



**Ozone variability in the troposphere and the stratosphere from the first six years of IASI observations**

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# Ozone variability in the troposphere and the stratosphere from the first six years of IASI observations (2008–2013)

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## Abstract

In this paper, we assess how daily ozone ( $O_3$ ) measurements from the Infrared Atmospheric Sounding Interferometer (IASI) on MetOp-A platform can contribute to the analyses of the processes driving  $O_3$  variability in the troposphere and the stratosphere and, in the future, to the monitoring of long-term trends. The time development of  $O_3$  during the first 6 years of IASI (2008–2013) operation is investigated with multivariate regressions separately in four different layers (ground–300, 300–150, 150–25, 25–3 hPa), by adjusting to the daily time series averaged in  $20^\circ$  zonal bands, seasonal and linear trend terms along with important geophysical drivers of  $O_3$  variation (e.g. solar flux, quasi biennial oscillations). The regression model is shown to perform generally very well with a strong dominance of the annual harmonic terms and significant contributions from  $O_3$  drivers, in particular in the equatorial region where the QBO and the solar flux contribution dominate. More particularly, despite the short period of IASI dataset available to now, two noticeable statistically significant apparent trends are inferred from the daily IASI measurements: a positive trend in the upper stratosphere (e.g.  $1.74 \pm 0.77 \text{ DU yr}^{-1}$  between  $30\text{--}50^\circ \text{ S}$ ) which is consistent with the turnaround for stratospheric  $O_3$  recovery, and a negative trend in the troposphere at the mid-and high northern latitudes (e.g.  $-0.26 \pm 0.11 \text{ DU yr}^{-1}$  between  $30\text{--}50^\circ \text{ N}$ ), especially during summer and probably linked to the impact of decreasing ozone precursor emissions. The impact of the high temporal sampling of IASI on the uncertainty in the determination of  $O_3$  trend has been further explored by performing multivariate regressions on IASI monthly averages and on ground-based FTIR measurements.

## 1 Introduction

Global climate change is one of the most important environmental problems of today and monitoring the behavior of the atmospheric constituents (radiatively active gases and those involved in their chemical production) is key to understand the present cli-

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of precursors, long-range transport, stratosphere–troposphere – STE – exchanges), which are all strongly variable temporally and spatially (e.g. Logan et al., 2012; Hess and Zbinden, 2013; Neu et al., 2014). Overall, there are still today large differences in the value of the  $O_3$  trends determined from independent studies and datasets in both the stratosphere and the troposphere (e.g. Oltmans et al., 1998, 2006; Randel and Wu, 2007; Gardiner et al., 2008; Vigouroux et al., 2008; Jiang et al., 2008; Kyrölä et al., 2010; Vigouroux et al., 2014). In order to improve on this and because  $O_3$  has been recognized as an GCOS Essential Climate Variables (ECVs), the scientific community has underlined the need of acquiring high quality global, long-term and homogenized ozone profile records from satellites (Randel and Wu, 2007; Jones et al., 2009; WMO, 2007, 2011, 2014). This specifically has resulted in the ESA Ozone Climate Change Initiative ( $O_3$ -CCI; <http://www.esa-ozone-cci.org/>).

The Infrared Atmospheric Sounding Interferometer (IASI) onboard the polar orbiting MetOp, with its unprecedented spatiotemporal sampling of the globe, its high radiometric stability and the long duration of its program (3 successive instruments to cover 15 years) provides in principle an excellent means to contribute to the analyses of the  $O_3$  variability and trends. This is further strengthened by the possibility to discriminate well with IASI, the  $O_3$  distributions and variability in the troposphere and the stratosphere, as shown in earlier studies (Boynard et al., 2009; Wespes et al., 2009, 2012; Dufour et al., 2010 ; Barret et al., 2011; Scannell et al., 2012; Safieddine et al., 2013). Here, we use the first 6 years (2008–2013) of the new  $O_3$  dataset provided by IASI on MetOp-A to perform a first analysis of the  $O_3$  time development in the stratosphere and in the troposphere. This is achieved globally by using zonal averages in  $20^\circ$  latitude bands and a multivariate linear regression model which accounts for various natural cycles affecting  $O_3$ . We also explore in this paper to which extent the exceptional temporal sampling of IASI can counterbalance the short period of data available for assessing trends in partial columns.

In Sect. 2, we give a short description of IASI and of the  $O_3$  retrieved columns used here. Section 3 details the multivariate regression model used for fitting the time series.



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In Sect. 4, we evaluate how the ozone natural variability is captured by IASI and we present the time evolution of the retrieved  $O_3$  profiles and of four partial columns (Upper Stratosphere –US–; Middle-Low Stratosphere –MLS–; Upper Troposphere Lower Stratosphere –UTLS–; Middle-Low Troposphere –MLT–) using  $20^\circ$  latitudinal averages on a daily basis. The apparent dynamical and chemical processes in each latitude band and vertical layer are then analyzed on the basis of the multiple regression results using a series of common geophysical variables. The “standard” contributors in the fitted time series, as well as a linear trend term, are analyzed in the specified altitude layers. Finally, the trends inferred from IASI are compared against those from FTIR for six stations in the Northern Hemisphere.

## 2 IASI measurements and retrieval method

IASI measures the thermal infrared emission of the Earth–atmosphere between 645 and  $2760\text{ cm}^{-1}$  with a field of view of  $2 \times 2$  circular pixels on the ground, each of 12 km diameter at nadir. The IASI measurements are taken every 50 km along the track of the satellite at nadir, but also across-track over a swath width of 2200 km. IASI provides a global coverage twice a day with overpass times at 09:30 and 21:30 mean local solar time. The instrument is also characterized by a high spectral resolution which allows the retrieval of numerous gas-phase species (e.g. Clerbaux et al., 2009; Clarisse et al., 2012).

Ozone profiles are retrieved with the Fast Optimal Retrievals on Layers for IASI (FORLI) software developed at ULB/LATMOS. FORLI relies on a fast radiative transfer and on a retrieval methodology based on the Optimal Estimation Method (Rodgers, 2000). In the version used in this study (FORLI- $O_3$  v20 100815), the  $O_3$  profile is retrieved for individual IASI measurement on a uniform 1 km vertical grid on 40 layers from surface up to 40 km. The retrieval parameters and performances are detailed in Hurtmans et al. (2012). The FORLI- $O_3$  profiles and/or total and partial columns have undergone validation using available ground-based, aircraft,  $O_3$  sonde and other satel-

lite observations (Anton et al., 2011; Dufour et al., 2012; Gazeaux et al., 2012; Par-  
 rington et al., 2012; Pommier et al., 2012; Scannell et al., 2012; Oetjen et al., 2014).  
 Generally, the results show good agreements between FORLI-O<sub>3</sub> and independent  
 measurements with a low bias (< 10 %) in the total column and in the vertical pro-  
 file, except in UTLS where a positive bias of 10–15 % is reported (Dufour et al., 2012;  
 Gazeaux et al., 2012; Oetjen et al., 2014).

In this study, only daytime O<sub>3</sub> IASI observations from good spectral fits (RMS of the  
 spectral residual lower than  $3.5 \times 10^{-8} \text{ W}/(\text{cm}^2 \text{ sr cm}^{-1})$ ) have been analyzed. Daytime  
 IASI observations are characterized by a better vertical sensitivity to the troposphere  
 associated with a higher surface temperature and a higher thermal contrast (Clerbaux  
 et al., 2009; Boynard et al., 2009). Furthermore, cloud contaminated scenes with cloud  
 cover < 13 % (Hurtmans et al., 2012) were removed using cloud information from the  
 Eumetcast operational processing (August et al., 2012).

An example of typical FORLI-O<sub>3</sub> averaging kernel functions for one mid-latitude ob-  
 servation in July (45° N/66° E) is represented on Fig. 1. The layers have been defined  
 as: ground–300 hPa (MLT), 300–150 hPa (UTLS), 150–25 hPa (MLS) and above 25 hPa  
 (US), so that they are characterized by a DOFS (Degrees Of Freedom for Signal) close  
 to 1 with a maximum sensitivity approximatively in the middle of the layers, except for  
 the 300–150 hPa layer which has a reduced sensitivity. Taken globally, the DOFS for  
 the entire profile ranges from  $\sim 2.5$  in cold polar regions to  $\sim 4.5$  in hot tropical re-  
 gions, depending mostly on surface temperature, with a maximum sensitivity in the  
 upper troposphere and in the lower stratosphere (Hurtmans et al., 2012). In the MLT,  
 a maximum of sensitivity peaks around 6–8 km altitude for almost all situations (We-  
 spes et al., 2012). Figure 2 presents July 2010 global maps of averaged FORLI-O<sub>3</sub>  
 partial columns for two partial layers (MLT and MLS), and of the associated DOFS and  
 a priori contribution (calculated as  $X_a - \mathbf{A} \times X_a$ , where  $X_a$  is the a priori profile and  $\mathbf{A}$ ,  
 the averaging kernel matrix, following the formalism of Rodgers, 2000). The two lay-  
 ers exhibit different sensitivity patterns: in the MLT, the DOFS typically range from 0.4  
 in the cold polar regions to 1 in regions characterized by high thermal contrast with

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medium humidity, such as the mid-latitude continental Northern Hemisphere (N.H.) (Clerbaux et al., 2009). Lower DOFS values in the intertropical belt are explained by an overlapping from water vapor lines. In contrast, the DOFS for the MLS are globally almost constant and close to one, with only slightly lower values (0.9) over polar regions. The a priori contribution is anti-correlated with the sensitivity, as expected. It ranges between a few % to  $\sim 30\%$  and does not exceed  $20\%$  on  $20^\circ$  zonal averages in the troposphere (see Supplement; Fig. S3, dashed lines), while the a priori contribution is smaller than  $\sim 12\%$  in the middle stratosphere. These findings indicate that the IASI MLS time series should accurately represent stratospheric variations, while the time series in the troposphere may reflect to some extent variations from the upper layers in addition to the real variability in the troposphere. In order to quantify this effect, the contribution of the stratosphere in the tropospheric ozone as seen by IASI has been estimated with a global 3-D chemical transport model (MOZART-4). We show that it varies between  $30$  and  $60\%$  depending on latitude and season. Details of the model-observation comparisons can be found in the Supplement (see Figs. S2 and S3). The fact that IASI MLT  $O_3$  is “contaminated” to a significant extend with variations in stratospheric  $O_3$  should be kept in mind when analyzing IASI MLT  $O_3$ .

### 3 Fitting method

#### 3.1 Statistical model

In order to characterize the changes in ozone measured by IASI and to allow separation of trend due to ODS from trend due to other processes, we use a multiple linear regression model accounting for a linear trend and for variations related to dynamical processes and solar flux. More specifically, the time series analysis is based on the

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fitting of daily (or monthly) median partial columns in different latitude band following:

$$O_3(t) = Cst + x_1 \cdot \text{trend} + \sum_{n=1,2} [a_n \cdot \cos(n\omega t) + b_n \cdot \sin(n\omega t)] + \sum_{j=2}^m x_j X_{\text{norm},j}(t) + \varepsilon(t) \quad (1)$$

where  $t$  is the number of days (or months),  $x_1$  is the 6 year trend coefficient in the data,  $\omega = 2\pi/365.25$  for the daily model (or  $2\pi/12$  for the monthly model) and  $X_{\text{norm},j}$  are independent geophysical variables, the so-called “explanatory variables” or “proxies”, which are in this study normalized over the period of IASI observation (2008–2013), as:

$$X_{\text{norm}}(t) = 2(X(t) - X_{\text{median}}) / (X_{\text{max}} - X_{\text{min}}) \quad (2)$$

$\varepsilon(t)$  in Eq. (1) represents the residual variation which is not described by the model and which is assumed to be autoregressive with time lag of 1 day (or 1 month). The constant term (Cst) and the coefficients  $a_n$ ,  $b_n$ ,  $x_j$  are estimated by the least-squares method and their standard errors are calculated from the covariance matrix of the coefficient estimates and corrected to take into account the uncertainty due to the autocorrelation of the noise residual. The median is used as a statistical average since it is more adequate against the outliers than the normal mean (Kyrölä et al., 2006, 2010). Note that, similarly to Kyrölä et al. (2010), the model has been applied on  $O_3$  mixing ratios rather than on partial columns but without significant improvement on the fitting residuals and  $R$  values.

### 3.2 Geophysical variables

In Eq. (1), harmonic time series with period of a year and a half year are used to account for the Brewer–Dobson circulation and the solar insolation ( $a_1$  and  $b_1$  coefficients), and for the meridional circulation ( $a_2$  and  $b_2$  coefficients), respectively (Kyrölä et al., 2010), all of these effects being of a periodic nature, while geophysical variables

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( $X_j$ ) are used here to parameterize the ozone variations on non-seasonal timescales. The chosen proxies are  $F_{10.7}$ , QBO<sup>10</sup>, QBO<sup>30</sup>, ENSO, NAO/AAO, the first three being the most commonly used (“standard”) proxies to describe the natural ozone variability, i.e. the solar radio flux at 10.7 cm and the quasi-biennial oscillation (QBO) which is represented by two orthogonal zonal components of the equatorial stratospheric wind measured at 10 and 30 hPa, respectively (e.g. Randel and Wu, 2007). The three other proxies, ENSO, NAO and AAO, are used to account for other important fluctuating dynamical features: the El Niño/Southern Oscillation, the North Atlantic Oscillation and the Antarctic Oscillation, respectively. Table 1 lists the selected proxies, their sources and their resolutions. The time series of these proxies normalized over the 2000–2013 period following Eq. (2) are shown in Fig. 3a and b and they are shortly described hereafter:

- *Solar flux*: over the period 2008–2013, the radio solar flux increases from about 65 units in 2008 to 180 units in 2013 and is characterized by a specific daily “fingerprint” (see Fig. 3a). Note that because the period of IASI observations do not cover a full 11 year solar cycle, it could affect the determination of the trend in the regression procedure. The difficulty in discriminating both components is a known problem for such multivariate regression: it feeds into their uncertainties and it can lead to biases in the coefficients determination (e.g. Soukharev et al., 2006).
- *QBO terms*: the QBO of the equatorial winds is a main component of the dynamics of the tropical stratosphere (Chipperfield et al., 1994, 2003; Randel and Wu, 1996, 2007; Logan et al., 2003; Tian et al., 2006; Fadnavis and Beig, 2009; Hauchecorne et al., 2010). It strongly influences the distributions of stratospheric O<sub>3</sub> propagating alternatively westerly and easterly with a mean period of 28 to 29 months. Positive and negative vertical gradients alternate periodically. At the top of the vertical QBO domain, predominance of easterlies, while, at the bottom, westerly winds are more frequent. For accounting for the out-of-phase re-

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lationship between the QBO periodic oscillations in the upper and in the lower stratosphere, orthogonal QBO time series at 10 hPa (Fig. 3a; orange) and 30 hPa (Fig. 3a; green) based on observed stratospheric winds at Singapore have been considered here (Randel and Wu, 1996; Hood and Soukharev, 2006).

- *NAO, AAO and ENSO*: these proxies describe important dynamical features which affect ozone distributions in the troposphere and the lower stratosphere (e.g. Weiss et al., 2001; Frossard et al., 2013; Rieder et al., 2013; and references therein). The daily or 3 monthly average indexes used to parameterize these fluctuations are shown in Fig. 3b. The NAO and AAO indexes are used for the N.H. and the S.H. (Southern Hemisphere), respectively (both are used for the equatorial band). These proxies have been included in the statistical model for completeness even if they are expected to only have a weak apparent contribution to the IASI ozone time series due to their large spatial variability in a zonal band (e.g. Frossard et al., 2013; Rieder et al., 2013).
- *Effective equivalent stratospheric chlorine (EESC)*: the EESC is a common proxy used for describing the influence of the ODS in  $O_3$  variations. However, because the IASI time series starts several years after the turnaround for the ozone hole recovery in 1996/1997 (WMO, 2010), their influence is not represented by a dedicated proxy but is rather accounted for by the linear trend term.

Even if some of the above proxies are only specific to processes occurring in the stratosphere, we adopt the same approach (geophysical variables, model and regression procedure) for adjusting the IASI  $O_3$  time series in the troposphere. This proves useful in particular to account for the stratospheric contribution to the tropospheric layer ( $\sim 30\text{--}60\%$ ; see Sect. 2 and Supplement, Fig. S3) due to stratosphere–troposphere exchanges (STE) and to the fact that this tropospheric layer is not perfectly decorrelated from the stratosphere. This has to be kept in mind when analyzing the time series in the troposphere in Sect. 4. Specific processes in the troposphere such as emissions of ozone precursor, long-range transport and in situ chemical processing are taken into

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account in the model in the harmonic and the linear trend terms of the Eq. (1) (e.g. Logan et al., 2012). Including harmonic terms having 4 and 3 month periods in the model has been tested to describe  $O_3$  dependency on shorter scales (e.g. Gebhardt et al., 2014), but this did not improved the results in terms of residuals and uncertainty of correlation coefficients.

### 3.3 Iterative backward variable selection

Similarly to previous studies (e.g. Steinbrecht et al., 2004; Mäder et al., 2007, 2010; Knibbe et al., 2014), we perform an iterative stepwise backward elimination approach, based on  $p$  values of the regression coefficients for the rejection, to select the most relevant combination of the above described regression variables (harmonic, linear and explanatory) to fit the observations. The minimum  $p$  value for a regression term to be removed (exit tolerance) is set at 0.05, which corresponds to a significance of 95 %. The initial model which includes all regression variables is fitted first. Then, at each iteration, the variables characterized by  $p$  values larger than 5 % are rejected. At the end of the iterative process, the remaining terms are considered to have significant influence on the measured  $O_3$  variability while the rejected variables are considered to be non-significant. The correction accounting for the autocorrelation in the noise residual is then applied to give more confidence in the coefficients determination.

## 4 Ozone variations observed by IASI

In this section, we first examine the ozone variations in IASI time series during 2008–2013 in the four layers defined in the troposphere and the stratosphere to match the IASI sensitivity (Sect. 2). The regression coefficients determined from the multiple linear procedure (Sect. 3) are analyzed in Sect. 4.2. The ability of IASI to derive apparent trends is examined in Sect. 4.3.

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## 4.1 O<sub>3</sub> time series from IASI

Figure 4a shows the time development of daily O<sub>3</sub> number density over the entire altitude range of the retrieved profiles based on daily medians. The time series cover the six years of available IASI observations and are separated in three 20° latitude belts: 30–50° N (top panel), 10–10° S (middle panel) and 30–50° S (bottom panel). The figure shows the well-known seasonal cycle at mid-latitudes in the troposphere and the stratosphere with maxima observed in spring-summer and in winter-spring, respectively, and a strong stability of ozone layers with time in the equatorial belt. At high latitudes of both hemispheres, the high ozone concentrations and the large amplitude of the seasonal cycle observed in LS and UTLS are mainly the consequence of the large-scale downward poleward Brewer–Dobson circulation which is prominent in later winter below 25 km.

Figure 4b presents the estimated statistical uncertainty on the O<sub>3</sub> profiles retrieved from FORLI. This total error depends on the latitude and the season, reflecting, amongst other, the influence of signal intensity, of interfering water lines and of thermal contrast under certain conditions (e.g. temperature inversion, high thermal contrast at the surface). It usually ranges between 10 and 30 % in the troposphere and in the UTLS (Upper Troposphere–Lower Stratosphere), except in the equatorial belt due to the low O<sub>3</sub> amounts (see Fig. 4a) which leads to larger relative errors. The retrieval errors are usually less than 5 % in the stratosphere.

The relative variability (given as the standard deviation) of the daily median O<sub>3</sub> time series presented in Fig. 4a is shown in Fig. 5, as a function of time and altitude. It is worth noting that, except in the UTLS over the equatorial band, the standard deviation is larger than the estimated retrieval errors of the FORLI–O<sub>3</sub> data (~ 25 vs. ~ 15 % and ~ 10 vs. ~ 5 %, on average over the troposphere and the stratosphere, respectively), reflecting that the high natural temporal variability of O<sub>3</sub> in zonal bands is well captured with FORLI (Dufour et al., 2012; Hurtmans et al., 2012). The standard deviation is larger in the troposphere and in the stratosphere below 20 km where dynamic processes

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play an important role. The largest values ( $> 70\%$  principally in the northern latitudes during winter) are measured around 9–15 km altitude. They highlight the influence of tropopause height variations and the STE processes. In the stratosphere, the variability is always lower than 20 % and becomes negligible in the equatorial region. Interestingly, the lowest troposphere of the N.H. (below 700 hPa;  $< 4$  km) is marked by an increase in both  $O_3$  concentrations (Fig. 4a) and standard deviations (between  $\sim 30$  and  $\sim 45\%$ ) in spring-summer. This likely indicates a photochemical production of  $O_3$  associated with anthropogenic precursor emissions (e.g. Logan et al., 1985; Dufour et al., 2010; Safieddine et al., 2013).

The zonal representation of the  $O_3$  variability seen by IASI is given in Fig. 6. It shows the daily number density at altitude levels corresponding to maximum of sensitivity in the four analyzed layers in most of the cases (600 hPa –  $\sim 6$  km; 240 hPa –  $\sim 10$  km; 80 hPa –  $\sim 20$  km; 6 hPa –  $\sim 35$  km) (Sect. 2). The top panel ( $\sim 35$  km) reflects well the photochemical  $O_3$  production by sunlight with the highest values in the equatorial belt during the summer ( $\sim 3 \times 10^{12}$  molecules  $cm^{-3}$ ). The middle panels ( $\sim 20$  and  $\sim 10$  km) shows the transport of ozone rich-air to high latitudes in late winter (up to  $\sim 6 \times 10^{12}$  molecules  $cm^{-3}$  in the N.H.) which is induced by the Brewer–Dobson circulation. The fact that the patterns are similar in  $\sim 10$  km mainly reflects the low sensitivity of IASI to that level compared to the others. Finally, the lower panel ( $\sim 6$  km) presents high  $O_3$  levels in spring at high latitudes ( $\sim 1.4 \times 10^{12}$  molecules  $cm^{-3}$  in the N.H.), which likely reflects both the STE processes and the contribution from the stratosphere due to the medium IASI sensitivity to that layer (cfr. Sect. 2 and Supplement), and a shift from high to middle latitudes in summer which could be attributed to anthropogenic  $O_3$  production. The MLT panel also reflects the seasonal oscillation of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) around the Equator and the large fire activity in spring around 20–40° S.

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## 4.2 Multivariate regression results: seasonal and explanatory variables

Figure 4a shows superimposed on the time series of the IASI ozone concentration profile, those of the partial columns (dots) for the 4 layers (color scale). The adjusted daily time series to these columns with the regression model defined by Eq. (1) is also overlaid and shown by colored lines. The model reasonably well represents the ozone variations in the four layers, with, as illustrated for three latitude bands, good coefficient correlations (e.g.  $R_{\text{MLT}} = 0.94$ ;  $R_{\text{UTLS}} = 0.91$ ;  $R_{\text{MLT}} = 0.90$  and  $R_{\text{US}} = 0.91$  for the 30–50° N band) and low residuals ( $< 8\%$ ) in all cases. However, note that the fit fails to reproduce the highest ozone values ( $> 5 \times 10^{12}$  molecules  $\text{cm}^{-3}$ ) above the seasonal maxima for 30–50° N latitude band, especially in the MLS during the springs 2009 and 2010. This could be associated with occasional downward transport of upper atmospheric  $\text{NO}_x$ -rich air occurring in winter and spring at high latitudes (Brohede et al., 2008) following the strong subsidence within the intense Arctic vortex in 2009–2010 (Pitts et al., 2011).

Figure 7 displays the annual cycle averaged over 6 years recorded by IASI (dots) for the studied layers and bands, as well as that from the fit of the daily  $\text{O}_3$  columns (lines). The regression model follows perfectly the  $\text{O}_3$  variations in terms of timing of  $\text{O}_3$  maxima and of amplitude of the cycle. The fit is generally characterized by low residuals ( $< 10\%$ ) and good correlation coefficients (0.70–0.95), which indicates that the regression model is suitable to describe the zonal variations. Exception is found over the Southern latitudes (residual up to 15% and  $R$  down to 0.61) probably because of the variation induced by the ozone hole formation which is not parameterized in the regression model, and because of the low temporal sampling of daytime IASI measurements in this region.

From Fig. 7, the following general patterns in the  $\text{O}_3$  seasonal cycle can be isolated from the zonally averaged IASI datasets:

1. In US (top panel), the maxima is in the equatorial belt, around  $4.7 \times 10^{18}$  molecules  $\text{cm}^{-2}$  throughout the year and the amplitudes are small compared

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to the averaged  $O_3$  values. The largest amplitude in the annual cycle is found in the N.H. between 30 and 50° N where  $O_3$  peaks in July after the highest solar elevation (in June) following a progressive buildup during spring-summer. In agreement with FTIR observations (e.g. Steinbrecht et al., 2006; Vigouroux et al., 2008), a shift of the  $O_3$  maximum from spring (March–April) to late summer (August–September) is found as one moves from high to low latitudes in the N.H. In the S.H., the general shape of the annual cycle which shows a peak in October–November before the highest solar elevation (in December), results from loss mechanisms depending on annual cycle of temperatures and other trace gases. Other effects such as changing Brewer–Dobson circulation, light absorption and tropical stratopause oscillations may also considerably impact on the cycle in this layer (Brasseur and Solomon, 1984; Schneider et al., 2005).

2. In the lower stratosphere (MLS and UTLS, middle panels), the pronounced amplitudes of the annual cycle is dominated by the influence of the Brewer Dobson circulation with the highest  $O_3$  values observed over polar regions (reaching  $\sim 6 \times 10^{18}$  molecules  $\text{cm}^{-2}$  on average vs.  $\sim 2 \times 10^{18}$  molecules  $\text{cm}^{-2}$  on average in the equatorial belt). The maximum is shifted from late winter at high latitudes to spring at lower latitudes.
3. In MLT (bottom panel), we clearly see a large hemispheric difference with the highest values over the N.H. (also in UTLS). Maxima are observed in spring, reflecting more effective STE processes. A particularly broad maximum from spring to late summer is observed in the 30–50° N band. It probably points to anthropogenic production of  $O_3$ . This has been further investigated in the Supplement through MOZART4-IASI comparison by using constant anthropogenic emissions in the model settings (see Fig. S1). The results show clear differences between the modeled and the observed MLT seasonal cycles, which highlights the need for further investigation of the role of anthropogenically produced  $O_3$  and the realism of anthropogenic emissions inventories.

Figure 8 presents all the fitted regression parameters included in Eq. (1) (Sect. 3) in the four layers as a function of latitude. The uncertainty in the 95 % confidence limits which accounts for the autocorrelation in the noise residual is given by error bars. The constant term (Fig. 8a) is found to be statistically significant (uncertainty  $< 10\%$ ) in all cases. It captures the two ozone maxima in the stratosphere: one over the Northern Polar regions in the MLS and one at equatorial latitudes in the US ( $\sim 4.5 \times 10^{18}$  molecules  $\text{cm}^{-2}$ ), the important decrease of  $\text{O}_3$  in the lower stratospheric layers (UTLS and MLS) moving from high to equatorial latitudes, and the weak negative and strong positive gradients in the Northern MLT and in the US, respectively. The sum of the constant terms of the four layers varies between  $7.50 \times 10^{18}$  (equatorial region) and  $9.50 \times 10^{18}$  molecules  $\text{cm}^{-2}$  (polar regions) and is similar to the one of the fitted total column (relative differences  $< 3.5\%$ ) (red line). When analyzing the constant terms, it is worth keeping in mind that FORLI- $\text{O}_3$  profiles are biased high in the UTLS region by  $\sim 10\text{--}15\%$  in the mid-latitudes and in the tropics (Dufour et al., 2012; Gazeaux et al., 2012). The representativeness of the  $20^\circ$  zonal averages in terms of spatial variability has been examined by fitting the IASI time series for specific locations in the N.H. (results shown with stars in Fig. 8a): the constant terms are found to be consistent, within their uncertainties, with those averaged per latitude bands in all cases. Over the polar region where  $\text{O}_3$  shows a large natural variability, the regression coefficient is characterized by a large uncertainty.

The regression coefficients for other variables (harmonic and proxy terms) which are retained in the regression model by the stepwise elimination procedure are shown in Fig. 8b. They are scaled by the fitted constant term and the error bars represent the uncertainty in the 95 % confidence limits accounting for the autocorrelation in the noise residual. We find that:

1. The annual harmonic term (upper left) is the main driver of the  $O_3$  variability and largely dominates (scaled  $a_1 + b_1$  around  $\pm 40\%$ ) over the semi-annual one (upper right; scaled  $a_2 + b_2$  around  $\pm 15\%$ ). In UTLS and MLS, its amplitude decreases from high to low latitudes likely following the cycle induced by the Brewer–Dobson

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circulation (cfr. Fig. 6 and Fig. 7) and the sign of the coefficient accounts for the winter-spring maxima in both hemispheres (negative values in the S.H. and positive ones in the N.H). In the US, they vary only slightly (around  $-5$  to  $5\%$ ) and account for the weak summer maximum.

2. The QBO and solar flux proxies are generally minor (scaled coefficients  $< 10\%$ ) and they are even statistically non-significant contributors to  $O_3$  variations after accounting for the autocorrelation in the noise residual, except for the UTLS in equatorial region (scaled coefficients of  $10$ – $15\%$ ) where they are important drivers of  $O_3$  variations (e.g. Logan et al., 2003; Steinbrecht et al., 2006b; Soukharev and Hood, 2006; Fadnavis and Beig, 2009) Previous studies have indeed supported the solar influence on the lower stratospheric equatorial dynamics (e.g. Soukharev and Hood, 2006; McCormack et al., 2007). Note that the QBO<sup>30</sup> proxy (data not shown) has negative coefficients for the mid-latitudes, which is in line with Frossard et al. (2013).

3. The contributions described by the ENSO and NAO/AAO proxies are generally very weak, with scaled coefficients lower than  $5\%$ , and, in many cases, even not statistically significant when taking into account the correlation in the noise residuals. Despite of this, it is worth pointing out that their effects to the  $O_3$  variations are in agreement with previous studies, which have shown large regions of negative coefficients for NAO North of  $40^\circ N$ , and large regions of positive and negative coefficient estimates for ENSO, North of  $30^\circ N$  and South of  $30^\circ S$ , respectively (Rieder et al., 2013; Frossard et al., 2013).

Finally, we see in Fig. 8b, large uncertainties associated with the regression coefficients in UTLS in comparison with other layers, and in polar regions in comparisons with other bands. We interpret this as an effect from the high natural variability of  $O_3$  measured by IASI in UTLS (see Fig. 5) and from missing parameterizations and low temporal sampling of daytime IASI measurements over the poles, respectively.

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### 4.3 Multivariate regression results: trend over 2008–2013

An additional goal of the multivariate regression method applied to the IASI O<sub>3</sub> time series is to determine the annual trend term and its associated uncertainty. Despite the fact that more than 10 years of observations, corresponding to the large scale of solar cycle, is usually required to perform such a trend analysis, we could argue that statistically relevant trends could possibly be derived from the first six years of IASI observations, owing to the high spatio-temporal frequency (daily) of IASI global observations, to the daily “fingerprint” in the solar flux (see Fig. 3a), possibly making it distinguishable from a linear trend, and to its weak contribution to O<sub>3</sub> variations (see Sect. 4.2 and references therein). To verify the specific advantage of IASI in terms of frequency sampling, we compare, in the subsections below, the statistical relevance of the trends when retrieved from the monthly averaged IASI datasets vs. the daily averages as above, in the 20° zonal bands.

#### 4.3.1 Regressions applied on daily vs. monthly averages

Figure 9 (top) provides, as an example for the 30–50° S latitude band, the 6 year time series of the IASI O<sub>3</sub> partial column in the US (dark blue), for daily averages (left panels) vs monthly averages (right panels), along with the results from the regression procedure (light blue). Note that either daily or monthly F10.7, NAO and AAO proxies (see Table 1) are used depending on the frequency of the IASI O<sub>3</sub> averages to be adjusted. The middle panels provide the deseasonalised IASI and fitted time series as well as the residuals (red curves). The fitted signal in DU of each proxy is shown on the bottom panels. The O<sub>3</sub> time series and the solar flux signal resulting from the adjustment without the linear term trend in the regression model are also represented (orange lines in middle and bottom panels, respectively). When it is not included in the regression model, the linear trend term is not compensated by the solar flux term in the daily averages, which leads to larger residuals (80 % without vs. 44 % with the linear term), while it is largely compensated by the solar flux term in the monthly averages (75 % with-

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out vs. 60 % with the linear term). In this example, the linear and solar flux terms are even not simultaneously retained in the iterative stepwise backward procedure when applied on the monthly averages while they are when applied on daily averages. This effective co-linearity of the linear and the monthly solar flux terms translates to a large uncertainty for the trend coefficient in monthly data and leads, in this example, to a not statistically significant linear term of  $1.21 \pm 1.30 \text{ DU yr}^{-1}$  when derived from monthly averages vs. a significant trend of  $1.74 \pm 0.77 \text{ DU yr}^{-1}$  from daily averages.

This brings us to the important conclusion that, thanks to the unprecedented sampling of IASI, apparent trends can be detected in FORLI-O<sub>3</sub> time series even on a short period of measurements. This supports the need for regular and high frequency measurements for observing ozone variations underlined in other studies (e.g. Saunois et al., 2012). The O<sub>3</sub> trends from the daily averages of IASI measurements are discussed and compared with results from the monthly averages in the subsection below.

### 4.3.2 O<sub>3</sub> trends from daily averages

Table 2 summarizes the trends and their uncertainties in the 95 % confidence limit, calculated for each 20° zonal band and for the 4 partial and the total columns. For the sake of comparison, the trends are reported for both the daily (top values) and the monthly (bottom values) averages, and their uncertainties account for the auto-correlation in the noise residuals considering a time lag of 1 day or 1 month, respectively. We show that the daily and monthly trends fall within each other uncertainties but that the trends in monthly averages are shown to be mostly non-significant in comparison with those from daily averages for the reasons discussed above (Sect. 4.3.1). Table 3 summarizes the trends in the daily averages for two 3 month periods: June–July–August (JJA) and December–January–February (DJF).

From Tables 2 and 3, we observe very different trends according to the latitude and the altitude. From Table 2, we find for the total columns that the trends derived from the daily medians are only significant at high northern latitudes and that they are interestingly of the same order as those obtained from other satellites and assimilated satellite

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data (Weatherhead and Anderson, 2006; Knibbe et al., 2014) or from ground-based measurements (Vigouroux et al., 2008) over longer time periods. The non-significant trends calculated for the mid- and low latitudes of the N.H. are also in agreement with previous studies (Reinsel et al., 2005; Andersen and Knudsen, 2006; Vigouroux et al., 2008). Regarding the individual layers, we find the following:

1. In the US, significant positive trends are observed in both hemispheres from the daily medians, particularly over the mid- and high latitudes of the both hemispheres (e.g.  $1.74 \pm 0.77 \text{ DU yr}^{-1}$  in the 30–50° S band, i.e., 12 % decade<sup>-1</sup>) where the change in ozone trends before and after the turnaround in 1997 is the highest (Kj rola et al., 2013; Laine et al., 2014). Positive trends in the US are in agreement with many previous observations if one considers the fact that the period covered by IASI is later than those reported in previous studies and that the recovery rate seems to heighten since the beginning of the turnaround (Knibbe et al. (2014) reports a factor of two in the recovery rate between 1997–2010 and 2001–2010), and they could indicate a leveling off of the negative trends that was existing since the second half of the 1990’s (e.g. WMO 2006, 2011; Randel and Wu, 2007; Vigouroux et al., 2008; Steinbrecht et al., 2009; Jones et al., 2009; McLinden et al., 2009; Laine et al., 2014; Nair et al., 2014). The causes of this “turnaround” remain, however, uncertain. If the compensating impact of decreasing chlorine in recent years and maximum solar cycle (over 2011–2012 in the period studied here) is probably part of the answer (e.g. Steinbrecht et al., 2004), the effects of changing stratospheric temperatures and Brewer–Dobson circulation (Salby et al., 2002; Reinsel et al., 2005; Dhomse et al., 2006; Manney et al., 2006) could also contribute and should be further investigated. The long-lasting cold winter/spring 2011 in the Arctic conducting to unprecedented ozone loss (Manney et al., 2011), could explain the non-significant trend in the 70–90° N band. This is supported by the results in Table 3, which shows a significant positive trend when derived from the summer data. From Table 3, we generally find significant positive trends in summer and weaker positive or even non-significant

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trends in winter. A non-significant trend is also calculated for the 70–90° S band in spring (data not shown). This could indicate the strong influence of changing stratospheric temperatures on ozone depletion from year to year (e.g. Dhomse et al., 2006), leading to larger uncertainties in our trends estimations and larger fitting residuals (see Sect. 4.2) due to the fact that the stratospheric temperature is not taken into account as an explanatory variable in the model.

2. In the MLS, one can see that, except in the high latitude bands, the trends are either non-significant or significantly negative. This is in agreement with the trend analysis of Jones et al. (2009) for the 20–25 km altitude range over the 1997–2008 period, as well as with other studies at N.H. latitudes, which investigated O<sub>3</sub> changes in the 18–25 km range between 1996 and 2005 (Miller et al., 2006; Yang et al., 2006; Kivi et al., 2007). The results derived separately for summer and winter in Table 3 are also in line with those of Kivi et al. (2007) which reported contrasted trends in the Arctic MLS depending on season.
3. In the UTLS, negative trends are calculated in the tropics and significant positive trends are found in the mid- and high latitudes of N.H., these latter falling within the uncertainties of those reported by Kivi et al. (2007) for the tropopause–150 hPa layer between 1996 and 2003. The large positive trends calculated at Northern latitudes (e.g.  $1.28 \pm 0.82$  DU year<sup>-1</sup> in the 70–90° N band) contribute for ~ 30 % to the positive trend for the total column. This result is in agreement with Yang et al. (2006) which reported that UTLS contributes 50 % to positive trends for the total columns measured in the mid-latitudes of the N.H. from ozonesondes. In that study, these positive trends were linked to changes in atmospheric dynamics either related to natural variability induced by potential vorticity and tropopause height variations or related to anthropogenic climate change. Hence, the apparent increase in total ozone in the mid-latitudes of the N.H. seen by IASI would reflect the combined contribution of dynamical variability and declining ozone-depleting substances (e.g. Weatherhead and Andersen, 2006; WMO, 2006; Harris et al.,

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2008; Nair et al., 2014). It is worth to keep in mind that these effects are not independently accounted for in the regression model. Previous studies reported, however, that dynamical and chemical processes are physically coupled in the atmosphere, making difficult to define unambiguously such drivers in a statistical model (e.g. Mäder et al., 2007; Harris et al., 2008). On a seasonal basis (see Table 3), the trends seen by IASI at Northern latitudes in summer are all significantly positive and increasing towards the pole. Note that the trends in upper layers may contribute to the ones calculated in UTLS due to the medium IASI sensitivity to that layer (cfr. Sect. 2).

4. In the MLT, most of the trends are significantly negative (Tables 2 and 3). The non-significant trends in polar regions could be partly related to the lack of IASI sensitivity to tropospheric O<sub>3</sub> (see Sect. 2, Fig. 2). On a seasonal basis, we see that the negative trends are more pronounced during the JJA period (around  $-0.25 \pm 0.10 \text{ DU yr}^{-1}$ ) for all bands except between 30° N and 10° S. In the N.H., these results tend to confirm the leveling off of tropospheric ozone observed in recent years during the summer months (Logan et al., 2012). This trend, however, remains difficult to interpret because it could be linked to a variety of processes including most importantly: the decline of anthropogenic emissions of ozone precursors, the increase of UV-induced O<sub>3</sub> destruction in the troposphere and STE processes (Isaksen et al., 2005; Logan et al., 2012; Parrish et al., 2012; Hess and Zbinden, 2013). As for the upper layers, our results for the Arctic are in agreement with the findings of Kivi et al. (2007) which reported an increase of ozone in the ground-400 hPa layer in summer over the 1996–2003 period following changes in the Arctic Oscillation. It is also worth to keep in mind that due to medium sensitivity of IASI to the troposphere, ozone variations in upper layers may largely impact on the trends seen by IASI in that layer (cfr. Sect. 2 and Supplement).

### 4.3.3 O<sub>3</sub> trends from IASI vs. FTIR data

In order to validate the trends inferred from IASI in the US and in the total columns, we compare them with those obtained from ground-based FTIR measurements at several NDACC stations (Network for the Detection of Atmospheric Composition Change, available at [http://www.ndsc.ncep.noaa.gov/data/data\\_tbl/](http://www.ndsc.ncep.noaa.gov/data/data_tbl/)) by using the same fitting procedure and taking into account the autocorrelation in the noise residuals. A box of  $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$  centered on the stations has been used for the collocation criterion. The regression model is applied on the daily FTIR data for a series of time periods starting after the turnaround point (from 1998 for mid-latitude stations and from 2000 for polar stations), as well as for the same periods as recently studied in Vigouroux et al. (2014) for the sake of comparison. Note that because we are not interested here in validating the IASI columns which was achieved in previous papers (e.g. Dufour et al., 2014; Oetjen et al., 2014) but in validating the trends obtained from IASI, we did not correct biases between IASI and FTIR due to different vertical sensitivity and a priori information. The results are given in DU year<sup>-1</sup> in Table 4. We see large significant positive total column trends from IASI at middle and polar stations (e.g.  $5.26 \pm 4.72$  DU yr<sup>-1</sup> at Ny-Alesund), especially during spring and which are in agreement with the trends reported in Knibbe et al. (2014) for the 2001–2010 period. This trend is not obtained from the FTIR data for which trends are found to be mostly non-significant (even not retained in the stepwise elimination procedure in some cases) as reported in Vigouroux et al. (2014), except at Jungfraujoch which shows a trend of  $5.28 \pm 4.82$  DU yr<sup>-1</sup> over the 2008–2012 period. For the periods starting before 2000, we calculated from FTIR, in agreement with Vigouroux et al. (2014), a significantly negative trend at Ny-Alesund for the total column and significantly positive trends at polar stations for the US. In addition, we see from Table 4 a leveling off of O<sub>3</sub> at polar stations in the US after 2003, as previously reported in Vigouroux et al. (2014), which was explained by a compensation effect between the decrease of solar cycle after its maximum in 2001–2002 and a positive trend. These

trends are, however, non-significant and inferred only from few FTIR measurements (see Number of days column, Table 4).

From IASI, it is worth to point out that, in all cases, positive trends are calculated in the US (even if some are not significant) and that these trends are consistent with those calculated from FTIR data covering a  $\sim 11$  year period and starting after the turnaround (e.g. at Thule;  $1.24 \pm 1.09 \text{ DU yr}^{-1}$  from IASI for the period 2008–2013 vs.  $1.42 \pm 0.78 \text{ DU yr}^{-1}$  from the FTIR over 2001–2012). This is illustrated for three stations (Ny-Alesund, Thule and Kiruna) in Fig. 10 which compares the time series from IASI (2008–2013, in red) with those from FTIR covering periods starting after the turnaround (in blue). Their associated trends as well as the trend calculated from FTIR covering the IASI period (in green) are also indicated.

The results obtained for trends inferred from IASI vs. FTIR tend to confirm the conclusion drawn in Sects. 4.3.1 and 4.3.2, that the temporal sampling of IASI provides good confidence in the determination of the trends even on periods shorter than those usually required from other observational means.

## 5 Summary and conclusions

In this study, we have analyzed 6 years of IASI  $\text{O}_3$  profile measurements as well as the total  $\text{O}_3$  columns based on the profile. Four layers have been defined following the ability of IASI to provide reasonably independent information on the ozone partial columns: the mid-lower troposphere (MLT), the upper troposphere – lower stratosphere (UTLS), the mid-lower stratosphere (MLS) and the upper stratosphere (US). Based on daily values of these four partial or of the total columns in  $20^\circ$  zonal averages, we have demonstrated the capability of IASI for capturing large scale ozone variability (seasonal cycles and trends) in these different layers. We have presented daytime vertical and latitudinal distributions for  $\text{O}_3$  as well as their evolution with time and we have examined the underlying dynamical or chemical processes. The distributions were found to be controlled by photochemical production leading to a maximum in summer

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at equatorial region in the US, while they reflect the impact of the Brewer–Dobson circulation with maximum in winter-spring at mid- and high latitude in the MLS and in the troposphere. The effect of the photochemical production of O<sub>3</sub> from anthropogenic precursor emissions was also observed in the troposphere with a shift in the timing of the maximum from spring to summer in the mid-latitudes of the N.H.

The dynamical and chemical contributions contained in the daily time development of IASI O<sub>3</sub> have been analyzed by fitting the time series in each layer and for the total column with a set of parameterized geophysical variables, a constant factor and a linear trend term. The model was shown to perform well in term of residuals (< 10 %), correlation coefficients (between 0.70 and 0.99) and statistical uncertainties (< 7 %) for each fitted proxies. The annual harmonic terms (seasonal behavior) were found to be largely dominant in all layers but the US, with fitted amplitudes decreasing from high to low latitudes in agreement with the Brewer–Dobson circulation. The QBO and solar flux terms were calculated to be important only in the equatorial region, while other dynamical proxies accounted for in the regression (ENSO, NAO, AAO) were found negligible.

Despite the short time period of available IASI dataset used in this study (2008–2013) and the potential ambiguity between the solar and the linear trend terms, statistically significant trends were derived from the six first years of daily O<sub>3</sub> partial columns measurements (on the contrary to monthly averages which lead to mostly non-significant trends). This result which was strengthened from comparisons with the regression applied on local FTIR measurements, is remarkable as it demonstrates the added value of IASI exceptional frequency sampling for monitoring medium to long-term changes in global ozone concentrations. We found two important apparent trends:

1. Significant positive trends in the upper stratosphere, especially at high latitudes in both hemispheres (e.g.  $1.74 \pm 0.77 \text{ DU yr}^{-1}$  in the 30–50° S band), which is consistent with a probable “turnaround” for upper stratospheric O<sub>3</sub> recovery (even if the causes of such a turnaround are still under investigations). In addition, the

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trends calculated for some local stations are in line with those calculated from FTIR measurements after the turnaround.

2. Negative trends in the troposphere at mid- and high Northern latitudes, especially during summer (e.g.  $-0.26 \pm 0.11 \text{ DU yr}^{-1}$  in the  $30\text{--}50^\circ \text{ N}$  band) which are in link with the decline of ozone precursor emissions.

To confirm the above findings beyond the 6 first years of IASI measurements and to better disentangle the effects of dynamical changes, of the 11 year solar cycle and of the equivalent effective stratospheric chlorine (EESC) decline on the  $\text{O}_3$  time series, further years of IASI observations will be required, and more complete fitting procedures (including, among others, proxies to account for the decadal trend in the EESC, ozone hole formation) will have to be explored. This will be achievable with the long term homogeneous records obtained by merging measurements from the three successive IASI instruments on MetOp-A (2006); -B (2012) and -C (2018), and by IASI successor on EPS-SG after 2021 (Clerbaux and Crevoisier, 2013; Crevoisier, 2014).

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**Table 1.** List of the proxies used in this study and their sources.

Proxy	Description (resolution)	Sources
F10.7	The 10.7 cm solar radio flux (daily or monthly)	NOAA National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center: ftp://ftp.ngdc.noaa.gov/STP/space-weather/solar-data/solar-features/solar-radio/noontime-flux/penticton/penticton_adjusted/listings/listing_drao_noontime-flux-adjusted_daily.txt or ftp://ftp.ngdc.noaa.gov/STP/space-weather/solar-data/solar-features/solar-radio/noontime-flux/penticton/penticton_adjusted/listings/listing_drao_noontime-flux-adjusted_monthly.txt
QBO <sup>10</sup> QBO <sup>30</sup>	Quasi-Biennial Oscillation index at 10 and 30 hPa (monthly)	Free University of Berlin: www.geo.fu-berlin.de/en/met/ag/strat/produkte/qbo/
ENSO	El Niño/Southern Oscillation – Nino 3.4 Index (3 monthly averages)	NOAA National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center: http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/data/indices/
NAO	North Atlantic Oscillation index (daily or monthly)	ftp://ftp.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/cwlinks/norm.daily.nao.index.b500101.current.ascii or http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/precip/CWlink/pna/norm.nao.monthly.b5001.current.ascii
AAO	Antarctic Oscillation index (daily or monthly)	ftp://ftp.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/cwlinks/norm.daily.aao.index.b790101.current.ascii or http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/precip/CWlink/daily_ao_index/aao/monthly.aao.index.b79.current.ascii

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**Table 2.** Ozone trends and associated uncertainties (95 % confidence limits), given in DU yr<sup>-1</sup>, for 20° latitude bands, based on daily (top) and monthly (down) medians over 6 years of IASI observations. Bold (underlined) values refer to significant (positive) trends. Values marked with a star (\*) refers to trends which are rejected by the iterative backward elimination procedure<sup>a</sup>.

DU yr <sup>-1</sup>	# Days	Ground–300 hPa (Troposphere)	300–150 hPa (UTLS)	150–25 hPa (MLS)	25–3 hPa (US)	Total columns
70–90° N	1493	<b>-0.13 ± 0.10</b>	<b>1.28 ± 0.82</b>	<b>2.81 ± 2.27</b>	-0.16 ± 0.97*	<b>3.90 ± 2.93</b>
(Feb–Oct)		-0.03 ± 0.29*	0.70 ± 0.92*	-0.04 ± 2.60*	-1.81 ± 2.81*	1.37 ± 3.62*
50–70° N	2103	-0.08 ± 0.09	<b>0.73 ± 0.51</b>	0.97 ± 1.30	<b>0.55 ± 0.36</b>	<b>1.93 ± 1.71</b>
		0.17 ± 0.35*	1.24 ± 1.24	2.28 ± 4.24*	0.66 ± 0.76	4.72 ± 5.58
30–50° N	2105	<b>-0.19 ± 0.05</b>	<b>0.34 ± 0.18</b>	-0.34 ± 0.77	<b>0.89 ± 0.41</b>	0.91 ± 1.24
		<b>-0.15 ± 0.13</b>	0.75 ± 0.75	-0.37 ± 1.65*	<b>0.87 ± 0.52</b>	0.33 ± 2.25*
10–30° N	2105	0.10 ± 0.11	-0.03 ± 0.10*	<b>-0.73 ± 0.29</b>	<b>0.95 ± 0.65</b>	0.21 ± 0.30*
		0.12 ± 0.15*	0.05 ± 0.12*	-0.55 ± 0.62*	<b>1.25 ± 0.74</b>	0.82 ± 1.01
10° S–10° N	2104	<b>-0.41 ± 0.12</b>	<b>-0.25 ± 0.07</b>	-0.11 ± 0.26*	<b>0.44 ± 0.19</b>	-0.16 ± 0.34
		<b>-0.25 ± 0.14</b>	-0.08 ± 0.10	-0.11 ± 0.64*	0.61 ± 0.64	0.13 ± 0.83*
30–10° S	2106	<b>-0.22 ± 0.10</b>	<b>-0.08 ± 0.04</b>	<b>-0.61 ± 0.26</b>	<b>0.89 ± 0.58</b>	-0.04 ± 0.31*
		<b>-0.15 ± 0.13</b>	<b>-0.09 ± 0.07</b>	<b>-0.45 ± 0.36</b>	0.80 ± 1.23	-0.01 ± 1.26*
50–30° S	2105	<b>-0.19 ± 0.07</b>	<b>-0.22 ± 0.08</b>	<b>-2.17 ± 0.58</b>	<b>1.74 ± 0.77</b>	-0.79 ± 0.96
		<b>-0.18 ± 0.09</b>	<b>-0.27 ± 0.12</b>	<b>-2.36 ± 1.80</b>	1.21 ± 1.30	-0.64 ± 1.45*
70–50° S	2105	<b>-0.13 ± 0.05</b>	0.09 ± 0.16	0.56 ± 0.82	<b>0.54 ± 0.29</b>	1.15 ± 1.28
		-0.22 ± 0.12	0.05 ± 0.32*	0.02 ± 1.15*	0.57 ± 0.82	0.51 ± 1.75*
90–70° S	738	-0.15 ± 0.21*	0.01 ± 0.61*	0.00 ± 2.36*	<b>1.04 ± 0.57</b>	1.50 ± 3.15*
(Oct–Apr)		-0.17 ± 0.40*	0.25 ± 0.73*	2.59 ± 3.80*	0.91 ± 2.10*	3.28 ± 5.12*

<sup>a</sup> The trend values result from the adjustment of the regression model where the linear term is kept whatever its *p* value calculated during the iterative process.



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**Table 3.** Same as Table 2 but for seasonal O<sub>3</sub> trends and associated uncertainties based on daily medians during JJA (top row) and DJF (bottom row) periods. Values marked with a star (\*) refers to trends which are rejected by the iterative backward elimination procedure<sup>a</sup>.

DU yr <sup>-1</sup>	# Days	Ground–300 hPa (Troposphere)	300–150 hPa (UTLS)	150–25 hPa (MLS)	25–3 hPa (US)	Total columns
70–90° N (Feb–Oct)	613 48	<b>−0.18 ± 0.08</b> —	<b>1.13 ± 0.65</b> —	−0.91 ± 1.52 —	<b>1.72 ± 0.51</b> —	<b>1.36 ± 1.15</b> —
50–70° N	551 527	<b>−0.23 ± 0.07</b> −0.09 ± 0.12*	<b>1.03 ± 0.37</b> <b>1.74 ± 1.30</b>	0.62 ± 1.64 0.73 ± 1.73*	<b>1.67 ± 0.48</b> −0.66 ± 0.79	<b>3.01 ± 1.64</b> 1.56 ± 2.66*
30–50° N	551 529	<b>−0.30 ± 0.10</b> <b>−0.24 ± 0.09</b>	<b>0.42 ± 0.30</b> 0.28 ± 0.28	−0.30 ± 0.65* −0.82 ± 0.90	<b>0.84 ± 0.25</b> <b>0.62 ± 0.49</b>	1.17 ± 1.35 −0.81 ± 1.05
10–30° N	551 529	−0.05 ± 0.16* <b>0.18 ± 0.14</b>	<b>0.17 ± 0.05</b> 0.01 ± 0.09*	<b>−0.34 ± 0.30</b> <b>−1.05 ± 0.45</b>	<b>0.36 ± 0.27</b> 0.49 ± 0.54*	−0.09 ± 0.54* −1.14 ± 0.44
10° S–10° N	551 529	−0.06 ± 0.10 <b>−0.70 ± 0.23</b>	0.04 ± 0.05* <b>−0.32 ± 0.10</b>	−0.84 ± 0.86 1.64 ± 1.77	0.32 ± 0.42 0.53 ± 0.59	−0.56 ± 0.74 0.34 ± 0.93*
30–10° S	551 530	<b>−0.26 ± 0.09</b> <b>−0.15 ± 0.11</b>	−0.06 ± 0.07 0.06 ± 0.12*	<b>−0.56 ± 0.40</b> −0.12 ± 0.31*	<b>1.06 ± 0.55</b> <b>1.48 ± 0.53</b>	0.24 ± 0.43 <b>1.56 ± 0.92</b>
50–30° S	551 529	<b>−0.21 ± 0.05</b> <b>−0.10 ± 0.06</b>	<b>−0.16 ± 0.09</b> <b>−0.14 ± 0.06</b>	−0.52 ± 0.54 <b>−2.83 ± 0.64</b>	0.49 ± 0.59 <b>3.40 ± 0.85</b>	−0.44 ± 0.83 0.47 ± 0.52
70–50° S	551 529	<b>−0.25 ± 0.06</b> <b>−0.10 ± 0.04</b>	<b>1.03 ± 0.60</b> 0.19 ± 0.24*	<b>2.63 ± 1.65</b> <b>0.52 ± 0.48</b>	<b>0.98 ± 0.62</b> <b>1.66 ± 0.70</b>	<b>3.44 ± 2.47</b> <b>1.72 ± 0.74</b>
90–70° S (Oct–Apr)	— 523	— <b>−0.21 ± 0.20</b>	— −0.46 ± 0.80*	— 0.16 ± 2.53*	— <b>1.18 ± 0.67</b>	— 0.98 ± 3.27*

<sup>a</sup> The trend values result from the adjustment of the regression model where the linear term is kept whatever its *p* value calculated during the iterative process.

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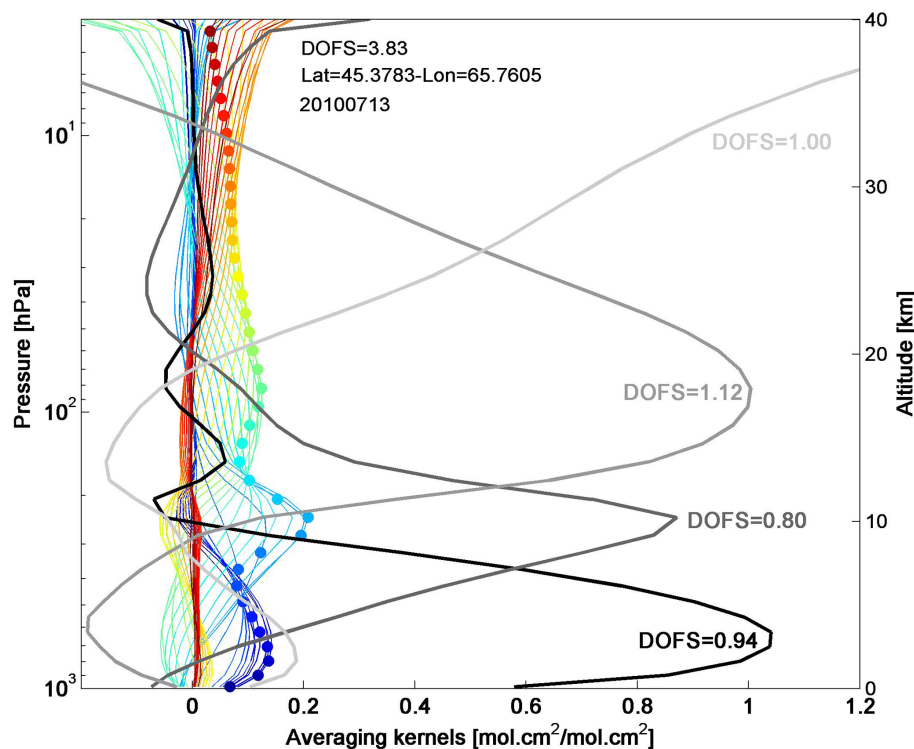
**Table 4.** Ozone trends and associated uncertainties (95 % confidence limits), given in DU yr<sup>-1</sup> over NDACC (Network for the Detection of Atmospheric Composition Change) stations in the N.H. based on daily medians of IASI (within a grid box of 1° × 1° centered on stations, top row) and FTIR observations (successive rows for different time intervals). Bold values refer to statistically significant trends. Values marked with a star (\*) refers to trends which are rejected by the iterative backward elimination procedure<sup>a</sup>.

DU yr <sup>-1</sup>	Data periods	# days	25–3 hPa (US)	Total columns
Ny-Alesund (79° N)	2008–2013	1239	0.56 ± 0.73	<b>5.26 ± 4.72</b>
	2008–2012	84	−3.58 ± 4.58	2.24 ± 20.78*
	2003–2012	168	−0.17 ± 0.70*	<b>−4.84 ± 3.01</b>
	2000–2012	288	<b>0.64 ± 0.60</b>	−1.02 ± 2.40*
	1999–2012	320	<b>0.62 ± 0.55</b>	<b>−2.35 ± 1.40</b>
	1995–2012	383	<b>1.03 ± 0.66</b>	1.31 ± 2.39*
Thule (77° N)	1995–2003	167	<b>1.25 ± 1.05</b>	3.33 ± 3.41
	2008–2013	1094	<b>1.24 ± 1.09</b>	<b>4.97 ± 4.72</b>
	2008–2012	340	−2.10 ± 2.89	0.39 ± 11.59*
	2003–2012	697	0.86 ± 0.89	−2.77 ± 2.99
	2000–2012	776	<b>1.33 ± 0.86</b>	−1.29 ± 1.73
	1999–2012	779	<b>1.69 ± 0.88</b>	−1.25 ± 1.74
Kiruna (68° N)	1999–2003	138	<b>3.73 ± 2.90</b>	4.86 ± 10.13*
	2008–2013	1236	0.21 ± 1.42*	<b>4.41 ± 4.00</b>
	2008–2012	254	−1.97 ± 6.04*	−3.75 ± 6.64*
	2003–2012	678	0.15 ± 0.67*	2.26 ± 3.68
	2000–2012	913	<b>1.60 ± 1.29</b>	3.69 ± 4.20
	1999–2012	984	<b>1.10 ± 0.98</b>	−0.43 ± 1.64*
Jungfraujoch (47° N)	1996–2012	1183	<b>1.11 ± 0.54</b>	<b>1.82 ± 1.77</b>
	1996–2003	596	<b>1.26 ± 1.21</b>	1.12 ± 3.77*
	2008–2013	1580	<b>2.95 ± 0.61</b>	<b>5.64 ± 3.15</b>
	2008–2012	565	1.60 ± 1.80	<b>5.28 ± 4.82</b>
	1998–2012	1582	0.10 ± 0.35	−0.28 ± 0.86*
	1995–2012	1771	0.02 ± 0.33*	<b>0.85 ± 0.79</b>
Zugspitze (47° N)	2008–2013	1729	<b>3.17 ± 0.56</b>	<b>5.53 ± 2.92</b>
	2008–2012	597	0.71 ± 1.22	3.46 ± 3.79
	1998–2012	1472	0.08 ± 0.32*	0.81 ± 0.98
	1995–2012	1525	0.23 ± 0.32	<b>1.36 ± 1.01</b>
Izana (28° N)	2008–2013	1803	0.56 ± 0.65	<b>1.28 ± 0.77</b>
	2008–2012	443	0.24 ± 0.80*	0.91 ± 2.44*
	1999–2012	1257	<b>0.46 ± 0.25</b>	0.20 ± 0.33*

<sup>a</sup> The trend values result from the adjustment of the regression model where the linear term is kept whatever its *p* value calculated during the iterative process.

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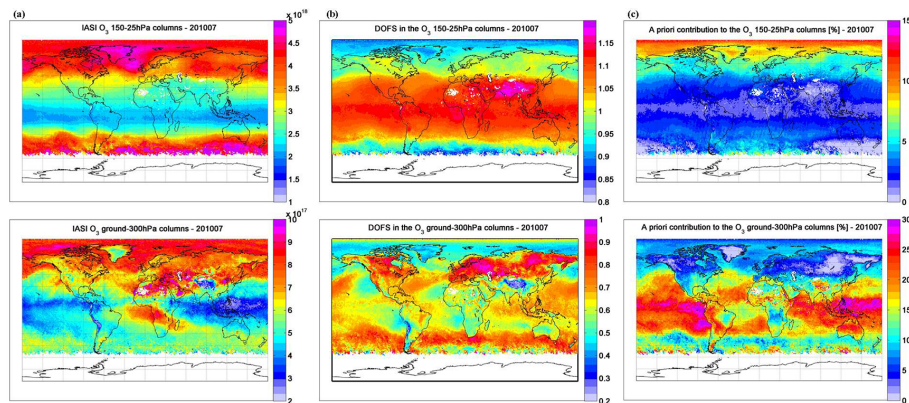


**Figure 1.** Typical IASI FORLI-O<sub>3</sub> averaging kernels, in partial column units, corresponding to one mid-latitude observation in July (45° N/66° E) for each 1 km retrieved layers from ground to 40 km altitude (color scale) and for 4 merged layers: ground–300; 300–150; 150–25; 25–3 hPa (grey lines). The total DOFS and the DOFS for each merged layers are also indicated.

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**Figure 2.** Distributions of **(a)**  $O_3$  columns, **(b)** DOFS and **(c)** a priori contribution (given as a %) in the ground–300 and 150–25 hPa layers for IASI  $O_3$ , averaged over July 2010 daytime data. Note that the scales are different.

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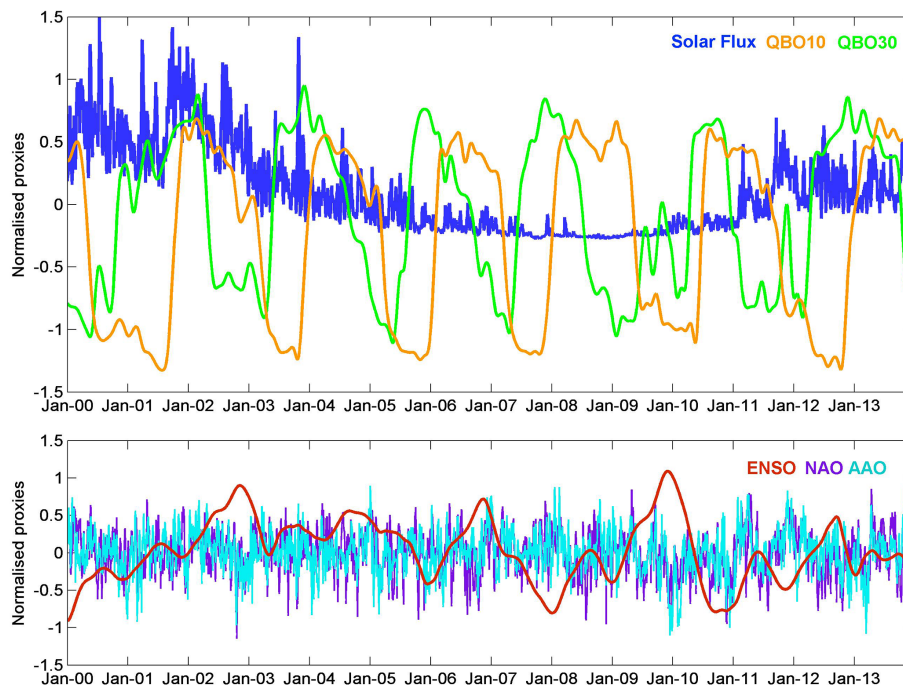
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**Figure 3.** Normalized proxies as a function of time for the period 2000–2013 for the solar F10.7 cm radio flux (blue) and the equatorial winds at 10 (green) and 30 hPa (orange), respectively (top panel), and for the El Niño (red), north Atlantic oscillation (purple) and Antarctic oscillation (light blue) indexes (bottom panel).

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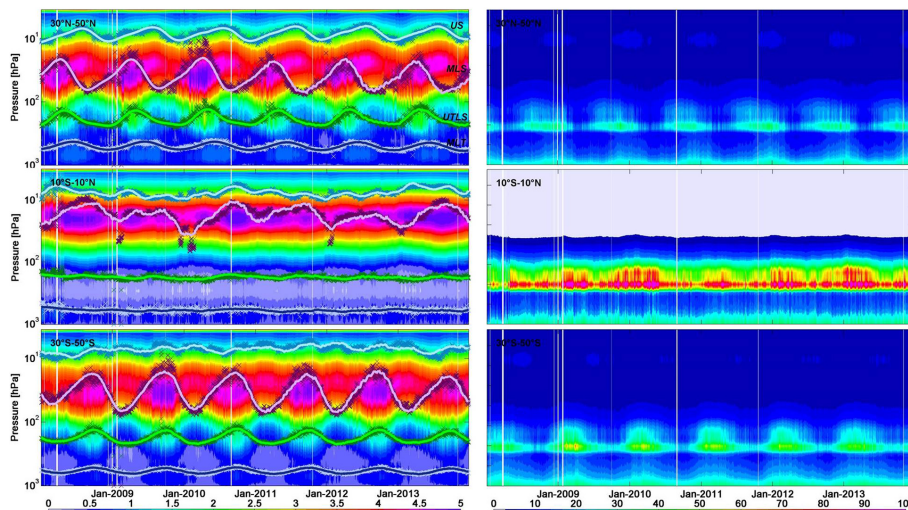
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**Figure 4.** (a) Daily IASI O<sub>3</sub> profiles ( $1 \times 10^{12}$  molecules cm<sup>-3</sup>) for the period 2008–2013 and over the range of the retrieved profiles as a function of time and altitude, in three latitude bands: 30–50° N (top), 10° S–10° N (middle), 30–50° S (bottom). Superimposed daily IASI O<sub>3</sub> partial columns (scatters) and the associated fits (solid lines) from the multivariate regressions for the MLT (ground–300 hPa), UTLS (300–150 hPa), MLS (150–25 hPa) and US (above 25 hPa) layers. The IASI measurements and the fits have been scaled for clarity. (b) Estimated total retrieval errors (%) associated with daily IASI O<sub>3</sub> profiles.



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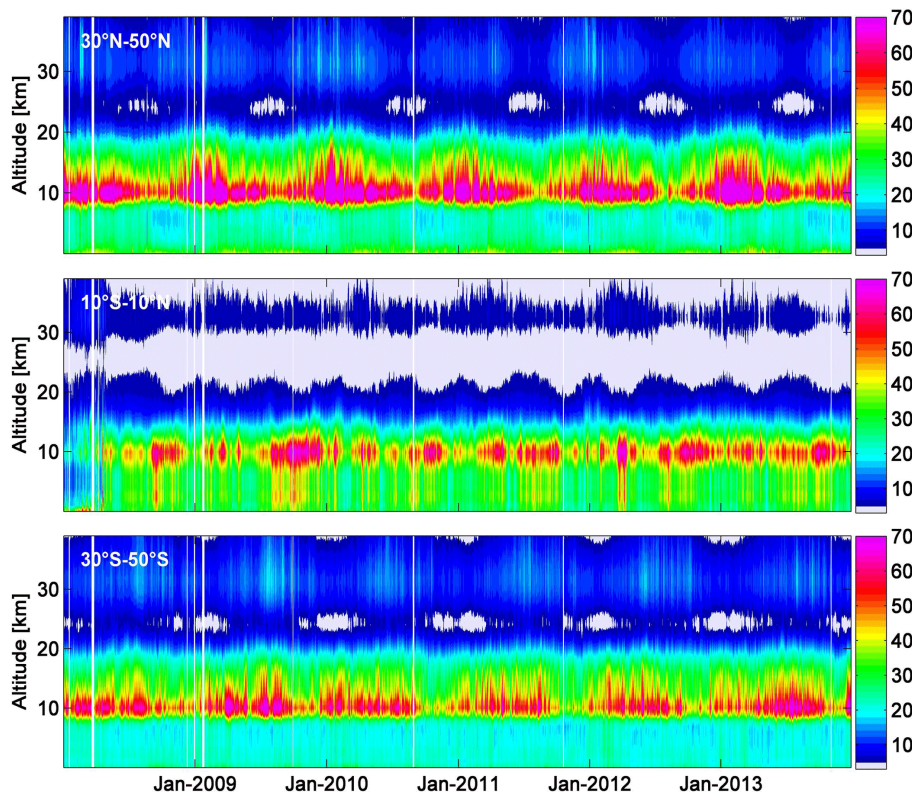
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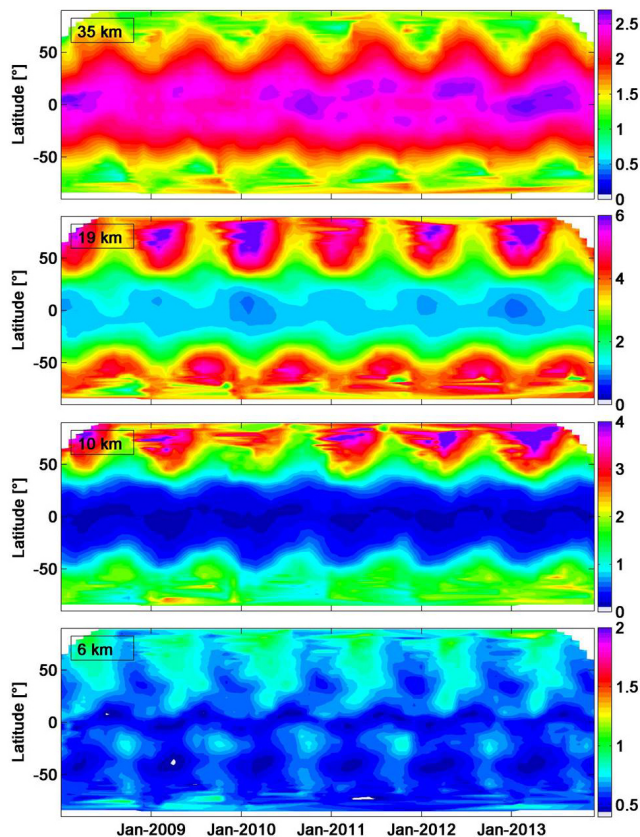


**Figure 5.** Daily IASI O<sub>3</sub> variability (%), expressed as  $1 \times \sigma$  relative to the median values, where  $\sigma$  is the standard deviation, as a function of time and altitude in three latitude bands: 30–50° N (top), 10° S–10° N (middle), 30–50° S (bottom).



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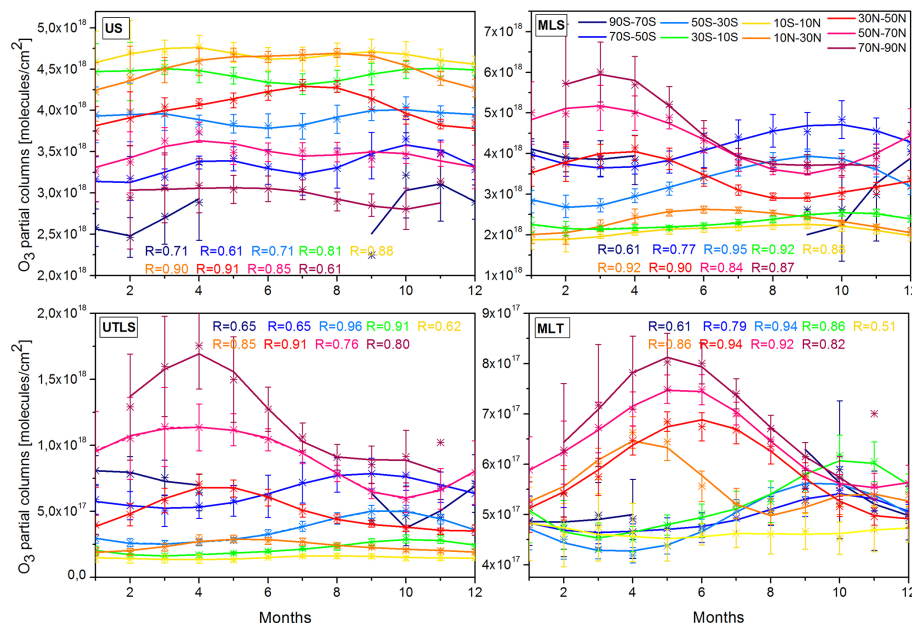
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**Figure 6.** Daily IASI O<sub>3</sub> number density ( $1 \times 10^{12}$  molecules cm<sup>-3</sup>) at 35 km (top), 19 km (middle), 10 km (middle) and 6 km (bottom) as a function of time and latitude. Note that the color scales are different.

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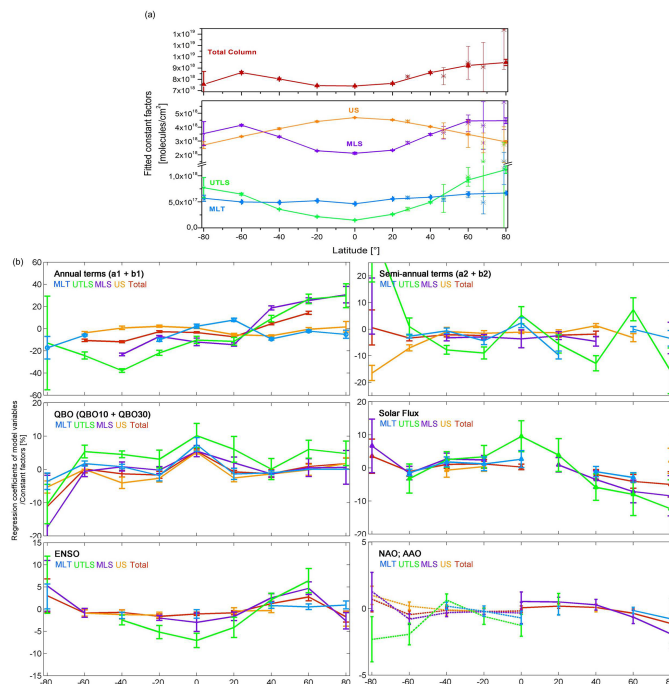


**Figure 7.** Monthly medians of measured (scatters) and of fitted (line) IASI  $O_3$  columns averaged over the period 2008–2013, for the US, MLS, UTLS and MLT layers and for each  $20^\circ$  latitude bands (color scale). The fit is based on daily medians. Error bars give the  $1\sigma$  standard deviation relative to the monthly median values. Correlation coefficient ( $R$ ) between the daily median observations and the fit are also indicated. Note that the scales are different.

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**Figure 8. (a)** Fitted constant factors (Cst, see Eq. (1), Sect. 3) from the 6 years IASI daily O<sub>3</sub> time series for the 20° latitude belts, separately given for the 4 layers and for the total column. The stars correspond to the constant factors fitted above ground-based measurement stations: Ny-Ålesund (79° N), Kiruna (68° N), Harestua (60° N), Jungfraujoch (47° N), Izana (28° N). **(b)** Regression coefficients of the variables retained by the stepwise procedure, given in % as [(regression\_coefficients)/fitted\_Cst]×100%. Identification for the variables: annual (top left) and Semi-Annual variations (top right) terms, QBO at 10 and 30 hPa (bottom left), solar flux (bottom right). Note that the scales are different. The associated fitting uncertainties (95% confidence limits) are also represented (error bars).

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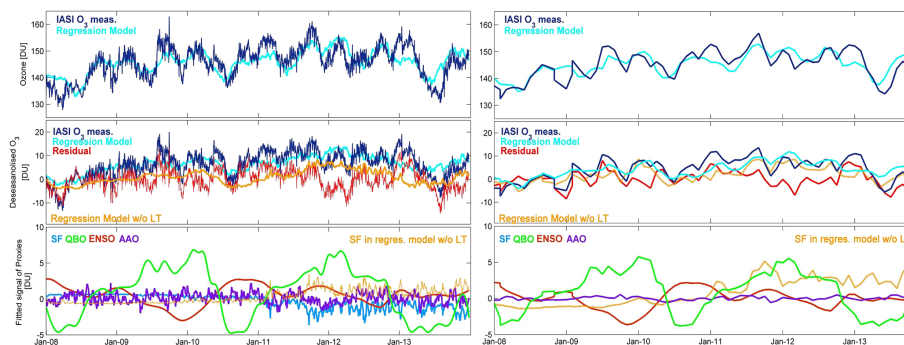
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**Figure 9.** Daily (a) and monthly (b) time series of  $O_3$  measurements and of the fitted regression model in the US in the  $30\text{--}50^\circ$  S latitude band (top), of the deseasonalised  $O_3$  (middle), and of the fitted signal of proxies ([regression coefficients\*Proxy]): SF (blue), QBO ( $QBO^{10} + QBO^{30}$ ; green), ENSO (red) and AAO (purple) (given in DU) (bottom).

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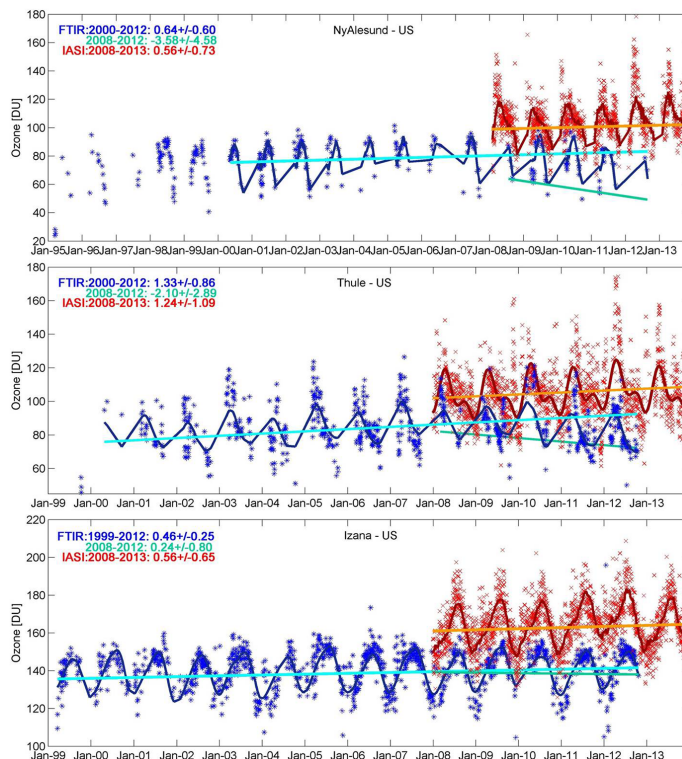
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**Figure 10.** Daily time series of O<sub>3</sub> FTIR (blue symbols) and IASI (red symbols) measurements in the US at Ny-Alesund (top), Thule (middle) and Izana (bottom), covering the 1995–2012 and the 1999–2012 periods, respectively (given in DU). The fitted regression models (dark blue and dark red lines, for FTIR and IASI, respectively) and the linear trends calculated for periods starting after the turnaround over 1999/2000–2012 and over 2008–2012 for FTIR (light blue and green lines), and the 2008–2013 period for IASI (orange line) are also represented (DU yr<sup>-1</sup>). The trend values given in DU yr<sup>-1</sup> are indicated.