both polar regions, the GFDL pair simulates shifts in the coldest day of different signs in the two polar regions, and the CESM2 pairs, in most cases, produce an earlier coldest day if interactive chemistry is used. We will discuss these findings more in section 5.

4.3 Composite analysis of cold stratospheric winters

Next we produce composites for temperature and GPH, similar to Baldwin and Dunkerton (2001)’s method. We express these fields relative to the time of occurrence of the largest absolute temperature anomaly (deviation from the mean) at 70 hPa. Baldwin and Dunkerton (2001) and Thompson et al. (2005) had used NAM and SAM indices instead, respectively.

Figures 7 and 8 show that the 20% coldest winters, at the time of the lowest temperature, are generally between 10 and 20 K colder at 70 hPa than the average winter, in agreement with figures 4 and 5. Substantial cold anomalies however often start at least two months before the largest temperature anomalies occur, and last 30-50 days beyond this date. They are accompanied by corresponding negative GPH anomalies that typically extend into the troposphere, in agreement with Baldwin and Dunkerton (2001)’s and Thompson et al. (2005)’s findings.

For both polar regions, agreement between the CMIP6 models is generally remarkably good. However, in several model pairs temperature and GPH anomalies are systematically more persistent, both at the start and end, for both polar regions, and also often of larger-amplitude in the chemistry-climate models (UKESM1 – both variants, CNRM-ESM2-1, SOCOL, MRI-ESM2-0, ACCESS-CM2-Chem) than in the corresponding no-chemistry models (HadGEM3, CNRM-CM6-1, MPI-ESM1, ACCESS-CM2). In particular, these six chemistry models all maintain substantial cold anomalies in the lower stratosphere well beyond day 50 after the lowest temperatures occur in the Arctic at 70 hPa. In all six cases, the chemistry models produce more persistent cold anomalies than their no-chemistry counterparts. The cold anomalies lasting well into spring are reflected in GPH anomalies also lasting longer and spawning low-GPH anomalies in the troposphere, signaling impacts of this behavior on simulated tropospheric weather.

Exceptions to this behavior are the GFDL and the CESM2 / CESM2-FV2 families which do not exhibit substantial differences in the persistence of the Arctic cold anomalies between the chemistry and no-chemistry models. An inspection of figure 4 shows that GFDL-ESM4 simulates less polar temperature variability in the Arctic than the other CCMs. It is characterized by a substantial warm bias with practically no “cold” Arctic winters with corresponding ozone depletion (figure 3) and far too weak ozone trends for the 1979-2000 period (figure 1; Morgenstern et al., 2020). By contrast, CESM2-WACCM has a cold bias but also simulates too weak Arctic ozone trends for 1979-2000 (Morgenstern et al., 2020).

Comparing now the climate models with the NCEP-DOE2 reanalysis (Kanamitsu et al., 2002), in the cases where the chemistry models exhibit increased persistence, the no-chemistry counterparts are in better agreement with observations than the chemistry models. This means the persistence of cold anomalies long into spring seen in most CCMs is not reflected in the NCEP-DOE2 reanalysis.

5 Discussion

We have analyzed the dynamics of stratospheric cold winters in 13 CMIP6 and three CCM2 climate and chemistry-climate models and compared them to reanalyses. The behavior of the chemistry models depends crucially on whether substantial additional

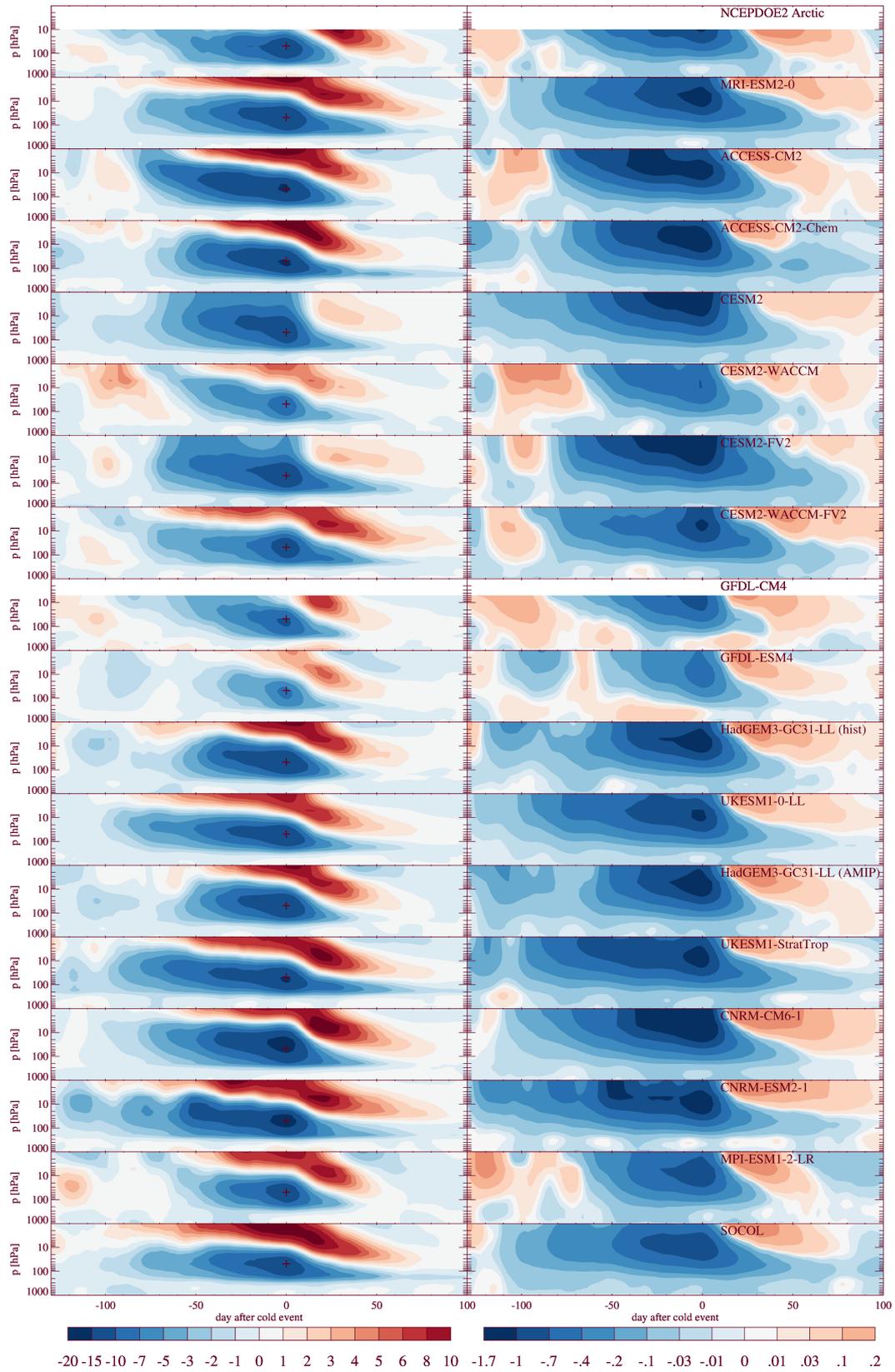


Figure 7. Arctic polar cap (75°N-90°N) mean temperature (left; in K) and GPH (right; in km) anomalies (relative to their 1980-2014 mean seasonal cycles) for the 20% coldest winters in the chemistry-climate and no-chemistry models. Time is relative to the day of occurrence of the coldest day at 70 hPa, marked by a small '+' symbol.

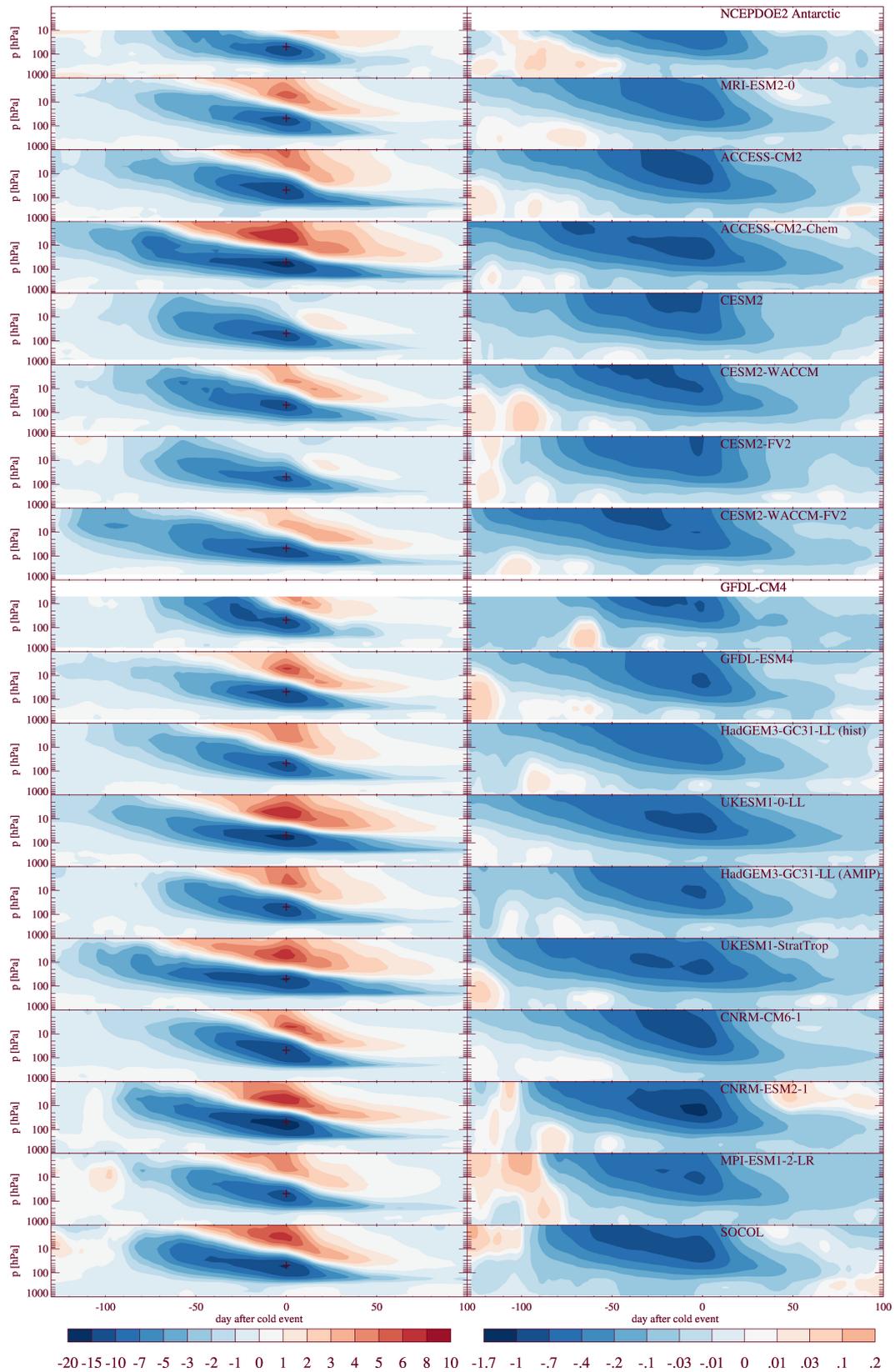


Figure 8. Same a figure 7, but for the Antarctic polar cap (75°S-90°S).

CCM	no-chemistry model	tuning	winter bias	springtime variability	coldest day	persistence
ACCESS-CM2-Chem	ACCESS-CM2	no	cold	high	late	increased
CESM2-WACCM	CESM2	yes	cold	good/low	early	similar
CESM2-WACCM-FV2	CESM2-FV2	yes	cold	good	early/unchanged	similar
CNRM-ESM2-1	CNRM-CM6-1	no	cold	high	late	increased
GFDL-ESM4	GFDL-CM4	yes	warm/small	good/low	late/early	similar
MRI-ESM2-0			small	good/high		
SOCOL	MPI-ESM1-2	no	small	good	unchanged	increased
UKESM1-0-LL	HadGEM3-GC31-LL	no	cold	high	late	increased
UKESM1-StratTrop	HadGEM3-GC31-LL	no	cold	high	late	increased

Table 2. Summary of findings. “Tuning” refers to any substantial differences in the dynamical part of the model relative to the no-chemistry base model. The “winter bias” and “variability” are for the monthly-mean 70 hPa temperatures at 75°S-90°S and 75°N-90°N, relative to ERA-Interim, for the CCMs (figure 3). The “coldest day” refers to the shift in the median occurrence of the coldest day relative to the corresponding no-chemistry model (hence it is “not applicable” to MRI-ESM2-0; figure 6). The “persistence” is qualitatively discerned from figures 7 and 8 and is relative to the corresponding no-chemistry models. Again this is “not applicable” to the MRI-ESM2-0 model which however behaves similarly to the other CCMs with “increased” persistence times.

336 differences, extending beyond interactive ozone chemistry, exist between the chemistry
337 models and their no-chemistry equivalents. In four cases where the dynamics configu-
338 rations are essentially unchanged versus the no-chemistry configuration (ACCESS-CM2-
339 Chem, CNRM-ESM2-1, UKESM1-0-LL/UKESM1-StratTrop), coupling in chemistry re-
340 sults in a delay in the occurrence of the coldest day, both in the Arctic and Antarctic
341 lower stratosphere. As a result of this extension of the cold season, all of these models
342 unrealistically simulate maximum polar ozone loss during the months of April and Novem-
343 ber, respectively. The SOCOL model does not exhibit any shift in the timing of the cold-
344 est day versus its reference model MPI-ESM1-2-LR; SOCOL is also characterized by a
345 generally good representation of ozone trends (Sukhodolov et al., 2021), albeit with an
346 early onset of ozone loss in the Antarctic, and a good representation of Arctic temper-
347 ature and variability (figure 3). All five of these chemistry models exhibit timescales of
348 persistence of stratospheric cold anomalies over both poles that are longer than in their
349 no-chemistry counterparts, reflecting extensions of the lifetimes of both polar vortices.
350 Possibly in the SOCOL model, this increased persistence is counteracted by the early
351 onset of ozone depletion in the Antarctic, resulting in no shift of the occurrence of the
352 coldest day relative to the background model, MPI-ESM1-2-LR. The MRI-ESM2-0 model
353 also behaves similarly to these chemistry models. These extended lifetimes of the pol-
354 ar vortices compare worse to a reanalysis than the shorter lifetimes of the polar vortices
355 characterizing the corresponding no-chemistry models. This impact of interactive chem-
356 istry is consistent with earlier studies based on fewer models (Haase & Matthes, 2019;
357 Oehrlein et al., 2020; Lin & Ming, 2021).

358 The behavior of this group of models contrasts with the GFDL and two CESM2
359 pairs of models. In these pairs, the chemistry models differ more substantially in their
360 dynamics configurations from their no-chemistry counterparts, namely the chemistry ver-
361 sions operate on a vertically extended grid with more levels in the stratosphere, com-
362 pared to their no-chemistry counterparts. CESM2-WACCM and CESM-WACCM-FV2

363 include an additional non-orographic gravity wave drag (NOGWD) parameterization (Gettelman
364 et al., 2019) completely absent in CESM2 and CESM2-FV2. GFDL-ESM4 also differs
365 in terms of NOGWD and a few other aspects (Dunne et al., 2020). NOGWD drives the
366 Brewer-Dobson Circulation and influences the stability of the polar vortices (Eichinger
367 et al., 2020, for a recent review see), so may well explain the differences in behavior be-
368 tween the CCMs and their no-chemistry equivalents. GFDL-ESM4 is the only chemistry
369 model studied here with a substantial warm bias in the Arctic stratosphere in winter.
370 Together with the much underestimated variability (figure 3) this indicates this model
371 does not realistically simulate Arctic ozone depletion (Morgenstern et al., 2020), but ranks
372 amongst the top-performing models for Antarctic ozone depletion. CESM2-WACCM,
373 like most other models studied here, has a cold bias in the Arctic winter stratosphere.
374 Together also with the underestimated variability this suggests that the model simulates
375 too many “cold” polar vortices with too regular ozone depletion. Both in the CESM2
376 and the GFDL models, however, the timings of the coldest days, for both polar regions,
377 are either unchanged or more realistic in the chemistry models. The timescales of per-
378 sistence are not appreciably different between the chemistry and no-chemistry config-
379 urations of these models.

380 The findings illustrate that in the cases where ozone chemistry is the only signif-
381 icant difference between two model configurations, ozone chemistry introduces additional
382 “memory” into the atmosphere. Feedbacks of ozone chemistry onto radiation, for a cold
383 winter, enhance radiative cooling and stabilize the vortex to last longer into spring; sim-
384 ilar results were found in earlier single-model studies (Oehrlein et al., 2020; Lin & Ming,
385 2021). These effects can however be counterbalanced by retuning and/or additional physics,
386 especially the non-orographic gravity wave scheme added or modified in GFDL-ESM4
387 and CESM2-WACCM (both versions).

388 The findings illustrate that additional “physics” that, based on first principles, can
389 be expected to better capture Earth system feedbacks, such as ozone chemistry, will only
390 lead to a better reproduction of atmospheric dynamics and climate if other processes are
391 tuned to account for its presence in a climate model. In particular, NOGWD schemes
392 are often adjusted to improve the simulation of stratospheric dynamics. In the absence
393 of such tuning, adding in interactive ozone chemistry may degrade performance, which
394 might erroneously be understood to count against including this process in a climate model.

395 Data availability

396 CMIP6 data are available at <https://esgf-node.llnl.gov/search/cmip6/>. Specif-
397 ically, the following datasets are used: Dix et al. (2019); Danabasoglu (2019a, 2019b, 2019c,
398 2019d); Séférian (2018); Voldoire (2018); Guo et al. (2018); Krasting et al. (2018); Yuki-
399 moto, Koshiro, et al. (2019); Wieners et al. (2019); Tang et al. (2019); Byun (2020); Ri-
400 dley et al. (2019a, 2019b). CCM2 data are downloaded from [ftp://ftp.ceda.ac.uk/](ftp://ftp.ceda.ac.uk/badc/ccmi/data/post-cmip6/ccmi-2022)
401 [badc/ccmi/data/post-cmip6/ccmi-2022](ftp://ftp.ceda.ac.uk/badc/ccmi/data/post-cmip6/ccmi-2022). Specifically, the following datasets have been
402 used: Dennison and Woodhouse (2021); Rozanov et al. (2021); Abraham and Keeble (2021).
403 NCEP-DOE2 data were provided by the NOAA/OAR/ESRL PSL, Boulder, Colorado,
404 USA, from their web site at [https://psl.noaa.gov/data/gridded/data.ncep.reanalysis2](https://psl.noaa.gov/data/gridded/data.ncep.reanalysis2.pressure.html)
405 [.pressure.html](https://psl.noaa.gov/data/gridded/data.ncep.reanalysis2.pressure.html). Hersbach et al. (2019) was downloaded from the Copernicus Climate
406 Change Service (C3S) Climate Data Store. The results contain modified Copernicus Cli-
407 mate Change Service information. Neither the European Commission nor ECMWF are
408 responsible for any use that may be made of the Copernicus information or data it con-
409 tains.

410 MSR-2 data are available at <https://www.temis.nl/protocols/03global.php>
411 (van der A et al., 2015b).

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