

Long-term satellite trends of European lower-tropospheric ozone from 1996 – 2017

Matilda A. Pimlott¹, Richard J. Pope^{1,2}, Brian J. Kerridge^{3,4}, Richard Siddans^{3,4}, Barry G. Latter^{3,4}, Wuhu Feng^{1,5}, Martyn P. Chipperfield^{1,2}

¹School of Earth and Environment, University of Leeds, Leeds, LS2 9JT, UK

²National Centre for Earth Observation, University of Leeds, Leeds, LS2 9JT, UK

³Remote Sensing Group, STFC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Chilton, Oxfordshire, OX11 0QX, UK

⁴National Centre for Earth Observation, STFC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Chilton, Oxfordshire, OX11 0QX, UK

⁵National Centre for Atmospheric Science, University of Leeds, Leeds, LS2 9PH, UK

Correspondence to: Richard J. Pope (r.j.pope@leeds.ac.uk)

Abstract.

Tropospheric ozone (O_3) is a harmful secondary atmospheric pollutant and an important greenhouse gas. Multiple satellite records have shown conflicting long-term O_3 trends across regions of the globe, including Europe. Here, we investigate lower-tropospheric sub-column O_3 ($LTCO_3$, surface – 450 hPa) records from three ultraviolet (UV) sounders produced by the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory (RAL): the Global Ozone Monitoring Experiment (GOME, 1996-2010), Scanning Imaging Absorption Spectrometer for Atmospheric Chartography (SCIAMACHY, 2003-2011) and Ozone Monitoring Instrument (OMI, 2005-2017). GOME and SCIAMACHY detect negative trends of approximately -0.2 DU yr^{-1} , while OMI indicates a negligible trend. The TOMCAT 3-D chemical transport model was used to investigate processes driving simulated trends and identify possible reasons for satellite trend discrepancies. The simulated $LTCO_3$ trends were negligible (consistent with ozonesonde trends), even when spatiotemporally co-located to the satellite level-2 swath data and convolved by averaging kernels (i.e. a measure of the satellite retrieval vertical sensitivity). Model sensitivity experiments with the emissions or meteorology fixed to 2008 also showed negligible $LTCO_3$ trends between 1996 and 2018, indicating that changes in emissions and meteorology had limited impact on $LTCO_3$ temporal evolution. Given the substantial decrease in air pollutant emissions, this was unexpected, while year-to-year variability dominated the meteorological influence on $LTCO_3$. Finally, we find a negligible trend in the long-term stratosphere O_3 flux into the free troposphere over this period arriving over Europe. Overall, our observational and modelling analysis indicates that European $LTCO_3$ trends have been stable between 1996 and 2018.

1 Introduction

Tropospheric ozone (O_3) is both detrimental to air quality and an important short-lived climate forcer (e.g. Monks et al., 2015). At the surface, O_3 is harmful to human health as it is a strong oxidant, with an estimated 24,000 premature deaths attributed to acute O_3 exposure across Europe in 2020 (European Environment Agency, 2022). It is also damaging to plants and reduces crop yields, which is estimated to have caused global economic damage in the region of US\$14 - US\$26 billion in 2000 (Van

Dingenen et al., 2009). Tropospheric O₃ is a significant greenhouse gas (GHG), with an estimated effective radiative forcing of 0.47 (0.24-0.70) W m⁻² between 1750 – 2019, dominated by changes in tropospheric O₃ (IPCC, 2021; Forster et al., 2021; Skeie et al., 2020). It is a secondary pollutant, produced through reactions involving precursor nitrogen oxides (NO_x, referring to nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and nitric oxide (NO)) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the presence of sunlight. Despite anthropogenic emissions of these precursor gases declining in the last 20 years (European Environment Agency, 2022), in 2021 an estimated 10% of the European urban population was exposed to O₃ concentrations above the European Union (EU) standards and 94% above the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines (European Environment Agency, 2023). These persistent exceedances across Europe highlights the need for further study into how near-surface O₃ is changing over time.

40

Satellite retrievals of tropospheric trace gases present an opportunity to enhance our knowledge of atmospheric composition on larger spatial scales (e.g. global or regional) than other observations. Trends in satellite tropospheric O₃ retrieved from different instruments have been shown to not be consistent for some regions around the world. Gaudel et al. (2018) presented long-term trends for several satellite tropospheric column O₃ products, finding a range of trends from -0.50 DU yr⁻¹ to +0.16 DU yr⁻¹ for the 30°N – 60°N latitude band which includes Europe. These inconsistent trends are from instruments, using different measurement technique/spectral ranges, e.g. ultraviolet (UV) and infrared (IR), which have different attributes, e.g. spatial coverage, resolution and vertical sensitivity. They also use different retrieval schemes, which means different state-vectors, apriori information, radiative transfer models, tropopause definitions and cloud filters, and data are presented for different vertical ranges and across different time periods between 1996 – 2016. So, there is a need to study these records in more depth, especially those from similar instruments (e.g. UV here), from the same retrieval scheme and over the same time period, to minimise the most obvious sources of difference between the records. Aside from Gaudel et al. (2018), there are few studies of European long-term trends of tropospheric O₃ from satellite retrievals. Ebojie et al. (2016) found a non-significant negative trend of -0.9 ± 0.5 % yr⁻¹ for southern Europe between 2003 – 2011 using tropospheric column data from the Scanning Imaging Absorption Spectrometer for Atmospheric Chartography (SCIAMACHY). Pope et al. (2018) found no significant trends between 2005 – 2015 across England and Wales for the sub-column O₃ (0 – 6 km) from the Ozone Monitoring Instrument (OMI) retrieved by the RAL scheme. However, they found a significant positive O₃ trend in Scotland (representing background O₃), of 0.172 Dobson units (DU) yr⁻¹.

The number of studies of long-term variation in European free tropospheric O₃, e.g. from other measurement techniques such as ozonesondes and aircraft, is fairly limited and provides a mixed story. From ozonesondes launched from a European site, Oltmans et al. (2013) found O₃ in the 500 – 700 hPa layer to have increased from the beginning of the 1970s to the end of the 1980s, and to have then decline slowly to 2010. They found a trend of between $\sim 3 - 5$ % decade⁻¹ at the surface – 300 hPa for 1970 – 2010, but near-zero trends when only 1980 – 2010 is considered. Logan et al. (2012) showed increasing O₃ from regular aircraft measurements (from the Measurement of OZone by Airbus In-service airCraft (MOZAIC) program) during the 1990s, and showed that the ozonesondes, surface high-altitude alpine sites and aircraft agree on decreasing O₃ since 1998. Gaudel et

al. (2018) found little change in ozonesonde observations above southern France in 1994 – 2013. The In-service Aircraft for a Global Observing System (IAGOS) commercial aircraft monitoring network highlighted O₃ increases in winter (11% increase) and autumn (5% increase) above Frankfurt, Germany (300 – 1000 hPa) in a comparison of 1994 – 1999 and 2009 – 2013, but little change in spring and summer (Gaudel et al., 2018). Two recent studies looking across the whole of Europe found quite similar results in trends of median O₃. Gaudel et al. (2020) found a small trend between 1994 - 2016 from aircraft observations of 1.3 ± 0.2 ppbv decade⁻¹ (2.4%) for 700 – 300 hPa; and Christiansen et al. (2022) found trends of between ~ -1 to 4 ppb decade⁻¹ across 7 European ozonesonde sites from 1990 – 2017 in the free troposphere, with an average of 1.9 ± 1.1 ppb decade⁻¹ ($3.4 \pm 2.0\%$ decade⁻¹). Change et al., (2022), using a merged IAGOS-ozonesonde dataset, found positive trends in the free troposphere (700-300 hPa) of 0.63 ± 0.24 ppbv/decade, but in the boundary level (950-800 hPa) there were negligible trends over Europe. Wang et al., (2022) found similar results with weak positive tropospheric ozone trends (<1.0 ppbv/decade) over Europe between 1995 and 2017.

Here, we study three RAL UV satellite records (Global Ozone Monitoring Experiment (GOME), SCIAMACHY and OMI) in detail between 1996 – 2017, exploring long-term trends of lower tropospheric column ozone (LTCO₃ – surface to 450 hPa) across Europe. We make comparisons using a 3-D chemical transport model (TOMCAT) to provide a common framework for comparing the impact of different sampling and vertical sensitivity between the instruments. The averaging kernels (AKs), provided with RAL Space’ ozone products from satellite UV-Vis nadir sounders, provide the vertical sensitivities of the different layers retrieved with of the optimal estimation approach applied to the respective instruments (as discussed in Miles et al., (2015)). Pope et al., (2023b) provides a detailed assessment of the RAL Space AKs (e.g. Figures 1 and 2 of that study) finding that peak tropospheric O₃ sensitivity is in the lower tropospheric layer (surface – 450 hPa), which is the focus of this study. To allow direct like-for-like comparisons of models (e.g. TOMCAT) with these satellite data sets, AKs (i.e. for each layer, essentially a vertical weighting of the retrieval sensitivity) need to be mapped onto the modelled vertical profile before comparable quantities (e.g. LTCO₃) can be compared. Here, we use the TOMCAT model as a tool to help investigate the impact of the AKs (i.e. vertical sensitivity) on satellite derived LTCO₃ trends over Europe (i.e. how substantially do the satellite AKs influence the simulated LTCO₃ trends). We also present trends for the ozonesonde record and TOMCAT simulated tropospheric O₃ across the study period. Lastly, we use model experiments to identify the relative impacts of meteorology and emissions on the model trends across Europe.

2 Methods

2.1 RAL UV Satellite Data Products

We use three records of satellite LTCO₃ from the RAL UV scheme (Miles et al., 2015; Munro et al., 1998). The scheme provided the first satellite retrievals of tropospheric O₃ (Munro et al., 1998) and the subsequent tropospheric O₃ products have been used across a variety of studies including Gaudel et al. (2018). The scheme is based on the standard optimal estimation

technique by technique by Rodgers (2000) and is described in detail in Miles et al. (2015), including treatment of errors. Comparison of the RAL Space UV-Vis satellite products with ozonesondes on a wider scale (i.e. Keppens et al., 2018) found a 10-40% positive bias, comparable to the magnitude of other satellite lower tropospheric ozone products in the same study. Therefore, all three satellite products have been adjusted for their ensemble mean biases with respect to ozonesondes as a function of month of year and latitude (30° bins – see Russo et al., (2023), Pope et al., (2023b) and Pope et al., (2024b)). Applying these corrections is intended to mitigate systematic differences between the three instruments’ biases while maintaining their temporal variability and evolution. We select from the dataset only sub-columns with an effective cloud fraction of < 0.2, a solar zenith angle of < 80°, the retrieval convergence flag set = 1.0 and the normalised cost function of < 2.0. We define the European domain as 30°N – 70°N and 30°E – 45°W.

2.1.1 GOME

The GOME instrument was aboard the European Space Agency’s (ESA’s) second European Remote Sensing Satellite (ERS-2) which was launched in April 1995 and ceased operation in 2011 (Burrows et al., 1999; European Space Agency, n.d.). ERS-2 had a sun-synchronous and near-polar orbit, with an equator crossing time of 10:30 local solar time (LST). The instrument had 1-D detector arrays providing spectral sampling across four contiguous bands deployed in nadir across-track scanning mode, a swath width of 960 km, a ground-pixel resolution of 40 km (along-track) × 320 km (across-track) and achieved global coverage in ~ 3 days. GOME measured in the UV-near-IR (NIR) wavelength range (240-790 nm) at a spectral resolution of 0.2 – 0.4 nm (Burrows et al., 1999).

2.1.2 SCIAMACHY

The SCIAMACHY instrument was aboard ESA’s Envisat which was launched in March 2002 and ceased operation in April 2012 (Bovensmann et al., 1999; Ebojie et al., 2016). Envisat had a sun-synchronous and near-polar orbit, with an equator crossing time of 10:00 LST. The instrument had 1-D detector arrays, like GOME, deployed in limb-scanning, nadir-scanning and solar/lunar occultation viewing modes. In nadir-scanning mode it had an across-track width of 960 km and a ground-pixel resolution of 30 km (along-track) × 240 km (across-track). SCIAMACHY measured in the UV- NIR as for GOME and also two SWIR bands spanning a wavelength range (240-2380 nm) at a spectral resolution of 0.2-1.5 nm (Bovensmann et al., 1999).

2.1.3 OMI

The OMI instrument is aboard NASA’s Aura satellite, launched in July 2004 and is currently still in operation (Levelt et al., 2006). The Aura satellite has a sun-synchronous and near-polar orbit with an equator crossing time of 13:45 LST and flies as part of the ‘A-train’ formation. The instrument uses a 2-D detector array in a nadir-scanning mode, with the second dimension providing continuous across-track sampling. It has a swath width of 2600 km and a ground resolution of 13 km × 24 km, providing nearly global coverage every day. OMI measures in the UV-Vis wavelength range (270 – 500 nm) with a spectral resolution of 0.45 – 1.0 nm (Levelt et al., 2006). Due to the 2-D detector array of OMI, across-track adjustments were calculated

for each detector row and year (relative to an average of all rows), to reduce enhanced stratospheric influence from the longer
130 viewing path at the edges of the swath.

2.1.4 Uncertainties

The satellite instruments used here have several known issues e.g. the OMI detector row anomaly (Levelt et al., 2018), the
GOME tape recorder failure (Van Roozendaal et al., 2012) and UV degradation for GOME-type sensors (eg Miles et al., 2015).
Due to the OMI row anomaly, there is a reduction in availability of data from some positions across the swath from ~ 2009
135 onwards, predominantly from the middle of the swath. To account for this, we have selected rows with consistent seasonal
cycle amplitude and shape for the years for which they are available. We calculate across-track adjustments (relative to an
average for all rows) for the available rows on a yearly basis to account for the changing number of rows used. The GOME
tape recorder failure mostly impacted the southern hemisphere (SH) so had little impact on the European domain used here.
To account for UV degradation in GOME and SCIAMACHY, a correction has been applied by RAL prior to the L2 (retrieval)
140 processing step (see Miles et al. (2015)) based on the ratio of UV sun-normalised radiance spectra modelled from a climatology
and observed sun-normalised radiances.

As noted above, all three satellite L2 data sets have been compared with ozonesonde ensembles and corrections applied as
functions of latitude and month of year to reduce relative systematic errors between the three products (see Russo et al., (2023)).
145 As in Pope et al. (2015), when multiple soundings are averaged together to form a monthly mean, these random errors will
reduce by a factor of $\frac{1}{\sqrt{N}}$ (where N is sample size). We present an estimate of these monthly average random errors across the
European domain, scaled according to number of days with filtered retrievals per month to account for averaging. Typically,
we find the domain-average monthly random error to be 31.6 (21.4-47.7) %, 31.1 (23.1-44.9) % and 31.5 (21.9-49.3) % for
GOME, SCIAMACHY and OMI, respectively. However, when reducing by $\frac{1}{\sqrt{N}}$ (i.e. number of days in the month), this reduces
150 to 4.1 (2.4-7.2) %, 4.2 (2.8-9.0) % and 2.6 (1.3-4.8) %.

2.2 Ozonesondes

We present ozonesonde data from 1996 – 2018 from the World Ozone and Ultraviolet Radiation Data Centre (WOUDC)
(WOUDC, 2021), which predominantly uses electrochemical concentration cell (ECC) and Brewer-Mast ozonesondes. The
ozonesondes are filtered for records in the European domain and within 3-hours of each satellite overpass time (10:00 and
155 13:30). The ozonesonde profiles are used to derive L_{TCO₃}. Co-located TOMCAT records were produced, using the nearest
model grid-box value for each ozonesonde profile. The location of the European ozonesondes (and annual frequency) used in
this study is shown in **Figure 1**.

2.3 TOMCAT 3-D Model

TOMCAT is a global 3-D offline chemical transport model forced by ERA-Interim meteorological reanalyses from the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) (Chipperfield, 2006; Dee et al., 2011; Monks et al., 2017). It has a resolution of $2.8^\circ \times 2.8^\circ$ with 31 vertical levels from the surface and 10 hPa. TOMCAT is coupled with the Global Model of Aerosol Processes (GLOMAP) which calculates aerosol microphysics (Mann et al., 2010; Spracklen et al., 2005). The full chemistry scheme, with 79 species and ~200 chemical reactions, is described in Monks et al. (2017). Anthropogenic surface emissions for NO_x, CO and VOCs are from the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 6 (CMIP6) (Feng et al., 2020). Fixed natural surface emissions (soils/ocean) for NO_x, CO and VOCs are from POET (Granier et al., 2005; Olivier et al., 2003). Fixed annual biogenic emissions of CO and VOCs are from the Chemistry-Climate Model Initiative (CCMI) (Morgenstern et al., 2017). Annual varying biogenic emissions of isoprene and monoterpenes are from the Joint UK Land Environment Simulator (JULES) within the free-running UK Earth System Model (UKESM; Sellar et al., 2019) from a CMIP6 historical setup (Clark et al., 2011; Sellar et al., 2019). Biomass burning emissions are from the Global Fire Emissions Database (GFED) version 4 (van der Werf et al., 2017). Aerosol surface emissions (sulphur dioxide, black carbon, organic carbon) are from MACCity (Granier et al., 2011). Global average surface TOMCAT methane (CH₄) is scaled to the annually varying global average surface CH₄ value from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) (Dlugokencky, 2020), while retaining its simulated spatial distribution due to emissions and sinks.

Using TOMCAT, we simulated tropospheric O₃ between 1996 – 2018, with one year of spin-up. We present satellite records with two different equator crossing overpass times, approximately 10:00 for Envisat (SCIAMACHY) and ERS-2 (GOME) and approximately 13:30 for Aura (OMI), and therefore the simulations here have been setup to sample 3-D fields of the model daily at these two LSTs. This control configuration of TOMCAT is labelled TC-CTL. To identify the relative impact of surface emissions and meteorology on long-term trends, we performed two model experiments. **Figure 2** shows the surface emissions for NO_x and carbon monoxide (CO), key O₃ precursor gases, and their tendencies between 1996 and 2017. The NO_x (**Figure 2a**) and CO (**Figure 2b**) emission long-term averages peak over northwestern Europe at >10 Gg and >100 Gg per grid box. The corresponding trends (**Figure 2c** and **2d**) show substantial (p-value < 0.05 – green polygon-outlined regions) decreases of < -5.0 Gg/year and < -10 Gg/year. Therefore, one experiment used a fixed year of monthly surface emissions (from 2008, around the mid-point of the study period) and varying meteorology (TC-FX-EMS), and the other used a fixed year of meteorology reanalyses to force the model (from 2008) and varying surface emissions (TC-FX-MET). While there are many non-linear processes controlling the spatiotemporal evolution of tropospheric O₃ (e.g. temperature, advection, deposition, photochemistry, stratosphere-troposphere exchanges, different precursor emission sources (e.g. anthropogenic, wildfires)), it is not practical in this study to undertake a 22-year sensitivity experiment for each process. Pope et al., (2023a) did undertake a detailed assessment of factors contributing to the European summer 2018 tropospheric O₃ event, focussing on 2017 and 2018. Therefore, we limited ourselves to the fixed emissions and meteorology experiments between 1996 and 2017. Here, the fixed

meteorology experiment refers to influences of meteorological variables like temperature, cloud cover (i.e. influence on photochemistry) and then long-range transport (e.g. advection of O₃-rich air masses). For all TOMCAT simulations, we calculate and present LTCO₃. For cases where there is comparison with the satellite records, the TOMCAT simulations are co-located with the satellite records and have averaging kernels (AKs) applied. Where we are inter-comparing model simulations (or with the ozonesondes, which have no issues with vertical sensitivity as they are in-situ measurements with high vertical resolution), application of the satellite AKs to the model is not required.

A tracer (O_{3s}) for stratosphere-troposphere exchange (STE) is used from the TOMCAT simulations to understand the impact of O₃ transport from the stratosphere. The tracer is set equal to the model-calculated O₃ in the stratosphere. When the tracer enters the troposphere, there are no additional sources of the tracer, as the only tropospheric source of the tracer is transport from the stratosphere. In the troposphere all sink reactions for O₃ apply, e.g. photolysis and reaction with OH and HO₂, as well as dry deposition (Monks et al., 2017). Any O₃ that is transported into the stratosphere will be labelled as stratospheric before it returns. Note that the model does not contain any specific treatment of stratospheric chemistry (e.g. chlorine, bromine, polar stratospheric clouds) as it uses a climatological ozone vertical boundary condition. However, the flux of air between the lower-stratosphere to upper-troposphere is well represented in the model (i.e. driven by meteorological reanalyses).

2.4 Trend Model

We use the following trend model with a seasonal component, as shown in **Equation 1**:

$$Y_t = C + BX_t + A \sin(\omega X_t + \phi) + N_t \quad \text{Equation 1}$$

where Y_t is the monthly sub-column O₃ for month t , C is the sub-column O₃ for the first month of the record, X_t is the number of months after the first month of the record, $A \sin(\omega X_t + \phi)$ is the seasonal component (A is the amplitude, ω is the frequency (the period is set to 1 year, $\omega = \frac{\pi}{6}$) and ϕ is the phase shift). N_t represents the model errors/residuals unexplained by the fit function, including interannual variability. C , B , A and ϕ represent the fit parameters which are based on a linear least squares fit. This trend model is based on a function in Weatherhead et al. (1998) and has been used in several studies looking at long-term trends in tropospheric species (e.g. van der A et al. (2006), van der A. et al., (2008) and Pope et al. (2018, 2024)). Weatherhead et al. (1998) give a derivation for the precision of the trend as a function of the autocorrelation, the length of the timeseries (in months) and the variance in the fit residuals. The trend precision, σ_B , is calculated by Equation 2:

$$\sigma_B \approx \left[\frac{\sigma_N}{n^{\frac{3}{2}}} \sqrt{\frac{(1 + \alpha)}{(1 - \alpha)}} \right] \quad \text{Equation 2}$$

where n is the number of years in the record, α is the autocorrelation in the residuals and σ_N is the standard deviation in the residuals. In this study, trends are presented in DU yr⁻¹ (and % yr⁻¹) with $\pm$ the precision (σ_B).

3 Results

3.1 Long-term Satellite Records

LT_{CO₃} from three satellite records (GOME, SCIAMACHY and OMI) between 1996 – 2018 is shown in Error! Reference source not found. **Figure 3**. The three records show a LT_{CO₃} seasonal cycle with higher values (around 25.0-30.0 DU) in summer and lower values (around 15.0-20.0 DU) in the winter, and an average seasonal ‘amplitude’ of 9.6, 10.8 and 11.7 DU for GOME, SCIAMACHY and OMI, respectively. SCIAMACHY and GOME show a large variation between years in seasonal cycle ‘amplitude’ (difference between maximum and minimum month for each year), with a standard deviation of ~2.2 and 1.8 DU, respectively, whereas OMI shows a smaller variation, with a standard deviation of ~1.1 DU. Broadly, the GOME LT_{CO₃} timeseries indicates an underlying decrease from 1996 – 2002/2003 and then a stabilisation to 2010. For SCIAMACHY, the LT_{CO₃} record is relatively consistent, but shows two large peaks (> 25.0 DU) in the summers of 2007 and 2008. In contrast, the OMI LT_{CO₃} record shows a distinctive pattern over the record, decreasing towards 2009, increasing towards ~ 2015, and afterwards beginning to decrease again. The three satellite records have six overlapping years (2005 – 2010), which allows for a direct intercomparison (**Figure 3(b)**). Across these overlapping years, GOME and SCIAMACHY show similar LT_{CO₃} absolute values, aside from the higher summer values in 2007 and 2008 for SCIAMACHY, with an average difference of 0.5 DU (**Figure 3**). The OMI values are on average 4.5 DU larger than GOME and 3.9 DU larger than SCIAMACHY. This is despite having applied adjustments to each record based on the mean differences with respective ozonesonde ensembles (i.e. see Russo et al., (2023) and Pope et al., (2024a) for details). Although there is a moderate absolute offset between them, OMI and SCIAMACHY show a high correlation (Pearson’s correlation co-efficient (r) = 0.91), with lower correlations between GOME and SCIAMACHY (r = 0.62) and GOME and OMI (r = 0.64) due to GOME’s LT_{CO₃} seasonal cycle lagging the other two instruments by approximately 1-month. During the overlap years, GOME has the seasonal cycle with lowest amplitude: 8.5 DU in comparison to 11 DU for SCIAMACHY and OMI. It is notable that UV degradation of the GOME instrument in this latter period of its operational lifetime had been substantial, giving rise to low optical throughput, correspondingly low signal-to-noise and to a large correction becoming necessary to sun-normalised UV radiances. The differences found here between the instruments could also be due to several other factors, such as overpass time (e.g. diurnal variation in boundary layer thickness and/or O₃ mixing ratios), spatial sampling and vertical sensitivity (itself a function of signal-to-noise).

Here, the model acts as a useful framework to investigate the impact of satellite vertical sensitivity on retrieved LT_{CO₃} quantities (e.g. absolute values, trends) but also a further constraint on European LT_{CO₃} spatio-temporal evolution. Thus, the TOMCAT-simulated tropospheric O₃ record has been co-located with each satellite retrieval and convolved by the AKs shown in **Equation 3**:

$$mod_{AK} = AK(mod_{int} - apr_{hi}) + apr_{low} \quad \text{Equation 3}$$

250 where $\mathbf{mod}_{AK}$ is the vector of modified model sub-columns (Dobson Units, DU), $\mathbf{AK}$ is the averaging kernel matrix and $\mathbf{mod}_{int}$ is the vector of model sub-columns (DU) on the satellite retrieval pressure grid. Here, the $\mathbf{AK}$ is rectangular (23×19 levels), so the apriori has two forms: 1) $\mathbf{apr}_{hi}$ representing 23 sub-columns and 2) $\mathbf{apr}_{low}$ representing 19 sub-column levels.

Direct comparisons of GOME and SCIAMACHY with the TOMCAT show a model overestimation, of approximately 4.0 DU. 255 and correlation coefficients of 0.72 and 0.82, respectively (**Figure 4**). In contrast, for OMI the model underestimates, with a mean difference of -1.1 DU. Applying the AKs to the model record improves the agreement with GOME and SCIAMACHY broadly decreasing the model LTCO_3 record by approximately 2.6 DU in both cases and improving the correlation coefficients from 0.72 to 0.74 for GOME and from 0.83 to 0.92 for SCIAMACHY. For OMI, the application of the AKs also decreases the sub-column values, however this increases the underestimate by the model, from 1.1 DU to 4.0 DU, and it causes a 260 reduction in the correlation from 0.83 to 0.78.

3.2. Satellite, Model and Ozone-sonde LTCO_3 Trends

We present European domain-wide trends for the three satellite instruments, the ozonesonde records and co-located model records (with and without AKs applied for the satellite comparisons) (**Table 1**). Across the 15-year GOME record, there is a negative trend of $-0.21 \pm 0.05 \text{ DU yr}^{-1}$ ($-1.05 \pm 0.26 \% \text{ yr}^{-1}$). This negative trend is not captured in the model record, with 265 TOMCAT, both with/without GOME AKs applied, showing a near-zero trend. There is a small negative trend of $-0.20 \pm 0.14 \text{ DU yr}^{-1}$ ($-1.03 \pm 0.26 \% \text{ yr}^{-1}$) across the 8-year SCIAMACHY record. This trend is also not captured in the model record, as TOMCAT, both with/without SCIAMACHY AKs applied, shows near-zero trends. For GOME and SCIAMACHY, although neither TOMCAT with/without AKs captures the satellite trends, applying the AKs does subtly change the simulated trend towards that of the satellite, i.e. makes the model trend more negative. For OMI, there is a near-zero trend across its 13-year 270 record, although there is large inter-annual variability within this period. Interestingly, this near-zero trend is not captured by the model, as TOMCAT with OMI AKs applied shows a negative trend of $-0.26 \pm 0.07 \text{ DU yr}^{-1}$ ($-1.30 \pm 0.37 \% \text{ yr}^{-1}$), due to low values around 2014 – 2018. In contrast, the TOMCAT record without AKs applied shows a near-zero trend across this period, as does the OMI LTCO_3 record itself. Other studies of free tropospheric O_3 trends from observations have found that these trends are not captured by a model (e.g. Parrish et al. (2014), Young et al. (2018) and Christiansen et al. (2022)). Model 275 trend underestimates (i.e. in terms of magnitude) may be due to uncertainties in prescribed precursor gas emissions and model representation of STE. Christiansen et al. (2022) and Pope et al., (2023a) found dynamics (e.g. STE) to be the more important process controlling the spatio-temporal evolution of free-tropospheric ozone within models, while precursor emissions are more important at the surface. Overall, the satellite records here suggest a small reduction in lower-tropospheric O_3 in the early part of the record, which has then stabilised towards the end of the record.

280

The European ozonesonde record (for $10:00 \pm 3$ hours and $13:30 \pm 3$ hours) between 1996 – 2018 show a near-zero trend for both local time intervals, of 0.01 ± 0.01 DU yr⁻¹ and 0.02 ± 0.01 DU yr⁻¹, respectively (**Table 1**). This near-zero trend is captured in the co-located TOMCAT records, with trends of 0.01 ± 0.01 DU yr⁻¹ for both time ranges, and they show generally good agreement ($r = 0.90$ for both time ranges). These near-zero trends are smaller than ozonesonde trends presented in Christiansen et al. (2022) for Europe ($\sim +3\%$ decade⁻¹). However, as well as a different selection of sondes used, their ozonesonde record starts in the early 1990s, a time period which several studies found positive trends in the free troposphere, e.g. Logan et al. (2012), before the stabilisation after ~ 2000 . TOMCAT (not co-located) shows a similar trend to the ozonesondes, with a near-zero trend between 1996 – 2018. This near-zero trend is present despite surface emissions of precursor gases used in the model decreasing during this time period (not-shown).

During their overlap period (2005-2010), LTCO₃ trends for all three satellite instruments are negative (**Table 2**), with GOME showing the lowest (-0.17 DU yr⁻¹, -0.92% yr⁻¹), SCIAMACHY showing the largest (-0.47 DU yr⁻¹, -2.43% yr⁻¹) and OMI showing a value in between (-0.36 DU yr⁻¹, -1.55% yr⁻¹). The corresponding ozonesonde trends at the two overpass times (not shown) between 2005 and 2010 are negligible. The model captures the negative satellite trends across the overlap period more convincingly than across their respective complete time periods (**Table 2**). The model record co-located to GOME shows a very similar negative trend of -0.16 DU yr⁻¹ (-0.78% yr⁻¹). For SCIAMACHY and OMI, the co-located model records show smaller negative trends than the satellite, with -0.12 DU yr⁻¹ (-0.56% yr⁻¹) and -0.19 DU yr⁻¹ (-0.96% yr⁻¹), respectively. These negative trends are $\sim 25\%$ and $\sim 50\%$ the size of the SCIAMACHY and OMI trends, respectively.

3.3. Satellite LTCO₃ Spatial Trends

As seen in **Tables 1 & 2**, the satellite LTCO₃ trends tend to be more consistent over the 2005-2010 period. GOME (1996-2010) has a consistent negative trend of approximately -0.15 DU yr⁻¹ across the European domain (**Figure 5**). For SCIAMACHY (2003-2010), the trend is more strongly negative at -0.5 to -0.3 DU yr⁻¹ apart from a positive trend (0.2 - 0.3 DU yr⁻¹) in the south of the domain over northern Africa. OMI (2005-2018) shows near-zero trends across large portions of the domain (0.1 DU yr⁻¹ 60 - 70° N and -0.1 DU yr⁻¹ 50 - 60° N) and moderately positive trends (0.2 - 0.4 DU yr⁻¹) over the Mediterranean and northern Africa (predominantly from changes in precursor emissions – see **Figure 7**). For the 2005-2010 period, the LTCO₃ trend is consistently negative for SCIAMACHY (< -1.0 to -0.3 DU yr⁻¹) and OMI (-0.5 to -0.2 DU yr⁻¹) apart from some small positive trends over northern Africa. Therefore, the regional trends in **Table 1 & 2** are broadly representative of most parts of the domain. For GOME, there is again a region of positive trend over northern Africa. Elsewhere the trend is typically -0.4 to -0.2 DU yr⁻¹ although there is more noise in the spatial distribution with a scatter of positive trends (0.1 - 0.3 DU yr⁻¹). Thus, the negative trend for the domain as a whole is smaller (-0.17 DU yr⁻¹) than for the other two instruments (-0.47 and -0.36 DU yr⁻¹).

3.4 Model Experiments

We present two additional TOMCAT simulations, one with a repeating fixed year of emissions (TC-FX-EMS) and the other with a repeating fixed year of meteorology (TC-FX-MET), both using the fixed year of either monthly surface emissions or 6-hour meteorological fields from 2008. We selected 2008 as it represented an approximate mid-point in the study time-period. Both simulations closely represent the control ($r = 0.98/0.99$ for TC-FX-MET/TC-FX-EMS), with TC-FX-EMS on average 0.41 DU larger and TC-FX-MET 0.16 DU smaller (**Figure (a)**). As TC-FX-EMS is larger than the control, this suggests that 2008 was a year of surface emissions which caused higher O_3 concentrations than usual, whereas the meteorology of 2008 (used in TC-FX-MET) is more like an average of the whole time period, as shown by the smaller difference with the control. The monthly anomalies for TC-FX-EMS are very similar to the control (**Figure (b)**, $r = 0.88$), highlighting the importance (less importance) of varying meteorology (emissions) in explaining short-term monthly tropospheric O_3 variation. The TC-FX-MET simulation is less well correlated with the control ($r = 0.57$), thus again showing the importance of meteorological variability in controlling tropospheric ozone. However, periods do exist where the emissions dominate in importance such as 1998 (potentially linked to the strong El Nino that year) where the TC-FX-EMS (TC-FX-MET) run struggles (reasonably) captures the control simulation anomaly.

The two fixed simulations show similar near-zero trends to the control between 1996 – 2018 (**Table 2**). The anomalies of all three simulations show a broadly similar pattern over the time period (**Figure (b)**), with moving from negative to more positive anomalies between 1996 and ~2006 – 2008, and then a move from positive to more negative anomalies for the remainder of the time period (~2006 – 2008 to 2018). For this first time period (1996 – 2008) the simulations show very small positive trends, with $+0.07 \text{ DU yr}^{-1}$ ($+0.30 \% \text{ yr}^{-1}$) for the control, and approximately half the magnitude for both fixed simulations (Error! Reference source not found. **Table 2**). There is a similar story for the second time period (2008 – 2018) but with very small negative trends, with -0.07 DU yr^{-1} ($-0.31 \% \text{ yr}^{-1}$) in the control, and again, approximately half the magnitude for both fixed simulations. This suggests that across both time periods, emissions and meteorology are having a similar influence on the long-term trends, rather than a large cancellation of processes. Therefore, the near-zero trend in the control is not due to a cancellation of trends from a large impact of either emissions or meteorology, despite the reduction in key O_3 precursors, e.g. NO_x and VOCs, used in the model.

Spatially, the three simulations show very small trends for each grid-box, ranging from -0.04 to 0.05 DU yr^{-1} (**Figure**). TOMCAT (control) shows negative trends across central continental Europe, with the largest negative values around Italy and the Balkans, and also across the northern Atlantic region. Positive trends are found across the southern Atlantic region, the southern Mediterranean countries in northern Africa and NE Europe. The region of negative trends in the control run over central continental Europe and positive trends in the southern Atlantic region and southern Mediterranean/North Africa are present in the TC-FX-MET (varying emissions) only and are therefore regions where the long-term trend is dominated by

changes in surface emissions from the land. The negative trends in the northern Atlantic region, the North Sea and western Scandinavia and positive trends across the NE of Europe are present in TC-FX-EMS (varying meteorology) only and are regions where the trend is dominated by changes in meteorology. Overall, there is likely some cancellation of regional tendencies in the domain average LTCO₃ trends for each model experiment (**Figure 6**). However, given the absolute magnitude of these pixel-by-pixel based trends, which are comparable to the overall regional trends (**Table 3**), it will have a limited impact on the big picture as LTCO₃ appears to be relatively stable in most (if not all) spatial regions.

STE can also impact tropospheric O₃ variation and therefore could influence long-term trends. The simulations use a fixed climatological value of stratospheric O₃ at 10 hPa, but the flux of STE and transport of O₃ into the troposphere varies between the years. Monthly anomalies of a sub-column derived from STE O₃ contribution varied between -0.9 and +0.7 DU (or ~ -42% and +21%) between 1996 – 2018 (**Figure**). O₃ from STE broadly follows a similar monthly anomaly pattern to the tropospheric sub-column O₃. There is a near-zero trend in the O₃ from STE across the time period ($0.00 \pm 0.01 \text{ DU yr}^{-1}$), indicating that although STE has impacted year-to-year O₃ variability, there is no strong trend in the simulated STE flux, that has influenced tropospheric O₃ in the TOMCAT simulations.

4 Conclusions

We present a detailed analysis of three satellite products between 1996 - 2017, demonstrating the information they can provide about long-term trends in lower-tropospheric O₃ above Europe. We compare these records with simulated tropospheric O₃ from the 3-D chemical transport model TOMCAT and independent measurements of the free troposphere using ozonesondes.

For the GOME (1996 – 2010), SCIAMACHY (2003 – 2010) and OMI (2005 – 2017) lower-tropospheric O₃ records there are negative trends of $-0.21 \pm 0.05 \text{ DU yr}^{-1}$ ($-1.05 \pm 0.26 \% \text{ yr}^{-1}$), $-0.20 \pm 0.14 \text{ DU yr}^{-1}$ ($-1.03 \pm 0.26 \% \text{ yr}^{-1}$) and a near-zero trend of $0.00 \pm 0.04 \text{ DU yr}^{-1}$ ($0.00 \pm 0.16 \% \text{ yr}^{-1}$), respectively. Overall, there appears to have been a decrease in lower-tropospheric O₃ over Europe from the mid-1990s to early 2000s before a stabilisation in the late 2000s and 2010, and an increase over the Mediterranean and N. Africa in that latter period (consistent with recent studies e.g. Pope et al., 2023b and 2024b). Despite reasonable agreement with the satellite records, co-located TOMCAT model records do not capture these small trends, showing predominantly a near-zero trend across the time periods. In contrast to the satellites, observations from the troposphere from ozonesondes agree with the TOMCAT record in showing a near-zero across the time-period (1996 – 2018).

The three satellite records are compared during their 6-year overlap period (2005 – 2010), showing consistent negative trends (-0.17 to -0.47 DU yr^{-1}), despite there being a systematic off-set in the OMI record (~4 DU larger). During this period, the co-located model records show greater consistency with those of the satellites, indicating that considering the vertical sensitivity and spatial sampling does not fully account for the differences seen between the records. The model and ozonesonde trends at

the GOME/SCIAMACHY and OMI mid-morning and early afternoon overpasses also suggest that the different diurnal overpasses between the sensors is not a major contributor to differences in detected L₂CO₂ trends. Similar results were reported by Pope et al., (2024) but they did not explore the longer-term records of these multiple sensors between 1996 to 2018 (nor use the RAL GOME and SCIAMACHY records). Therefore, additional factors are likely contributing to the instrument differences such as the OMI row anomaly and UV degradation in GOME and SCIAMACHY not being accounted for sufficiently well.

Overall, we have used satellite, ozonesonde and model data to investigate long-term trends in European lower tropospheric ozone. While there is some agreement between the satellite instruments (i.e. modest negative trends), especially in the overlapping years, the model (with and without the satellite averaging kernels, AKs, applied) and ozonesonde records suggest negligible tendencies. Model sensitivity experiments also suggest that spatiotemporal variability in processes (i.e. precursor emissions, meteorology, and the stratosphere-tropospheric flux) controlling lower tropospheric ozone have remained stable. As a result, it is difficult to detect a robust and consistent linear trend in European lower tropospheric O₃ between 1996 and 2017, which is masked by large inter-annual variability in the model and ozonesonde records and especially the UV-Vis sensor records. Future trend analyses will benefit for example from new data versions. For example, RAL's scheme has been improved in preparation for full mission re-processings of these and other satellite UV sounders and application to Sentinel-5 Precursor and upcoming Sentinels-4 and -5 which are planned to extend the record to mid-2040s. Future modelling work including a more complete description of lower stratospheric ozone, analysis of chemical budgets and additional model sensitivity experiments (fixing regional emissions for e.g. the Po Valley which has the largest impact in the TC-FX-MET experiment, though relatively modest in absolute L₂CO₂ trend terms) would be beneficial.

References

- van der A., R. J., Eskes, H. J., Boersma, K. F., van Noije, T. P. C., Van Roozendael, M., De Smedt, I., Peters, D. H. M. U. and Meijer, E. W.: Trends, seasonal variability and dominant NO_x source derived from a ten year record of NO₂ measured from space, *J. Geophys. Res. Atmos.*, 113(4), 1–12, doi:10.1029/2007JD009021, 2008.
- van der A., R. J., Peters, D. H. M. U., Eskes, H., Boersma, K. F., Van Roozendael, M., De Smedt, I. and Kelder, H. M.: Detection of the trend and seasonal variation in tropospheric NO₂ over China, *J. Geophys. Res. Atmos.*, 111(12), 1–10, doi:10.1029/2005JD006594, 2006.
- Bovensmann, H., Burrows, J. P., Buchwitz, M., Frerick, J., Noël, S., Rozanov, V. V., Chance, K. V. and Goede, A. P. H.: SCIAMACHY: Mission objectives and measurement modes, *J. Atmos. Sci.*, 56(2), 127–150, doi:10.1175/1520-0469(1999)056<0127:SMOAMM>2.0.CO;2, 1999.

Burrows, J. P., Weber, M., Buchwitz, M., Rozanov, V., Ladstätter-Weissenmayer, A., Richter, A., Debeek, R., Hoogen, R., Bramstedt, K., Eichmann, K. U., Eisinger, M. and Perner, D.: The Global Ozone Monitoring Experiment (GOME): Mission
410 concept and first scientific results, *J. Atmos. Sci.*, 56(2), 151–175, doi:10.1175/1520-0469(1999)056<0151:TGOMEG>2.0.CO;2, 1999.

Chipperfield, M. P.: New version of the TOMCAT/SLIMCAT off-line chemical transport model: Intercomparison of stratospheric tracer experiments, *Q. J. R. Meteorol. Soc.*, 132(617), 1179–1203, doi:10.1256/qj.05.51, 2006.

Christiansen, A., Mickley, L. J., Liu, J., Oman, L. D. and Hu, L.: Multidecadal increases in global tropospheric ozone derived
415 from ozonesonde and surface site observations: Can models reproduce ozone trends?, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 22(22), 14751–14782, doi:10.5194/acp-22-14751-2022, 2022.

Clark, D. B., Mercado, L. M., Sitch, S., Jones, C. D., Gedney, N., Best, M. J., Pryor, M., Rooney, G. G., Essery, R. L. H., Blyth, E., Boucher, O., Harding, R. J., Huntingford, C. and Cox, P. M.: The Joint UK Land Environment Simulator (JULES), model description – Part 2: Carbon fluxes and vegetation dynamics, *Geosci. Model Dev.*, 4(3), 701–722, doi:10.5194/gmd-4-
420 701-2011, 2011.

Dee, D. P., Uppala, S. M., Simmons, A. J., Berrisford, P., Poli, P., Kobayashi, S., Andrae, U., Balmaseda, M. A., Balsamo, G., Bauer, P., Bechtold, P., Beljaars, A. C. M., van de Berg, L., Bidlot, J., Bormann, N., Delsol, C., Dragani, R., Fuentes, M., Geer, A. J., Haimberger, L., Healy, S. B., Hersbach, H., Hólm, E. V., Isaksen, I., Kållberg, P., Köhler, M., Matricardi, M., McNally, A. P., Monge-Sanz, B. M., Morcrette, J. J., Park, B. K., Peubey, C., de Rosnay, P., Tavolato, C., Thépaut, J. N. and
425 Vitart, F.: The ERA-Interim reanalysis: Configuration and performance of the data assimilation system, *Q. J. R. Meteorol. Soc.*, 137(656), 553–597, doi:10.1002/qj.828, 2011.

Dlugokencky, E.: NOAA Global Monitoring Laboratory - Trends in Atmospheric Methane, [online] Available from: https://gml.noaa.gov/ccgg/trends_ch4/ (Accessed 1 May 2020), 2020.

Ebojie, F., Burrows, J. P., Gebhardt, C., Ladstätter-Weissenmayer, A., Von Savigny, C., Rozanov, A., Weber, M. and
430 Bovensmann, H.: Global tropospheric ozone variations from 2003 to 2011 as seen by SCIAMACHY, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 16(2), 417–436, doi:10.5194/acp-16-417-2016, 2016.

European Environment Agency: Air quality in Europe 2022., 2022.

European Environment Agency: Europe's air quality status 2023, [online] Available from: <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/europes-air-quality-status-2023> (Accessed 4 October 2023), 2023.

- 435 European Space Agency: GOME Overview, [online] Available from:
<https://earth.esa.int/eogateway/instruments/gome/description> (Accessed 20 December 2022), n.d.
- Feng, L., Smith, S. J., Braun, C., Crippa, M., Gidden, M. J., Hoesly, R., Klimont, Z., Van Marle, M., Van Den Berg, M. and Van Der Werf, G. R.: The generation of gridded emissions data for CMIP6, *Geosci. Model Dev.*, 13(2), 461–482, doi:10.5194/gmd-13-461-2020, 2020.
- 440 Forster, P., Storelvmo, T., Armour, K., Collins, W., Dufresne, J.-L., Frame, D., Lunt, D. J., Mauritsen, T., Palmer, M. D., Watanabe, M., Wild, M., and Zhang, H.: The Earth's Energy Budget, Climate Feedbacks, and Climate Sensitivity, in: *Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis, Contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*, edited by: Masson-Delmotte, V., Zhai, P., Pirani, A., Connors, S. L., Péan, C., Berger, S., Caud, N., Chen, Y., Goldfarb, L., Gomis, M. I., Huang, M., Leitzell, K., Lonnoy, E., Matthews, J. B. R., Maycock, T. K., Waterfield, T., Yelekçi, O., Yu, R., and Zhou, B., Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA, 923–1054, <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009157896.009>, 2021.
- Gaudel, A., Cooper, O. R., Ancellet, G., Barret, B., Boynard, A., Burrows, J. P., Clerbaux, C., Coheur, P. F., Cuesta, J., Cuevas, E., Doniki, S., Dufour, G., Ebojje, F., Foret, G., Garcia, O., Granados-Muñoz, M. J., Hannigan, J. W., Hase, F., Hassler, B., Huang, G., Hurtmans, D., Jaffe, D., Jones, N., Kalabokas, P., Kerridge, B., Kulawik, S., Latter, B., Leblanc, T., Le Flochmoën, E., Lin, W., Liu, J., Liu, X., Mahieu, E., McClure-Begley, A., Neu, J. L., Osman, M., Palm, M., Petetin, H., Petropavlovskikh, I., Querel, R., Rapp, N., Rozanov, A., Schultz, M. G., Schwab, J., Siddans, R., Smale, D., Steinbacher, M., Tanimoto, H., Tarasick, D. W., Thouret, V., Thompson, A. M., Trickl, T., Weatherhead, E., Wespes, C., Worden, H. M., Vigouroux, C., Xu, X., Zeng, G. and Ziemke, J.: Tropospheric Ozone Assessment Report: Present-day distribution and trends of tropospheric ozone relevant to climate and global atmospheric chemistry model evaluation, *Elementa*, doi:10.1525/elementa.291, 2018.
- 450 E., Lin, W., Liu, J., Liu, X., Mahieu, E., McClure-Begley, A., Neu, J. L., Osman, M., Palm, M., Petetin, H., Petropavlovskikh, I., Querel, R., Rapp, N., Rozanov, A., Schultz, M. G., Schwab, J., Siddans, R., Smale, D., Steinbacher, M., Tanimoto, H., Tarasick, D. W., Thouret, V., Thompson, A. M., Trickl, T., Weatherhead, E., Wespes, C., Worden, H. M., Vigouroux, C., Xu, X., Zeng, G. and Ziemke, J.: Tropospheric Ozone Assessment Report: Present-day distribution and trends of tropospheric ozone relevant to climate and global atmospheric chemistry model evaluation, *Elementa*, doi:10.1525/elementa.291, 2018.
- 455 Gaudel, A., Cooper, O. R., Chang, K. L., Bourgeois, I., Ziemke, J. R., Strode, S. A., Oman, L. D., Sellitto, P., Nédélec, P., Blot, R., Thouret, V. and Granier, C.: Aircraft observations since the 1990s reveal increases of tropospheric ozone at multiple locations across the Northern Hemisphere, *Sci. Adv.*, 6(34), 1–12, doi:10.1126/sciadv.aba8272, 2020.
- Granier, C., Guenther, A., Lamarque, J. F., Mieville, A., Muller, J. F., Olivier, J., Orlando, J., Peters, J., Petron, G., Tyndall, G. and Wallens, S.: POET, a database of surface emissions of ozone precursors, [online] Available from:
460 http://accent.aero.jussieu.fr/database_table_inventories.php, 2005.
- Granier, C., Bessagnet, B., Bond, T., D'Angiola, A., van der Gon, H. D., Frost, G. J., Heil, A., Kaiser, J. W., Kinne, S., Klimont, Z., Kloster, S., Lamarque, J. F., Liousse, C., Masui, T., Meleux, F., Mieville, A., Ohara, T., Raut, J. C., Riahi, K., Schultz, M. G., Smith, S. J., Thompson, A., van Aardenne, J., van der Werf, G. R. and van Vuuren, D. P.: Evolution of anthropogenic and biomass burning emissions of air pollutants at global and regional scales during the 1980-2010 period,

465 Clim. Change, 109(1), 163–190, doi:10.1007/s10584-011-0154-1, 2011.

IPCC: Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, edited by V. Masson-Delmotte, P. Zhai, A. Pirani, S. L. Connors, C. Péan, S. Berger, N. Caud, Y. Chen, L. Goldfarb, M. I. Gomis, M. Huang, K. Leitzell, E. Lonnoy, J. B. R. Matthews, T. K. Maycock, T. Waterfield, O. Yelekçi, R. Yu, and B. Zhou, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom., 2021.

470 Keppens, A., Lambert, J.-C., Granville, J., Hubert, D., Verhoelst, T., Compernelle, S., Latter, B., Kerridge, B., Siddans, R.,
Boynard, A., Hadji-Lazaro, J., Clerbaux, C., Wespes, C., Hurtmans, D. R., Coheur, P.-F., van Peet, J. C. A., van der A, R. J.,
Garane, K., Koukouli, M. E., Balis, D. S., Delcloo, A., Kivi, R., Stübi, R., Godin-Beekmann, S., Van Roozendaal, M., and
Zehner, C.: Quality assessment of the Ozone_cci Climate Research Data Package (release 2017) – Part 2: Ground-based
validation of nadir ozone profile data products, *Atmos. Meas. Tech.*, 11, 3769–3800, [https://doi.org/10.5194/amt-11-3769-](https://doi.org/10.5194/amt-11-3769-2018)
475 2018, 2018.

Levelt, P. F., Van Den Oord, G. H. J., Dobber, M. R., Mälkki, A., Visser, H., De Vries, J., Stammes, P., Lundell, J. O. V. and
Saari, H.: The ozone monitoring instrument, *IEEE Trans. Geosci. Remote Sens.*, doi:10.1109/TGRS.2006.872333, 2006.

Levelt, P. F., Joiner, J., Tamminen, J., Veefkind, J. P., Bhartia, P. K., Zweers, D. C. S., Duncan, B. N., Streets, D. G., Eskes,
H., Van Der, R. A., McLinden, C., Fioletov, V., Carn, S., De Laat, J., Deland, M., Marchenko, S., McPeters, R., Ziemke, J.,
480 Fu, D., Liu, X., Pickering, K., Apituley, A., Abad, G. G., Arola, A., Boersma, F., Miller, C. C., Chance, K., De Graaf, M.,
Hakkarainen, J., Hassinen, S., Ialongo, I., Kleipool, Q., Krotkov, N., Li, C., Lamsal, L., Newman, P., Nowlan, C., Suleiman,
R., Tilstra, L. G., Torres, O., Wang, H. and Wargan, K.: The Ozone Monitoring Instrument: Overview of 14 years in space,
Atmos. Chem. Phys., 18(8), 5699–5745, doi:10.5194/acp-18-5699-2018, 2018.

Logan, J. A., Staehelin, J., Megretskaia, I. A., Cammas, J. P., Thouret, V., Claude, H., De Backer, H., Steinbacher, M., Scheel,
485 H. E., Stbi, R., Frhlich, M. and Derwent, R.: Changes in ozone over Europe: Analysis of ozone measurements from sondes,
regular aircraft (MOZAIC) and alpine surface sites, *J. Geophys. Res. Atmos.*, 117(9), 1–23, doi:10.1029/2011JD016952, 2012.

Mann, G. W., Carslaw, K. S., Spracklen, D. V., Ridley, D. A., Manktelow, P. T., Chipperfield, M. P., Pickering, S. J. and
Johnson, C. E.: Description and evaluation of GLOMAP-mode: A modal global aerosol microphysics model for the UKCA
composition-climate model, *Geosci. Model Dev.*, 3(2), 519–551, doi:10.5194/gmd-3-519-2010, 2010.

490 Miles, G. M., Siddans, R., Kerridge, B. J., Latter, B. G. and Richards, N. A. D.: Tropospheric ozone and ozone profiles retrieved
from GOME-2 and their validation, *Atmos. Meas. Tech.*, 8(1), 385–398, doi:10.5194/amt-8-385-2015, 2015.

Monks, P. S., Archibald, A. T., Colette, A., Cooper, O., Coyle, M., Derwent, R., Fowler, D., Granier, C., Law, K. S., Mills, G.

- E., Stevenson, D. S., Tarasova, O., Thouret, V., Von Schneidemesser, E., Sommariva, R., Wild, O. and Williams, M. L.: Tropospheric ozone and its precursors from the urban to the global scale from air quality to short-lived climate forcer, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 15(15), 8889–8973, doi:10.5194/acp-15-8889-2015, 2015.
- Monks, S. A., Arnold, S. R., Hollaway, M. J., Pope, R. J., Wilson, C., Feng, W., Emmerson, K. M., Kerridge, B. J., Latter, B. L., Miles, G. M., Siddans, R. and Chipperfield, M. P.: The TOMCAT global chemical transport model v1.6: Description of chemical mechanism and model evaluation, *Geosci. Model Dev.*, doi:10.5194/gmd-10-3025-2017, 2017.
- Morgenstern, O., Hegglin, M., Rozanov, E., O'Connor, F., Luke Abraham, N., Akiyoshi, H., Archibald, A., Bekki, S., Butchart, N., Chipperfield, M., Deushi, M., Dhomse, S., Garcia, R., Hardiman, S., Horowitz, L., Jöckel, P., Josse, B., Kinnison, D., Lin, M., Mancini, E., Manyin, M., Marchand, M., Marécal, V., Michou, M., Oman, L., Pitari, G., Plummer, D., Revell, L., Saint-Martin, D., Schofield, R., Stenke, A., Stone, K., Sudo, K., Tanaka, T., Tilmes, S., Yamashita, Y., Yoshida, K. and Zeng, G.: Review of the global models used within phase 1 of the Chemistry-Climate Model Initiative (CCMI), *Geosci. Model Dev.*, 10(2), 639–671, doi:10.5194/gmd-10-639-2017, 2017.
- Munro, R., Siddans, R., Reburn, W. J. and Kerridge, B. J.: Direct measurement of tropospheric ozone distributions from space, *Nature*, doi:10.1038/32392, 1998.
- Olivier, J., Peters, J., Granier, C., Pétron, G., Müller, J. F. and Wallens, S.: Present and future surface emissions of atmospheric compounds, POET report #2., 2003.
- Oltmans, S. J., Lefohn, A. S., Shadwick, D., Harris, J. M., Scheel, H. E., Galbally, I., Tarasick, D. W., Johnson, B. J., Brunke, E. G., Claude, H., Zeng, G., Nichol, S., Schmidlin, F., Davies, J., Cuevas, E., Redondas, A., Naoe, H., Nakano, T. and Kawasato, T.: Recent tropospheric ozone changes - A pattern dominated by slow or no growth, *Atmos. Environ.*, 67, 331–351, doi:10.1016/j.atmosenv.2012.10.057, 2013.
- Parrish, D. D., Lamarque, J. F., Naik, V., Horowitz, L., Shindell, D. T., Staehelin, J., Derwent, R., Cooper, O. R., Tanimoto, H., Volz-Thomas, A., Gilge, S., Scheel, H. E., Steinbacher, M. and Fröhlich, M.: Long-term changes in lower tropospheric baseline ozone concentrations: Comparing chemistry-climate models and observations at northern midlatitudes, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 119, 5719–5736, doi:10.1002/2013JD021435, 2014.
- Pope, R. J., Chipperfield, M. P., Savage, N. H., Ordóñez, C., Neal, L. S., Lee, L. A., Dhomse, S. S., Richards, N. A. D. and Kestlake, T. D.: Evaluation of a regional air quality model using satellite column NO₂: Treatment of observation errors and model boundary conditions and emissions, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 15(10), 5611–5626, doi:10.5194/acp-15-5611-2015, 2015.
- Pope, R. J., Arnold, S. R., Chipperfield, M. P., Latter, B. G., Siddans, R. and Kerridge, B. J.: Widespread changes in UK air

quality observed from space, *Atmos. Sci. Lett.*, 19(5), 1–8, doi:10.1002/asl.817, 2018.

Pope, R. J., Kerridge, B. J., Chipperfield, M. P., Siddans, R., Latter, B. G., Ventress, L. J., Pimlott, M. A., Feng, W., Comyn-
Platt, E., Hayman, G. D., Arnold, S. R., and Graham, A. M.: Investigation of the summer 2018 European ozone air pollution
525 episodes using novel satellite data and modelling, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 23, 13235–13253, [https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-23-](https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-23-13235-2023)
13235-2023, 2023a.

Pope, R. J., Kerridge, B. J., Siddans, R., Latter, B. G., Chipperfield, M. P., Feng, W., Pimlott, M. A., Dhomse, S. S.,
Retscher, C., and Rigby, R.: Investigation of spatial and temporal variability in lower tropospheric ozone from RAL Space
530 UV–Vis satellite products, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 23, 14933–14947, <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-23-14933-2023>, 2023b.

Pope, R. J., Rap, A., Pimlott, M. A., Barret, B., Le Flochmoen, E., Kerridge, B. J., Siddans, R., Latter, B. G., Ventress, L. J.,
Boynard, A., Retscher, C., Feng, W., Rigby, R., Dhomse, S. S., Wespes, C., and Chipperfield, M. P.: Quantifying the
tropospheric ozone radiative effect and its temporal evolution in the satellite era, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 24, 3613–3626,
535 <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-24-3613-2024>, 2024a.

Pope, R. J., O'Connor, F. M., Dalvi, M., Kerridge, B. J., Siddans, R., Latter, B. G., Barret, B., Le Flochmoen, E., Boynard,
A., Chipperfield, M. P., Feng, W., Pimlott, M. A., Dhomse, S. S., Retscher, C., Wespes, C., and Rigby, R.: Investigation of
the impact of satellite vertical sensitivity on long-term retrieved lower-tropospheric ozone trends, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 24,
540 9177–9195, <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-24-9177-2024>, 2024b.

Rodgers, C. D.: Inverse methods for atmospheric sounding: Theory and Practice, in Series on Atmospheric, Oceanic and
Planetary Physics: Volume 2, World Scientific., 2000.

Russo, M. R., Kerridge, B. J., Abraham, N. L., Keeble, J., Latter, B. G., Siddans, R., Weber, J., Griffiths, P. T., Pyle, J. A., and
545 Archibald, A. T.: Seasonal, interannual and decadal variability of tropospheric ozone in the North Atlantic: comparison of
UM-UKCA and remote sensing observations for 2005–2018, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 23, 6169–
6196, <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-23-6169-2023>, 2023.

Van Dingenen, R., Dentener, F. J., Raes, F., Krol, M. C., Emberson, L. and Cofala, J.: The global impact of ozone on
agricultural crop yields under current and future air quality legislation, *Atmos. Environ.*, 43(3), 604–618,
550 doi:10.1016/j.atmosenv.2008.10.033, 2009.

Van Roozendaal, M., Spurr, R., Loyola, D., Lerot, C., Balis, D., Lambert, J. C., Zimmer, W., Van Gent, J., Van Geffen, J.,
Koukouli, M., Granville, J., Doicu, A., Fayt, C. and Zehner, C.: Sixteen years of GOME/ERS-2 total ozone data: The new

- direct-fitting GOME Data Processor (GDP) version 5 Algorithm description, *J. Geophys. Res. Atmos.*, 117(3), 1–18, doi:10.1029/2011JD016471, 2012.
- 555 Sellar, A. A., Jones, C. G., Mulcahy, J. P., Tang, Y., Yool, A., Wiltshire, A., O'Connor, F. M., Stringer, M., Hill, R., Palmieri, J., Woodward, S., de Mora, L., Kuhlbrodt, T., Rumbold, S. T., Kelley, D. I., Ellis, R., Johnson, C. E., Walton, J., Abraham, N. L., Andrews, M. B., Andrews, T., Archibald, A. T., Berthou, S., Burke, E., Blockley, E., Carslaw, K., Dalvi, M., Edwards, J., Folberth, G. A., Gedney, N., Griffiths, P. T., Harper, A. B., Hendry, M. A., Hewitt, A. J., Johnson, B., Jones, A., Jones, C. D., Keeble, J., Liddicoat, S., Morgenstern, O., Parker, R. J., Predoi, V., Robertson, E., Siahayan, A., Smith, R. S., Swaminathan,
- 560 R., Woodhouse, M. T., Zeng, G. and Zerroukat, M.: UKESM1: Description and Evaluation of the U.K. Earth System Model, *J. Adv. Model. Earth Syst.*, 11(12), 4513–4558, doi:10.1029/2019MS001739, 2019.
- Skeie, R. B., Myhre, G., Hodnebrog, Ø., Cameron-Smith, P. J., Deushi, M., Hegglin, M. I., Horowitz, L. W., Kramer, R. J., Michou, M., Mills, M. J., Olivie, D. J. L., Connor, F. M. O., Paynter, D., Samset, B. H., Sellar, A., Shindell, D., Takemura, T., Tilmes, S. and Wu, T.: Historical total ozone radiative forcing derived from CMIP6 simulations, *npj Clim. Atmos. Sci.*, 3(1),
- 565 doi:10.1038/s41612-020-00131-0, 2020.
- Spracklen, D. V., Pringle, K. J., Carslaw, K. S., Chipperfield, M. P. and Mann, G. W.: A global off-line model of size-resolved aerosol microphysics: I. Model development and prediction of aerosol properties, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 5(8), 2227–2252, doi:10.5194/acp-5-2227-2005, 2005.
- Weatherhead, E. C., Reinsel, G. C., Tiao, G. C., Meng, X. L., Choi, D., Cheang, W. K., Keller, T., DeLuisi, J., Wuebbles, D.
- 570 J., Kerr, J. B., Miller, A. J., Oltmans, S. J. and Frederick, J. E.: Factors affecting the detection of trends: Statistical considerations and applications to environmental data, *J. Geophys. Res. Atmos.*, 103(D14), 17149–17161, doi:10.1029/98JD00995, 1998.
- van der Werf, G. R., Randerson, J. T., Giglio, L., Van Leeuwen, T. T., Chen, Y., Rogers, B. M., Mu, M., Van Marle, M. J. E., Morton, D. C., Collatz, G. J., Yokelson, R. J. and Kasibhatla, P. S.: Global fire emissions estimates during 1997–2016, *Earth*
- 575 *Syst. Sci. Data*, 9(2), 697–720, doi:10.5194/essd-9-697-2017, 2017.
- WOUDC: OzoneSonde, , doi:http://dx.doi.org/10.14287/10000008, 2021.
- Young, P. J., Naik, V., Fiore, A. M., Gaudel, A., Guo, J., Lin, M. Y., Neu, J. L., Parrish, D. D., Rieder, H. E., Schnell, J. L., Tilmes, S., Wild, O., Zhang, L., Ziemke, J., Brandt, J., Delcloo, A., Doherty, R. M., Geels, C., Hegglin, M. I., Hu, L., Im, U., Kumar, R., Luhar, A., Murray, L., Plummer, D., Rodriguez, J., Saiz-Lopez, A., Schultz, M. G., Woodhouse, M. T. and Zeng,
- 580 G.: Tropospheric ozone assessment report: Assessment of global-scale model performance for global and regional ozone distributions, variability, and trends, *Elementa*, 6, doi:10.1525/elementa.265, 2018.

Figures and Tables:

Observational/Model Records	Trend (DU yr ⁻¹ ; %)	Trend 95% CI (DU yr ⁻¹)	Trend p-value
GOME (1996-2010)	-0.21 (-1.05)	(-0.31, -0.11)	0.00
TC-GOME (1996-2010)	0.06 (0.26)	(0.02, 0.10)	0.00
TC-GOME+AK (1996-2010)	-0.01 (-0.04)	(-0.05, 0.03)	0.80
SCIAMACHY (2003-2010)	-0.20 (-1.03)	(-0.47, 0.07)	0.14
TC-SCIAMACHY (2003-2010)	0.00 (0.00)	(-0.11, 0.11)	1.00
TC-SCIAMACHY+AK (2003-2010)	-0.01 (-0.05)	(-0.15, 0.13)	1.00
OMI (2005-2017)	0.00 (0.00)	(-0.08, 0.08)	1.00
TC-OMI (2005-2017)	-0.26 (-1.30)	(-0.41, 0.11)	0.00
TC-OMI+AK (2005-2017)	-0.07 (-0.30)	(-0.13, -0.01)	0.02
Ozonesondes T1 (1998-2018)	0.01 (0.05)	(-0.01, 0.03)	0.32
TC-Ozonesondes T1 (1998-2018)	0.01 (0.04)	(-0.03, 0.05)	0.62
Ozonesondes T2 (1998-2018)	0.02 (0.09)	(0.00, 0.04)	0.32
TC-Ozonesondes T2 (1998-2018)	0.01 (0.03)	(-0.03, 0.05)	0.62
TC-CTL (1996-2018)	-0.01 (-0.03)	(-0.04, 0.02)	0.50

Table 1: Satellite, ozonesonde and model LTCO₃ trends (DU yr⁻¹ and % yr⁻¹) for their respective time periods. For each satellite instrument (GOME, SCIAMACHY and OMI) the co-located model records with and without AKs applied are also presented. The ozonesonde trends are presented for two local time intervals (T1 = 10.00 LT and T2 = 13.30 LT) and with co-located model records. CI = confidence interval. Here, TC = TOMCAT and CTL = the TOMCAT control simulation. The trend p-values are also shown.

Observational/Model Records	Trend (DU yr ⁻¹ ; %)	Trend 95% CI (DU yr ⁻¹)	Trend p-value
GOME (2005-2010)	-0.17 (-0.92)	(-0.22, -0.12)	0.00
TC-GOME (2005-2010)	-0.01 (-0.02)	(-0.03, 0.01)	0.32
TC-GOME+AK (2005-2010)	-0.16 (-0.78)	(-0.14, -0.12)	0.00
SCIAMACHY (2005-2010)	-0.47 (-2.43)	(-0.61, -0.33)	0.00

TC-SCIAMACHY (2005-2010)	-0.05 (-0.21)	(-0.10, 0.00)	0.32
TC-SCIAMACHY+AK (2005-2010)	-0.12 (-0.56)	(-0.19, -0.05)	0.00
OMI (2005-2010)	-0.36 (-1.55)	(-0.40, -0.32)	0.00
TC-OMI (2005-2010)	-0.07 (-0.31)	(-0.10, -0.04)	0.00
TC-OMI+AK (2005-2010)	-0.19 (-0.96)	(-0.26, -0.12)	0.00

Table 2: Satellite, ozonesonde and model LTCO₃ trends for 2005-2010. For each satellite instrument (GOME, SCIAMACHY and OMI) the co-located model records with the AKs applied are also presented. The ozonesonde trends are presented for two local time intervals (T1 = 10.00 LT and T2 = 13.30 LT) and with co-located model records. CI = confidence interval. The trend p-values are also shown.

Observational/Model Records	Trend (DU yr ⁻¹ ; %)	Trend 95% CI (DU yr ⁻¹)	Trend p-value
TC-CTL (1996-2018)	-0.01 (-0.03)	(-0.04, 0.02)	0.50
TC-EMS (1996-2018)	0.00 (0.00)	(-0.02, 0.02)	1.00
TC-MET (1996-2018)	0.00 (0.00)	(-0.02, 0.02)	1.00
TC-CTL (1996-2008)	0.07 (0.30)	(0.06, 0.08)	0.00
TC-EMS (1996-2008)	0.03 (0.12)	(0.02, 0.04)	0.00
TC-MET (1996-2008)	0.04 (0.17)	(0.03, 0.05)	0.00
TC-CTL (2008-2018)	-0.07 (-0.31)	(-0.08, -0.06)	0.00
TC-EMS (2008-2018)	-0.03 (-0.13)	(-0.04, -0.02)	0.00
TC-MET (2008-2018)	-0.04 (-0.17)	(-0.05, -0.03)	0.00
TC-STE (1996-2018)	0.00 (0.00)	(-0.01, 0.01)	1.00

Table 3: Model LTCO₃ trends (DU yr⁻¹ and % yr⁻¹) for 1996-2018, 1996-2008 and 2008-2018 from the TC-CTL, TC-EMS and TC-MET simulations. CI = confidence interval. TC-STE is the TOMCAT tracer for the stratospheric ozone flux into the troposphere calculated as the LTCO₃. The trend p-values are also shown.

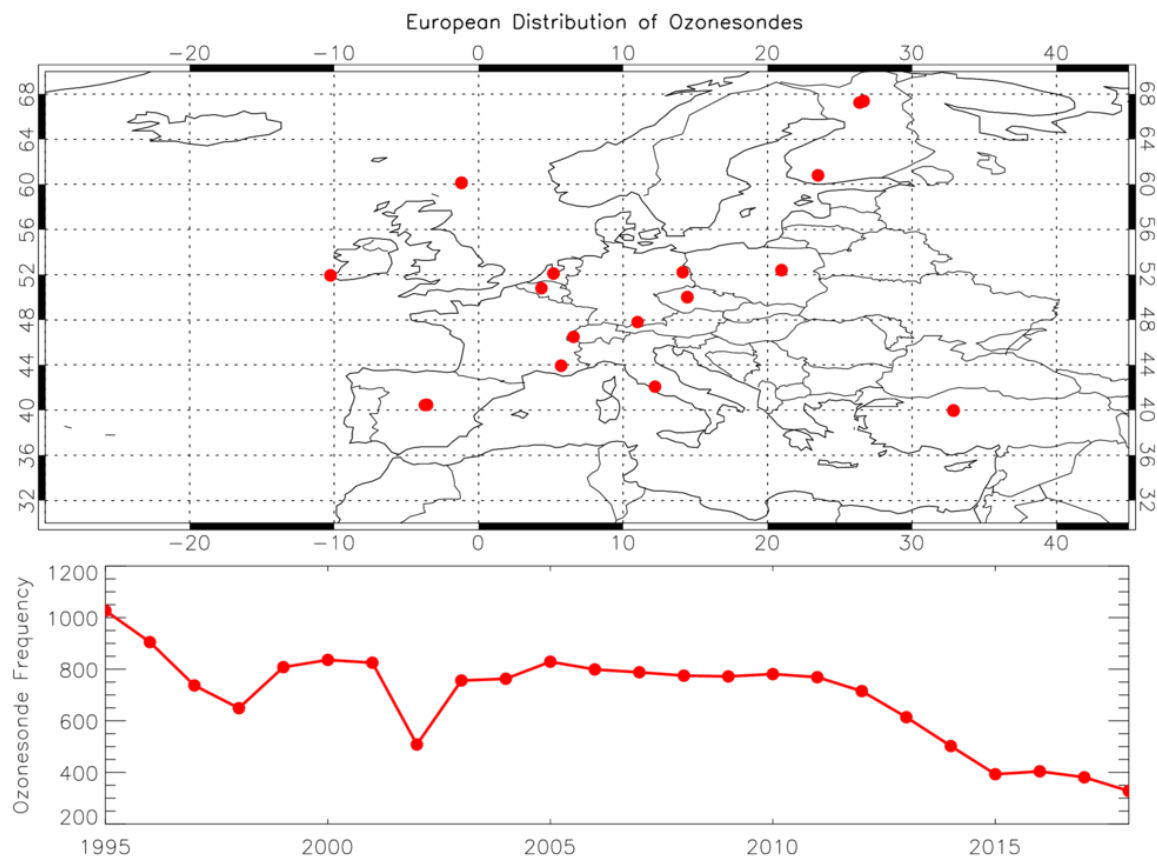


Figure 1: European distribution of ozonesondes used in this study and time series of annual ozonesonde frequencies (i.e. all sites and times).

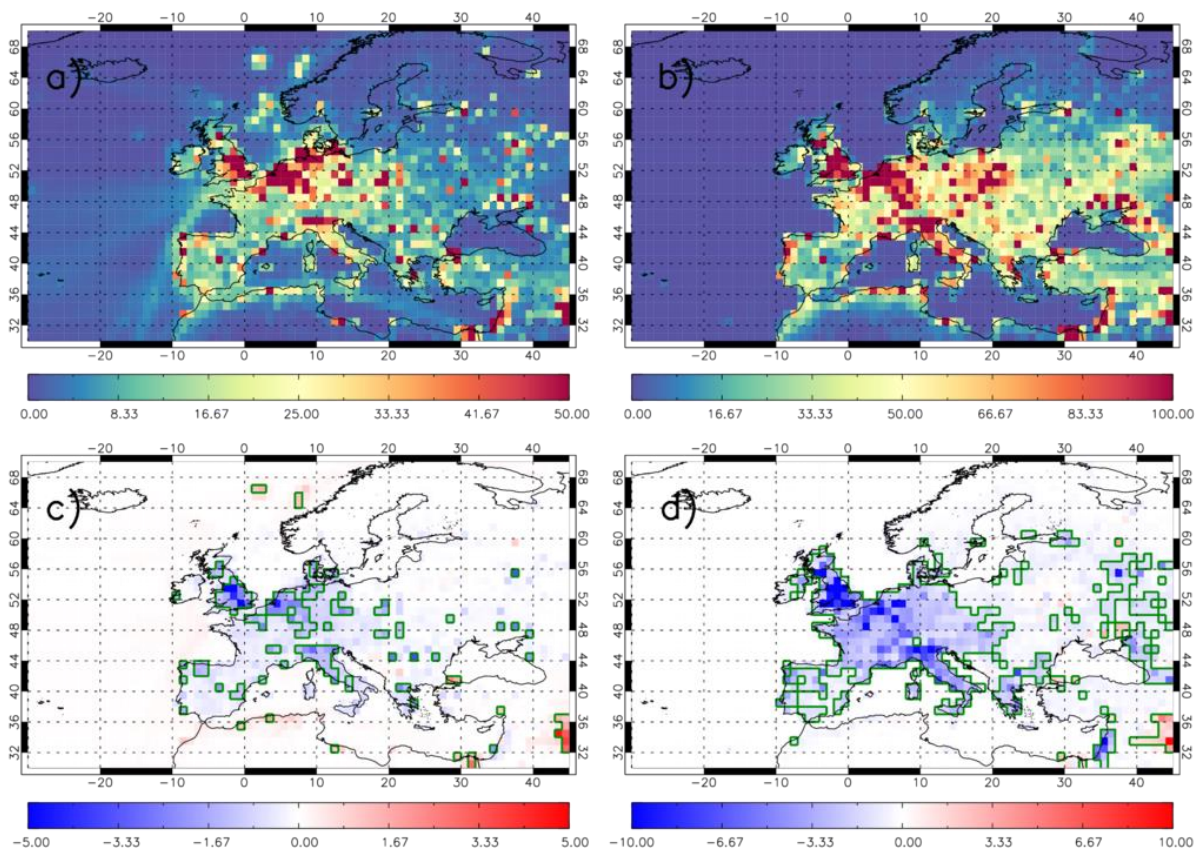


Figure 2: Average TOMCAT emissions (Gg) between 1996 and 2017 for a) NO_x and b) carbon monoxide (CO). TOMCAT emission trends (Gg/year) between 1996 and 2017 for c) NO_x and d) CO. Green polygon-outlined regions show substantial emission trends with p-values < 0.05.

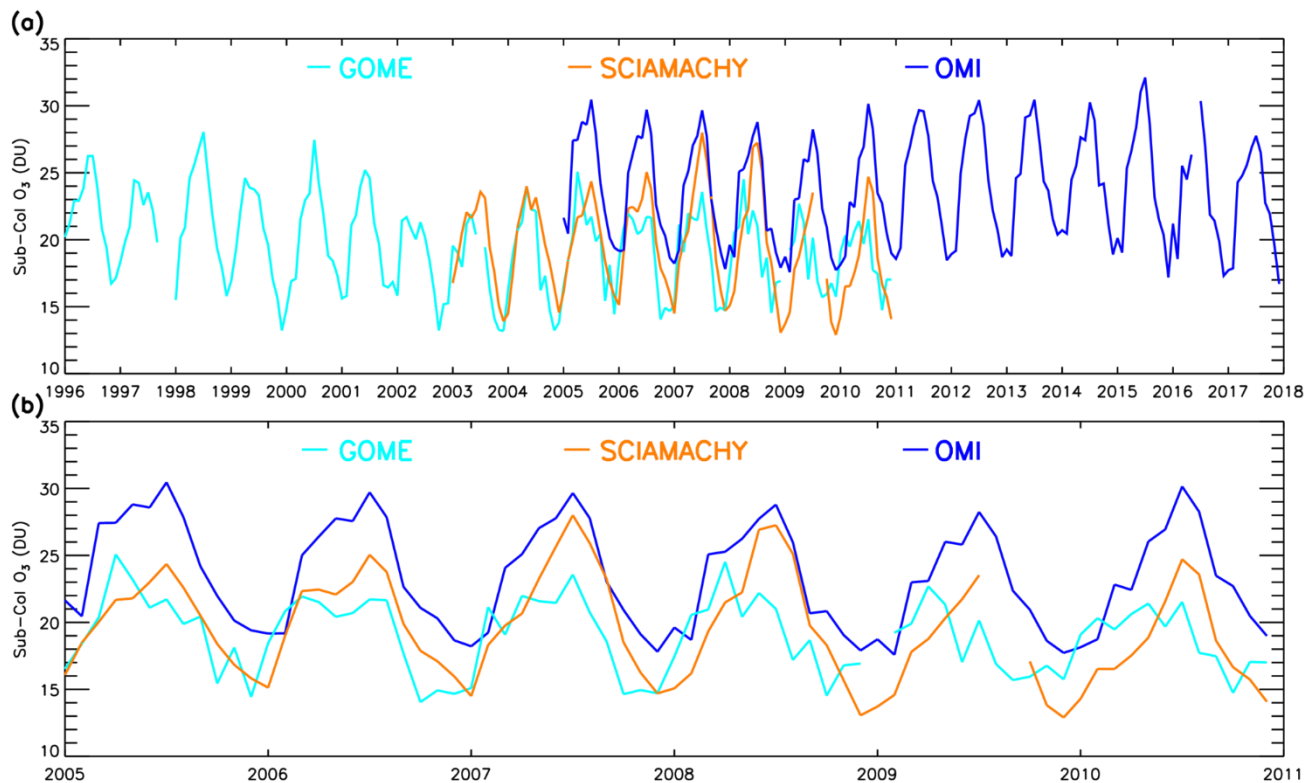
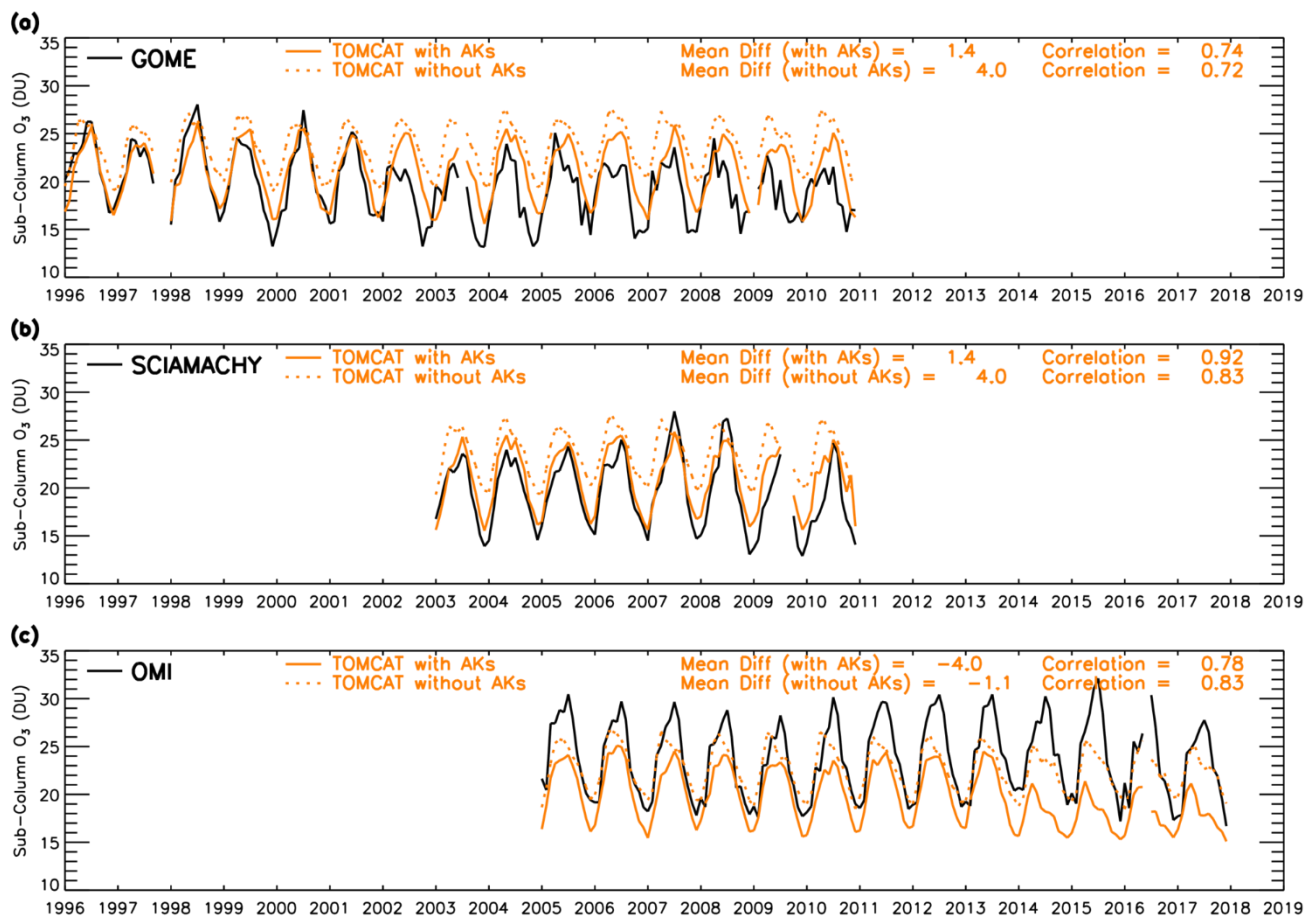
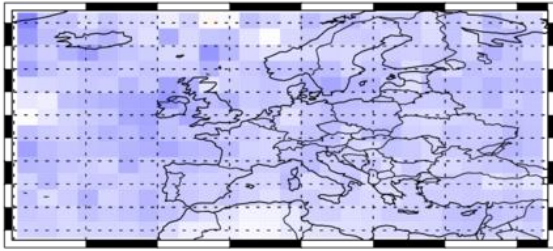


Figure 3: Timeseries of European monthly average satellite lower tropospheric column O_3 ($LTCO_3$, surface-450 hPa) (DU) between (a) 1996 – 2017 full record and (b) 2005 – 2010 overlap period. The Pearson's correlation coefficient (r), 2005-2010, between GOME-SCIAMACHY, GOME-OMI and SCIAMACHY-OMI time-series are 0.62, 0.64, 0.91, respectively. The average differences are -0.5, -4.5 and -3.9 DU, respectively.

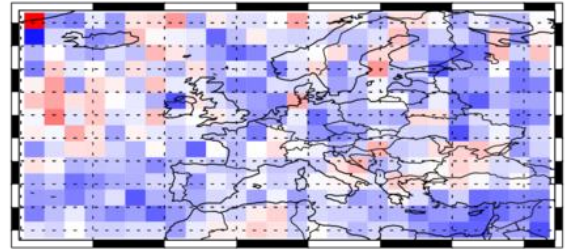


620 **Figure 4:** Timeseries of European monthly average LT CO_3 (DU) between 1996 – 2017 for (a) GOME, (b) SCIAMACHY and (c) OMI. Co-located model records (with and without AKs applied) for each satellite record are also shown. The correlations and mean differences between the model and respective satellite records (TOMCAT-satellite, DU) are shown at the top of each panel.

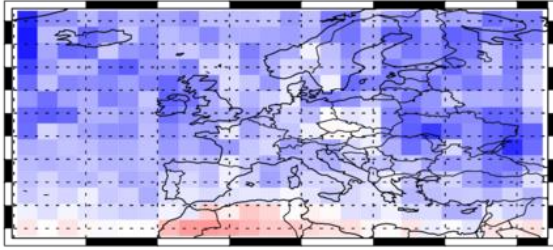
(a) GOME (1996 – 2010)



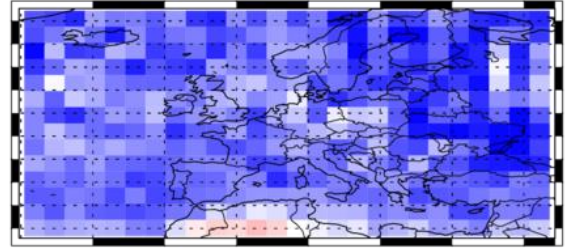
(b) GOME (2005 – 2010)



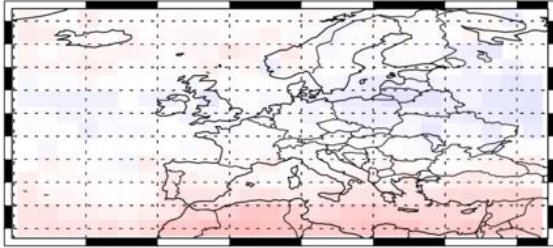
(c) SCIAMACHY (2003 – 2010)



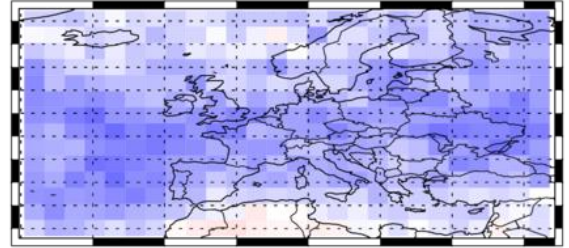
(d) SCIAMACHY (2005 – 2010)



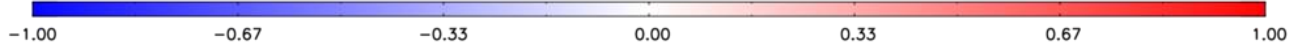
(e) OMI (2005 – 2018)



(f) OMI (2005 – 2010)



Satellite sub-column O_3 trend (DU/year)



625 **Figure 5:** LT CO_3 trends (DU yr $^{-1}$) for each grid-box of the European sub-column satellite records for (a) GOME (1996 – 2010), (b) GOME (2005 – 2010), (c) SCIAMACHY (2003 – 2010), (d) SCIAMACHY (2005–2010), (e) OMI (2005–2018) and (f) OMI (2005 – 2010).

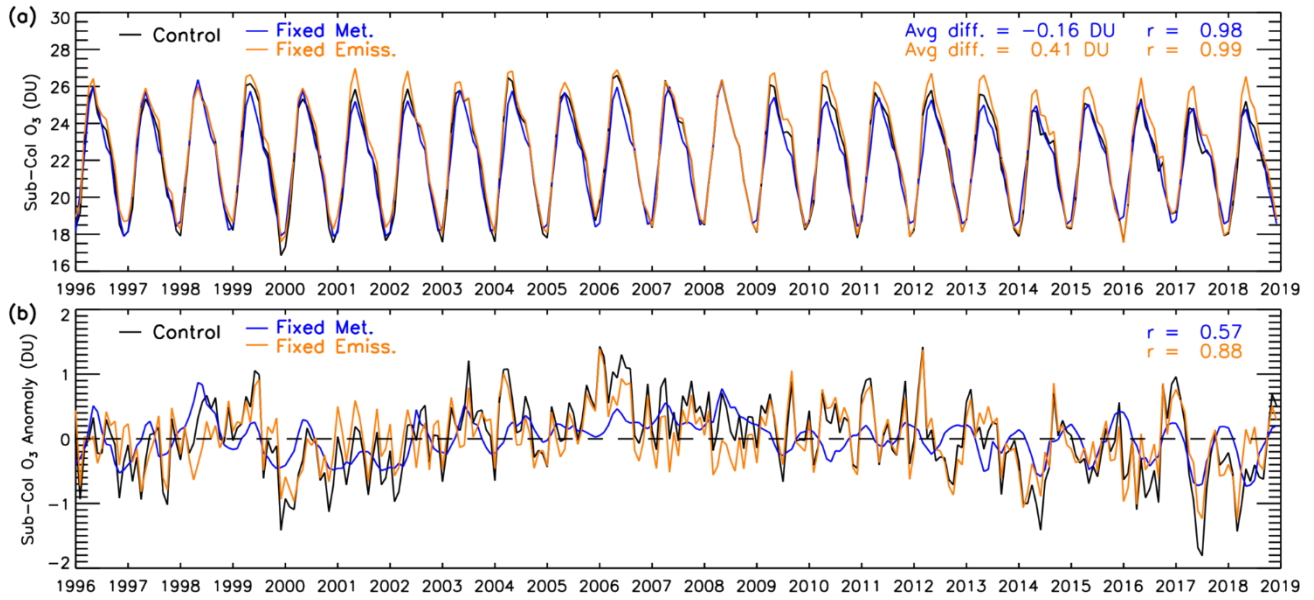


Figure 6: (a) Timeseries of European average monthly $LT\text{CO}_3$ trends for TOMCAT (control), TC-FX-EMS and TC-FX-MET between 1996 – 2018. The average difference and r of the two experiments and the control is presented in the top right of the panel. (b) Monthly mean anomalies (relative to a 1996 – 2018 baseline) for the 3 simulations (DU).

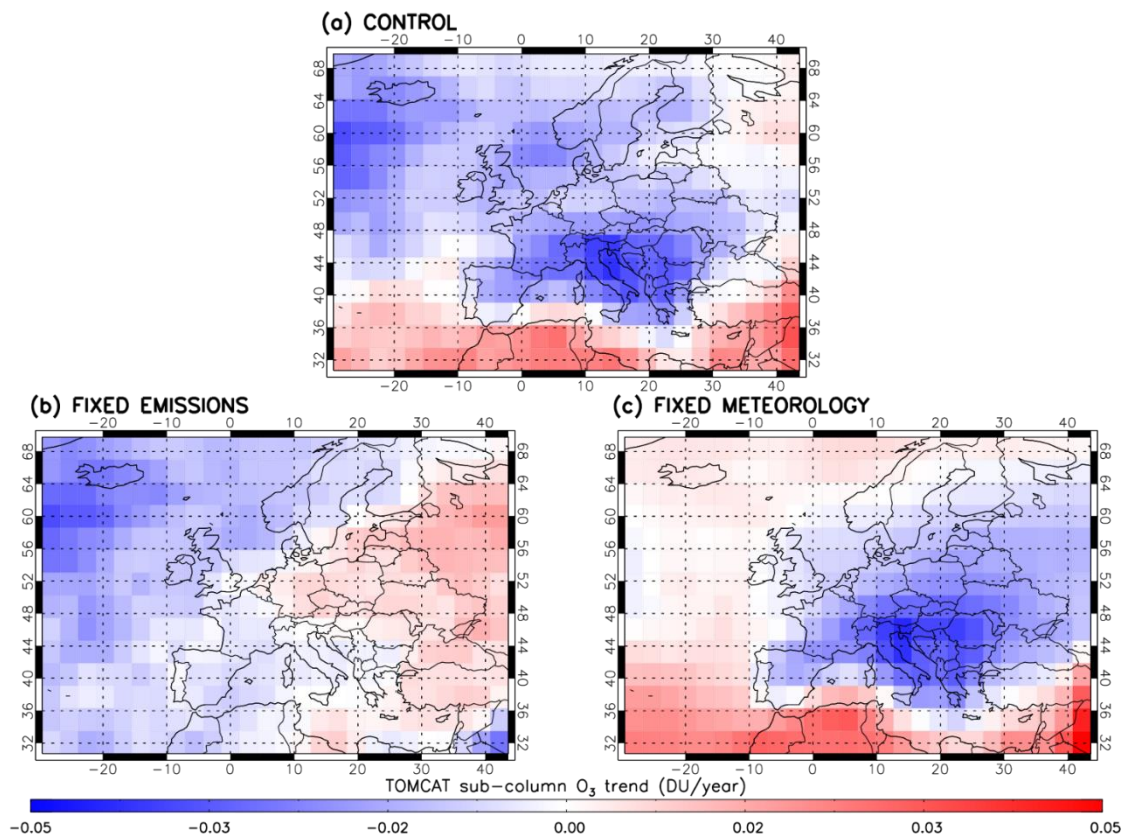


Figure 7: LTCO₃ trends across the European domain (DU yr⁻¹) for (a) TC-control, (b) TC-FX-EMS and (c) TC-FX-MET.

635

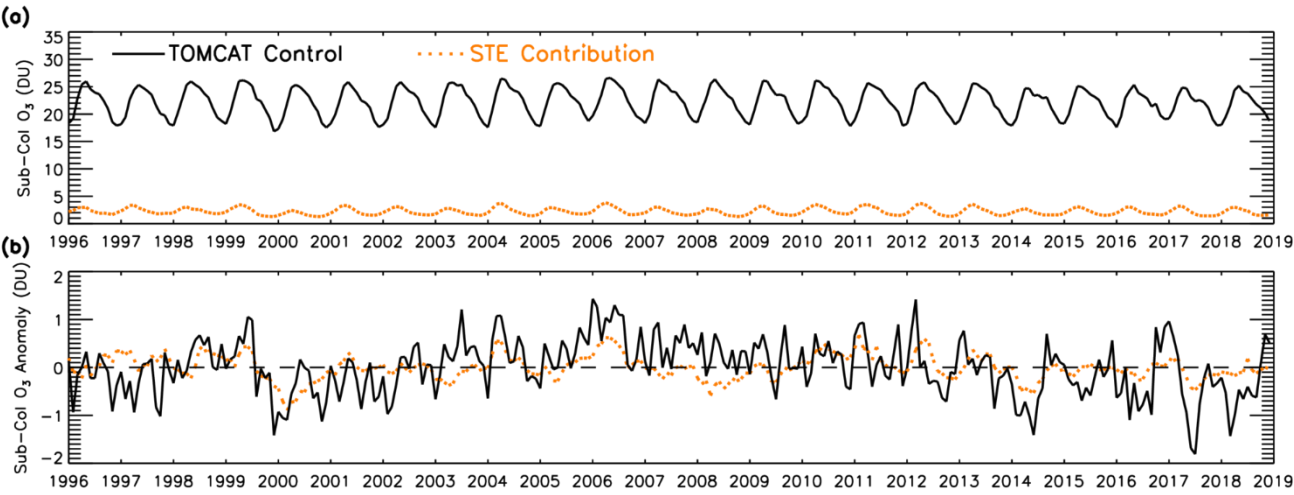


Figure 8: (a) Timeseries of European monthly average LTCO₃ and STE LTCO₃ (DU) time-series from 1996 – 2018 (DU). (b) Absolute anomalies for both records (DU) (relative to a baseline of 1996 – 2018).