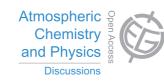
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# Multi-model study of chemical and physical controls on transport of anthropogenic and biomass burning pollution to the Arctic

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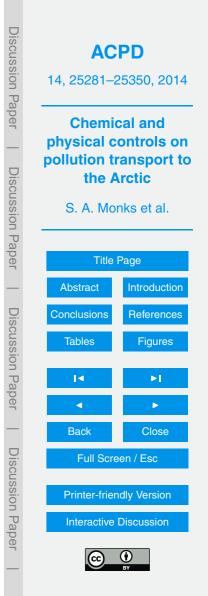
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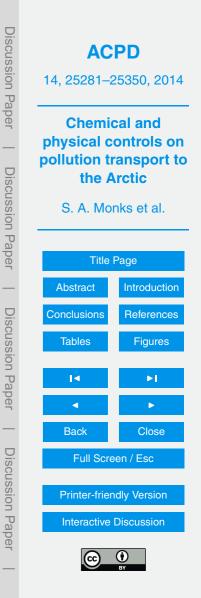
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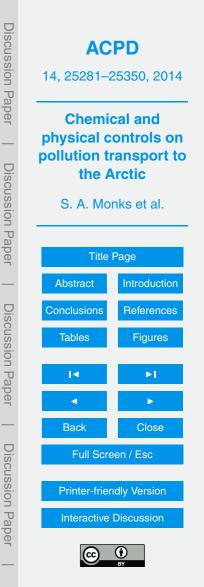
## Abstract

Using observations from aircraft, surface stations and satellite, we comprehensively evaluate multi-model simulations of carbon monoxide (CO) and ozone ( $O_3$ ) in the Arctic and over lower latitude emission regions, as part of the POLARCAT Model Inter-

- <sup>5</sup> comparison Project (POLMIP). Evaluation of eleven atmospheric models with chemistry shows that they generally underestimate CO throughout the Arctic troposphere, with the largest biases found during winter and spring. Negative CO biases are also found throughout the Northern Hemisphere, with multi-model mean gross errors (9– 12%) suggesting models perform similarly over Asia, North America and Europe.
- <sup>10</sup> A multi-model annual mean tropospheric OH  $(10.8 \pm 0.6 \times 10^5 \text{ molec cm}^{-3})$  is found to be slightly higher than previous estimates of OH constrained by methyl chloroform, suggesting negative CO biases in models may be improved through better constraints on OH. Models that have lower Arctic OH do not always show a substantial improvement in their negative CO biases, suggesting that Arctic OH is not the dominant factor
- <sup>15</sup> controlling the Arctic CO burden in these models. In addition to these general biases, models do not capture the magnitude of CO enhancements observed in the Arctic free troposphere in summer, suggesting model errors in the simulation of plumes that are transported from anthropogenic and biomass burning sources at lower latitudes. O<sub>3</sub> in the Arctic is also generally underestimated, particularly at the surface and in the upper transported form.
- <sup>20</sup> per troposphere. Summer O<sub>3</sub> comparisons over lower latitudes show several models overestimate upper tropospheric concentrations.

Simulated CO,  $O_3$  and OH all demonstrate a substantial degree of inter-model variability. Idealised CO-like tracers are used to quantitatively compare the impact of intermodel differences in transport and OH on CO in the Arctic troposphere. The tracers

show that model differences in transport from Europe in winter and from Asia throughout the year are important sources of model variability at the Barrow. Unlike transport, inter-model variability in OH similarly affects all regional tracers at Barrow. Comparisons of fixed lifetime and OH-loss idealised CO-like tracers throughout the Arctic

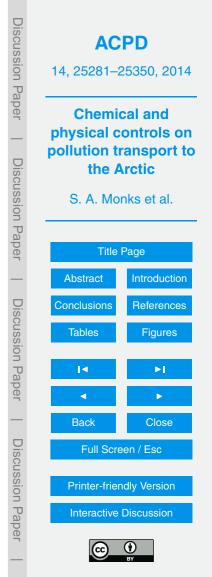


troposphere show that OH differences are a much larger source of inter-model variability than transport differences. The concentration of OH in the models is found to be correlated with inter-model differences in H<sub>2</sub>O, suggesting it to be an important driver of differences in simulated concentrations of CO and OH at high latitudes in these simulations. Despite inter-model differences in transport and OH, the relative contributions from the different source regions (North America, Europe and Asia) and different source types (anthropogenic and biomass burning) are comparable across the models. Fire emissions from the boreal regions in 2008 contribute 33, 43 and 19 % to the

total Arctic CO-like tracer in spring, summer and autumn, respectively, highlighting the importance of boreal fire emissions in controlling pollutant burdens in the Arctic.

#### 1 Introduction

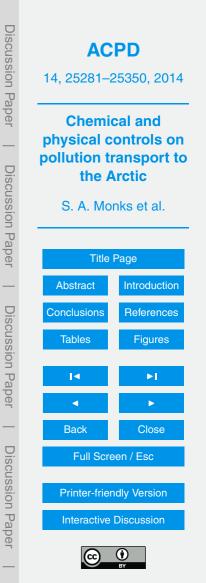
During the 20th century, regions poleward of 60° N have warmed at a rate 50% greater than the Northern Hemisphere (NH) average (0.09 °C decade<sup>-1</sup> compared to 0.06 °C decade<sup>-1</sup>) (ACIA, 2005). This is due to feedback mechanisms, such as the snow and sea-ice-albedo feedback, where melting ice leads to increased absorption 15 of solar radiation, which further enhances warming in the Arctic (Serreze and Francis, 2006). Studies have shown that Arctic temperatures respond to both local and nonlocal radiative forcing, meaning that reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and their precursors throughout the Northern Hemisphere will be beneficial in slowing Arctic warming (Shindell, 2007). Shindell and Faluvegi (2009) estimated that anthropogenic 20 emissions of black carbon (BC) and secondary production of tropospheric ozone  $(O_3)$ from anthropogenic precursor emissions have contributed 0.5-1.4 and 0.2-0.4 °C to Arctic warming since 1890, respectively. The short lifetimes of these species compared to carbon dioxide  $(CO_2)$ , mean that emission reduction measures that target these species in conjunction with CO<sub>2</sub> could offer a more immediate abatement of cli-25 mate warming than measures targeting solely  $CO_2$  (Quinn et al., 2008). Consequently,



there is a need to better understand the sources and sinks of these species and their effects on Arctic climate.

The discovery of springtime Arctic haze led to research efforts that aimed to provide insight into this phenomenon in a seemingly clean remote region of the globe. Analysis

- of aircraft data from the Arctic haze and the Arctic Gas and Aerosol Sampling Program (AGASP) (Schnell and Raatz, 1984) and AGASP-II (Schnell et al., 1989), along with surface measurements showed that sulphate aerosols were the most abundant component of the haze, however, concentrations of chemically important trace gases such as carbon monoxide (CO), CO<sub>2</sub>, methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), O<sub>3</sub> and peroxyacetyl nitrate (PAN),
- were also elevated within the haze layers (e.g. Khalil and Rasmussen, 1984; Bottenheim et al., 1986; Bottenheim and Gallant, 1989; Solberg et al., 1996). Early source contribution studies focused on understanding the sources of sulphate aerosols due to their predominance in the haze. These studies suggested that Arctic haze was a product of inefficient removal processes in the stable cold Arctic atmosphere coupled with
- efficient transport of anthropogenic emissions during winter and spring from Eurasia to the Arctic (Rahn, 1985; Barrie, 1986; Barrie et al., 1989; Iversen, 1989; Shaw, 1995). More recently, studies have begun to investigate the origins of many chemical species in addition to sulphate throughout the year (e.g. Klonecki et al., 2003; Koch and Hansen, 2005; Fisher et al., 2010; Hirdman et al., 2010; Walker et al., 2012; We-
- <sup>20</sup> spes et al., 2012). The TOPSE (The Tropospheric Ozone Production about the Spring Equinox) aircraft campaign in 2000 provided measurements that were used to better understand Arctic  $O_3$  chemistry during spring (Atlas et al., 2003). Arctic atmospheric composition in the summer and autumn has received less attention compared to winter and spring due to more effective pollutant removal mechanisms and less efficient
- poleward transport from the mid-latitudes (Barrie, 1986). However, it has been shown that emissions can still be regularly transported into the Arctic at this time of the year (e.g. Brock et al., 1989; Stohl, 2006; Sodemann et al., 2011). Arctic trace gases are likely to exhibit different regional sensitivities to that of aerosol due to different emission sources, longer lifetimes, and the fact that some species are not efficiently lost by

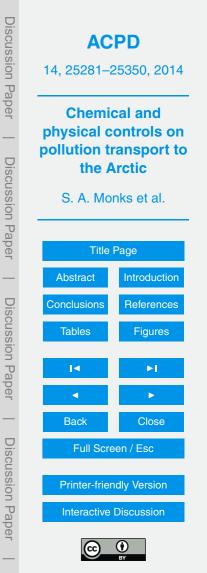


wet deposition during long-range transport. This was demonstrated by Shindell et al. (2008) who examined source contributions from different NH anthropogenic emission regions to Arctic burdens of sulphate, BC, CO and O<sub>3</sub> and found that sulphate and BC were mostly sourced from Europe, in agreement with previous studies. However, for 5 CO and O<sub>3</sub>, North America, Asia and Europe were all shown to be important through-

out the year, with North America dominating the  $O_3$  burden and Europe dominating the CO burden.

The sensitivity of the Arctic to different source regions is related to their regional export efficiencies and boundary layer export mechanisms. Stohl (2006) used a La-<sup>10</sup> grangian model to study seasonal transport to the Arctic from North America, Europe and Asia and identified three main pathways that varied in terms of importance depending on the source region and season. These were low-level transport followed by ascent in the Arctic, low-level transport alone, and uplift outside the Arctic followed by descent within the Arctic. Stohl (2006) showed that European emissions could follow all three

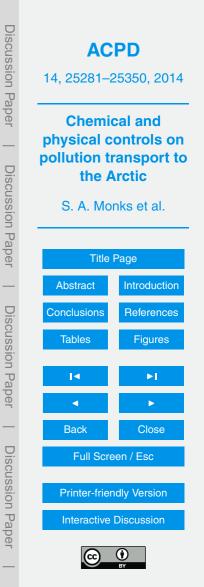
- pathways, however, North American and Asian emissions tended to follow the latter. Asia and North America are ideally located to allow frequent rapid transport from the boundary layer into the free troposphere by warm conveyor belts, which occur ahead of a passing cold front (Stohl, 2001). In contrast, warm conveyor belts are not as common over Europe, and export of emissions occurs mostly at low-levels (Stohl, 2001; Dun-
- can and Bey, 2004; Eckhardt et al., 2004). These different transport pathways result in a vertical gradient in Arctic sensitivities to different emission regions, with the higher altitudes being more sensitive to emissions from North America and Asia and the lower altitudes being more sensitive to emissions from Europe and Siberia (Klonecki et al., 2003).
- <sup>25</sup> Long-term changes in regional emissions may also be important in determining the relative contributions to Arctic pollutant burdens. Arctic surface observations showed a decrease in  $O_3$  concentrations during the 1980s to the mid-1990s and a small increase afterwards (Oltmans et al., 1998, 2006; Helmig et al., 2007). In addition, Arctic CO surface measurements showed a downward trend during the late 1980s and early



1990s (Novelli et al., 1994; Khalil and Rasmussen, 1994). A modelling study showed a 0.5–1.1 % year<sup>-1</sup> decrease in CO between 1988–1997 in the Arctic could be explained by a decrease in European emissions (Duncan and Logan, 2008). However, total energy consumption in Asia is estimated to have more than doubled since the 1980s, resulting in a large increase in Asian emissions (Ohara et al., 2007). This is likely to have important implications for the Arctic.

There is also increasing evidence that biomass burning is an important source of Arctic pollutants during summer and autumn (e.g. Legrand et al., 1992; Wofsy et al., 1992; Harriss et al., 1994; Paris et al., 2009; Warneke et al., 2010; Bourgeois and Bey 2011; Tilmes et al., 2011; Thomas et al., 2013), and that these emissions can

- <sup>10</sup> Bey, 2011; Tilmes et al., 2011; Thomas et al., 2013), and that these emissions can influence the inter-annual variability of Arctic CO (Monks et al., 2012). Forest fires emit large quantities of  $O_3$  precursors (CO,  $NO_x$ , non-methane hydrocarbons (NMHC)) and aerosols, and have the potential to affect the radiative balance of the atmosphere (Randerson et al., 2006).
- <sup>15</sup> Understanding the relative importance of biomass burning and anthropogenic sources to Arctic burdens of short-lived climate forcers and our ability to predict future Arctic climate relies heavily on our ability to model Arctic composition and long-range transport from source regions. Shindell et al. (2008) evaluated a number of different chemical transport models (CTMs) against surface observations and highlighted that
- <sup>20</sup> model simulated Arctic tropospheric concentrations of CO and O<sub>3</sub> were highly variable between models, and often in poor agreement with observations from Arctic surface stations. Model discrepancies were attributed to differences in model emissions, chemistry and transport. In terms of skill, a common feature of all models was a negative bias in simulated CO during winter and spring, which has also been shown to occur
- at the surface throughout the NH (Shindell et al., 2006). Investigation into the causes of this consistent negative bias has resulted in several possible explanations. Kopacz et al. (2010) argued that the winter/spring bias in CO could be reduced by introducing a seasonal cycle into the anthropogenic emissions, in contrast to Mao et al. (2013) who argued that a new transition metal catalysed HO<sub>2</sub> uptake channel, which acts as

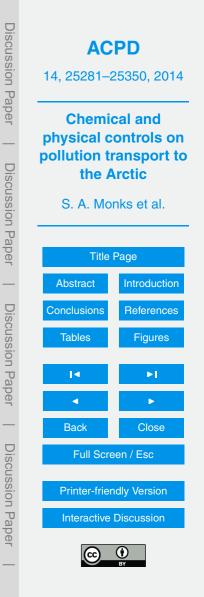


a loss of HO<sub>x</sub> from the atmosphere, needs to be included in models in order to increase concentrations of winter/spring CO. The generally poor skill and large variability of global models in simulating Arctic burdens of these species has implications for our confidence in a model's ability to accurately simulate climate responses to changes in <sup>5</sup> mid-latitude emissions. Therefore, there is a need to better understand the chemical

and physical processes that lead to these model differences and biases.

An improvement in this understanding is largely limited by a paucity of observations of chemical constituents throughout the Arctic troposphere, particularly away from the surface, where enhancements from more southerly sources in North America and Asia

- <sup>10</sup> are more likely to be found (Klonecki et al., 2003). The POLARCAT (POLar study using Aircraft, Remote Sensing, surface measurements and models of Climate, chemistry, Aerosols, and Transport) campaign intensively sampled the Arctic and sub-Arctic during spring and summer 2008, as part of the International Polar Year (Law et al., 2014). The POLARCAT Model Intercomparison Project (POLMIP) aims to exploit this observa-
- <sup>15</sup> tional dataset to evaluate models in the Arctic and sub-Arctic (Emmons et al., 2014). In this study, we use POLMIP simulations of CO,  $O_3$  and OH in conjunction with POLAR-CAT aircraft observations, surface measurements and satellite observations, within the Arctic and near source regions to evaluate model performance (Sect. 4). The availability of the aircraft observations in the Arctic allows a more extensive multi-model
- evaluation of models within a variety of air-mass types in the Arctic than previously undertaken. Idealised tracers are used to provide a useful summary of the relative importance of anthropogenic and biomass burning sources from several models throughout the year 2008 and to investigate inter-model differences in these source contributions (Sect. 5). The aim of this paper is to provide a better understanding of inter-model differences in simulated Arctic trace gases.



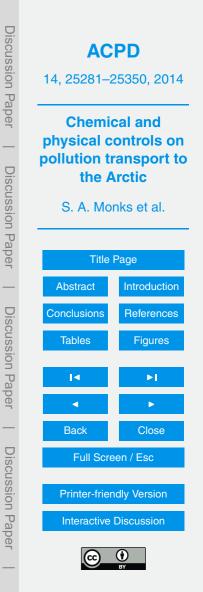
#### 2 POLMIP model simulations

A total of nine global and two regional (WRF-Chem and MATCH) three-dimensional models with chemistry were run for 2008 as part of POLMIP. Table 1 shows the participating models' horizontal/vertical resolutions, number of gas-phase species and reac-

- tions and meteorology used. More details on the individual models and the set-up of the POLMIP experiments are given in Emmons et al. (2014). Most models were run offline, forced by either ECMWF or GEOS-5 meteorological data (see Table 1). The meteorological fields of C-IFS are re-initialised with ECMWF-Operational analyses every 24 h, calculating the meteorology online in between. LMDZ-INCA uses the offline ECMWF
   winds but calculates other meteorological data online (e.g. temperature and humidity).
- The WRF-Chem model was run for the period of the POLMIP summer campaign at two different horizontal resolutions (100 and 50 km) to show the impact of resolution on Arctic simulations of chemistry and transport.

Anthropogenic, natural and biomass burning emissions were specified for the

- POLMIP experiments on a 1° × 1° grid. Monthly mean anthropogenic and ship emissions were based on the Streets v1.2 inventory (Zhang et al., 2009), which was updated with the latest regional inventories in 2008 for the POLARCAT campaign. Monthly mean natural emissions from the MACC (Monitoring Atmospheric Composition and Climate) project (MACCity), which are based on simulations from the Model of Emissions of the Street and Street and
- Gases and Aerosols from Nature (MEGAN) v2.1 (Guenther et al., 2012) were used. For the comparison period of 2008, daily biomass burning emissions were used from the Fire INventory from NCAR (FINN) (Wiedinmyer et al., 2011). These were emitted into the surface level of each model, with the exception of WRF-Chem, which used a fire plume model. It should be noted that the GEOS-Chem model did not use the
- same anthropogenic emission datasets as described here, with emissions of CO being approximately 10% lower than in other models and propane being a factor of two higher (Emmons et al., 2014). For this reason, it should be remembered that this model is not directly comparable. Monthly mean output for 2008 and hourly instantaneous output for



the duration of the POLARCAT spring and summer campaign periods are used in this study. Models are excluded from comparisons if the required data is not available.

Some models also included six regional tracers with prescribed constant atmospheric lifetimes of 25 days, to allow model differences in transport to be examined.

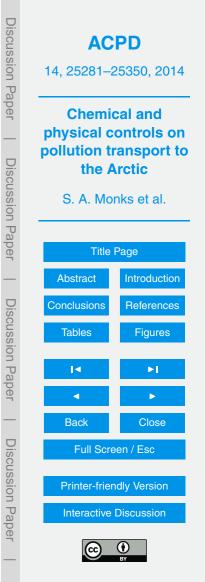
<sup>5</sup> These tracers were emitted from the regions of North America, Europe and Asia, with a tracer for both fire and anthropogenic-sourced CO in each of the 3 regions (see Emmons et al. (2014) for details). For this study, a further set of these six tracers were calculated in the TOMCAT model, using the same emissions, with loss determined by monthly mean OH concentration fields taken from each POLMIP model, and kinetics of CO + OH loss ( $k = 1.44 \times 10^{-13}(1 + [N_2]/4.2 \times 10^{19})$ ). These tracers therefore had the same transport but different loss rates, allowing the impact of OH differences on Arctic burdens of CO in the models to be examined through their differences in OH. The models that took part in the tracer experiments are shown in Table 1.

#### 3 Observations

A range of observations are used to evaluate the POLMIP model simulations on different temporal and spatial scales. Monthly mean observed surface CO and O<sub>3</sub> at stations in the Arctic are taken from the World Data Centre for Greenhouse Gases (WDCGG) (http://ds.data.jma.go.jp/gmd/wdcgg/) provided by NOAA/ESRL. CO is from flask samples analysed using gas chromatography (Novelli et al., 1998) and O<sub>3</sub> is measured by ultra-violet (UV) light absorption at 254 nm (Oltmans and Levy, 1994). For model-observation comparisons, the model simulated CO and O<sub>3</sub> concentrations are interpo-

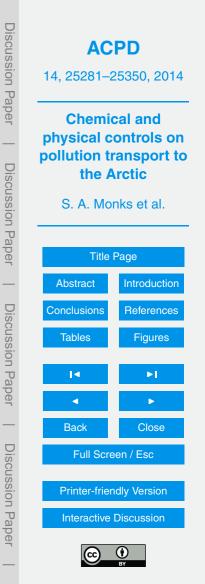
lated both horizontally and vertically to the location of the observatory (see Fig. 1 for station locations).

Simulated CO is compared on a global and regional scale to CO retrieved from the satellite instrument, MOPITT (Measurements Of Pollution In The Troposphere) version 6. MOPITT is a nadir-viewing instrument on-board the NASA Terra satellite and retrieves global concentrations of CO at a horizontal resolution of ~ 22 km by measuring



infrared radiances in the CO absorption band (Deeter et al., 2010). Version 6 is the latest release and uses an updated a priori based on a climatology of 2000–2009 output from the CAM-Chem model (Deeter, 2013). It also has an increased sensitivity to lower tropospheric CO by exploiting measurements in the near-infrared and thermal infrared

- <sup>5</sup> (Deeter et al., 2011). As with all nadir-viewing instruments, MOPITT is more sensitive to certain altitudes, therefore averaging kernels that contain information about the instrument's varying sensitivities at different altitudes are supplied with the retrieved data. These are used, along with the a priori, to apply the vertical sensitivity of the satellite instrument to the simulated CO profiles from the POLMIP models. This allows
- <sup>10</sup> a more accurate comparison between the observed and simulated CO. Older versions of MOPITT have been validated against other observations and shown to measure CO to within a few ppbv of in situ estimates, with the largest bias occurring at 400 hPa (Deeter et al., 2010).
- MOZAIC (Measurement of OZone and water vapour by Airbus In-service airCraft) data is collected on-board Airbus commercial aircraft during ascent from and descent to airports, offering detailed profiles of CO and  $O_3$  near source regions. CO is measured by an infrared analyser, which is accurate to ±5 ppbv (Nédélec et al., 2003), and  $O_3$  is measured by a ultraviolet (UV) absorption instrument with an accuracy of ±2 ppbv (Thouret et al., 1998). The June/July model hourly output is interpolated both horizon-
- tally and vertically to the MOZAIC aircraft locations in order to examine the vertical structure of these gases over Europe and North America. Unfortunately, no MOZAIC data is available within any of the required comparison regions in April 2008 or over Asia in June/July 2008. The number and location of MOZAIC profiles made during June–July 2008 over Europe and North America are shown in Fig. 1.
- <sup>25</sup> The POLARCAT project brought together several international groups of scientists and coordinated intensive measurement campaigns in different regions of the Arctic and sub-Arctic during April and June–July 2008 (Law et al., 2014). These included the ARCTAS (Arctic Research of the Composition of the Troposphere from Aircraft and Satellites), POLARCAT-GRACE and POLARCAT-France aircraft campaigns. The

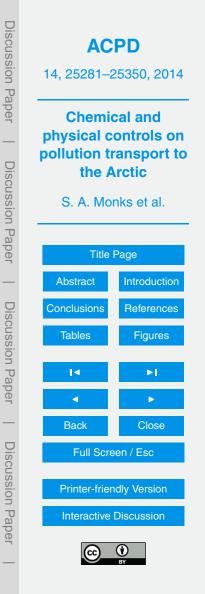


DC8 aircraft was based in Fairbanks, Alaska from 1st–21 April 2008 during ARCTAS-A and then in Cold Lake, Canada from 29 June–10 July 2008 during ARCTAS-B (Jacob et al., 2010). OH was measured by laser induced fluorescence aboard this flight, which has relatively high measurement uncertainties ( $\pm 40$ %) (Brune et al., 1999). The

- <sup>5</sup> POLARCAT-GRACE and POLARCAT-France projects had two aircraft jointly based in Kangerlussuaq, Greenland in summer. The POLARCAT-France ATR-42 measured CO using an infrared absorption analyser (Nédélec et al., 2003) and O<sub>3</sub> using an UV absorption instrument (Ancellet et al., 2009). The POLARCAT-GRACE Falcon also measured CO but used a vacuum UV fluorescence instrument (Gerbig et al., 1999) and
- <sup>10</sup> O<sub>3</sub> was measured using a UV absorption analyser (Roiger et al., 2011). Even though based at the same location, the Falcon had a larger range than the ATR-42 and was able to cover larger regions and higher altitudes. The POLARCAT flight tracks are shown in Fig. 1.

# 4 Model evaluation

- In this section, POLMIP model simulations are evaluated against Arctic surface CO and O<sub>3</sub> data and MOPITT CO retrievals throughout the year 2008. Aircraft measurements of CO, O<sub>3</sub> and OH from the POLARCAT and MOZAIC projects are then used to evaluate the vertical structure of the troposphere during intensive periods of sampling in April and June–July 2008. Model performance against the observations is summarised in
   Fig. 10 using the normalised mean gross error (NMGE), which gives the mean model
- bias (regardless of sign) over the vertical column or over the year as a percentage of the observed concentrations.



#### 4.1 Seasonality of carbon monoxide and ozone

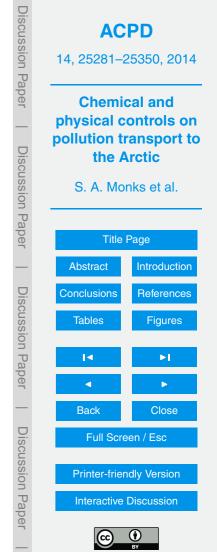
### 4.1.1 Arctic surface comparisons of carbon monoxide and ozone

Figure 2 shows the time series of monthly mean 2008 simulated and observed concentrations of CO at Barrow and Zeppelin and  $O_3$  at Barrow and Summit (stations located north of the Arctic Circle). These models use the same emissions data, removing one key inter-model difference in Arctic surface CO and  $O_3$  comparisons identified in Shindell et al. (2008). The overall model performance at several Arctic stations (shown in Fig. 1) is summarised as Taylor diagrams in Fig. 3. Perfect agreement between a model and observations would result in a normalised standard deviation (NSD) of 1, a correlation (*r*) of 1 and a centered root-mean-square difference (RMSD) of 0 (indicated by "Observed" on the Taylor diagram).

The models capture the seasonality in CO, with correlations greater than 0.8 at all surface stations. The models show a large range in their ability to capture the amplitude of the observed seasonal cycle ( $0.3 \le NSD \le 1.2$ ). RMSDs are mostly clustered between values of 1 and 2. As this error statistic is weighted by monthly deviations from the annual mean, the models with a higher RMSD are the models which do not capture the amplitude of the seasonal cycle well. Figure 4 shows box and whisker plots of simulated seasonal mean surface CO bias at Barrow and Zeppelin. The median biases tend to lie below the zero line, showing that models generally underestimate

CO throughout the year. However, the median biases are near zero in autumn, with some models overestimating CO in summer and autumn. The largest negative median biases occur during winter at Barrow and during spring at Zeppelin, with the smallest median biases occurring during autumn at both stations. This shows that state-of-the-art models still consistently underestimate winter/spring Arctic surface CO as shown in previous studies (e.g. Shindell et al., 2006, 2008).

Two models, GEOS-Chem and LMDZ-INCA, stand out from the other models in winter/spring, showing much better agreement with the observations due to higher simulated CO concentrations compared to other models. The version of the GEOS-Chem



model used in this study includes a new scheme for transition metal catalysed heterogeneous loss of HO<sub>2</sub> on aerosol that produces water rather than H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, which is particularly important in spring in the Northern Hemisphere (Mao et al., 2013). The scheme results in lower HO<sub>x</sub> concentrations, which increases the atmospheric lifetime

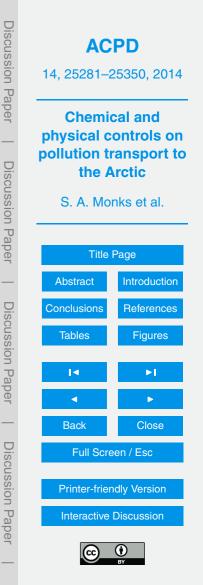
of CO and may explain the improved simulation of winter/spring Arctic surface CO by GEOS-Chem. The LMDZ-INCA model has lower OH compared to the other models (see Sect. 5.1), likely explaining the higher simulated CO concentrations.

The Shindell et al. (2008) model intercomparison study calculated root-mean-square errors (RMSE) averaged over two Arctic surface stations (Barrow and Alert) of 17–

- <sup>10</sup> 40 ppbv for CO, with two models having particularly high RMSE of 54 and 83 ppbv. For the POLMIP models, RMSE values of 13–33 ppbv are calculated for the same two stations. Shindell et al. (2008) showed a larger spread in model summertime surface CO compared to that shown in Fig. 2. Direct comparison between the POLMIP models and Shindell et al. (2008) is difficult due to different participating models and changes in model set up and emissions. However, it may suggest that inter model differences
- <sup>15</sup> in model set-up and emissions. However, it may suggest that inter-model differences are reduced in summer due to the use of a single emissions dataset in most of the POLMIP models.

For O<sub>3</sub>, the Taylor diagram shows that there is a much larger spread in model performance than for CO ( $0.1 \le r \le 0.9$ ,  $0.5 \le \text{NSD} \le 2.5$  and  $1 \le \text{RMSD} \le 9$ ). It is also clear

- that all models perform markedly worse at Barrow compared to Summit. Low correlations at Barrow are a result of the observations showing a decrease in O<sub>3</sub> in March due to well-known halogen-induced ozone depletion events (ODE) at this location (Barrie et al., 1988; Helmig et al., 2007). In contrast, the models simulate increasing concentrations between February and April, most likely due to the lack of halogen chemistry in
- <sup>25</sup> the models. The exception to this is the GEOS-Chem model, which does include halogen chemistry (r = 0.7 at Barrow). In March, GEOS-Chem O<sub>3</sub> is in good agreement with the observations, however, in late-spring/early-summer O<sub>3</sub> remains low, resulting in a larger negative bias against the observations compared to other models. It is not clear whether this is due to the halogen chemistry or other factors.



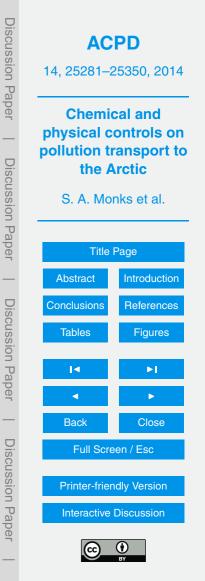
Median biases of  $O_3$  at these two stations (see Fig. 4) show that the models generally underestimate  $O_3$  throughout the year at the surface, with the exception of spring at Barrow, in agreement with Shindell et al. (2008) The POLMIP models have RMSE of 5–10 ppbv averaged over Summit and Barrow, which is slightly lower than the RMSE

- of 7–12 ppbv from Shindell et al. (2008). At Barrow, the largest positive median bias occurs during spring (due to ODE) and the largest negative median bias occurs during winter. In contrast, the largest negative bias at Summit occurs during spring, closely followed by summer. It should also be noted that, whilst simulated O<sub>3</sub> seasonality at Summit shows much better agreement with the observations, the absolute median
- <sup>10</sup> model bias is larger compared to that at Barrow. The high altitude of Summit (3238 m) makes this station highly sensitive to stratospheric ozone enriched air (Helmig et al., 2007; Hirdman et al., 2010), explaining the higher  $O_3$  concentrations. Therefore the higher absolute bias at this station may indicate an underestimate in the stratospheric source of  $O_3$ .

#### 15 4.1.2 MOPITT carbon monoxide comparisons

Figure 5 shows the monthly average MOPITT total CO column for April and July 2008 along with the difference between the multi-model mean and MOPITT total column. The multi-model mean was calculated from ten POLMIP model total columns with the averaging kernels applied. Missing data and retrievals where the degrees of freedom signal (DOFO) mean have the average of the second sec

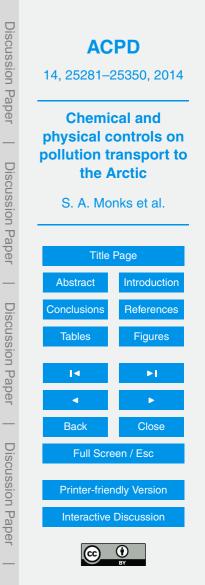
- (DOFS) was less than 1 have been removed from the model and satellite columns. The highest concentrations in April are observed over eastern Asia near China. This high CO is a result of Asian anthropogenic emissions combined with unusually early and large fires in southern Siberia during April 2008 (Warneke et al., 2010; Brock et al., 2011; Law et al., 2014). MOPITT also exhibits high CO over parts of Europe and North
- <sup>25</sup> America due to fossil fuel emissions and over western Russia due to agricultural burning (Warneke et al., 2009). It is also possible to see the large-scale continental outflow over the Pacific and Atlantic. The CO concentrations seen by MOPITT are lower in July due to a shorter atmospheric lifetime, however, regions of high CO can still be seen



over source regions and the oceans due to long-range transport. In particular, wildfires that occurred during the summer of 2008 are visible in eastern Siberia and Canada. Similar fire signatures were also observed by the Infrared Atmospheric Sounding Interferometer (IASI) satellite instrument during spring and summer (Pommier et al., 2010),

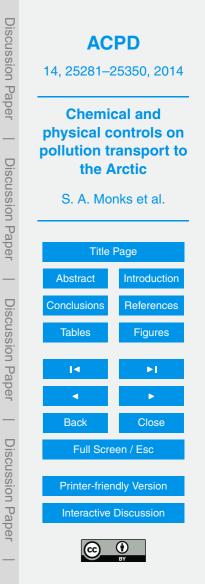
- <sup>5</sup> however MOPITT total column background concentrations are slightly lower in general. Along with CO, plumes originating from these sources were elevated in other important trace gases and aerosols, and on several occasions they were transported to the Arctic embedded within frontal systems (Fuelberg et al., 2010). These were then subsequently sampled by aircraft as part of POLARCAT campaign (Law et al., 2014).
- The multi-model mean total column CO shows a widespread negative bias throughout the Northern Hemisphere in both April and July. The bias is clearly larger in spring compared to summer, which is in agreement with the Arctic surface comparisons (in Sect. 4.1.1) and previous studies (e.g. Shindell et al., 2006). A large positive model bias is seen over south-east Asia in April. Shindell et al. (2006), compared multi-model
- <sup>15</sup> simulations to MOPITT in April 2000–2004 and did not show a similar positive bias in this region. This suggests that the bias seen in the POLMIP models in 2008 may be specific to the year considered. As already mentioned, there was an unusually early start to the fire season in April 2008 with extensive burning occurring in eastern Siberia. The NCAR FINN fire emission inventory shows high CO emissions over Siberia and
- <sup>20</sup> Myanmar (Wiedinmyer et al., 2011). The emissions over Myanmar are co-located with the positive model bias, which suggests the fire emissions are overestimated in this region. MOPITT observes elevated CO over Myanmar, however, a more extensive region of high CO is seen further North over north-east China and south-east Russia. The overestimation of emissions over Myanmar results in a plume of elevated CO being <sup>25</sup> simulated over the Pacific at more southerly latitudes than observed by MOPITT.

Figure 6 shows monthly mean MOPITT CO at 700 and 300 hPa averaged over the Arctic and the three major NH emission regions (North America, Europe and Asia), allowing model performance over different source regions relative to the Arctic to be examined. At 700 hPa, all models capture the seasonal cycle reasonably well, both



in the Arctic and over the source regions (r = 0.94-0.99). At 300 hPa, a lower range in correlations (r = 0.47-0.98) indicates that the models are less able to capture the seasonal cycle at this altitude. As seen at the Arctic surface, most models underestimate CO at both levels throughout the year. The models which have the lowest/highest concentrations of CO throughout the year in the Arctic also have the lowest/highest concentrations near the source regions suggesting the individual model biases are

- concentrations near the source regions suggesting the individual model biases are consistent throughout the NH. The monthly model biases show a seasonal cycle (see bottom panel, Fig. 6), which is present across the different regions and models. At 700 hPa the largest regional biases tend to occur in winter and spring, as found at the
- Arctic surface stations, and the smallest biases occur in summer. However, at 300 hPa the bias shows the opposite behaviour, where the largest bias in all regions occurs in summer. This suggests that the surface winter/spring bias may be shifted to higher altitudes during summer when vertical mixing of pollutants by convection is important (e.g. Hov and Flatøy, 1997; Donnell et al., 2001; Jaegle, 2007).
- Over North America the multi-model normalised mean gross error (NMGE, shown in Fig. 10) is smaller at 700 hPa relative to 300 hPa. Over Europe the NMGE is lower at 300 hPa relative to 700 hPa. The frequency of passing fronts, which export pollutants from the boundary layer to the free troposphere, are more frequent over North America compared to Europe (Stohl, 2001), which results in more rapid vertical transport of pol-
- <sup>20</sup> Iutants over North America (Wild and Akimoto, 2001). This may be shifting the negative model bias to a higher altitude to a larger extent than over Europe. However, over Asia, which also experiences very rapid vertical transport (Stohl, 2001), the NMGE is similar at 700 and 300 hPa. As can be seen in Fig. 6, there is no information available in the Arctic during winter and the mean DOFS over the Arctic region is much lower than in
- <sup>25</sup> any other region, suggesting that there is limited information in the MOPITT retrieval in this region, making comparisons between the Arctic and the source regions difficult.



# 4.2 Vertical structure in the Arctic and Northern Hemisphere

# 4.2.1 POLARCAT Arctic aircraft comparisons

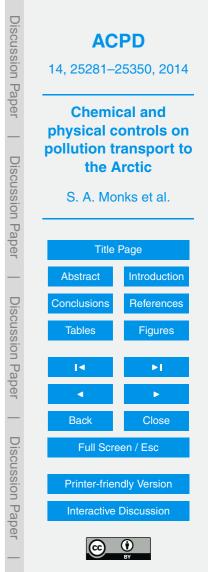
Aircraft measurements from the spring and summer 2008 POLARCAT campaign allow a detailed insight into model performance in the Arctic throughout the troposphere over regions of Greenland and the Canadian Arctic. The hourly gas-phase species from each model have been linearly interpolated in time and space to the location of the aircraft. The observed and simulated concentrations are separated into 50 hPa bins to give average vertical profiles over all flights. Aircraft profiles of CO, O<sub>3</sub>, OH and water vapour for the DC8 spring and summer campaigns are shown in Fig. 7 and profiles of CO and O<sub>3</sub> for the POLARCAT-France and POLARCAT-GRACE summer campaigns are shown in Fig. 8.

# **ARCTAS-A spring comparisons**

5

In April 2008, the CO and O<sub>3</sub> DC8 observations show a fairly homogeneous profile, with only small changes in concentrations from the surface up to the middle tropo sphere. Around 50% of the CO measured came from anthropogenic sources in Asia, North America and Europe, with Asian emissions dominating (25%) (Bian et al., 2013), most of which was emitted in China and India (Tilmes et al., 2011). Biomass burning emissions also contributed to the sampled CO, causing small enhancements in the observed profile (Bian et al., 2013; Tilmes et al., 2011) that can be seen at around 500
 and 750 hPa in Fig. 7. Biomass burning also contributed a few ppbv to the sampled O<sub>3</sub> at the same levels (Wespes et al., 2012). In the upper troposphere, the influence of stratospheric mixing is at its greatest (Wespes et al., 2012), which can be seen by a large increase in O<sub>3</sub> and a concurrent decrease in CO.

The models capture the vertical structure well, yielding correlations of 0.96–0.99 for CO and 0.88–1.00 for O<sub>3</sub>, however, only very small CO enhancements are seen in the simulated profiles at the altitude of the boreal fire plumes. This may be due to simulated

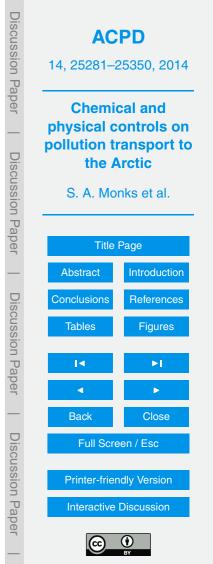


fire emissions being exported from Asia at more southerly latitudes than observed by MOPITT (see Sect. 4.1.2). This will affect the transport of emissions to Alaska and Canada, where the DC8 flights took place and subsequently sampled these plumes. Most models show negative biases in CO from the surface up to around 300 hPa, which

- <sup>5</sup> are similar in magnitude to those seen in Fig. 2 in April. LMDZ-INCA and GEOS-Chem stand out from the other models as seen at the Arctic surface (Fig. 2, Sect. 4.1.1), showing higher simulated CO up into the free troposphere. This results in better agreement with the aircraft measurements. In the upper troposphere, most models show good agreement with the observations. As with CO, most models underestimate O<sub>3</sub>
- concentrations in the lower troposphere and then show good agreement in the upper 10 troposphere. The observed OH shows a much more vertically heterogeneous profile due to its very short lifetime compared to CO and  $O_2$ , with maximum concentrations being found in the upper troposphere. The ability of the models to capture this vertical structure is highly varied, with correlations ranging from 0.63 to 0.98. The simulated
- OH concentrations vary greatly across the models, with some models having almost 15 twice as much OH throughout the troposphere compared to other models. The models with lower OH tend to simulate OH concentrations that are slightly lower than observed throughout the troposphere. The models with the higher OH tend to simulate concentrations which are slightly higher than observed in the upper troposphere. In the lower
- and middle troposphere, these models simulate median OH concentrations lower than 20 the observed median concentrations but lie within the 25th and 75th percentiles. Intermodel differences in OH and the impact on the Arctic are discussed in more detail in Sect. 5.1. Model water vapour concentrations show good agreement with the observations apart from in the upper troposphere where there is evidence that the models overestimate observed concentrations. 25

### **ARCTAS-B** summer comparisons

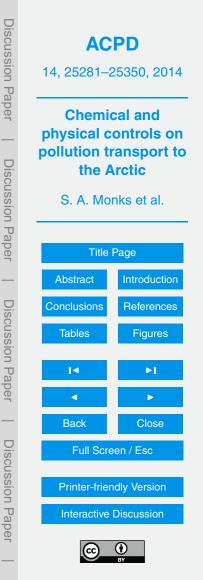
In June–July 2008, the DC8 aircraft covered large regions of the Canadian Arctic, sampling a range of polluted air masses (as indicated by the large range of sampled



concentrations). The aircraft was ideally located to sample local fires that were burning in Canada at the time of the campaign, resulting in  $\geq 60\%$  of the observed CO in the lower troposphere being directly emitted from boreal biomass burning (Bian et al., 2013). This can be seen in the observed profile in Fig. 7 as a large enhancement in

- <sup>5</sup> CO at 900 hPa. Another enhancement in the observed CO profile is seen at 300 hPa, which is primarily due to the long-range transport of Asian anthropogenic and Siberian biomass burning emissions to Canada (Bian et al., 2013). O<sub>3</sub> shows a concurrent decrease in concentrations at 300 hPa and low O<sub>3</sub> near the surface, indicating O<sub>3</sub> production may have been limited within these plumes. In the lower troposphere, where fresh
- <sup>10</sup> fire plumes were sampled, this is most likely due to the rapid conversion of NO<sub>x</sub> to PAN, limiting O<sub>3</sub> production in the fire plumes (Alvarado et al., 2010). At 300 hPa, lower O<sub>3</sub> concentrations coincided with a limited influence from stratospheric O<sub>3</sub> relative to the surrounding air (Wespes et al., 2012), suggesting the sampling of air-masses that are not well-mixed with background air (Wespes et al., 2012).
- Lower model-observed CO correlations (r = 0.71-0.95) show that the models agree less well with the observed CO vertical structure in the summer campaign compared to the spring, however, the main features of the profile are captured, with all models showing enhancements in CO at 300 and 900 hPa. Even though these enhancements are simulated by all models, the absolute concentrations vary widely, with some models
- having a high bias and some models having a low bias. In the middle troposphere, the models underestimate CO, as seen in spring, which suggests model background CO is still too low in summer in the middle troposphere. Global and regional models show similar overall performance, however the WRF-Chem 100 km resolution simulation has higher CO concentrations within the plume of enhanced CO at 900 hPa compared to
- the run at 50 km, suggesting model resolution has important impacts on concentrations near emission sources.

For  $O_3$ , the models show good agreement with the observed profile (r = 0.78-0.99). The models capture the decrease in  $O_3$  seen at 300 hPa and the lower concentrations near the surface, however, as with CO, the models show a wide range in simulated  $O_3$ 



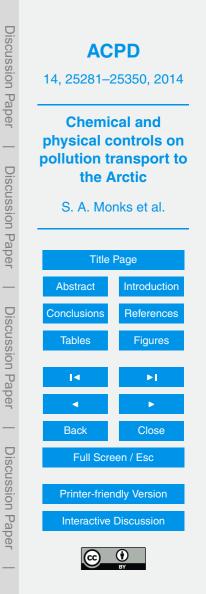
concentrations at 300 hPa. This may be related to the different chemical mechanisms in the models, which result in different  $O_3$  production and loss efficiencies (Arnold et al., 2014). Summer OH correlations of 0.25–0.71 are lower than those calculated for the spring profile. In summer more rapid production and loss of OH leads to the obser-

vations being more sensitive to local changes in cloud cover, water vapour and O<sub>3</sub>, making it even more difficult to simulate small spatial variability. Models show a wide spread in concentrations, however, they mostly lie within the 25th and 75th percentile of observed OH concentration. Model H<sub>2</sub>O concentrations show good agreement with observations with the exception of a positive bias in the upper troposphere, as seen in
 spring. Model H<sub>2</sub>O percent errors are slightly higher for most models in summer.

### POLARCAT-France and POLARCAT-GRACE summer comparisons

As part of the summer POLARCAT campaign, the POLARCAT-France and POLARCAT-GRACE projects had two aircraft, the French ATR-42 and German DLR Falcon, based in Greenland during June–July 2008 to sample aged pollution transported to the Arc-

- tic (Law et al., 2014). For this reason, CO profiles sampled by these two aircraft (see Fig. 8) show lower concentrations compared to the DC8 summer measurements. They sampled a mixture of air types including background air, stratospheric air and plumes from anthropogenic and biomass burning sources that had been transported from North America, Asia and Europe (Law et al., 2014; Tilmes et al., 2011). Evidence of
- these polluted plumes can be seen in the ATR-42 CO profile at around 500 hPa and in the Falcon CO profile at 400 hPa. As seen during the ARCTAS-B campaign, there is a decrease in Falcon observed  $O_3$  in these plumes relative to the surrounding air. Very little or no local emissions are indicated by CO concentrations that are lower than 100 ppbv being measured in the boundary layer.
- As observed, modelled CO over Greenland is lower in comparison to concentrations simulated over the Canadian Arctic during the summer ARCTAS-B campaign. Most models underestimate the summer observed CO and show a large spread in simulated concentrations and their ability to capture the vertical structure (r = 0.19-0.91 for

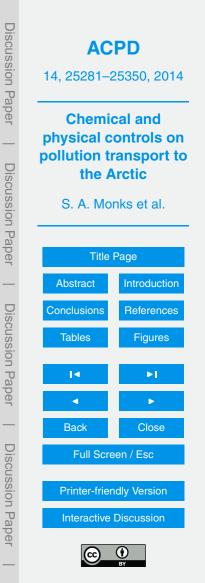


the ATR-42 and r = -0.18-0.97 for the Falcon). In addition, they do not capture the magnitude of the CO enhancements in the upper troposphere. These enhancements are largely due to transport of fire and anthropogenic emissions from North America (Thomas et al., 2013; Tilmes et al., 2011) and cross-polar transport of Asian anthropogenic and Siberian biomass burning emissions (Sodemann et al., 2011; Tilmes et al., 2011). Therefore, the underestimated CO enhancement in most models indicates that there may be an error in the transport of these plumes to the Arctic or in the emissions. Sodemann et al. (2011) showed that whilst a global Eulerian chemical transport model (TOMCAT) accurately simulates the cross-polar transport of these Asian plumes, it did overly mix the CO plumes with surrounding air compared to a Lagrangian model, resulting in lower than observed concentrations. This may explain why most models do not

capture the magnitude of these CO enhancements. The high resolution regional model, WRF-Chem, does not show any improvement in the simulation of this enhanced CO plume compared to the global models. Increasing horizontal resolution within WRF-

<sup>15</sup> Chem (from 100 to 50 km) also has very little impact. Thomas et al. (2013) found the location of the North American plume in the regional WRF-Chem model to be located just outside of the sampling region of the ATR-42 and Falcon on certain days, indicating possible transport errors in the models that may explain the low CO enhancement.

For  $O_3$ , the range in correlations is slightly larger than those seen for the summer ARCTAS-B aircraft comparisons (r = 0.86-0.98 for the ATR-42 and r = 0.75-0.99 for the Falcon). There is some evidence that the models underestimate surface  $O_3$ . Helmig et al. (2009) showed that surface  $O_3$  concentrations in Greenland were dominated by  $O_3$  loss, not production, suggesting this low model bias is not likely to be caused by a lack of  $O_3$  production in the models. Processes that may be contributing to model biases in this region could be overly efficient  $O_3$  dry deposition on snow/ice land cover types or difficulty simulating the shallow stable Arctic boundary layer. The Falcon sampled a large amount of stratospheric air above 350 hPa, and on occasion flew within the stratosphere (e.g. Roiger et al., 2011), as shown by high concentrations of  $O_3$  and low concentrations of CO. Most models underestimate  $O_3$  concentrations in the upper



troposphere suggesting the influence of stratospheric  $O_3$  may be too low in the models. Figure 10 shows that the multi-model  $O_3$  NMGE is lower for comparisons against the ATR-42 data than it is for Falcon data. This is due to the ATR-42 sampling air that was less influenced by stratospheric air due to lower flight levels.

# 5 4.2.2 MOZAIC summer aircraft comparisons near source regions

Profiles of CO and  $O_3$  sampled by MOZAIC aircraft during ascent from and descent to airports over North America and Europe between 18 June–14 July 2008 (the duration of the POLARCAT campaign) are shown in Fig. 9. Overall, the models capture the vertical profiles well, with correlations greater than 0.61 for CO and 0.82 for  $O_3$ . For CO, models exhibit a negative bias over both source regions between 2–6 km (~ 800–500 hPa), which is in agreement with the MOPITT comparisons at 700 hPa (see Fig. 6). There is no strong evidence of a larger summertime bias occurring at 9 km (~ 300 hPa) compared to 3 km (~ 700 hPa) as suggested by the MOPITT comparisons. The MOZAIC data shown here was collected at a limited number of locations, therefore the berizental experience is no strong is not as extensive as the MOPITT data and may explain some

the horizontal coverage is not as extensive as the MOPITT data and may explain some of the differences seen between these two observational datasets. For O<sub>3</sub>, the models generally lie within the 25th and 75th percentile of observed O<sub>3</sub>, with some evidence of O<sub>3</sub> being overestimated in the upper troposphere over Europe. Overall, model biases (NMGE) are larger over Europe compared to North America for CO and O<sub>3</sub> (see Fig. 10).

# 4.3 Overall model performance

25

Models tend to underestimate Arctic CO at the surface and throughout the free troposphere, most notably in winter/spring. Similar seasonal biases are also found at lower latitudes. MOPITT retrievals show that the smallest multi-model normalised mean gross error (NMGE) occurs over North America (9%) and the largest over Europe (12%) in the lower troposphere, whilst in the upper troposphere the smallest NMGE



occurs over Europe (9%) and the largest over North America (12%). NMGE over Asia are similar in the lower and upper troposphere. This suggests that models do not perform substantially worse over any one Arctic source region. However, detailed vertical profiles from the MOZAIC dataset do show that models exhibit slightly higher model

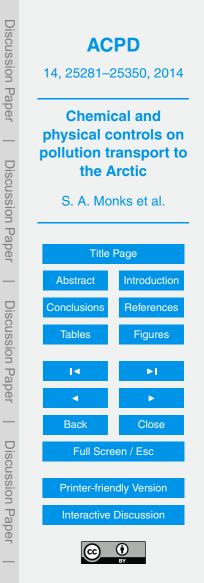
- <sup>5</sup> biases over Europe (15%) than those over North America (13%). In Fig. 10, the multimodel NMGE for the different POLARCAT flights show that model error in the Arctic is highly dependent on the dataset used (NMGE = 9–22%). Comparisons against the POLARCAT ATR-42 flights show that the models have a similar NMGE to those calculated for the datasets used at lower latitudes. The other three POLARCAT datasets,
- <sup>10</sup> however, show higher NMGE than any other CO comparisons performed in this study. The poor performance of models against the ARCTAS-A spring data is due to ubiquitous Arctic springtime negative CO model biases and for ARCTAS-B and POLARCAT Falcon summer comparisons, poor model performance is largely due to models simulating smaller than observed CO enhancements within polluted air masses sampled by the aircraft.

Overall, models are found to underestimate  $O_3$  in the Arctic (NMGE = 12–19%), particularly at the surface and in the upper troposphere. In contrast, several models overestimate  $O_3$  in summer over North America (14%) and over Europe (24%). These comparison suggest that model improvements to Arctic boundary layer processes and stratospheric-tropospheric exchange of  $O_3$  may improve simulations of Arctic  $O_3$ .

<sup>20</sup> stratospheric-tropospheric exchange of  $O_3$  may improve simulations of Arctic  $O_3$ . In addition to the model biases, a substantial amount of inter-model variability is seen in CO,  $O_3$  and OH throughout the troposphere.

#### 5 Drivers of Arctic model variability and impacts on source contributions

In this section, the relative contributions of transport and chemistry to inter-model differences in Arctic CO burdens are investigated. This is done using the regional CO-like tracers described in Sect. 2, which either have a 25 day fixed loss rate and varying transport (provided by each model) or a varying loss rate dependent on each model's



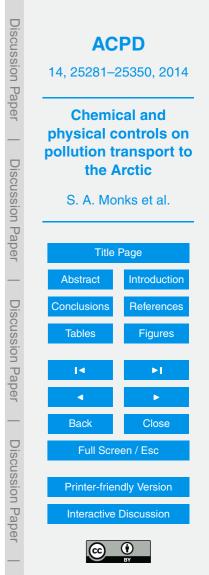
monthly mean OH concentrations and the same transport (run as tracers within the TOMCAT CTM). It should be noted that whilst this will quantify the effect of transport and chemistry on inter-model differences in the idealised CO-like tracers, the results will not directly equate to the same inter-model differences in trace gases such as CO
 <sup>5</sup> and O<sub>3</sub> due to other important factors, such as secondary CO production from other gases, such as CH<sub>4</sub> and NMHC. Firstly, it is useful to discuss model differences in OH

and transport that will be studied using the idealised tracers.

# 5.1 Model differences in OH

Fig. 11 shows the annual zonal mean OH concentrations from each model, which are used to calculate loss rates for the OH-loss tracers. The primary route for OH production is by photolysis of  $O_3$  in the presence of water vapour (Levy, 1971), with secondary production by recycling of HO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, where the concentrations of NO<sub>x</sub> and CO are important factors (Logan et al., 1981). The models simulate the highest concentrations of OH in the tropics, where the amount of incoming sunlight is at its greatest and O<sub>3</sub> is

- readily photolysed. Even though the models agree on this zonal distribution, the magnitude of OH and the location of the annual mean peak in OH vary. Due the importance of OH in controlling the lifetimes of most reactive trace gases in the atmosphere, these inter-model OH differences have important consequences for CO, both as its primary loss route and as a driver of secondary production from hydrocarbon oxidation.
- <sup>20</sup> Previous studies have related inter-model and intra-model changes in OH to variables which control its abundance. Voulgarakis et al. (2013) showed that present day global air-mass weighted OH concentrations from the Atmospheric Chemistry and Climate Model Intercomparison Project (ACCMIP) models were linearly related to model photolysis rates of O<sub>3</sub> to O(<sup>1</sup>D) (JO(<sup>1</sup>D)) and total volatile organic carbon (VOC) emis-
- <sup>25</sup> sions. Murray et al. (2014) found that differences in the  $S_N/S_C^{3/2}$  ratio, where  $S_N$  and  $S_C$  are the total sources of NO<sub>x</sub> and of CO and hydrocarbons, respectively, together with

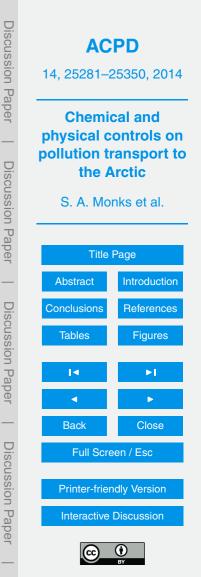


 $\rm O_3$  photolysis rates and specific humidity explained most intra-model OH variability on glacial-interglacial time-scales.

To investigate POLMIP inter-model OH differences in the Arctic and on a globalscale, model spread in mean tropospheric air-mass weighted OH has been related to the model spread in several variables that are likely to impact OH, such as, the ratio of the total tropospheric burden of CO to  $NO_x$ ,  $J(O^1D)$ , water vapour concentrations and  $O_3$  concentrations. The coefficient of determination ( $r^2$ ) and the linear regression coefficients (b), calculated using ordinary-least squares (OLS) and iteratively re-weighted least squares (IRLS) methods, for the full set of parameters considered are shown in Supplement Table S1.

The model variables that have the the highest  $r^2$  values are shown in Fig. 12. In the Arctic, a  $r^2$  value of 0.85 is found between OH and water vapour concentrations, which is significant above the 90% confidence level (CL). On a global scale, a  $r^2$  value of 0.35 is calculated, which is not significant at the 90% CL, however, the OLS and IRLS regression analysis highlights MOZART water vapour as an outlier. When MOZART is removed from this part of the analysis, a  $r^2$  value of 0.96 is calculated (see Supplement Table S1). These results suggest that inter-model differences in H<sub>2</sub>O concentrations in the Arctic and throughout the troposphere are an important driver of inter-model OH differences in these simulations. It is interesting to note that the models that use ECMWF reanalyses also have some of the lowest global mean OH concentrations (C-IFS, TM5 and TOMCAT), however, C-IFS and TM5 both use the same chemical mechanism, which has been shown produce lower OH concentrations compared to other mechanisms (Archibald et al., 2010).

In the Arctic, the  $J(O^1D)$  rates multiplied by  $O_3$  concentrations are found to be the second most important variable in controlling inter-model OH differences ( $r^2 = 0.65$ ), where the models with higher photolysis rates also have higher OH concentrations, as expected. On the global scale this relationship is much weaker and is not significant, in contrast to the ACCMIP chemistry-climate models (Voulgarakis et al., 2013). The global CO burden is found to be the variable with the second highest  $r^2$  value against



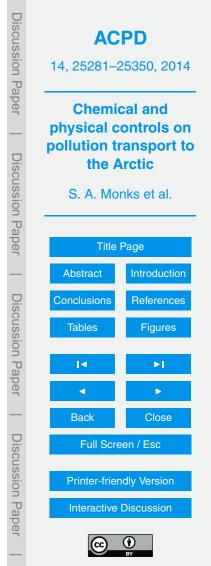
the global tropospheric OH concentration, however, as OH controls the lifetime of CO it is not surprising to see such a correlation and it is unlikely to explain the spread in OH as the models use the same emission inventories.

- Prinn et al. (2001) and Bousquet et al. (2005) estimated annual mean tropospheric air-mass weighted OH concentrations of  $9.4 \pm 1.3 \times 10^5$  molec cm<sup>-3</sup> and  $9.8 \pm 1.3 \times 10^5$  molec cm<sup>-3</sup>, respectively, from the lifetime of the methyl chloroform. Eight POLMIP models simulate air-mass weighted global mean OH concentrations of 10.1–  $12.0 \times 10^5$  molec cm<sup>-3</sup> (see Table S1 in the Supplement), with a multi-model mean of  $10.8 \pm 0.6 \times 10^5$  molec cm<sup>-3</sup>, which is 10 % higher than the estimate of Bousquet et al. (2005). Bousquet et al. (2005) showed that OH was susceptible to inter-annual fluctuations in concentrations of around  $8.5 \pm 1$  %. The POLMIP multi-model mean OH concentration lies slightly outside this range of inter-annual variability, suggesting OH in the POLMIP models may be slightly overestimated. For comparison, multi-model mean OH concentrations of  $11.7 \pm 1.0 \times 10^5$  molec cm<sup>-3</sup> (Voulgarakis et al., 2013) and  $11.1 \pm 1.7 \times 10^5$  molec cm<sup>-3</sup> (Shindell et al., 2006) have been found previously, suggest-
- ing OH is also slightly overestimated in other models, assuming estimates of OH from methyl chloroform are correct.

### 5.2 Model differences in tracer transport

Even though differences exist in the model OH, it is reasonable to expect that some of the model spread in CO is explained by differences in transport. Figure 13 shows the seasonal zonal mean difference between the sum of the simulated 25 day fixed loss regional tracer at two levels, 700 and 900 hPa. Negative values show there is more tracer in the upper 700 hPa level, positive values show that there is more tracer in the lower 900 hPa level and near zero values show a vertically well-mixed column (represented by the dashed line).

The largest positive values are found in the northern extra-tropics/lower mid-latitudes with very low CO differences in the Arctic and the tropics. In the Arctic, the models show near-zero differences in the winter and then negative differences in all other seasons. In



winter, the so called "polar dome" extends quite far south due to strong surface cooling over land, allowing direct transport from Northern Eurasia into the Arctic at low levels whilst limiting transport from source regions that are warmer and more humid (e.g. East and South Asia) (e.g. Carlson, 1981). Due to surface heating, the "polar dome" begins

- to retract and move polewards as the year progresses, allowing emissions from more southerly located sources to have a larger impact (Law and Stohl, 2007; Law et al., 2014). As these emissions tend to be transported at higher altitudes (Stohl, 2006), they have a larger impact in the free troposphere compared to the surface explaining why the tracer concentrations are larger at 700 hPa compared to 900 hPa. The models
- <sup>10</sup> all agree on the overall distribution and seasonal changes, however, there are some clear discrepancies in the magnitude of the tracer concentrations between models. It is likely that these vertical transport differences will play a role in the simulated Arctic concentration differences seen throughout Sect. 4.

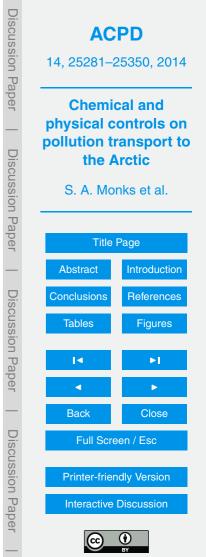
# 5.3 Arctic sensitivities to regional anthropogenic and biomass burning emissions

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The idealised tracers are used to compare the anthropogenic contributions from the three different source regions to the Arctic throughout the year in comparison to previous studies along with comparing the anthropogenic and biomass burning contributions.

Figures 14 and 15 show the absolute and fractional contributions from the anthropogenic and fire sourced regional tracers to the total tracer concentration in the Arctic. Figure 14 shows the tracers with fixed 25 day loss rates and model-dependent transport, whilst Fig. 15 shows the tracers with varying OH-loss rates but fixed model transport. The tracers from each model are averaged seasonally into three different altitude bins over the Arctic region (north of 66° N).

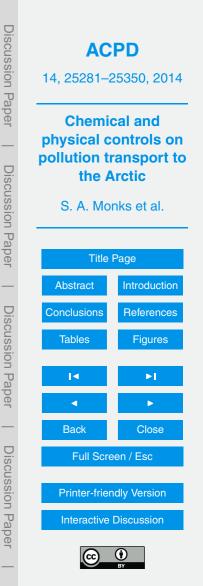
The 25 day fixed loss tracer highlights the seasonal changes in transport efficiencies from anthropogenic source regions (as the anthropogenic emissions are fixed throughout the year), but also shows the seasonality in biomass burning emissions. In winter,



the highest concentrations of the 25 day fixed-loss tracer are located in the lowest altitude bin, with a clear decrease in absolute concentrations as altitude increases. This is in line with previous studies, which have shown poleward transport to occur mostly at low levels during winter (Klonecki et al., 2003; Stohl, 2006). As the year progresses, there is a clear shift in the concentrations to the higher altitude bins as transport of emissions at higher altitudes becomes more important in spring, summer and autumn (Klonecki et al., 2003).

Out of the three regional tracers, the European tracer shows the largest seasonal shift in transport efficiency to the Arctic. This is due to a large seasonal cycle in pollution export pathways from Europe (Duncan and Bey, 2004). The North American and Asian tracers show a much more consistent contribution to the Arctic total tracer concentration throughout the year and troposphere. Europe is the most important anthropogenic source region at the surface in winter, with Asian emissions dominating at the highest altitudes, which is consistent with the concept of the "polar dome". Similar to Asia, the

- <sup>15</sup> contribution from North America is larger at higher altitudes, although the magnitude is much smaller. This is most likely due to a combination of lower emissions and different export efficiencies (Stohl, 2006). These are in broad agreement with multi-model idealised tracer results from Shindell et al. (2008), despite differences in emissions, tracer lifetimes and the area of the regions used. Results at the surface and in the
- <sup>20</sup> mid-troposphere also agree with idealised tracer experiments performed by Klonecki et al. (2003), but differ in the upper troposphere where they showed Asian emissions to have the smallest contribution and North American to have a much larger fractional contribution. Increases in Asian emissions (Ohara et al., 2007) and decreases in European and North American emissions since 1990 (Duncan and Logan, 2008), which will
- <sup>25</sup> be important in terms of the relative contributions, will be accounted for in the Streets v1.2 emissions inventory used for the POLMIP simulations. Klonecki et al. (2003) used the EDGAR v2.0 CO emission estimates for the year 1990, explaining why the Asian influence is lower than North American in their study.



In spring and summer, European and North American tracer concentrations decrease whilst Asian tracer concentrations marginally increase. This is in line with less efficient poleward transport from lower latitudes and the northward shift of the "polar dome" allowing more influence from Asia (Law et al., 2014). In autumn, a shift back towards winter transport conditions is visible.

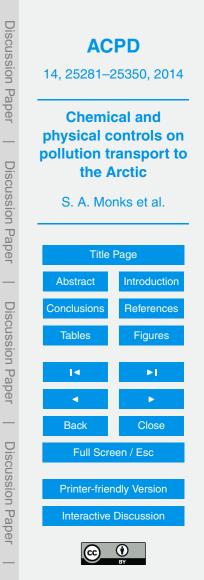
In winter, there is very little contribution to the total tracer from biomass burning emissions, however, in spring, summer and autumn, biomass burning accounts for around 33, 43 and 19% of the total tracer, respectively (see Supplement Table S2). In spring, the largest overall contributions are found in the highest altitude bin, with the lower and middle bins showing larger overall contributions in summer and autumn. Asian fire emissions are clearly the largest source of boreal biomass burning tracer in the Arctic, with the largest contributions in spring and summer. North American and European fire emissions have their largest contributions in summer and Autumn, respectively. As previously mentioned, spring burning began earlier than usual in 2008 and total 2008 boreal fire emissions were 21% higher than average (Law et al., 2014). As the Arctic is highly sensitive to fire emission variability in the boreal regions (Monks et al., 2012),

the fire contributions will be dependent on the year.

5

The regional tracers with OH-loss rates (Fig. 15) incorporate both seasonality in the CO lifetime due to changes in OH and seasonal changes in transport. Concentrations

- <sup>20</sup> of the OH-loss tracers are at a maximum in winter when OH concentrations are low and poleward transport is efficient and at a minimum in summer when OH concentrations are high and transport is less efficient. The coincident changes in transport and tracer lifetime results in a seasonal change in absolute concentrations that is much larger than seen in the 25 day fixed loss tracers. It should also be noted that inter-model
- differences in tracer concentrations are also larger for the OH-loss tracers compared to the 25 day fixed loss tracers, however, the fractional contributions and therefore the relative importance of the different regions do not change by a large amount. This shows that the relative importance of the different source regions are robust across the models and will likely hold for "real" CO, even though individual model OH and



transport differ. This therefore suggests that differences in model emission inventories are the most likely cause of differences in the relative importance of anthropogenic emission regions in Arctic source contribution studies for the same chemical species (as found here for Asian emissions in the Arctic upper troposphere in comparison to 5 Klonecki et al., 2003).

# 5.4 Inter-model variability in the Arctic

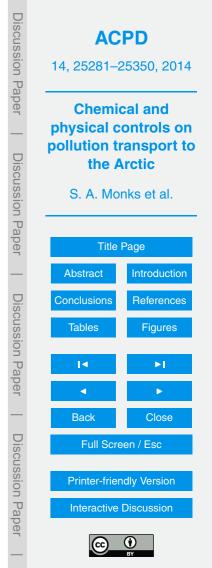
In this section, inter-model variability in CO and  $O_3$  at Arctic surface stations is discussed whilst the possible causes of variability are explored with the use of the idealised tracers to compare the impact of inter-model differences in transport and OH.

# 10 5.4.1 Model variability in carbon monoxide and ozone

The interquartile range (IQR) of simulated CO and  $O_3$  at selected Arctic stations are shown in Fig. 4 (Sect. 4.1.1), both as an absolute value (in ppbv) and as a percent (of the seasonal mean observed concentration). The IQR gives a measure of the amount of spread in the POLMIP models.

For CO, the largest model spread occurs during autumn, when the multi-model mean bias is at a minimum. The lowest model spread occurs during spring, when the multi-model mean bias is high. The magnitude of the IQR is relatively similar across the two stations, suggesting the cause of the model spread may equally affect CO throughout the Arctic. The IQR of modelled O<sub>3</sub> shows a large amount of spread during winter and spring and the lowest amount of model spread during summer. Model spread is larger

spring and the lowest amount of model spread during summer. Model spread is larger at Barrow, suggesting that the causes of the model spread do not equally impact the different station locations. In addition, the seasonality in model spread differs between  $O_3$  and CO, suggesting the underlying causes of model spread may depend on the trace gas considered.

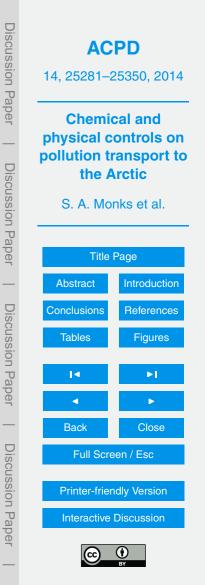


# 5.4.2 Model variability in OH and transport at Barrow

The 25 day fixed loss anthropogenic regional tracers are used to identify model differences in regional export to the Arctic surface and the OH loss anthropogenic regional tracers can be used as a proxy for differences in model chemistry that would result in different CO lifetimes and concentrations. Figure 16 shows seasonal box and whisker plots at Barrow for the fixed loss and OH loss tracers from eight of the POLMIP models. The interquartile range (IQR) of each sample is shown both as an absolute concentration and as a percentage of the multi-model mean concentration.

The IQR of the fixed loss tracers show that in winter the largest spread in model concentrations occurs in the European tracer. This coincides with the season when lowlevel export from Europe to the Arctic is particularly efficient (Duncan and Bey, 2004). This is shown by the winter European tracer having a higher median concentration than any other region and any other season (as expected from Sect. 5.3). In comparison to this, the model spread in the European tracer is relatively low throughout the rest of the

- year. The Asian tracer has the second largest wintertime spread compared to the other regional tracers, however, the largest overall spread in this tracer is seen in summer, with model spread also being relatively high in spring and autumn. The North American tracer shows very little spread throughout the year suggesting simulated transport from North America to Barrow is relatively similar between models. The large variability in
- the Asian tracer in summer and the European tracer in winter is likely to explain some of the model spread seen in the Arctic CO and O<sub>3</sub> concentrations at Barrow shown in Fig. 4. Better constraints on simulated wintertime transport from Europe and transport from Asia throughout the year may help to reduce model spread in CO and O<sub>3</sub> in the Arctic.
- The IQR of the OH loss tracers shows that model spread is relatively consistent between the three different regions indicating that model OH differences affect all regions similarly, in contrast to inter-model transport differences. In terms of absolute concentrations, winter shows the largest overall spread in all three tracers. Spring and autumn



have a similar amount of spread, with summer showing the lowest IQR. The percentage IQR is heavily weighted by the concentrations so that in summer when concentrations are very low, the percent IQR is very high ( $\geq$  67 %) and in winter when the concentrations are at a maximum the percent IQR is much lower ( $\leq$  38 %). However, even though this is the case, the percent IQR for the OH-loss tracers (25 %  $\geq$  IQR < 86 %)

- is always larger than the respective percent IQR calculated for the 25 day fixed loss tracers (3 % < IQR < 40 %). This shows that variations in OH are the dominant driver of inter-model differences in the total tracer concentrations at Barrow and that inter-model differences in the concentrations of pollutants transported from lower latitudes to the</li>
   Arctic surface may be highly sensitive to inter-model OH differences if they react with
- Arctic surface may be highly sensitive to inter-model OH differences if they react with OH.

# 5.5 Model variability throughout the Arctic

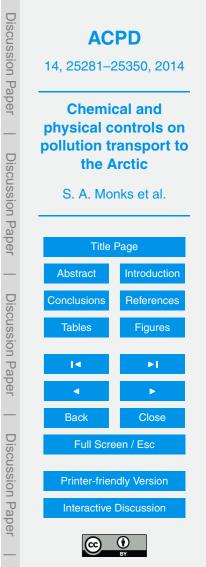
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Model variability throughout the whole Arctic troposphere is considered using the coefficients of variation  $(\frac{\sigma}{\mu})$  for the OH-loss and fixed 25 day fixed-loss tracers (see Fig. 17).

This gives a measure of inter-model variability regardless of the absolute concentrations by weighting the multi-model standard deviation by the multi-model mean concentration.

As found at Barrow, higher coefficients of variation, and therefore larger inter-model variability, are found for the OH-loss tracers compared to the 25 day fixed loss trac-

- ers. Negative correlations between the burden of CO and OH concentrations averaged over the global troposphere ( $r^2 = 0.89$ ) and averaged over the Arctic region ( $r^2 = 0.30$ ) show that models with higher global mean OH have lower CO burdens, as expected (see Supplement Table S1). This relationship is much stronger on the global-scale compared to the Arctic alone, suggesting that the inter-model variability in the OH-loss trac-
- ers in the Arctic is mostly driven by inter-model OH differences at lower latitudes and not inter-model OH differences in the Arctic. This suggests that inter-model differences in CO seen throughout the Arctic troposphere are highly sensitive to inter-model differences in OH, when the same emissions are used. As shown in Fig. 12, inter-model OH



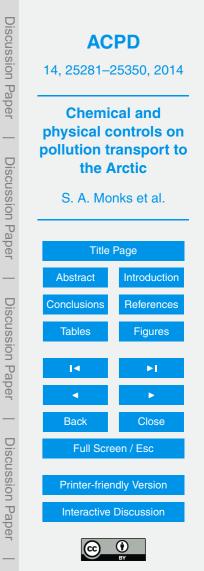
differences are highly correlated with differences in model water vapour and photolysis rates, therefore improvements to these variables may reduce inter-model differences in Arctic trace species.

- It is important to note that the results shown here are for idealised tracers and that the results may not be directly equated to simulations of CO and O<sub>3</sub>, where complex chemistry plays a role. For example, if a model has higher OH than other models, then it is likely to have a faster CO loss rate and therefore lower CO concentrations, however, they will also have faster oxidation of methane and other hydrocarbons and therefore more secondary production of CO to offset the higher loss rate of CO. The extent that two opposing factors offset each other will be model dependent on differences in chemistry schemes. Shindell et al. (2008) concluded that oxidation rates, inferred from correlations between Arctic sensitivities and global CO lifetimes, did cause some inter-
- model differences in Arctic CO, but this was limited to the upper troposphere. The lack of any correlations in the lower troposphere is likely explained by the opposing impacts
- <sup>15</sup> of OH on CO loss and secondary CO production, however, OH variability will still be particularly important in the when considering the production and loss terms of many reactive species in the Arctic.

### 6 Conclusions

We have used a range of surface, satellite and aircraft observations to evaluate multi-

- <sup>20</sup> model simulations of CO and  $O_3$  in the Arctic and sub-Arctic. The models include the same prescribed emissions for anthropogenic and biomass burning sources, removing one source of inter-model variability identified by previous model intercomparisons (Shindell et al., 2008), allowing the impacts of chemistry and transport differences on Arctic CO and  $O_3$  burdens to be isolated.
- <sup>25</sup> The models broadly capture the observed seasonality of CO at the Arctic surface and over the mid-latitude lower troposphere. In agreement with previous studies, models generally underestimate CO in the Arctic at the surface, with the largest biases found



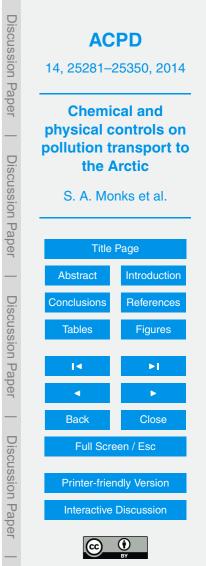
during winter and spring. Our analysis, using POLARCAT 2008 spring and summer aircraft data, shows that these negative model CO biases also exist throughout the depth of the Arctic troposphere over Alaska in spring and several models remain biased low in the summer at high latitudes over Greenland and Canada.

MOPITT CO comparisons show that the models underestimate CO throughout the Northern Hemisphere, and that the large winter/spring bias in models may be shifted to higher altitudes in summer, when vertical transport by convection is important. These comparisons also show that model performance is not substantially better or worse over any of the mid-latitude source regions in contrast to MOZAIC aircraft observations, which show a slightly higher model CO bias over Europe compared to North America.

Simulated global mean tropospheric OH concentrations (multi-model mean =  $10.8 \pm 0.6 \times 10^5$  molecules cm<sup>-3</sup>) are slightly higher than estimates constrained by observations of methyl chloroform (Prinn et al., 2001; Bousquet et al., 2005), suggesting that the pervasive low biased CO concentrations in the Arctic may be slightly improved by

- better constraining simulated global mean OH concentrations, however, it is unlikely to explain the full extent of the bias. Evaluation of regional OH concentrations in the Arctic troposphere using ARCTAS aircraft observations demonstrates the highly variable model OH abundances. Models that have lower Arctic OH along the ARCTAS flight paths show no substantial improvement in their negative CO biases, suggesting
- <sup>20</sup> that there is little relationship between Arctic OH abundance and Arctic CO burden. This is consistent with OH-driven loss and secondary production of CO being largely controlled by OH abundances at lower latitudes, where OH concentrations are larger. In support of this, a significant correlation between modelled global CO burdens and global mean tropospheric OH concentrations is found ( $r^2 = 0.89$ ), whilst no significant correlation is found between CO burdens and mean OH concentrations in the Arctic alone ( $r^2 = 0.30$ ).

Previous studies have suggested emissions and missing chemical processes may explain the negative winter/spring bias in Arctic and Northern Hemispheric simulated CO (Kopacz et al., 2010; Mao et al., 2013). The GEOS-Chem model used in this study



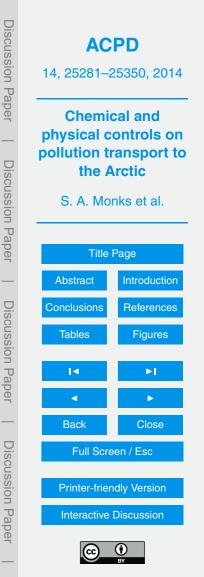
includes a new transition metal catalysed HO<sub>2</sub> uptake onto aerosol, that acts as a loss of HO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere rather than forming H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, as implemented in many other models. This increases the CO lifetime through loss of HO<sub>x</sub> (Mao et al., 2013) and likely explains the better agreement OF GEOS-Chem with Arctic CO springtime obser-

- vations in comparison to the other POLMIP models. However, summertime POLARCAT comparisons over Greenland and at surface stations suggest that this model overestimates CO in the lower troposphere in contrast to the other models. It is difficult in this multi-model assessment to isolate the impacts of the implementation of this HO<sub>2</sub> loss process in the GEOS-Chem model, and there is large uncertainty in appropriate values
- of uptake coefficients for this process on different aerosol types (Macintyre and Evans, 2011). The results here suggest that CO and oxidant budgets at high latitudes may be particularly sensitive to this process, and more extensive research into this process in Arctic simulations is warranted.

Model simulations of  $O_3$  at Arctic surface stations show a much larger range in skill compared to those for CO. Models tend to underestimate Arctic  $O_3$  concentrations at the surface throughout the year, with the exception of springtime at Barrow, when  $O_3$ is overestimated due to a lack of halogen chemistry in most of the models. In addition, model  $O_3$  is shown to be biased low against POLARCAT aircraft observations over Greenland in summer, predominantly near the surface and in the upper tropo-

- <sup>20</sup> sphere. This suggests that models may underestimate the influence of stratospheric  $O_3$  in the Arctic upper troposphere, and have problems simulating boundary layer processes controlling ozone over Greenland. In contrast, there is evidence that models overestimate MOZAIC observed  $O_3$  over Europe, particularly in the upper troposphere. This suggests a possible overestimation of stratospheric  $O_3$  influence at lower latitudes.
- Improvements to simulated boundary layer processes over snow/ice covered surfaces that affect  $O_3$  and stratospheric-tropospheric exchange may lead to improvement in model simulations of Arctic  $O_3$ .

Observations during summer demonstrate extensive perturbation of the Arctic troposphere by anthropogenic and fire influenced plumes, with associated enhancements in



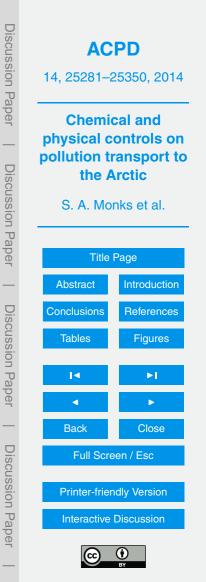
CO (Law et al., 2014). The vertical structure of these enhancements is captured well by the POLMIP models, however the CO concentrations within the plumes are highly variable amongst models and often underestimated. O<sub>3</sub> perturbations associated with the plumes also show large inter-model variability. This may point to different O<sub>3</sub> production efficiencies in models or deficiencies in model transport of mid-latitude sourced air masses over long distances into the Arctic in coarse global models, where plumes may become overly diffusive.

As well as systematic model errors, the comparisons show a large amount of model spread in the concentrations of CO, O<sub>3</sub> and OH, in agreement with previous multimodel comparisons (Shindell et al., 2008). This has implications for our confidence in the ability of models to accurately simulate atmospheric composition and climate responses to changes in mid-latitude emissions. We have used idealised CO-like tracers with either fixed loss (25 days) and model dependent transport or model dependent OH-loss and the same transport (run within one model with loss calculated from the each model's monthly mean OH concentration fields from the full chemistry simulations) to compare the impacts of inter-model differences in OH and transport on Arctic

concentrations of pollutants transported from mid-latitudes.

The fixed lifetime tracers show that model differences in transport from anthropogenic sources in Europe, during winter, and in Asia, throughout the year, are important sources of model variability at Barrow. Inter-model variability in OH leads to

- a similar amount of model spread in the different regional anthropogenic OH-loss tracers showing OH differences equally affect all Arctic source regions. Comparisons of the OH-loss and 25 day fixed loss tracers show that OH differences are a much larger source of inter-model variability in the tracer concentrations throughout the Arctic tropo-
- sphere compared to transport differences. This demonstrates the importance of intermodel differences in OH for simulating tropospheric concentrations of reactive Arctic trace gases imported from the mid-latitudes. We propose that a better understanding of the inter-model differences in OH would help to understand and reduce uncertainty in model simulations of trace gas Arctic burdens. As suggested by the global and Arctic



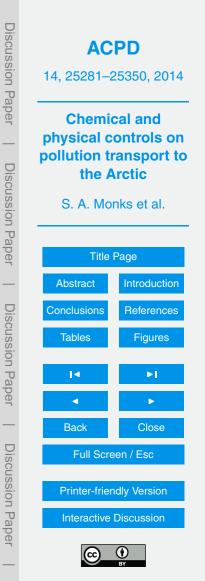
correlations between CO and OH, the inter-model variability in the Arctic concentrations of OH-loss CO-like tracers is mostly driven by inter-model OH differences at lower latitudes, not OH differences in the Arctic.

We have investigated possible drivers of variability in mean tropospheric OH for a sub-set of POLMIP models. Mean tropospheric OH was found to be significantly correlated with mean tropospheric water vapour concentrations, both in the Arctic  $(r^2 = 0.85)$  and globally  $(r^2 = 0.91)$ . This suggests better constraints on water vapour may reduce inter-model variability in global mean OH concentrations and therefore Arctic CO. Mean OH concentrations and  $J(O^1D)$  photolysis rates multiplied by O<sub>3</sub> concentrations were found to be significantly correlated within the Arctic  $(r^2 = 0.65)$ , but not globally  $(r^2 = 0.01)$ . This is not in agreement with results from the ACCMIP model intercomparison study, which found a significant correlation between present day OH and  $J(O^1D)$  in a group of chemistry-climate models (Voulgarakis et al., 2013). Some of the POLMIP models have similar chemical mechanisms which may be affecting these

<sup>15</sup> correlations and therefore a more detailed study of the causes of inter-model OH differences would be beneficial.

Whilst inter-model differences in transport and, most notably, OH are shown to be important in terms of the inter-model differences in the absolute concentrations of the CO-like tracers in the Arctic, the fractional contributions and, therefore, the relative
 <sup>20</sup> importance of the different source regions (North America, Europe and Asia) and different source types (anthropogenic and biomass burning) are similar for both the fixed loss and OH-loss tracers. This suggests that differences in model emission inventories are the most likely cause of differences in the relative importance of different anthropogenic emission regions in Arctic source contribution studies for the same chemical

<sup>25</sup> species. In support of this, Klonecki et al. (2003), found Asian anthropogenic emissions to have the smallest fractional contribution in the Arctic upper troposphere using emission estimates based on the year 1990, whereas, in our analysis, using more recent emissions estimates, Asian emissions dominate. This illustrates the potential impact of increasing Asian emissions on the Arctic over the 20 year period since 1990. The



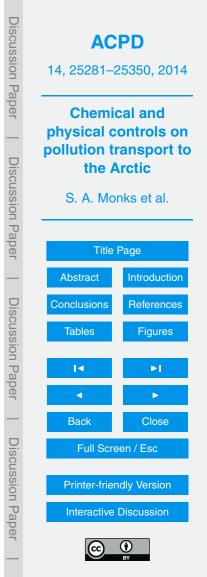
anthropogenic emissions used for the POLMIP model simulations result in similar conclusions in terms of the relative importance of different anthropogenic source regions to emissions sensitivities (ppbv(CO)  $Tg^{-1}$  emitted) to those reported by Shindell et al. (2008). Specifically, European emissions are most important at the surface in winter

and Asian and North American emissions are most important at higher altitudes. In this study, emissions from fires in the boreal regions were also considered, and we showed that boreal fires can contribute 33, 43 and 19% to the total tracer in the Arctic in spring, summer and autumn, respectively, demonstrating the importance of fires as a source of Arctic pollution.

## <sup>10</sup> The Supplement related to this article is available online at doi:10.5194/acpd-14-25281-2014-supplement.

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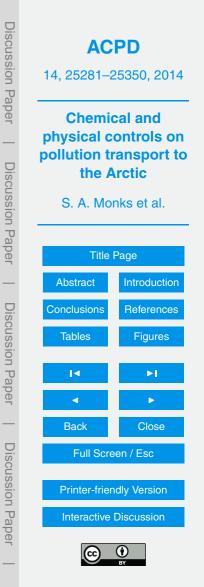
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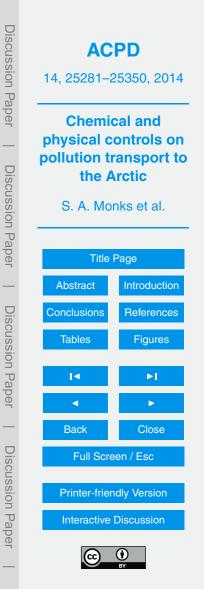
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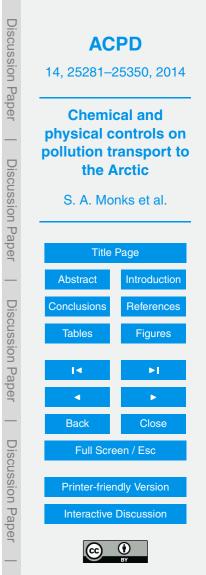
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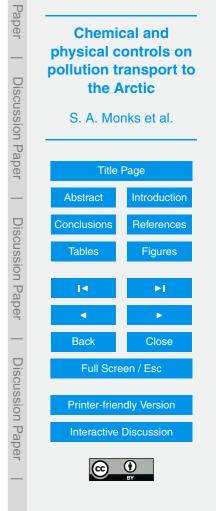
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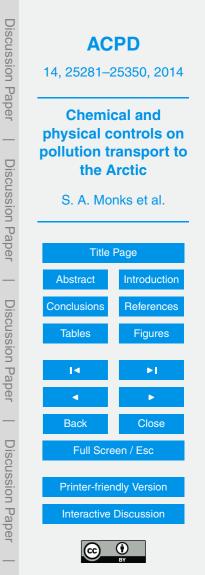
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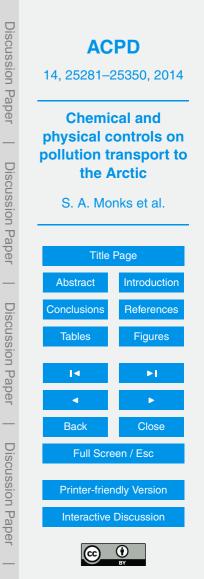
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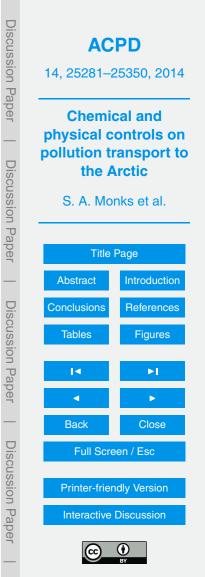
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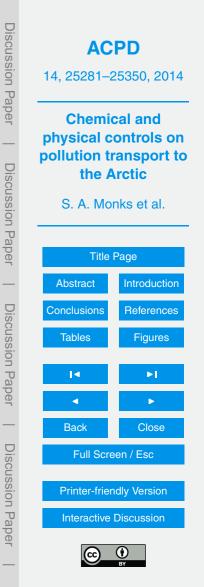
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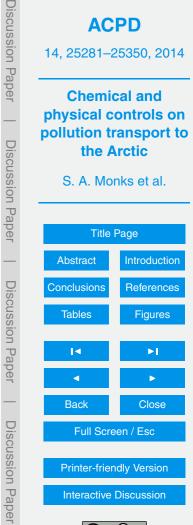
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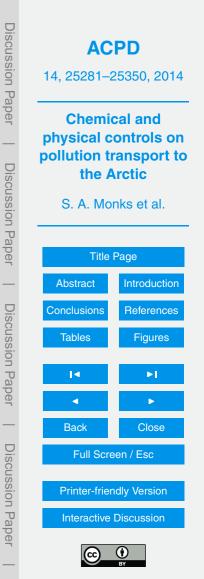
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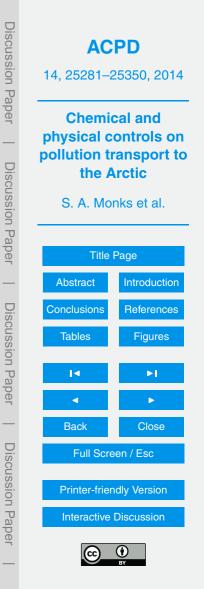


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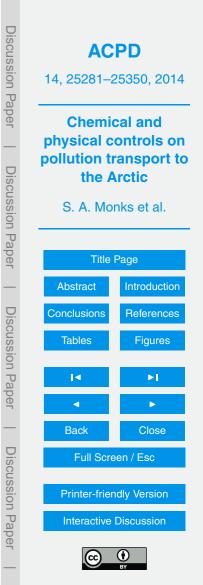
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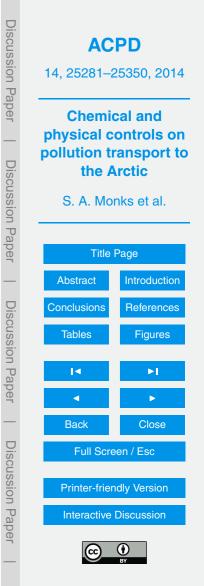
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**Table 1.** Participating models in inter-comparison. Y in the tracers column indicates that idealised tracers from model have been used for the transport and chemistry analysis in Sect. 5.

Model	Resolution	Meteorology	Chemistry	Tracers	Reference
CAM4-Chem	1.9° × 2.5°, L56	GEOS-5	MOZART-4	Y	Lamarque et al. (2012)
CAM5-Chem	1.9° × 2.5°, L56	GEOS-5	MOZART-4	Y	Lamarque et al. (2012)
C-IFS	T159, L60	ECMWF-Op.	CB05: 55 species, 85 gas-phase reactions Stratosphere: Operational ECMWF $O_3$ analysis	Y	Flemming et al. (2012)
GEOS-Chem	2.0° × 2.5°, L47	GEOS-5	$\sim$ 100 species ${\rm HO}_2$ gamma for uptake by aerosol set to 1	Ν	Mao et al. (2010) Parrella et al. (2012)
GMI	2.0° × 2.5°, L72	GEOS-5	based on GEOS-Chem	Y	Strahan et al. (2007) Duncan et al. (2007)
LMDZ-INCA	3.75° × 1.8°, L39	ECMWF-Int	85 tracers, 264 gas-phase reactions Stratosphere:	Y	Hourdin et al. (2006) Szopa et al. (2013)
SMHI MATCH	0.75° × 0.75°, L35	ECMWF-Int.	Ozonesonde climatology 63 tracers, 110 gas-phase reactions Stratosphere: Monthly means from EU-MACC project (MOZART-4)	Ν	Andersson et al. (2007) Robertson et al. (1999)
MOZART-4	1.9° × 2.5°, L56	GEOS-5	103 tracers, 196 gas-phase reactions, Stratosphere: $O_3$ constrained by sondes/satellite	Y	Emmons et al. (2010)
TM5	2.0° × 3.0°, L60	ECMWF-Int.	Modified CB05 scheme: 54 tracers, 104 gas-phase reactions. Stratosphere: $O_3$ columns nudged to observations	Y	Williams et al. (2013) Huijnen et al. (2010)
TOMCAT	2.8° × 2.8°, L31	ECMWF-Int.	82 Tracers, 229 gas-phase reactions. Stratosphere: 2-D model used for boundary conditions	Y	Monks (2011) Chipperfield (2006)
WRF-Chem	100 and 50 km	WRF	MOZART-4 simulations used as boundary conditions	Ν	Grell et al. (2005) Fast et al. (2006)

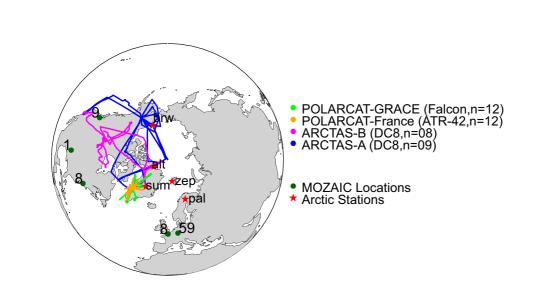
**ACPD** 14, 25281-25350, 2014 **Chemical and** physical controls on pollution transport to the Arctic S. A. Monks et al. **Title Page** Abstract Introduction References **Tables** Figures 4 Close Back Full Screen / Esc **Printer-friendly Version** Interactive Discussion

**Discussion** Paper

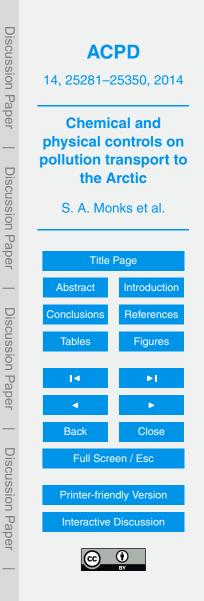
**Discussion Paper** 

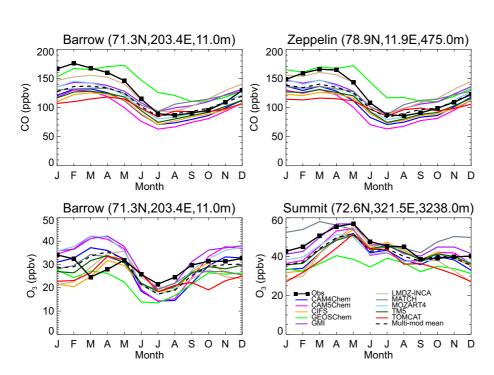
**Discussion Paper** 

**Discussion** Paper

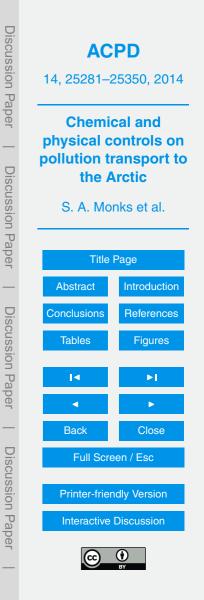


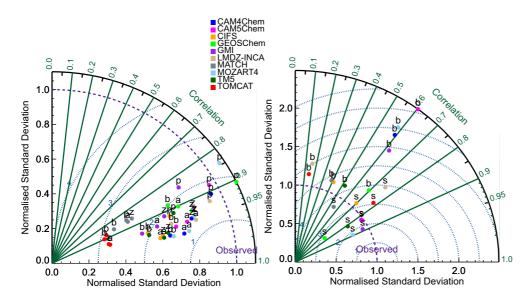
**Figure 1.** Location of surface stations used for comparisons in Figs. 2–3 (alt = Alert, brw = Barrow, pal = Pallas, sum = Summit, zep = Zeppelin), flight tracks of POLARCAT flights used to calculate vertical profiles in Figs. 7–8 (with n = no. of flights used) and locations of the airports where MOZAIC descent and ascent profiles were used over Europe and North America in Fig. 9 (the values denote the number of profiles at each airport).



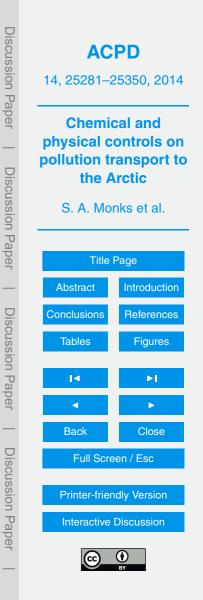


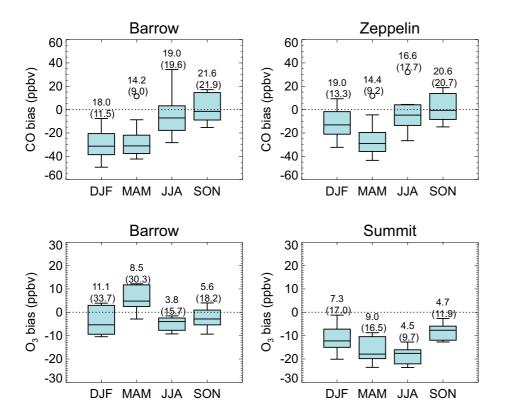
**Figure 2.** Monthly mean 2008 simulated and observed Arctic surface CO (top) at Barrow and Zeppelin and surface  $O_3$  (bottom) at Barrow and Summit.



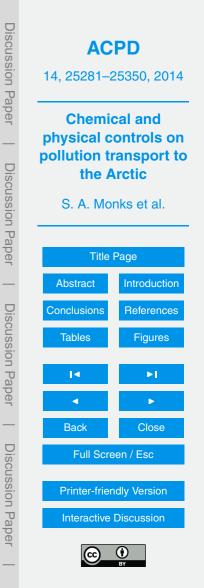


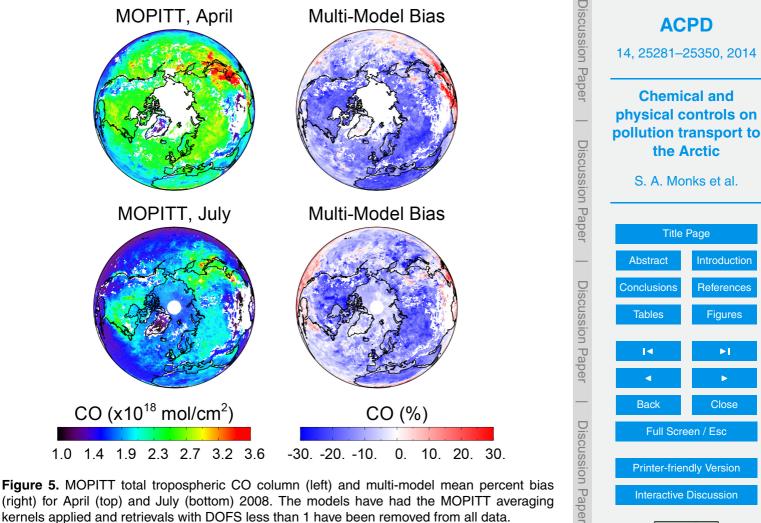
**Figure 3.** Taylor diagrams for Arctic surface comparisons of monthly mean time series of CO (left) and  $O_3$  (right). Taylor diagrams show the extent to which models capture the observed variability (by the normalised standard deviation (NSD), shown by purple dashed contour), month-to-month changes in concentration (by the correlation (r), shown by green lines) and the mean model bias weighted by the monthly deviations from the annual mean (by the centered root-mean-square difference (RMSD), shown by the black dotted contours). Perfect agreement between a model and observations would result in a NSD of 1, a correlation of 1 and a RMSD of 0, which is indicated by "Observed" on the Taylor diagram. The letters represent the first letter of the station codes shown in Fig. 1.



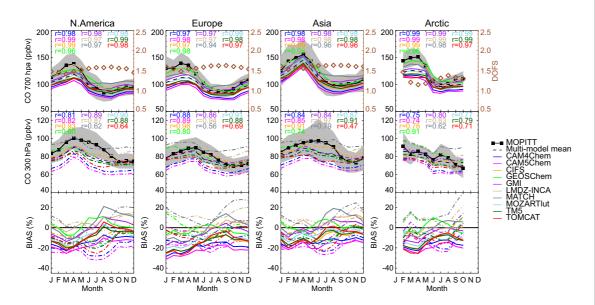


**Figure 4.** Box and whisker plots showing model seasonal biases (ppbv) for CO at Barrow and Zeppelin (top) and  $O_3$  at Barrow and Summit (bottom). The box and whisker plots show the minimum, 25th percentile, median, 75th percentile and maximum values of the sample. The numbers on the plot represent the interquartile range of each sample (IQR = 75th–25th percentiles) in absolute concentrations and as a percent of observed concentrations (in brackets). Outliers which are more than  $1.5 \times IQR$  from the 25th or 75th percentiles are shown by circles.

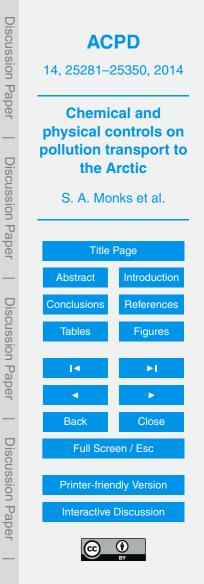


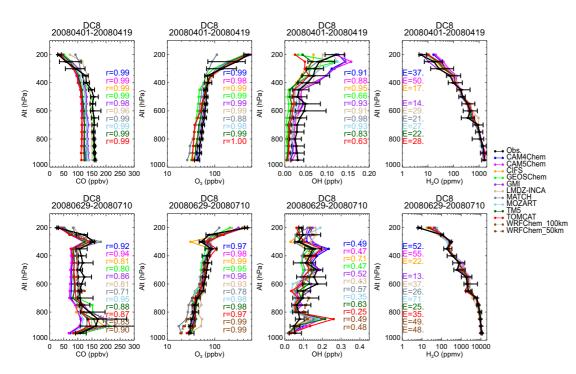


(right) for April (top) and July (bottom) 2008. The models have had the MOPITT averaging kernels applied and retrievals with DOFS less than 1 have been removed from all data.

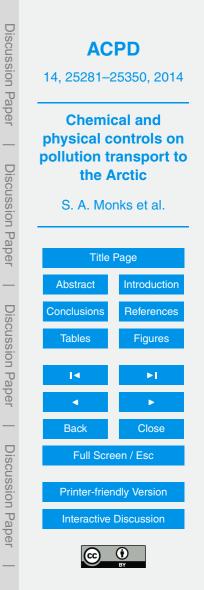


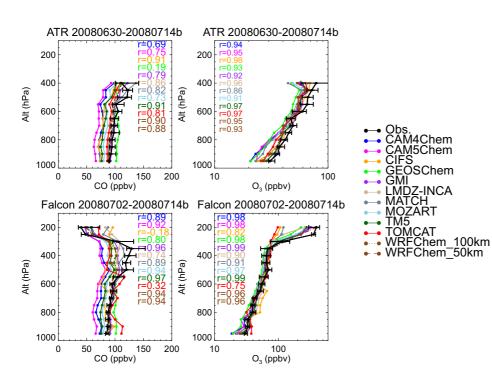
**Figure 6.** Monthly mean 2008 MOPITT retrieved CO compared to models at 700 hPa (top) and 300 hPa (middle). The monthly mean percent bias (bottom) at 700 hPa (solid lines) and 300 hPa (dashed lines) are also shown. The models have had the MOPITT averaging kernels applied and retrievals with DOFS less than 1 have been removed.



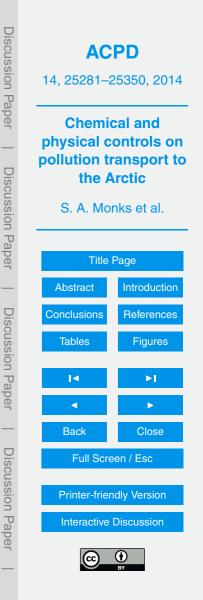


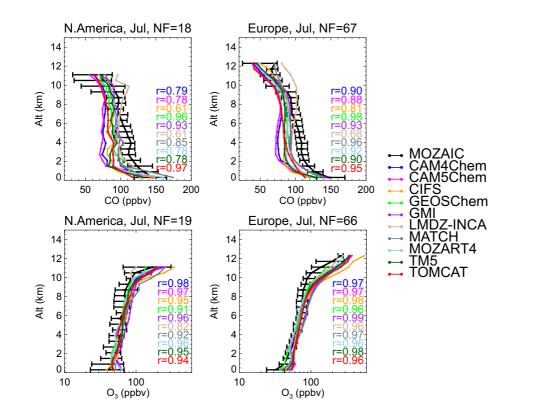
**Figure 7.** DC8 vertical profiles from the spring ARCTAS-A (top) and summer ARCTAS-B (bottom) campaigns in 2008. Median concentrations of CO (left),  $O_3$  (middle), OH (middle) and  $H_2O$  (right), with error bars showing the 25th and 75th percentiles of the observations. Pearson's correlation coefficients are shown for CO,  $O_3$  and OH. NMGE (%) is shown for  $H_2O$ . (N.B. Due to missing data in the GEOS-Chem hourly files the median concentrations in the 200, 250 and 300 hPa bins have been calculated over 463 data points instead of 678 data points which are used for the other models and observations.)



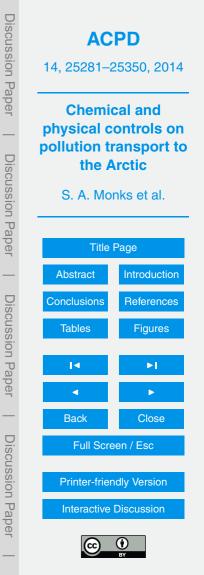


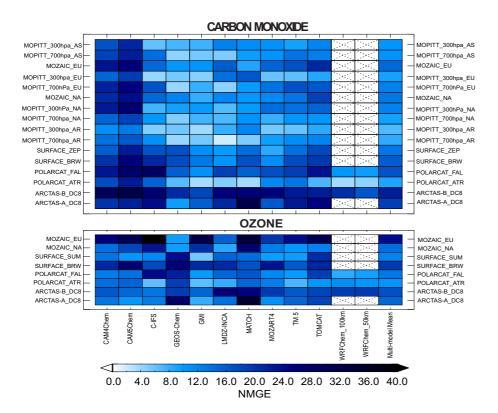
**Figure 8.** Vertical median profiles from the ATR-42 during the summer POLARCAT-France campaign (top) and the Falcon during the summer POLARCAT-GRACE campaign (bottom) for CO (left) and  $O_3$  (right). Pearson's correlation coefficients are also shown. Error bars show the 25th and 75th percentiles of the observations.



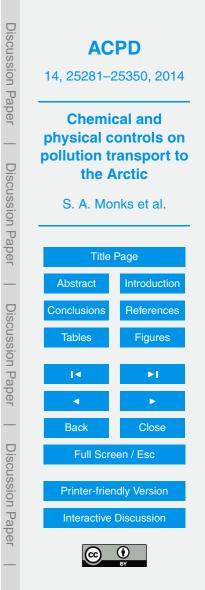


**Figure 9.** Vertical median profiles from the MOZAIC aircraft project made between 18 June– 14 July 2008, during ascent and descent in the regions of North America (left) and Europe (right). Observed CO (top) and  $O_3$  (bottom) are compared to hourly simulated concentrations interpolated to MOZAIC airport location. All data is put into 50 m bins and the error bars show the 25th and 75th percentiles of the observations in each bin. The number of profiles in each location used to calculate the regional profile averages are shown in Fig. 1.





**Figure 10.** Summary of the Normalised Mean Gross Error (NMGE =  $\frac{1}{N}\sum(\frac{|\text{mod-obs}|}{\text{obs}}) \times 100$ ) for all models against observations. The errors are shown for MOPITT regionally averaged satellite retrievals at 300 and 700 hPa (where, EU = Europe, NA = North America, AS = Asia, AR = Arctic), MOZAIC vertical profiles over source regions (where, EU = Europe, NA = North America), at surface sites (where, BRW = Barrow, ZEP = Zeppelin, SUM = Summit) and POLARCAT aircraft observations (where, FAL = Falcon).



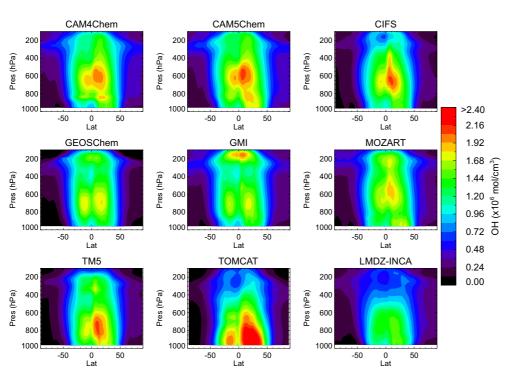
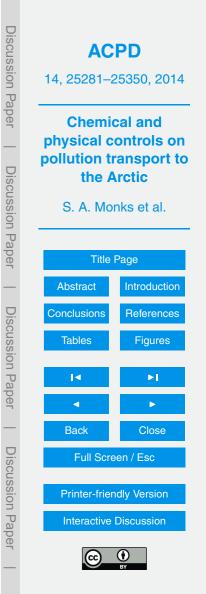
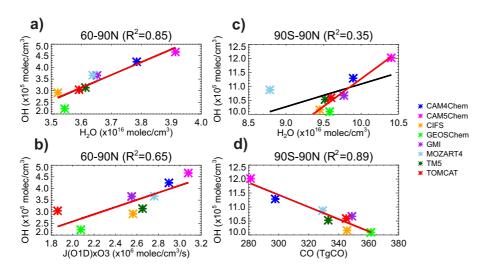
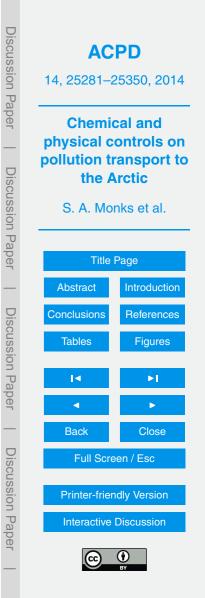


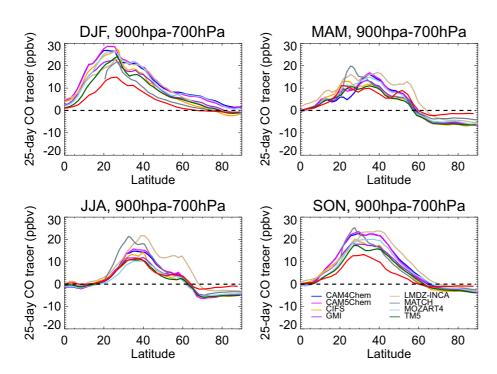
Figure 11. Annual zonal mean OH concentrations ( $\times 10^5$  molecules cm<sup>-3</sup>) for 2008 from the POLMIP models.



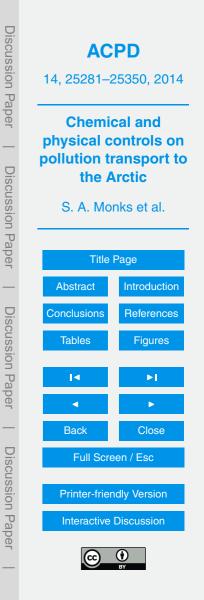


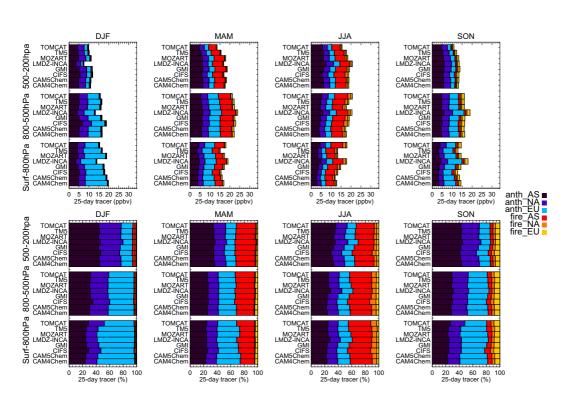
**Figure 12.** Annual mass-weighted tropospheric mean OH concentration as a function of the **(a)** annual mass-weighted mean water vapour concentration and **(b)** annual mass-weighted mean photolysis rates of  $J(O^1D)$  multiplied by  $O_3$  concentrations in the Arctic, along with the annual mass-weighted global tropospheric mean OH concentration as a function of the **(c)** annual mass-weighted mean water vapour concentrations and **(d)** annual mean total tropospheric CO burden. The ordinary least squares (OLS) and the iteratively re-weighted least squares (IRLS) regression lines are shown in black and red, respectively. Correlations above 0.62 are significant at 90% confidence level (CL) or above. Removing MOZART from analysis shown in **(b)** results in a  $r^2$  value of 0.91, which is also significant above the 90% CL. The troposphere has been selected according to the 150 ppbv  $O_3$  contour, however, results are similar when using a climatological tropopause as described by Lawrence et al. (2001). The full list of regression coefficients **(b)** and coefficients of determination ( $r^2$ ) are shown in Table S1.



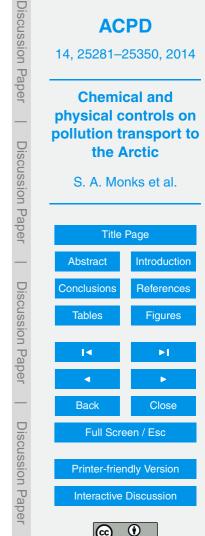


**Figure 13.** Seasonal zonal mean differences in simulated total 25 day fixed loss tracer (all six anthropogenic and fire tracers have been summed) between 900 and 700 hPa levels.





**Figure 14.** Seasonal mean 2008 regional 25 day fixed loss anthropogenic and biomass burning regional tracers averaged over 3 different altitude bands at latitudes north of 66° N. Contributions shown as absolute concentrations (top) and as a percent of the total CO tracer (bottom). (AS = Asian tracer, NA = North American tracer, EU = European tracer).



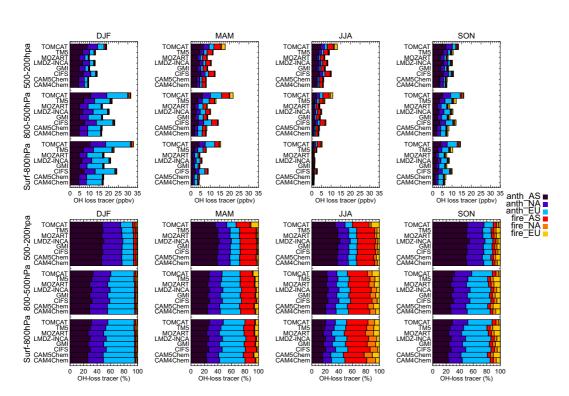
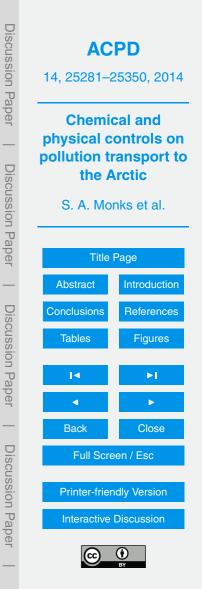


Figure 15. Seasonal mean 2008 regional OH-loss anthropogenic and biomass burning regional tracers averaged over 3 different altitude bands at latitudes north of 66° N. Contributions shown as absolute concentrations (top) and as a percent of the total CO tracer (bottom). (AS = Asian tracer, NA = North American tracer, EU = European tracer).



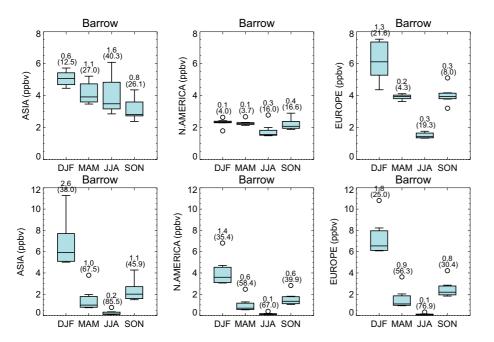
Discussion

Paper

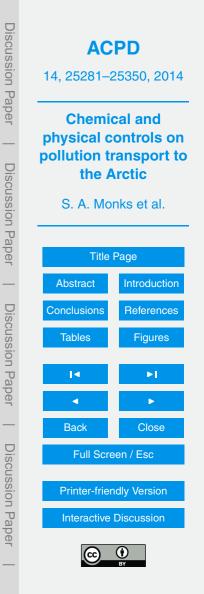
Discussion

Discussion Paper

Discussion



**Figure 16.** Box and Whisker plots of the anthropogenic 25 day fixed loss tracers (top) and the OH-loss tracers (bottom) at Barrow from 8 POLMIP models. The box and whisker plots show the minimum, 25th percentile, median, 75th percentile and maximum values of the sample. Outliers which are more than  $1.5 \times IQR$  from the 25th or 75th percentiles are shown by circles. The numbers on the plot represent the interquartile range as absolute concentrations and as a percent of the multi-model mean (in brackets).



		CO tracers (25-day fixed lifetime)				CO tracers (model OH loss)				
		DJF	MAM	JJA	SON	DJF	MAM	JJA	SON	
ed anth 40007-005 anth	AS	0. <mark>13</mark>	0.11	0.09	0.08	0.27	0.28	0.26	0.23	
ନ୍ନୁ anth_	NA	0.12	0.08	0.12	0.07	0.22	0.28	0.26	0.22	
	EU	<mark>0.1</mark> 9	0. <mark>13</mark>	0.12	0.10	0.27	0.31	0.27	0.25	
ed anth	AS	0.14	0.06	0.13	0.09	0.32	0.44	0.44	0.34	
ອີດ ທີ່ anth_	NA	0.09	0.02	0.08	0.06	0.25	0.42	0.42	0.29	
📓 anth_	EU	0.08	0.04	0.04	0.08	0.19	0.37	0.37	0.2 <mark>3</mark>	
ed unth_ anth_ anth_ edu005- edu008- anth_ anth_ anth_ s anth_	AS	0.11	0.09	0.22	0.14	0.33	0.62	0.72	0.40	
ဆို anth_	NA	0 <mark>.</mark> 12	0.06	0.15	0.13	0.27	0.58	0.69	0.36	
ັກ anth_	EU	0.16	0.09	0.14	0.16	0.18	0.48	0.58	0.25	

		CO tracers (25-day fixed lifetime)			CO tracers (model OH loss)				
		DJF	MAM	JJA	SON	DJF	MAM	JJA	SON
500-200hpa	fire_AS	0.19	0.11	0.09	0.09	0.29	0.24	0.27	0.31
-20(	fire_NA	0.12	0.08	0.19	0.12	<mark>0.</mark> 31	0 <mark>.24</mark>	0.23	0.23
500	fire_EU	0.17	0.25	0.15	0.13	1.00	1.74	1.23	0.29
800-500hPa	fire_AS	0.17	0.07	0.07	0.06	<mark>0.</mark> 39	0.34	<mark>0.</mark> 40	0.37
-500	fire_NA	0.12	0.07	0.16	0.06	<mark>0.</mark> 32	0.41	<mark>0.</mark> 34	0.27
	fire_EU	0.11	0.12	0.09	0.07	0.43	0.86	0.82	0.40
hPa	fire_AS	0.18	0.16	0.14	0.06	<mark>0.</mark> 40	0.52	0.64	0.40
Surf-800hPa	fire_NA	0.13	0.16	0.23	0.05	0.33	0.62	0.52	0.32
	fire_EU	0.13	0.09	0.20	0.14	<mark>0.</mark> 39	0.61	0.76	0.47

**Figure 17.** Coefficients of variations  $(\frac{\sigma}{\mu})$  calculated from the POLMIP model data binned into altitude bands at latitudes north of 66° N shown in Figs. 14 and 15. The size of the data bars represent the value of the coefficients with anthropogenic coefficients in blue and fire coefficients in red.

