

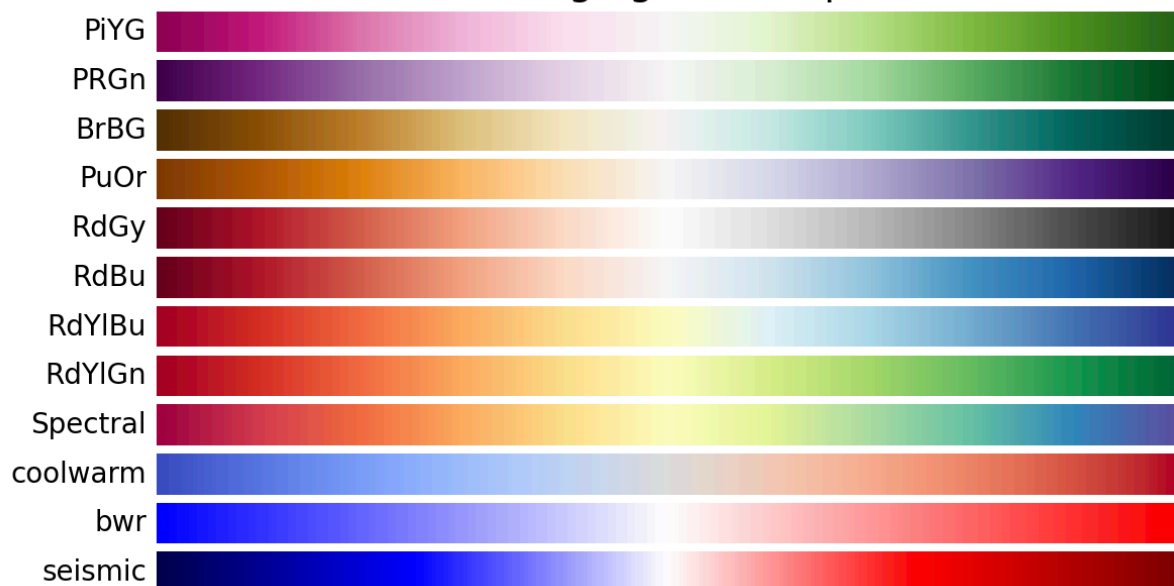
Review#2 of Froidevaux et al. about ozone and carbon monoxide trends in the tropical upper troposphere

This second version of the manuscript is far much better than the previous one, resolving (by updating the text or by answering my comments) all the issues I have pointed out in my first review. The manuscript now reads well and with clear motivations. I have three new general comments that I asks the authors to address before publishing this study.

General comments:

- This study is based on the 2005-2020 while three additional years are available. For a paper about trends, it is difficult to understand why the period is not the longest available? Extending up to 2023 would include three additional years which would potentially improve the significance of the trends, especially for CO. This would mean to recompute all the figures and update the text accordingly – so an important effort – but it would make this paper stronger. If not, is there any justification to keep the 2005-2020 period?
- The discussion sections 2.2.4 and 3.2.4 are still difficult to read (in particular the first one) because citing to a lot of numbers from different publications. In order to improve the readability, I suggest to create figures with these numbers to allow the reader to visualize the comparison of your study with the findings from literature. I also suggest to create a table with these numbers where to cite the papers in the supplement. This will lighten these sections and largely improve the message of the paper.
- Contour plots showing differences, sensitivities or trends (Fig. 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 14 and 16) should use diverging colormaps (see below or https://matplotlib.org/stable/gallery/color/colormap_reference.html) centered over 0. For example, in the current state of the manuscript, MLS O3 trend at 178 hPa (in Fig. 5) seems to be strongly negative on the Northern Pacific ocean which is not the case. Using a diverging colormap centered over 0 would alleviate that.

Diverging colormaps



Specific comments:

L43: What do you mean by “first-order” correlation? Please, clarify.

L92: “...showed underestimates of satellite-derived...”. Which satellite? Does MLS included?

L416: “...the O3 and CO...”. Please, remove “CO” since the section is about O3.

L447: “...MLS and TCO resolution...”. Do you mean vertical resolution? Please, clarify.

L450: “...pattern of UT O3 and...”. Do you mean “UT MLS O3”?

L494: “...at least at 147 hPa, there are two strong...”. I see only one negative minima above the Pacific ocean. Please, clarify.

L511: “...observations of O3 and CO...”. Please, remove CO.

L513: Remove “For O3,”.

L623-638: I don't see the point here. What message would you like to bring here? Please, clarify the text.

Fig. 4: Include vertical axis for the latitude as it is done for the longitude.