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Stratospheric ozone depletion from future nitrous oxide increases

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Abstract. We have investigated the impact of the assumed nitrous oxide (N2O) increases on stratospheric chemistry and dynamics using a series of idealized simulations with a coupled chemistry-climate model (CCM). In a future cooler stratosphere the net yield of NO_v from N₂O is shown to decrease in a reference run following the IPCC A1B scenario, but NO_v can still be significantly increased by extra increases of N₂O over 2001–2050. Over the last decade of simulations, 50% increases in N2O result in a maximal 6% reduction in ozone mixing ratios in the middle stratosphere at around 10 hPa and an average 2% decrease in the total ozone column (TCO) compared with the control run. This enhanced destruction could cause an ozone decline in the first half of this century in the middle stratosphere around 10 hPa, while global TCO still shows an increase at the same time. The results from a multiple linear regression analysis and sensitivity simulations with different forcings show that the chemical effect of N₂O increases dominates the N₂O-induced ozone depletion in the stratosphere, while the dynamical and radiative effects of N₂O increases are overall insignificant. The analysis of the results reveals that the ozone depleting potential of N₂O varies with the time period and is influenced by the environmental conditions. For example, carbon dioxide (CO₂) increases can strongly offset the ozone depletion effect of N2O.

1 Introduction

Stratospheric ozone destruction involves complex chemical reactions and a range of chemical species. The catalytic destruction by reactive chlorine and bromine has accounted for a large part of the ozone loss in the stratosphere over the past few decades (WMO, 2007). However, stratospheric chlorine (Cl) and bromine (Br) loading is now decreasing due to the reduction of emissions of anthropogenic chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and other halogen-containing chemicals mandated by the Montreal Protocol. Therefore, the effects of other ozone-depleting substances (ODSs) have become a subject of renewed concern in recent years (Wuebbles and Hayhoe, 2002; Chipperfield, 2003; Dentener et al., 2005; Stenke and Grewe, 2005; Ravishankara et al., 2009; Tian et al., 2009). Among other chemical species, nitrous oxide (N2O) has been recognized as an important substance affecting stratospheric ozone, and the effect of N2O on ozone depletion has been discussed in a number of studies (e.g. Crutzen, 1976; Crutzen and Ehhalt, 1977; Kinnison et al., 1988; Randeniya et al., 2002; Chipperfield, 2003). Crutzen and Ehhalt (1977) first pointed out that the increasing use of fixed nitrogen as fertilizer might result in a reduction of the Earth's ozone layer of a few percent at the beginning of the 21st century. Portmann and Solomon (2007) found that increasing N2O could lead to a 2-4% decline of the total ozone column (TCO) by the end of this century under the IPCC A2 scenario. Ravishankara et al. (2009) re-opened the debate on the importance

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of N_2O for ozone depletion when they argued that N_2O is now the single most important anthropogenic ODS compared with those regulated by the Montreal Protocol and its amendments. This result is subsequently supported by Portmann et al. (2012) and Revell et al. (2012a, b), which discussed the importance of N_2O to ozone depletion through the 21st century.

 N_2O affects ozone predominantly through NO_x -catalysed ($NO_x = NO + NO_2$) ozone-loss cycles in the stratosphere (Crutzen and Ehhalt, 1977). NO_x can be oxidized to non-radical species of NO_y ($NO_y = NO_x + NO_3 + HNO_3 + HO_2NO_2 + CIONO_2 + 2N_2O_5 + BrONO_2$), that act as the reservoirs of NO_x and can also be converted back to NO_x . The fraction of NO_y present as NO_x , therefore, dominates the NO_x -catalysed ozone-loss rate. This ratio of NO_x/NO_y , and hence the effect of NO_x on stratospheric ozone, is moderated by other chemical processes, e.g. chlorine-catalysed ozone-loss cycles (Ravishankara et al., 2009).

On the other hand, since the loss of ozone is inversely related to local temperature changes throughout most of the stratosphere, the effect of N₂O on the ozone layer is also modulated by the radiative cooling caused by other greenhouse gases (GHGs) such as carbon dioxide (CO₂) (Rosenfield et al., 2002; Chipperfield, 2009; Wuebbles, 2009; Dameris, 2010). The ozone depletion efficiency of N₂O is expected to decrease in the stratosphere due to projected increases in CO2 (Rosenfield and Douglass, 1998). Some other studies argued that CO₂-induced cooling could cause stratospheric ozone to recover to values greater than 1980 levels during this century (Chipperfield, 2009; Wuebbles, 2009) and lead to a so-called "super recovery". Fleming et al. (2011) further carried out a comprehensive study of longterm stratospheric effects of some source gases, including N₂O and CO₂, through a series of two-dimensional (2-D) chemistry-climate model simulations. They predicted that in the latter half of the 21st century, CO₂, N₂O, and methane (CH₄) loading will all have significant impacts on global total ozone, where the effect of CO₂ changes on global total ozone has twice the magnitude of the effect of N₂O changes.

Ozone depletion potential (ODP) is widely used in quantifying the relative ozone-destroying capabilities of compounds. ODP is defined as the time-integrated global ozone depletion induced by a unit mass emission of gas X relative to the same amount of emission of CFC-11 (Ravishankara et al., 2009). Ravishankara et al. (2009) highlighted that the ODP value of N₂O is influenced more by chlorine concentration conditions than other factors, such as odd hydrogen, bromine and methane levels. However, other studies have shown that the effects of N₂O on ozone depend on both the CO₂ induced cooling and the chemical effects of CH₄ (Portmann et al., 2012; Revell et al., 2012b).

Although those previous studies have investigated the impact of N_2O on ozone depletion, the relative importance of the radiative and chemical effects of N_2O remain unclear and the net effect of increased N_2O on the ozone layer in a chang-

ing climate is still under debate. Previous studies have mostly been based on mechanistic analysis, with the main focus being the chemical effect of N_2O (Ravishankara et al., 2009), or have used relatively simple 2-D chemical–dynamical models (e.g. Portmann and Solomon, 2007; Chipperfield, 2009; Fleming et al., 2011) to diagnose the effect of N_2O changes on the ozone layer. In this study, we re-examine the effect of N_2O increases on ozone using a fully coupled three-dimensional (3-D) chemistry-climate model (CCM). We attempt to clarify quantitatively the radiative and chemical effects of N_2O increases on the ozone layer, and to diagnose the ozone changes in a changing climate when CO_2 and N_2O are both increasing. The ODP value of N_2O , as well as its dependence on present and future climate with increasing CO_2 conditions, is also analysed.

The details of the model and numerical experiments are given in Sect. 2. The effect of N₂O increases on ozone depletion under different scenarios, as well as its climate feedbacks, are addressed in Sect. 3. In Sect. 4, we analyse the contributions of various factors associated with N₂O increases in modulating ozone depletion. The N₂O ODP and its dependence on the temperature, N₂O, and CO₂ values are discussed in Sect. 5. Conclusions and a discussion are presented in Sect. 6.

2 Models and numerical experiments

We have used a fully coupled CCM, the Whole Atmosphere Community Climate Model 3 (WACCM3) to investigate the chemical and thermal–dynamical responses to a linear future increase in N₂O. WACCM3 has 66 vertical levels from the ground to 4.5×10^{-6} hPa (approximately 145 km geometric altitude) with detailed interactive chemistry (Garcia et al., 2007) and a finite volume dynamical core (Lin, 2004). For this study, the simulations were carried out at $4^{\circ} \times 5^{\circ}$ horizontal resolution. The WACCM3 chemistry module is derived from the 3-D chemical transport Model for Ozone and Related chemical Tracers (MOZART) (Brasseur and Hitchman, 1988; Hauglustaine et al., 1998; Horowitz et al., 2003). More details about the WACCM3 model can be found in Garcia et al. (2007).

Four long-term WACCM simulations were performed in this study and detailed configurations of these simulations are listed in Table 1. The surface volume mixing ratios (vmr's) of GHGs in the control run (E0) are taken from the IPCC A1B scenario. In runs E1 and E2, the surface vmr's of N₂O were increased linearly from 344 ppbv in the year 2000 to 517 and 688 ppbv in 2050, respectively, which is 50 % and 100 % more than the N₂O value in the year 2050 in the A1B scenario. This approach makes the N₂O variation in our simulations similar to that in the A1B scenario during the first half of the simulations (with small additional increases in each year compared to the A1B scenario), but very different from the A1B scenario during the later half of the simula-

Table 1. The configurations of four CCM transient simulations.

Experiments	GHG scenario
E0	IPCC A1B scenario, the N ₂ O surface vmr is about 316 ppbv in 2000 and 344 ppbv in 2050
E1	N ₂ O surface vmr increased linearly from 316 ppbv in 2000 to 517 ppbv in 2050
E2	N ₂ O surface vmr increased linearly from 316 ppbv in 2000 to 688 ppbv in 2050
E3	As E1 with additional linear increase in CO ₂ vmr from 370 ppmv in 2000 to 780 ppmv in 2050

Table 2. The configurations of four CCM sensitivity simulations.

Simulations	GHG settings
SO	Fix N ₂ O as 2050 climatology in IPCC A1B scenario
S1	Increase N ₂ O by 50 % on S0 only in chemistry
S2	Increase N ₂ O by 50 % on S0 only in radiation
S3	Increase N ₂ O by 50 % on S0 interactively
S4	Increase CFC-11 by 10 % on S0 interactively

tions where we have a much stronger N_2O increase, for the purpose of amplifying response signals of the atmosphere. In run E3, both N_2O and CO_2 were increased linearly in time from 2001 and increased by 50 % in 2050, with a rate of increase of 1 % yr $^{-1}$. More details about the configurations of the simulations are listed in Table 1. The sea surface temperature (SST) and sea ice fields used in the four runs are the same (HadGEM1) and are derived from the SST and sea ice fields prepared for the Chemistry-Climate Model Validation activity 2 (CCMVal-2) REF-B2 simulations (Eyring et al., 2008; Morgenstern et al., 2010) for the period 2001 to 2050.

To estimate the ODP value of N_2O , three WACCM timeslice simulations were performed. In the first simulation (S0), GHG loadings were based on the IPCC A1B scenario and fixed in the year 2050. In simulations S1 and S4, N₂O and CFC-11 concentrations were increased by 10% and 50% relative to that in simulation S0, respectively. To separate the radiative and chemical effects of increasing N2O on stratospheric ozone, two extra simulations were performed. In simulations S2 and S3, the mixing ratios of N₂O were increased as in S1, but only in the model's chemistry and radiation schemes, respectively. The N₂O in S1 were increased in both the chemistry and radiation schemes. Detailed configurations of all sensitivity simulations are given in Table 2. All of these sensitivity simulations used 12 months SST and sea ice climatologies derived from observed monthly mean values for the time period from 1996 to 2000 (Rayner et al., 2003).

3 Modelled ozone depletion by N2O

3.1 Future NO_x and NO_y in changing climate

In the middle and upper stratosphere, N_2O decomposes by photolysis or by reactions with $O(^1D)$:

$$N_2O + h\nu \to N_2 + O \tag{R1}$$

$$N_2O + O(^1D) \to N_2 + O_2$$
 (R2)

$$N_2O + O(^1D) \to 2NO.$$
 (R3)

Only the minor channel of R3 leads to NO_y production. NO_y is removed from the stratosphere by transport to the troposphere and eventual washout, or by local photochemical loss at high altitudes via:

$$N + NO \rightarrow N_2 + O$$
 $k_4 = 2.1 \times 10^{-11} \exp(+100/T)$. (R4)

The abundance of N is determined by photolysis of NO and by the reaction:

$$N+O_2 \rightarrow NO+O_2$$
 $k_5 = 1.5 \times 10^{-11} \exp(-3600/T)$. (R5)

The reaction rates for R4 and R5 are taken from Sander et al. (2006). Because of the temperature dependence of the reactions controlling the chemical loss of NO_v, the net NO_v yield rate tends to decrease in a future cooler stratosphere, as R4 speeds up while R5 slows down (Rosenfield and Douglass, 1998). Without significant stratospheric cooling, N₂O increases in the atmosphere will cause NO_v and NO_x to increase in the stratosphere. Figure 1 shows the time series of the global mean NOx and NOv fields from the four experiments, and corresponding changes in the global mean column NO_x and NO_y in runs E1, E2 and E3, relative to that in the control run E0. Note that a 100% increase in N₂O by the end of 2050 causes an increase in the global mean column NO_v and NO_x by 12×10^{15} molecules cm⁻² and $4 \times 10^{15} \, \mathrm{molecules \, cm^{-2}}$, respectively. However, when CO₂ is also increased by 50% in conjunction with a 50% N₂O increase at the end of 2050 in run E3 (implying a cooler stratosphere than that in run E1, in which only N2O is increased by 50% at the end of 2050), the NO_v and NO_x increases are smaller than those in run E1 (Fig. 1a and c). These results imply that the total ozone depletion effects for N₂O in a future climate will actually depend both on stratospheric temperature changes and tropospheric N₂O changes, which have opposite effects on ozone in the middle and upper stratosphere.

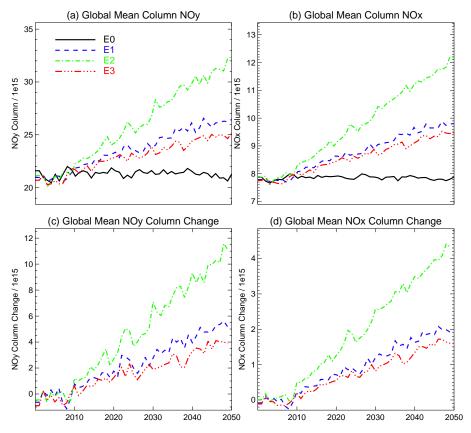


Figure 1. Time series of global mean (a) column NO_y (molecules cm⁻²) and (b) column NO_x (molecules cm⁻²) in E0 (black line), E1 (blue line), E2 (green line) and E3 (red line). Difference in (c) column NO_y and (d) column NO_x between E1 and E0 (blue line), E2 and E0 (green line), E3 and E0 (red line).

3.2 Ozone responses to N₂O changes

Figure 2 shows percent changes of ozone mixing ratios and TCO caused by N₂O increases in runs E1, E2 and E3 relative to the control run E0. These ozone mixing ratio and TCO changes are calculated from the ozone climatologies of the final 10 years (2041-2050) of the model output from runs E1, E2, E3 and E0. It is apparent from Fig. 2 that the ozone changes have large spatial and temporal variations. The strongest ozone depletion can be found in the middle and upper stratosphere, with a 6-10% decrease of ozone when N₂O is increased by 50–100% (Fig. 2a and b), and the largest decrease of ozone in the middle and upper stratosphere appears in the Arctic region. The result here is consistent with previous studies (Ravishankara et al., 2009; Daniel et al., 2010), which indicated that N2O has a large contribution to ozone depletion just above the region where ozone concentrations are largest (around 10 hPa).

In the lower stratosphere, increased N_2O could reduce the efficiency of Cl_y and Br_y for ozone destruction, by tying up more of these halogens in the $ClONO_2$ and $BrONO_2$ reservoir species, consequently, N_2O increases lead to more ozone. On the other hand, in the lower stratosphere/upper troposphere, UV radiation is enhanced due to the ozone reduction in the middle and upper stratosphere, resulting in more ozone production through the so-called "self-healing" effect. These two effects lead to an increase of ozone in the lower stratosphere/upper troposphere, which is evident in Fig. 2. A notable feature in Fig. 2 is that ozone increases in the lower stratosphere/upper troposphere can be seen mostly in Southern Hemisphere mid-latitudes. This feature is slightly different from the result of Ravishankara et al. (2009), which showed that the "self-healing" effect is most significant in the tropics. Below 100 hPa in the troposphere, N_2O increases result in more ozone with a maximum 10% increase at southern high latitudes when N_2O is increased by 100% from 2001 to 2050 (Fig. 2b).

Figure 2c also indicates the destruction of ozone associated with N_2O increases in run E3 is small relative to that in runs E1, particularly in the middle and upper stratosphere, consistent with the previous finding that CO_2 -induced cooling tends to increase ozone in the future (e.g. Haigh and Pyle, 1982; Shepherd, 2008; Chipperfield, 2009; Wuebbles, 2009; Oman et al., 2010a) by slowing down the gas-phase chemical reactions associated with catalytic ozone destruction.

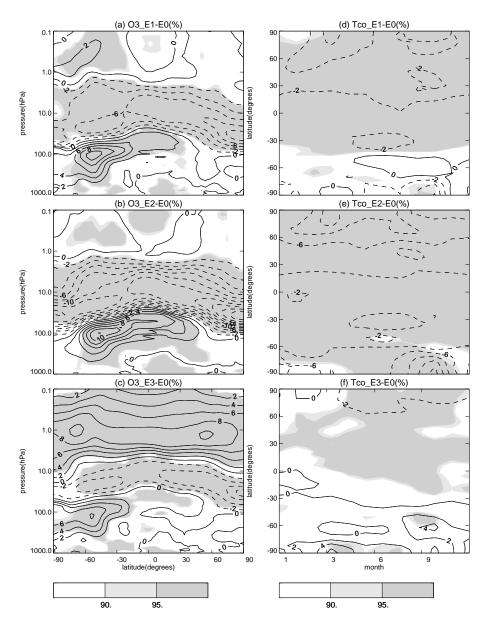


Figure 2. Latitude–pressure cross sections of differences (%) in zonal mean ozone mixing ratios (2041–2050) between WACCM experiments (a) E1 and E0, (b) E2 and E0, and (c) E3 and E0. Time–latitude cross sections of differences (%) in zonal mean total column ozone climatology (2041–2050) between experiments (d) E1 and E0, and (e) E2 and E0, (f) E3 and E0. The percentage is the ratio of the ozone and TCO changes (E1, E2 and E3 minus E0) referenced to the run E0. The contour interval is 2 % for percentage ozone changes. The grey colours represent significance levels for the mean state differences between different experiments by Student's *t* test.

Due to the significant ozone reduction in the middle and upper stratosphere caused by increased N_2O , the TCO in the two WACCM simulations (E1 and E2) decreases compared with that in the control run, E0 (Fig. 2d and e), particularly at high latitudes. A 50 % N_2O increase causes a maximum 6 % TCO decrease (Fig. 2d) over the final 10 years of the simulation. When N_2O is increased by 100 % in run E2, TCO changes become larger with a maximum decrease of 10 % at high latitudes. The combined effect of N_2O and CO_2 increases result in a slight TCO decrease (1–2 %) in the North-

ern Hemisphere, but a significant increase of (2-6%) in the Southern Hemisphere (Fig. 1f) over the final 10 years of the simulation, due to the offsetting impact of CO_2 -induced cooling.

Figure 3a–c show modelled ozone linear trends (2001–2050) as a function of latitude and pressure under different prescribed N_2O changes. Also shown are the time series of TCO averaged over different latitude bands, i.e. 90° N– 70° N, 22° S– 22° N, and 70° S– 90° S. Consistent with previous studies (e.g. Tian and Chipperfield, 2005; Austin and

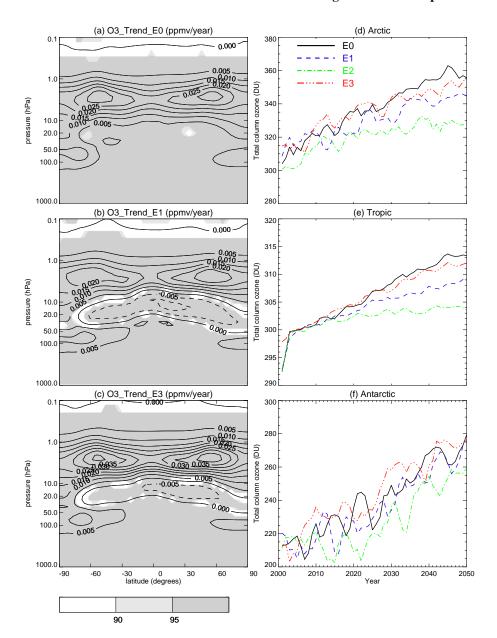


Figure 3. (a, b, c) Latitude–pressure cross sections of the long-term (2001–2050) trends of zonal mean ozone mixing ratios (ppmv yr⁻¹) in WACCM experiments E0, E1 and E3. The contour interval is 0.005 ppmv yr⁻¹. Grey colours represent statistic significance levels of the trends. (**d, e, f**) Time series of TCO in different regions (Arctic, Tropics, Antarctic) in experiments E0 (black line), E1 (blue dashed line), E2 (green dashed-dotted line) and E3 (red dashed-dotted line). To make the lines easily identified, the time series has been smoothed by nine-point smoothing.

Wilson, 2006; Newman et al., 2006; Eyring et al., 2007; WMO, 2007), the global ozone will generally recover in the next half century under the IPCC A1B GHG scenario, with a maximum increasing trend of 0.3 ppmv/10 yr at 10–1 hPa (Fig. 3a). However, if N_2O is further increased by 50% relative to the IPCC A1B projection, the ozone in the middle stratosphere at around 20 hPa decreases with a maximum trend of -0.2 ppmv/10 yr from 2001 to 2050, although the ozone in the upper stratosphere still increases (Fig. 3b). Note

that a steadily declining trend in future ozone in the tropical lower stratosphere was found in previous studies (Oman et al., 2010a; SPARC-CCMVal, 2010; Eyring et al., 2010a), while there is no significant ozone trend in the tropical lower stratosphere in our simulations through 2050. A possible reason is that the upwelling in our 50 yr simulations has no significant trend in the lower stratosphere/upper troposphere (Table 3), though we used an increased GHG scenario and time varying SSTs. A more detailed discussion of

Table 3. The tropical $(25^{\circ} \text{ N}-25^{\circ} \text{ S})$ upwelling (w^*) averaged between 70 and 20 hPa over the last 10 yr of the four simulations, and changes in w^* (Δw^*) relative to the first 10 yr of the corresponding simulations.

Experiments	$w^*(10^{-3}\mathrm{ms^{-1}})$	$\Delta w^*(\%)$
E0	0.029	5.5
E1	0.032	28.4
E2	0.037	37.3
E3	0.033	21.9

the upwelling changes in three simulations will be given in Sect. 3.3.

As in Fig. 1, CO₂ increases tend to offset the effect of N₂O on ozone trends in the middle stratosphere (Fig. 3c). When N₂O and CO₂ are both increased by 50 %, the declining trend of ozone in the middle stratosphere becomes less significant. It is worth noting that the effect of increased N₂O on longterm trends of ozone mixing ratios from 2001 to 2050 at about 20-10 hPa has evident spatial variations. Ozone mixing ratios decrease most significantly in the tropical middle stratosphere with a trend up to -0.1 ppmv/10 yr when N₂O is increased by 50 %. N₂O increases have no significant effect on ozone trends in the Antarctic middle stratosphere, but tend to slow down the ozone increase in the Arctic stratosphere. Previous studies also found that ozone evolution over the Antarctic shows small sensitivity to GHG changes (Eyring et al., 2010a). Similar features can be noted in the TCO time series shown in Fig. 3d-f. Figure 3 also indicates that the higher N₂O corresponds to a less significant increasing trend of ozone, implying that increased N2O overall tends to cause more ozone destruction.

To understand the hemispheric asymmetry of ozone trends in the middle stratosphere exhibited in Fig. 3, Fig. 4 shows the time series of ozone mixing ratios from 2001 to 2050, averaged over different latitude bands between 20 and 10 hPa. It is apparent that the effect of N₂O increases on ozone at 20–10 hPa is more significant in the Arctic and in the tropics than in the Antarctic. Meanwhile, the decline of ozone in E1 and E2 in the tropics is stronger than that in the Arctic. Also shown are the corresponding time series of the reactive chlorine (ClO_x , $ClO_x = Cl + ClO + 2Cl_2O_2$). In all the simulations ClO_x tends to decrease in response to the decreasing chlorine loading that is imposed by prescribed surface halocarbon mixing ratios. However, due to the interconnection between the NO_x-catalysed and ClO_x-catalysed ozone-loss cycles, the rates of ClO_x decline vary with different N₂O abundances in different experiments. A further examination of the modelled NO_x fields reveals that NO_x concentrations in the Antarctic stratosphere are lower than those in the Arctic stratosphere (not shown), and the differences become larger when the N₂O increase is changed from 50 % to 100%. The above analysis indicates that the chemical effect of N_2O increases on ozone depletion is more significant in the Arctic than in the Antarctic.

3.3 Thermal-dynamical feedbacks associated with N_2O increases

The effect of N₂O increases on ozone in the tropical stratosphere is not only related to chemical processes. Austin et al. (2010a) pointed out that the strengthened Brewer-Dobson (BD) circulation in the future climate could lead to ozone decreases in the tropical lower stratosphere as a result of intensified upward transport of ozone-poor air from below. Table 3 lists the tropical (25° N–25° S) upwelling (w^*) at 70– 20 hPa averaged over the last 10 yr of the four WACCM experiments, and its change (δw^*) relative to the result of the first 10 yr of simulations. It is apparent that the tropical upwelling increases with increased GHGs. However, one can see that relative changes of w^* between the first and last decade of the simulations do not vary simply with GHG loading. In the experiment with both N₂O and CO₂ increases (run E3), δw^* is not even the largest. This is consistent with the result in Xie et al. (2008), which showed that without SST increases associated with increasing GHGs, the change in the tropical upwelling is not significant.

As mentioned above, previous studies have shown that the tropical upwelling will increase in a warming climate (SPARC-CCMVal, 2010, and references therein). However, in our control run E0, the increasing trend of the tropical upwelling is not significant. Consequently, the ozone decline in the tropical lower stratosphere is rather weak (Fig. 3a). As SST increases contribute a large part to the strengthening of the BD circulation in the lower stratosphere (Oberländer et al., 2013), the insignificant trend in the tropical upwelling in run E0 may be owing to the relatively weak increasing trend in SSTs in our simulations. The SST and sea ice fields used in our simulations are HadGEM1 SST data prepared for the CCMVal-2 REF-B2 simulations (SPARC-CCMVal, 2010; Morgenstern et al., 2010). A comparison between the HadGEM1 SST data and the CCSM3 SST data (used widely in the CCM simulations in CCMval) reveals that the longterm increase of SSTs in the future century in the CCSM3 data is much stronger than that in the HadGEM1 data (not shown). This highlighted the uncertainties of the simulated trends of the BD circulation.

As a greenhouse gas, increasing N₂O can directly warm the troposphere and can also influence stratospheric temperature through the direct radiative effect and the indirect radiative effect associated with ozone feedbacks. Figure 5 shows the modelled temperature changes caused by different N₂O increases. A 50% increase of N₂O causes a 1 K cooling in the northern middle stratosphere and a 2 K cooling above 1 hPa at southern high latitudes (Fig. 5a). A 100% increase in N₂O causes a cooling in most regions of the stratosphere, with a maximum 3 K cooling in the tropical middle stratosphere (Fig. 5b). By comparing Figs. 3 and 5, we can see that the im-

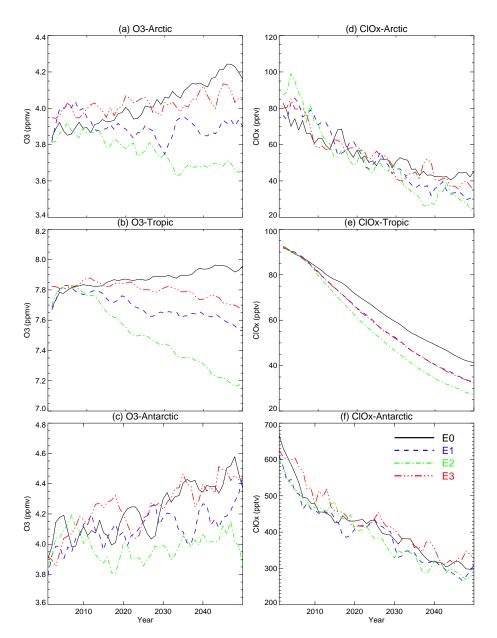


Figure 4. Time series of mean $(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c})$ ozone and $(\mathbf{d}, \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{f})$ Cl_x $(Cl_x = Cl + ClO + 2 Cl_2O_2)$ between 20 and 10 hPa averaged over (\mathbf{a}) Arctic $(60^\circ \text{N}-90^\circ \text{N})$, (\mathbf{b}) Tropics $(22^\circ \text{N}-22^\circ \text{S})$ and (\mathbf{c}) Antarctic $(60^\circ \text{S}-90^\circ \text{S})$ in E0 (black line), E1 (blue line), E2 (green line) and E3 (red line). The time series has been smoothed by nine-point smoothing.

pact of N_2O on stratospheric temperature is mainly caused by N_2O -induced ozone changes, rather than the direct radiative effect of N_2O . As expected, the cooling of the stratosphere becomes much larger when CO_2 is also increased by 50 % together with a 50 % N_2O increase (Fig. 5c).

As polar stratospheric clouds (PSCs) are closely related to ozone loss in the polar stratosphere (e.g. Rex et al., 2004; Chipperfield et al., 2005; Austin et al., 2010b), it is useful to examine the effect of N_2O increases on the occurrence of PSCs. The surface area of PSCs, where temperatures are below T_{PSC} (the NAT equilibrium temperature is

estimated from water vapour, nitric acid (HNO₃) and temperature fields), is commonly used to analyse the variability of PSCs (WMO, 2007). Figure 6 shows the vertical distribution of the modelled changes in the PSC surface area during JJA in the Antarctic and DJF in the Arctic averaged over the final 10 years of the model simulations. The modelled PSC area is enlarged by $1-2\times10^6~\rm km^2$ in the Arctic between 200 and 20 hPa, when N₂O is increased by 50–100 %. The PSC area changes caused by N₂O increases are relatively large compared with the mean value of the PSC area in the Arctic, which is about $10\times10^6~\rm km^2$ between 200 and 20 hPa. In the

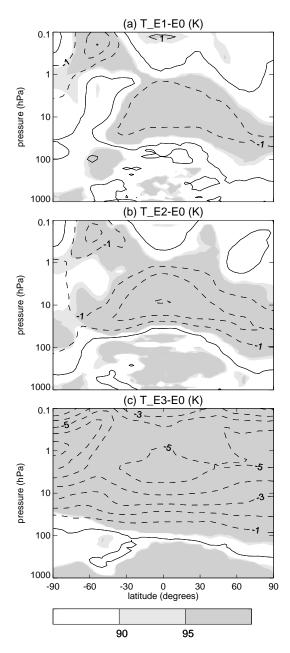


Figure 5. Latitude–pressure cross sections of differences in zonal mean temperature (2041–2050) between WACCM experiments (a) E1 and E0, (b) E2 and E0, and (c) E3 and E0. The contour interval is 1 K. Grey colours represent statistical significance levels for the mean state differences between different experiments by Student's *t* test.

Antarctic lower stratosphere, however, N_2O increases cause only small changes in the modelled PSC area (the mean PSC area in the Antarctic is about $15 \times 10^6 \, \mathrm{km^2}$). An exception occurs in the Antarctic mid-stratosphere at about 10 hPa, at the upper limit of PSC occurrence, where additional cooling can cause more PSCs.

Figure 6 suggests that the N₂O increases have different impacts on the modelled PSC area in the Arctic and Antarctic stratosphere. In the Arctic stratosphere, temperatures are close to the threshold for the widespread PSC formation, and the cooling caused by N2O increases can result in more PSCs. In the Antarctic lower stratosphere, temperatures in winter and spring are essentially always low enough for PSC formation. Therefore, a small cooling caused by N2O increases has no significant impact on PSC formation. The increased PSC area is also related to the concentration of HNO₃, which is increased when N₂O is increased. This difference in modelled PSC area changes between the Arctic and Antarctic makes a significant contribution to the hemispheric asymmetry of ozone destruction discussed in Fig. 3. However, previous studies (SPARC-CCMVal, 2010) show that the potential for chlorine activation (PACl, a measure similar to PSC volume) in the Arctic, simulated by WACCM, is overall larger than expected, though WACCM performs well for polar ozone depletion processes. This may lead to an overestimation of the ozone depleting effect of N2O increases in the Arctic. Also noticeable is that an additional 50 % N₂O increase (E2) causes a larger increase in PSC area in the Arctic than an additional 50 % CO2 increase (E3). Here the increased NO_v from additional N₂O promotes the formation of nitric acid trihydrate.

4 Contributions to ozone depletion from different factors due to N₂O changes

The attribution of ozone variations to dynamical, radiative, and chemical effects resulting from changes in GHGs and ODSs is an important issue in stratospheric climate. Multiple linear regression (MLR) analysis is commonly used for this purpose (WMO, 2007; Shepherd, 2008; Stolarski et al., 2010; Oman et al., 2010b). For a given location and time, an ozone change (Δ O₃) can be expressed as follows:

$$\Delta O_3(t) = \sum_j c_j \Delta X_j(t) + \varepsilon(t), \tag{1}$$

where the variables X_j are the factors that can affect ozone, the coefficients c_j are the sensitivity of ozone to the factors X_j , and ε is the error in the fit. The coefficients c_j are determined through a least square minimization of ε . Here, ΔO_3 and ΔX_j are the changes in ozone and other quantities between different model experiments with respect to the control experiment (E0; i.e. $\Delta O_3 = O_{3,E1} - O_{3,E0}$, where $O_{3,E1}$ and $O_{3,E0}$ represent modelled ozone data from runs E0 and E1, respectively).

We select NO_x , ClO_x , as well as temperature (T), as proxies to represent the direct chemical effect, the indirect chemical effect, and the radiative effect result from N_2O increases, respectively. Reactive hydrogen (HO_x) and transport parameters are not included, since their effects are relatively small (not shown). The MLR analysis described above

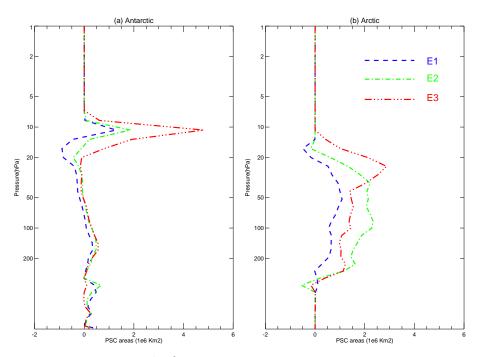


Figure 6. Profiles of differences in PSC area ($\times 10^6 \,\mathrm{km^2}$) averaged over the last 10 years during winter, between WACCM experiments E1 and E0 (blue dashed line), E2 and E0 (green dashed dotted line), and E3 and E0 (red dashed dotted line) in (a) Antarctic JJA and (b) Arctic DJF.

is performed on the modelled data from the control run E0 and run E1, in which N_2O is increased by 50 % by 2050. Ozone changes (ΔO_3) caused by the selected regression factors are examined over different latitude bands (i.e. 90° N- 70° N, 22° N- 22° S, and 70° S- 90° S) on all the model levels from the surface to 1 hPa, and the results are shown in Fig. 7. The residuals of the regressions are close to zero at all levels. The confidence level for the fits are all over 95 % at all levels, and are over 99 % at most of the levels from 200 to 1 hPa.

The contributions of different factors to ozone changes are strongly latitude and altitude dependent. In the Arctic, NO_x and temperature changes cause ozone decreases in the lower and middle stratosphere. NO_x changes, which represent the direct chemical effect of N₂O increases, contribute over 80 % to the 0.5 ppmv ozone decrease from 70 to 10 hPa (Fig. 7a). Figure 7a also shows that in the upper stratosphere, ClO_x changes result in more ozone. In the tropics (Fig. 7b), both T and ClO_x changes tend to result in more ozone in the midupper stratosphere. NOx changes lead to large ozone depletion (about 150% of total ozone changes) which is partly offset (about 50%) by the T and ClO_x contributions. NO_x changes in the lower stratosphere cause more ozone (on the order of 0.2 ppmv), while ClO_x and T have no significant effects on ozone there. The contribution of NO_x to ozone, which peaks at 10-3 hPa, is consistent with earlier studies (Oman et al., 2010b; Eyring et al., 2010b). In the Antarctic (Fig. 7c) the ozone changes caused by NO_x changes are still negative but relatively small compared to those in the tropical and Arctic stratosphere. In contrast to those in the Arctic stratosphere, ozone changes associated with ClO_x are negative in the Antarctic stratosphere. Also note that T has a more significant contribution to ozone changes than NO_x in the Antarctic stratosphere. Similar features can be obtained when MLR analysis is performed on the model data from the control run (E0), and the run E2, in which N_2O is increased by 100% by 2050 (not shown).

The above MLR analysis suggests that the direct chemical effect of N₂O on ozone changes (represented by NO_x) contributes to the largest ozone changes through the whole stratosphere, while the indirect chemical effect of N₂O (represented by ClO_x), which is associated with enhanced chlorine-catalysed ozone destruction, is only important for ozone depletion in the upper stratosphere in the Antarctic. The effect of change in T on ozone depletion is more pronounced in the tropical upper stratosphere, but relatively less significant in the polar stratosphere. It should be pointed out that some non-linear or interdependent effects of N₂O increase on ozone, such as ozone depletion associated with PSCs, may not be well separated in the MLR analysis. There may exist uncertainties in the MLR analysis because of the interdependence of the selected proxies. However, as shown in Fig. 7, the uncertainties are relatively small compared with the signal itself.

We now discuss the results of the WACCM sensitivity runs in which N_2O increases are applied separately to the model's radiation and chemistry schemes. The changes in ozone and T, caused by chemical and radiative effects of N_2O increases, are shown in Fig. 8. Ozone decreases up

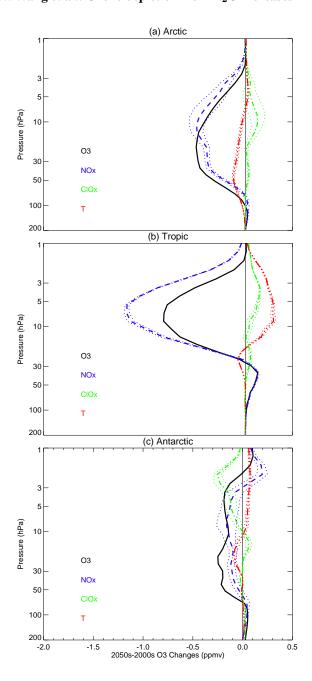


Figure 7. Results of multiple regressions for spatially averaged ozone change ($\Delta O_3 = O_3$ (E1) $-O_3$ (E0)) with spatially averaged NO_x, ClO_x and T change. The averaging domains are 90° N–70° N, 22° N–22° S, and 70° S–90° S. The black thick line shows the changes of ΔO_3 from 2001 to 2050 ($d\Delta O_3$), calculated by a simple linear regression of ΔO_3 with year ($\Delta O_3 = a_0 + a_1 \times \text{year}$, $d\Delta O_3 = a_1 \times 50$). The blue dashed line, green dashed-dotted line and red dashed double point line show the NO_x, ClO_x and T contributions to ΔO_3 (i.e. $d\Delta O_{3,NO_x} = \Delta NO_x \times \text{Coefs}_{NO_x}$), respectively. The dotted lines indicate the uncertainties for the contributions, which are based on the uncertainties of the regression coefficients.

to 10% (1 ppmv) relative to that of run S0 (Fig. 8a) when the 50% N₂O increase is added to the model's chemistry scheme, while the same increase of N₂O in the model's radiation scheme causes no more than 1 % (0.1 ppmv) ozone decrease (Fig. 8b) relative to that of run S0. When N₂O is increased in both the chemistry and the radiation schemes, the ozone changes show no significant differences from those caused by the chemical effect of a 50 % N₂O increase alone (not shown). It is clear that the chemical effect contributes the most to the ozone changes caused by N₂O increase, which is consistent with the result of the MLR analysis. The ozone depletion causes significant subsequent stratospheric cooling, with a maximum T change of $-1.5 \,\mathrm{K}$ in the middle stratosphere (around 10 hPa) in the tropics (Fig. 8c). The direct radiative effect of N₂O is much smaller (below 0.5 K) than the indirect radiative effects (Fig. 8c and d) without a clear pattern in the spatial distribution.

Another factor which should also be considered is the dynamical effect of increasing N_2O . As listed in Table 3, the increase in N_2O is likely to strengthen the BD circulation, due to its direct (radiative) and indirect (ozone feedbacks) cooling effect in the stratosphere. Meanwhile, this strengthened circulation influences the distribution and also contributes to the variability of ozone. Figure 9 shows the vertical ozone flux in the control experiment E0 (Fig. 9a), as well as the corresponding changes in E1 relative to that in the run E0 (Fig. 9b) averaged over the last 10 years of model simulations.

For a given grid cell $A[lat_i, lev_k]$, located at latitude lat_i and pressure level lev_k , the vertical ozone flux is defined as the incoming ozone at the lower level lev_{k-1} $(O_3[lat_i, lev_{k-1}] \times w^*[lat_i, lev_{k-1}])$ minus the ozone coming out at the higher level $level_{k+1}(O_3[lat_i, lev_{k+1}] \times$ $w^*[lat_i, lev_{k+1}]$). Consistent with the overall picture of the BD circulation, the ozone in the tropical lower stratosphere is transported to the upper stratosphere and ozone in the midlatitude upper stratosphere is transported downward to the lower stratosphere (Fig. 9a). It is evident from Fig. 9b that the strengthened BD circulation caused by the increased N₂O leads to a net decrease of ozone in the tropical lower stratosphere and a net ozone increase at around 100 hPa at southern mid-to-high latitudes. The large ozone increases around 100 hPa at southern mid-latitudes, exhibited in Fig. 2a-c, may be mainly caused by this transport effect. The MLR analysis, with w^* as an additional factor in the regression, suggests that the dynamical effect of an N₂O increase on ozone changes is much less significant than its chemical and radiative effects in most areas (not shown). The result here implies that the dynamical effect of increasing N₂O on ozone is small on average, but may have a significant contribution to local ozone changes in the mid-latitude stratosphere. However, it should be pointed out that there are still relatively large uncertainties in the vertical transport of tracer gases in 3-D CCMs, particularly for the latitude dependence of down-

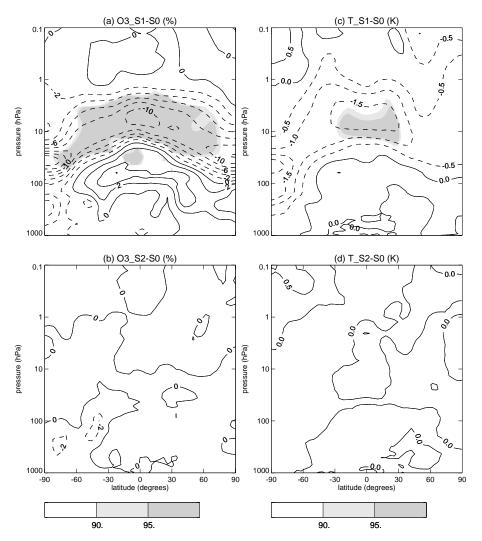


Figure 8. Latitude–pressure cross sections of zonal mean ozone differences (%) between WACCM sensitivity experiments (a) S1 and S0, and (b) S2 and S0, and temperature differences (K) between sensitivity experiments (c) S1 and S0, and (d) S2 and S0. The contour interval for ozone is 2 % and for temperature is 0.5 K. Grey colours represent statistical significance levels for the mean state differences between different simulations by Student's *t* test.

ward transport (Oman et al., 2010a; SPARC-CCMVal, 2010; Eyring et al., 2010a).

5 ODP of N₂O in a CCM

At this stage, it is worthwhile to discuss the ODP of N_2O . Following Ravishankara et al. (2009), the ODP of N_2O relative to the reference gas CFC-11 is computed using the following formula:

$$\mathrm{ODP_{N_2O}} = \frac{m_{\mathrm{CFC11}} \times \Delta \mu_{\mathrm{CFC11}} \times \tau_{\mathrm{N_2O}} \times [\Delta \mathrm{O_3}]_{\mathrm{N_2O}}}{m_{\mathrm{N_2O}} \times \Delta \mu_{\mathrm{N_2O}} \times \tau_{\mathrm{CFC11}} \times [\Delta \mathrm{O_3}]_{\mathrm{CFC11}}}, \quad (2)$$

where τ is the atmospheric lifetime of a given gas, ΔO_3 is the change of globally averaged column ozone, $\Delta \mu$ is the change in the mixing ratio boundary condition, and m is the molecular weight of the ODS. The lifetimes of N₂O and CFC-11

used here are 114 and 45 years (SPARC-CCMVal, 2010), respectively.

The ODP value of N_2O is estimated from three sensitivity simulations S0, S3 and S4 (Table 4) and run S0 is taken as the control run. The estimated ODP value of N_2O is 0.012 under the 2050s GHG condition in the IPCC A1B scenario. This value is slightly smaller than the result obtained by Ravishankara et al. (2009) based on their 2-D simulations. The ODP values of N_2O at different simulation time periods in runs E1 and E2 are also listed in Table 4. With continuously increasing N_2O and changing GHG values and SSTs, the ODP values of N_2O vary at different simulation time stages. The ODP value increases slightly during the first four decades of simulation time and reaches a maximum during the period 2031–2040 in both run E1 and E2. This is consistent with a previous study by Ravishankara et al. (2009)

Table 4. N_2O ODP values estimated from simulations S3, E1, and E2. The ODP values of N_2O are calculated by equation (2). Simulations S0 and E0 are used as the control runs for estimating the ozone changes caused by N_2O in simulations S3, E1, and E2. The ozone changes caused by CFC11 are estimated by the differences between runs S4 and S0. For E1 and E2 runs, the ODP values of N_2O are estimated over every 10 years of simulation time.

Time periods	2001–2010	2011–2020	2021–2030	2031–2040	2041–2050
S 3	_	_	_	_	0.012
E1	0.004	0.006	0.006	0.008	0.007
E2	0.006	0.007	0.008	0.009	0.008

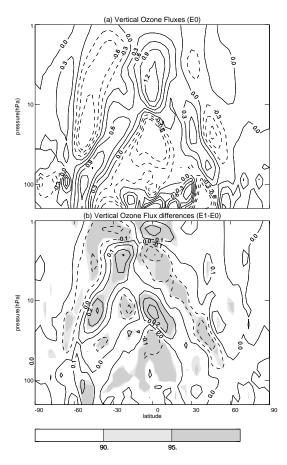


Figure 9. Vertical ozone fluxes associated with the BD circulation (w^*) calculated from (a) reference experiment (E0) and (b) the differences between E1 and E0 (for more details of the definition of ozone flux see text) over the last 10 years. The contour intervals are $0.3 \times 10^3 \,\mathrm{kg}\,\mathrm{s}^{-1}$ and $0.1 \times 10^3 \,\mathrm{kg}\,\mathrm{s}^{-1}$ in (a) and (b), respectively. Grey colours (b) represent the statistical significance levels for the mean state differences between different experiments by Student's t test.

which showed that the ODP of N_2O will increase in the future with less stratospheric chlorine loading. It is worth pointing out that N_2O ODP decreases after the simulated year 2040, suggesting that N_2O ODP does not vary linearly with N_2O increases. Please also note that the ODP of N_2O in the first decade of the run E1 is very small, which is because of

the unstable model at the beginning of the simulation, even after 3 years of spin-up.

Though not listed in Table 4, the ODP values of N_2O in E3 are very small (bellow 0.001) or even become negative, confirming that CO_2 increases can strongly offset the ozone depletion effect of N_2O . Note that the ODP for a gas depends on the base state of the atmosphere and makes the assumption that the other source gases do not change during the time integration. It is unrealistic to keep the temperature and other sources of gases unchanged in the real atmosphere, since there exist complex interactions between various reaction cycles. Meanwhile, some reaction rates and reaction times are affected by temperatures and dynamical transport. Therefore, the ODP values estimated from our model simulations may have uncertainties. However, the results above still provide some useful information on the N_2O ODP in a changing climate.

6 Discussion and conclusions

The distribution of ozone changes resulting from N_2O increases in a 3-D CCM was discussed and the chemical–dynamical–radiative feedbacks associated with N_2O increases were also analysed in this study. Subsequent climate changes induced by these N_2O increases, such as changes in the stratospheric temperatures, the BD circulation and area of PSCs, were also examined. A series of sensitivity simulations and MLR analysis were performed to detect the dominant factors controlling the ozone changes caused by N_2O increases, and to understand the N_2O ODP in a changing climate.

The CCM results suggest that N_2O increases by 50 % / 100 % between 2001 and 2050 result in more ozone destruction with a decrease of ozone mixing ratios up to 6 % / 10 % in the middle stratosphere at around 10 hPa. However, the TCO still shows an increase in future decades. The increase of N_2O also results in a slight cooling in the stratosphere due to its indirect radiative effects. In a future cooler stratosphere the net yield of NO_y is known to decrease, but our simulations indicate that it can still be significantly increased when N_2O increases. The increase of N_2O has only a small influence on chemical processes associated with Antarctic ozone destruction. However, increased emis-

sions of N₂O have a significant impact on the ozone layer in the Arctic stratosphere.

The results from a series of sensitivity simulations and MLR analysis suggest that N₂O increases affect ozone mainly through chemical processes. The direct chemical effect of N₂O increases (via NO_x chemistry) contributes the majority of ozone changes in the stratosphere, while the indirect chemical effect of N2O increases (via halogen chemistry) is simulated as the dominant factor in ozone depletion in the Antarctic upper stratosphere. The direct radiative effect of N2O increases on ozone is rather weak, but the indirect radiative effect associated with ozone changes is evident and coupled with chemical and dynamical processes. The dynamical effect of increasing N2O is also overall insignificant, but can cause large local ozone changes in the mid-latitude lower stratosphere/upper troposphere. The ozone depleting effect of N2O increases can be significantly reduced in the middle and upper stratosphere when CO₂ is also increased, implying that the depletion of ozone caused by N2O increases depends strongly on stratospheric temperature changes. Further analysis of the N₂O ODP reveals that N₂O ODP does not vary linearly with N₂O increases, and is influenced by various factors, e.g. CO2 increases can strongly offset the ozone depletion effect of N_2O .

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